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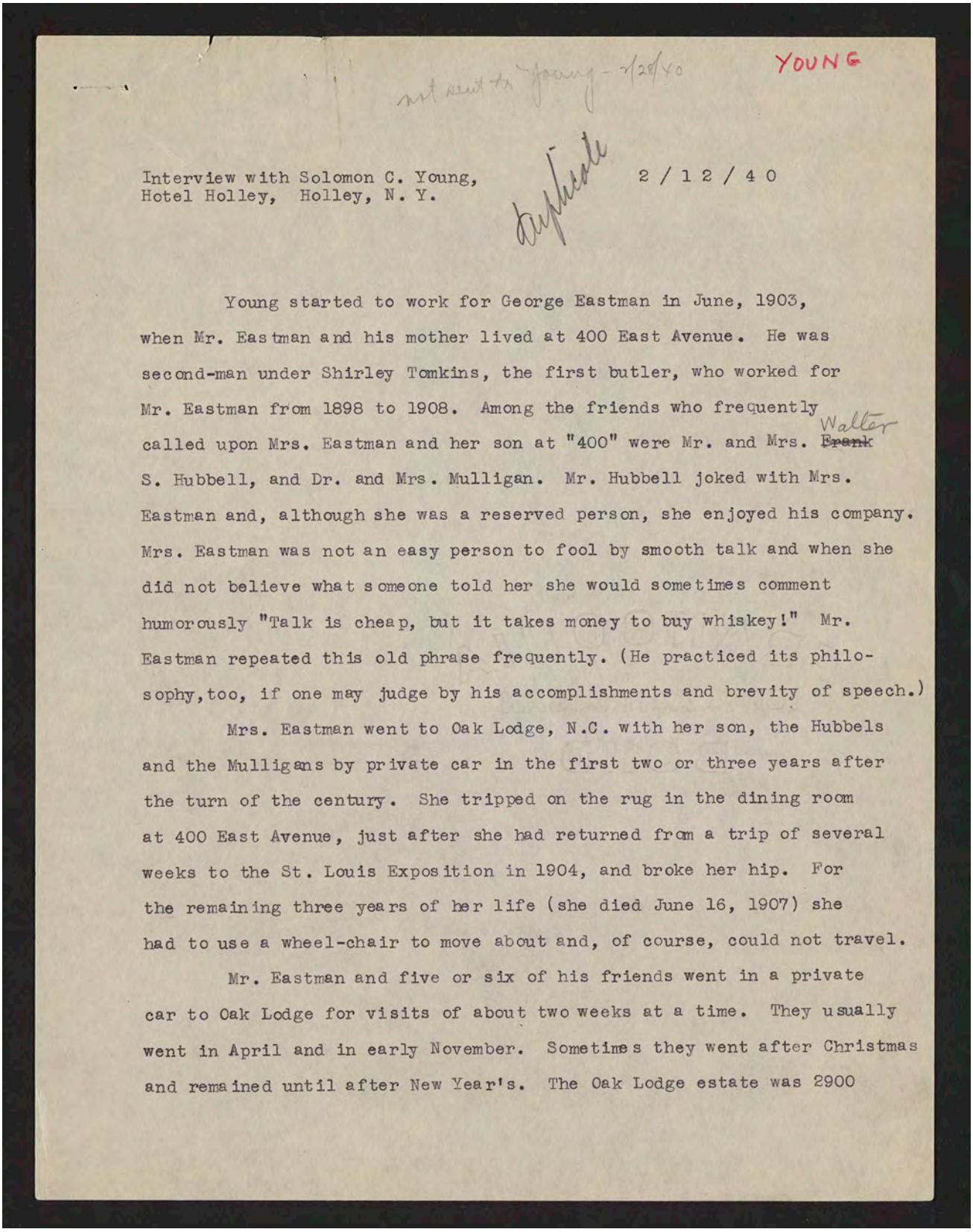

not sent to Young - 7/28/40

YOUNG

Interview with Solomon C. Young,
Hotel Holley, Holley, N. Y.

Duplicate

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He was a very moderate drinker. He put a couple of teaspoonfulls of Scotch in half a glass of water, and this lasted a long while. He liked White Horse Scotch and special brands from the Genesee Valley Club. There was always good rye on hand at home for guests. When there was company, Young often prepared a Vermouth cocktail. Mr. Eastman did not often drink a cocktail when he was alone. The usual cocktail served was made from Italian Vermouth, gin, lemon, sugar and a dash of Angostura bitters. It was served to guests before they went into the dining room, or again it might be set on the dinner table.

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He was independent in the matter of dressing himself and this he continued up to the end of his life. As he grew ill he found it difficult to raise his feet and complain of trouble in his hips. He said to Young in 1931, when suffering from another complaint (of a more embarassing nature) "Young, maybe this is the beginning of the end."

Mr. Eastman's barber was Mr. John F. Gilbert, who now has a shop on East Avenue, opposite the Sagamore Hotel. He went to Mr. Eastman's home twice a month to cut his hair. Mr. Eastman always

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His shirts were made in lots of a dozen, or a dozen and a half, by Whillock Brothers of Rochester (in the Powers Building.) He had few silk shirts, but usually wore heavy broadcloths and oxfords. His linen was laundered at home. His dress socks were usually plain black silk, but occasionally he wore something with a small pattern. He had a number of bright ties, which he bought from Whillock Brothers at $2 or $2.50 apiece. He changed his ties daily, and Young picked out one to match his suit, which he wore unless his own fancy dictated otherwise.

