

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Lisbon, Ohio

Personal Experience

O.H. 1163

RUTH BYE

Interviewed

by

Gene Krotky

on

June 16, 1988

RUTH BYE

Ruth Bye was born in Lisbon, Ohio, in 1909. She was raised in the same house in which she now resides. Her father and his brothers ran Bye and Bye Hardware, which is still operated by the Byes today. Robert Bye, Ruth's nephew, is in charge.

During the Depression, Ruth attended Wooster College and the Ohio State University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics in 1933. After graduation, Ruth taught home economics at the secondary level for seven years. She returned home to help at the hardware store when her brother, Galen, entered the armed forces at the beginning of World War II.

Although no longer involved in business, Ruth is still active in many organizations. Among them are the Lisbon, Historical Society, the First Presbyterian Church, and the Monday Club.

As a childhood resident in a typical neighborhood of young families, Ruth was able to provide insight into youthful activities and expectations of early 1900's Lisbon children. She was also able to recall some of the activities of the business community during the early twentieth century in Lisbon.

K: This is an interview with Ruth Bye for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Lisbon, by Gene Krotky, on June 16, 1988, at Lisbon, Ohio, at 10:30 a.m.

What do you remember about your early family life? What did your father do for a living? Where did you go to elementary school?

B: I was born in this house and have never, except when I was in college and away teaching, lived any place else. The surroundings are extremely familiar to me. When we were growing up, we had a wonderful time because there were children in the neighborhood. I think that I have been in every house from the Courthouse up to the Bridge because people were different in those days. We were not nibby, but they were just friendly. We were invited in, and you just do not forget those things.

Every night in the summer, we got together and played Hide and Seek. The house, I guess the Apples live there now, the second one from the corner, was right across from where we lived. The telephone pole out there, and that was our base. Now, you would not dare use that because if you ran, missed it, and went out into the street, you would probably be killed.

There was not that much traffic back then, so we either played Hide and Go Seek or Run Sheep Run. Most of the folks had their dinner earlier than we did because my father did not get home from work. Then, I had to help dry the dishes, and I was just killed because everybody was out having a good time.

K: What did your father do for a living?

B: My father was in hardware. It was started by two of his brothers. The one of the brothers died when he was delivering a stove to Sebring. Sebring was notably swampy at that time. He drank some water because it was a hot day. He got Scarlet Fever and died. So then, after that my dad went to the store. I have always known this, but now that he is gone, I think of all the questions I could of asked and never did.

K: Of your father?

B: About that early time and, of course, the store was open much longer hours. There were lots of small plants, manufacturing things. There was the pottery, the chimney top parts, and the sewer parts.

They would open the hardware store at 7:00 and sometimes 6:00 in the morning, so that when the men went to work, they could stop and get what they needed for the day. They did not close until 6:00 at night.

Dad always walked back and forth even after we had a car. He wanted to take the car downtown. He did not drive to work. He walked. Before I started at school, they did not have an automobile for their delivery at the hardware. They had a horse and wagon. They always keep powder, dynamite, and it could not be kept except just a small quantity in town.

I used to know where it was before they took up the tracks because it was some place beyond the second track where it turned off into a gully. There was this little magazine that was well built. It was not too large. When dad would be going out there for supplies for the store, he would stop and get me something right out of the wagon with him. He came home with the powder and dynamite. He never thought anything about it, and neither did I. It really is not that dangerous if it is handled properly.

K: What other memories do you have of the store? It is an interesting place even today with all the little drawers and everything that you left.

B: Yes, but you see today is not where it was. It was where Miller's Clothing Store was when you go down Washington Street, and you have the light there at South Market. If you look up to your left and the light is just right, you can see Bye and Bye Hardware on the third floor on the south side of that building.

K: When was it moved?

B: That I am not sure of, but where they are now is where George Rogers had his Store. Then, his son Ralph took it over when he died. The Odd Fellows Lodge was on the third floor. One night, they carelessly left a cigarette, and it caught on fire. So, it was at that time, I forget the date, that he and Dad traded stores. I do not mean the trade was even, but the hardware was moved up to that area. He moved the other store down because then, we had more room. Dad had more room.

There was a concern up in Cleveland called the George Rebbington Company, and it was a hardware supply. They came in and fitted out with the doors and all of the drawers. It was up to date at that time. The stove front has been changed in both of the doors.

