

YONGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

World War II: The Home Front.

Personal Experiences

O.H. 1460

Edwin Maloney

Interviewed

By

Rebecca Smith.

On

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Youngstown State University
Oral History Program
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Interviewee: EDWIN W. MALONEY

Interviewer: Rebecca Smith

Subject: World War II: The Home Front.

Date: October 25, 1991.

RS: This is an interview with Mr. Ed Maloney for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, The Home Fronts during World War II. By Rebecca Smith at one hundred Main Blvd. East Liverpool, Ohio on October 25, at three o'clock pm. Mr. Maloney could you give me a little background about your life, where you were born and raised?

EM: I was born in East Liverpool in 1905.

RS: What did your father do?

EM: Pottery.

RS: Worked in pottery.

EM: Yes.

RS: Where did you go to school?

EM: East Liverpool.

RS: And college?

EM: No.

RS: No college, okay.

EM: no College.

RS: What about how big was your family?

EM: Well, I have three children, one in Chicago, one in Seattle, and one in Toledo.

RS: All over the place aren't they.

EM: Ones a school teacher, ones a minister, and its hard to tell what the other one is she does very good, but she has a district something in the girl scouts of part of Indiana and part of Northwestern Ohio. I have five grandchildren and two great grandchildren and of course I got a wife.

RS: That's good! Where did you meet your wife?

EM: In Pennsylvania at a church convention in 1931. We were married in 1935, it might be strange to you, but we saw each other less then fifteen times in between the meeting and getting married, because we were 360 miles away and we didn't telephone when you could write letters for two and three cents. That was less expensive then having a hometown girlfriend.

RS: Well, I guess it was wasn't it. Do you remember any particular events that stand out in your memory that happened in your childhood, like for example JFK assassination in my childhood, do you remember anything like that?

EM: I didn't get what that was you said that happened in your childhood.

RS: No, excuse me; do you remember are there any major events that stand out in your childhood memory that happened?

EM: I guess that thing I think of most is after the first war the brought the battle tank into town just for display or show to show it off and there was an old glass house built down where the sewage disposal is now back of the West Gate building and the kiln was there it burned in 1895, but the kiln was there yet after 1918. This thing knocked that kiln down, that was something big for the youngsters.

RS: I guess so.

EM: Lets see, 1918 I as thirteen years old, so that was something for us. First tank we ever saw. So, I guess that's one of the things that I remember quickly. I wasn't around much; I worked at the grocery store in our neighborhood. When I was ten I got a job, like youngsters did back then, sweeping around. So, that meant that on Saturday's I was working instead of out playing with the kids or going to football games or something like. I suppose that stands out about as much as anything when I was a youngster.

RS: How about the Depression, you were 31 or excuse me in 1931 you met your wife and then married her in 1935, what do you remember about the Depression?

EM: Well, we had three soup kitchens in East Liverpool, one on East End, one in the heights some place, and one downtown. Then they got to sending free flour out, but it

would come to the central fire station and people would have to go there and get it. Although, we sold flour many of our costumers that had to have it we would take our truck and go up and they'd be up there with their flour and we'd load it all into the truck and bring it back and deliver it to them. I remember to that its hard to realize that things happened that did in our society now, I am thinking of one fellow in particular that he got, work was slowed down in Midland and he cut his telephone off because he didn't need that. The next thing he jacked his car up, which many people did because they couldn't run it, to keep the weight off the tires for so long. Things of that sort I had a customer that always bought the very big heads of cabbage because she had five or six boys and then she'd buy hamburg at fifteen cents a pound and she'd wash that cabbage and put this hamburg between them and tie it up and bake it. She said one day, I won't use the language that she did, but she said I can do hamburg more darn ways then any costumer then you got. We had a boy start working for us the day after he graduated at the only income that family had was his father worked at the Wellsville Rail Road yard that just went, and the only income was that the three boys raise rabbits and they'd dress them and bring them to town and sell them. That was the income they had, until the one boy started working for me day after he graduated for fifteen dollars a week. He worked inside a while and then after truck.

RS: Okay, now what exactly was your occupation?

EM: I was a grocer.

RS: You owned your own store?

EM: In fact we had two stores, one on Pleasant Heights and one on 8th Street. I sold those in 1950.

RS: Do you remember when the Japanese attacked Pear Harbor?

EM: Yes, that was a Sunday. We were out taking a little Sunday afternoon drive after my nap and coming back it came in on the radio about it. I remember saying to my wife, "Now we're into it". That was the start of it and then or course, gasoline was the first thing rationed and sugar was the next. I was caught over in Pennsylvania rationed gasoline before Ohio and I was going east and I had to stop at the Barracks beyond Breezwood on the turnpike to, turnpike was just opened a little bit before that, the turnpike opened in October and this was after December and I got my A card over there and it aloud my four gallons a week.

