

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Depression Project

Experiences in Everyday Life

O.H. 209

EVA D. BEACOM

Interviewed

by

Daniel Flood

on

January 30, 1976

EVA D. BEACOM

Eva D. Beacom was born November 14, 1886 in Butler County, Pennsylvania to William and Mary Hoffman Dobson. She started school in a one-room schoolhouse near Evans City, Pennsylvania in about 1892. In 1896 her family moved to Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, where she attended school up to the ninth grade since that was as high as grades went. Eva worked at a glass factory from 1897 to 1898 and then from 1901 until 1909 she was employed at a dry goods store, both jobs being in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Beacom married Fred H. Beacom on August 18, 1909 and they had one son born in July of 1910 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. In May of 1913 they moved to Youngstown, Ohio.

Eva Beacom is of the Methodist faith and she enjoys quilt making.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

YSU Depression Project

INTERVIEWEE: EVA D. BEACOM

INTERVIEWER: Daniel Flood

SUBJECT: Log House, Dolls, Farm Life, South High Infirmary, Trolley, Womens' Lib Group, Mustard Gas, Spanish-American War, One-room Schoolhouse, Discipline, Recreation, Book-keeping, Strouss.

DATE: January 30, 1976

F: This is an interview with Mrs. Eva D. Beacom for the Youngstown State University Depression Project by Dan Flood at Mrs. Beacom's home, 53 E. Earle Avenue on January 30, 1976 at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Now let's go back, Mrs. Beacom, and start off right at the beginning. We'll get your birth date, where you were born, background.

B: I was born November 14, 1886 to William and Mary Hoffman Dobson in Butler County, Pennsylvania near Evans City, a village on the B & O Railroad near Pittsburgh. At approximately six and one-half years old, we moved from in that vicinity into a log house which was quite large. We had a sitting room, bedroom and a large kitchen on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. A huge fireplace with kettles burned big logs and was good for heat and very good for cooking and sometimes baking. We also had a big stove which burned coal or wood. There was plenty of wood because we had woodland on the property. Now, this property belonged to a farmer for which my father worked.

At that time in his work he was also a butcher for the neighborhood. He had learned the butchering trade from an old German man at Zelienople, Pennsylvania.

Then when he went up to work for these farmers done their butchering in the fall.

Our water supply was two springs, one at the foot of the wooded hill about 200 feet from the house, the other across a meadow at a large rock that came out of the woodland. That water was ice-cold all of the time.

As small children we started school there of course. By this time there were three of us. My sister Wilda was born November 8, 1888 and my sister Myrtle was born July 4, 1891. Wilda and I started school in a one-room schoolhouse. We walked across the ground and rocks about one mile. In the winter when it was very snowy daddy had to break a path for us to get to school.

F: Not like the kids today.

B: Not like the kids today is right. We had lots of fun and lots of things to do on this acreage. We had cats and baby pigs to play with and we had straw stacks besides that. Now, I had an experience with this straw stack. Mother had washed three heads and gone down about three quarters of a mile across the field to grandmothers. "Don't you dare take the girls to the straw stacks." I took the girls to the straw stacks. I got roundly spanked when she came home and our heads all washed over for which she had to go down to the foot of the hill to get the water, because we weren't big enough to carry the water up the hill. That was an experience.

We had plenty of good, warm clothing to wear to school. We had homemade stockings, which our mother knit from wool yarn, and bonnets, which she knit from wool yarn, and dresses and nice warm coats which she made. No ready-made garments of any kind, because we didn't know of anything like that at my age.

F: What was school like during that time?

B: Well, it was a one-class schoolroom and it had wells. There was one boy in it who was about twenty. He just came when there was no work on the farm. Another boy, who was my age or a little older, and I were the only two in the advanced arithmetic class. It was mostly mental arithmetic, for which, let me brag, I was the star. I still am good at mental arithmetic. But this new process of arithmetic which they had a couple of years ago was a little bit like it, but not as thorough. It's so easy to do it when you know

how. But the teacher I had was a whiz and he taught me. I guess he liked me. I was about nine. Well, I wasn't nine. I was about eight and a half, but it was really fun and it still is.

F: What would be a typical day? I mean, just how many subjects did you study?

B: Well, we had reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography and history were all the important things. I can't think of anything else that we had. We had recreation at recess time and that was all.

F: Was there any food in that school such as like with the lunch programs they have?

B: Oh no, no, no, no.

F: Nothing like this?

B: We carried our own lunches. We had little lunch baskets. In the milder weather we carried milk in the little bottles. When it was real cold we didn't carry milk for fear it would freeze, and in the summer it would sour. But that's one thing that we had plenty of at our house was milk and butter and eggs, because my mother was a good farmer's wife.

F: Now your dad, he worked for the . . . ?

B: He worked for the rent. We received the rent of our house free and then he received a wage. Now, I don't remember how much he received then. But I can tell you later when he went to work at Ellwood City how much he received.

Another thing that we had on this farm that was ours to use if we pleased, or sell if we could, was lots of apples, some pears, plums, grapes and loads of red and black raspberries which we kids picked. Another thing, we had a nice big potato patch, and there were potato bugs which Wilda and I had the job of picking the potato bugs off so they wouldn't eat the blossoms. We had a can with some oil in. Dad made us a little paddle and we knocked the potato bugs in the oil. It killed the bugs. That was fun. We had lots of fun. I never remember being unhappy there at all, not a bit.

F: What kind of games were you playing at that time?

B: We girls mostly played house. We had lilac bushes that made a square like this, but was all open. Mo-

ther gave us some old red carpets and some old quilts and things and we built a house in there. We fastened these things for a wall and a ceiling and a floor and we played house in there. We had dolls. They were homemade dolls.

I had one doll that was purchased when I was a wee little girl. A minister lived next door to us when we lived just out of Evans City here, because this was near a Presbyterian Church. The minister of that church, he was our next door neighbor. He gave me a doll. I don't know whether he bought it or whether his daughter had had it or how, but I was his pet so he gave me a doll. That was before Wilda came. I was just a little bitty. I don't remember it, but I remember them telling me and having the doll when I was a bigger girl.

On this place we also had nut trees, chestnuts, walnuts, and hickory nuts. This chestnut tree was a beautiful thing as I remember. They talk about the spreading chestnut tree and that's just what it was. It was just like a big umbrella and it was up on top of a knoll about a half mile from the house.

F: What a beautiful sight.