I remember back then the entrance was to side, and there was one big, long window. They changed it, so that the entrance was in the center. Rogers changed the entrance to the center when they put the clothing store there. When they moved up to the place they are now, they changed the entrance, so it was in the center of the store.

In the earlier one, which was smaller, it did not go clear to the alley like the window. The store now is the length of the whole block. There was a pot stove for heat back in the middle of the store, and it was a gathering place for the farmers when they came in and sat. And, of course, I was in and out. When my dad had to go to the army and my mother was ill, I gave up my teaching job and came home to work in the store.

K: You mentioned that you had a lot of playmates in this neighborhood. Who were some of the people that you played with?

B: Well, you see, the Armstrong Family had four of them, and then, the house across the street from them was Eloise Ramsey. Then, clear up by the bridge, they were older than me. Then, there was a girl my own age, Morris, whose father had a Company. Those

were the main ones.

We had good times, and the Armstrong's had a tent that was marvelous to have a tent in the backyard. We go up there in the hot weather and just smothered, but it was fun because it was a tent. We slept out sometimes.

K: What did you do in the winter time for entertainment?

B: We would go sled riding. Then, there was another girl that I forgot to mention. Her name was Ella Mason, and she lived up towards the bridge, too. Her grandfather's name was Kroft, and he owned land on the east side of the creek. There was a little shanty there and in the winter, he would clean the ice.

We had ice skates to rent, and he would sharpen them. There was a little stove in the center of this one room where you could go in and sit down on a bench. It was on the three sides of the room, and we would get warm. Saw dust was on the floor, so you did not have to take off your skates.

Apparently, the winters were much colder then because after Christmas, the creek would freeze. Every night after school, we would go to our homes, so we could go out there. Nobody ever worried about us because he was always there looking after his granddaughter. We enjoyed that mostly, and, of course, we had what kids do. They just entertain themselves.

K: When you were ice skating, approximately where in the Park was this little shanty?

B: We were talking about the dam last night. I know where it is, but I cannot tell you. It would be clear to you. It was just north of the dam, maybe 25 or 30 feet, and that was the deep part. We skated between the dam and the swinging bridge but usually not down as far as the swinging bridge.

We did not always clean the snow off that much, but he cleaned the snow off the ice. He had no right to charge anybody to skate. He just did it out of the goodness of his heart. We went in the day time, and we had a lot of other people. I do not know about lights in the evening because certainly, there was no electricity out there then. Maybe there was. I cannot remember.

K: There probably was, but it was too dark. Then, you would see by the fire light.

B: Moonshine.

K: Yes, moonshine. There you go. What are the things that you were interested in? I have not gotten much information from most people, but do you remember much about the County Fairs when you were a child? Did you go?

B: Oh, yes, that was a highlight, and then, of course, you always got out of school to go to the County Fair.

K: Well, when was the Fair held?

B: It was held in the middle of September. We went because it was a big deal in our family. My dad would take the car up to the fairgrounds and park it in the ring as close as he could to the judges stand. Then, he would walk from there down to the store, and they would close the store in the afternoons. The fair was only two days, so the men could go to the races.

My grandmother who lived with us, my mother, and my brother would pack a picnic basket. Then, there were taxis, and so in the middle of the morning or maybe about 11:00, we would take the taxi and go up. We knew where about to look for the car, or maybe Dad called and said that it was so many cars down from the judges stand. I do not remember. We would go up there, and the taxi would take us in. We would go with the picnic basket and put it in the car, and we then wait for him to come. He would have to come home and get cleaned up, and then, he would walk up to the fairgrounds.

Then, the young people that I played with would get together, have a prescribed place up there, and would just go. We had the run of the fair. There were the floral halls, the Ferris Wheel, and the Merry Go Round. Those were the main amusements. We would stay until late afternoon because there was no night fair.

K: How old were you approximately at this time?

B: Well, I had to be in grade school. I suppose maybe from fourth grade up until fifth grade.

K: Do you remember what it cost you to ride the Merry Go Round or the Ferris Wheel then?

B: Oh, about ten cents if that.

K: Ten cents. The admission price to get into the fair has become a real issue in the last few years. Did you have to pay an admission price to get into the fair?

