

Transcription: Grand Canyon Historical Society Oral History

Interviewee: Evans Almeda Family: Rose (RE), Steve (SE), Diana (DE), and Dave (DaE). Tom Sopizio (TS) joins later in the interview

Interviewer: Tom Martin (TM), Kim Besom, with assistance from Tom Sulpizio

Subject: Steve and Dave recall their mother, Almeda Evans, who died in the 1956 TWA-United airline crash

Date of Interview: June 30, 2014

Method of Interview: At Shrine of the Ages Grand Canyon National Park

Transcriber: Dannie Derryberry

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Keys: 1956 TWA-United airline crash

(TRANSCRIBERS NOTE: There are several males that sound very much alike and it is not always possible to distinguish which is which. At times, the male voices are identified only as Male. There are several females that sound very much alike so they are identified as Female.)

TM: Today is June 30, 2014. This is the Shrine of the Ages at Grand Canyon National Park. My name's Tom Martin as interviewer and we have here today...

RE: Rose Evans.

SE: Steve Evans.

DE: Diana Evans.

DaE: And Dave Evans.

TM: And Dave and Steve are the children of...

DaE: Almeda Inez Evans. Her maiden name was Babb.

TM: How was it that she was on the United flight. She's United or TWA?

DaE: TWA.

TM: TWA, thank you.

DaE: My dad was flying for TWA, which managed Ethiopian Airlines, so we were living at that time in Ethiopia. He had stomach problems, had an ulcer, so he had come back to the United States for surgery. We came back...my mom and the two of us came back with him and were staying at her mother's house in Poteau, Oklahoma. Her mother and father were both living. Dad had flown out by himself to Los Angeles for the surgery and mom had flown out to check on him. Missed us so she was flying back to be again with us. She had been there with my dad and made sure he was okay and was returning back. We have a letter that she wrote on the day before she left to come back.

Steve: The Monday before she left.

DaE: Talking about how Dad was doing and wanting to be back and get back to Poteau.

Female: To see her boys.

TM: Was she Ethiopian?

DaE: No. She's from Poteau.

TM: Okay.

Steve: And worse, she was Oklahoman. (laughter)

TM: How old were you at the time?

DaE: I was 7.

TM: So Dave was 7. And Steve?

SE: Six months. It's affected our family in odd ways. I don't think I've ever heard my dad speak of it and we never visited the Grand Canyon. I never saw the Grand Canyon until I was an adult and went on my own. I actually knew very, very little about the circumstances until I was an adult and started doing some research and then talking to some of my aunts and uncles. Apparently she would have missed the flight if it had left on time. I think it was scheduled to depart at 8:30. She was late, but the flight was delayed and so she made the flight. It was very difficult for my dad and apparently he had to go back to... He left Dave and I in Poteau with our grandparents, he had to go back to Ethiopia to complete his contract there. I've heard stories that he was reckless in his driving to a degree that worried all of his relatives and just didn't care very much about his own personal safety at that point, which is just an antithesis to who he is in general.

RE: He's still living, by the way. He's not in good health and not able to travel so he wasn't able to be here.

DaE: But he is 92, will be 93.

RE: September 15th.

TM: Have you interviewed him about the...?

DaE: I've interviewed him about his life but not about these events.

RE: I have actually spoken to him quite a bit. It surprised me that you said you haven't spoken with him about it because he did talk to me about just some of the casual facts like the aftermath of dealing with the attorney and with the jewelry that Almeda was wearing that helped to identify her body. As a matter of fact, I have one of those rings. He doesn't seem terribly unable to talk about it.

TM: What do you remember about, what did he say?

RE: Well, he just said that it was a mess. That there was a lot of kind of chaos to deal with in identifying the bodies and locating who was who. He felt like he was lucky that he was actually able to identify her remains. She was flown back to Poteau to be buried. He felt like that the attorney that they had at the time was not looking out for his best interests and that he didn't really... That the attorney dropped the ball in a lot of ways. That the boys didn't get really what they needed out of life, that they should have gotten a lot more in the settlement. He reminisced about her, Babbsy, I mean, that's pretty much what he called her. He talked about pretty much the same thing, that she would have missed the flight. Just kind of rehearsing the same details of that day. Kind of the remorse of that, that he couldn't be there watching over everyone because that's kind of who he is. He really is very much the patriarch in that way. I think he felt bad that he was sick and couldn't be there.

