YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Westlake Terrace Project

Personal Experience

O. H. 679

MABLE HEAD

Interviewed

bу

Evelyn Mangie

on

October 23, 1985

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YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: MABLE HEAD

INTERVIEWER: Evelyn Mangie

SUBJECT: life in West Virginia, World War II,

Youngstown in early 1940's

DATE: October 23, 1985

M: This is an interview with Mable Head for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Westlake Terrace, by Evelyn Mangie, on October 23, 1985, at 854 Stiles, at 2:45.

Mrs. Head, to get started tell me about yourself.

- H: I was born in Pennsylvania. I grew up in West Virginia. I married a man from Ohio. We were married in 1936. We had two children. We lived on 716 John Street from the time we got married until 1940. Then we moved into Westlake Terrace. We lived there for eleven years. Then from there we moved to 531 Plum Street in 1951. We lived there seven years. Then we moved from Plum Street to this house we are in now. That was in 1958. We have been here ever since.
- M: How long were you in Pennsylvania?
- H: Just about three or four months.
- M: Was your family a large family?
- H: No, just three girls and my mother and stepfather.
- M: Where were you in the family?
- H: I was the oldest girl.
- M: Where did you meet your husband?
- H: My father lived here in Youngstown. He would come back

and forth to West Virginia to see us from time to time. We would come up and visit him, and that was how I met my husband.

- M: Where did he live?
- H: He lived here in Youngstown.
- M: Whereabouts?
- H: On the south side on Mahoning.
- M: Mahoning Avenue. Tell me what you remember about Youngtown when you used to come back.
- H: It was bigger than Wheeling and it had many more things to do that young people like to do such as Idora Park and the movie theaters, Nu-Elms. It had other places to go to like basketball games and things like that that we didn't have. We had dances and a few picnics down in West Virginia but not on the scale that they had here.
- M: You went dancing at the Nu-Elms.
- H: Oh, yes, many times.
- M: With big bands?
- H: Yes.
- M: Like who?
- H: Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway. There were so many.
- M: How about Idora Park? Tell me about that.
- H: We used to go out there because we liked the amusements and it was something to do.
- M: Was it expensive?
- H: Not like it was before it went out of business where you had to pay admission and all of that stuff. You didn't have to do that. You just came on the bus and you went into the park. I think the rides were around 15¢ or 20¢ a ride. We would spend more time just walking around because nobody had any money. We would buy popcorn or french fries and ride one or two things, and then we would just walk with friends. People who we knew we would meet. Then after awhile we would catch the bus and would go back home.
- M: Your husband's family lived nearby?
- H: They lived here in Youngstown.

- M: By your father's family?
- H: Yes.
- M: That was where you met him. After you were married did you move into Westlake immediately?
- H: No, we had a house on John Street, 716 John. We stayed there from the time the babies were born from right after we got married. We rented that house from Home Savings & Loan Company for \$12 a month.
- M: From the bank?
- H: Yes, they had gotten somebody's estate or something. They continually came around trying to get me to buy this house. It was a shack. We had a coal stove in the living room and a gas cooking range in the kitchen. Those were the only sources of heat. The upstairs wasn't heated at all. We lived there from 1936 until 1940. Then we moved over to Westlake Terrace.
- M: What made you decide to go there?
- H: I was tired of living in a house like that.
- M: And Westlake was an improvement.
- H: Right, it was a good house, well put together, nice and warm and clean. You didn't have to be bothered with the roaches and bedbugs and rats and stuff like that that was in the neighborhood. We were lucky; we didn't have any of that in my house. Other people did, so we moved over there and they had a nice, clean house. We lived there eleven years.
- M: In 1940 you must have been one of the earliest.
- H: I was. My building wasn't even filled when I moved there. Part of it was still empty.
- M: Do you remember it going up? Do you remember the construction?
- H: No, I remember reading about it in the paper, but I hadn't been over to look at it.
- M: What were some of the things they said about it in the paper?
- H: It was supposed to be the great improvement for the people who had trouble getting a house for their family that was decent. You Wouldn't have a whole lot of trouble with your landlord and you wouldn't have fire hazards and bugs and things like that in your house. Everybody wanted one. Since we qualified by my husband's wages, which wasn't very much . . .

He wasn't making very much. We lived in a shabby house, so we qualified. We had two young children. At that time they could sleep in the same room. Then as they got older we asked for a three bedroom apartment. They kept telling us that we couldn't have it.