RS: Would you explain what you're A capital card was?

EM: It was a gasoline card that you had to have punched when you got your gas at the station and then later they came out with stamps, but the first one was a card and that aloud a basic four gallon a week and if you need anymore and had the right need and they were in the right mood they would give you more.

RS: Okay. How did the government go about controlling for example sugar?

EM: Well, lousy. We were kind or brought up to tell the truth about things and when we had to send in our amount of sugar we had on hand we told them how much we had on hand and now that's when it came loose in 100 pound bags or 365 pound barrels, you weighed it up yourself. In other words you got a 100 pounds and if you were honest with your customers you couldn't sell 100 pounds out of it, because it's next to impossible to weigh something like that other than seepage before it get to you. It was kind of rough, you had to go out and find ways, fortunately I had a friend in Pittsburgh that was a broker for a sugar company. He'd wiggle me our ten bags of sugar that was a 1,000 pounds and that kept us going with what we could get, but the government allotted me wasn't enough to get me through a good day's business and we couldn't get delivers everyday of course.

RS: What other products in your store would have been rationed?

EM: Coffee, meat, cheese went with the meat that was red stamps. Those were the main items, the fighting items, coffee, sugar, meat, I guess that was all other things were was hard to get, but that was the ration stamp as I remember.

RS: When, the shoppers came into your store did they have a book of stamps?

EM: Yes, they had stamps or they for meat they had a little red thing a little smaller than a dime. That's what they used. And we would deposit them in the bank just like money, we'd make out a deposit slip with so many blue stamp and so many red stamps. Then we had an extra check book, it Armor or Sugardale brought us meat it took 2500 stamps we would write them a check out for 2500 just as if it were dollars, but it was stamps.

RS: So, the stamps that people turned into you is what you used to keep supplies?

EM: We had to put them into books and we had to deposit them just like money.

RS: Oh, I see.

EM: My father then was quite old and he spent half of his time for the two stores putting stamps in books and then we would deposit them when we went to the bank with money. Then of course the bank holiday came along and we couldn't write checks no matter how much money you had in the bank you couldn't write a check until that particular bank could open. Then your suppliers would come in and they would have a note, it possible pay us with cash or any part of the bill you can pay us, because they need and everybody was hard up for cash and we couldn't get at our checking account or anything else. But it passed over in our town, our bank were very fortunate the Potters opened in about three or four days, both of them of course and so did Potters Savings and Loan, the Union Savings and Loan didn't open. When they liquidated they paid a dollar and seven cents for every dollar that was in there so, nobody lost anything, but they never opened again.

RS: Was this one bank holiday or?

EM: Just one.

RS: Just one.

EM: It was three or four days though.

RS: Do you remember the date?

EM: No.

RS: Okay.

EM: Well, lets see Roosevelt took office in March 4th and it was the first thing he done he closed the banks.

RS: This is during the depression that you're talking about?

EM: Yes. We was inaugurated in 1932 on March 4th. So, that would be if you wanted me to guess at it, it would be the seventh or the eighth or ninth, but it was the first thing he done was close the banks and then they couldn't open until the examiners gave them a permit. They, none of them opened in less then three or four days.

RS: Where there any bank holidays during the war?

EM: No.

RS: Okay, just this one particular. Did your costumers ever give you a hard time?

EM: Oh boy!

RS: Would you like to elaborate on that a little bit?

EM: You got the next month? Well, people that got panicky and demanding for instance on sugar we got some sugar in and we started and we thought we were pretty smart and we'd make a list of all the costumers and then we'd start up at the top and work until the sugar went and give them a pound and when it was gone then the next come in we'd start there where we left off. But Charlie possible was next and he was in the store here's your sugar that we've saved for you and you were standing next there and you said that I want some sugar too and we didn't have any, then you put your heels into the floor and let us have it. I am thinking of one lady that, Fleshmen's Yeast Company sold Chase and Sandborn coffee we didn't buy it from them because they sold to the dealers that couldn't buy, we bought ours from the Chase and Sandborn Company and of course coffee was one of the worst things. There was a lady waiting for a street car right at our door and the yeast man was bringing in the yeast into us, Fleshmen's Yeast, and he was bring it in a Chase and Sandborn case, wasn't full but that's what he brought it in. The lady was getting on the street car and as soon as she got to a phone up town she called and asked