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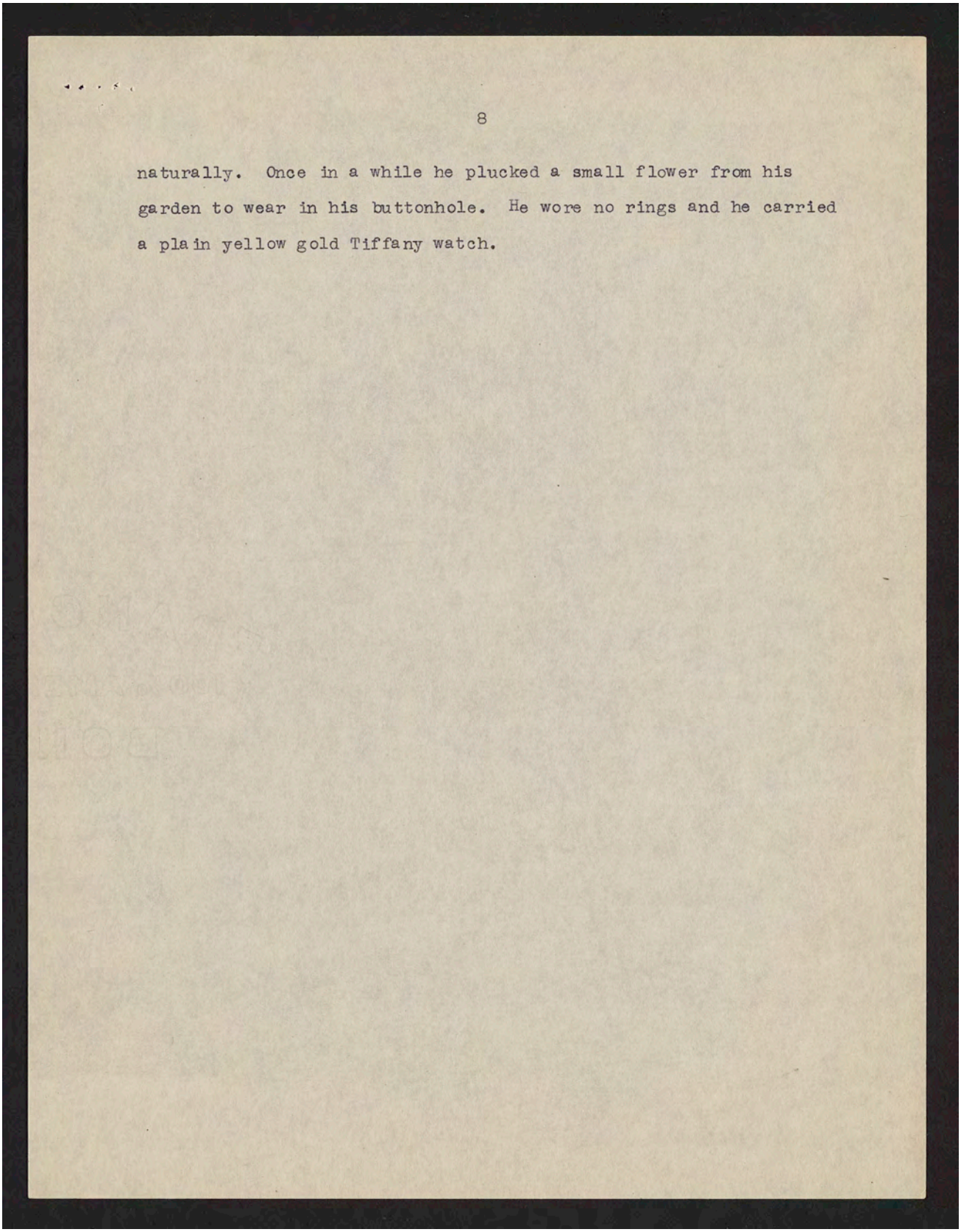