B: Oh, it was beautiful. They can talk about the old log houses and the old houses in the country and I'll take them anytime. That about ends that there. We had a very, very happy childhood and we were very healthy. We had measles and Wilda and Myrtle had whooping cough, but I never had whooping cough.

F: As far as a doctor, doctor service itself . . .

B: Yes, we had doctor service. He was about, oh, I would say a mile and a half away. I think he got 25¢ for the call.

F: What about when your sister was born? Did your doctor come to deliver?

B: No, grandmother took care of mother.

F: Grandmother took care of it?

B: Yes, grandmother delivered me and my two sisters.

F: Oh really?

B: Yes.

- F: Was that the practice in that neighborhood?
- B: That was the practice in the neighborhood, yes. The child would have been there before the doctor could get there if the weather was bad.
- F: Right, right.
- B: I heard Mrs. Blunt--she was the sister of Dr. John Zimmerman that used to be up there on Market Street--tell about he and his wife, Mrs. Zimmerman, who went to Cornersburg to deliver a baby. The baby was there a half hour before they were because they got stuck in the mud between here and Cornersburg. So, that was that. That would have been the same thing where we lived. If it had been wet--I don't know what the weather was like. Of course, when Myrtle was born, July 4 . . .
- F: Was it mostly a family type thing or did, let's say, your grandmother come in and take care of other people that lived by you?
- B: No, no, no. She took care of my mother and her sister when their children were born.
- F: And that was it?
- B: Yes. My mother and her sister, they, of course, were sisters. Her husband and my father were brothers. The two brothers married two sisters. So, that made us just a little closer than neices and nephews. I'm the only one of my family living. I have nêces of course, but the other three of Aunt Lyden and Uncle Harry are living. They had one boy and two girls. My mother always wanted a boy. She wanted a boy so badly. When I told her I was pregnant after I was married, she says, "You've got to give me a boy." I did.

Well, this brings us up to about 1896 when we moved to Ellwood City. It was a small town. I just don't know hardly how big. I doubt if it was 2,000 people. Wilda and I finished school there to the ninth grade. That's all the school they had there. They had no more school than that. That would be about 1898. I went to work in a glass factory where they made mostly whiskey glasses, two ounces and a half I guess they were. I worked there about one year. Then I went to work in a dry goods store in 1901. I earned a dollar and a half a week.

F: Now, by dry goods store you mean what?

B: Well, it was sort of a general store, but no groceries. We had carpets and wall things and clothing and yard goods, just sort of a general store, but no groceries.

F: Now, you made \$1.50 a week?

B: \$1.50 a week.

F: And that was what, five days or six days a week?

B: That was six days a week, 8:00 to 6:00 five days and 8:00 to midnight on Saturdays. I worked there eight years. I was earning \$8.50 a week when I left to get married. While I was there I wasn't a clerk very long till I was put in as cashier. I eventually became cashier and bookkeeper.

F: Because of the math background that you had, right?

B: Yes, I don't know, I just fell into it, I guess. I walked right along and fell into it and that was all. Wilda, my sister, also worked in the store there, but she clerked. She was a super sales lady. She was good.

We went to church. We went to Sunday school.

Well, I should go back and tell you a little bit more about this store business.

F: Okay.

B: I would go home on Saturday night. I'd get home about 1:00. Sometimes I just laid down on the floor with my clothes on and went to sleep I was so tired. But sometime in the night I would get up and take my clothes off and put a nighty on and crawl into bed. Then in the morning we'd get up at about 7:30 or a quarter to eight. We'd get washed and dressed and go to Sunday school. Then we'd stay after church, and with that was a bunch of young folks. We had parties and picnics and hay rides and bobsled rides. We also had a choir. We had an organ at our house. We'd gather there and sing our heads off. This cousin that I said was my Aunt's son was a bass baritone. He's living yet. He's 86 years old. When I had my 85th birthday out at my son's, he sang the hymn, "How Great Thou Art." He made that dining room ring.

F: That's something.

B: I said to Mary--that's my daughter-in-law--I said, "I think Tom can still sing." She said, "He sure can." But he made a couple records, just hymn records. But he was a choir leader for 25 years and a Sunday school superintendent of a little church for thirty years. But all he did was church work and his own work and sing.

But we used to get together. There were about twelve or fourteen of us that would get together and sing. My dad used to tell me the neighbors would sit on their porches to listen to us.

F: You must have been that good.

B: Oh, we were good. There's no doubt of it. I said we could sing in the church choir when they didn't have anybody else, so they got us. We could have made up a pretty good choir for them if they hadn't the older people. We were in our teens, some of us in our early twenties. Of course, we could have the parties that we wanted at our house because mother said she would know where we were. There was always cake or cookies and lemonade or milk for us.

F: As far as discipline, how did your parents discipline you if you did something wrong? Would they paddle you?

B: We got spanked. Just like I did for the straw stack. I got thoroughly spanked. She said, "If you cry anymore, I'll spank you another time." That's what we got.

F: Looking back on those days and knowing what you know today about the discipline . . . ?

B: Oh, God bless her. Another thing--I was coming up to that--there were other things to do in Ellwood City. There were places we could go. There were public dances and all that sort of thing, but our parents didn't allow us to go there.

F: Why was that?

B: Well, there were sometimes some rowdies there, some very rough boys that they knew about that possibly we didn't know about. We didn't know the danger. We weren't allowed to go. If mother would say no, we'd go and ask dad. "What did your mom say?" "No." We'd ask mother and we'd go to dad and he'd say the same thing. "No." They stuck together just like two

cobwebs. I'm so glad they did. I'm so grateful. My sisters always said, both of them, that they were so grateful for the training we had. Now, it might have been a little bit selfish on our parents part, but it was awfully good for us kids. I think if more parents did that today, we wouldn't have quite as many bad kids as we have. We have so many more good ones than bad ones, but we still have too many bad ones.

F: Yes.

B: Yes. Today, I think they're more evil than we were or would have been, a little more wicked. But I don't think that television helps them a bit.

F: Do you think seeing that violence . . . ?

B: Yes. Well, I'll tell you, the shows the last three or four months, the police shows and that sort of thing, they are so cruel, so cruel. Naturally, kids that are inclined like that, they'll follow that.

F: Yes.

B: Yes.

Well, I was married August 18, 1909. Paul was born July 10, 1910, in New Castle, Pennsylvania. That's where we lived. My husband worked at Lowellville what is now the Ohio Edison Company. He commuted from New Castle.