for me, “ I want you to save me a pound of Chase and Sandborn Coffee and don’t you tell me you haven’t got it, because I just seen him bring it in.” And I asked everybody in the store he didn’t bring me and Chase and Sandborn, did he we don’t have it from him. No, we couldn’t figure it and we couldn’t give her an excuse. Finally when we contacted him he said “I brought your yeast in a Chase and Sandborn case, why?” But they never told her any different, because we never saw her come back. You’d lose customers for lots of different ways. They’d come in and you didn’t have what they want or you had it in the morning and didn’t have it still when they got there. You just didn’t explain, because they were panicky, best I can explain put it, the talk like those women from Chester, when they talk about WTI, you don’t know what they’re saying even. But I had stuff thrown at me in the store. I can remember one unparticular, I am not going to repeat all of it, he throw, we didn’t have coffee and he said he couldn’t go to work with out coffee and he had a half a pound package of bacon and he throw it back at me and told me where to go with it. I didn’t go, but he seen to tell me. It was a very tough time, you see it would be different now, because you don’t know the owner of the store, he’s not your neighbor most likely and if its there and if it isn’t you don’t think anything of it. We did have some chain stores in town too, but they were small stores too. In our area we had ten A&P’s counting Chester and East End and downtown, and when they got something short in they put it out, but they didn’t have the fighting like we did, because the best I can explain it is people if they can’t hurt you, you can do anything. I asked a man once, when he was complaining about something we had in our store and I said, he had an A&P bag and I happened to know the manager of the A&P on Walnut Street, and he told me why he wasn’t buying from us, this was at the book store though and I said “Do you people go to the A&P?” He said “Yes” he had his sack there. I said, “Well, (we didn’t sell beer) they sell beer and wine up there and you go there”. He said, “They’re so big they’d never miss me”. I said, “In other words you’re telling me that because I am a small fellow I have to trip to your tune or you can hurt me, but he can do anything, because he’s big and you can’t hurt him”. Course he didn’t know how to answer me, but people we very, very panicky and mad all the time. I wouldn’t go through it again. You’d read in the paper the bits of the casualties and I was standing beside a clerk when they brought her in the message that her husband was killed, that changed the war all together, it wasn’t the same war then, it was different I was standing there with her. Of course, she was all broke up and I told her to go home and to come back when she felt like it. Why I am telling that is, not too long after that when she was in hearing distant of a women who said word for word “If the war lasted six more months we’ll be on our feet”. This little girl that is usually a quiet nice person, she turned on that women and did she take her to town. She really took her and then she came to me crying and say’s “ I am sorry, but I guess I am out of a job”. I said “ You’re not out of a job girlie, you done it better then I could”. Of course we didn’t make friends with that lady, but I didn’t care about that old, but those are some of the things that possible brought me pretty close to it, I was standing there, it was a different time to go through. It wasn’t like the Vietnam War, but then of course they got checks back from the boys in the army of course that was a day when they went to town. Getting back to the depression if you don’t mind.

RS: Oh no that’s fine.

EM: The city of East Liverpool, like lots of cities couldn't pay their employees and they gave them script.

RS: What is script?

EM: It was a little bill, a money bill only it wasn't money it was script on the city of East Liverpool. It couldn't be cashed in a bank.

RS: Okay.

EM: We could, we took it in on the bills and then we had relief orders from the county. The county didn't have any money to pay them and we were getting to the point that we had a pile of script because only the local wholesalers would take it. None of the people we bought from, Procter & Gamble and all those people and the main wholesalers we bought from was from Beaver Falls they wouldn't take it. We were to the point that when we paid for our stuff there was nothing left. A many a week I went home with nothing because I didn't have anything to pay myself with. The script was all good in the county and then we learned that the county was paying the chain stores because they demanded it. Then the county said you can pay your taxes with it. They put a notice in the paper that you could pay your taxes with it. Oh, boy I thought I was in clover then. I went to my customers that had money or that had some money to pay their taxes it cost them 50cents if they paid at Potter Savings and Loan and I said I'll pay your taxes for you and you'll save the 50cents if you give me the money and let me go out to Lisbon and pay them for you. So, I had a couple of doctors that paid their taxes with it and so, I got myself all fixed up and as happy as if I had good sense, I had about 2,000 dollars of taxes and welfare orders and on my way to Lisbon. My brother went with me and he was kind of a quiet fellow too and we went out there, and the little short so and so, said you can only pay your own taxes with this.

RS: Ah-oh.

EM: I said come off of it Mister the paper says you can pay county will except county welfare orders for taxes and it don't say your own or anything else and I want my check. He had something smart to say as if we were asking for relief and my brother being a quiet fellow reached over and got him like this.

RS: Grab his necktie.