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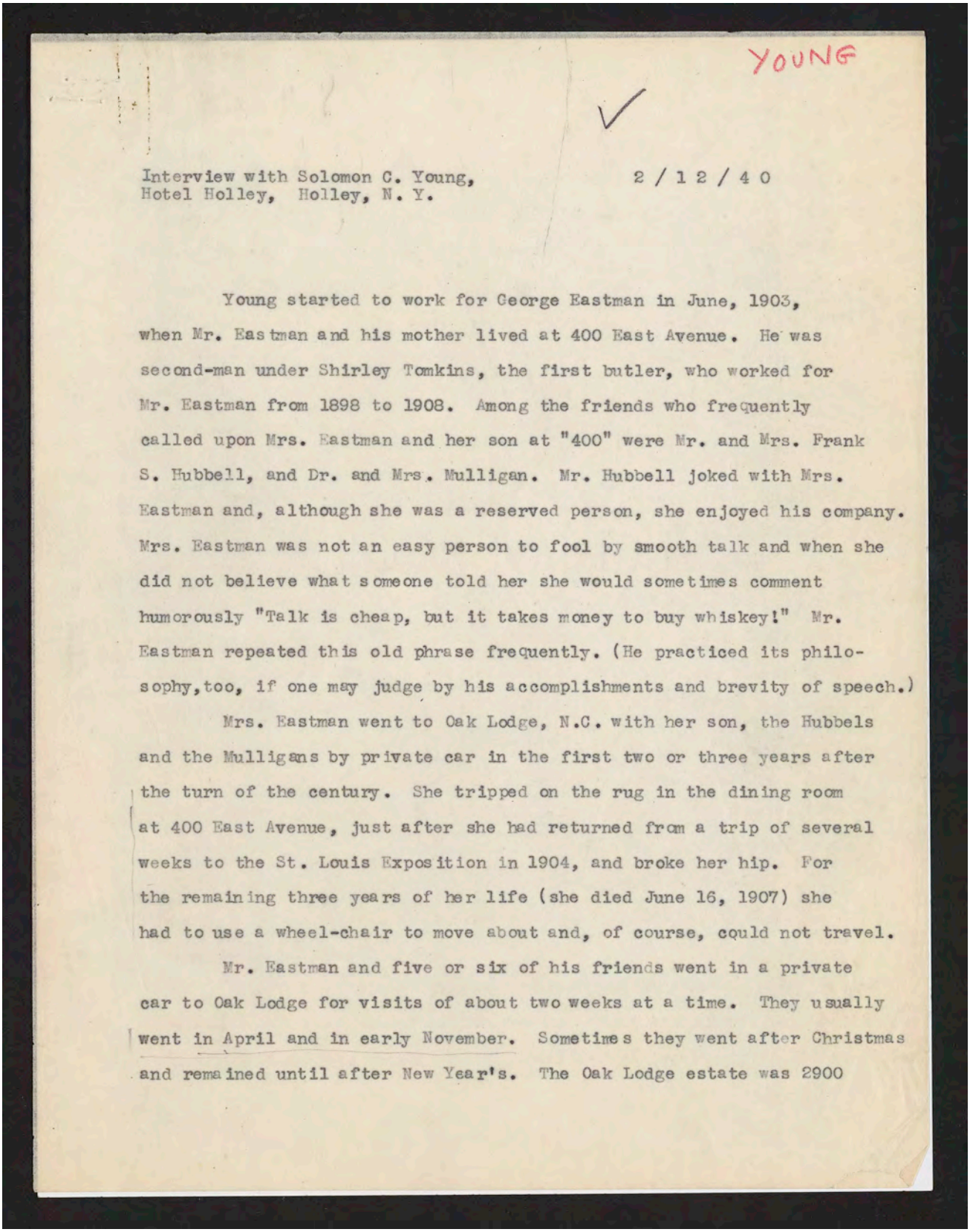

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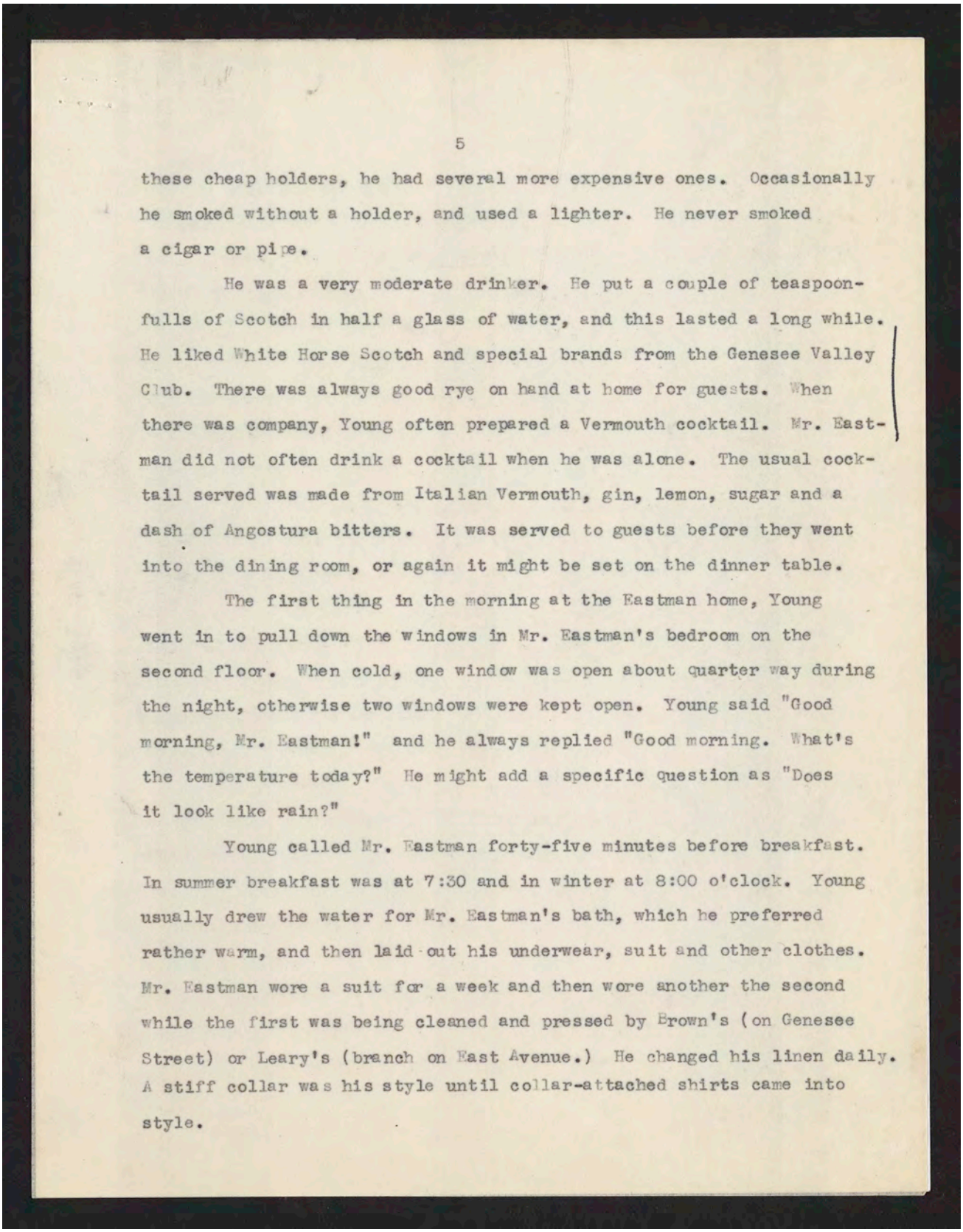

