

Transcript of Audio Recording:

Eric and Debbie talk with Mom and Dad, first in 1967 and then in 1969 Mom with Debbie and Eric talks to baby Robert

Eric = E

Debbie = D

Robert = R

Mom (Vera) = V

Dad (Siegfried) = S

The first half of this recording was made in 1967 and the second half in 1969. Of the first half, the first part sometime before December 1967 and the part around 19:40 begins in December 1967.

Background info: Mom and Dad were asking us children to tell stories, this is what they recorded of us telling stories or responding to their questions.

The following was recorded when Eric was about 3 years old, Debbie about 5 years old.

E um, like...um...

V Eric first, Eric first think about it, what you're going to tell, so you can talk a little faster, okay?

E NO!

V Now do you, do you have it clear in your head what you're going to tell us?

E No...

V Just sit up properly, okay now, now talk.

E I'm (unclear)...like...they all ski ...and they had some holding up things...in case they fall down...they fall down, they have to have the holding up things, ...they fall down.

V He had ski poles?

E yeah

V Oh he had ski poles?

E: Yeah.

V Oh. Oh I see.

E He had ski poles too. (unclear)

S Hmm hmm..

E They all had...they had ski poles.

S Ah I see.

V Were they on the slope? Were they on, on the hill?

E They had go someplace else, like...had go someplace else where they have to ski.

V Where there is snow...

E Yeah

V Did they like it?

E Yeah.

V Did they fall down?

E no

V No, they didn't? Somebody must have been pretty good skiers!

D Did the children fall down?

E No.

E Nobody fell down.

V (unclear)

E They go up...they have to go someplace ...with snow tires.

S Ohhhh.

E That's what some on the front, and on the back.

E Too much...And then... Some on the...too much stuff...they can't stay...all they...they have put the other wheels, they take the other wheels out of the car.

S Ohhhh.

V Spare tires you mean?

E Yeah.

V Spare ones.

E The other ones...They have to... They have 2 spare tires.

S They probably broke.

E Yeah, they did.

V That's good, because there was a lot of snow on the ground, wasn't there when they went skiing. There must have been lot of snow on the road.

E Yeah...the car that they drive...so a car crashed. Ah, Other car...There was two cars crashed. There was (unclear) no people were killed. They have...

D ... go to the hospital?

E Yeah.

E And..

V Who was in the hospital?

E The...

V People from one car or both cars? Were they injured?

E They go from the crash and (makes sound like a crash)

V Like that, Head on?

E Yeah

V They crashed? Ooohhh....

E And then...there a pick up truck had to come...just like I saw on (unclear: perhaps a name of a TV show) the flat tire was (unclear) ...they crashed then into pieces, they carry a pick up truck.

V Well somebody towed them away, maybe a tow truck, you know. Where they pick up, there's a hook, isn't there a hook on the back, Eric?

E Yeah. Tow truck can't pick up cars.

V Tow truck, yes...

E I know, but can't pick up cars that are in pieces. Already crashed.

V Ohhhh....oh well...

E ...only cars that are still a car...just a flat tire....

V Ohhhh...

E Those cars are flat tires, a wreck...they have to go...they have to drive...like this, and this, and this....the car in front of it....and there was a hook scraping out...(makes sound) ...driving away...

V Come back here, come back here....show me the (unclear)

E I in way...

V Ohhhh I see.

S Mmm..hmmm.

V Is that the end of your story?

E No.

V No, okay, and then what?

E And then had...the names...

V Now wait a minute, wait a minute, whose names are those?

V The ones who were skiing?

E Yeah

V The girl, ?

V The girl and boy?

E And....they trade a bike...and...and....Vera Mikuteit and Debbie Mikuteit and Eric Mikuteit (names of Mom, and the two of us children)

V Ohh!

E And they all know how ski. And (unclear) ski....and they had all the guns. And that's the end.

V Ahh all right....

D Eric, all the time you can't, you can't say that Debbie and Eric, you have to name somebody different.

V Well, that's all right for a while...he's talking about Debbie and Eric, and Dad...(unclear)

D Now...now Daddy tell a story.

S Now, it's Debbie's turn now. Debbie's turn now.

D There was once a girl and she, and she couldn't go outside and play because it was too cold. She didn't have good clothes. But she stayed inside. And her Mother and Daddy didn't know how to drive. So there was a man, and he drove everybody that didn't know how to drive. There, there were lots of those cars that, that picked, picked up the people who didn't know how to drive. But...where her father and mother had gone, to...work...her mother went to work too.

