

THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

February 28, 1951

Description: In the opening segment, ER and Elliott Roosevelt respond to a listener's question about some of the "human interest stories" from when ER lived in the White House. In the interview segment, ER's guest is Evelyn Hanes, the founder and executive director of the Huckleberry School, an artist retreat and rural school in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Participants: ER, Elliott Roosevelt, Evelyn Haynes

[ER:] Good afternoon, this is Eleanor Roosevelt. I am happy to welcome you for another visit here in my living room at the Park Sheraton Hotel. As usual, I have a guest that you will be anxious to meet, and as usual Elliott will assist me on the program. And now here is Elliott.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Thank you, Mother. I think that our listeners are going to agree that the story they'll hear from Miss Evelyn Hanes, today's guest, is both courageous and inspiring. Miss Hanes is the executive director of a school that has the unique name Huckleberry. And the school itself is just as unique as its name. Miss Hanes has instituted many unusual and creative activities in the school's curricular. I have become so fascinated by her story that I regret that there are not more schools such as this throughout the country. Mother's mail is so full of interesting letters written in by listeners that it is sometimes difficult which letter to choose to discuss on this program. But I think the letter chosen by Mother today will be of universal interest. Before we get underway, our announcer has a word to say for our sponsors who make this recorded program possible. (1:21)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Mother, I have here a letter from uh Mary Reed in New York City, and uh I think that uh she has rather a uh a nice suggestion for our program today. She says, "I listen to your program every day and enjoy every minute of it; meeting such interesting people and all of them so friendly and informal. I thought for some time now that it would be fun to have you tell us some of the little human interest stories that happened while you were in the White House. Like, for instance, the little old lady who wrote you that she had a great desire to have lunch or tea or something there. And you immediately invited her and she came! This was a newspaper story we read and liked among many others. True or False?"

[ER:] Well, that story was true! Um I suppose I could tell quite a lot. I think, perhaps, the one that I told in my book, and which good many people must be familiar with um of the day in the snow storm in Washington. That I went to the station and all the trains were late and the people I had gone to meet didn't turn up and the train didn't come in. And it was at that time because we were -- um it was during war time, that moment Father was away, and um uh in what was known as the President's reception room they ran a canteen for service men. So as I was waiting for hours to find out about the train. I went in to the canteen and uh talked to the boys and signed a lot of autographs and did a lot of things. And finally um I said to the lady who ran it, having discovered for the umpty-umped time that they didn't know when the train would come, that uh I thought I'd go on home. She said, uh "Have you got a car?" And I said, "Oh no, I'm not going to send for the car! I want to walk home since we don't often have a snow storm, it will be fun walking down Pennsylvania Avenue!" And just as I started to leave, a young soldier said to me, um, "If you're going to walk alone, Mrs. Roosevelt, could I walk with you?" And I said, "Yes," and so we walked down Pennsylvania Avenue! And then, it was nearly dinner time and the only people in the house were, uh for lunch were going to be Tommy [Malvina Thompson] and uh Louise Hopkins and Diana [Hopkins] because Harry [Hopkins] had gone with Father. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.]

So um as we neared the White House, and I- I said to this boy, "Well, what time does your train go?" And he said, "Oh, it doesn't go till late afternoon." And I said, "Well, what are you going to do the rest of the time?" "Oh, I'm just going to bum around." And I said, "Well, wouldn't you like to come in and have lunch?" He said yes he would. So I uh went in the uh entrance opposite the Treasury, and the first guard looked firmly at the young man, but as he was with me, he let him by. But I went up in the elevator, and I said to the usher, "Uh this young soldier walked home with me, and he's going to stay for lunch, will you please have another place put on and will you show him where he can wash up." And then I went upstairs. And in a few minutes the usher appeared at Tommy's office--Miss Thompson's office -- and said um, "Who is this young man Mrs. Roosevelt brought home?" And Tommy said, "I don't know, I'll go and ask her." So she came into me and-and uh said, "So who is the young man you brought home for lunch?" and I said, "I haven't the remotest idea, his name is so-and-so." And uh she said, "But don't you know anything about him?" and I said "No! He was in the canteen! And said he'd like to walk home with me and I walked home with him, and then I asked him to lunch!" "Well, the guards are very much worried." And I said, "Nonsense! There's no one here that he can do the least harm to! And [ER and Elliott Roosevelt laugh] so--so we went down and had lunch and I showed him round little bit, then afterwards said goodbye to him and he left. And uh then to my great amusement, a few minutes after he had left the telephone rang and one of the papers asked whether he'd been there. And we'd knew that he just hadn't been able to keep from telling [Elliott Roosevelt laughs]the first person he met where he'd met where he'd been to lunch! That had gone straight to the papers as an item of news!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I don't blame him for giving it to the paper. I think I'd have done the same thing under similar circumstances!

