

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

McLaughlin Family History

Personal Experience

O H 1681

MARY HELEN MCMAHON

Interviewed

by

Linda Pondillo

on

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P: This is an interview with Mary Helen McMahon for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on the McLaughlin Family History Project, by Linda Pondillo, at her home, on Friday, August 22, at 12.00 noon.

P: That was one of the questions I had to ask you, too, is if your father was a strict disciplinary?

M: Oh, yes He was very strict with Vincent and me But then, I think, when Kay came along, she was sick so much Mother said she never stopped coughing after she had whooping cough. Then, of course, the rest of them came along and wore him out, so he could not be strict He sort of had to go with the flow [Laughter] They were his kids

And then, I remember much about Kay being sick when she was little because she would have spasms They called them that. She would grab hold of a chair and you would have to pry her fingers from the chair. This is when she was just little, maybe seven or eight, or maybe not in school yet I do not remember But now that they put her in the bathtub and gave her a mustard bath, I think that stage stopped then It seemed to me like it would go from one stage to another probably, with whatever she had, except that she always coughed Outside of that--of course, Kay and I dated together when we grew up because Bud and Jack were very close.

P: Oh, they were?

M: Yes She was--we used to laugh We always said Daddy was partial to Kay, and I wonder if it was because she was sick I just do not know, because we never thought of her as being sick When she grew up, later on, coughing was not really that important It was like when I had diphtheria or Jimmy had colitis or whatever it was, and Rita had cholera, and Eleanor had rheumatic fever And see, those are things that you can put a name to, I guess That is it

P: It was just coughing

M: Yes It just did not seem to be--it was past over, maybe, although she was still a tiny little girl She was always tiny She was always a strewer in the processions. Mother always had her dress ready in case someone else got sick or fell or something [Laughter]

P: One thing I wanted to ask was about the house You were not born on Kennsington?

M: No.

P: Do you remember anything about the neighborhood that you were born in? Or, did you move shortly after that?

M No. Kay was the first one born in that house We lived on Harmony Street, near Covington Street. It was in Brier Hill. We lived near Nathans They used to have the floral shop Jimmy Crisholl was in with him Now, it is Crisholl's. The Nathanses do not have any part of it anymore I can remember going down to Nathanses when I was older and paying the bill, and they always gave me a rose. I always loved that.

P Oh, how nice.

M. Yes. He was very nice Mother was very close to the Nathanses Mother and Daddy. I forget how come, outside of the fact that we lived close to them at that time, because there were times when I would walk away from the house and they would find me at Nathanses

One thing I do remember reading from the book is everybody seemed to get lost at some point. Either not necessarily ran away, but maybe wandered off and somebody in Idora Park, and somebody down the street, somebody while visiting a relative Mother told me that I walked away from Kennsington one time, and I ended up on Logan Avenue near the Wheeler's Water place. They called and asked Mother, because I must have told them what my name was. I cannot think, really I often wonder, "How did I get that far?" You know, you just do not know.

P Well, it was a different time, too, I am sure.

M We are so careful about our kids nowadays

P. You have to be now

M: Yes, I will say

P How old were you when you moved to Kennsington?

M. Well, let me see. My birthday is in March Kay was born in November, so I think that it might have been in that summer some time. The house was being built, and it was way out in the country, way out in the country, on Kennsington Avenue, which now they call the inner city

P Yes it is I went by there the other day to try to find the old house

M Oh, it is gone

P It has been gone, yeah

M. You know, it burned twice It burned once and I guess they fixed it up. Then, it

burned again, and they just let it go. I used to wonder if they ever found my rosary. [Laughter] There was a built-in buffet in that dining room, and mom put--I got a lovely rosary for my first communion. Mom put it away for me, and we used to wonder if it went down in the back of the buffet. But we looked. We could never find it. All those dumb little things that you think about

P Well, those are precious things to keep, though. I have mine. [Laughter]

M. It was a pearl rosary with a gold chain. A friend of Mother's had given it to me. We were with Mother so long. You know what I mean? We had Mother so much longer than we had Daddy that we say "Mother" all of the time. And, you know, that is not right. It is "Mother and Daddy" because they were both there

P. Can you describe the house to me, the house on Kennsington--what it looked like on the inside, the rooms?

M. Oh, my gosh. Somebody has a picture of it

P: Really?

M. Yes. I might even have a picture of it somewhere -- but I do not know where -- because it was for sale, and there was a picture in the paper. Everybody was getting a copy of the picture. It faced Kennsington, and it had a front porch all the way across. You went in the front door and the living room was on the left hand side. The dining room was on the right side and the kitchen was behind it. And then, there was a back porch. Out of the kitchen, you also could go out of the living room--there was a door there--to the hall, which went upstairs. Upstairs there was a center hall that went the length of the house and, let me see. There were one, two, three--I think there were only three bedrooms up there and the bathroom. Then, the stairs to the third floor. Of course, we used the third floor. Then there was a back porch, an upstairs back porch. In the summertime, we would sleep out there. It was lovely.

In fact, I have a picture of that, maybe I threw my bouquet from there. I know my sister Ann did. In the back yard, because the reception--oh, it must be me, because I think others had their reception someplace else. But mine was at home. I was married at 9 o'clock in the morning, and we went down to the Stonley Tea Room for breakfast, a wedding breakfast, which was \$1.25 a person. It was cream chicken and patty shells with peas. Then we had the reception in the afternoon from 2 o'clock. And people came to the house. It was just at the house. And we had cookies and punch. That is all. After our wedding, Kay and Bud were not married then. They took us up to Girard to get the bus, because we did not have a car. We got the bus to Cleveland for the weekend. [Laughter] Jack did not want anybody to be tying any cans on anything. [Laughter]

P: So you threw your bouquet from that top porch?

M Yes, the upstairs porch.

P And there were several bedrooms on that third floor, or just one?

M It was just one big room There were windows in the back, and there were windows in the front We had--of course, we called across the street to Aunt May's kids, because at that time they lived across the street Uncle Harry built that house. Uncle Harry was a carpenter. He was a contractor And it was cold as all get up in the winter, and it was hot the other way, in the summer

P I am sure that high up, too, on the third floor.

M But it was a nice house The dining room had a chandelier over the table, and it was a round table. We all did our homework around the table If somebody needed help, we would just go around the table, you know [Laughter] We had a succession of Christmas trees--well, I should say furniture If somebody had a couch they did not need, we got the couch We got chairs and we had--the Christmas tree fell over one time. Somebody--I do not know how it fell over But anyway, after that it was always tied up. It was always in the corner, and there was a nail there and a nail here [Laughter] So there were no more accidents Of course, we did not have candles or anything on the tree, but it was just sort of messy

P: Oh, sure

M We were very family oriented, even when we went on picnics or had anything. Even later on when Daddy liked to play cards Of course, we all grew up on 500 People would come to the house on Saturday nights and he never played--I cannot remember if he ever played poker Aunt May played poker She played bridge in the daytime and then she would play poker at night [laughter] She was a dizzy, that woman. I do not remember Mom and Daddy ever dancing But Daddy and Aunt May won dance contests before they were married

P Oh, my.

M Is that not something Aunt May and Uncle Harry taught us all to dance They taught me, anyhow They taught me and Dorothy, who was their oldest child She was the same age as I was They would take us to the dance hall that used to be down here where Friendly's is The drive-in used to be down there -- the Dorreck's property at one time, I suppose They do not have any property anymore. They used to have a farm and a farm market down here Things change

- P: Yes they do. It is funny that your mother never danced, because music was so important to her.
- M: Yes, it was so important, but maybe they just did not dance. I just do not know. I guess we never talked about that. Heck, I knew I was dancing when I was just young. I would dance to the radio and just make up steps. I did not know what it was, I was just doing it. And then when I came home from school, when I went to Rayen--I would come home at noon--I turned on the radio, and I might have had three-quarters of an hour or an hour for lunch. I turned on the radio to get Emerson Gill on the radio, and I would be dancing to him while I was eating. [Laughter] It was really funny. And, of course, now my son and his wife are beautiful dancers. I always loved to dance. Jack was not quite a dancer, but we would go to these dances, and I would dance the first dance with him, the last dance with him, and then I would go around and ask all the other guys to dance.
- P: Sure, why not.
- M: I had a wonderful time. That is why I do not understand these kids. They do not dance. They only go with one person, and stay with that person. They really do not dance. They are opposite them someplace or another. I said, "How do you learn how to dance if you do not dance with different fellows?"
- P: Most of them really do not know how to dance.
- M: Yes, that is it.
- P: The fast dances, but not the slow.
- M: I have been to several wedding receptions, including Molly's, that we just were on the dance floor just sort of swinging and swaying. But, it is funny. It is just not the same. And my daughter said to me one time, "Mom, dancing was so important to you because that was about all you could do. And you were not allowed to do anything with a guy, but dancing was okay."
- P: [Laughter] Well, that is one way to look at it.
- M: Yes, it is. I never thought of that. I suppose that is true. Then she went on to say about chaperons and all those things.
- P: Well, if dancing was important, how about singing? I know singing was important to your mother.
- M: Oh, yes.
- P: What about with all the children?

- M: Oh, yes. We were all singers, all of us, except for Eleanor. Eleanor said she could not carry a tune in a bucket. I found that hard to believe, because I thought an Irishman has to be able to sing. But, she said that Tammy was not a singer, either. They had no music in their house, until she married Jim. That is a wonderful thing about Jim. He brought music into their lives. That was great. Jack was a singer, because he sang to me all the time. But our kids belonged to all the singing groups, the Choral Societies when they were in high school and college, and my daughter Ann took singing lessons in Warren when she was in nursing school. And then, she quit. She never told me until a long time later that the guy was making a pass at her.
- P: Oh, really?
- M: Yeah. Of course, I played the piano until I was in high school, longer than that.
- P: You took lessons.
- M: Oh, yeah. All of the time, and so did Jeanne.
- P: I think Lenore said the oldest and the youngest.
- M: Oh, my gosh. That is right. I had never thought about that. So, most of my kids took piano lessons. My daughter, Mary Elizabeth, I had her stop taking dancing lessons to have her take piano lessons, and I do not think she has ever forgiven me. [Laughter] She said, "I wanted to dance! Who was the best tap dancer in that class, Mom?" [Laughter] Well, you cannot please everybody.
- P: Piano is important, too. I took piano lessons.
- M: Ann was in choirs, in all of the churches she has gone to. Paul was down at TNT Players, and Pat, when he went to Georgetown, was in the choir, up at Gilmore. They just are all singers. Charles has a beautiful voice, but he does not sing anymore.
- P: Really?
- M: It surprises me, but you cannot tell them. Kids all change, they all change as they get older.
- P: Lenore said something yesterday about Vincent buying a record player, a Victrola, and it was the prize of the family. Do you remember anything about buying records or--she said something about getting people together -- or was that just Lenore and her friends, or did everybody seem to do that?