E (unclear)

D When the children stayed home with grandma. And grandma... gave them...some, something to eat when they were hungry.

V Did they like grandma?

D Yes. She...they liked her, very much. The children liked grandma very much because she didn't spank them. She only told them.

V Ohhh.

D They were very good kids. They didn't do....

E Was there a grandpa?

D Grandpa stayed home. Grandpa was next door.

E Ahhh.

D And...and....(coughs) Grandma made some soup for supper...she made different kinds of things every

day. When she used them up, she made...she makes different things...she... goes to the store.

V Every day?

D Not every day, because... they didn't eat it up so fast.

S Mmmm hmmm.

D They had three bottles of everything. Pickles...jelly...

S (laughs)

D ...jam...

E Was sour pickles and sweet pickles..

D Ummm...the kids didn't like sour pickles, they liked sweet ones. So there were four....bottles of ...sweet pickles.

V What did they like best? What Grandma made? What, what food they like best?

D Well, the food they liked best was tacos, ...soup, ...and jelly and jam, and bread, and ham and steak....and that's all.

S Not cookies?

D Yes...

V Did she bake cookies too for them?

D Yes, they like cookies, ice cream, and candy.

V And candy? She gave them candy?

D For dessert.

V Oh.

D And anytime they wanted something, they could have it from the room.

S Ah, I see.

V Hmm!

D Now...Mommy's turn.

V Mommy's turn.

BREAK 9:15

D I know, Daddy wants to record the song and he wants to hear what we say.

V Would you like to, like to listen to yourself now? Instead of me?

D Yeah I want you

V Oh you want me to tell a story?

D Yes, and not Daddy.

V And not Daddy.

V Watch it, Eric.

D Hey, he might fall down.

V Shall I tell you about the little girl who was going to school? But you know she had to go by train, I told you about that. Didn't I?

D Yes, but tell me a different story.

V A different story? Well I'll tell you about her school. You know, her school was very big. She was already in high school, you see. And she had a very very big school, beautiful building. And up the hill she had to climb lots of steps. To get to the school. But you know, in her school there were no boys, just girls, all girls.

D Boys in a different school?

E Mrs...LePage?

V Yes, boys in a different school.

E But...the teacher...Mrs. LePage...(this was the name of one of our real teachers...)

V Mrs LePage....no, she had a different teacher for every subject, you know, she had a different teacher. One teacher would come in, and when the teacher came in, everybody would get up. Do you have to get up when your teacher comes into the room? Do you get up?

D Get up what?

V Get up from your chair

S Do you stand up?

V Stand up...do you stand up? Til the teacher, while the teacher walks in or she is already in the room isn't she?

D Ummmmm..

V She's already in the room....well. These girls had to get up. Every time the teacher came in, they got up, and then they were seated and they had to listen, and the teacher would be there for maybe half an hour, and then he would leave, and some other teacher would come in. Maybe one teacher was teaching history, and another was teaching religion, and so you see...and mathematics, and Slovak, or English, or whatever language they had that day ,every, everything taught by a different teacher. You see? And then they had a break, you know at 10 o'clock or so, they had a break ,and they had a sandwich, they brought their lunchboxes with them. And they had a sandwich and then they went on...

E (unclear...) Some cookies and some candy?

V No candy, no they didn't have candy.

E And...A candy?

V Some sandwich and some fruit.

E And...Could they have for dessert.

V For dessert yeah.

E And some cookies?

V Sometimes, sometimes...and so they were in school for quite some time, about five or six hours, about twice as long as you. And then, when school was over, everybody went home. You see some children lived in the same town, and some had to go by train home, I told you about it. They had to come by train. See. And in summer when it was warm, they went and got some ice cream, there were ice cream parlors, and they would get ice cream, and there were little tables outside under the tree, and they would sit there and have another dish of ice cream.

This following segment (which is a continuation of the above recording session) is used to create a separate short 3 minute video. In this section, Debbie talks about monsters, space and God with Mom and Dad.

E Was there a monster?

V Monster? No, no, there were no monsters. Did you ever see a monster, Eric?

D Yeah, I did on cartoons.

V Oh on cartoons, but really, a live one? Have you?

E No.