[ER:] That I think so.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Did you uh -- I think you oughta tell how Fala used to get out once in awhile and run away.

[ER:] Well, we- we finally prevented him by building a new yard. But at first, Franklin thought it was safe to let him run in the uh whole back of part of the White House within the gate, but um he was very annoyed with Father because uh um he didn't let him go up to the inauguration with him. He got into the car and Father ordered him lifted out and kept at home. And Scotties, you know, are very stubborn when they're very annoyed. And so um when we came home there was no Fala. And the horrible news had to be broken that Fala had disappeared; he'd run away! Well everybody in Washington then was alerted, all the policemen, and everybody else. He'd gotten out under the gate. And uh so after that a large uh yard was built with uh wire all around so he couldn't get out. But in the meantime everybody hunted for Fala. And finally, towards evening he was brought home! He had been found at the entrance to one of the movie theaters on Pennsylvania Avenue. And when he was brought in, Father looked up and they told him where they'd found him. And he said, "Oh well, of course, Fala felt that as I denied him and not allowed him to come to the inauguration, he had to go to and see it at the movies." And so then they made up and were friends! He scolded Fala a little, and [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] then they -- he gave him his dinner and they were friends again! (7:54)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, Mommy, tell me about the- the first time you ever went to the White House!

[ER:] Oh, that's ages, ages ago!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] In your whole life!

[ER:] I don't know if I can remember the first time, but I can remember the first time I went there when Uncle Ted [Theodore Roosevelt], I don't know that I'd ever been before. I don't believe I ever had. Um I

think I went for the first time when Uncle Ted um was in the White House. I think the first, the very first time was um to his -- [Elliott Roosevelt: Inauguration?] To his inauguration I imagine. [Elliott Roosevelt: Surely.] Because I remember staying with Auntie Bye [Anna Roosevelt Cowles], [Elliot coughs and um Father was down there too if I remember rightly. I don't even- don't even--

[Elliott Roosevelt:] My goodness, uh Uncle Ted was inaugurated before you two were married!

[ER:] Yes, he was! And um uh I know I was quite frightened but I don't know much about it. And I did stay one night in the White House with Alice, but I was always terrified of Alice. She was so much cleverer than I was, and so much um uh surer of herself, and so much more of a belle and could talk so much better than I was always perfectly petrified! And I don't remember very much about that night I spent in the White House. [ER and Elliott Roosevelt laugh] I think I was too scared! (9:14)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] So the first time you ever went to the White House you were scared. But how about telling us a little something about the years when Father was assistant secretary of the navy and you used to go to White House quite a lot of the time then. Uh--

[ER:] No, we only went to formal things then. Occasionally, I would take somebody to tea at the White House, who was a visitor. [Elliott Roosevelt: Mhm.] Um but uh and we and went to the formal things, so that I know um I know exactly how people felt who came to receptions at the White House; how long it took to get up from downstairs, up those stairs, and through the East Room, and...

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Through the line.

[ER:] And finally they shook hands with the President! I remember that very well!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Quite an ordeal.

[ER:] Oh, quite an ordeal!

[Elliott Roosevelt:] And you have to listen to the music by the, given, given forth by the- the Marine band.

[ER:] You certainly do, but the Marine band's a very good band that I always enjoyed! [ER laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, uh were there any experiences that you had during uh receptions when uh-uh you and Father uh stood in the receiving line for hours. There were -- I remember some rather uh amusing incidents.

[ER:] Oh, I remember some too. I remember- I remember the lady that came through. You see, they're always announced to Father by either the -- they take turns, first the um uh, army aide, and then the navy aide, but both of them at times get a little tired and they say names automatically. And Paul Watson who was with Father such a long while, one night announced in a very booming voice, "Mrs. Rhode Island!" [Elliott laughs] And I thought Father would die! [Elliott Roosevelt laughs] He took one look at her and realized that she was the National Committee Woman from Rhode Island!