- M: Did they give you a reason?
- One of the reasons they said was that since my husband had H: changed jobs that he was making too much money to even live there. He had bought a truck and he was an independent truck driver at that time. They wanted us to move out, so they We couldn't find anywhere wouldn't give us a larger apartment. to move to. When you have children and you are black and you approach these landlords about renting their houses, they give you a song and dance. Sometimes they just tell you a flat no, and sometimes the rent is so high that you can't afford it. Being an independent truck dirver you had to get your own jobs and you had to work on days like this; on rainy days sometimes there wasn't any work. Your truck sat idle, and you made no money. Your expenses were going on though at home as well as with the upkeep of the truck. Finally, at last he started working pretty good. We moved out and got the place on Plum Street. It was a fairly decent house. It had a coal furnace. I wasn't used to coal furnace after so many years of having steam heat.
- M: At Westlake they had steam heat?
- H: Yes.
- M: Was that good?
- H: Yes.
- M: Then your experience at Westlake was good.
- H: I had no problems. We got along with our neighbors for the while we were there. I guess around 1948, 1949 many people started moving out and other people were moving in. Some of them weren't very good people. We started having break-ins around there. People were letting children run around with . . . We didn't know the children and the children sometimes didn't know who they were either. It was quite a headache to see that worry. Then a lot of unwed mothers were moving in and some divorced mothers. They were bringing uncontrolled children who would fight and were smart mouthed. It just got to be nothing. We weren't too tickled to live there. We stayed there because we didn't have anyplace to go.
- M: Tell me about the good years. Did your children go to school from there?
- H: They started at Covington when they were six years old.

- Covington had no kindergarten at that time. They stayed there until we moved.
- M: How about before they went to school? I understand there was a nursery there. Did you use the nursery?
- H: No, I didn't.
- M: Did you know about it?
- H: Oh, yes, but I didn't need to because I didn't work.
- M: How about the community center? Did you go up there?
- H: Oh, yes, we went up there many times.
- M: Tell me about that.
- H: It was a nice thing. They had things going on up there. I would take my children, and we would go up there. Once they had what they called a "Tom Thumb" wedding, and my daughter was the bride. It was really cute. I didn't go up except whenever my children were going to be in something up there. We would go up when they would have the big Halloween party and a few other times, but we didn't do too much going up because it was always at night when I had time to go up there. I never let my children stay out at night when they were young because I always thought children needed a full night's sleep.
- M: What were some of the things that could be done up there aside from the children?
- H: They had sewing classes and cooking classes and other things going on that I didn't attend. I did go up to the sewing classes several times because I always did sew. I don't remember too much about what else they did up there. I only went up for one or two classes that I liked. There was something going on in the building all of the time.
- M: Did the children go?
- H: Oh, yes, they had basketball and things like that going on up there. I let mine go up sometimes to see what was happening. They had a time to be home.
- M: You mentioned the Halloween party.
- H: That was very nice. The children all enjoyed it. They had quite a crowd. In fact they had many things up there for children. I didn't always take mine or I didn't always let mine go.
- M: There are some playgrounds scattered around the area. Did

- the children make use of the playgrounds?
- H: Yes, whenever they were open. The playgrounds weren't open there for a while. I don't know the reason. Maybe it was because they didn't have a director to watch them.
- M: There were times when there was a director.
- H: Yes, usually in the summer. In the Spring and in the Fall they weren't always open.
- M: Even the little ones? There are little ones. Were they always there?
- H: No. As far as I know it was just the larger children, six, seven year old children.
- 14: I mean the little playgrounds; there were little ones scattered all over.
- H: Yes, those are the ones I mean.
- M: They even had to have a director for the small ones.
- H: I guess they did because they weren't open all of the time.
- M: What did they do when they weren't open?
- H: Children just played out in front of the house.
- M: Did they take the swings in?
- H: Yes.
- M: They just didn't put them out.
- H: Right.
- M: Did people ask to have them put out?
- H: Yes. It would only be during the summer months when they would put the swings up.
- M: How about the laundry? Was it difficult to get your laundry done?
- H: No, because I lived right upstairs over it.
- M: Right over the laundry?
- H: Yes.
- M: Do you remember the number of your unit?
- H: 911 West Madison, apartment 79. It was the first new house I ever lived in so how could I ever forget that. This is