- V Do you think there are monsters?
D Not here.
V Not here, where? Where would there be monsters? Where do you think there are monsters?
D There are no monsters over here. Nothing. Only on TV.
V Do you think there are monsters in space?
D Yep.
V Do you think so?
D Yep.
V Really?
D Yep. I do
V Who is in space...who...
D I am talking Daddy...like
S Mmm..hmmm.
V Spaceman....What else is in space, Debbie? What do you think, what else is in space? What else?
D The Moon...
V The Moon yeah, and what else?
D The Sun...
V Yes..
D The planets...
V Planets...
D The houses...
V Houses too? How do you...
D Houses, houses on the planets
V How do you think they would, eh, would be able to be there, on the planet?
S Just like on earth, right.
V Do you think they...
D It's like an... island
V Oh, like an island...
D I saw that...
V Is God in space, you think?
D No, I don't.
V Where do think God is then?
D I think he's higher and higher and high...and when he reaches the top of the sky, and...that's all the sky can go, no farther, then he... stays there.
D Yeah, and then he comes in everyone.
V But didn't you tell me the other day that he was in everybody? Is he in Eric too?
D Yes. Everybody in the whole world.
V Really?
D Yes.
V And is he, is he in you now?
D Yes.
V Do you feel him? Right there? Does he feel good? Is he good?
D In me every time I do something, my heart says TOOM, TOOM, TOOM.
V Really? When you want to do something...

S You mean when you do something wrong.

D (makes sound)

V So you really want to do something good, all the time...

D Fuck you, Daddy. I'm (unclear) talking, I'm...

V You know in space, when the astronauts go into space, they can go closer to the stars. And they see the earth from way up high, and the earth, you know how it looks to them? It's round. They can see many, many thousands of miles. And the earth, is small and they see...

D When does the sky stop?

V The sky doesn't stop. You see, sweetheart, the earth...rot... moves. Remember how we explained the day and the night? When it gets dark, that means the sun is turning away from the sun...the earth is turning away from the sun, and we are on the dark side. And by the time we sleep, and then in the morning, when it gets to be light, that means the earth has turned towards the sun again, and the sun is shining on our side, because you know, the children in Asia now, they are in the middle of day, they have sunshine. Maybe.

S On the other side of the world

V On the other side of the world, that's right. See that's the way it works.

BREAK 15:50 Eric reads from the Cat in the Hat with Mom

V Eric, shall we, read the Cat in the Hat? That would be nice, come on. I am going to start and you will read some of it, you know, just like we did the other day, okay? Now...the sun did not shine...

E ...it was too wet to play, so I sat in the house on that cold cold wet day.

V Very good. Okay now, I sat there with Sally...

E We sat there ...I was..something to do...it was too cold to play ball

V So we sat...

E In the house ...on the c...

V We did

E ...do nothing at all..sit there with...

V ...so all we could do

E ...was sit, sit, sit, sit, sit.

V And we did not like it.

E Not one little bit.

V Very good!

E And something went bump. How that bump made us jump.

V Very good! We looked

E And we saw him, stepping on the mat.

V we looked...and we saw him...the...

E ..Cat in the Hat.

V And he said to us...

E Why do you sit there like this? I know it's...the sun is not shine...

V The sun is not.....

E Out...

V but we can have...

E Lots of fun...

V No wait a minute, lots of good fun that is...

E Funny

V Funny. I know some good games we could play, said the cat.

E I know good, some good tricks we could play, said the Cat in the Hat.

V A lot of good tricks

E I will show to you now...Mom...your Mom wont' mind...if I do...

V If I do, then Sally and I...

E Did know...to do...

V Our mother was out of the house..

E The house for the day

V For the day, but our fish said ...

E No, no make that Cat go away, you do not want to play

V Tell the Cat in the Hat you do not want to

E Play

V He should not be here,

E Not be here, he should not be about, he should not be here when your mother is out

V That's right, now now,

E Have no fear, have no fear, I'll hold you up....higher

V My tricks are not bad...

E Said the Cat in the Hat

V Why, we can..

E Have lots of fun, but up-up or the...

V With a game...that I call...

E Up up with the fish

V Up with the fish. Put me down, said the fish

E Put me down, saidno fun at all, put me down, put me down

V I do not wish..

E ...to fall

V Have no fear

E Have no fear, I'll hold you up,

V I'll not let you fall, I'll hold you up

E High as I stand on a ball

V With a book...

