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Interview with Miss Anna McKenna,
Head of Files

Miss McKenna is the second oldest employee of Kodak Office, having come with the company around 1900 as a messenger girl. She was one of those who did filing and copying of letters, which were brought down from Mr. Eastman's office by Miss Whitney. The first copy book is still in the files. Loose copies were made in tissue books. Mr. Eastman always liked that style of book and it was necessary in lawsuits for carbon copies could not be accepted. They put everything in tissue and never had carbons. Miss McKenna has charge of the company letters and Miss Schaum has Mr. Eastman's personal file of letters.

Miss McKenna pointed out that her contacts were through Miss Whitney rather than with Mr. Eastman direct. Also, she had more to do with Mr. Strong who was active in the office. However, she felt that she might have value in this project later by helping to verify statements made by others.

Some of her impressions of Mr. Eastman are that he was an exacting man, but a just one. He was neat in appearance, and her recollection of his speaking voice was that it was quite mild. Because of his dental benefactions I was interested in the state of his own teeth. Miss McKenna stated that Mr. Eastman wore artificial teeth in the last several years of his life. Miss Whitney had told her that he had this work done on one of his vacation periods.

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To Miss McKenna Mr. Eastman never changed. She paid a high but simple tribute "He was always good to everybody and did much that people didn't know about."

A specific incident came back about Mr. Eastman calling her up one time wondering why it took longer to send mail from the office to the Camera Works than it did to send it to New York City. The answer was that the mail for New York was sent out the previous night while that intended for the Camera Works was sent by messenger boy after the beginning of work the next morning.

Mr. Eastman remains pictured in her mind chiefly as he stood working at his high top desk whenever she had occasion to go into his office. He did have, also, a folding-top desk. Miss McKenna never remembered seeing Mr. Eastman's mother in his office but he always had her picture on his desk. Mr. Eastman retained Miss Whitney as secretary for more than forty years although Miss McKenna recalls seeing many applications for this position from men at various times.

Miss Whitney would work Sundays and overtime frequently, for Mr. Eastman would first see the people who wanted to see him and then he would get at his correspondence. Mr. Eastman used to have his own dining room off his office and lunch was brought to him daily in a hamper. She said Mr. Eastman expressed the view that he "liked to have his office as good as his home because he spent most of his life in the office."

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She doesnt remember Mr. Eastman smoking at work but Mr. Strong smoked. People didnt smoke so much in offices then as now, she claims. Mr. Strong seemed like a father to Mr. Eastman, she said, and contrasted Mr. Eastman's poor beginnings with Mr. Strong as a richer man who had lost his money and had begun over again. Mr. Strong was a genial person, in her opinion, but he was a hard worker and insisted that others keep their minds on their work, too.

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