DaE: But we were with Mom's parents. I don't remember when I was actually told. The thing I do remember is Mom and Grandma and Grandpa were Southern Baptists and as soon as the word went out in the community the thing I remember is just more food than any person could eat showing up at the house, with lots and lots of people. I had no clue who they were, but expressing their sadness and condolences. I don't remember how long we stayed. Well, I stayed there. It was kind of a heavy load on our grandparents and I was an active little fellow, so I was sent to Tucson which was where he grew up, Arizona and stayed with his mother, my grandfather on his side had already passed away, and my aunt.

DE: In the letters it actually says... I have letters that she wrote to her parents for several years and in the letters, the last letters there that she sent, and then the next letter that I have is a letter from their dad to Grandma and Grandpa expressing his desire to come home and he thought he'd be home by Christmas. So I'm thinking that maybe you were there till Christmas and then maybe the move got made that you went to Tucson and Steven stayed in Poteau. And they, I don't believe, saw each other again until Dad remarried.

RE: You were two.

SE: Really?

RE: Umm hmm.

DaE: Well, I had to have been in Poteau for at least a year cause I did one year of school there. So it was apparently a period of time before it was...

DE: It could have been, you know, a school break comes in December, too, but if you said you did a whole year of school, you did all first grade again.

DaE: Yeah, I'd gone to school in Ethiopia and it was a crummy school so my dad made me take the first grade over.

SE: You got even later.

DaE: Hmm?

SE: You got even later.

DaE: Yeah. And then my dad finished his contract in Ethiopia, came back...

DE: In December.

DaE: ...in December, got a new job flying down in Latin America, and married my stepmom, all in a short period of time. Then when they got back from Latin America then they brought the whole family back together and we lived in Tucson.

TM: Did that work, did that go well?

DaE: Umm hmm.

TM: Good.

RE, DaE, DE: They're still together.

TM: Good.

RE: She adopted him.

SE: Yeah. So I went from losing a mother at a age too young to remember, to having a very loving grandparent taking care of me, to having a very good stepmother who (laughs) later as I was graduating high school, for a reason I can't really remember, decided to legally adopt me. So she's not, I can't even refer to her as my stepmother (laughter), just not my biological mother.

TM: That's so cool.

DE: That's interesting.

RE: Something she did say to me, though, about when he was little is that when she first married his dad that Steve had a hard transition at two because at that point his Grandma Babb was his only mommy, you know, and that he knew his dad but he was reluctant to call her. She said when he would wake up, which he did a lot at night, crying, that he'd call for Daddy and she just waited (laughs). She said the first time that he called for Mommy she said she just charged out of bed, like oh, he's finally accepted me. So I think he had a rough start to have lost his mother at six months and then lost his substitute mother at two, to have that much change at an early age. But she's been his mommy ever since and she's been really very loving and very good in her own way. Enough so that we can criticize her for a bit. (laughter)

DE: The only stories I heard about David was what a rascal he was and the things that he put her through, the time he climbed down the chimney.

DaE: Well, that was, yes, but we don't need to go into that.

RE: The furnace, the furnace, wasn't that?

DE: And the time that he watered his bedroom with the garden hose. But, you know, when I heard the stories today that others were telling they're so sad and I just don't think that it was like that.

DaE: I remember my mom when we were over in Africa, she was very, very loving mother, but she was also... She came from a very religious family and we went to church all the time, we got Bible stories read to us, or read to me. Then when I went to my parents, my dad is Latter Day Saint, so I got another side of a very religious family with strong beliefs in the hereafter. At seven years old I was not very old at all, but even with Dad, I think the whole premise was moving on. Yes, you've lost a tremendous loss but life goes on and you can't define yourself by one negative event. Yeah, it seems some of the stories today were like they had defined themselves with this event and that's kind of... It was sad to me a little bit.

DE: I mean, their families didn't handle things very well, to not tell them, to not address the issue no matter how young they were.

RE: Yeah.

DE: I think that that was very sad and they can't mourn until they have that opportunity.