We moved here in 1915. He came to Youngstown in May of 1913. We moved into this house in October of 1915, the fifteenth day of October. It wasn't quite complete. They had completed the furnace the day we moved in. The neighborhood was mostly young couples with small children. We had one child. Some of them had two or three. There was a family of Fitzgerald's down the street that eventually had ten children. The Hughes family, which you know part of them.

F: James Hughes?

B: James Hughes, right. John Hughes of McVean and Hughes Funeral Home.

F: Oh yes, I know.

B: Well, they lived across the street here. There were five of them. Catherine became a nun and Jim and

Francis became priests and John an undertaker and George a dentist. George lives, I think, in St. Louis.

I received Christmas cards from Mr. Hughes until two years ago, one year ago this Christmas and then, of course, he died. He died this fall anyway. He was, I think, either 89 or 90. I believe he was 90. He was about my age. He left the house over here and went to St. Mary's. We exchanged Christmas cards every year.

F: Oh, that's nice.

B: We were good neighbors and good friends. When I worked in this store I made a lot of good friends. They're almost all gone now. I think that there's something that I want to show you.

F: Now, this was taken out of what, Youngstown Vindicator? No, Ellwood City Citizen.

B: Ellwood City. That picture was made at Ellwood City. Those are Ellwood City people. That was back in, I think, what, 1915?

F: Yes, 1915.

B: Well, I had gotten married in 1909 and left Ellwood City. At that time I think I knew all but six of those people. Some of them I worked with. That's Walter Glenn that is in there I worked with. That one, Mrs. George Dambaugh, was the wife of one of the men who owned the store. I don't think today that there are any of those people living.

F: Oh really?

B: No, I don't think so.

F: Now, what was this about a practical joke?

B: That was a practical joke. They wanted their husbands to take them out one night every two or three weeks. They were all too busy. So, they decided they'd form that club and they'd go by themselves.

F: Merry Maids and Matrons.

B: Merry Maids and Matrons, yes.

F: They figured they'd get on the trolley and go out?

- B: They'd get on the trolley, either the trolley or the train. We had a train, the B & O, that went to Pittsburgh. Then we had a short line, Lake Erie, that met the Erie train between Youngstown and Pittsburgh at Ellwood Junction, almost to Beaver Falls.
- F: Now, would you say this is almost like a womens lib group?
- B: I would say they just decided they'd have a good time whether their husbands would go along or not.
- F: So, what they ended up doing was just rent out a trolley and get on it and go.
- B: Get on a trolley and go to Pittsburgh, go to the show and go for dinner and come back home.
- F: Now, this Basil F. Goodrich, is that Goodrich Tires or anything like that?
- B: No, I don't think so. I don't think so, no. I don't think he was. He worked in a tube mill in Ellwood City.
- F: I see. You've kept it all this time?
- B: Well, that was in the paper. I don't know. Is there a date on it? I don't think so.
- F: No, none at all.
- B: My niece cut it out of the Ellwood Ledger and sent it to me. I've had it for about four or five months, I guess.
- F: Now, that's something.
- B: There's a little league team on the back. I knew most of those kids' parents.
- F: Oh really?
- B: Yes. Well, I always boasted.
- F: Did they have little league at the time back then? I know this is like 1970 or so, but did they have baseball teams?
- B: Oh yes, Ellwood City had a baseball team. Now, wait while I think. Maybe about 1907 or 1908, because a good friend of mine married. Some of the boys

came from Beaver Falls, one came from New Castle, two or three from Ellwood. I don't know where they played, because I wasn't much interested in baseball. One of my girlfriends married one of those ball players.

F: That is really something.

B: She was Elizabeth Ike and he was John Smith.

F: Now, I'm wondering, how did World War I affect you?

B: Well, now I can tell you something way back before that. I have lived through five wars.

F: Can you go back and start off right at the very beginning?

B: Yes, I can go back. In 1898, there was the Spanish-American War. I remember of talking about that to my parents, reading about it and about us discussing it in school. How the Battleship Maine was sunk in Manila Bay and Teddy Roosevelt took Rough Riders into . . . Where did he take them into Mexico or Spain?

F: Mexico.

B: Mexico, yes.

F: In Cuba, it was right in Cuba then.

B: In Cuba, that's where he took them. Then the next thing was World War I. I have a cousin, in fact, he's married to my cousin. He was in World War I and he's, I think, 83 years old.

F: Would you remember, let's say, with Teddy Roosevelt, do you remember much about him?

B: No, I don't. The only thing I remember much about him is what I've read since.

F: Oh, I see.

B: But to know the facts then, I don't remember.

F: While you were in school, you said that they talked about the Spanish-American War in school?

B: Yes, when we were in School at Ellwood City because see, that was 1891 or 1892 rather. Well, then take World War I, this cousin of mine, or rather, he mar-

ried my cousin, he went all through that. He was nineteen when he went in. I don't know how old Harvey is today, but he has both legs off above the knees.

F: This was due to the War itself?

B: The result of that mustard gas in World War I.

F: This is what the Germans used?

B: That's what the Germans used, yes.

F: How did that affect him?

B: Well, it made a fog or something and some of them, it didn't affect until later on. This man had, oh, maybe thirty years or thirty-five years ago he had a serious sick spell. He had two or three doctors from Ellwood City; they got one from New Castle; they didn't know what was wrong with him. So, they sent him to Pittsburgh to the Veteran's Hospital down there, Aspinwall. They sent him there and they thought--they weren't positive--that it was mustard gas that caused it. It acted a lot like typhoid fever and a good bit like rheumatic fever, but they couldn't pin it. None of these doctors were able to pin it on anything.

Then Ellwood City had a hospital, but it was just a little bitty thing. They said he was just as well off at home as he was there because his wife would take just as good care of him as they would in the hospital. By that time they had one boy. Harvey was sick a long time. I just don't know how long, several months. But he eventually got better. He was a man who worked in the mill and had a very heavy job. He worked in the forge works and made big heavy chains like they use on ships and that sort of thing. So, he wasn't able to go back to work for quite a little while on account of the heavy work.

Now, where were we at?

F: Well, this was still involved with World War I?

B: Yes.

F: Do you remember when, let's say, when the War broke, when it first started?

B: When the Armistice was signed, November 18, 1918?