E On one hand, a cup on my hat, and a fish...

V But that is not all I can...

E Do

V Said the...

E Cat.

V cat.

BREAK 19:07

E Time to have fun but you have to know how...

- V Wait a minute, look at me said the Cat, with a cup and a cake on the top of my...
 E Head can....two...two...books
 V I can hold up....the fish...and a little toy ship
 E Toy ship
 V and some...
 E Milk on a dish
 V Look, I can hop on...
 E A ball, and that is not all...
 V Oh no, that is not
 E Not all

BREAK 19:40

- V Very good Eric. You know what day today is? December what? 6...that we recorded it on...December 6, 67 and you are what? You are just a little over 3 years old and you can memorize so well, aren't you happy about that? (unclear)
 E Yeah!
 V Are you going to learn a lot more books? Do you like to...which ...

BREAK 20:19

The following recording was made in 1969, beginning when Rob was 6.5 weeks old, in about June 22 or 23 1969.

- E This is Robert at ... 6 weeks!
 V Say something, Robert, say something...what are you going to say? Huh?
 D Say...
 V Say something. Now you don't' even cry, huh?
 R (Cries a little)
 D Hurry...
 V Now, cry...cry a little...
 D (unclear)
 R (cries a bit)
 V All right. You still want to cry a little bit now, when I pick you up?

BREAK 21:40

- V Say something, Robert.
 R (makes sound)
 V That's good. Anything more you want to say? ...Say something, Robert.
 (background noise)

V (whispers) "talk to him"

E Are, are you gonna talk? Do you wanna play baseball? You can be, you can be, you can be the pitcher! I'm gonna be the (unclear).

V What are you going to be, Robert?

D I'll be the catcher.

V What are you going to be Robert

E I'm going to be...um...you know that thing with that thing over their ...oh, oh, well I'm going to be that, okay?!

D That's the catcher. Oh Mom, you know that thing Daddy has, like over...

V Umpire, you mean?

E Yeah yeah ,...no he has a glove too...and he...

D That's a catcher.

E And he has some over like that.

D And if he has some over, he's a catcher because, because when they catch, it might hit them.

E It's metal, there's metal on his face

V On his face

D It's like (unclear)

V Yes...what do you say to that?

E Well..

D (whispers) Say, say what you want to be...something...

V Robert, what you want to be, say something, tell us?

D I want to talk...in there... Huh? Do ya? You wanna be a...um..pitcher? Kickball? You can be the pitcher in kickball! Ha? You wanna be that? You can!

R (sounds)

V He's yawning all right....ha hais that all you're going to do for us, yawn?

D Are ya??!! More, more. (tapping sound)

V You were talking to us nicely before we turned this thing on. Wow, that's another sneeze. (tapping sound) Anything else..., Robert?

D Yeah...anything else? I like to hear ya, talking. Make it...nice! And, and...loud so we can hear it! And lots of it, too, hah? Will ya?

R (Breathing sounds) (some soft crying sounds)

D Hee hee hee hee!

R (some soft sounds)

D Okay now...

R (soft crying sounds)

V You're holding Debbie's hand, are you? Real tight!

D My finger!

V Does it feel good, does it?

D Say no.

R (soft sounds)

V Now...tell us something Robert, does it feel good to hold her finger? Tell us how old you are. You are just six and a half weeks today, six and a half weeks. Yes. Do you like that?

R (soft sounds)

D You're going to (unclear) nothing. You (unclear) ...lots of nothing....(whispers) "Talk...into there."

R (soft sounds)

D (Whispers) "Talk"

R (soft sounds)

D (whispers) Say, say "do you love me?" Say if you do, or if you don't, say yes or no. Which one, which one, in here, say it...

V You can say it loud, Debbie....we can hear it better that way.

D Hey, you want to say something ...oh you still...you said that

R (soft sounds)

BREAK 27:15 This was recorded July 7 1969 (Rob was born May 7 1969)

V Robert, say something, this is, this is your birthday, this 2 months, you are 2 months old, say something. Robert, do you like that? You are 2 months old today. Are you going to smile? Smile.

R (soft cries)

V would you smile? But you did smile beautifully today. Oh yes, you smiled at Mommy so much. Do you feel like talking?

R (soft cries)

V Okay (unclear) ...talk.