M I remember when Vincent got that record player Vincent was a whistler He whistled beautifully. I have had people tell me when they knew that I was Vincent's sister--around here, up here Of course Vincent was, he was a very talented person. I have thought many times that Daddy died so young But see, Vincent and Daddy were not on the same wavelength at all, because Vincent was a dreamer Daddy was really down to earth As a matter of fact, he took the ICS courses to learn to be an engineer, and so did my husband later on in life I can remember, and I have often thought about Mother She probably had to spend five dollars a month for those, which I had to spend 10 dollars a month, and I did not have that at that time, either! [Laughter] Anyhow, I have grandchildren who are engineers, and we laugh when we say that Jack is up there looking down, just laughing [Laughing] He thought that engineers were the end. That is funny, is it not?

P So Vincent wanted to be an engineer, then?

M. No, Daddy wanted to be an engineer Daddy probably would have wanted Vincent to do something like that, but Vincent did not I do not know, I cannot think when he started going with Dr Broadie and John Chasen. Did Lenore say who else?

P She mentioned Chase She did mention another name I cannot place it right now

M. There was Dr. Broadie and somebody else There were three of them. That is when he really got involved with the birds, because he was always an ornithologist He knew about birds and butterflies, and he would walk down to the Butler Art [Museum] every Saturday and had lessons Miss Evans gave him art lessons, because he was an artist It is just I cannot remember the time element of these things or the time frame, because mostly I can remember that Vincent and I had to share scrubbing the kitchen floor [with] We would alternate One week I would have the kitchen and he would do the other half of the kitchen and the hall and down the cellar steps, and we would trade rounds, you know. We all had to do dishes, and we all had to take our turn in all of those things

P Sure, with that many in the family, everybody has to do their share, sure So you washed the floor and you did dishes and cleaning off the tables and things like that What else? Dusting and changing beds and laundry?

M I think Mother did the laundry, unless some of the kids did when they were older I do not remember doing it I remember doing the ironing, and I was the ironer all of the time. I did that. Yes, I can remember doing that [Laughter]

P That would not have been a happy job, right?

- M· It was sort of a dumb job, because you were down in the basement, and there was not any company. You did not even have a radio. Speaking of radios, we had a radio that had a battery, I guess. It must have been a battery. I know sometimes we would be listening to something and it would go off. We would have to run across the street to Aunt May's to hear the rest of it. [Laughter] Of course, Aunt May had a couple of radios.
- P Aunt May seems like a life saver in some cases
- M She really was. She was a party person. I think those of us who are party persons probably get it from her, because we can just pick up and go. Daddy used to pick us up at school with bread and jelly sandwiches and take us to watch the parade. The circus would be unloading and we never went to the circus, but we watched the parade.
- P Sure, sure.
- M· Probably at noon or something because he had a car, and a friend of mine at our 60th class reunion, we had such a wonderful time. It was Sunday night at St Ed's and you saw all these people you went to school with all these years. The next night was my 60th from Rayen, and some of the same people were there. We were talking about so many things, and this one girl said she remembered my dad. "He piled as many kids as he could get into that car, especially when it was pouring rain."
- P· Some of the kids went to Rayen, and some others went to Ursuline.
- M Me, Vincent, Kay, Rita, and Eleanor--six of us--went to Rayen. The other four went to Ursuline.
- P The younger four went to Ursuline. Was Ursuline not there earlier?
- M Ursuline was there, oh yes. Betty McLaughlin's mother graduated from there. I know other people that did, but we could not afford it, let us face it.
- P Tuition?
- M Yes, and Rayen was right there. We could walk to it. There were a lot of neighbor people around there, and they all went to Rayen. It was probably the thing to go to Rayen. Nobody even thought about going to Ursuline in our crowd.
- P The group stays together.
- M· Oh, yes. And then we would go up to school, and we would be in a group. We

would just pick one up as we walked up New York Avenue.

P· One thing I was thinking earlier about--since you were the oldest--how much of a hand did you have in helping to raise the younger children? I know you were married by the time Dick was born, right?

M· No I was 20 when Dick was born I was working then, and I had been over at GE--what is it called? Over at the Masta Well, I did a lot of things for the kids I can remember when Jeanne was born, I was a sophomore in high school I stayed home and had a "practical" nurse come for a couple of days to come take care of Mom, because Mother had all of her children at home. I told Miss McGuire that I had to stay home and help the nurse take care of my mother I told her that my mother had a baby girl, and she said, "Oh, Mary Helen, is that not nice Now you have a sister " [Laughter]

P. If she only knew

M Well, I told her I thought to myself, "Either I was an awful snot, or something " She just could not understand that I would have any other sisters. Well, I was a sophomore There would not have been anyone else in school but me But that is it with the Rayen reunion, and as it was for a lot of years That thing they had at St. Ed's, we all knew somebody in every year, you know All the other ones that came after me, I remembered those kids when they were little It was so wonderful sometimes to go to a Rayen reunion and just see the young kids as well as the ones that you went to school with. And the line of Vincent's friends, Vincent had a lot of friends I do not remember if he had girlfriends Bud came over because he was a friend of Vincent's Kay has known him for a long time

P· Let us talk a little bit about holidays Holidays seemed to be--Christmas for sure--seemed to be important What was Christmas like?

M Oh, goodness I can remember Mother staying up night after night sewing dresses for us, dresses for the dolls She just sewed all of them You know, when she got married, she did not know one stitch from another

P Yes I did read that in the book, and she ended up doing so well

M. Yes Then as we grew up, we were doing things, too, late at night for the little ones I can remember several years when I would go shopping with Daddy, because Mother was pregnant Jimmy was born in January I do not remember going when Vincent was born Vincent was born two days after Christmas But many times, I went with Daddy Christmas was always a big time, but any of those things were in families They just were

Daddy did not know many of his McLaughlin relations And this one uncle

of his used to come at Christmas time, and he would bring a box of chocolates. We thought that was such a big deal. Uncle Patty used to come and bring chocolates. His name was Patty Feely. He had been adopted by someone whose name was Feely. He maybe was not adopted, he might have just taken that name. But his name should have been McLaughlin, you see. Anyhow, it was nice because he came and spent the day, and he came for Christmas dinner sometimes. Of course, then his daughter lived across the street with Aunt May in later years. And then he had a daughter in New Castle. Another daughter lived up in New York state someplace. But he was really the closest thing we could think of that was a McLaughlin relation for Daddy. The other relations on that side were from his mother's side, from the Loftice's.

P. Oh, I see.

M. Aunt Lizzy Hitchcock lived on West Federal Street. The circus used to be out there at that field across the street from her house, whatever the field was called, I do not know. We would sit on her porch and watch. She married late in life, and she had one daughter who is about Lenore's age, I guess. I am not sure Daddy's sisters were all so good to him, and they were very good to us, too. Aunt Vi was just wonderful.

P. Were those people invited over for holidays?

M. No. Everybody had their own thing at their own house, and then you would go back and forth.

P. Oh, I see.

M. But, I actually cannot remember Mother's sisters coming for holidays. They would come a lot of times, but I cannot remember that. I know now when I had diphtheria, Daddy stayed over Aunt May's. Then when Sue had scarlet fever, and Kay and I were working, we went over to Aunt Susan's. I wonder where Daddy went. He might have been over at Aunt May's, too, at that time. But we stayed with Aunt Susan. We certainly had plenty of crowds at the house, but for what reason, I do not remember.

On the Fourth of July, we always had a big picnic. The Fourth of July always was a big time. As a matter of fact, we would go back to the house, and the men would set off the fireworks. We were not allowed to. We maybe were allowed to--as we grew older--we were allowed to have a sparkler. Oh, and we had Spit Devils, those things that are round and you put them on the ground and you ground them in your heel, and they sputter. They were called Spit Devils. I can remember on that front porch, we would sit on that porch and watch the men do the fireworks. I remember the first time I was allowed to hold a Roman Candle. Oh my, it was a big deal.

P: What about Halloween? Was that a big to do in your family, getting dressed up?

M It might have been for the younger ones, but I do not remember that we did

P. Your mother talks a little bit about the Prudential Picnics She said everybody loved the Prudential Picnics Tell me about his

M They were wonderful! Daddy, very often, was chosen to get the prizes We won the prizes, so we told him what to get. [Laughter] But they were wonderful It was just like a big family. It really was great We knew all their names for years and years Then, everybody would take what they wanted to eat. It was generally in Mill Creek Park We were great for Mill Creek Park, because that was where you went Everybody did It had the swings and stuff They always had horseshoes, because Daddy played horseshoes He used to carry horseshoes in the back of his car sometimes, in case he wanted to relax and he saw a horseshoe whatever, whatever they were called--the pit or something I found that very funny.

On the Fourth of July when we came back to the house, we would just have all of the fireworks. It was always so lovely Things were so calm and you could just hear other people having fireworks around the neighborhood That is just the way it was There were not any great big things like now-a-days. I remember the first time Daddy took us to a great big fireworks display It was at Holy Rosery Church in Lowellville We parked the car on this side of the river and they did the fireworks on the other side of the river I just thought it was a hill over there, but it could have been right at the side of the church or something that they had all these fireworks, and they had the big displays like they do Oh, my That was a big thing, and I do not have any idea when that was. I remember the first time we ever saw that

P Pretty impressive, huh?

M We used to go up to Wick Park to the band concerts all of the time. Oh, yeah They always had band concerts and we always walked up

P It was not that far to walk.

M. It was wonderful.

P What about Thanksgiving? Did you always have a big, traditional turkey dinner on Thanksgiving?

M I think we did.

P It was not a big one, though, a big holiday?

- M Is that not funny? I do not think it was as big as it is now, because it just seems to me that Christmas was the time. You were spending all of your energy working toward Christmas. Yeah, that is probably right. It probably was not as big.
- P It was a preview for what was coming the next month. Your mother said something about several times buying books for Christmas presents. There was one called Journeys Through Bookland. Do you remember those prized possessions?
- M Oh my, yes. And you wonder where they are. My sister Ann, I think, has one. You wonder where they are. And there was a scroll, you know, that you moved it up here. You could wind it and you could have, it could teach you all these things. Mother got that probably when Jeanne and Richie were little. She was teaching them. That Journeys Through Bookland. There were some issues, or some magazines or books that came with it, were like Sweden, Ireland, England. Maybe not that. Maybe it was just like the British Isles, or the Nordic countries. I forget how it was separated. There were several books. I also remember when Mother or Daddy bought The Lincoln Library.
- P Yes, she mentioned that too.
- M The Lincoln Library was about this thick [indicating thickness] and I swear to God it had everything in it. I think I read that thing from cover to cover. It was so wonderful and it was all one volume. I tried to buy one. My grandson was a manager of a bookstore in Washington and they had so many books down there. So, I was telling him about that. He said, "Gosh grandma, I am going to have to look into that." And he could not find it. Now, I got The Lincoln Library when they broke up Mom's home. But The Lincoln Library had no covers on it. It was tattered and dog eared. I said, "Boy Mom, I do not know who did not take care of that Lincoln Library." And she said, "Mary Helen, everybody in the neighborhood used that Lincoln Library." Of course, I knew that, but you expect it to be like you remembered.
- P Right. I get very upset if pages are torn. Do not touch my books.
- M She was very unhappy when they sold her house. She kept telling me, "Mary Helen, do not let them sell this house." So, here I am in this big house.
- P With all your things around you. So, that is good. What happened to all your mother's things when she did break up housekeeping?
- M Oh, she was in Phoenix.
- P She was not even here?