B: I do not know if the children had to pay or not at that time, but the adults did. My dad got us some kind of a ticket, which entitled us to go in and then entitled him to vote for the fair board.

I would sit on the front porch, and people would be going to the fair. You could tell the farmers would come. There would be horses, buggies, and cars, and I would just get so excited. I think that I could not wait. Why could we not go earlier?

Finally, the time came, and we were all ready and could go. I remember the time when my dad got the fairgrounds, and he asked my mom if she would leave coffee for him to make when we could come home. He could have a cup of coffee while he was getting cleaned up to get ready to go to the fair.

When we got up to the fairgrounds, he said, "Ya know that you did not put any coffee in that pot." She said, "Oh, yes, I did." My father said, "No, it was completely empty." So when we got home that night, she looked at the pot, and she said, "Well, the

coffee is all on the outside of the pot." My father replied, "What?"

Well, he had put the coffee pot on the boil. You had boiled coffee in those days. He had gone up to go take a bath. By the time he had the bath and got back down, all the water had boiled out of the pot and was stuck on the outside on the stove.

K: That was all your mother's fault, right?

B: Yes, it was all her fault. There were games of chance, but I was always too skeptical to try those. If I ever did it, it was a dime. If I lost one or two dimes, that took care of me for the whole fair.

K: Was there a fair parade?

B: No.

K: What were some of the other things? The big attraction for kids today is the rides, and obviously, you only had a couple of rides.

B: You rode as many times as you could afford. You did not go other places during the course where those rides were available unless you went to other fairs. Idora Park was probably in operation then.

K: What else did you like to do at the fair besides ride the rides? Your money ran out, and then, what could you do?

B: We walked around and looked at the stuff again and again, and maybe you ate an ice cream cone.

K: They did have some food available?

B: Oh, yes, they had some. There were quite often church stands. There were other stands, but we always felt that the church stands were a little bit more reliable. The Methodists had their stands.

K: Growing up in Lisbon, I know your family is very active in church now. Were they very active in the church, and if so, which church?

B: Well, my mother had been a Methodist, but my father was Presbyterian. She joined the Presbyterian Church. My grandmother always continued her membership in the Methodist Church. We were always active in the church. My father was a trustee for twenty-seven years. I do not know how he got away with that. He was re-elected and just took it. We always went to Sunday School and church. Mother was in the English Nun Society. It was a part of my life.

K: Has Sunday School changed much? What were the Sunday School classes like when you went as apposed to what you see today?

B: Of course, I do not go to Sunday School today.

K: No, but you have nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews who come to Sunday School and church. What do you see? What strikes you when you see the things that their doing in Sunday School and Bible School? Is that sort of thing different than what you were taught to do?

B: I am afraid that I have to confess something. I do not know too much about what they are doing. I can remember when I went to Primary Church. I do not remember how I got there. We must have walked, and I suppose Mother and Dad walked with us for awhile.

The Primary Church was in the basement at the Presbyterian Church, and Janet was the main teacher. We had opening exercises. There was a nickel that is now in the case in the Sunday School room at the Presbyterian Church. It was a glass bowl surrounded by posts that projected up, and we always put in our birthday money. A penny you know for each year, and that was a big deal when our birthdays came. We loved to put our pennies in.

We had these opening exercises, and we sang some songs. The one that I did not know all the words yet was "Jesus Loves Me," of course. Then, we broke up into smaller groups for classes, and Mare Christopher was my teacher. I thought that she was about sixty when she taught it, but I think that she might of been in her late twenties. I do not know.

We were promoted and went upstairs with my teacher who then was Doctor Harris' first wife. She was such a good teacher, and, of course, she had parties for us, which was absolutely fabulous. She would go to great lengths to have games that were interesting and that we could understand.

One time, she went to the trouble of making a maze with strings all over the house, and there was an end for each one of us. We had to take hold of that end, follow that string, and untangle it. It would be wrapped around other strings until we finally got to the end where there was a prize. Of course, that took the whole time for the afternoon. That was so much fun.

Another party that I remember was when there was a couple who lived in the very last house on this street next to the bridge. They had no children, and she so loved children. She had us up there several times for parties and games and maybe ice cream. This one time we were invited, and it was the following group: the Armstrongs, Evelyn Morris, Ella Mason, and another girl that lived in that area.