SE: I think one of the things that didn't really come out today that I expected to, in my reading, this was the last flight before the big Memorial Day weekend that year and both flights were going to the headquarters town of the airline. United flight was going to Chicago and the TWA flight was going to Kansas City. From what I've read, they were pretty well packed with respective employees going home to see family for the holidays. So it hit actual TWA and United families a lot harder than maybe other groups. We heard today a lot of people from Lockheed were hurt. It's ironic with my dad being a pilot, I'm sure it hit him really hard because of that. But also, even though Dave and I both expressed a lot of interest in aviation, it was pretty much a steadfast saying in our family that one pilot in the family is enough and neither of us were encouraged. I wouldn't say we were actively discouraged but we weren't encouraged at all to become pilots.

RE: When you both take that same breath I know that, cause he has that same feeling.

DE: They both did a lot of flying in their lifetimes living overseas, traveling all over the world.

DaE: Yeah. We lived in Tucson till I was sixteen, so from about eight to sixteen, so eight years. Then my dad was a pilot for Sundt Construction, he was their chief pilot. Then the owner died so he went back to TWA, which was managing Saudi Arabian Airlines at the time, and we moved overseas to Saudi Arabia to Jeddah. Steve started out in school down in Jeddah. We left the U.S. on Christmas day, he had gone ahead of us. I got put in a boys' boarding school. Kind of always held that against Dad a little bit cause (laughter)

RE: Is it the same, Good Shepherd?

DaE: No, I was in Beirut.

SE: They didn't pick the good school where all the Americans went.

DaE: Which is a good thing in hindsight because I had no other...

SE: Distractions.

DaE: Distractions is a good word. I jumped a year and got back that first year that I had done over, so.

RE: Steven ended up in a boarding school.

DE: In Ethiopia.

DaE: Back in Ethiopia, which was...

RE: It was boys and... It was coed?

SE: Yeah.

DaE: I can't seem to get rid of that part of the world cause I'm leaving on Tuesday to Djibouti which I usually fly through Addis Ababa Ethiopia to get to it.

DE: Which is where Steven was born.

RE: Yeah.

DE: I think we've all had a good life.

SE: It's interesting that my dad had eight brothers, all of whom I believe served in World War I, excuse me, World War II, and about half of them served in Korea. My mom's three brothers all served in the military in World War II and Korea. All came home and she's the one that dies in an airplane crash.

Female: Yeah.

SE: Out of all those siblings.

RE: But because of all that encounter, too, that's how your mom, Donna, and your dad met and got married through Uncle Norman...

DaE: Her brother.

RE: ...who was in the military with your dad.

SE: No. Well, my understanding is that Donna was Almeda's best friend when they were stationed in Kansas.

DE: I don't know the history so.

RE: Now, when I had talked to Donna that was the story I was always told, but when I asked her about it they were acquaintances. Actually Kay had babysat Steven when he was little, but they met through...

DE: David or Steven?

RE: I'm sorry.

DaE: This guy.

RE: Yeah, who are you? (laughter)

DE: Your husband, not mine. (laughter)

SE: The other Steven.

RE: The other Steven. With the ph.

DE: The one with the s. (laughter)

RE: Your dad and Norman were really good friends in the military.

SE: See, I have never, ever heard that. I knew that Uncle Norman flew the Berlin Airlift but Dad was on completely the other side of the world.

RE: And then this, I have to say, came from your sister, Kay. Their stepsister.

DE: Donna's daughter.

SE: Actually she's my full sister since we're both adopted. (laughter)

RE: Since you're adopted. (laughter)

SE: I need to call my sister Kay.

RE: Yeah, you do.

DaE: So, yeah, okay, I think that's...

TM: It's interesting that boarding school, of course, happened to a number of individuals I'm learning today after this. Yeah.

DaE: Well, ours was because there was no school in Saudi Arabia.

SE: That went past the eighth grade.

DaE: Went past the eighth grade so I was a sophomore in high school.

[Another interviewer (Kim) and interviewee (Tom Sulpizio) join the group]

TM: Who has joined us is...

TS: I'm Tom Sulpizio, son of Thomas J. Sulpizio on the United 718 flight.

TM: Thank you.

Kim: And just for the record could you spell your last name.

TS: My full name is Thomas E. Sulpizio. My dad's name was Thomas J. Sulpizio so I'm not a junior.

TM: Thank you. [Tom and Tom do paperwork and resituate] So where we are is we're gonna recap.

DaE: This goes back, but my mom and dad met, my dad was in Japan during the occupation and she was a civil servant in Japan. She went through Guam and he met her there and somehow finagled her to get on his airplane to fly back and then they were both in trouble when that was over.