M. No, she was not here. She was in Phoenix. It was right after Sandy and Charles were married. My grandson and his wife, who were the first ones married of Mother's grandchildren because Charles was married first and then Anne was married and then John. John is the oldest. I know they got Mom's washer. They were just so delighted and they had it for years. Now, whether they had the washer and the drier, I do not remember that. We were talking about that not too long ago, too. They were telling me how thrilled they were to get it and how long it lasted. No, different ones got different pieces that they needed. Of course, I had a home. Vincent and Kay and Rita were gone, and Anne was in Akron. So, it was the ones around here mostly. I remember going down to that house on Elm Street.

But, anyhow, Kennsington was a happy home. I remember when I was married that the steps were in the front. You know, like they always were. Then, after that, maybe after Daddy died, they closed off the front porch and had the steps go down to the driveway. So, it was over that way. I know there are pictures of different ones sitting on the steps there. There were two catalpa trees, one on each side. I have a picture of me sitting under one of those catalpa trees, someplace, with a red dress on. This guy told me, "I am the king of dreamers and you are the queen of dreams." Is that not something?

P Do you remember anything--must have been on Kennsington--about elderberry picking? Or rootbeer making?

M Oh my, yes, and canning tomatoes. See, Daddy sold insurance and when people did not have money to pay their insurance he would take vegetables or fruit from them and then he would pay their insurance. Which might not have been legal, I do not know. Anyhow, he brought home lots of fruit. We always had rootbeer. We always had rootbeer down on the shelf in the cold cellar. Yes.

P And you made it yourself?

M Yes. You can buy the extract. You can still buy it. It is just amazing. Of course, they were Boston coolers then. You had ice cream with it.

P These just were from what the people gave you?

M Daddy would bring them home by the bushel.

P Oh, my!

M Oh, yes, and taught us how. We had to go down in the cellar because we were not allowed to do it in the kitchen. Down the cellar, and we would be sitting there down cellar, on a stool or the bottom step or whatever, learning how to do the elderberries. How to clean elderberries. Of course, there is a trick to it. Oh yes,

so that you do not squish them as you take them off the stems Well, we all had to learn that all through that color on all of us. Daddy loved elderberry pie. So, mother canned the elderberries and we always had elderberries on the shelf for elderberry pie These days they freeze apples for apple pie. I do not know if I really am sold on that. I guess that was about the only thing you could make for pie. That is something What other kinds of pie are there?

P Cherry.

M Well see, we had a cherry tree in the back yard and an apple tree Daddy always had a garden So, we must have had to weed the garden. I do not remember that, but I am sure we did I know we picked the apples and the cherries.

P You had a vegetable garden in the back, rather than a flower garden?

M. Well, he had flowers, too

P. You had both?

M Yes. Later on, in later years, he would get roses when he went to different people at their homes He would start them He had remarkable luck with those There is a trick to it I have done it myself, but you put the jar on top Cut the stem a certain way and put the jar on top of the stem and then make sure it is watered and everything The next year you will have a bush, or a start anyway He had a lot of roses beside the next door people's garage at the back yard. I think about that backyard sometimes because I have brown eyed susans back here and there are some other orange flowers. I keep looking at them, but they are not the same

Back at the back of our lot on Kennsington there were these bushes that were about five feet high, but they were loaded with these orange flowers They were like a chrysanthemum, you know about this big, not real big, but about that big They were orange or orange-yellow, but I have never really seen any like that. I do not know what they were I keep wondering

P. Maybe somebody else knows It will be a mystery We will figure it out

M We also had, over in back of our garage, we had lilacs. I have a picture Let me see, who am I in the picture with? Paul, I think, with the lilacs back there in the back These pictures, I was up there in the seat These are pictures in our back yard. Now see, this is 1934 This is a picture of all of us and mother in the back yard [indicating the picture].

P Look at this How nice!

M And then in this one Then you can see the hill in the back of our house We used to think that hill was so big, such a big, long hill

P: Did you go sled riding on that hill in the wintertime?

M Oh no. We did not use sleds We would slide down on our rear ends, I think. In later years we would slide on New York Avenue. Our Aunt May's driveway See, Aunt May was on a hillside of Kennsington I guess it could be going like this really Our driveway went in straight, but Aunt May's went up the hill. We could sleigh ride on that Is this not cute. This is Kay with Teddy [indicating picture]. He was her first.

P. I did ask her about that, but she did not want to talk about it

M I do not remember my husband ever crying except that morning

P Is that right?

M Yes When they called and told us, it was terrible Gosh, he was not quite three, I think, because Dick was just born

P Which one is Teddy on there?

M He is the one over at this side She has Teddy That was so sad. Bud was so angry

P Well, I can imagine.

M That God took his son.

P And probably today, it might not have happened, with the medication, with everything more that they know now

M I will say When you think of all the things nowadays

P Any of the illnesses that any of you had as children probably would not be as bad today. Even the quarantines probably would not be in existence You had diphtheria did you say?

M Yes

P What was that like? I do not know anything about diphtheria.

M That was terrible

P: How old were you?

M. I was probably in the third or fourth grade. Mother knew something was wrong. The doctor came and told her I had diphtheria. There was an antitoxin that he could get, but he would have to have her permission. Well, we would have to have Daddy's permission, I guess. He had to have her permission because she was trying to get a hold of Daddy. She could not get him. She went to Father Griffin up at St. Edward's and he said, "If I have a daughter whose life could be saved by that medicine, I would certainly use it." They did. I could remember for years that big syringe was in the top drawer in their bedroom. This was the syringe that save Mary Helen's life. It was a real long thing. Anne had it too, but Anne had a very slight case. I guess maybe mine had gotten a hold. Sometimes one gets it lighter than the other. What I do remember, and some of the things you think you remember because you have heard them. I know that Mom had a sheet hanging over the door and she would take it down and put it in Lysol and put it back up.

P: Keep the germs out, or in

M. I can remember one time--we talk about this, we laugh about this--when Father Griffin was coming to the house and he was knocking at the front door and Anne and I were up in the bed. I was getting better and, of course, she had not been very sick. We were playing on the brass bed. Had a great big brass bed up there and she told Mom there was some big, fat man coming up the street, coming up the walk. It was Father Griffin. Then, many years later, when I was with the auxiliary over at St. Joseph's--I was a volunteer there, I still am. I volunteered there for a lot of years. Well, in my session, going through all these offices, you know, all the things you do. I ran across an award that is given by that Ohio Hospital Association and it is the Morris Griffin award, because Father Griffin was very instrumental in getting hospitals. What he did, I do not know, but he was helpful to them in some way. Or maybe he pushed them, or had other people help them with money or something. I do not know. I thought that was so interesting.

P. That is great.

M. The Morris Griffin award. Yes. I think it is for a nurse. You know, that still is something. Mildred Namon was a real good friend of Mother's, too. That was Jack Namon's sister. Of course, her name was something else, because she was married. We always knew her as Mildred Namon. I remember one time, when I was about, maybe the eighth or the ninth grade, I was going to a costume party and I did not have any idea what kind of a costume. Mildred said that she would get me a nurse's costume. Of course, I really thought I wanted to be a nurse anyhow, so that was fine. I went over to the hospital and she got the outfit for me. I do not know what her position was over there, but I wore it.

P That is as close as you ever got to being a nurse?

M: Yes, that is as close. Well yes, because you had to pay and it was not even considered. You know, I mean I had to get a job. But my daughter is a nurse. She does not nurse anymore. I have to get shots every month. I have pernicious anemia. Oh, mother had pernicious anemia. Mother had pernicious anemia about the time Anne was born. I will have to look that up. Anyhow, she just fell on the floor, she just collapsed. They told her to eat fresh vegetables, I think she said. It is terrible when you think of all the things she told me over all the years that now I forget. She was not surprised that I have pernicious anemia. I had it when my youngest was about eight. I did not know what was the matter with me. I just was so tired all the time.

Mother was the librarian over at the hospital. You know, she worked at the doctor's library. As a matter of fact, she worked at the doctor's library when I had Mary Elizabeth in Youngstown. She came and stayed with me and then would go over to her job and somebody would come and stay at the house while she was not there, because I had to stay in bed for a couple of weeks. I had blood clots after Mary Elizabeth was born. Anyhow, she knew a lot of the doctors. The doctors were wonderful to her. They all loved her so much. She had a good relationship with everybody. She really did. I think she has passed that on to us. Mother never talked about anybody. She never criticized anybody. You know that bunny rabbit says, "You cannot say something [nice], do not say anything at all." I think that must have been her motto. I know I just find it difficult to hear people say things. That television could get out the window. It just floors me the way people talk.

P Especially on talk shows. Those are bizarre. I do not watch those.

M She never talked about anybody. She and Aunt May were so unlike. They were so unlike. But Aunt May loved Daddy with a vengeance. So, that was fine see. Aunt May took us places. And Uncle Harry, of course, went right along with Aunt May. Whatever she did was fine. When we were growing up, and probably dancing over there, we were not allowed to dance on the rug. We were not allowed to sit on the arms of the couch. We would laugh about that. We would go out on the porch and dance. She was real good to us. We just took it for granted, I think.

P Well, I think you do when you are growing up too, because, you are used to it. She has always been there.

M: Yes, and she took me to the lake. They would go get a cottage at Brady's Lake or at Milton Dam, and then later on at Geneva. I would go with her because I was Dorothy's age. Sometimes Kay would go because she was almost Rosalie's. Then, in later years, Sue is about the same age as Audrey. That

could be, too. Anyhow, I know that I had my first date, first visit with a boy, when I was at the lake with Aunt May and Uncle Harry and their friends. Their friends all had cottages around. We would all go swimming together and they taught me how to swim. Eddie turned out to be Father Kells, but he was a good friend of mine. He was a good friend. But Aunt May, she did a lot for all of us. She taught us how to have fun.

P That is good

M. Rosalie is her mother's daughter

P Full of fun, too.