[ER:] And said -- he looked at Paul very firmly but of course, never did -- he loved to tease, and he never let up on Paul. He would always say, "Well, now, Pa? tonight don't introduce Mrs. Rhode Island!" (11:22)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I remember another little stunt that he had, which was that uh, I hope that the people who went thought the line didn't realize what he was doing. But he used to rush them through and onto you, and as they would come up and start their little speeches he'd say, "I'm so glad to see you," he grabbed their hand and pull them right past him and say, "And I want you to meet Mrs. Roosevelt."

[Elliott Roosevelt laughs]

[ER:] [laughs] That's-that was a way he had of hurrying the line when he thought it was going too slowly. But it was quite an ordeal for Father because standing with braces uh is not an easy thing. So it was much more of an ordeal than it was for any ordinary person in the White House. But there were lots of -- oh, I think one of the amusing things that we'd tell once upon a time: we had a very solemn convention that met in the White House. Um teachers, from a rural -- on rural schools, teachers from all over the country. And it was the last afternoon and suddenly a man came up and was expected to make a very formal speech, and he said, "I can't go home unless I've seen Fala!" So, I went out and got Fala and a piece of cake and made him do all his tricks in the middle of the East Room for all the teachers, and I think they probably enjoyed it more than anything they had the whole time! [Elliott Roosevelt laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Well, I think we've run out of time on this part of the program and that we have to turn it over now to the announcer. (13:00)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] At Hendersonville, in North Carolina, is a school which we think has the most interesting story behind it; how it was founded, and what it accomplishes. It is also an excellent example of community cooperation. With us today is the founder and executive director of this school, known as Huckleberry. Uh Miss Evelyn Hanes is the founder and executive director, and Mother will you take over and interview Miss Hanes?

[ER:] Yes, I'm very glad to see you again Miss Hanes, it's nice to have you here today.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Thank you, I'm so glad to bring you a little bit more of Huckleberry.

[ER:] Well, I'm particularly glad to be able to ask you about it because it's always been to me one of the most interesting undertakings, and I remember when you came to see me in the White House. First of all, I'd like to ask you why it's called Huckleberry?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, it happens to be on Huckleberry Mountain, which is just out of Henderson, North Carolina and twenty-one miles from Ashville. So we naturally called it Huckleberry.

[ER:] [Laughs] Naturally called it Huckleberry! Well, that's a very simple reason! (14:15)

[ER:] Now tell us a little bit about uh, when and how you started Huckleberry because I think our audience will be interested.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, Huckleberry really started January 13 in 1939. Uh because on that day my insurance company decided that they would stop paying me total disability insurance after having done it ten years and my doctor told me that I had only 6 months more at the most to live, he was just a little discouraged. So I decided to take God in as partner and start a writer's retreat and see if there was anything in really with walking with a partner, such as He is. And we started and I borrowed three thousand dollars from the bank and had an old camp of my mother's, Camp Minnehaha, she was -- it was a girl's camp and we used that as the basis for the group work. And my mountain neighbors came in and helped me repair the steps, and fix up the different parts of the building, and for that I gave them half cash and half in notes. And then camp opened, of course, my staff -- I didn't dare attempt to get these big names, but Dr. Edwin Grover of Rollins College had had the Blowing Rock School of English and he'd

been after me to start a school of this kind, but I didn't feel that I could because at that time I couldn't speak, my speech was crossed and I couldn't walk. But I did, and uh he said well, "Write to Vivian Larimore the poet laureate of Florida, she'll come I'm sure! And write to Harold Blodgett of Union College of Schenectady and Dick Saunders of Duke University." People that I would have never dared think of coming, but they came for just board and room and were delighted and did so much of their own work. But when we opened camp we ran ten days without a single pupil. [ER laughs] And then, everyone tried to get me to take boarders and to change it. But I said, "No, this is one of those you know, testing times and we must wait." And sure enough, a seventy-five year old poet came in. I should say that Nelly was a would-be poet. But she was selling before she died. And she had a wonderful time!

[ER:] Was she really? Well, that's interesting! Um what- what do you really teach in your school?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Why, we teach poetry and short story and radio script and juvenile fiction, uh weaving, painting, handcrafts.

[ER:] And you don't -- what-what are the um uh qualifications that your students have to have?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, they're very simple. They must have the equivalent of a high school education because we want them to be as emotionally adult as we can in the modern generation where there are so few that are! And then, they must have a serious interest in the creative arts. They may be absolute beginners.