EM: He said " You little shrimp we're not out here for welfare we're out here for what you owe us, now you totsee down and give us that check, because you told us in the newspaper you will." He was pretty well scared and after waiting about and hour, hour and a half we got our check. So you had to result to all sorts of tricks if you were in a business and trying to help your customers and stay in business. The script from East Liverpool they paid it off so much at a time, which they did the best they could, the fireman got it, the policeman, the street workers, and so on. They didn't have any money

to pay with. I often wish I would have saved a piece of the script or some of the stamps, but I didn't.

RS: Yeah that would be something to have.

EM: I'll tell you we had another problem with several families with the men out and several of them getting married just before they go or a little before they go.

RS: You're talking about the war now.

EM: I am sorry I get mixed up my mind drifts like that.

RS: Oh that's okay.

EM: But if folks can't realize what those two things was that we lived though, it was good to live through, it was good to live through it was different. We don't waste; silk stockings were something that people women actually got into fistfights in the store over these stockings.

RS: Did they really?

EM: They'd get a few stockings in, I remember telling my wife when the war started I worked in the store during the first war, just as a boy, but I could see what was going on. It wasn't anything near like the second it only lasted April 1917 until November 1918 so, you know that didn't give people enough time to get very mad. I said lets start in our house lets buy it if we can get it and if we can't we'll do without it and not make ourselves unhappy over it. So, that's what we did. She tells me that she got down to she didn't have a good pair of stockings to put on and she seemed to get by. We couldn't use coffee at our house and people would call up our home, she didn't work at the store so she didn't know many costumers, but the name was in the phone book and she was called up many, many times " I guess your getting all the coffee you want or all the butter you want" and that kind of stuff. So, that's the stuff we went through. I was on the Cleveland Area Price Board I was the only merchant on it.

RS: Okay, excuse me I need you to explain exactly what that was cause I have no idea.

EM: Well, we had price controls you know, federal price and wage controls and if something was priced at 25cents that's as much as you can charge for it without violating the rule. They wholesale prices were priced too that way, but it didn't always worked that way. If you turned a wholesaler in and you needed him next week; we tried to keep our things at price, we had a lady that in her spare time checked prices for both stores no matter what they coast, so that we would stay in order. When I was on the price board we would bring; the district was divided into divisions now our division here met separately from the Cleveland division or district, and we had a lady from Lisbon who had a not too good a reputation that was chairman and they would nit pick. In other words if you were a customer and you were out of sorts with me you'd try to find something you could

report. I think of a couple of items a fellow had a little store in East End by Dry Run that's just a gas station with some shelves in it and he was turned in for selling, he was turned in his third time, the last time was for selling a 46oz. can of tomato juice for 27cents and it was ceiling at 25. So, he was brought before the board and of course I was the only merchant on the board and this women said " your charged with selling this tomato juice", "Yes", and I said "Do you have you bill for what you paid for that?" and he brought me a bill that was at least three month old with one case of tomato juice that a big can 46oz, 12 in a case. I said, " You mean this is the last you bought?" and he said " Oh yes, you know I don't sell very much I just have my gas station and a few things." I said, "are you sure?", " yes, I looked, I am sure that's the last I bought", "do you have any left?", " oh I might have one or two or three cans, I don't know". " In other words you've sold eight or nine cans since you've got this", " yeah". The woman threatened, his third trip there she had the power to close him up, she said we're going to have to close you. I got on to it, your going to close this man that's trying to make a living, because he cheated the poor public our of two cents a can for eight or nine cans over these couple months or so. I said what will you do if you have to close the store Mister, he says I have no other income, and there wasn't social security then, I said in other you might have to go to the county for help is that it. " I don't know I don't suppose that anybody would give me a job". Then I put up the argument that for seven or eight cents you would put this man on relief and she reported to the Cleveland Area for hampering her investigation and this and that. When I went up to the next meeting in Cleveland they brought it up I say's we'll settle it right now I am quitting and walked out.

RS: Did you really?

EM: We dealt with the Armor Wheat Company they had a place in town where the post office is now, they done some smoking of meat there too and we bought some meat from them and they made a cleanser Light House Cleanser, you know what Dutch House Cleaners is?