M Yes, she is a gadabout. She goes here and there all the time. Her husband goes along with her. It is funny. When you look back and you look at people, you realize so much. Actually, I think Jack was like my husband. My husband was like Daddy in some ways. I remember when I met him, I thought he must be so much older than I am because he was so settled and dressed precisely. He is ten months older than I am. Some of his kids are like that. They are older for their age. Well, you know, you have heard that expression. They are old for their age. I can see that all the time. See, Bud's mother was sick so much of her life, his growing up, and then my husband's mother died when he was eight. His aunt raised him. So, they both loved mother. Really loved mother. Then, Frank just loved his mother so much and took care of his mother, and was wonderful. He took care of mom. There was not even any consideration. Like Foley, I should not be picking anybody out, because she was always welcome wherever she went. In fact, we sort of argue about where she was going, but we all knew where mother's rocking chair went, that was where mother was. Where mother was going to be. You have probably heard that. There was something else I was thinking about. Well, it is getting late now.

P There is something else I was going to ask about. Oh, you talked about your aunt living next door and being friends with her daughter, it would be your cousin, did you have a lot of friend's in the neighborhood? Were there a lot of kids around?

M Oh yes. No, Aunt May and Uncle Harry lived across the street. Across Kennsington. No, we had a terrace along side of us. It was a terrace, went down New York Avenue. Is that still there?

P I do not think so. I only went by there once and I was not sure what I was looking for.

M The apartment in the front was right going on to Kennsington, but the rest of them were down on New York Avenue. I think there were maybe four, four more

down there. Of course, that was not built when we were first there. That was built later on. I think Ben Billet built that, because he lived in the one in the front. Yes, there were a lot of kids. Stuart Lodges lived on the corner. There was a grocery store on the other corner. We had friends, you know, up and down the street. People across the street from us, on the corner, one of them had a player piano and we were allowed to go over and fool around with that player piano. That was wonderful. We all have memories of that player piano.

P: That does sound like fun.

M: Oh, yes. You just can imagine you're playing that.

P: My aunt and uncle had a player piano. Sure do remember that.

M: How old are you?

P: Forty-four.

M: Oh, you are young.

P: A baby. There are days I feel pretty old.

M: We used to go up to New York Avenue. We have a picture of mother. A picture of mother at her home when she was nineteen or twenty, or something. We used to go up in back of the apartment and get water up there. I keep wondering why we did. I just do not know. I do not remember why we did because we had running water in the house. I can remember we did. We would go up there and get water. Mother always had her hair done. In later years, I guess she must have done it her self. It would have been after she had a cut. Do you see the picture of it cut there? (Laughter) It looked so awful. The lady came to set her hair, give her a Marcell when she was in bed, when Richie was born. Oh sure, have to have your hair looking right. What was her name? Mrs. Lang. She lived up in those apartments I think.

We were allowed to go over to the grocery store and get things. We were not allowed to charge candy or anything. Mother would be reading and we would say, "Mom, can I go to the store and get whatever." And she would say, "yes", and we would go and get it. Of course, that was not the right thing to do, but I do not think that happened too often. That is where we rode it.

When I was twenty-one Daddy took me to vote. Daddy told me what to vote, how to vote. I would laugh because he would tell me every time. We would look at the paper and he would tell me how to vote. I did not always do it, but I had to laugh. He told me all the time and then when I got married, my husband told me

P: Well

P: I saw some at Nora's yesterday She has a little picture of some butterflies.

M: Rita has some, too

P: Do you think Vincent felt overwhelmed being surrounded by all of those sisters? Or did he relish the attention being the only boy for so long?

M: I do not know if that ever came up, actually. It was just the way it was. I do not know I could not tell you that It never occurred to me, although you would think that he would probably See, even Daddy, he would use the bathroom at night He would get shaved and get his bath, and whatever, at night. In the morning he was out He was gone Yes, because you just did not have time But that is right, and with one bathroom.

P: Leonore was saying that there were usually three or four girls in the bathroom at the same time. That would not work with the boys.

M: No, that is right I did not think of that No, I never thought of that I really did not

F: He had his chores around the house, the same as everybody else

M: Oh, yes. Everybody did

P: Your mother talks in the book about teaching him to wash his socks At age eleven, or something, I think it was

M: Vincent was very much in the Arms Museum and the Butler Art Gallery When he was in rotary he was in instrumental and starting a children's rehab up here He was very big with Easter Seal in Youngstown. Oh, yes! He worked for Jack for a while In the books that he kept are just his printing and writing It is very crafty It is very arty You can just see an artist in there See, my daughter is like that and my youngest daughter My son, John, has two daughters who are artists. That book there

P: This one?[indicating the book]

M: Yes, I think Katie Kerrigan did the cover I am not sure.

P: Yes, I think Leonore mentioned that

M: I had that out a couple of times and my youngest granddaughter, John's youngest, she is going to be a senior over at J F K this year She said, "Oh, gosh Aunt Liz, did you ever see this?" Liz said, "Oh sure, I have seen that " She said, "But I never saw it with everybody's name on " I had to do that for the kids

because I have been very conscious, since Jack died, of that fact that , I am not immortal myself I must be watching things more. Even if I do not give them things like these pictures that I have I write on the backs of the pictures

P. Good idea

M: When my kids come home with pictures or send them home, I say, "Turn them over. There is nothing written on the backs of these " They take so darn many pictures.

P Yes

M See, I do not even use a camera In fact, when my husband's aunt died, I knew that I had to keep things for them because there was no continuity They did not know much about Jack's father They did not know much about Jack's father at all Plenty about his mother, about his mother's family Not his mother, really, because she was so young when she died She died of a pregnancy See, that would not happen these days.

P No, that is true.

M He was eight and Bill was seven There are many things that, like Jeanne for instance Gosh, she is so wonderful these days It is just wonderful At the time, when she was at her worst and Mom was taking her around to the different doctors around places, it was during the war. Jack could get gas. He could go to the rationing board and get it for her Or, he would take Mother and Jeanne places People really just did not think about it. They just did it

P Times are very different today Nobody ever thought twice about just automatically helping somebody

M. Yes, people are selfish, self centered, or inconsiderate I will tell you, when I drive, I drive and I try to be home by 3 00 Even right out here, and this is country They tear up and down this road It is awful. I go out to get the paper and the mail and I have to cross the road I will tell you, they do not even pause I get very angry

P I do not blame you

M: I have, let me see, I have some pictures I have pictures of Mother's family, her brothers, and one picture of her sisters I have a picture of Mom and Dad and Vincent and Kay and me. I have one of Daddy and Mother. I thought you want to see them

P Absolutely.

M. My mother was a beautiful woman and Daddy was a handsome man, with red hair. None of us have red hair. That was on our swing on Kensington Avenue

P: Oh, really?

M: Oh, no, Madison. You could tell that is not on a swing.

P: These are the three oldest children?

M Yes, those are the three oldest children You have seen the pictures of Jimmy, Vincent, and Dick, have you not?

P Yes, I think Leonore showed me those

M. Oh, I just put a note in here I was thinking about Daddy and Aunt Kate MaCovey Uncle Patsy MaCovey had a grocery store over on Rich Avenue How was he related to Daddy? I will have to go look up the family tree, I guess I know Aunt Kate and Uncle Patsy would have groceries delivered to the house on Kensington for some years I do not know how long Anyhow, I can remember they would come and they had this square thing--like this--which they put eggs in. They would turn it upside down and the eggs would come out on to a paper or a plate. They never broke Then they would take this little thing back to the store and these groceries were delivered That was when we were very young Uncle Patsy, I remember going to their house They lived on East Dewey A great big, beautiful home You know, one of those great big, beautiful homes There were a lot over there, like there are a lot of places Let me see Uncle Patsy's grandson is Mark Osburn Mark Osburn, that was the judge

P Okay

M Aunt Lodey, in those days, everybody called everybody "aunt." I do not know whether she was an aunt, or a great aunt, or our cousin She was older Jean MaCavoy was a policeman He was Uncle Jim MaCavoy's son He was about the same age as mother So we always called him Uncle. Uncle Jean Anyhow, Aunt Kate was Uncle Patsy's sister She was not married She was an unmarried lady She was a nurse [She] Came over and helped sometimes Anyhow, I remember going downtown with her just to walk around and look in the stores. She would take me to the Chocolate Shop for a soda Big deal! We would go in the car, in the street car

P: Going to town was a big thing I can remember that

M. Wore a hat and gloves when you went into town

P. Absolutely.

M· Uncle Jack and Aunt Eva were always there for Mother and Daddy. They did a lot. They would paint, they would wallpaper. I could remember those big tables set up in the living room, the dining room. They were going to do the wallpaper because nothing was ever pre-pasted like it might be now a days. They did not have any children. They were so good. She had cats. She had a couple of cats. Uncle Jack had met her in New Orleans. She was French. She was from Evangelee's country.

P. Oh, my goodness.

M They were just really nice. It was wonderful. I can remember the first time Uncle Jack had a car. He bought a chance on a Model A and won the car. We came home from school and it was parked in front of our house. We just about died. Uncle Jack had a car. When I had the diphtheria, Aunt Susan would come over. They would come over and they would not come in the house. They would come to the side window. Aunt Susan made me, crocheted, or knit a sweater for me. It was so pretty. She had made the lace collar for it. Oh gosh, it was so pretty. I had forgotten about that until I was just thinking about it. Uncle Jack was always doing something at our house. These are just little tid-bits that I put down here about walking to the library. We always went to the library.

P Really?

M Oh yes. We walked down.

P That would be the main library?

M· Oh yes. Everybody did. We walked to the "Y" [YMCA]. After I graduated from high school the "Y" had refresher courses that you could sign up for. We would go down there and just brush up on your short hand and your typing. I did a lot of volunteer work too when I was in high school for like Popey Day, or what other kind of days were there. I know we had someday's, we would go down to the Elk's club at the top of Wick Avenue, which is no longer there.

P You are terrible.

M· Things were going on.

P I know. I do not recognize downtown anymore at all.

M· Just do not recognize anyplace. Things certainly do change. How do you think we did?

- P I think we did just fine. I really do. I think we got a lot covered.
- M It was on the corner of Stow. I was sitting beside the stove getting dressed. Of course, the kitchen was the warmest place in the house. Whoever was the baby was in the doorway between the dining room and the kitchen. I was playing with the baby and I really do not remember. I think it was Sue. Anyhow, I would go like this with my stocking and put it over, across my head. Of course, I had long underwear on. Everybody wore long underwear.
- P. Right.
- M. You tried to turn that around on your legs so it would not show so people would not know you had it on. You know, it was cold. Anyhow, I pulled the tea pot over on my back. It really was a very dramatic happening. Whoever they were, I do not know, but I was in bed on my stomach for about six weeks and they had gauze on my back.
- P. Oh, my.
- M Doctor Langley that had the drug store at the corner of Thornton. They had that drug store. They had perfected this paraucil. It was just new. Anyhow, it was sort of oily, but evidently had healing something in it. They just poured it on my back. Then I can remember when they took the scab off. The doctor cut it around the edges with the scissors.
- P Oh, my
- M See, that is where my memory is blocked out. I do not know what else happened. I know, I can remember the scissors, but I cannot remember anything else.
- P How old were you about this time?
- M It was about the year after I had the diphtheria. They were both about the same time. One year, and then the other.
- P What school did you go to?
- M St. Edward's. We all went to St. Ed's.
- P Did you go to kindergarten?
- M No. They did not have kindergarten then. So, I started in the first grade. Right off the bat, I cannot even think of who my first grade teacher was. You know, you do remember some teachers more than others. I know that I received my

first communion with the same class. When I was in the second grade my husband was in the same class, I found out, when we were to get married. He was a year ahead of me. He was in the third grade. His uncle who was a convert received his first communion and was confirmed with that class.