However, she had a small doll and all kinds of material, so we spent the whole day together. We went in the morning, and then, we stayed for lunch. We made doll clothes for that doll, and then, we got to bring it home. So, it was really nice growing up here.

K: It sounds like it was very pleasant, and everybody spent a lot of time together. You really felt loved.

B: Oh, and another thing we did was we roller skated on the sidewalks. Although my dad had the hardware, I did not have a pair of skates, but the Armstrong family had a pair of skates, not ball bearings but another kind.

Mid was teaching me how to skate and was very gingerly putting one foot in front of the other. She got me down to the house next door. Somebody came along and said, "Mid, let's go someplace." "Okay," Mid said. I said, "Mid, what am I going to do?" "Oh," she said, "you will get back." So I very gingerly put one foot in front of the other. I did not take them off the sidewalk at all. I just pushed them, and I got back to their steps, sat down, and took off the skates. After that I could skate.

Then, you see my Dad had something. It was long and was probably made for a roller rink. It was across the street from the hardware in the back where the grey building is now. There was an entrance way, a long open area to get back to the rink. There were skates to rent, and the floor was quite good. Then, there was a bleacher area on the east end.

I was never allowed to go there. I had to do my skating at home on the sidewalks. Nothing ever happened that was not any good because Dad was down there lots of nights or somebody else was to make sure that everything was running properly. I guess they just thought that I was not quite old enough or did not skate well enough, and I would be knocked down. That is the truth. The first time I went I got a really bad fall.

K: Well, I remember my grandmother talking about roller skating, and it was very much indoor rinks that were almost more for adults than they were for kids.

B: Oh, yes, that is true.

K: Is that the way it is all the time?

B: Yes, that was the way it was.

K: I can remember her talking to me about dance contests, and the people who were quite good skaters knew how to dance on them. My mother and my grandmother used to go to Rock Springs Park.. As I was a little girl growing up, I spent a great deal of time with my grandmother. She showed me a trophy that she had won for skating. This was probably in the twenties or the thirties because my mother was born in 1920.

B: Dad finally sold the rink, and then, maybe the fad faded because it did not continue for any great length of time afterwards. Then, it was used for the high school for a gym. All of the basketball games were held down there.

K: When you were in high school or when you were younger?

B: No, when I was younger. When I was growing up, the high school was not there. It was just a big empty hole. I think that the high school was dedicated in 1919. To begin with, there was nothing there, and the high school was held in the Lincoln Building. The one that is gone now.

When I started in that building in grade school and first grade, there was what they call the normal school for teachers on the third floor. Then, after that, I think that the high school was there. If it was not there then, I do not know where in town it was. Then, they built this high school, and there was a gym. Then, they stopped having their basketball games down at the skating rink.

K: Do you remember anything about your teachers in elementary school? Or any of them who stick out in your mind when you were in school?

B: Well, yes, I can remember all of the great teachers I think. My first great teacher was Ms. Frederick, and she was very prim and proper. We did learn, though. When I was in fifth grade, my teacher was Margaret Foxin, John's mother, and she was a good teacher. She was much more relaxed with us.

I remember, at that time, I was into paper dolls with Elouise Ramsey, and we would cut these figures out of paper. They would have paper dolls regular, but we made our own type of paper dolls. We would take heads that we liked, and then, we would cut out dresses that we liked from catalogs like Sears and Montgomery Ward. We would slip the heads in the dresses, and then, we would cut out furniture. I would have a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, and two or three bedrooms. A bedroom for each person in this paper doll family.

I would take up one room, and Elouise, who was the one with whom I did this particular type of entertainment, would maybe have the whole front room. Nobody could get in either room, and we would play. Our families would visit each other, and we would do the talking for them. It was a big deal.

K: Kids today have so many sports events or social events connected with the school. Today, the girls go to school to basically to see their friends and try out for cheerleader. What kinds of activities did you have connected with the schools?

B: Well, nothing in grade school at all. In high school, there was a girls' basketball team, which was the main activity. I was not athletically inclined.

K: Any kinds of dances or social events?

B: Not that I can remember. Not then.

K: Where you were in high school during the Depression?

B: I was in college during the Depression. You see, in Lisbon, there were three movies.

There were three movie houses, so we did go to the movies. I think that was probably ten cents.