RS: Yes

EM: That was like that, but it wouldn't sell. Not worth a hoot. We didn't even keep it, because it wouldn't sell, but some how when we would get an order of meat from Armor there would be one or two case of Light House Cleanser with it and if you said anything about it, next week when they might have just run out of meat when they got to your order, you know. These were ganging up in the cellar and I hesitate to say how many cases we had of it, it was cheap stuff and so one day we decided not to have it on the shelf to leave off the shelf all together for two or three weeks, then we took some to each store and made a display of it on the floor and with a price on it and put limit two to a costumer. Well, that was the magic word if it was short buy it, you see. We about once a month would bring out Light House Cleanser with limit two per costumer and we got rid of it pretty much that way. That's crooked merchants. Then we had a gas problem. We only had three trucks and a little car that went between the stores and we couldn't get, we had to make a route out for each delivery route, say we where going up this hill on Friday we had to make a map of the stops that we regularly made here and what the mileage was

when the truck back from that days routes and for that was sent in to some place they figured how much gas we should have. They gave it to us, but it wasn't anywhere near enough, because I suppose they figured the same amount of gas for Salem as they did for those hills, so we weren't close to enough. I was up in the little building, the top floor of the building and talking to Harold Barts who was kind of the head of the rationing affairs here, and he was something else to deal with and I looked out the window and seen a truck for City Beer going down Market Street and I said how do they get along with their gas? Well, their not rationed, he says you know delivering groceries is not a necessity. That was Harold Barts you had to know him to see it. I said okay that's all right. Well, when you went to City Hall, the people went to get their rationing books they would say you have four in a family so you get this many stamps; so they would cut the extra stamps out of that book you understand, so you got your amount and Charlie had ten kids and he got more.

RS: Okay

EM: Then they'd throw those gas stamps in, I made a mistake there I am talking gas and I am talking kids that isn't right, you got four gallons of gas was basic for your car if you had a special need you got additional if you had to drive to your work or your worked in a car yours would be different then his maybe. Well, these people are all dead now, there was a fellow by the name of _____ that was a engineer at Homer Laughlin and I knew him and I knew his daughter, we were very friendly, and she was the one that trimmed these ration accounts. So, every so often some of those ration stamps didn't get in the wastebasket and I got them. So, that put me back in business for my delivery trucks it was dishonest, but I felt they were dishonest with me so you fight fire with fire. That's what happened there and so those are just some of the other things that we had. Tires were also rationed and I get to needing tires and I found a place out beyond Salem one of those little places out there I can't think of it and they had a wrecking place out there and he would take tires off of the cars he had there while you there, but they weren't tires that came on that car. If somebody would come he made sure that he took them off the car so that if an inspector or anybody was there he was selling those tires off that car, they weren't new. So, that's what kept us in tires I came back with about eight or ten that day. I made sure they were all the same size, so that's how we got along with tires.

RS: Well, that's very interesting.

EM: So it was a tricky you had to always be looking out and then I got a head of meat pretty well. I kept that because you wouldn't get enough to ... no way of getting any meat except from the wholesalers and they were in an offal shape, you'd get a piece of meat here, a steak, and you'd put it on the scale, but first you'd take the price of it and then you'd take the amount of the stamps. I forget the amount, if it took seven stamps or points for a piece of beef steak then you'd go to your scale there to the number seven and that would show you how many stamps you need for that. So, that's the way you sold it, but then knowing a lot of farmers and doing a good bit of farm trade out through the area here, a farmer that would kill a beef and didn't need it all himself I would buy what was left of it and I didn't give him stamps he didn't want it, or if somebody else was killing a

hog I would buy what was left of it. I can think of one fellow we were quite friendly he came there when I was a little boy to the store we bought potatoes and stuff from him. He wanted to dress a couple of hogs, he'd dressed two of them and take what he wanted out of them just maybe a ham out of one, so he'd be honest his con-chance was clear and what he wanted out of the other one and I'd get the rest of it. That kept me ahead in red stamps, so I didn't need them. So, you had to do all sorts of things to keep up. I don't know you could stretch that out a long time, as I told you. Basically people were hysterical and unreasonable if they couldn't get something that they wanted. See we're not used to doing without in our country and we weren't then either. Then cigarettes was another one, one particular women she hated cigarettes and she would groan all the time, but her son-in-law smoked. He didn't even live in the area and we hardly knew him, but she would come in and want cigarettes for him and she wasn't a cigarette costumer you might say. So, that meant you didn't have to supply your regular needs for your customers all your customers were wanting more then their need either to help somebody else or to get more for themselves. The easiest way to sell something was to make believe it was scarce. Just like I told you on the Light House.

RS: I am going...

EM: I kind of forgot myself once in a while and put something out there on sale that wasn't scarce.

RS: I want to stop here and turn the tape over.

RS: Okay to continue with this during the Gulf War last year all through town we displayed yellow ribbons and we had rallies to show our support toward the boys in the Gulf. Do you remember anything like that in East Liverpool?