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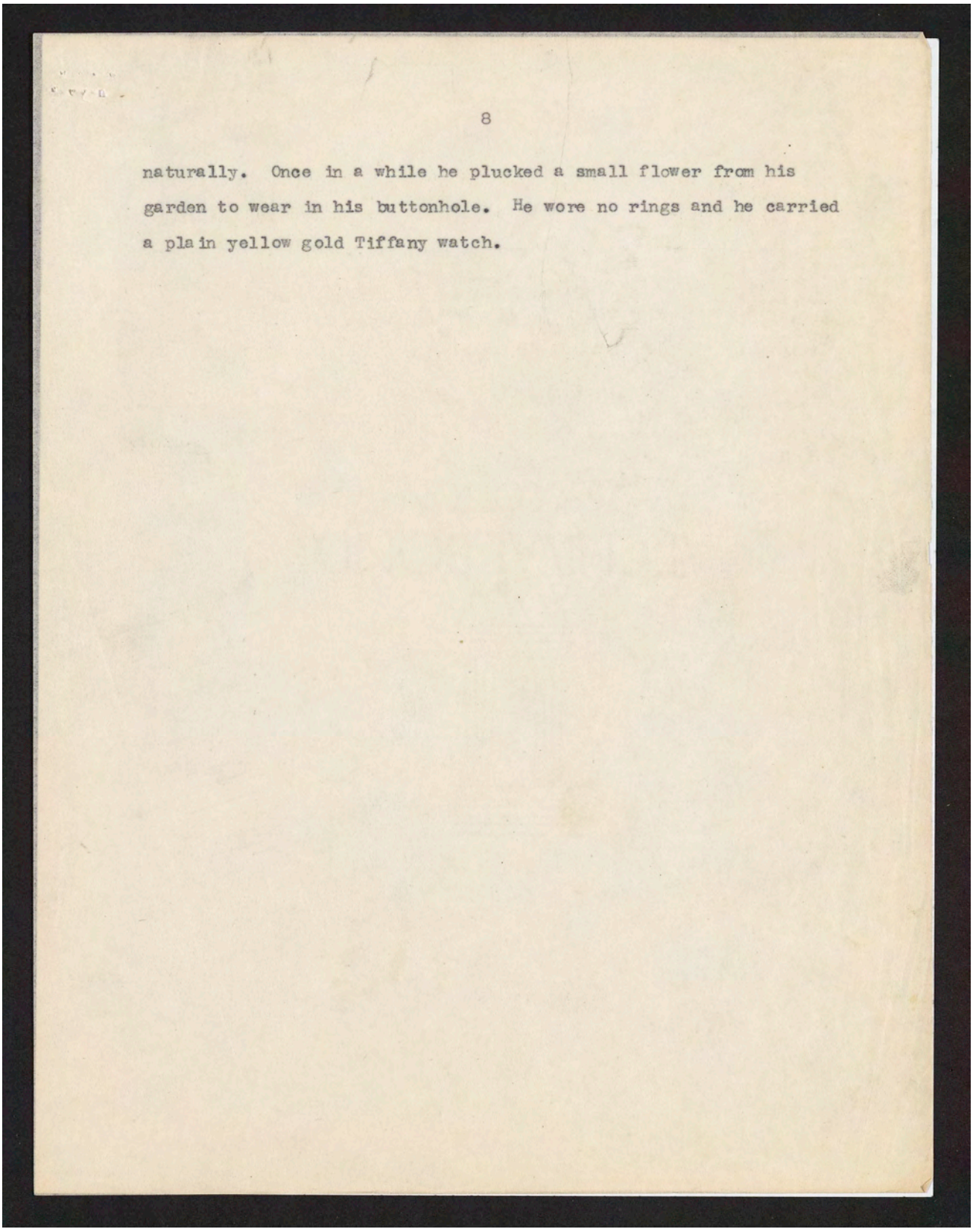