K: Any particular movie that you remember seeing that you liked?

B: I cannot remember it right now.

K: Nothing stands out in your mind? What made you decide to go to college? Did many of your friends go to college, or was that kind of a unique thing for you that you decided to go?

B: Well, I do not know. I just sort of expected to go to college. Martha Harris was my cousin, and she taught and goes to college. My mother had hoped to go to Mount Union. She was raised in Hanover, and she had there for three years of high school. Then, she went to Alliance where her grandmother lived and took her fourth year of high school. She wanted to go to college, but my grandmother that she should not. My grandmother, my mother's father, graduated from Mount Union. I guess that it was not a big thing. I just expected to go, and I went to Wooster.

K: And you were there for how many years?

B: I was there for two years, and then, I came home for a year. My grandmother and I went to Florida. Then, when I went back, I went to Ohio State. I took a Home Economics major.

K: Then, what did you eventually do with the Home Economics major?

B: I taught.

K: Where?

B: Well, I taught in Geauga County, and then, I taught in Stark County, north of Massillon.

K: Did you teach at a high school level?

B: Yes.

K: What did you make the first few years you taught school? Do remember approximately what you made in those years? Were you paid yearly like we are today, or were you paid by the month?

B: I was paid by the month. We just started in with elementary sewing, and usually, it was a dress, strange as it may seem.

- K: Did they come to you knowing a little about sewing from home?
- B: I hope so. I did not think I was that great.
- K: Did you teach also cooking?
- B: Yes, we had cooking, sewing, and some interior decorating, and, of course, they made some notebooks and that kind of thing. I can think of how much better of a teacher I could of been than I think I was then.
- K: Well, I think that all comes with experience, too.
- B: Probably.
- K: How many years did you teach school?
- B: Only seven. Then, we were into World War II, and my mother had to go to the Army. My dad had that store that was big, and my mother was not well. In fact, she had a heart condition. My grandmother was not very well either, and I stayed home. I intended to go back to teaching, and I just never did.
- K: Is there anything you remember about the Depression, and how it changed your life? Or did it change your life at all?
- B: I think my dad and mother protected us, so that we had no idea how bad it was. Because I went to college during the Depression and knew it was bad, so I did not ask for any extra money of any kind. Probably, if I had five dollars of spending money, that was a big deal.
I did get through college. Food was just the same, and we were not extravagant at anytime ever in my life. Actually, I know that my dad worked hard, and he would go out evenings to collect bills that were not being paid and that kind of thing. So far, as just not spending anything or being extravagant, it just did not touch me that much.
- K: When you were in college, did you live in a dormitory, or did you have to find a job?
- B: No, I always lived in the dorm.
- K: What other things were you involved in college besides going to classes? Today, there are all sorts of things available for women to do. They were even there when I went to college in the sixties. What was there to do besides go to classes?
- B: Well, it seemed to me that I had a hard enough time just getting lessons and going to classes. See, at Wooster, there were no sororities because it was not allowed. I lived not

in the large freshmen dormitory but in the smaller one. A couple of those girls went to college my freshmen year. When I went back to Wooster, I went back the second year. I guess between my first and second year of Wooster was the year I took off.

There are six of us who still had a round robin from those days, actually for those activities. I was a different person than I am now. It was very, very tiring. When I was in state, I was an honorary, but I did not join a sorority. That was one thing. I did not join a sorority because I did not ask my parents for the money.

K: Did any of the rest of your friends in grade school go to college?

B: Yes, I think of my close friends, they all did. So, maybe that was the reason. It was an excepted thing to do.

K: Did many of your friends stay through college to graduate?

B: Yes, I am talking of a close group of about five or six, and they all did.

K: There was never much discrimination then against girls in Lisbon. I have talked to people who said that the boys in the family were expected to go college or the boys in their classes went to college, but parents did not encourage it. They thought that we wasted money to send girls to school.

B: I did not feel that way with my friends. I did want to tell you that if you are interested that my dad, I think, had the first agency to sell automobiles in Lisbon.

K: What kind?

B: Overlands, now they are long gone. The man who had the main agency was in New Waterford, and they also made a car that was the Overland Company. It was called Willi's Knight, which was a more expensive car then the Overland.