EM: No. The only thing I remember that people had flags around and if there was a casualty in the house they would have a gold star, white in the center and surrounded by two bands of red and blue and then the gold star in the center if there was a casualty there. They had an organization called the Gold Star Mothers that met kind of regularly and one of the things was rent controls...

RS: Rent control?

EM: If today was the day, you had to put what you were charging for rent today and that created your ceiling and you couldn't charge any more then that. In some places if you were caught with your rents too low you would be stuck with that and you still had to make necessary repairs. I was called up before the board once, Mr. Wiley our chief for this area and he'd be in East Liverpool at certain times to answer all the complaints and a tenant up one East State Street we were stuck with low rent there and his toilet seat cracked and he came down and wanted a new toilet seat and told him I can't buy you a toilet seat, because the ceiling, my ceiling is too low and I'll give you what they would have cost before the ceiling, but that's all I'll give you. Well, he reported me and I told Mr. Wiley I didn't refuse to buy him a new seat, I said I'd give him two or three dollars is

what it would have cost then, they were much more, and he said that was the same as refusing, so we took a half hour to argue that one. I say most of these people are dead so I can say anything.

RS: I guess you can.

EM: We had about six or seven rents that were too low and my brother and I, his wife was away and I wasn't married, we got a meeting with Mr. Wiley after his regular meeting in the afternoon. We have to all eat so lets go down to the Hotel and get something to eat and then we'll go down to my brothers house and we'll take care of things because his wife's gone. What Wiley didn't know was that I told the waiter you keep this fellows glass filled up. My brother and I didn't drink and he was giving us ginger ale. Wiley's glass would get 2/3 down and he'd be back there filling it up. We got to my brothers house we were in pretty good shape, we explained to him our problem and he was agreeing with us as much as he could and we got a little bit of raises on those houses that night and all it cost us was getting Wiley's tongue a little thick.

RS: Do you remember having any air raid drills here in East Liverpool?

EM: Any what?

RS: Air raid drills?

EM: I don't remember of any drills. They put electric boxes out of our stores with a key that the warden in our area was supposed to if there was a problem to reach up and turn that out, they were night-lights. We had no air raids that I can remember of.

RS: What about black outs did you have those?

EM: We had black out training. That's why we had a warden to be able to turn those lights off if nobody was at the store. Then we'd put some dark blinds up if you couldn't put your blinds all the way down. All the stores had a key box outside, up on Pleasant Heights they had a warden for Pleasant Heights General where the cemeteries are and out in Lancroft they had a warden and his job was to go around and see that the lights were out. And when he came to a store that wasn't open he had his keys that would fit all these boxes and that would have to be in reach of him. I can't remember any raids, but we had training a couple training sessions of black outs, to see and then the wardens would check to see that all the lights were out.

RS: And what happened if they weren't?

EM: Well, I don't know of anything. They'd come and tell you about it, but I don't think anybody was penalized for it. I think it was the warden's duty to come and tell you hey you didn't have your light out last night. And they turned ours out because there wouldn't be anybody at the store.

RS: What was your impression of President Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and MacArthur?

EM: I didn't like him.

RS: Roosevelt?

EM: No.

RS: How did you think he handled it?

EM: I feel he done a great job I just didn't like some of his tactics I didn't like his sneak raid on Pearl Harbor when he knew it was coming two or three or four days. I didn't like a lot of his alphabetical things, but when he would get on the radio and say "My friends" everybody got on their knees. He had the charisma that nobody had he was our Hitler. Don't forget Hitler is like a German Jew that I knew, he said as a German I LOVE Hitler as Jew I HATE his guts.

RS: Very interesting.

EM: Because he came in and took over after General Heindenburg was made chancellor after the war and he was way in his 80's and he couldn't operate things and they were eating their dogs and starving and Hitler came up and promised them something and gave them something. I have no use for Hitler he was the wicked man that ever lived, but Roosevelt was our Hitler. He came up when we were in the depression and he gave us something and I think broke the pride of the country. He said, " We owe you a living", which I always felt that we only owed you the opportunity of making a living. And he done a lot of good things he had the Works Project Administration the WPA, that done a lot of good things around and in our town too. Our city hall was built during that time on federal funds a lot of those alphabetical jobs there. They cleaned up parks and they had ten men for every five that was needed of course, but they did a lot of work instead of loafing just getting a food stamp or, they didn't have food stamps then, a relief order. That was a good thing, his price controls had to be, of course price and wage controls that wasn't too popular, because everybody wanted price controls, but nobody wanted wage controls, they have to go together they can't be separated. But I was never a Roosevelt man no.

RS: What about Eisenhower?