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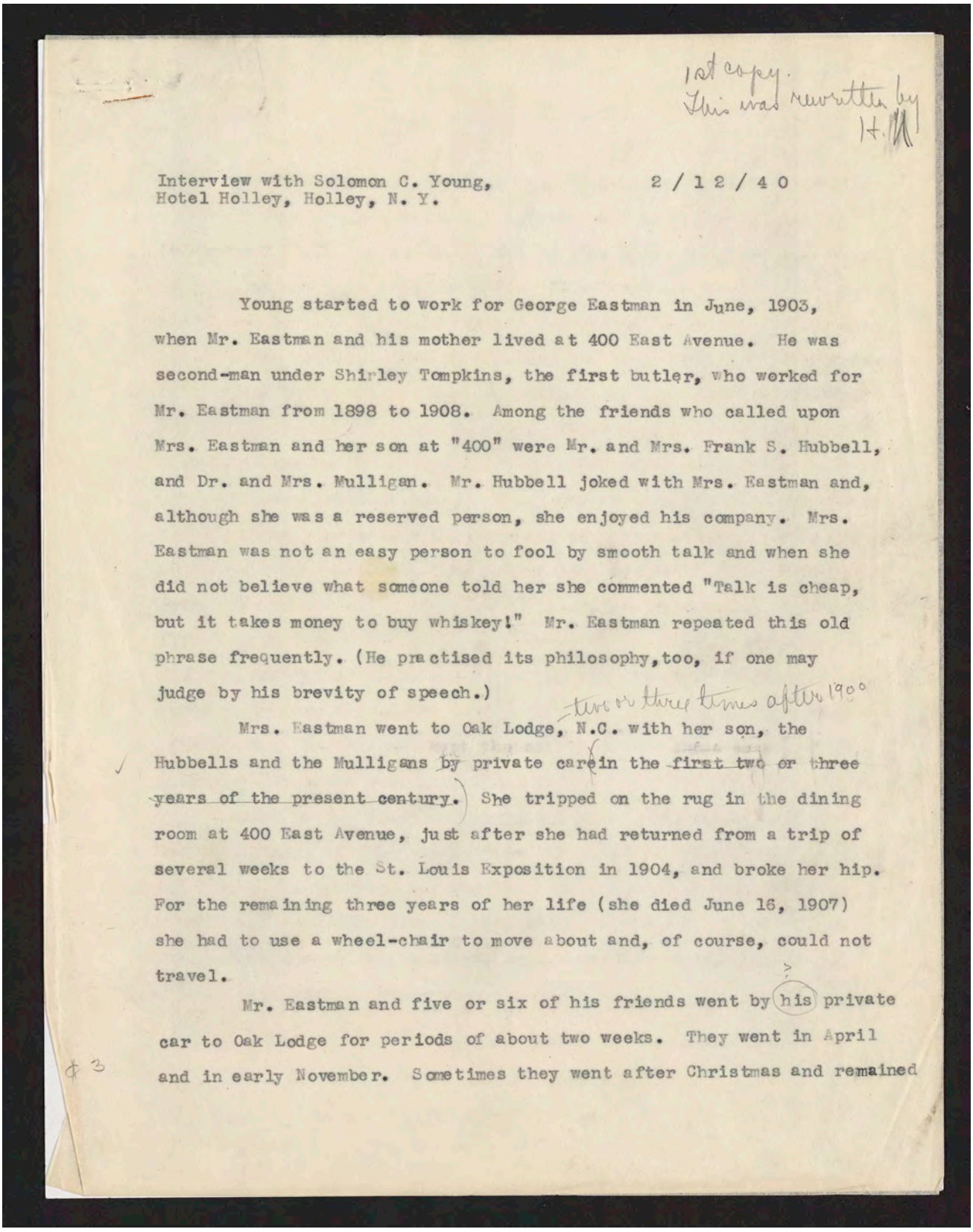

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This was rewritten by
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until after New Year's. Oak Lodge was 2900 acres in extent and was purchased from Spooner Harrison, a farmer and postmaster who lived in Ringwood, N.C. It ~~is~~ was surrounded by pine trees, ~~but~~ and near the spring, about a quarter mile from the Lodge, is a large oak tree which gave the place its name. "Uncle Willie" Myrick and "Aunt Fannie" Myrick were the caretakers. When they became too old, their son Henry took care of the place and Mr. Eastman built a new tenant-house for Henry and his family of thirteen children. There were about a dozen other tenants in the neighborhood. These tenant-farmers grew corn, cotton, tobacco, sweet potatoes and peanuts. Mr. Eastman rented these farms for a bale of line cotton (500 pounds) if they owned one horse. If it were a two-horse farm, they paid a rent of two bales of cotton, regardless of the price of cotton. Henry, the carekeeper, collected the bales of cotton and they were ready for Mr. Eastman when he went there in the fall. There aas a shed on Henry's place in Enfield where the cotton was stored until the price was satisfactory, when it was sold. Mr. Eastman often kept the cotton two or three years, when necessary, to get a good price.

Some of the guests at the Lodge were: Mrs. Frank E. Elwood (mother of Mrs. Walter Powers), and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Powers. Later, there were Mr. and Mrs. Francis S. Macomber, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Hubbell and Miss Anna Hubbell, Dr. and Mrs. James Mulligan, Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Eastwood, Mr. and Mrs. Dryden and Mrs. Charles Newhall, a schoolchum of Mrs. Dryden.

Young, Solomon C.

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Mr. Eastman liked "peppery" horses and he rode several hours a day on a spirited sorrel at Oak Lodge. There was also "Miss Dignity", a lively black mare. Sometimes he drove in the two-horse buckboard to Enfield, N.C. or to the local post-office at Ringwood, N.C., a mile and a half from the Lodge.

During a number of visits to Oak Lodge, in the 'twenties, Mr. Eastman had a dozen little colored children from the local school come to the Lodge in the evening and sing. The Musical Director of the school at Enfield also came over with a mixed quartet to sing spirituals, and they brought a piano with them. Mr. Eastman liked it better without the piano, so they sang "natural"--without accompaniment.

Henry Myrick, the caretaker, raised animals and fowl for food on his place, and when Mr. Eastman wanted something for the lodge he got it from Henry. There were half a dozen cows, forty or fifty chickens and a number of turkeys. Mr. Eastman was fond of home-made sausage ground from the White Chester and Poland China hogs ~~and made into patties~~. The home-made hams were delicious and Mr. Eastman liked the hickory-smoked bacon made from these hogs.

The guests usually wore hunting suits all day. The men wore khaki trousers and khaki shirts, and laced hunting boots. At 6:30 in the afternoon, Mr. Eastman and the others rested for an hour and then changed for dinner at 7 P.M. Sometimes the men wore their hunting boots and trousers with a business jacket at dinner. The ladies, once a week or so, surprised the men by wearing evening clothes.

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Mr. Eastman always liked to have flowers about him and there were rows of flowers planted about the Lodge--yellow and white asters, and red and yellow roses and red rambler rose bushes. White, yellow and red honeysuckle vines climbed around the side of the house. There was a porch equipped with a rod from which a canvas could be extended to keep out the sun, and the guests sat on the porch in the afternoon and evening. Mr. Eastman usually retired at 10:30 or 11 o'clock and the others went to bed when they felt tired. Mr. Eastman always liked to eat a half grapefruit before he retired, or a Jonatham apple. (In summer he ate a slice of watermelon.) He peeled the apple with a knife and ate it a slice at a time.