[ER:] What do you call uh the equivalent of a high school education? How do you judge the equivalent?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, many times a person has done with their hands uh out in work what they would have done. For instance, we've had quite a number of men who never got through high school. But they have read, they have studied, and they have worked together in such a way that they know what they want to do and they do this creative work. (17:26)

[ER:] Well, that's very interesting. Yes, I can see what you mean then by uh the equivalent of a high school education.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes. But I would like, before we started the founding of Huckle-- uh leave the founding of Huckleberry to tell you about those notes because it was the way Huckleberry has kept going.

[ER:] Yes!

[Evelyn Hanes:] Uh you see, we hadn't any pupils for ten days and the notes came due in two weeks. So uh on Saturday, the men came to me, they were done, due on Sunday. And I said, "Well, come back Monday and I will have it for you." Well, Monday, they came back, but before they had come back on Sunday, I had the feeling that everyone has when it's taken care of, no matter what their faith is, that it's just adjusted. And I went over to the camp and here was a boy from Auburn, Alabama, his aunt had sent him up and with him was a cashier's check for the absolute amount to the penny of every note I owed the next day.

[ER:] Good gracious! How perfect it is!

[Evelyn Hanes:] [Laughs] And that is the way when we get absolutely down to the last dime, sometimes beyond the last dime as we are right now because we are a little in the hole, why the Lord comes forward or someone does in His place!

[ER:] Well, you have to have um, uh great faith, don't you to go Miss--

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, when you do in living! That's true of anything, don't you think?

[ER:] Yes, I suppose it is. Uh but uh sometimes uh we have um difficulty in, in having it a real uh religious faith. We scurry around ourselves and I sometimes think the Lord expects us to!

[Evelyn Hanes:] I don't think He expects us to sit down and do nothing. I think He'd expect us to keep busy just as much as we can to the ability. And uh I raised all our meat during the war I raised all our vegetables. I plant them; I'm very much interested in J.B. Ryan's of blessing them and getting the different things, and uh...

[ER:] How were you able to do that? Your health was supposed to be in a very precarious condition?
[Evelyn Hanes laughs] How could you do all of this?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, it's just one of those wonderful things! I went to one of my surgeons, who'd been - one of the that had operated-- and he asked what I had done after he had experimented two days with me. And uh I told him, "I've just been praying and pulling God into me." And he just, the tears streamed down his face, and he said "Keep on. Ut's nothing but a miracle!" But, although, I've given you this religious angle, I don't want you to think that at Huckleberry we stress it. Because we find if people find that you're living it, you don't have to say anything. Uh it's so much more important to just let them come and be exposed to the joy of creating because no one can do negative things when they're creating. They can't hate, they can't have jealousy, they can't have all those things.

[ER:] Well now uh um you told me where your teachers came from start. Where do they come from now?
(22:11)

[Evelyn Hanes:] Oh, all over the country! Uh from California, from Florida, from New York, from Chicago. Just wherever I think that we find a teacher that can supply the need. It's a very important thing because they must be able to handle beginners. They must be able to handle professionals.

[ER:] Do they get paid now?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes, they get 50 percent of the tuition fee. The tuition fee is ten dollars a week in any one subject. They don't get wealthy. But they find that they can uh, do twice as much work. They teach one class, and the rest of their time is their own for their own creative work. So, I have a waiting list of teachers who would like to come and teach because it's the perfect creative uh atmosphere, should I say, or altitude.

[ER:] Well, if they get -- that's five dollars per pupil, uh how much do you find that board and lodging costs?

[Evelyn Hanes:] We uh have it at twenty-five to forty a week; most of them take a little thirty-dollar room. That does--

[ER:] The teachers do.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, they get their own board and room free

[ER:] Oh they get? For free? You give it to them for free?

[Evelyn Hanes:] That's-that's uh extra.

[ER:] That's part of it.

[Evelyn Hanes:] That's part of it, they have no expense except their personal.

[ER:] But a student would- would um would pay ten dollars a week for every course plus board and room.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes.

[ER:] And board and room would be how much?

[Evelyn Hanes:] We keep it at twenty-five to forty a week, which really doesn't cover entirely and we've been hoping to get more scholarships and endowments to do that. Because there's so many talented pupils that we want down there. So they can go on and do their books and do their paintings and things of that kind. One of our um New Yorkers here Francis Wilson came down here a number of years, she's been coming every year, and she had never painted before. And uh, she was there four weeks and when she came back up here she exhibited at New York U and won the first prize, a two and a half year study.