- F: Well, no, not at the very end, but let's say at the beginning.
- B: At the beginning my husband and Paul and I were in Florida. We came home from Florida in April 1917. When we boarded the train at Washington, the papers were on the street, 'Wilson Will Declare War On Germany.' When we got off the B & O train at Youngstown he had declared war on Germany.
- F: So, it was that fast?
- B: It was very fast, yes. Oh, I don't remember how long that war lasted. But I'll remember the Armistice, November, 1918. I'll never forget it. My husband and Mr. C.J. Strouss, a young Mr. Strouss, father of these Strouss boys who are around here now . . .
- F: Is that Strouss-Hirshberg?
- B: Strouss-Hirshberg Company, they sold flags on the sidewalk down on Federal Street -- every one they had in the store. They got the whole stock out and they sold them all. I don't know what they did with the money. They didn't turn it into the store. It went to some organization, some charity organization or maybe a couple of them.
- Then the next one was what?
- F: Well, even about World War I, I was wondering, was your husband involved in that war?
- B: No, no, he couldn't go to war. They turned him down.
- F: Oh, I see. Now, there was a draft at that time?
- B: Yes, there was a draft and he was going to go. He tried to go with the YMCA and they turned him down on that. He had a bad heart. He had an enlarged heart from rheumatic fever as a child. Well, from the time I met him, I guess, he had no attacks of the rheumatic fever, but he still had the rheumatism from it. There were times when he'd lift himself up the steps on his hands and slide down on his bottom to get up and down stairs. He had to walk on crutches because it was in his knee and he couldn't bend his knee. It was rough.
- F: Were there any German people that were resented in this area?

- B: Well, there were some German people here in the area that resented the Americans being in the war very much. Some of them, the people or citizens here resented because they were Germans and sided with Germany. But of course, I guess I was younger and I didn't pay much attention to it because I thought it was foolish or something else, I don't know.
- F: Well, you were in this house on Earl Avenue?
- B: At that time.
- F: Right. As far as South High School, when was South High School used as a--what is it--an infirmary or something like that?
- B: It was used . . .
- F: Like a little hospital?
- B: I think it was in 1919.
- F: With what, pneumonia? What was that for?
- B: No, I think a flu-like epidemic.
- F: Oh, I see.
- B: Wait until I think what it was for. I don't know if I can think.
- F: Just the flu epidemic?
- B: I think it was called a flu. Mr. Chatterton, who I think was assistant principal at that time, he worked every day down there among the patients. Well, he worked every day down there and his wife took the flu and died and he never took it. He was exposed to it everyday. They hauled them in there in an ambulance and hauled dead ones out.
- F: Now, they stayed overnight then? I mean they stayed at South High School?
- B: Oh yes. There were beds in there. They put them to bed. People loaned beds and I think the hospital loaned some beds and that sort of thing. I think there were a couple of young doctors who stayed there all of the time.
- F: Why did they choose South High School rather than, let's say, Southside Hospital?

B: Well, Southside Hospital was full.

F: It was just full, so they needed more room?

B: Yes, they needed more beds and more rooms. South High School was a little hospital then. It still had these two or three little frame buildings there on Francis Street. Do you remember them?

F: No.

B: No. They were gone before your time, because my father died in one of those.

F: So, the people would just come in from all over town?

B: Everywhere. Wherever they picked them up that they couldn't take care of themselves at home. They'd just call for the police. I think they called the police. They picked them up and hauled them in there.

F: When did it get over?

B: I think about the end of 1920 or early 1921, but for several years after we'd have a little breakout of it, but not too much.

F: It was written up in the papers quite a bit then?

B: Oh yes, it was written up in the papers quite a lot.

F: Well, what did South--if it was a school at that time--where did the kids go to school?

B: They didn't go to school. School was closed.

F: School was constantly closed. Oh, you mean all over the city?

B: I think most of the schools were closed on account of the epidemic.

F: Oh, I see.

B: Yes, I know our boy didn't go to school. I think Garfield and all of the schools were closed on account of this.

F: Can you remember Southside swimming pool?

B: Oh yes.

F: Much about that?

B: Oh, we used to walk down there and take our boy. He never went swimming, because he didn't like the water. I didn't know at that time, but I learned afterwards that if it hadn't have been for a neighbor boy he would have drowned out at what they used to call Our Buckeye out by Newport. They went out there and they went swimming and he couldn't swim and he went under. Bernard Corroll pulled him out. But Bernard didn't tell me for about two or three years. I didn't know it and his daddy didn't know it either because he made Bernard promise that he wouldn't tell because I had told him that he couldn't go swimming because he didn't know how to swim. He never liked the water. He never liked the bathtub with too much water in it. He never liked it. I don't think he does till this day, and his wife is an excellent swimmer and she likes to go swimming, not just bathing, swimming.

F: Now, as far as the pool, it was what, almost a mile to go around it? It was wide wasn't it?

B: It was the same size as it is now.

F: I thought my mom said it used to carry in all the way where the tennis courts are and then swing back around the basketball courts.

B: Yes. I don't remember how big it was. It was pretty big though. It was a good size pool. We used to walk down there in the evenings and watch him swim for a while and then walk home.

F: Let's get into the 1920's a little bit. What about that? Do you remember much? You saw then the change between the horse and the car take place.

B: Oh yes, yes. Well, I'll go back to Ellwood City about that. We had a friend, well he was really a friend of my father. He lived in a little settlement which was called Park Gate. That was below Ellwood City about, oh, maybe a mile and a half or three quarters. He decided he'd build himself an automobile. He was a machinist, a mechanic. So, he built a motor of some sort by getting this and that and the other together. He took a buggy and he put that motor on that buggy. He made an automobile and you could have heard it for five miles. But anyway, he came up to town with it and the police were going to arrest him. Some of the citizens went out and stood up for him and the police didn't arrest him. We only had one policeman. I don't know what he ever did. I

think he bought an automobile sooner or later.
But I don't think he built another one.

The first automobile in Ellwood City, Dr. Lamb had it. It was a little coupe. It was a Ford. It was black.

F: What year is this around?

B: Oh this would be around the late 1920's I rather would imagine. No, it was before that.

F: Well, Ellwood City--you moved to Youngstown around 1913.

B: 1913, this must have been about 1911 or 1912. Yes, that's when it would be, before I moved to Youngstown. Yes because I remember Dr. Lamb riding around town in that "Thing," as we called it. Look at them today.

F: Well, when it first came out, what were your first impressions?