P Oh, for heavens sake.

M. His uncle was Charlie Jenkins. He was married to Aunt Nell who had raised her

P Oh, I see.

M Their mother had died and their father was someplace else. I took piano lessons. Mother started me on piano lessons, probably when I was young. It probably was maybe in the second or third grade. I can remember in the fourth and fifth grades, the recitals that I had to be in. Mother making me dresses to wear at the recitals. When I got into the, let me see, probably in the sixth and seventh grades, I played the marches for the kids to walk in and out of school. I took lessons from the nuns at St. Edward's. The girls did. We took turns. The girls who took piano lessons were the ones who played the marches. I have one of my marches yet that says, "Oh, mom. Play the Yankee Laid March." They had to march in line, in and out of school. No talking and all that stuff. Forget it now. Anyhow, it was quite a big thing in my life too, to be chosen.

Of course, through those years I had diphtheria. I had black diphtheria because it was real bad. The doctor said there was a new medicine that could be used. She would have to sign for it and he would have to have Daddy. She could not find Daddy so she called Father Griffen, and Father Griffen said that he had a daughter and if there was something that would help her, he would go for it. So, mother did. It was an anti-toxin. It was in a great, big syringe which was great big and huge compared to syringes now a days. I know, for years it was in the top drawer in the dresser in Mother's room. That was the medicine that saved Mary Helen's life. That was it. I had it real bad, and my sister Amy got it. She just had a light case. At that time, Mother would take a sheet and put it over the door and soak it in Lysol.

Then I can remember when I was getting better, Anne was allowed to be in the same room with me. We had a brass bed and we would sit on the top of the brass bed [laughter]. When Father Griffen came to see us, we called Mom and told her there was a big fat man at the front door [laughter]. It was Father Griffen. Father Griffen, in later years, when I was president of the auxiliary over at St. Joe's. I would go to all these conferences, hospital association type things. I found out that there was an award given to a nurse for some special reason. I do not know what it is. It is called the Morris Griffen Award.

P Named after him?

M Named after him. I remember, later on as I got older. I knew that he was active

with things with the hospital. There were people who did not think that was right.

P: Oh, really?

M: Yes. Just about that same time, I scalded my back. I said this so many times, I keep thinking I told you. Maybe I told the kids. When we get together with my sisters, you know, we have talked about it. We were in the kitchen and we had a big black stove which was probably a gas stove. It had to be a gas stove. Mother would make tea. We always had tea in the morning and she had the tea pot right beside that little ledge at the edge of the stove. We always dressed in the kitchen because it was warmer. So, we came downstairs and I was sitting there and I was playing with whoever was the baby. I do not know if it was Sue. I think maybe it was Sue. I went like this with my long stocking that I had to put on over the long underwear. I went like this and I pulled the tea pot over on my back. I only remember how terrible it was really because Mother said it was. I know that I laid on my stomach for six weeks. They just had a gauze on my back. They poured oil on it. It was brand new then.

P: Is that right?

M: Dr. O'lin, up at the Elm Drug Store had the patent on it. We still have it.

P: How old were you when this happened?

M: I probably was in the fifth grade. I am trying to think. Fifth grade was over in this side of the church. The church was here and the school was here. In the seventh grade I was in Sister Kevin's class. In the eighth grade, Sister Roberta's. In the fifth grade, it just seemed to me, I vaguely remember coming back to school and someone hitting me on the back. I cringed and the sister said, "What is the matter?" I said, "You hit me there and it still hurts." Anyhow, she was the singing teacher. She was the choir. I think of it now, when I hear people enunciate improperly when they are singing. They were great on English in this clan. I bet you found that out.

P: Yes.

M: I said something, people just do not enunciate properly. She was really great. Of course, she was hard, too. She was very good. She did not let girls wear bands on their head. She called them headache bands. "Take that headache band off." She was a beauty.

P: You got along mostly pretty well with the nuns?

M: Oh, I think so. I never really had any problem with any. Although, I remember I had a run in with Sister Kevin when I was in the seventh grade. I put an

envelope in the collection and wrote down a million dollars on it [laughter] She sent me over to Father Mash. No, I think I got along pretty well with everybody. Then I graduated in 1928, which I now have the class picture of my 1928 class

P Oh, really?

M It was not in the book that they put out and the time at St. Edward's anniversary last fall I kept wondering. Then when we took Kay, and Kay and Leonora and Anne and I, we went up to St. Edward's to go through after the anniversary. We were going through the different classrooms looking to see what they were doing, how it had changed and everything. Here, that picture was on that stand they had in the front hall, our class picture. They told me it was my class, my sister did. The night before I had not seen it I guess it was fastened, thumb tacked to the stand. Jeanne was chairman of the thing. She said, "Just take it off, Kay." So Kay took it off and she picked it up and looked at the back and she said, "Well, my gosh. This girl lives close to me in Phoenix. She lives in Glendale." Here, it was Mildrid Handel who owned Handel's funeral home. They lived across the street from St. Edward's then. Anyhow, she was in my class and that is who sent the picture. She took it back then with her, and she had one made for me. It is framed, yet

P Great.

M Oh, what a coincidence. I cannot remember that we all wore hats. Those hats that were quite the latest things. After I graduated that year, the only work I did, I think at that age, was I would copy Daddy's insurance book. He had to copy it every year. It had to be for the first of the year. So, that is what I would do after Christmas. Copy all the numbers, kind of insurance and the name and all that stuff, into this big book. So, I did that, but then when I graduated from high school I did volunteer stuff down at the community chest. Of course, that was Depression then. We walked down to the YMCA and took classes to keep up with our shorthand and typing, and, you know, other things.

P You did not take those things in school?

M Oh yes, I did. In fact, I started when I was a freshman. The teachers would tell us they always knew the young people who came from St. Edward's because they were so polite.

P Oh, really?

M Yes. We always stood up. We always said "yes", and "no", and "thank you," and all those magic words, "yes, sir", "no, sir". Oh, Latin, and English, and history, and science when I was a freshman. Daddy wanted me to quit high school and go to business college when I was sixteen, when I was going to be a

junior I was just petrified that he would indeed make sure that I quit school Mother came to bat for me and she said, "No, no way." I cried I begged her (laughter)

So, anyhow then, I did finish, but I did do the promotion course. I did typing, and government. What else did I take? Typing, and shorthand I was good in typing and shorthand, too. I know I took history, because I always loved history I always took history. And English, and government, and something else -- civics Everyone I guess took a half a year in civics I can remember when Jeanne was born, I was a junior I had to stay home to show the practical nurse where things were, because Mom was, of course, home She had the baby at home. I went back to school and Miss McGuire, I told her what the scoop was and she said, "Oh, Mary Helen, is that not nice? You have a little sister." I said, "Gee, I have six sisters " I often wondered if she thought I was such a spoiled brat, or what

I enjoyed that class. There were a lot of nice people in my classes. At St Edward's there had been a couple of boys who were trouble makers, but they were not that bad The nuns were always on them. Then, when I got to high school--of course, you get all those other kids--I did not have to go to Hayes Some of the kids did who lived farther away, but because of where we lived, I could go to Rayen into the ninth grade

P I see, okay Did you have a particular group of friends in high school?

M Oh, yes

P You did everything together?

M Oh, yes We had a club We had a "sorority " We would have dances We would get together and go to the football games There was a time I met people from St. Columbus We went down there to that What did they call it? I think it was called Columbian Club, I think I went down there with them Then we had Ed Cassell at St Edward's Then there was one over at St Patrick's. The Patrition Club. We would go over there sometimes Of course, that was the other side of town. I had cousins that lived over there, too They were in the Patrition Club Yes, we had good times We had a lot of good times

P There were boys and girls in the group, right?

M Well, mostly girls When we walked to school I know there were always boys and girls walking up to Rayen together I know that because I remember we went to one reunion. Laverne said, "Oh , Mary Helen Howard Squires is going to be there." "Why would Howard Squires be there " Well, I did not even remember that at all We all walked to school together There was never anything else Anyhow, I thought that was pretty funny Laverne was one of the people. There are three or four that we get together for lunch We still do it for

lunch.

P: That is good.

M: One of them was a nurse. Two of them were nurses and they were in the nursing school together. I cannot remember the rest of it. They were just planning to go out and have a job some place. When I went to the community chest, I did because Mr. Flemming lived across the street from us. I sent out the tuberculosis stamps and did things in the office. Sometimes you think you will never forget those things. I should have made notes myself. Anyhow, it was called Allied Council then. Then it had changed and evolved into Children's Rehab and Social Services, and all those other things. The lady who was head of that lived up on New York Avenue. I knew her, but that was not why I got the job. Anyhow, I knew who she was.

Then there were people that I went to school with. When I went to Rayen I belonged to a Camp Fire group. I am still friends with a lot of those girls. In fact, a lot of them belong to Junior Bridge Club. I belong to Junior Bridge Club when I came back from Newton Falls. I lived in Youngstown. Then I would drive back to Newton Falls to the Bridge Club up there. I had to drive all over the place. At nights, you know, with the bad weather and everything. By myself, it is just scary when you think about it.

P: I know.

M: That is the way it was. You just did it. It just was not a problem. We did not have a prom when I graduated from high school. No, we had a dinner.

P: A dinner?

M: We had a dinner and it was a dance. It was in MaCalvey's Tea Room on the sixth floor. I did go. I am sure I went, but I did not have a date. There were a lot of us that did not have dates.

P: Was it for the whole school?

M: Just for the seniors. You could go even if you did not have a date. So we did. I did not have any regular boyfriend until after I got out of high school for a while. We used to go to the football games every Saturday. We did not go to the out of town games, but we always bought a bag of Spanish peanuts and go to the football games and have Spanish peanuts.

P: On Saturday afternoons?

M: On Saturday afternoons. When I got my license to drive I was allowed to have the car. It was a pretty neat trick. Of course, I had other girls with me. I think I

was about the only one that drove. Never could give me that. Daddy always had the car all the time. Generally, he went to the office not on Saturday. He might have had something to do on Saturday, but I was allowed to have the car sometimes on Saturday. Then, my cousin that lived across the street, Dorothy Guard, she went to the Villa. She went to the Villa to high school. She would come home for the weekends. I knew all those people because most of the girls that she went with went to St. Edward's with us in the first place, although she met other ones. She came home with the trick of smoking when she was in high school.

P: From the Villa she learned that?

M: Oh, yes. Of course, I had to try it.

P: Of course.

