

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Hubbard History Project

Hubbard Bicentennial

O. H. 629

LEONA LAFFERTY

Interviewed

by

Mrs. William Glaser

on

February 20, 1976

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: LEONA LAFFERTY
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. William Glaser
SUBJECT: Methodist Church, housewife, family, early
years
DATE: February 20, 1976

G: This is an interview with Mrs. Leona Lafferty for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on the Hubbard Bicentennial History, by Mrs. William Glaser, at the home of Mrs. Lafferty, at 335 West Liberty Street, Hubbard, Ohio, on February 20, 1976, at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Lafferty, I think that I have known you for about forty-five years, and it is a pleasure to be interviewing you today.

When did you come to Hubbard, Ohio?

L: We moved to Gallagher Farm in 1920, and then we moved into Hubbard that same place that we have always lived; we never moved away from here. We have always felt that we have awfully good neighbors; part of them have gone, passed away, but we still have one or two good ones yet. I had started to go to the Methodist church, and I don't know what year it really was now.

G: Probably in the 1920's?

L: Yes, about in the 1920's. I have always enjoyed working in the church, and I have been very active. I have liked all the preachers that we have had. I belonged to the Fifth Wheel class for many, many, many years and have been president of it. I went to the Women's Society and was president of the circles and served a lot of dinners in our churches and helped to make money to build the new church that we have gotten. We have had quite a lot of good preachers there. Our first teacher, I think, was Mrs. Caven, and then we had Mrs. Hammon for a teacher

for a good many years.

G: Now, this is from your Fifth Wheel class?

L: This is my Fifth Wheel class. Then we had Naoma Taylor for years and years, and she was the most wonderful teacher anybody could have ever had. I really enjoyed being in the church, and I have enjoyed living in Hubbard. I have enjoyed everybody that is in Hubbard. I think that if you are good to people, they are good to you. I think that is about all I can say about the church.

We have had a lot of changes around here. It used to be that we had some nice homes across the street. That is all commercial now. We have a funeral home across the street from us.

G: Which one is that?

L: The Harler Funeral Home. There is also an eating place and a gas station across from us, a lot of business places. Now, there weren't any when we first came here. But it has all been for the good of the town.

G: Did your husband's work bring you to Hubbard, would you say?

L: Yes, we came here because where we lived before we came here . . .

G: Where was it that you lived?

L: At Cadiz, Ohio. There was no work down here. We came home and he worked on a dairy farm. Then we moved in here, and he worked for the Hubbard Coal and Supply and then for the city and then for the Harding Park. So he has always had good work here. Even in the Depression he didn't make much money, but he had work. I have always done housework. I did a lot of work for Eleanor's mother and for Mrs. Bill Davis years ago. Really, I have worked for about everybody in Hubbard, I think. I have always enjoyed doing it.

G: You mentioned how active you have worked in the church, and I know that at most of the church suppers that I attended as a little girl we always saw you in the kitchen very, very busy.

L: I always have been.

G: In what ways would you say that our church has changed through the years?

L: Well, we got a new addition to it, and I think that we have gotten a lot better things in the church than we ever

had before. We have a beautiful kitchen and a dining room and everything that you can think of to work with which we never did before. We went down there and slaved with nothing. I can remember when we had the mother-daughter banquets. Joan Hogan would come in and mash up potatoes with the big, old potato masher, and now we have a potato masher that mashes a peck of potatoes at a time. We really have gotten a lot of new things to work with, about six electric roasters, everything that you could think of now.

G: Do you feel that it has been your class as well as other classes in the church that has made this possible?

L: I think that our class and the home builders and Suzanna Wesley and all the classes have done their part. Our class has really done more, I think, to put the things into the church than a lot of the classes.

G: Your class actually is one of the few that remained as a class when the WSCS was formed, isn't that right?

L: Yes, we have remained. We still have about thirty-two, I think it is, on roll. We have our dinners. We never have to worry about a donation or help. We can just call them, and they are right there to help. I think that has been wonderful.

G: And you still serve church dinners today, don't you?

L: We serve Kiwanis once a month, and we serve a lot of different dinners. Whenever they ask us, we do it. We had a lady come to us the other night when we served down at the Central Christian Church. She came to us and she wanted to help us, and that was Mary McConnell. She wanted to come and help us. I thought that was really nice to have a woman come and ask to help.

G: I know that your family has meant a great deal to you. Your family and the church have been the two main influences in your life.

L: If it hadn't been for my husband, I never could have done the things in the church that I did because he was there ready to haul the stuff down and haul it home. I really miss that now because he isn't able to do many things now. I have got a good family. I have a son and a daughter, and I have two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; part of them are in Florida and part of them are in Michigan. But I still have my son with me who helps me a lot.

G: You mentioned about a big occasion in your life where your four generations were together. Would you like to

tell a little about that?

L: Well, we went up to Plymouth, Michigan. My granddaughter was greeting at a church up there. My daughter and I went up there and her two daughters. We all went to this mother-daughter banquet. She got the prize for having four generations there. She is still up there and very active in the church.

G: Could you describe a day as a typical housewife, say, back in the 1920's, for instance, the equipment that you had to work with then as compared to now?

L: I used to have to wash on a washboard and the tub with the clothes and the things by hand washing them. Then I would have to take them out and hang them on a line. In the wintertime, it was awful to get the clothes dried. When you would hang them on the line, they would freeze. It was a lot different than now. We have an automatic washer and dryer and all those kinds of things to help us out where years ago they didn't. We just had a hard time getting along washing things. We used to have to can everything, and now we can go buy it. It is a lot easier.

G: What events stand out as major or significant during the period that you have lived in Hubbard?

L: We have had a lot of big days. I can remember when my granddaughter got married. That was one big time in our lives that we have had. She was down at the church here and Reverend Suttlecheck married her. He was so good to those two kids. Judy Kelly and Bertha Stiver and, oh, I don't know how many more women served the dinner. We had the dinner for them down there, the rehearsal dinner. They had the wedding down in the church basement. The women all pitched in and helped. It was quite a big affair to my notion to see her get married and have a good husband with a good job and everything like that. That was a happy day in our life.

G: Do you recall any of the Hubbard homecomings in particular?

L: I remember when my husband worked for the city, John Handish was head of the street department. They had a stand down here, and I helped in the stand for the homecoming. They sold pop and all that kind of stuff. That was big for the homecoming. I got to help out with that. I can't think of anything else.

G: Well, thank you very much for the interview.