[ER:] Good gracious. (22:05)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Hmm.

[Evelyn Hanes:] So uh they produce, and we had a dinner here just the other day with thirty-two New York people that had been at Huckleberry at the dinner.

[ER:] Well now, how many students have you now?

[Evelyn Hanes:] We have -- we can accommodate fifty at one time.

[ER:] And where do they come from?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, from forty-six states and six foreign countries to date.

[ER:] Whoa! [ER laughs]

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Is that right?

[ER:] Forty-six states and six foreign countries!

[Evelyn Hanes:] To me, that is the most interesting part of Huckleberry's work in that it goes out to different communities and starts little units there. It relaxes the tension. In Biloxi, we had one girl who had never written a line. And she came to uh Huckleberry, now she's selling at three and five cents a word. And besides that, has gotten her whole town enthused. They're writing, they're painting, instead of gossiping and cocktails.

Elliot: That's very, very interesting, and I hate to break in at this very moment in the interview, but I think we must stop for just a moment and then we'll come right back to Miss Hanes and the story of Huckleberry. (23:05)

Elliot: And now, Mother, I think we can return to this most fascinating interview about the- the school known as Huckleberry outside of Hendersonville in North Carolina and your interview with Miss Evelyn Hanes.

[ER:] Well now, Miss Hanes, I'd like to know uh because uh you live in the mountains, what you are uh, doing with the mountain people who are your neighbors because I know you, you cooperate with them and work with them a good deal, don't you?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Oh, that is the most thrilling part of the work! We have a year round program for the mountain children, and as soon as we can afford it, we will have it for the adults. And uh in that program, the children come down every Saturday morning to learn at least five handcrafts. I don't want one person that lives within sight of Huckleberry or sound or is a hoop and a holler, as we say down there, to be without a creative art. So when they get old, they'll have some hobby and something to do. (24:09)

[ER:] Well, now they mostly uh, have certain arts, because I seem [Elliott coughs] to remember uh that um I have bought uh, some rather nice weaving from that area. Don't they weave a good deal in that area?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Oh, they do lovely weaving! But now they have kind of, I call it, disintegrated into looper tops, which is a very crude term, it's from the hosiery. And uh we are trying to have them do more of the fine work. And for that, I've brought over a brought over a DP couple. So they -- we could uh, well almost a cross pollination of the European arts and of the American. [ER: Yes.]

[Evelyn Hanes:] And she has had three and a half years at a European handcraft school

[ER: Oh yes.]

[Evelyn Hanes:] [Unclear term]. And uh the ---

[ER:] Where does she come from?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Uh Yugoslavia.

[ER:] Yugoslavia.

[Evelyn Hanes:] And then, of course, she was in the camp in Germany. She had to flee when Tito came in. [ER: Yes.] And so she's been in a camp there. And they're learning English, that's a whole chapter itself. But to come back to my children. Uh the children have never done anything in recreation. Their idea has been to grab a ball when we're playing ball and run and hide with it. [ER: Yes.] Possession. So we started a basketball team and a Mrs. Coons has given us money to get suits. And now the boys go Asheville to the YMCA twice a week and play basketball. It's the first time they have used their arms except for hoeing and plowing. [ER: Mhm.] And their muscles are beginning to coordinate. Then at Huckleberry we had the first free library for Henderson County. And [ER: That's interesting.] so uh --

[ER:] You have enough children's books?

[Evelyn Hanes:] No. We never have enough books. We could always use more! [ER: Mhm.] Because we have been taking the books out in uh, cartons of fifty -- ten for little tots, and ten for boys, and ten for girls, fifteen fiction, and five nonfiction -- and putting them in twenty grocery stores around, throughout the county. And now I think I have the sheriff's department promising to move those books, I've been

doing it uh every six weeks. And the Grange and the county commissioners are beginning to become interested in having a book mobile. So [Evelyn Hanes laughs] it's growing!

[ER:] Well, that's um, that's really, very, interesting. Well now, what, what other uh, crafts do you teach them? I remember weaving. I remember whittling, that's to say carving, uh really fascinating little animals, which I think came from the mountains of---

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes, it came from Brasstown. Brasstown has majored [ER:Yes.] in that beautiful work. We haven't done it yet because we haven't a teacher who can teach it. [ER: Mhm.]