- the second new house I ever lived in.
- M: Tell me about the apartment. Did you have rules that you had to follow?
- H: I suppose there were, but since we didn't entertain and have company running in and out of the house, why, we didn't have any problems with the rules. I imagine there were some about people staying with other people and visiting hours and all of that. We didn't have that problem.
- M: Did they ever inspect?
- H: Yes, they came around once or twice a year, and they inspected your premises to see if you had any bugs and whether you were keeping your place clean. I didn't have any problem there because at that time I was a young, strong woman, and I prided myself on my housekeeping.
- M: Did you make a lot of friends while you were there?
- H: I became well-acquainted with many people because I was active in the PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) and Cub Scouts. I would go around knocking on doors for the Red Cross and various things. I guess I got well-acquainted with many people there.
- M: Did anybody have a problem with the inspections or with the rules?
- H: If they did, I didn't hear about it. The women who lived in different areas would talk about other women. We don't know if a woman would clean up her house before the inspection or what would happen. We weren't at her place when that took place. We didn't rightly know. We knew some of the children ran up and down kind of dirty; they didn't look too clean. We didn't rightly know whether the inspectors got after them or what. They had the inspection going. They would come around from time to time to check the window screens in the doors to see if any of them needed fixing. They would fix them when they got around to it.
- M: How about the maintenance of your appliances? Did they come with the apartment, your refrigerator?
- H: Oh, yes, and the stove. They would come in and inspect that from time to time to see how you were doing with it. Mine always worked. I didn't have to get a new stove or refrigerator while I was there. I didn't have any problems with mine.
- M: How about like plumbing?
- H: No, I didn't have any trouble with my plumbing.

- M: No leaky faucets?
- H: No. I quess I was just lucky.
- M: Either that or you took good care of it.
- H: Just like I said, I was a young, strong woman and I believed in cleanliness with everything that I had.
- M: Can you think of any way the war affected you?
- H: My husband was able to get a job that paid more money. That was when they started bugging us to move. We couldn't find a house anyplace. In 1951 we finally found a house. By that time the war was finished and he had this trucking job. We are doing a little bit better.
- M: Were jobs more plentiful during the war?
- H: Yes, they were. Some jobs weren't like low paying jobs because anybody could get one of those.
- M: Did your husband finish school here in Youngstown?
- H: No, he quit the ninth grade.
- M: Where did he go?
- H: He went here in Youngstown.
- M: Do you remember what school?
- H: I think Grant was the last one he went to. I didn't know him during his school years.
- M: Going back to Westlake what was a typical day like?
- H: I quess I can start with getting up in the morning and getting him off to work. Then I would see about my children. Before they started school I would get them up and get them their breakfast and their bath and put their clothes on. If it was warm, I would let them play outside on the sidewalk by my house. Sometimes I would let them take toys out. In the meantime, I would be making beds and washing dishes. Then I would get the children and we would go to the store and get that day's food. When we came back, I would start getting that ready. I would get the children lunch and put them down for a nap. After that I would give them a bath and put clean clothes on Then it was time for dinner. After that I let them play outside again. I would read my paper with one eye out the door on the children. About 7:30 or 8:00 everybody who had children had them come in and go to bed. That was until they started school. Then they could stay out a little later.

We did practically the same thing day in and day out. Then after my husband bought the truck he had afternoon jobs from 3:00 to 11:00, and when the children came home from school, we would have our dinner and sometimes we would go downtown to the movies. Sometimes we would go downtown and have a snack at Isaly's and walk up and down the street looking in the stores.

- M: Isaly's in downtown?
- H: Yes, down by Home Savings & Loan. Then when it started getting dark, we would walk back home. Everybody walked almost everywhere they went. Then they would get washed up and go to bed.
- M: You mentioned doing your grocery shopping. Where did you shop?
- H: Neighborhood stores.
- M: Right in the . . .
- H: On Federal Street down below where we lived.
- M: Do you remember the names of any of them?
- H: Rudy's was one of the grocery stores and Labate's was the other one. There were two within a block of each other.
- M: They weren't like the supermarkets of today.
- H: No, nothing like that.
- M: What were they like?
- H: I guess you would call them mom and pop stores. They stocked a line of canned goods, red lunch meat, cheese, butter, milk, eggs, vegetables, potatoes, cabbage, soap. They had a nice line of stuff.
- M: When you went in, did you take whatyou wanted or did you have to ask?
- H: You asked. They had a clerk and they would write the price down on a pad. Then they would total it up. Sometimes you would question them about it, and sometimes it was alright. If you had a store bill, then it would go on your bill. If you paid cash, you would pay it and then go on home. I never had a store bill; I paid cash for my stuff.
- M: No wagons like we have in the store today?
- H: No, they weren't big enough. They weren't as big as this house.