He did not have a showroom like they have now. He would get one car, pick up someone, or maybe they would come to him. We would decide maybe he could sell a car to someone, and he would sell it. When he got that car sold, he would get another one.

He said that, at that time, taught about everybody in town how to drive because when they bought, they had never owned a car before. They could not drive. He taught them to drive, and he sold the cars.

I suppose that our first car came maybe when I was, I really do not know. We never had a horse and buggy to get around in, so we had a car when I was fairly young. They did have a horse and wagon to make the deliveries at the store.

K: Your father drove an Overland then, also?

B: Oh, yes, he drove an Overland. They, of course, were cars that you could put the top up

or down even though they were a touring car. If they had a back seat, they were a touring car. You could put the top up, or you could go through some sort of maneuvers to get it down. You could enjoy the wind, the sun, and that kind of thing.

Another thing that was interesting, I think, was that these first cars had the hard cover tires, and you did not drive them in the winter. If you had a car, you put it in the garage, and put it up on jacks during the winter. With each new car, you got a dust cover, a piece of very thin Muslim.

The Overlands had "Overland" on with the logo. The way it was written out. When you got the new car, you were given the dust cover that was of this thin white Muslim that was big enough to cover the whole car. When you put it up on jacks for the winter, you covered it with this white cover and kept the dust off it, so that it did not get so dirty during the winter.

K: Why would they not drive in the winter?

B: Oh, the roads were not decent. You could not drive. A lot of the Lisbon streets were not paved, and the mud would be so bad. In Salem, the road was paved in sections at a time, and there were no snow plows that would get out. When there were bad snows, they just got stuck.

K: Did you learn to drive as a young woman then?

B: I tried to learn to drive when I was in high school, but I was not a success at it. Then, when I graduated from college, the job which I got required driving. I got a car, or Dad bought me one. I drove because I had to. That was the way to drive because when you are learning, you need to drive every blessed day.

When I was growing up, there was the Inter-urban. The trolley that went from East Liverpool to Lisbon to Leetonia. It must of been that you changed in Leetonia, and then, you could go to Youngstown and Salem. Then, at Salem, you could get a car for Alliance. My great-grandmother lived in Alliance, and some of the time, my great-grandmother lived with us.

We would places go before we had the car. We would go places on the trolley or the Inter-urban. We called it the transfer. It was a bus type of thing that you would call a van now, except the door was in the back, and the seats were just along the side. I think it was stationed in a livery stable. It was in back of where Hamilton's Drugstore was or where the Hamilton Building was. Now, it is the Picking Building. I guess by historical rights. It was stationed, or whatever you call it. It picked you up and took you down to the trolley. They were very reliable.

K: Describe the trolley to me. I have not heard much about this before. What did the cars look like?

B: Well, you have seen street cars in the city, and that is exactly what they look like

K: Only electric?

B: Yes, they were electric. You see, the road you take from the McKinley School out past where Market is now was the old trolley. East Chestnut Street was the station. It is gone now, but it was a brick station. The trolley came from East Liverpool, and I cannot remember where the station was. There was a station in each of these towns. There was always a station agent there all day long.

I do not remember how often the cars ran, but it was several times a day that they would go from East Liverpool to Lisbon to Leetonia. Then, I do not remember whether that car went on to Youngstown or whether it went on to Salem. If you wanted to go to Youngstown, you had get off at Leetonia and get on the trolley that went to Youngstown. It went into downtown Youngstown.

K: Many people went to downtown Youngstown.

B: That is where you went. That is where you went to shop, downtown Youngstown. Boardman was non-existent back then. It was probably there, but there was no kind of a shopping area there.

K: What were some of the stores you went to downtown Youngstown for shopping?

B: There was Strouss's, which is now out of business. There was McKelvey's, which is now out of business, and there was Livingston's. Those were the three large department stores. Then, Lustig's had there shoe store there. That was the main store, and they had branched out at that time to stores like Salem and other places.

After I was in sixth grade, I was never able to find a shoe that fit me in Lisbon because I had such narrow, small feet. So, we would take a street car and go to Liverpool for shoes. Later on, we went up to Lustig's, and that is the only place that I ever bought shoes at. I had a terrible time when they went out of business.

K: About when did the trolley quit running?

B: I cannot relate it to anything. It was the automobiles that put it out of business.