Mr. Eastman rented a five or six-room car from the Pullman Company for trips to and from Oak Lodge, and each guest had his or her own room in this car. When Young went along, the company supplied a cook and a porter, with the porter being in charge of the car and Young acting as waiter. Young saw to it before they started that Mr. Eastman had all the clothes and other equipment he needed. Some of their meats and vegetables were purchased in Washington, D.C. on the way to Oak Codge.

At Oak Lodge they often went out on horseback or in the buckboard to the woods beside a stream (a "branch"). They party might go hunting and Young was instrusted to put up the lunch and bring it to a given point at a certain time. Mr. Eastman enjoyed cooking the meats (and, perhaps, baking a johnny cake or something simple in pastry.) He used powdered egg to seetle the coffee grounds.

Young, Solomon C.

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They usually played auction bridge in the evening at Oak Lodge, to pass the time, and while Mr. Eastman enjoyed the game, he was no better than an ordinary player. He often smoked Lucky Strikes (he didn't inhale) while he played cards. He often used white holders and when they became discolored he threw them away. Besides these cheap holders, he had several more expensive ones. Occasionally he smoked without a holder, and although he customarily used a lighter, he sometimes used matches. He never smoked a cigar or a pipe.

He was a very moderate drinker. He put a couple of teaspoonfulls of Scotch in half a glass of water, and this lasted a long while. He used White Horse Scotch and special brands from the Genessee Valley Club. There always was some good rye on hand at home in the dining room. When there were guests for dinner usually was company, Young often prepared a Vermouth cocktail, although Mr. Eastman did not often drink one when he dined was alone. This cocktail is made from Italian Vermouth, gin, lemon, sugar and a dash of Angostura bitters. The cocktail was served before guests went into the dining room, or it might be set on the dinner table.

The first things in the morning at Mr. Eastman's home, Young went in to pull down the windows in Mr. Eastman's bedroom, which was on the second floor. If it were cold, one window was open about quarter way during the night, and if it were not cold two windows were opened kept up. Young said "Good morning, Mr. Eastman!" and Mr. Eastman always replied "Good morning. What's the temperature today?" He might add a specific question such as "Does it look like rain?"

Young, Solomon C.

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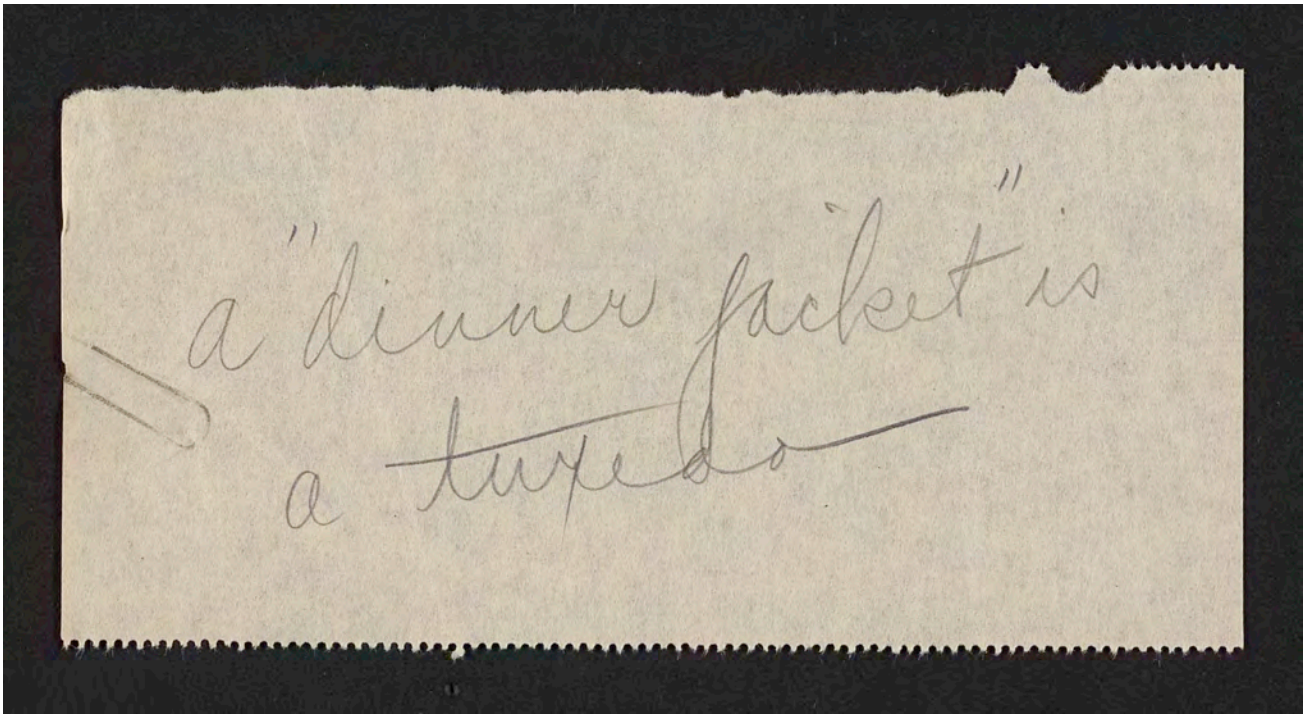

Scrap

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Young called Mr. Eastman forty-five minutes before breakfast. In summer, breakfast was at 7:30 and in winter at 8:00. Young usually drew the water for Mr. Eastman's bath, which he preferred rather warm, and then laid out his (underwear, suit and other) clothes for the day. Mr. Eastman wore a suit for a week and then wore another suit the second week while the other was being cleaned and pressed by Brown's (on Genesee Street) or Leary's (branch on East Avenue.) He changed his shirt daily, of course, and he wore a stiff collar until collar-attached shirts came into style.