TM: What year was that?

DaE: Yeah, right. Was obviously before '49.

DE: Cause that's when you were born, yes?

DaE: I was born, yeah.

SE: Probably '45?

DE: I think it was like '45.

SE: I had always thought she worked for the State Department, but it turns out she worked for the Department of Treasury and was sent over there for the War Reclamation Board.

RE: I think it started out as one thing and turned into the other thing. I don't know.

SE: She was originally posted to Manila and then was transferred to Tokyo.

DaE: So we have, I guess we'll leave these with you guys, but we have a picture of her surviving brothers and sisters and mom and dad. We have a picture of her in Ethiopia with my brother, Steven.

DE: And that would have been...

DaE: We have a picture of her by herself and her with my dad and me. Her in Ethiopia, that's at the Addis Ababa Ethiopian airport with both of us. And then a picture of her and the two of us at the age we were...

DE: Or pretty close to it.

DaE: ...when we lost her. And then some Oklahoma newspaper accounts of the crash. And then her last letter that she wrote on the 25th of June just before she...

RE: It probably didn't get to her parents until maybe after.

TS: I had the same experience, by the way. Some letters got to my mother after the crash because they were posted from Los Angeles and arrived in Philadelphia a week later or five days later.

DaE: This was posted...

DE: That would have been from California?

DaE: ...from LA as well.

Kim: Are those for the collections or...

DaE: Yes.

Kim: ...do you want me to make copies?

DaE: No, we made these specially to leave here with you guys.

Kim: I'll keep these. Thank you.

DE: I also have one of the rings that helped identify the bodies, the wedding rings that she wore.

RE: It's nice to have a connection...

DE: It is nice, it is nice.

RE: ...because neither of us ever met her. It's interesting I had an art class this year. I took a black and white photo of her to my art class to paint a portrait of her (laughs). It was so interesting having this conversation with my classmates about this drawing of my mother-in-law whom I had never met and them getting to see all these different renditions of her. Unfortunately, Steven was not really happy with all of them but I feel like it's just the only way to be connected in some ways, are the photographs. I mean, it's just there's no other...

Male: Umm hmm.

DE: We also have copies of all the letters that she wrote for two years, I believe. She talks about before Steven was born. She talks about when David fell off the wall, a tall wall, and he hit his head and he ended up losing his hearing.

DaE: In one ear.

DE: In one ear.

TM: Did she play a musical instrument at all?

RE: I don't know. I've never seen a picture of her with a musical instrument.

DE: I've never heard that she did.

TM: Did she have a connection to the Selassie family at all?

DaE: My dad did. He flew Haile Selassie a number of places. In fact, when he wanted to go somewhere he usually asked for my dad to fly him.

SE: There was always a piano in the house in Poteau.

DaE: Yeah, but I don't remember ever hearing her play.

TM: Was she British? Did she have British history at all?

DaE: No. There's some Indian and Oklahomian.

RE: A lot of Oklahoma. A lot of Oklahoma? (laughter)

DE: Those Babbs.

DaE: The Babbs were, genealogy-wise, they were around Little Rock, Arkansas and...

RE: It's been fun reading through the letters because this starts actually in 1951 is one of her letters and then it goes 1954 and it's like almost weekly. 1955 and then all the way up to that last letter. Then letters from Dad to Grandma and Grandpa to update on when he was gonna be home from Addis Ababa and how much he missed his boys.

DaE: It's interesting that my dad absolutely hates to write letters.

RE: But he writes a nice letter.

SE: So I come by it naturally.

DaE: Yeah, we do.

RE: She had beautiful handwriting.

Male: She did.

DE: She was a beautiful lady.

RE: Yeah, she really was. I would have liked to have known her.

DE: We're lucky to have some girls that look kind of like her, though.

RE: We do have some girls that look a lot like her, some granddaughters.

DaE: Even our daughter.

DE: Even our daughter. Well, it would have been her granddaughter. And some great-granddaughters.

TM: Do you have copies of these letters that might be going to the museum collection? Is that something that...

RE: I have that copy...

SE: Of the last letter.

RE: ...of the last letter.

DaE: Just the last one.

TM: Okay.

DE: I didn't think that you'd be interested in any of this, but I don't know what all you're interested in.