M: I decided there was no way that I could afford to smoke cigarettes. So that was fast and furious and over with. It never occurred to me to do it anymore. We went to the lake with Aunt May. Aunt May and Uncle Harry, that was Dorothy and Rosa Lee's parents, and Audrey. They went to Lake Milton, Lake Brady, up to Lake Erie and would get a cottage. Their friends, they had friends where a whole group would go. In fact, I had my first date with Eddie Taleholes, who turned out to be a priest. He is now long gone, but he died. His parents taught me how to swim when we were little kids. Not little kids, but we were in high school. It had to be earlier than that because I knew how. Anyhow, I had a lot of fun. I loved the water. Always wanted to be someplace where there was water. When we came out here my husband said, "Well, I guess this is the water." That pond out there.

P: Should have built a swimming pool in the back yard.

M: Well, you see, we do not have water here. We have wells.

P: Oh, I see.

M: The first weekend we moved here, in 1951, we had no water. There was no water. The people across the street brought our dinner over and took the dishes back home to wash them. There were other times the well would just stop. It was low. You cannot believe how it is when you are accustomed to turning on the faucet. It was terrible. That is who I was on the phone with this morning, was a plumber. We have the line in the road, now. You have to get someone to dig a trench from the road to your house and then get a plumber to bring it in the house. I was trying to do that. I am sick and tired of this business of trying to run this place. It is a big house. It is a chore. Anyhow, I got sidetracked here.

P: That is okay

M The kids, when they got married, decided when they grew up they were not going to live on a farm Except my youngest daughter. She will take the farm with anything, or without. She is a city person now. She is up in Cleveland and her husband is definitely a city person We did have a shower He did put in a shower They lived with me for a year after my husband died He put a shower in upstairs Even so, they would take showers down in my bathroom because when we built the house, see, Jack built that on for me Everyone keeps saying, "He wanted you to have it " It is not all what it is cracked up to be I am here and I will probably stay here because it is comfortable I feel safe and secure

P. That is the most important thing

M Yes. I have security. I know I do not have enough neighbors I wish I did My friend Jane Helsel died last Christmas. It was a terrible thing Anyhow, back to high school

P· What about high school graduation? Was that a big ceremony?

M I think that was up at Stambaugh Auditorium It could not have been Is that not something I cannot remember where high school graduation was I remember, our baccalaureate was at the Temple We were not allowed to go because we were Catholic We could not go to anything Remember in those days you were not allowed to go to any ceremonies You were allowed to go to weddings and funerals, but nothing else

P I had forgotten about that

M One of the girls, I think she was a little bit younger than I. Sidney Berkowitz lived around the corner from us Down on New York Avenue So we knew him Howard Squires was Jewish, too We just all melted together, you know I will tell you, on Saturday, we knew when the Jewish kids were going to the temple because they all went. Every Saturday. I do not know if they do that now That was at a time It was really remarkable because it gave you an inside into them and their character. They believe what they believe, we believe what we believe. It was really wonderful

P Everybody still got along with everybody else

M. Everybody got along That is right The only ones that did not get along were the Klan I remember when the Klan would come, and they would burn crosses on Thorn Hill We could see that from our upstairs back porch. One time, John Arnold was the City Auditor He lived next door to us. My father, we always got along We were always friends, and good neighbors We found out he was a

Klan Oh, my father was just a wreck. He could hardly believe that nice man that lived next door was a Klansman At that point, it just seemed like they had gone from the Negroes to the Catholics. It was just really awful. Then they moved later on I still remember those two, Barbara and Susanne Arnold I do not know where they are, or any of them now I remember that episode.

P Well, the Klan was pretty prevalent in Youngstown for a while.

M Yes, it was. It is just that, you see some of those things on television You really cannot believe that it was, but you know it was

P. Were you witness to any of their parades and their demonstrations?

M No. The only one that I ever knew about was the one that they had in Niles

P I heard about that one.

M That was before we were here, I think I know that the K F C and St Steven's were really big. I guess they put up guns They had everything They got out and they never came back

P. Well, one good thing

M I graduated from high school and graduation was in the morning I am pretty sure it was in the morning because we had a little thing in the afternoon My aunt's came It was not much because no one did that

P It was something at your house?

M Yes In fact, even when I was married we had the reception at our house We had just punch and cookies It was just very simple We had our wedding breakfast at the Stoneway Tea Room It was \$1.25 a plate for Chicken 'Ala King

P. You remember the menu?

M Oh yes, my goodness. I paid for it

P. You financed your own wedding?

M Sure You had to.

P. You were how old when you got married?

M: Twenty-three

P: So you had been working for a while and saving

M: Yes, I was working. I was working for Commercial Credit. That is another thing. I worked there for Commercial Credit I worked for the Memorial Park for a while. I worked in the Youngstown office. Then, they had another girl up here in the Warren office right down here on 422. It was then, the banks had closed. It was selling lots with pass books. People were buying them with their pass books. I worked for Commercial Credit and I really liked that. It was a good job. I had a vacation. I do not think there was anything like hospitalization.

P: Probably not

M: I told them I was going to get married. They told me I could work for three months after I was married, then I had to quit.

P: Really?

M: Yes.

P: Why?

M: That was the rule.

P: For heaven's sake. Just because you were married you had to leave?

M: Yes. So I worked for the three months. I was married in July. I worked for three months. Then, the first of October we moved. Jack was working in Newton Falls and we went and got a house in Newton Falls. He would come home every weekend at Mother's. Daddy was not any sicker than he had ever been. He did not look like a well man. Jimmy would remind you of him, my brother Jim, because he is small. My son, Paul, is like that. Paul is not tall. He looks like, and he can eat. We were doing it the other night and we were laughing because Paul eats like there is no tomorrow. He eats and it just does not go anywhere. It does not stop anyplace. Of course, the rest of them would love that. It was John and Sue when we were out laughing the other night. Of course, John puts on weight. He and his wife Sue are on a low-fat diet at this point.

Anyhow, Daddy would always be taking something. He drank Postom. He would eat things that were good for him. I remember there was a time, people told him that pork wine was good for him. He should have a glass of port wine everyday. My father was not a drinker. He was not a drinker of a thing because he said, "Irishmen cannot drink." So it was not in our house. Never was it in our house. I have a picture of him at their 25th anniversary. He looks like the same as he always did. It was just after that, that he was diagnosed with Cancer. It was probably, almost a year. I was pregnant with John and then he

died when John was eight or nine months old. He was skinny. Just a skinny man. We have pictures of me. I was pregnant. You could not even tell I was pregnant.

P: Really? How nice.

M: I guess I just did the regular things that girls do. We still had clubs and went out to club meetings. We went out for lunch. A couple of us, we would meet every Saturday. We came home for lunch every day in the week. On Saturday, we stayed downtown and had lunch downtown. It was a big deal. We went to the Italian restaurant or Ravers, or the Fish House. We did not know how happy we were.

P: That is right.

M: We had a good time. We would go and try clothes on.

P: Not buy anything. Just try it on.

M: In Livingston's, we would go and try on fur coats. I always wanted a fur coat. I always wanted a leopard fur coat. I knew what I wanted. They had one in Livingston's. I would have given my eye teeth for it. It was \$800.00. \$800.00 was like a mint. Oh my, it was pretty. Then, later on in my life, I had a fake fur that was a leopard. It was a beauty. It really was a beauty. I hate to say, I put on weight so I could not fit into it anymore. It is one of those things. Had it for a long time and finally gave it to one of my daughter's-in-law. Then I do not know what happened to it. I suppose she just gave it away to somebody, which I should do with an awful lot of things that are around here. You think, "I will lose weight and get into that." Now I look at them and say, "I will never fit into them," because the waist is different, the length is different. It just is, I am bigger through the shoulders or smaller. It is just your size range.

I just went to bridge parties and dances. I started dating this one fellow who, we would go to dances. We would go to Stambaugh Auditorium to dances. When we were in high school we would go to Kitty's Day at Idora Park. We would go and we would dance our feet off. We did not go to any of the rides. We went to dance, to the dance hall. We danced up a storm. We always had a good time.

P: Everybody in the family likes to dance, do they not?

M: Yes, we all like to dance. Most all of us like to play cards because we grew up with cards. Sitting on the front porch. Whoever was there would be the fourth. The mailman coming down the street or something. In the summertime we played a lot of cards. That was in high school. Daddy and Mom like to play cards. No, not Mom, Daddy did. I found out, I do not know who told me this, but

my dad and his sister, Aunt May, had won dance contests

P Somebody mentioned that to me. I do not remember who it was

M. Of course, Aunt May and Uncle Harry taught us how to dance. They would take us to dances, take Dorothy and me when we were the first ones. We were the first ones because we were the oldest. We would go to the dances up at the lake, when they go to the cottage. Although, this fellow that I had my first date with who turned out to be a priest, we never went to dances. I think he probably was busy. In fact, he went to Chaney. They had two years of Latin. He took two years of Latin and then took it over, two more years so he had four years of Latin to get in the Combiner. Chaney was a new school then. Rayen and South were the schools. Of course, there was a lot of rivalry between Rayen and South. We had a cousin that went to South that lived on the South side. I remember going over there in the summertime and going down to South side Park and going swimming down there with the girls. We just walked from their house

P. I would imagine you could walk a lot more places then.

M. Oh, heavens yes

P Everything seemed to be closer and nobody minded walking

M. It is like walking downtown to the YMCA. We always walked to the library. Vincent always walked down to the Butler Art for his lessons

P Nobody would dream of that now

M. No. Nobody would dream of it. In fact, I hear people say, "Well, I do not go to the mall anymore. I do not do this and that." I think, "That is sort of heating the fuel." Or fueling the fire, or something. It is hard to say. You have to know yourself. I have a handicap license so I park right there if I can find one. If I cannot, sometimes I come back home. Sometimes you can also find a place that is close there that I can park there. I do not have too far to walk. That is on one hand. On the other hand, I am supposed to walk

I went with Coil for two years, and that was at the time that I met Jack. I had met Jack and it was nothing. I had met him and seen him a few times. I do not know what happened. Somehow I told Coil, we decided to break up, I guess. He said, "Oh, well I hope you are not going to go in the convent or anything." I said, "Oh, no. I think I already met the man I think I am going to marry." That was it. He was an awfully nice guy. He really was. He was a Protestant. The only reason I was allowed to date him was because of Eddie Cowholes, who was at that time in the seminary. Coil was a friend of his. That is how I met him. Heaven's, you would not say anything like that anymore for love or money. On Broadway, past Belmont, and I would go up to her house like on a Sunday

afternoon. We would walk down to Evan's Field. I saw him there. Then I saw him someplace else. And the one time he called me and asked me for a date. I met him the year I graduated from high school, but we did not start to date then probably until about a year later. I am not really sure about that.

P: You just met him. He happened to be someplace where you were with other people?