[Evelyn Hanes:] But uh under Huckleberry we have a clay that fires beautifully.

[ER:] Oh! But I bought some picketed lovely clay, uh I mean, uh ceramic uh dishes of different kinds in North Carolina. I don't know whether they came from the clay, such as you have, or somewhere else, but I think that there's a good deal of that being done in- in different part.

[Evelyn Hanes:] There's a great deal of it being done and the children now are taking home often a bundle uh roll of clay and their fathers, and grandfathers, and grandmothers are working with it. We don't have a kiln so I've had to have it commercially fired and it's been poor work. So, I've had to stop that until we can get one and have really good glazes because they're so poor.

[ER:] Well, that'd be wonderful to have because um -- how much is a kiln?

[Evelyn Hanes:] About five hundred dollars. (27:28)

[ER:] Five hundred dollars for a kiln? [Evelyn Hanes: Uh-huh.] I didn't realize it was that expensive.

[Evelyn Hanes:] That is if you want to do any commercial work. I can get one for uh fifty, seventy-five, or a hundred and fifty, but it's only ten by twelve on the inside, just a very small. And it's all right for experimenting, but not for making things--

[ER:] It'd be all right for an individual, who's doing things, [Evelyn Hanes: Yes.] but it isn't all right on a commercial basis.

[Evelyn Hanes:] The children uh come every morning and work on these crafts painting and weaving and pottery. And then we have been giving them what we call an educational grant. The child has never had any money in his pocket before and they were starting to steal a few years ago.

[ER:] So who- who's --

[Evelyn Hanes:] So, it's an experiment we have been trying.

[ER:] Where did you get that?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Out of my head.

[ER:] Out of your head? [ER and Evelyn Hanes laugh]

[Evelyn Hanes:] I- I saw the children when they raked leaves and got ten or fifteen cents. The poise and the independence they had. So where we had been giving them clothing before, we said we will have a clothing store and sell it to them. So it's a regular circle, the money that comes in from the clothing store

goes right back into the educational grant to the children. And they get this dollar every week for the four hours work, if they are in Class A. That means if they show originality, and interest, and good workmanship. If not, they go into Class B and study two weeks until they can get ready for Class A. And of that money, we require the children to save 10 percent. That is put aside and when they have five dollars we buy a hog or chickens or something that will make more money. So they will learn to invest. And then 10 percent for tithing so that can go to their church. Well, I must tell you a little story on that. Uh this little Shirley Ward, she's 10 years old, went down to the clothing shop, which is run by two boys, fourteen and sixteen, and uh I followed her in that day and saw what she was doing with her eighty cents. She bought a pair of shoes and a pair of stockings and a dress and a sweater. With the eighty cents---

[ER:] How do you buy with eighty cents a pair of shoes, a pair of stockings, and a sweater!?! That seems to me a lot with eighty cents! How do you do it? [ER laughs]

[Evelyn Hanes:] [laughs] Well the clothing is all given to us. (29:40)

[ER:] Oh, so it's all second hand clothing. (29:42)

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes, some of it's brand new. One merchant in Hendersonville just went through his children's shop and gave us about two hundred dollars worth. He came out and ran a movie for us. It was so interesting. But the Green Acres School at Scarsdale sent down twelve hundred pounds this year. [ER: Mhm.] Betty Zino, a teacher, went down to Huckleberry once and got interested. But to go back to little Shirley, so she had bought that and she was standing holding a little child's sweater. And uh I said, "Shirley, something bothering you?" And with the children's abruptness she said, "No!" And I waited and I said, "Well, tell me, what is it?" and then breathlessly she said, "Miss Evelyn, Willard is cold. Do you think the Lord would mind if I used his money and bought this sweater?" [Evelyn Hane laughs] And I told her, "No, I was sure that the Lord wouldn't mind."

[ER:] Oh! [ER laughs]

[Evelyn Hanes:] And she bought the sweater.

[ER:] She bought the sweater with her tithing?

[Evelyn Hanes:] With her tithing! [Evelyn Hanes laughs]

[ER:] Oh, I think that's really pretty sweet! Uh, the 10 percent went into Willard's sweater instead!

[Evelyn Hanes:] Instead of the church! [ER and Evelyn Hanes laugh]

[ER:] Instead of the church!

[Evelyn Hanes:] I expect the preacher objected, but I think it was doing good all along.