Mr. Eastman did not have a great many suits, for he did not feel it was necessary to change his suit every day. He generally had two winter suits, and two spring or fall suits, a dinner jacket, a tuxedo, and a full-dress suit. He sometimes had a blue serge suit, besides his gray or brown one. Each fall or spring he bought new suits, if he wanted them, from E.L. Merwin, of Fifth Avenue, New York City. His measurements were kept there, and he stopped in at Merwin's shop occasionally. When his worn clothes accumulated he gave them to an old friend who was hard up. In summer he sometimes wore a blue serge suit with a pair of cream colored flannel trousers. He had white shoes but he seldom wore them. Occasionally he wore a fawn, or a fancy vest, of which he had several.

Mr. Eastman had several pairs of black shoes, including a pair of high laced ones. When the weather was cold or wet he wore the high shoes, and went back to the oxfords when it improved. In

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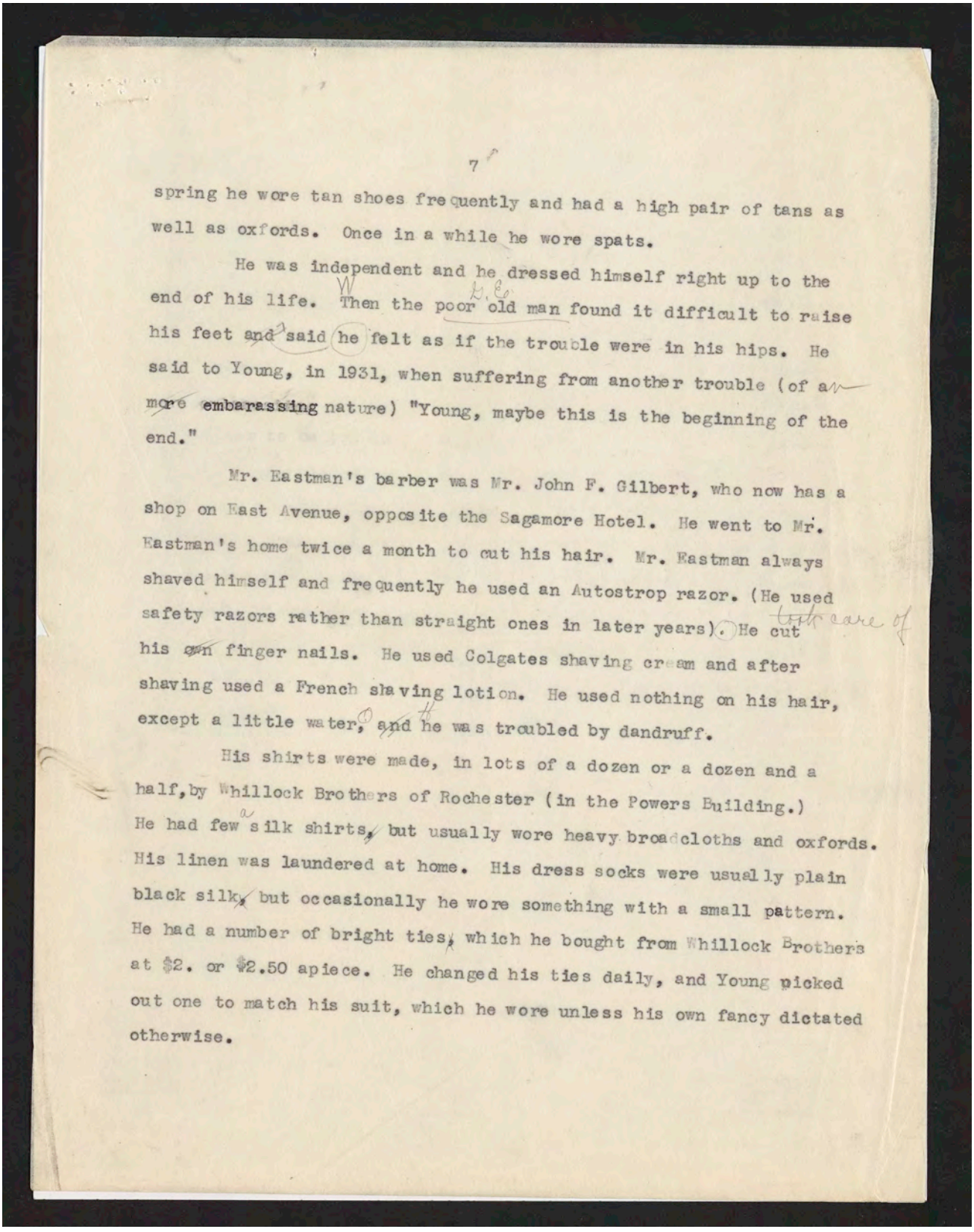

spring he wore tan shoes frequently and had a high pair of tans as well as oxfords. Once in a while he wore spats.

He was independent and he dressed himself right up to the end of his life. Then the poor old man found it difficult to raise his feet and said he felt as if the trouble were in his hips. He said to Young, in 1931, when suffering from another trouble (of a more embarassing nature) "Young, maybe this is the beginning of the end."