B: Oh, I hardly know. I thought they were kind of clumsy. I think I preferred the horse and buggy, because I loved horses. I still do.

F: Did you think there was just too much noise?

B: Well, I think that was one thing. I know this one man--I can't think right now of his name--from Park Gate, had a horribly noisy thing. That one that Dr. Lamb had wasn't too quiet. It wasn't quiet like they are today because Tommy goes into the garage and out of the garage and I never hear him and my hearing isn't too bad. So, I don't know. I think that was my impression, that they were such noisy, clumsy things. Of course, I've seen them grow from good and bad and everything else.

F: Was there any talk of drinking and driving?

B: Oh yes, always. There was always talk of drinking. It was a problem with a lot of people. I know there were a couple of families in our neighborhood whose man got his pay and when he came home he had only a few dollars. The wife had to take in washings and that sort of thing to buy food for the children. There was that problem and I know that many a loaf of bread went from my mother's kitchen to her, just because she felt sorry for them. I think she could have murdered him with her two hands, because he had such a good wife and good children.

- F: Were there any accidents? Do you remember the first accident you heard of with a car?
- B: No, I don't remember that, not the very first ones.
- F: Well, do you remember any major ones that happened with the car that everybody kind of got up in arms with it and said, "Why not go back to the horse?"
- B: No, I don't think I do. I don't think I remember anything distinctly. I don't believe I do.
- F: Okay, let's change it to forms of entertainment, movies. You saw the silent movies?
- B: Yes, I saw them.
- F: Then you were there with the transition between the silent and the talkies. What were your feelings on that?
- B: Well, at first I didn't like them.
- F: Why?
- B: Well, the voices were harsh. They weren't very distinct. I thought it took away some of the, oh I don't know, the relaxation. You could sit and watch the picture. When the voice came in, you didn't appreciate it.
- F: Did they coordinate the voice with the mouthing of the words?
- B: Not always, I don't think they did. Well, yes, they did that pretty well, but often the voice was too loud, but of course, they improved it right along. They even improved the radio and the television. I can remember when the radio voices were harsh.
- F: That was when you had to have just the one earphone set, right?
- B: Earphones, yes.
- F: It wasn't loud for everyone to hear?
- B: No.
- We had the first radio on the street.
- F: Oh really?

B: Yes. My husband had a friend who was an automechanic and he made the radio for him. He made one for himself. He brought it down here one time and I think he paid \$125.00 for it, something like that. We couldn't afford it, but anyway, we had it. I don't think it was too bad. It wasn't too good, but it wasn't too bad. I can remember them getting better and better and better right along.

Another thing, we had the first electric lamp on the street.

F: Oh really?

B: Yes, we got some of them in at Strouss.

F: Well, when was your house wired for electricity?

B: When it was built.

F: When it was built?

B: Oh yes.

F: What did they have in the house that used electricity at the time?

B: Lights.

F: Just the lights themselves?

B: The sockets. I had this outlet here that was just a single -- all three of these. There's one under there. They were just singles. Well, I had doubles put in later. We had ceiling lights which were electric.

F: So, when you first bought the new lamp, everybody ran over to see what it was like?

B: Everybody. One little boy who lived where Owens' live next to Mary, he wondered how much it costs. Paul said, "I don't know and I don't dare to ask."

Let me see what else we had that was new and different on the street. I wish I had kept a diary from living here, but I never expected to live here this long. In fact, I didn't expect to live this long to be truthful.

F: Do you remember much about the 1920's, the 'Roaring Twenties', the dance crazes and everything else?

- B: No, I don't remember too much about them because we didn't dance. Fred couldn't on account of his rheumatic condition. I used to when I was younger, but I never cared too much about dancing. I'd rather went sled riding. It was more fun.
- F: Now, we're moving up toward the stock market crash. Your husband was working at that time, where, in Youngstown?
- B: Strouss-Hirshberg.
- F: At Strouss?
- B: Yes.
- F: Well, he was working there at the time when they had Armistice Day when they sold the flags?
- B: Yes.
- F: So, he worked there from, let's say, 1918 up until . . . ?
- B: Until 1922. He, he wasn't working there in 1929. He left there in 1922.
- F: Then where did he go in 1922 to get a job?
- B: He worked for another store that was down on East Federal Street. I can't remember it.
- F: Oh, in sales again then, right?
- B: No, he wasn't a salesman. He was an office manager.
- F: Oh, an office manager, I see.
- B: Yes. He went to the store down on East Federal. They went into receivership. He was office manager of the Mahoning Bank. He helped Mr. Grant take them through the receivership. It closed out completely. Well, then it was the 1930's and he didn't have too much to do, so he collected for an insurance agency. It gave him a little bit of income, but not what he had been accustomed to. Of course, he never was accustomed to a big salary because nobody got big salaries in those days.
- F: Right.
- B: When we bought this house, we paid \$4,000 for it, \$400 down. \$4,025, the \$25 was to plaster the third floor. To compare the percentage against his salary,

then, it was about equal to or above oh, I would say, to about 1970. The salaries then would compare about the same percentage-wise, because I have compared it. But now in 1976, the properties are higher percentage-wise; they're much higher than the salaries. They've gone way up beyond reason and they're not built like this house.

F: No, not at all. You can even take a look around these walls right here. It's beautiful. It's well kept. It really is.

B: Yes, do you know this wall hasn't been painted for five years.

F: Really? It's a neat, attractive looking home. It really is, more than some of the homes you buy today. They just don't make them, like you say, like they used to.

B: Oh no, no. It's too bad that's all, because the people are getting gyped. Now, we had the first automobile on this street. We were a little older than the most of them. Then later, some of those younger people sold out and older people moved in. I don't know what year the Floods moved in down here. Fitzgeralds used to live down here and they had ten children. One of them were married when they lived here. Carrols lived in what's a duplex up there now and they had five.

F: I was wondering about that first automobile you mentioned. Did you have a reverse in it? Could you go backwards?

B: Yes. Fred used to back out of the driveway. I used to drive it, too. Then when Paul was fifteen or sixteen, he started to drive the car. We had a different one then.

F: Well, did you have a driveway in here when you bought the home?

B: No, it was just ashes. Not slag, ashes.

F: What was the reason for . . . You mean when they built homes in 1915, they also put in places for driveways?

B: Yes, they put in the driveways, because we had to have our coal hauled in.

F: Oh, I see, yes.