- M: Then you had to go more often?
- H: Practically every day because the refrigerator in the unit that we lived in would only hold a small amount of food. We didn't have an ice chest at the top for us to freeze our meat. From day to day you just bought enough of what you needed. You could maybe keep something one day up there, but you didn't have any space to keep more than one day's supply. You couldn't shop, and then you didn't have the money to buy food for the whole week. You would buy it from day to day. Most everybody did.
- M: Everything was handy though.
- H: Yes.
- M: Within walking distance.
- H: Yes. The bus line was down on Federal Street so you could go down and get the bus or you could walk. We weren't that far from downtown.
- M: No, it is not far from downtown. What else did you do for entertainment? You mentioned movies. Were they just downtown movies?
- H: That's right.
- M: What else would you do?
- H: Nothing else. Sometimes we would go over somebody's house and sit on their steps and talk. People would come over to my house and sit on our steps and talk. We did that during the Spring and Summer. In the Fall everybody stayed home.
- M: We have a newspaper photograph of Eleanor Roosevelt. She inspected some of the units when they were just finished. Do you remember that at all?
- H: No, I didn't see her because it was six or eight months before we got ours. We hadn't applied for it at that time. It was later when we thought we would go over and try. My husband went over and looked at them and he decided that they were nice. He came back and asked me. I told him that I would take anything to get out of that house. I was tired of that house. He went over and he picked out the one and we moved in.
- M: You had your choice?
- H: Yes.
- M: Did you have to go through a long interview or anything to

qet in?

H: The first thing you had to do when you applied was that you had to take your marriage license.

- M: They wouldn't let you in without it?
- H: At that time they didn't. Before we moved away from there it seemed like it was very lax. I didn't find out by going down to the office and asking any questions whether anybody who moved in had a marriage license in my unit or not. It wasn't any of my business to begin with. Some of those ladies who came in with those children, I doubt very seriously whether they had marriage licenses.
- M: Then you made out the application and brought in your marriage license. What else did they make you do?
- H: You put your down payment down and they gave you a date to move.
- M: What kind of down payment?
- H: I think you had to put down about \$15 or \$20.
- M: Like a security deposit?
- H: Yes, and then you had to put down one to keep from damaging the house. You wouldn't get that back if you had damaged the house, their property, or the apartment.
- M: Did they come out and see where you lived before?
- H: They never did, maybe some people but not me.
- M: Did they ask you questions?
- H: He was the one who went. I didn't go because we had two babies at home.
- M: He didn't come home and complain.
- H: No, he didn't say that they said anything to him that he didn't like or anything he couldn't answer.
- M: How long was it before they notified you that you could move in?
- H: About thirty days, something like that.
- M: Do you remember moving in?
- H: Of course.

- M: What was that like?
- H: He had a friend with a truck, so when we got out notification that we could move in, he went over and got the keys to the apartment. Then he found the man with the truck, and we started packing up our stuff. It was March in 1940 around the 27th or 28th when we moved. We all went in the truck, I think. I can't remember whether somebody came by with a car and hauled us over or whether we all went in the truck.
- M: The furniture had to be your's except for the appliances in the kitchen.
- H: Right.
- M: That didn't present any problem?
- H: Yes, but we had some furniture. We bought some twin beds in the thirty day period we had before we moved. We had them delivered to that house instead of the house we were in.
- M: You bought them locally, downtown?
- H: Right. I think the name of the store was Federal Furniture Company. It was down on East Federal. I remember that, but I'm not sure of the name of the store.
- M: Everybody was looking forward to moving in.
- H: Of course.
- M: Where did youpay your rent?
- H: At the office on Federal Street.
- M: At the office that is there now?
- H: Yes.
- M: You just took it down every month?
- H: Yes.
- M: Didyou know of anybody who had problems with that?
- H: No, if they had them, they didn't tell me. There were some people who moved out fifteen years after they had been there, and other people said that they couldn't pay the rent so they had to move. I don't rightly know for sure whether they did or didn't.
- M: What else was in that office? Was that all it was used for?