K: Beside this trolley, were there some railroads that went through there? Was the trolley was not a part of the railroad system?

B: No, it was not part of the railroad system, but the railroad came down from Leetonia, too. There was another one that went under the Canton Bridge and then, on down. It went east through New Galilee. Then, at New Galilee, you could change and get on the Pennsylvania and go into Pittsburgh. The railroad, as far as transportation for shopping, was not near as important as the Inter-Urban and the trolley were. We could get what we needed closer, and we did not go to Pittsburgh.

- K: Was it fairly expensive to ride this trolley into Youngstown?
- B: Probably not because we did not consider it so. I do not have any idea what it was.
- K: You did not think about that when you planned that day. It was no problem. I had never heard much about that trolley system before. I did not realize we had that kind of public transportation at one time.
- B: In Salem, the station was in Ellsworth some place. You went in, and the trolley went through Salem to Ellsworth. Then, the one from Alliance came in. Can you remember when you go onto 62 from Salem to Alliance? You know how wide the road is? The trolley ran right along that area. It was always clean, comfortable, warm, and well managed.
- K: You said that you were in college during the Depression, and you were back here in Lisbon by the time of World War II.
- B: Yes, I was teaching when the war was started.
- K: What do you remember about the results of the war and how it affected Lisbon?
- B: Well, I do not remember too much about the involvement of the other countries, but I remember I was home the weekend when the United States entered the war. My brother came in and said war that has been declared. I was so dumb. I said that was just a rumor. We did not even turn on the radio at that time. I went back that evening. I was teaching over in Jackson, and, of course, it was true. So, we turned on the radio and listened. The next day, I took my radio to school, and I just turned it on in each class. We listened because that was all there was on.
- I said, at the time, "This is going to be a day that you should remember, and I hope you remember all your life. Let's listen." Now, I do not know because I have lost track of all my pupils. I do not know if they remember or not, but there is no doubt that some of them had remembered that. It made a difference in what was available, of course. The gasoline was rationed.
- K: How did it effect your hardware business? Were you working in the store then? How did it effect your business?
- B: It did not. We did business. Things were difficult to get, of course. Anything out of steel was hard to get made. The business was a well-equipped store, and people came from all over. We sold things that had been in stock for a long time. People thought they were great when went and looked at them a couple years before. We really had the reputation of being the best stocked store in the area.

- K: Did you notice business falling off when the men were gone?
- B: Oh, no. You see, a lot was farm business, and then, the plants were around, as I mentioned earlier.
- K: Did you notice a drop in the male population in Lisbon? Where a lot of the men drafted?
- B: I never thought about it to tell the truth.
- K: You were a single young woman walking around? You did not notice that the men were gone?
- B: No, not really.
- K: When you talk about America getting into the war, you are talking about the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor? Is that right?
- B: Yes, that is correct.
- K: Do you think most of the people felt that way? That they just could not believe that it had happened?
- B: Well, I speak for most of the people. I think I was surprised. I know I was surprised, but then, I can remember a little bit from the first World War. The thing that I can remember is that I had no idea of the geography. I did not even know it was in this country. The one thing that I remember about the first World War is that, at that time, we had a couch that was straight, and it had a roll at the top that you could put your head on. At that time, it was at a different position in the room, so I could see out that window.
- I was ill one day, and there was all this talk was about the war. I know I laid there thinking what I would do if they came over that hill south of town, not realizing that they were across an ocean. That is really an illustration of how you need to be careful with children and explain more. I think they do that more. I also think that children, because of television and radio, are more aware.
- K: You said you had a radio, but it was not on. When you listened to the radio, was it kind of a special time of day? Today, kids have radios on from the time they wake up in the morning until the time they go to bed at night, along with the T.V. and everything else.
- B: Well, no, it was not on, and I do not suppose we had it on that day. I can remember our first radio. We had wet batteries like a car battery with cells. That is the kind of battery we had for our first radio. It had the regular horn, or loud speaker, that sat on the top of it.

There is a piece of furniture is called a wash stand. It has the two doors down

below that you open to put your pitcher and bowl. Well, that is what we used. That piece of furniture had been with my grandmother's bedroom suit, and we brought it down here. The radio part fit on top, and the speaker sat on top of the radio. The wet batteries were down where the doors were.