- B: This was wide enough for a team, a wagon with a load of coal and my coal chute was back there under the kitchen.
- F: Yes, that's right. So, when they built the homes, they always put at least a pathway for the coal wagon to come through?
- B: A driveway for the coal wagons at least, yes.
- F: Yes, I was wondering about that. I wondered why, if you didn't have the cars, why would you put in a driveway.
- B: A driveway, but it was ashes.
- F: I see. Then this street here was what, brick at that time?
- B: It was Harrison Avenue. Oh no, the paving was mud.
- F: Oh, this was mud here?
- B: Yes, this was paved in, I think, 1917 or maybe 1918.
- F: What was Market Street?
- B: It was paved.
- F: It was paved, too?
- B: Yes.
- F: Then, Market Street went out as far as what? As far as the paving I mean.
- B: The paving went out as far as, I think, Midlothian maybe, out about there somewhere.
- F: Then it turned into what?
- B: Mud.
- F: Mud after that?
- B: Yes, a dirt road.
- F: So in Boardman, it was primarily farms?
- B: Primarily. Boardman was primarily farmland. I could stand in my back room and look out my back room window and count the houses in the neighborhood.

F: Oh really?

B: Well, one that is the colonial up there was there.

F: Colonial House you mean?

B: Yes.

F: You mean you could see the Colonial House from your back window?

B: Indianola Avenue, yes, because there was nothing in between. The trees were small. When I came here, these trees back here were little bitty things. The big elm tree that I lost back there that was such a beauty, why it wasn't, I don't think it was more than ten feet high. But I could see the Colonial House and I could see--what's the other one across the street?

F: The Mansion?

B: The Mansion. Down on Market Street between Delason and Evergreen there were two big white houses.

F: You could see this way too?

B: Oh, I could from the bedroom window. No, we couldn't see, but we knew as we went up, there were two big white houses. One was on the corner of Evergreen and Market. The other one was about halfway between that and Warren.

F: How many homes were on this street in 1915?

B: Well, there were none below me here, nothing below me.

F: Well, there are apartments and there are probably about ten other homes.

B: No, there are only three other homes.

F: Three other homes, is that all?

B: Yes, the apartment houses and three other homes.

F: I see.

B: On the other side, let me think for a minute. This one right straight across, the Monroe's lived in it. It was finished after we moved in here. From that on down, I don't know how many houses are on this street now. I think about fifty or sixty. There's more

families than that, because two of them up there have two families and the apartments have eight. Now, I think we have about as many blacks as whites and maybe more. But some of them are very, very fine. They're just lovely. This young couple that lives next to me, I wouldn't want finer people. The ones who live over in that gray house, they're nice, very good people. The ones who live next to Mary, they're very good. Of course, they don't always keep house and that sort of think like we do, but some of the white people don't either. But I have no objections to the blacks, no objection at all. Because my father used to say to me that God only had one kind of mud, but he had two kinds of angels. I don't know whether it was Ham or Sham that came out of the Ark down the Nile, it was a black man and he came into Africa. So, part of the people on the Ark were black.

F: In your early days, was there much religion in the home? Did you talk about it?

B: Oh yes. We went to Sunday school and we went to church. When we were small and lived in this old log house we went in the summer time to the schoolhouse to Sunday school. In the winter time we went to Valencia, a little village which was about oh, maybe a mile away. Up one little hill and down a little steeper one to Sunday school to United Presbyterian Church, which was a little white frame building that looked like a schoolhouse. That's where my grandmother went to church and we went to Sunday school there. In the summer time, we went to the schoolhouse because a couple people from this church came to the schoolhouse by horse and buggy:

Then as soon as we got out of Sunday school, we took our shoes and stockings off and walked home in our bare feet. It was fun to go bare feet in the country. You didn't run into glass and wire and that sort of thing. You just had nice God's good Earth to run on.

F: Now, I'm wondering, there weren't that many homes up here. What was the closest grocery store? It wouldn't have been the A & P up here at the top?

B: Oh, no, no, no. There was a brick building on the corner. It's there yet.

F: On Market?

B: On Market Street.

- F: They had groceries in there for you?
- B: There were groceries in there, but the A & P didn't have it. Then up on the corner of Oak Hill and Glenaven there was a man with red hair. I can't remember his name.
- F: What about the fire department?
- B: It was there when we moved here.
- F: Right up there at the corner?
- B: Yes, the same fire station was there.
- F: Now, were there quite a bit of fire stations in Youngstown back in 1915?
- B: No, there was that one and there was one down on Falls Avenue.
- F: Yes, I remember that. How about the one down on Parkview and Glenwood?
- B: It wasn't there.
- F: No, not at all?
- B: I don't think there were any on Glenwood at all.
- F: Did you have house insurance at that time?
- B: Oh yes.
- F: In 1915?
- B: We had house insurance whenever we bought this, yes. We took over the policy that the contractor had on here. We paid so much as a premium and he released the policy to us.
- F: Now, you bought the home for \$4000?
- B: Yes.
- F: What would your, let's say, salary be?
- B: \$22.50 a week.
- F: \$22.50 a week. So, multiply that by fifty.
- B: Yes, \$22.50 a week, but we managed. We got along

all right. Things weren't bad; things were cheap.

F: Can you go back and tell some of the prices?

B: Yes. When I was a little girl, if my mother had a little extra butter or a little extra eggs, she'd put them in a little basket and I took them to Valencia to this little store. I'd get a couple pounds of sugar and a pound of coffee and with the two or three pennies left, I could have candy if I brought it home for the girls to have some, too. But I had to bring it home or I couldn't buy it. If I did, I got spanked. If I'd eat it on the way home I got spanked. That was the best cure for misbehaving.

F: Now, what were some of the home remedies if you were sick?

B: Well grandmother used to make the home remedies. For a bad cold she made goose grease and camphor.

F: Goose grease?

B: Yes, she'd melt the fat from a goose or a duck and render it out and strain it through a cloth. Then she got camphor at the drug store or from the doctor mostly and put camphor in it. We rubbed that on our chest when we had a bad cold.

F: Was there anything with liquor like, I know, 'Hot Toddy?'

B: Yes, sometimes when we'd have a bad cold grandmother made blackberry wine and she made elderberry wine. My father and Uncle John, who lived with grandmother, her son, bought whiskey. They would put this whiskey-- a tablespoon full or so--in water as hot as you could drink it and you drank it. About a half of a cup, the whole concoction. They also gave us that for a bad cough. Grandmother raised horehound, an herb which she used to dry, and we ate the dry leaves for a cough.