TS: You've done a great job organizing it. It's inspirational to me to do something similar, especially after being here today.

DE: It's so wonderful. I mean, you can follow the history of their family and what was going on.

TM: Is that something the museum collection would be interested in or not? I don't know this.

Kim: I think this probably... Those are wonderful memories that you guys will enjoy.

DE: I mostly brought this for Steven to see, and Rose. It's just fun, a fun thing.

TM: How long did your father work for Haile Selassie? This is stunning to me.

DaE: Well, he worked for Ethiopian Airlines.

SE: Which was... After World War II, through our State Department, developing countries could arrange to have an American airline help manage and set up and develop their national airlines. So Ethiopian Airlines, there are a bunch of them, but TWA was really key in many of these. So Dad flew, he was a TWA employee but he flew for Ethiopian Airlines then later Saudi Arabian Airlines.

DaE: It's too bad he's not here. He could tell you some very interesting stories about some flights he made into grass airstrips in a DC-3...

DE: He has some great stories.

RE: Yes, he does have some great stories.

DaE: ...to rescue people that needed medical treatment, but it was...

RE: Chicken pox, for one. They told him it was smallpox and he went (sound effect, and laughs). It turned out to be chicken pox.

DE: Maneuvers that would make everybody sick and (laughter).

SE: He took Reverend Strong into the backcountry of Ethiopia even though it had been raining and it was a clay strip so it was really slick when it was wet. They were told that if he could see puddles on the ground they weren't to land. But Reverend Strong really wanted to get to his flock so he decided to land anyway. Slipping in this clay he actually turned the plane around and then revved the engines to slow it down going backwards. Years later when I went back to boarding school, I went to school with Cathy Strong, Reverend Strong's daughter, and she still remembers that landing and says, "I remember Captain Evans." (laughing)

DaE: Well, you know, growing up I had heard that story. Then when he was flying for Sundt Construction out of Tucson every now and then he would take one of us on a flight with him. He was flying over to Yuma, they were building a dam in Yuma, and he had some of the senior people with the construction company. So he took off and they radioed ahead to bulldoze us a runway so he could land at the dam site. They didn't do a really good job. He lost some of his runway due to obstacles in the runway and so when he got it on the ground, he was still traveling too fast and at the end were these big earth movers. So near the end he whipped one engine into high and pivoted it on one wheel and then used the engines to stop us really quickly. So I've lived through that maneuver (laughter).

TM: You and the rest of the Sundt crew. (laughter)

DaE: Yeah, they were pretty impressed.

SE: Uncle Kenneth told me he did that in Poteau when it was still a grass strip and it was wet from rain, which he couldn't tell until he got on the ground. Uncle Kenneth thought it was just the normal way of stopping a plane. (laughter)

DE: That sounds like it was kind of a Leland Evans maneuver.

SE: Apparently.

TM: So, and your situation's very different and this is the third interview we've done today, your father remarried someone that you were able to bond with and that seems very fortunate to journey forward when there's somebody who says so I need to adopt you. I mean, that's, yeah.

RE: I know that she made a photo album for each of them that they would have some pictures of their mother. I don't think she knew of any disparaging things and if she did she never said anything. It was always very kind words.

DaE: So we are lucky. We are.

SE: Definitely.

DE: I've never heard her speak anything but good things and always been supportive of that relationship and honoring it.

RE: We also have her wedding dress that's in the big picture and a few other mementos that are kind of fun. Tried to talk my girls into wearing that wedding dress but it just wasn't the right style.

DE: I still have a daughter that's not married. (laughter)

SE: And retro is in.

RE: That's true. It's true.

TM: It's not too late. That's wonderful. Anything else you'd like to add about your thoughts on this journey?

RE: I don't know, I think it's been great.

DaE: On this journey? Well, we got the word for this event late. The letter had gone to my parents and they weren't able to come, but I think they sat on it for a couple weeks. So they fired it on to us and they sent you a copy. I still travel more than I want to so I wasn't sure how my travel schedule was gonna work out but when we saw we could make it, we then tried to find one of our grandkids to bring with us. Well, we tried to find more but we couldn't.

RE: Well, we ended up with quite a few.

DE: My decision was made last night about 7:00 (laughter). Because I had to work at a work shift overnight so he picked me up early this morning as I got off.

RE: So they cruised in.

DE: And we drove here from Albuquerque.