EM: I thought Eisenhower was a wonderful person, but he wasn't a good president. He was an army man that spent most of his life time out of our country and came back and because he was a hero was elected president. He was a republican and I am a republican, but that don't make any difference. We didn't elect the best men; Stevenson was a much better man.

RS: How did you think Ike was as a General?

EM: As a General I thought he was a great general. I thought he was right next to Macarthur as far as; of course I am a poor one to talk about army I was never even in the army.

RS: Speaking of that did you get a deferment for World War II, why weren't you in the army?

EM: Well, in the first army I was too young the second army, the second war in 1941 I was 36 years old. I had to register, but since I could only see out of one eye then I was classified as 4F, they'd have to get down pretty far to want me and that didn't bother me either.

RS: You had mentioned something about a German Jew; did you know this man during the war?

EM: Yes.

RS: Was he living here?

EM: Yes.

RS: Was he aware of what Hitler was doing to the Jews in Germany?

EM: Yes, because he was over there during the last part of the first war in Heindenburg's reign and he had seen what Hitler had done when he came into power. He done something that Roosevelt did, he started building highways. He built the first turnpike, as we know it today in the world The Autobahn. He built it; it was found out later that he done it especially for a military road and he formed the Voltzweigen Company or rather had it done, because he wanted a car built that was available to the working man and if you remember the Bug that was it. He done a lot of good work until his true self came out and power got the best of him. So, they were two doing the same thing, both ended up with a war on their hand. So, their pretty much, I am not trying to compare Hitler with Roosevelt all the way, because Hitler was the wickedest man that ever lived, in the millions of people he exterminated and some people say it was a myth, but it was no myth. I saw pictures that were taken after they went into Auschwitz; Paul Bloor from Liverpool was in the army and his company was going in to fast for the Germans to get Auschwitz cleaned up and done away with and he brought pictures back that he took of dump truck loads of body's to another place to be dumped, just like it was coal into a huge ditch that was bulldozed out and then they just bulldozed that over you know. And he had pictures of the furnaces, the gas chambers and he enlarged them, but like this and I had them in my hand so it would be pretty hard to try and convince me that it didn't happen, the Holocaust. There's a book written by a Chicago professor of the University of Chicago that says it was all a myth. We had a minister in our area that believed it and was buying those books or ordering them until our store refused to order them for him when they found out what they were, that said it was a myth. That fellow talked to me

and tried to tell me it was a myth when I had pictures in my hand that a man I trusted took, I just told him you don't have enough breath left to convince me Mister.

RS: How did this German Jew, this friend of yours, how did he get out of Germany?

EM: I can't answer that, I don't know.

RS: Okay.

EM: I do know that he was in my Sunday school class cause up until pretty much up until the War ours was a German church. One side of my house was born in Germany.

RS: Oh really.

EM: So, that's the reason I am interested in some of it. He was caught over there and got out some how, I don't know before the war, he couldn't have got out much more before the war started. But he got out, but that's the statement he made. Word for word: As a German I love him, as a Jew I hate him. That would be, of course later, later when the war started I don't suppose he had quit the backing he did, but if he didn't the world couldn't keep on with one man. If I have any relations over there I say there as much to fault as anybody, because they followed. But he could talk for hours to a huge crowd of people and have them hypnotized so to speak. If you look at a picture any time you get a picture of Hitler look at it real close and long look at his eyes.

RS: Okay

EM: His grandmother when he was a boy said supposedly that boy's eyes just stopped me and that was his grandmother. And if you look at Hitler or get a close up picture his eyes just poke through you, he hypnotized you so to speak. People would, I never saw them, I wasn't in Germany during that time, I was only in Germany twice and that was after the war, but they tell me that he would just have the crowd at attention for those long, long speeches, I'd listen to part of them once on radio.

RS: Do you... oh I am sorry go ahead. Do you remember VE day, Victory over Europe day?

EM: Oh yes.

RS: Can you describe what happened when you got the news here?

EM: Well, there was quit a lot of excitement. Everybody knew it was going to be a terrific loss of life, but everybody was excited about and of course we didn't have television, but we had radio that we could get news on. Walter Cronkite was over there as a war correspondent and Ernie Powell, no, not Ernie Powell the second war. What was the man's name that only put out movies? I can't think of who he was, he was very popular. He was over there; he kept up with news on radio we had time to listen and the

newspapers of course. It was excitement; people followed the war, but maybe not the same the way they did the Dessert Storm because it lasted for four years. Casualties every street you might say had its mark on it from it. Every family had somebody likely that was either in it or most likely a causality. It was just excitement, when the war ended everybody went to town come to think of it they must have, because I wanted to bring my mother up. I said if it was anything like the first war it will be something and I went to bring her up and I went around and came down Fifth Street. When you come down Fifth Street less then a walk, because there were so many people down town just a hollering and a waving and that was something. It was quit exciting; it should have been of course. The town was wild in other words.