No, there appeared to be a meeting room there where H: Mr. Paul Strait, who had charge of this business, was manager or director or whatever. Then there were two or three more people there. I can't remember their names, but I know their faces. Then there were some clerks and Maybe they did the same job; I don't know. typists. appeared to be a meeting room on the upstairs part of that office. Then there were little cubbyholes all around downstairs where they sat. Then there was the counter where you came and paid your rent, and you made your complaints there. If you needed any maintenance work done, you went down there. If a man was lucky enough to have a telephone, you called down there.

- M: You did not have a telephone.
- H: Not for many years.
- M: Did many people have telephones?
- H: Not many.
- M: During the war probably not.
- H: After the war they were able to get them.
- M: Was telephone service much different when you first got it? Did you have to have a party line?
- H: There were party lines. Some people wanted them; I didn't. I had a private line. I knew people who had party lines. I heard at that time that there were as many as four people on that line. I don't know how anybody got any service, but I wasn't one of them.
- M: Where did you keep your truck?
- H: Out in the parking lot.
- M: Right at Westlake? No one made a fuss about that?
- H: Of course. It didn't matter. We didn't have anyplace else to put it.
- M: The administration didn't mind that you had it. Was it alright with the administration?
- H: They didn't like it, but they couldn't do anything about it at that time except press us to move. They thought that if you had a truck, you were making a lot of money. But what they didn't know was that you could work one day and not the next. You had to live out of that day's wages for tomorrow and maybe two or three more days before you got any more

money. That wasn't the problem then. If you made it, you had to report it and then you had to move if it was over a certain amount. I can't remember what it was now that you were allowed to make. Everybody who lived there was only allowed to make a certain amount of money.

- M: Was that monthly?
- H: Yearly, in a years period, in a years time. If you made over that amount, then you were not eligible to live there. They wanted you to move. You didn't have anyplace to go, so most of us struck it out and argued continually with them.
- M: They gave you a hassle?
- H: Yes and no. Sometimes when you went to pay your rent, they didn't say anything; sometimes they would holler, "Wait a minute. I want to speak to you." That would be the problem. They would want you to move because your income would be too much. That would make your day kind of grey when you came out of there.
- M: But they didn't actually threaten you or anything like that?
- H: A few people. I heard about it, but I didn't actually see them do it. There were some who didn't pay rent because they said that they didn't have the money and that they weren't going to pay it. They were evicted.
- M: What did they do when they evicted you?
- H: They would come up to your house with the sheriff. They would go in your house and set your furniture out on the sidewalk.
- M: They would put it right out on the sidewalk. Did you have some friends that that happened to?
- H: The lady we knew about wasn't a friend of mine. Somebody said that she went out of town and stayed three months. She didn't send her rent back and she didn't bring it in when she came back. She was one of the ones where they sat her furniture out on the sidewalk. People up there said that she moved it right back into the house. She said, "These houses are for poor people, and I am definitely poor."
- M: Do you know what they did after that?
- H: They moved it out again. That time she went on someplace with it. I guess she found somebody that would move it to somebody's house in the basement or attic or something and keep it for her until she could find another place.

- M: You mentioned Mr. Strait. Do you remember him at all?
- H: Oh, yes, he was a nice man and friendly. He would walk around our apartment in the project from time to time. If he saw you outside, he would speak to you.
- M: He knew everybody's name?
- H: No, he just knew you lived there. He would see you around.
- M: Was he well-respected?
- H: As far as I know. I never heard anybody say anything against him. I don't remember what his title was, but he had complete charge of everybody in the office. A lot of people thought that he should take their side and get after the ones in the office who were bothering them about something like their rent or whatever. He couldn't do that. After all, those people were hired to do their jobs, and his job was to supervise them, as far as I could see. He couldn't take sides with them because he had to follow rules too.
- M: Do you remember any other people up there?
- H: No, I know them by face, but I can't remember the names.
- M: Were the jobs pretty well organized? Up at Hagstrom House did they have someone who was director up there?
- H: Yes, but I can't remember who it was.
- M: But it seemed to run smoothly?
- H: Yes, everything seemed to go off pretty good up there as far as I can remember.
- M: Was Mr. Strait there the whole time you lived there?
- H: No, I think he retired a year or so before I moved. They had a lady who had the job that he had had. People said that she would come out of her office and start an argument up and stuff like that. I never had any trouble with that woman.
- M: When you moved out, that was a good move too. You were looking forward to having your own place.
- H: That's right. I needed an extra bedroom because I had one girl and one boy. My daughter was twelve years old and my son was eleven. We had to have an extra bedroom. For about two years before we moved we asked people down there for a three bedroom apartment. They kept saying