DaE: A little late this morning.

DE: Yeah, we missed the very first ceremony at 10:00.

DaE: And then we let my daughter know that lives in Amarillo, Texas and they...

RE: They decided two days ago to come.

DaE: So we had a little mini reunion.

DE: And it's nice.

RE: I think that our families are really into family history and we enjoy hearing these stories.

RE: My children, I know, will be sad that they weren't here. That's why I tried to record as much as possible...

DE: Yeah, yeah.

RE: ...because they don't know. I mean, my father also died when I was young so we kind of had that bond and they don't know their grandparents from that, they don't know that and they want to know.

DE: So I, this has been a great opportunity to be able to come here and see what we were able to see. I mean, we've heard stories and to actually see things and...

RE: Yeah, I've never actually seen the Grand Canyon before so pretty impressive for me.

TM: The last thing I'd like to encourage you to do is if you're willing, set up a recorder, sit down with your dad and maybe capture that time. It's clear he talked with you about that, but he hasn't with his sons and so maybe you would be the one to do that recording and then take it to them how ever, if he's willing.

DE: As much as we can.

TM: That would be wonderful.

DE: You're headed out there soon, aren't you?

RE: We'll be out there on the 17th.

SE: It's interesting, though. He has Alzheimer's to some degree at this point, or age-related dementia. He probably remembers those days way better than he does last Tuesday.

DaE: Well, judging from the number of times he's told me the Hawaiian...

RE: The Hawaiian story.

DE: I know. He does live in those days a lot.

TM: So this would be the time to capture that. This would be the time to capture that because he will lose those memories as well. So that, if you could...

SE: I know that you've done some recording but it was about his stories flying an airplane.

DaE: And then in Japan and...

SE: So that would be great.

DE: Well, maybe I will just keep a recording going while we're there cause he talks constantly anyway and he tells his stories. We'll just...

TM: And if you'd be willing to send that in to Kim, I don't know if we want to have him sign a Deed of Gift just to capture his reminisces of that time. I don't know.

Kim: Related to the accident?

RE: Okay. We'll take that. How do you feel about that?

SE: That'd be fine. We'd just take one of the forms with us.

DE: Okay.

SE: Dad went back to Japan to fly in the Korean War. Mom didn't go with him, did she?

DaE: I don't...

SE: Cause you would have gone.

DaE: No, I didn't.

SE: No, wait a minute, you were born after, no, you were born before Korea.

DaE: '49.

SE: '49, yeah. Korea was '51. Okay, totally unrelated. I'm sorry.

DE: Just checking his own memory there.

SE: Yeah. I'm done.

RE: This has been great for our family. Will we get a copy of this?

Kim: I could run back and make one for you right away while you're talking to Mr. Sulpizio.

RE: That would be wonderful because, I mean, these are things that they've talked about that I've not heard this before.

DE: Getting it all in place at one time.

Kim: I can do that.

TM: We have two of these recorders and so Tom and I can talk on the other recorder and Kim can run away with the memory card in here and burn it on a couple disks maybe for the both of you.

DaE: Tom, I'm glad you could come in at least at the end here.

TS: Well, I was really disappointed to miss the '06 event so this was a pleasant surprise when I got the invitation about a month ago.

SE: I guess we didn't even hear about the '06 event.

TM: There was no outreach at the time.

TS: There was to my family, so Mom and I got invitations.

TM: So it might have gone to your parents.

DaE: Could have gone...

DE: We never heard anything about it.

RE: Until this dedication came, they hadn't sent us any...

TS: I'm trying to remember the initial contact because it wouldn't have been by email since why would Helen have had my email address back then. It must have been through the mail.

TM: Okay.

Kim: I think they made a concerted effort to try and get addresses for this event whereas I'm not positive about the last one.

TS: Well, I've been in the same house 15 years, which helps a lot.

RE: That does help. Well, and so much has changed, too. Now they have emails and all that to contact people. I mean, a lot has gotten easier since...

DaE: Emails wouldn't have helped them.

DE: It wouldn't have helped with Leland (laughter) because they are past, they're 92 and -3 and computers are not really their...

SE: Although in '06 I think they actually had an email account.

RE: They might have. But they were just kicking in.

DE: But barely. They didn't know how to use it. (laughter)

TM: All right. Thank you, thank you very, very much. This was great.

RE and DE: Thank you.