F: Did everybody have a garden?

B: Yes, everybody had a garden.

F: It was just a way to conserve on expense?

B: Well, you didn't get anything. You couldn't go to the grocery store and buy vegetables. I remember when the first tin can tomatoes came in way back in 1900 or thereabout.

- F: That's right, you would have to go to a market if you wanted any vegetables at all, right?
- B: Well, there was no market to go to.
- F: What about this Pyatt Street Market down here?
- B: Oh, I don't know when that was there. When I lived in the country as a child, as a little girl, there were no markets.
- F: So, you had to have your own?
- B: We had to have our garden. We'd go to the neighbor's and maybe they'd give us a whole basketful for home. We grew our own potatoes. We bought flour sugar, coffee, tea. Oh no, we didn't buy tea until I was about, oh, I must have been about twelve or thirteen years old before we ever had any tea.
- F: Why is that? Because of the cost?
- B: There wasn't any or else the cost. I don't know which. I don't know which, whether it wasn't imported or whether it was the cost. That I don't know.
- F: Then as far as your milk?
- B: Oh, we had a cow--Blackie.
- F: The cow. As far as your meat, your dad would butcher?
- B: Dad would butcher and he would bring meat home. They cured the meat. Dad had built a little smokehouse. It was transportable. Put it on a wagon and haul it to the neighbor's. They would usually get hickory wood to smoke it. They just cured the hams and the shoulders of the pork, especially, in a brine, soft brine. But it would be salty enough to float an egg. They kept on adding salt until they could put an egg in it, a raw egg in the shell and it would float. I don't know how long they left it in there, several days or maybe a couple of weeks. I don't know. Then they'd take it out of there. I remember grandmother drying it off with a towel or a cloth of some kind. Then they'd hang it in the smokehouse and take three or four days or maybe a week,-- I don't know how long-- to smoke it.
- F: Now, by smoking it . . .
- B: That cured it, see.
- F: Actual smoke, fire?

B: Well, actual smoke, yes. They had a fire that would smoulder and make a lot of smoke. I don't know how they did it, but that is the way they did it. I know that this fire was in a kettle that my mother had. A good sized kettle and it was copper. She didn't use it for anything else, so they put it in the smoke house.

They would make sausage. They would fry the sausage until it was cooked through, but not brown. Then they would render the lard, the leaf lard as they called it, from the pork and they melted it. They put in a layer of grease, then a layer of sausage then another layer of grease until they had a good-sized crock full. Then they'd just pour sealing wax over the top of it and put a cloth over it, then pour sealing wax. That made it airtight. At harvest time they'd have sausage cakes. All they had to do was take them out and brown them because there would be enough grease that adhered to them to make them brown. Oh, there's a lot of interesting things like that when we were kids that kids miss today.

F: They certainly do.

B: They sure do. They sure do.

F: I'm wondering, as far as glasses at the time, when did you get glasses?

B: Eyeglasses?

F: Yes, eyeglasses.

B: Eyeglasses. I don't know. I think the doctor furnished them. Now, we had an uncle, my mother's brother . . .

F: Not too many people wore them though, right, because of the cost?

B: No, not many wore them. They did without them. A lot of people couldn't see too well. But this uncle of mine, a brother of my mother's, he was the second youngest of the family. He was in his, I think, in his late thirties when he fell under a hay wagon and was bumped on the side of the head by the wheel. That's as I remember it. He kept losing his eye and couldn't see and couldn't see. Finally, my mother and grandmother took him to Pittsburgh to some doctor. He said that the eye had been injured and that they couldn't save it. It was too late. If he had gone earlier they might have done something about it. Well, eventually, over maybe I would judge a year and a half, he lost his sight entirely. He was almost

totally blind.

Well, he lived with grandmother until grandmother couldn't keep house any longer for her and Charlie. So, they came to live with my aunt in Ellwood City. He hadn't been very well. The doctor couldn't find anything the matter with him.

They ate their supper. They had a big kitchen and a sitting room and two bedrooms on one floor. He got up from the table after he finished eating. They had to help him get his food off his plate and that sort of thing. He got up from the table and went in and sat down in the rocker. He said, "Mary," that was my mother. She went in and he was dead--just like that.

F: That's a shame.

B: That was a shame, but I don't think anyone shed a tear. They were so grateful because he was blind that he had gone. Because as Aunt Lyde said and mother too, sooner or later there would be nobody to take care of him.

F: Yes.

B: Yes, there were us girls; but whether we would have done it or not, we don't know.

F: Now, let's go back to the Depression and the stock market crash. Do you remember anything about that at all?

B: No. I don't remember too much about it only that all of the banks closed and all the money we had, we had a reasonably small--or maybe fairly good for all the income we had had--savings account, but we couldn't get a penny of it. The banks were closed up tight.

F: Was there any problem with your house payment?

B: No, no. We weren't able to make it, but the bank carried it. Then when there was a small balance left of around \$700, I think it was, maybe a little bit more, and when the Homeloaners' own loan came along, they picked it up.

F: Which bank did you have your mortgage with?

B: Dollar Savings and Trust. There were a couple of fellows here that were buying bank books up. They would buy all of the bank books they could get at a discount.

Well, finally they wanted Fred to come work for them and keep books for them. He wouldn't do it. He said he wasn't getting into that kind of a mess if he had to go on relief.

F: Now, they were buying books?

B: From the banks. In other words, say you had \$1000 in the bank on a bank book on a pass book, they'd give you \$700 for it or something like that. They were buying them up with the hope that when the banks opened, they'd get full value.

Well, Fred went over one day. He went over the things and he didn't take the job because he said he wasn't getting into that kind of mess. So, we had, as I say, this is a reasonable bank account.

We stayed downstairs until after Paul was married, which was in 1936. Then we moved upstairs and made a little kitchen in the small bedroom we had. We rented the downstairs and that helped us financially to get out of the pocket we were in. It gave us a little more income for ourselves and all around it helped. Well, that went on for about a year and a half, then the Metropolitan Housing Authority came along. That was, I don't know how much later, but anyway, we got through until it came along.

Mr. Mowery was on the board; he and Fred were good friends. Fred was an accountant, so he put him on the job there. He stayed there until he died in 1943. He went there and worked in 1939 I think. I think he was there for four years.

F: What was the hardest thing about the Depression?