R (soft cries)

V That's all? Did you know that Debbie and Eric are, are at Grandmother's? Yes. They are at Grandmother's . You are all alone with me today.

R (soft cries)

V Do you miss them? You miss them.

R (soft cries)

V I bet you do.

R (soft cries)

V Ohhh...you smile nicely, yes.

R (soft cries)

BREAK 29:05 Recorded August 1 1969

V Today is August 1st, you are almost 3 months old, Robbie. How is that? Talk to me. Talk to me. Say something Robbie. Do you like the rain? It's raining. Do you like it? You do?

R (soft sounds)

V Well, say something to me. You did just a minute ago, you talked beautifully to me. Smile, give me a big smile, come on, let's see. How's that? That's good. That's good.

R (soft cries)

V Very nice. ... You almost laughed a while ago, you know, but you're getting tired now aren't you, it's too close to feeding time again. And you are little bit sick today, you have diarrhea, and your bottom hurts. Yes, so we couldn't go to the lake. You know Debbie and Daddy and Eric went to the lake, to swim. And we had to stay home because you were sick. You were sick and you cried, and you couldn't fall asleep. You know that, don't' you. Yes.

R (soft sounds)

V You want to go on your tummy and show me how you can put your head up, way up high? You do

beautifully. Would you like that? No. You're getting very hungry now, aren't you? You what that is? Thunder! It's thundering out there. Yes!

R (soft sounds)

V I can't hear you. That's better. Not too loud, come on, some more. Talk to me. Don't you want to, hmmm?

R (soft sounds)

V Shall we rewind now? And listen to what we played, what we made today? What do you think, okay?

Break 32:30 Recorded in October 1969 when Robert was 5 months old

V Now Robby, you are ...five months old...do you know that? Are you going to talk to me a bit? You can sit up so nicely, all by yourself. And you play so nicely.

R (soft sounds)

V can you say anything? Say something. Say something. You talk into it, talk into it, here. Say something. No, you don't put it in your mouth, no, but you talk into it. Can you say something, huh? Say hi. Can you say hi? Or Ma-ma? Or Da-da? Nothing?

R (soft sounds)

V Wont' you talk? I'm running the tape for you. Here is your ring, like this one? That fits you, nicely in your mouth, yeah, that fits nicely doesn't it. You like that bracelet? It's a bracelet you know.

R (soft cries)

V Does it taste good?

R (more sounds)

V That's right, you put it on your arm like that, that's a bracelet. See you know how to do that very well. But now you can't put it in your mouth, because you have it on your arm. How about this little lamb here, it squeaks. You see, Robby? Do you like this one? That's your little lamb. Can you make her squeak? Ah ha, that's your bracelet back again now, you're confused. You found it, didn't you. You like to sit up, don't you! Oh that's so much fun, to see everything! And you can handle your toys so much better that way. Yes! Isn't that wonderful? And it tastes good, hmmm? Does it taste good? Well you're not going to talk, huh? I better shut this off now.

Break 35:50 Mom and Eric talk with Robert

E Oh now, we're reading the book, a book? And...that's what we're doing. They rain on the playground

V Good.

E And we will play in the play...playing inside.

V In sand too? You have a sandbox? You play out, in the sandbox?

E Mmm—hmm. And boy have a....

V (laughs) He likes your story, look at him smiling, he likes your story better than mine.

E What did you tell him?

V Oh I just talked to him, I told him he's five months... old already, and how he can sit up nicely, but he wasn't very impressed by that. Maybe he likes your face better, huh? Let's wake him up, Eric. "Tch-tch-tch".

E ...and...

R (makes sounds)

V (makes funny sounds)

E (makes funny sounds)

V That's funny, huh?

R laughs

E laughs

V "kitchoo-kitchoo" (probably tickling Rob)

R (makes sounds)

V Oh...come on, come on, Eric. What are you doing there? Let's go!

E Can I talk in there?

V You are talking. Let's go! Let's get going here!

E (Makes funny sounds.)

R laughs

V (makes funny sounds)

V Come on, no, not that way.

R laughs

V He likes that. He likes to be picked up. Is that funny? Is that funny, Robby?

E (makes sounds)

V Is that funny, that is your brother sitting there, playing with you. He plays well with you, doesn't he?

(makes sounds) Watch out, here I am , here I come.

R (crying)

D or E He's fooling.