M: Yes. As a matter of fact, I wanted to hear Guy Lombardo out at Idora Park. I was trying to figure how I could go. I asked my cousin if he would take me. Daddy said we could use his car. There was another couple with us that I do not know who they were, but I remember they were. We ran out of gas and the car would not start or something. This other car came along and here it was my cousin Jean Hollerin's brother, Dick Hollerin, who was someplace with Jack, because Jack had come back to Youngstown and had gone back to Rayen school. So, I saw Jack there. I think he called me for a date after that. So, see, it was really--shall I say--meant to be.

P: I guess so.

M: One of my friends in high school introduced me to him. I was getting off the bus coming home from lunch and she was coming out of the store at the top of the corner, top of New York Avenue and Elm Street. She came out and I was standing, talking to her. I do not know if Jack came along, or if he came out of the store, and she introduced me to him. She was still in Rayen and she knew him. She is one of the ones we go for lunch with too now. Oh, it is funny, we do have good times. We were together about a month ago, before I went to Washington, and we decided that for almost 80 years old we look pretty good.

P: Absolutely.

M: You know, some of the girls are very quiet. Well, I never was quiet until after I was married for awhile. Laverne still is. We laugh, we just howl wherever we are. It is fun.

P: Oh, absolutely. That is great.

M: Yes, she is great, too. Everybody's husbands are dead now. Everybody is losing their husbands. It is so hard. It really is. Then I got married, you see, and I moved to Newton Falls. We went to Newton Falls, and we got this house. We lived right down the street from a lady who had been Aunt Nell's bridesmaid when she was married. She was a sister to my Aunt Susan Gilronin's husband.

P: Oh, for heaven's sake.

M The Irish just stuck together That is all there was to it. Anyhow, Annie was wonderful. She was wonderful When Jack went up to Newton Falls he roomed with her because she kept roomers.

P. And you stayed with your mother?

M And I stayed with my mother, yes We lived in one little house. John was born there Well, we rented a little apartment one time, first Then we moved into this house, but we rented it too It was beside the railroad tracks in Newton Falls, or fairly close to it It was not right beside. Anyhow, that train was going from Youngstown to Cleveland at 9:20 in the morning, and 4:20 in the afternoon--or 4:40--and he knew when it was. Those, I think, were probably his first words. "Choo-choo train." He just loved those trains Kids do though, I guess.

P. Oh, I think so I think they all do.

M Anyway, we lived there until we were expecting Anne Oh, we had a big garden there I canned. In fact, I froze things and we got a locker We had a locker in Newton Falls. Then, when we moved to Youngstown we had a locker in Youngstown over there near Falls Avenue Is it Pyatt Street? No, that is where the market is. Oh, it is Essex Street There was a locker there. In fact, we had one up on Elm Street when we lived down there too, because we did not have a freezer Most people did not have freezers then I would freeze vegetables like mad Of course, I canned the tomatoes and my dad told me when I was doing them, when I was pregnant with John, Daddy said, "You know, they will not keep." I said, "Well, why will they not keep?" "Well, because you are pregnant " No -- "Because you are going to have a baby " Pregnant was not the word then, you were "going to have a baby " Well, gee, how did he know? Anyhow, I did it

Then, we moved from that house when we were going to have Anne and we were going to have another baby We needed another bedroom. We thought we needed three bedrooms So, we rented that house, and had Anne I had a lot of problems before I had Anne, my leg problems Then I started having them Then, I had Charles. Charles was only about 14 months younger than Anne I fell when I was carrying him So then I was in false labor, I do not know how many times before he was born So, then it just seemed like I had problems with all my pregnancies after that It takes a lot of time to do anything when you have little kids. I did not have a car I think we got the second car after we lived in Youngstown. Yes, because I knew the kids were getting older and I was going to have to have some means of moving them around

Then, of course, we lived there through all the First Communions, and all the different things, Mother moving up to Elm Street As a matter of fact, when I had Mary Elizabeth, Mother was living on Elm Street then and working at the hospital. She was in Doctor's Library I think She came down to be with the kids when they were home, because I was in the hospital No, no, no, that could not have been It must have been I came home When I had Mary Elizabeth I had

to be in bed, because I had a blood clot. And she would come down That was it.

P· I see. This was after you moved back to Youngstown, or this is when you were still in Newton Falls?

M. No, Mary Elizabeth was born in Youngstown Patrick was born in Youngstown, too That was quite an episode. Patrick was born at home

P Oh, really?

M· Not by intent No, I knew my time was pretty soon. I went to the doctor and I do not know what he said, but I was telling Kay, and Kay said, "Well, what did he say?" I said, "Well, he did not say anything." She said, "Did he not tell you to take the laxative? Did he not tell you to take Castor Oil?" I said, "No " "Well, then you have to call him and tell him that you want to take Castor Oil " So, I did and he told me how much to take So, I was going to take it and she said, "And then what did he tell you?" I said, "Well, he did not say anything " She said, "Well, you have to know what to do next." He said, "Oh, just take it, and do not worry Nothing will happen You will go to your time " So, Patrick came along Jack was out late that night. I said, "I think I really have to go to the hospital " But, he was not sure and I was not sure either.

P It was too late

M It was too late Jack had called. He was up and down stairs calling Billy McCaully, because Billy McCaully is our cousin He had said, "If you ever need anything, why call me Mary Helen " So, I said, "Fine " I said, "Call Billy McCaully " So, he did Billy came down. We were living on Serinack(?) then The nurse from up the street could not touch me because she was not sterile Aunt Nell did not know what to do because her mother had never told her what to do, and she never had any child. So, Billy said, "Well, Mary Helen you have to turn on your back so we can put you on the cart " I said, "Billy, if I turn on my back the baby is going to be born " He said, "I do not know " So, I turned on my back and there was the baby Billy cut the cord and there was the baby I was petrified with every one of pregnancies to have the baby

P Really?

M After Patrick I was not a bit scared And Mary Elizabeth was a breeze It just seemed like every time I was just so afraid I do not know why I just was Anyhow, Patrick was my biggest baby, ten pounds, ten ounces

P Oh, my!

M He weighed the same as I did when I was born. I was my mother's first. The reason I know how much I weigh is because I have a birth announcement that Mother sent out. She sent it to my aunt. Her daughter had given it to me because Aunt Annie was my godmother. She had the announcement and I have it in my book. I have so many things in so many books.

P I am sure.

M: Then, we went to the hospital. I told Jack where all the clean--I had washed all these things, they were sterile wrapped in sheets, you know, like you do--he went and he got a blanket sheet which was not sterile or anything. It was clean, that was all. He went and got it. That is what they wrapped Patrick up in. Jack carried him in the front seat of the ambulance to the hospital. I laid in emergency for so long. They did not get me a room. I was having problems with my back. I could not move. It was really a terrible thing. They finally put me upstairs in a room. They put me on the surgical floor because I was not sterile and neither was my baby. They would not put him in the nursery. He was in with sick children.

P Oh, no.

M: They brought him down in the elevator for me to nurse him. And I could tell you, he is the healthiest child. Although, he did have to have his spleen removed when he was nine or ten.

P Oh, really?

M Cannot figure that one out. I was scared to death. Well, you are scared with anything with your children.

P That is true.

M. He is my big red-headed guy. He is the one that has these two little grandchildren. They did not get married until--well, Patrick is 46 and his Patrick is three and a half--they have only been married about five years.

P They are adorable.

M Yes, they are cute. This one was just two, Brendon. I was down there for his birthday. I do not know, Patrick had an uneventful life. Patrick went into the third grade, I think, when we moved up here because I know the kids were serving mass down at St. Edward's. Paul had received his First Communion before we came here because he went up to mass with Charles one time because Charles was serving. They went to mass. Charles had to serve two masses so Paul went to receive communion at two masses. Charles came home and said, "You

know what Paul did?" It was a big thing and you cannot make light of it I just said, "Well, he did not know any different "

P: You were living in Youngstown then. What made you come way out here? Was it at that point that you went into the farm, or did he work at something else first?

M: No, Jack was working in Newton Falls. Then, when he was working in Newton Falls, he wanted to get his own business He wanted to have his own business. He was working with a salesman up there. He would be going out with him and he met different people He had a couple good friends and this one said he knew of a plant in Niles that maybe Jack could get You know, we did not have any money. You have to find out how you are going to finance it and everything We had bought a house, the house we lived in, in Newton Falls. We had to put that up for sale and then move to Youngstown

Wait a minute, I am getting ahead of it. He started the business in--let us see, Paul was born in 1944--Jack started the business in 1945. We moved to Youngstown because the kids were going to be in school. There was no Catholic school in Newton Falls We thought it would be better for him to be driving to Niles from Youngstown than from Newton Falls. So, we bought this out here. The house next to Aunt Nell was for sale and I think that is probably why we moved We knew that they were going to be moving They were building a house Then, it was in St. Edward's and the kids could go to St. Edward's and they can walk Aunt Nell was right there and Mother was right around the corner. Mother at that point still lived over on Kensington So, we moved to Youngstown

Jack bought the business and got that all straightened out. Not got it all straightened around, because I did not know anything about it, really, about what was going on. He was doing that I was doing other things. I cannot remember even moving to Youngstown. Is that not funny? Oh yes, we moved at Christmas time. Paul was going to be two years old in January and we moved before Christmas. We moved and nothing was connected in the house because, of course, we had been doing some remodeling. We remodeled every house that we moved into. Every house that we bought I mean, that we were going to move into, was remodeled Well, Jack's uncle was remodeling that house in Youngstown He and his guys had gone off to Canada fishing or something The back of the house was open It was covered with a tarp. It was not closed in. It was not finished So, we had Christmas next door in Aunt Nell's house We had to go over there to use the bathroom I had my roaster and a hot plate set up on the second floor in the house, because what we had done, we had built on the back and built the kitchen out and a playroom for the kids. It was a wonderful kitchen. It was wonderful But, it was not finished, so we had to get that finished. Anyhow, that is what happened then

Then Paul's birthday. Then we got settled in there Is that not funny? I do not remember how we moved or anything Well, we got in there alright So, Aunt Nell and Uncle were delighted to have us next door. They were the only

"grandchildren". They were just really delighted to have them. Then Jack's brother Billy had started to have children in Cleveland, but they were in Cleveland. It was real nice. It was good for us. Aunt Nell taught me a lot. She helped me put a garden in the back, you know flowers. We had no room for anything else. Otherwise, we always had a garden. In the other places we lived we always had a big garden.

I forgot about that house we lived out in Newton Falls, when Charles was a baby. Charles was the dearest baby you ever saw. He was so pretty. He was a pretty child. Everybody thought he was my girl and Anne was my boy, because Anne did not have much hair. Charles had all these black curls. He could do no harm next door to the people. They did not have any children. He went over and painted this man's car. The paint was there. I mean, Charles was only a little kid, but he knew he had seen him do something with this. Charles went over. It was really funny. Well, I was appalled. Lou and Elizabeth thought, "Oh, he is so cute. Is that not wonderful?"

P How can you get mad?

M Oh, that was funny. Let me see. Are we moved out here yet?