B: Well, the hardest thing was to get a job anywhere.

F: Just get a job.

B: If you had one, you hadn't done your work on it or your salary was reduced. It had to be to get any work anywhere. I know Paul was an apprentice for the Standard Engineering Works.

F: Now, that's your son?

B: That's my son. He was an apprentice there for a draftsman. Well, I don't know how many months he didn't have any work because he and Mary planned to get married a year and a half or two years before they

were married. But he had no work and he wouldn't get married when he had no work. He just wouldn't do it. Then finally he went back and he is still with the Standard Engineering as Assistant Chief Engineer-- 49 years it has been.

F: That's a long time.

B: He's past 65 years old, but he's still working. He doesn't want to retire. I don't know. I think from all of the reports they don't want him to either.

F: How about food during the Depression?

B: Oh there was plenty of it if you had money to buy it. I don't think we ever went to bed wishing we had more to eat. We didn't have any new clothes, I know that. We had new shoes, because we had to, but we didn't have any new clothes of any kind. We made do with what we had. I guess we were fortunate we had enough.

F: Do you remember any of the tragedies that happened during the Depression years?

B: No.

F: How about this Lindbergh kidnapping?

B: Oh that, I remember that, yes. That was a horrible thing. Yes, I remember that distinctly. I can't think of anything. I just can't think of them.

F: This show is going to be on this year by the way. I don't know if you know about it. It's going to be on TV.

B: Yes, it's going to be on TV.

F: But the man who was charged with the kidnapping and then the killing of the baby, what were your feelings when he was electrocuted--killed.

B: I think he deserved to die. I think that was my feeling. I think he deserved it because any man, unless he was mentally unbalanced, which he might have been, then you have to forgive him. If it was one of my little grandchildren, I think I could kill him with my bare hands. I think I could, but maybe I wouldn't be strong enough I know, but I think I could try.

F: Yes. I know what you mean.

There's a couple of things during the Depression. The other thing was 'War of the Worlds.' I don't know if

you remember this. It was a radio talk show, well, a radio program that was on Halloween. I think in 1938. Orsen Wells was the man who put it on. It was talking about the martians invading the earth.

B: No, I don't remember.

F: Do you know much about that?

B: I don't remember that.

F: What about 'Gone With The Wind' or some of the big shows coming out?

B: Well, I never saw the show. Well, I never saw it because they said it was so bad and all this and that.

F: Oh, it was so bad?

B: Yes.

F: Because he said "damn" in it right?

B: He said something in it and they were just a little bit too intimate or something like that. But anyway, compared to what we have now it was peace and joy. I'll tell you some of them are . . . Some of them, I wonder why--we have some common sense--we ever sit and look at them, but we do. A lot of times I turn mine on and get the 6:00 news. Then at 6:30 I turn it over to John Chancellor because I like him immensely, so much better than Walter Cronkite. I turn it off at 11:00 and half of the time I can't tell you what's been on because I'm sitting over there making quilt patches. (Laughter)

F: Well, do you remember, as you were going into World War II, how the nation changed and all? How the people talked about Hitler and Germany?

B: Yes, yes, they talked about Germany again and about Hitler. I know the American people said Hitler will never win. We won't let him win. I think that was true. I think they went into the war with that in mind, that he couldn't win. I know I have seen good friends who went into it. A young man who was married to my niece, he went in and left a little girl two years old. Every the she saw anybody in uniform or a khaki uniform of any kind, "Is my daddy still in the war?" She wanted her daddy so badly.

While he was serving his country in the war, his wife, the mother of this little girl, worked at the tube mill at Ellwood City. She went down in the pit and greased the mill machinery. That's what she did. She

wore overalls and a cap over her hair. She had the most beautiful brown hair you ever saw. She'd wash it and she'd just pinch it like this and she'd have waves all over her hair. It was just beautiful. Today she wears a wig because she has no hair. She's 57 years old.

F: Because of being down there working with the machinery or what?

B: No, on account of a blood condition she had.

F: Oh, I see.

B: She has the same kind of heart condition that I have, angina pectoris. She has a distorted or enlarged aorta and she has a bad blood condition. She takes practically the same medicine I do, but more of it, and a couple of different things that I don't take.

F: Did you see any change between, let's say, you said you lived through five wars.

B: Yes, well go on with World War II. To be truthful, I don't remember too much about it. Well, Adolf was in it and a couple other friends. I had had sons that were in it. But somehow it didn't mean too much to me and neither did the Korean War. See, that would make the fourth one. Then what was after the Korean War?

F: Yes, that would be the fourth, Korean. Then the fifth would be Vietnam.

B: Yes, then Vietnam.

F: Now, as far as looking over those five wars, well in which war would the Americans have been so gung-ho that they wanted to get into it? Which one would it have been? If you had to choose between one of the five?

B: Oh, I don't know.

F: Or were there always people who didn't want to get into the war?

B: Oh there were always people who did not want to get into it. There were always a lot of these young men that were drafted that did not want to go. They were rebellious. I know this nephew of mine, he did not want to go. He thought, "Let them fight it out them-

selves." But he lived through it and came home. We were all very proud of him that he did. He became a minister after that. He is the only close one that I ever had in the war in the Army. As I said, my husband tried to go, but they wouldn't take him. They turned him down.

F: You certainly lived through quite a bit of our history. I can't believe it. You can go back through five wars. You can go back from the time you had horses to the time you've seen men put on the moon.

B: Yes.

F: That is quite a stage that you've gone through. Did you ever think back in 1900, reading comic books or anything like this that men would eventually get to the moon?

B: No, I didn't.

F: You thought it was farfetched?

B: That was farfetched. We read comic books and we always had a newspaper. Even when we lived in the country we had a Pittsburgh paper. The little grocery man at the grocery store where we took our eggs and exchanged them for coffee and so forth, he would always save the papers for my daddy because dad had to have his paper. That's what I said to Paul on the telephone the other night. I said, "I don't know why I buy a paper, because half of the time I only read the headlines." He said, "Mom, it wouldn't be home if you didn't have a paper." And that's true.

F: Now, I was just wondering if you could pick out any one president that you would consider the best president the United States has ever had during your life.

B: Woodrow Wilson. I admired him. I suppose because he took us through World War I and maybe because he was an educated man. I don't know, I just admired him.

F: Well, I'd like to thank you very much for letting us talk with you today and giving us this information. It certainly has been a help.

END OF INTERVIEW