K: What did you listen to in those days?

B: I think we got our first radio in about 1924, and we were the first family in the neighborhood that had a radio. When there was anything special, someone sang or there was a special program, the whole neighborhood would come in to listen to our radio. If there was anything political like a presidential election, then, they would come in to listen because they did not have it.

K: What are some of the first programs that you remember that you liked to listen to? Obviously, as a child, you did not care to listen to political things particularly, but what did you like?

B: I can not remember, and I have not thought about it for years. Well, there was a program that was funny, and I listened to that. I can not think of anything else. I know that there were serial-like programs, but I just can not think of them.

K: I can remember when my mother had the radio on during the day to listen to the soap operas.

B: That is one thing. I cannot stand a radio being on all of the time, and I never could. I will put it on when I am ironing, but that is the only time. When Bob or Adrienne would come, they would turn the radio on, but when they leave, I turn it off right away.

K: Can you remember when you had the first car with the radio in it?

B: No, I cannot.

K: Some of my first memories of listening to the radio were listening to the radio in the car on Sunday evenings because Sunday was the day that we went to grandmother's for dinner. We went every Sunday of our lives. We listened to Intersanctum and some of those other programs on the way home on Sunday evenings. I have often wondered when they put the first radio in the car.

B: I cannot remember. If I thought about it, I probably could, but right off hand, I cannot. With this last car, I have used the radio more, but I had cars with the radio. I just never turned it on.

K: How did you get your news basically? Through the newspaper or the village paper?

B: Yes.

K: What were some of the village papers?

B: Well, there was always the Journal, and that was it. As long as I could remember, it was an evening paper to begin with, and then, they changed it to the morning paper. We also took the Plain Dealer because it came in the morning. After Dad retired, he would read that, and then, he would read the Journal in the evening. Then, we got the Vindicator, and it became the evening paper. The Journal was then a morning paper.

K: Was your father ever involved with politics and so on in Lisbon?

B: Not to hold office. I know that he had opinions and probably did some election work on the side, but he did not to hold office.

K: Someone mentioned to me that this annexation issue in Lisbon, for the area north of town, is not new. Do remember hearing about this being talked about before?

B: No, I do not. Sometimes, I think that I walk around in a Stupor, and I lose track of the things I do not remember.

K: Do you not think that you remember the things that you were interested in, at the time?

B: Of course. It is not that I was not interested, but I am also getting to the place where I do not have the kind of recall that I used to have. It bothers me. Like the car radio, it bothers me, but if I sat down, I could probably remember.

K: As a child growing up and obviously in this neighborhood, people spent time with you. You lived with your grandmother here. Do you ever remember being told of any family stories or anything about the early history of Lisbon or of your family?

B: No, you see my father's family lived out on 172, and my grandfather was a farmer. He was also commissioner, but there were nine children in my family. After they were gone, my grandfather sold the farm and bought the white house on the corner of West Lincoln Way and South Lincoln Avenue. It was no small house. I think there were five or six bedrooms. That is where they lived when I was a child, and they would not have Lisbon stories to tell.

I know that my dad and his brothers would go to drive a herd of cattle or sheep through the town, and they went to Warren once. I do not know how they got there. I guess they took the trolley, and they drove a herd of cattle clear down to Lisbon and walked. Then, I remember him telling of this PL and W.

It was the railroad for Pittsburgh, Lisbon, and Western that went up through town and north. There was a stop at Coleman, which is hardly anything now but a couple of

houses. There was a railroad stop there. From 172, they would drive whatever stock they were going to sell just across the farms. It was on the right of way that the farmers would allow them to use to Coleman and put it on the train there.

K: You mentioned your grandfather being county commissioner. What was his name?

B: Samuel Bye. Then, you see my other grandfather was county auditor.

K: So, you had been in politics even though you are not in politics?

B: My other grandfather, whose name was Schetz, had a hardware store in Hanover. He went for county auditor, and he was elected. Then, he sold his hardware store, and they came to Lisbon and bought this house. Then, my mother worked in the Courthouse in his office I believe, and my dad lived down on the corner. He saw her going back and forth to work. He decided that she was someone that he wanted to know.

K: What political party?

B: They were both Republicans.

K: This has always been a Republican strong hold. Well, thank you I really appreciate it.

End Of Interview