P No. Then were the last of your children born in Youngstown?

M. Yes

P And then you moved here?

M They were all in Youngstown. No, wait a minute. They were all at St. Joseph's, except Patrick who was born at home, and Mary Elizabeth was born in St. Elizabeth's.

P Then you moved from Youngstown, here

M Moved here when Mary Elizabeth was three months old. She was born in April and we moved in August. Fair Day. We did not know it was that Fair Day yet. That was always the day it was, Fair Day. Show Day. Then we had the Cadillac when we got here, we had the chickens, and rabbits, and dogs galore, and cats galore. All the stuff that was outside, you know all the animals in the fields, because there were lots of them then. Lots of birds. We always had ducks on the pond. We would buy ducks to put on the pond because they are just so pretty and so wonderful.

P Why did you decide to do that? You had always lived in a city, right?

M Oh yes, right. Well, the reason we moved out here was because we had five children and we were going to have this other one that was coming along.

Probably Mary Elizabeth was not even thought of then. Probably we had five You see, the kids had no place to play, they were right out on Serinack. Where we lived was right on a curve, and it was a bad spot They had to go someplace else because I was always hauling them someplace to go play baseball. They wanted to play baseball They all took piano lessons up at the nuns, most of them. After we came here a couple of them did, too. I guess there was no accident, but the thing is Charles would take his glasses off and put them on the curb That was really the end because Charles could not see. He had a lazy eye One eye was good, the other eye was not He would take off those darn glasses and just leave them on the curb. He would come in the house sometimes and forget them So, we just decided it was really too much to have those children in the city. Things were getting busier there, as well as any place else.

So Jack decided we would be looking for someplace up here Not that it was right here. It was just going to be someplace in the area, but we wanted it out farther than just in town. When he told me that he had found a house--I do not know if he said the house or the property for us to buy--because when I came and saw the house I was appalled It was really something This was in 1949. Yes, because Mary Elizabeth was not born until 1951 and he was looking at the property right after he came here. He was looking around. Of course, it was still gorgeous here 1946 was just wonderful, all these things Of course, that mall was not there. It was just a beautiful spot really. Except that the house, I had picked out the house--this is the house Jack picked for me--it is down the road there and it is in back of a whole lot of bushes You cannot even see it You had to drive in to see it Well, when he showed me this house I just about died. He brought Mother and Aunt Nell up to see it Mother got out of the car and came in and walked around the first floor Aunt Nell would not get out of the car "Jack, you will be sorry You are way out here in the country." Of course, she was very ticked that the kids would not be going to Ursuline

P. Oh, I see

M. Anyhow, then we started remodeling this house What did we do with this house? Well, the front part of the living room was the porch So, we just extended it out and made it bigger Of course, this room back here was the sun room. It had windows all around it that open on the porch too. Well, then we closed that up and just put big windows in there [We] Built this bay window in, this was not here. Outside of the kitchen, out here, there was a porch which we took off. After awhile, there was a hall--the hall went straight out to that door--and that was new That was brand new Then there was a patio There was a door here There was a wonderful closet out there I miss it like mad now that I do not have it It was on the right hand side. Anytime you had a party and you had things that you wanted to duck someplace you put in there It was wonderful.

Anyway, right outside my kitchen stove was the steps -- no, the door The

door that went to the patio and there were some insteps down. The patio was quite large. It was almost as big as that sitting room out there. It was a patio and it just had the floor. In fact, we did not do that for awhile. Then, later on, we enclosed it and had windows on those two sides. Mary Elizabeth used to bring her pony in and she would tie it to the posts out there. You could see the roof because it had the roof, but it did not have the sides. The windows were not in yet, just the posts.

I tell you, some experiences. We had some gorgeous cats, Angoras. I do not know where the Angoras came from. Boy, we had one that was gray all over. Her stomach was gray. Her paws were gray. It is a name. It is a kind of a cat. I mean it has a name, but I do not know what it is. She was so pretty. We had Angora Calico cats. Oh, and they were pretty. Of course, Mary Elizabeth was always bringing home dogs and cats. Then, of course, we had the horses. The cows were right out there. See, those trees have been planted, but the fence was probably where the trees are. We put the fence there and then the cows would come right up to the fence. They are so pretty. They were Angus.

P. Oh, you had Angus?

M. Yes. See out there.

P. Oh.

M. Then we had chickens in 4-H and the Angus in 4-H. Liz never had horses in 4-H. Enough is enough. The kids took care of those animals.

P. Did they really?

M. It was not until John was out of high school and went away to college, went to Ohio State, that we discovered we were going to have to have someone else come to take care of the animals. So, we hired a man. I do not know where we found him. He probably had come to help with the fields because we did not have help out there and the kids could not do everything. So, he came, but up to that time the kids would get up in the morning before school and go out to give the cows hay and feed, and see that they had water. They had to haul water from Niles. We had a tank truck. They hauled water. Charles was not old enough to drive, but he knew how. Anne had a license. So, Anne was in back of the wheel and Charles was shifting the gears.

We have trophies all over the place. They are mostly down stairs because we have a rec room downstairs. That is where I put them. Although, there are a couple in the sun room, for the Angus, because they were just really the big thing here, the Angus. You had to take 100 chickens to show four at the 4-H. Actually, the kids had chickens before they got the Angus. I think the Angus sort of got out of hand at one time. Well, they start having babies, so what can you do?

It was such a full life. I really could hardly turn around I had a colored girl who came in to help me She would come on Fridays. This is when Mary Elizabeth was a baby. She would come and she would clean the house and take care of Mary Elizabeth and be here while I went out and sold the eggs. Of course, the chickens had eggs and we had to get rid of them. So, I would sell them. I often say, "I sold them for \$1 a dozen and they probably cost us \$2 50 a dozen Everybody was glad to get them. I would not peddle them to my friends I would be talking to them at different times and say, "Well, I got eggs today " Always cooked a lot of eggs Aunt Nell kept saying that she remembered that Jack's dad liked eggs He really was a person who liked eggs. Jack did, too, so we always had something with eggs in it.

In this house, a lot of stuff went on here. We had a lot of parties, a lot of picnics. We had family reunions here when there were not too many in the family yet, out here in the back Those are wonderful times. Mary Elizabeth had a sandbox. There was a cherry tree out there, and a plum tree She had her sandbox underneath it. Joyce Johnson and Mary Jane Buyers and a couple other kids would be out there playing with her. It was fun It was really fun, although I could not imagine that I would ever live on a farm. I had no idea Of course, everybody that knew me was appalled, or that knew Jack even, was appalled to think we were on a farm. I think there are still some people down there that did not know we had all this acreage and that we really had a farm. When we had the cattle in their prime, these fields out here were sown in barley and corn. Yes, because you had to feed the animals. Of course, the deer came and ate and lived well

P I am sure I am sure they did

M John really loves the farm, but he did not get married for quite awhile It is his son John that just graduated from college, his first Then, he has Michael and Laura in college and Heather is a senior John is the one who is buying the business now. So, he has the business. He and his wife, they work there. Then the kids worked in the summer. The other grandsons worked out there in the plant before Jack died, when they were home from college, except Billy Billy had moved away. They lived in Washington there They were in on different buildings and the Steel Museum downtown Charles and Kevin said, "Oh, well Dad, we have to drive it We have to drive it " Sammy kept saying, "We drove around and around and around the block " Kevin would say, "Well, this is what I did. This is what I did " I know that, because I can remember when Jack was first in business. All the time when we would go for rides we would have to go and look at something that they did

P. Sure, you got to brag

M Yes He loved what he did. He loved it He loved his business We knew that was first on his list I guess that is the way it has to be if you are going to make a

success of it. If you are going to be successful

Anyhow, John is a different temperament completely from Jack. He has got Jack's business sense. He knows all the people around here that Jack had done business with. Well, he worked for Jack. He worked for a couple of the other fabricators around here. He knows a lot of people and that is in his favor, because everybody knows. Of course, Jack always had a good reputation in the business. That is real good thing. I am really very pleased, because that is a headache away from me. I had a bad time when Jack first died, trying to think what I was going to do with that, because John would not commit himself. It was really more that I could handle. I just did not know what to do about it. Of course, he was still working there, but he just did not know if he want to take on the whole thing. The whole thing.

What can I say about the farm? The farm has certainly been an education for all of the kids. It has been really great. Gosh, there were grape vines out here. There were a whole bunch of grape vines there. About four different kinds of grapes. They were wine grapes because they said that a man by the name of Flannigan owned it and this was the poker room. I would say wine, too. Anyhow, it is a nice house.

P· Beautiful house.

M. Well see, sometimes I had second thoughts about it

P· Oh, sure. Well, you are here everyday.

M I remember when we first came here, when we first were in, and I belonged to the crowd that I went with in Rayen. They came up here and could hardly believe that here I was way out here. Bea Hyman said, "Oh, Mary Helen, all I can see is work." Well, never a true word. I said, "Oh, Bea!" You know, you expect work, but I guess you do not expect this much. Anyhow, I have survived, thank God, so what can I say. My children like to come here. That is the important thing. That is the important thing for me. In fact, that was the main reason I am still here. That and I was appalled at the thought of moving someplace else. It has been a wonderful time here. It is a big house for parties and we have had a lot of parties. I was real active in the auxiliary over at St Joseph's. We had [more] cocktail parties here than you can shake a stick at. More committee meetings, more everything meetings here, because there was plenty of room. Everybody came. In fact, we had parties here, people did not want to go on to the party itself. On the other, hand I can remember times when we had parties and the men would bring five gallon jugs of water or they went out and got snow, got the white snow, and let it melt. It is hard to believe that was the way it was, but it was

I was thinking about Vincent. I know he was a very smart man. He was a very smart man. I know that Mr. Teirs said that ne really should go to college. Of course, there was no way Mother could even think of college because she

needed him to go to work. He worked for Cavana's in Youngstown. I do not remember when he came up to work for Jack, because I do not remember that. I remember when he left and went to sell for Lincoln Life, which was very successful for him. He really had the gift of gab. He was a very personable, wonderful young man.

Of course, the engineer that still was working down there when Vincent was working for Jack is still down there. I called him yesterday and had him come out for dinner last night, because he just got back from Ireland too, and so I was asking him and he said he was one of the smartest men he had ever known. I said when the fellows used to ask him who was that coming in the door. The deal was they had the deal with and I would tell him and I know about them. He said Vincent could do that. Vincent knew and remembered everybody he did business with. He just was really a very intelligent man. He said he remembers--this is something I did not know--he said Vincent would refinish furniture. He did refinish furniture. Now, my Charles does that, and my Charles is like Vincent. In fact, their pictures when they were babies you could tell Charles looked like Vincent. Vincent had black curly hair. Of course, mine was straight as a poker, black and straight as a poker. Vincent's was not. Vincent was a very pretty child. I showed you that picture of all of us, did I not?

P I think so, yes

M I do not know if you can tell he has curly hair in it or not.

End Of Interview