Mr. Eastman's barber was Mr. John F. Gilbert, who now has a shop on East Avenue, opposite the Sagamore Hotel. He went to Mr. Eastman's home twice a month to cut his hair. Mr. Eastman always shaved himself and frequently he used an Autostrop razor. (He used safety razors rather than straight ones in later years). He cut his finger nails. He used Colgates shaving cream and after shaving used a French shaving lotion. He used nothing on his hair, except a little water, and he was troubled by dandruff.

His shirts were made, in lots of a dozen or a dozen and a half, by Whillock Brothers of Rochester (in the Powers Building.) He had few silk shirts, but usually wore heavy broadcloths and oxfords. His linen was laundered at home. His dress socks were usually plain black silk, but occasionally he wore something with a small pattern. He had a number of bright ties, which he bought from Whillock Brothers at $2. or $2.50 apiece. He changed his ties daily, and Young picked out one to match his suit, which he wore unless his own fancy dictated otherwise.

Young, Solomon C.

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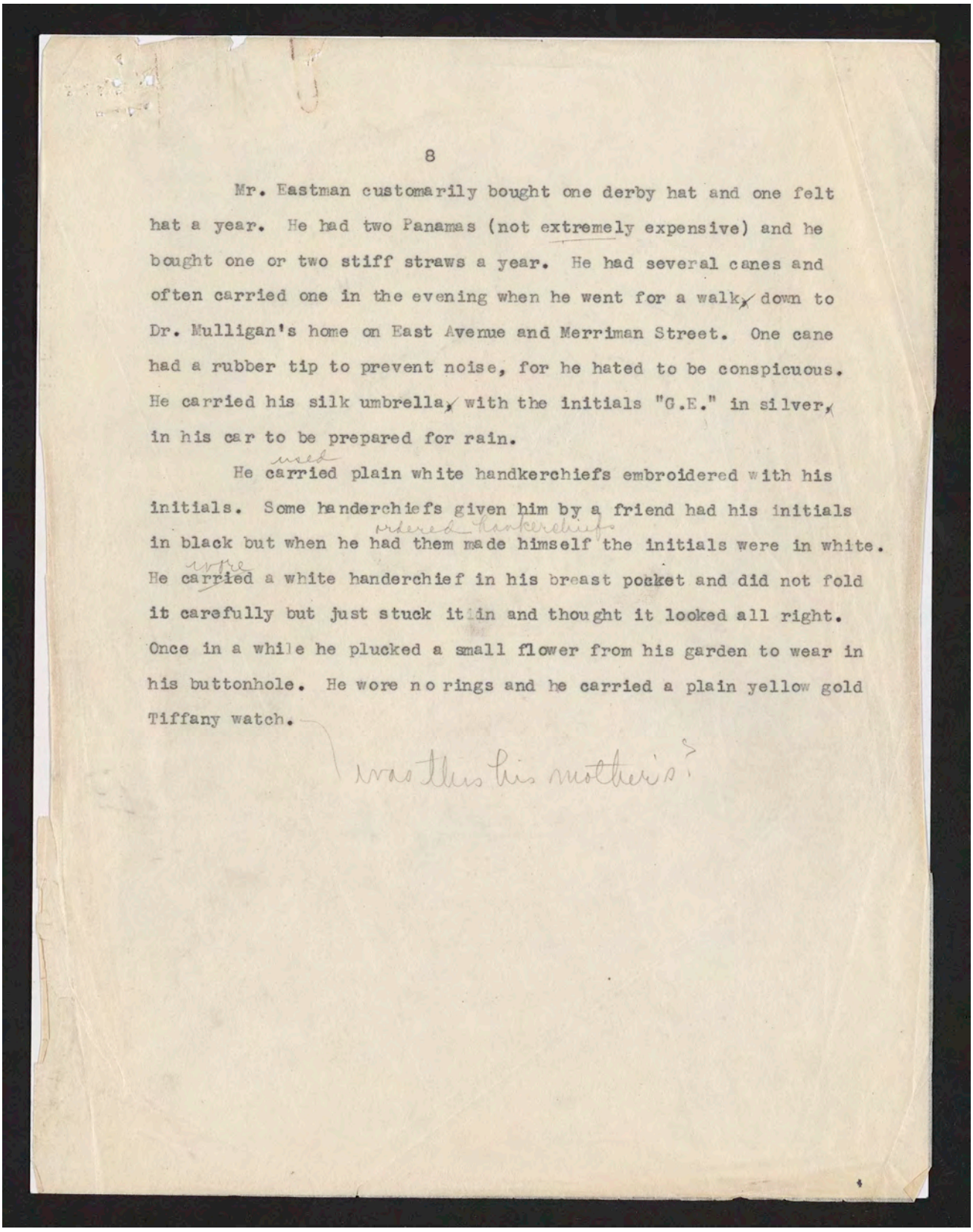

Mr. Eastman customarily bought one derby hat and one felt hat a year. He had two Panamas (not extremely expensive) and he bought one or two stiff straws a year. He had several canes and often carried one in the evening when he went for a walk, down to Dr. Mulligan's home on East Avenue and Merriman Street. One cane had a rubber tip to prevent noise, for he hated to be conspicuous. He carried his silk umbrella, with the initials "G.E." in silver, in his car to be prepared for rain.

He used carried plain white handkerchiefs embroidered with his initials. Some handerchiefs given him by a friend had his initials in black but when he had them made himself the initials were in white. He wore carried a white handerchief in his breast pocket and did not fold it carefully but just stuck it in and thought it looked all right. Once in a while he plucked a small flower from his garden to wear in his buttonhole. He wore no rings and he carried a plain yellow gold Tiffany watch.

ordered handkerchiefs

was this his mother's?

Young, Solomon C.