[ER:] Oh, I think that's a wonderful story! Uh I-- does the school really -- is the school able to supply the necessary funds for even for this children's program?

[Evelyn Hanes:] No, we went three thousand in the hole this year on it.

[ER:] You did?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes, and uh I've been up seeing different foundations because it would take such a little bit to put us over. And I--- (31:08)

[Elliott Roosevelt:] Miss Hanes, do you get support from uh foundations around the country now that you've been -- (31:15)

[Evelyn Hanes:] We haven't any support so far. It's just been by former Huckleberry students, they all send in some money. And uh friends that have been interested. I have been so busy running it that I haven't had time, until this fall I just had to leave it and go out and get more money or close the work and I didn't think God wanted it that way. And it's one of these testing times where I feel he wants more people interested is the reason that there is this lack. Because uh if the money had come in I'd be down there playing with the children having fun! [ER, Evelyn Hanes, and Elliott Roosevelt laugh]

[Evelyn Hanes:] Not that I'm not having fun being here today! But--

[ER:] Well, I-I think it's never fun when you're raising money. I never consider that fun. But I can imagine that it might be rather interesting. Have you made your contacts with some of the foundations?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Yes, I've been to the number of them and they've all said no, but they've asked to be kept on my -- their mailing list. They said they have all their budgets full for the next two years in all cases. Except the uh Ford, and I haven't made an approach there. I just don't know who to go to get to Mr. Hoffman. I've wanted to tell him of the work because he is so interested in getting people to do creative work and to release the tension and that's what we do at Huckleberry in all the three phases of it.

[ER:] I didn't know that the Ford foundation was doing anything of uh that kind. But uh- uh I think if you wrote directly to Mr. Hoffman, uh he is not unapproachable. I think you'd find that he would um uh he would answer.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Good. Well, I'll do that tomorrow. [Evelyn Hanes laughs]

[ER:] I- I think that's the uh, thing to do. Uh are you -- I understand that you have one a talented boy who is a ventriloquist, and I think our listeners would uh like to hear that story because [ER laughs] I was told about it and it sounded very interesting!

[Evelyn Hanes:] Well, his name is Alec Houston and he's 16 and a perfectly adorable chap. He's in the basketball and in baseball and he's a cheerleader, but you never know where his voice is going to come from as a cheerleader because he can shoot it all around the hall and have a lot of fun! [Elliott Roosevelt: Ha.] But his mother found he was a ventriloquist at two years old. He was calling the dog and not moving his lips at all. And uh I knew [Edgar] Bergen when he was the same age as uh Alec and I think he's just as talented and will go as far. He's the son of our mail carrier there. And he brought him out one day and he said, "Will you listen to Alec?" Well, I thought it was fond Papa enjoying the son. But we became interested and we put him in our radio script class, and he began getting better scripts, and he's going out now, I think with USO. He was going on a circuit.

[Elliott Roosevelt:] That's very interesting.

[ER:] Well, that's very interesting.

Elliot: Uh Miss Hanes this radio program goes out to great many communities, is heard by a lot of people, and uh I believe probably many of them would be interested in learning more about Hendersonville than we have time for on the program today. Uh I mean about Huckleberry, and uh I wondered whether you

could tell the audience if they're interested in uh starting movements to bring funds to further the work of Huckleberry, how they can get in touch with you.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Just Huckleberry, Hendersonville, North Carolina! They don't even have to have my name on it!

[ER:] Just Huckleberry?

[Evelyn Hanes:] Just Huckleberry! Everybody knows Huckleberry!

[ER:] That's perfectly wonderful. I'm sorry we have to draw to a close! But, I'm so glad to have seen you again. So, glad to have this had this talk today.

[Evelyn Hanes:] Thank you so much, Mrs. Roosevelt and Elliott.

[Break 35:02-35:11]

Elliot: Here's a message of importance to every American. Can you picture seven million youngsters in your mind's eye? Probably not, that's a pretty big order. But that's how many more children there'll be in our elementary schools by nineteen hundred and fifty-six. Yes, there'll be seven million more lively boys and girls entering American classrooms to be molded into good citizens. Remember, good citizens of tomorrow are molded in the classrooms; better schools make for a better America. Good citizens everywhere are helping for freedom is everybody's job.

And now it's time to close the program and to remind you that you've been listening to the Eleanor Roosevelt Program which comes to you each Monday thru Friday at this same time, and this is Elliott Roosevelt speaking and wishing you all good day. (36:10)

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