that as soon as one would become available that they would let us know. People like that know how to turn off right away. The next time you go down there to pay your rent they would say that they understood my husband was working well and that we were making too much money. Then they would want to know when we were going to move. Then you would go back and ask them when they were going to give you a five room apartment. Then they would tell you again as soon as one would become available . . . There wasn't anything you could do about it. It was a runaround. You had to move.

- M: If they had given you an extra bedroom . . .
- H: I would have probably stayed there maybe three or four years, maybe longer than that.
- M: In spite of the few problems that you had, it sounds like your experience at Westlake was a good one.
- H: It wasn't bad. I never had any problems where I lived, rent or whatever.
- M: Were you encouraged to paint the places at Westlake?
- H: They painted them. They would come in and paint about once every four or five years. You were encouraged to wash the walls every year.
- M: Did they inspect?
- H: They would come around and see if you had done it. I was a young, strong woman. It didn't bother me. I would get up on the ladder and get them done.
- M: Did you have to wash them with just soap and water or was there a special . . .
- H: No, you washed them with whatever you wanted to use since you bought it.
- M: You weren't allowed to put up wallpaper or anything like that.
- H: They tell me now that you can paint any color you want. You can ask them for any color paint you want, and they will let you have it.
- M: They just brought paint before?
- H: They brought beige paint. Everybody's apartment had beige

paint. You had dark brown linoleum in the kitchen on the floor and there wasn't any linoleum in the other rooms. You had to buy your own if you wanted any or rugs.

- M: Did most people have rugs?
- H: Yes, some people had wall to wall carpeting. It wasn't glued down or anything. They just had it laid down.
- M: You only had certain people who were your friends?
- H: That's right.
- M: Can you think of anything else that you would like to add?
- H: No, except I didn't have a bad experience while I lived there until around about 1948 when they started letting all of those single ladies move in with all of those unruly children. We started having prowlers coming around down through there bothering the people. That is the only thing I can remember that I didn't like. There wasn't anything we could do about it.
- M: What kind of prowlers? Where were they from? What were they after?
- H: I never did find out. One night I had been ironing. I set my iron on a little stand that was by the kitchen window. It was a nice day like this in the Spring. I had the window open at the bottom. I went out of the kitchen and when I came back, my window was open more. That frightened me. Then three or four days later I had heard that he had gone to the adjoining building and had pulled up somebody's window and tried to get in there. They heard their window go up and he ran. We were always hearing stories like that around there, so I don't know how many of them are true. I do know for a fact that my window was pushed up. The screen wasn't down. I guess he would have pushed the screen up too.
- M: That was the only experience you had like that?
- H: Yes. I never had any other problems.
- M: Did you know of anybody else who had a problem?
- H: Yes, I heard of somebody who was supposed to have been raped, an somebody else was supposed to have been beaten, and somebody else was supposed to have had jewelry and stuff stolen from their homes. I didn't talk to the people, so I don't really know whether it was so or not.

M: Some of the people I have talked to mentioned the fact that in the early years you didn't have to lock your doors.

- H: No. It was about 1948, 1949 before they started having problems.
- M: Even when you went to bed at night?
- H: If you didn't lock your door, you didn't even think about it. You would just fall asleep. On most of the doors you just had to push the knob in and turn it to lock it. Anybody could get in there if they wanted.
- M: You felt secure enough in the early years?
- H: It had always been that way. We had always lived in communities where there wasn't any crime. There were a few drunkards and gamblers. We had never had anybody bothering other people. We never had any problems like people breaking into each other's houses and people jumping on people in the street and stealing things and running away with your purse. Everybody I knew would go anywhere they wanted to at night. Sometimes you would just leave your door standing open and just walk down the street and talk to people down the block. Then you would come back and sit on your porch or whatever. Now everybody stays locked up in the house.
- M: No matter where you go I think we have that problem now. I certainly thank you for your time.
- H: You are perfectly welcome.
- M: I appreciate you spending your time with us.

END OF INTERVIEW