RS: Had the town done anything to support the hometown boys in the war?

EM: I didn't get that.

RS: Had East Liverpool its-self done anything to show support for the boys from East Liverpool that were in the war?

EM: They built the monument down in front on City Hall.

RS: Okay.

EM: And that all of that war, I think that's a combination of all wars, isn't it? I don't know of anything else that was done. Oh the War Memorial out at River View Cemetery was built for the Civil War, but that's for all wars now. That's a good place to raise mosquitoes until about thirty years ago and they made a beautiful chapel out of it. Interruption. He tried to write a letter to every service man in East Liverpool and it might have been the same letter, I think it was. Nobody knew it much until after the war.

RS: Do you remember hearing about the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima?

EM: Oh just the news from it and how terrible it was. I don't know as I remember anything of great excitement except the headlines in the newspaper and the radio. Personally I always felt that our government should have went over and tried to explain to the Japanese that this is going to happen if you don't stop this, instead of actually dropping it, maybe it wouldn't have worked. But don't forget we killed the most people at one time then any other time in the history of the world. It is questionable to debate whether there are that many people in the world or not because there's only less then five million people in the world during a typical day. That was all it was, news of it and hoping it would end the thing, but it wasn't too much as I remember.

RS: Well, are you saying that at the time you did not feel that we should have dropped it, that we should have given them a different warning first?

EM: I didn't agree with it and don't yet. I agree with it if everything else would have failed, because if they would have had it they would have dropped it. I've always thought

that maybe they should have tried to convince the Japanese government that they had the weapon and that it could have been done, because there was another country in these cases that is always in between, like Switzerland in Europe they were the in between, they weren't in the war, you know, they were the in between in the second war with Europe. That's my opinion.

RS: That's fine.

EM: And you don't have to agree with it.

RS: When the war was over with and the boys came home did East Liverpool have any kind of a rally for the returning soldiers?

EM: I don't remember, they had parades of course on Memorial Day and they bigger then they are now. But I don't remember anything that was planed for them.

RS: Okay. Okay, I am just about finished here, is there anything else that you can remember that you think might be important?

EM: I'll be thinking of things for the next three or four days. Well, down at the Wellsville rail road yards they got to hiring women. Do you remember the saying Rosie the Riveter?

RS: Yes.

EM: Well, that started then. Because they had women working, I can remember one costumer, she was a cracker jack. She'd come from work with her hair bandage in a bandana and her face dirty with grease and she wouldn't bother cleaning up before she stopped in the store. She was a corker she said everything funny. The term then Rosie the Riveter started at that time, because they didn't have enough men to fill the jobs. Didn't they do that at the Mid-Land Mill too? Seems to me the Wellsville yards did repair work on engines and trains there. They housed almost 900 men at one time. But I think of another fellow that I used to turn him in, because he had lots of tools and they all had PRR on them, and I said to him one day that's my grandfather's initials. Pennsylvania Rail Road.

RS: Oh I see I got it now.

EM: That's like some place that I knew of I don't know where, it must have been during the depression they had their light bulbs kind of special made like. On the bottom where they usual had GE 50 watt or something they had stolen from the Pennsylvania Rail Road or something. But I just can't think of some general things that happened. Often times if you have something break down and it stayed broken until afterwards. We had a truck broke down and we couldn't get parts and I went to my wife's car and took all but the drivers seat out of it before she seen what we were doing with it. To use in place of a truck and left her without a car, that wasn't something unusual. People had their cars, any number of people I could name if I could just have lots of time to think and put their

names together that jacked their cars up. Not as many as during the depression, but four gallons of gas didn't go very far, because though they weren't the big cars that we had during the 50's and 60's they took a whole lot more gas than the little cars that we have today. You'd have people say if I give you some gas will you take us here or something like that or maybe if we three were going to go some place tonight maybe we'd go together and give our stamps to get gas for one car. All sorts of little tricks you had to do and just so many things you just didn't go out and say I want this. You had to do without a lot of stuff. And then they made us imitation coffee during the war it was made of wheat, what was it called it tasted offal. We didn't sell much of it, but it came out. Oleo and margarine went a leap forward there, although it wasn't colored, you can't remember anyone coloring margarine can you?

RS: No.

EM: You always remember it as being yellow.

RS: Yes.

EM: Well, it came in white. You'd come in and ask for a pound can of margarine, we had four or five kind. Some of it was made of cotton seed oil, some it was made of coconut oil, they'd call it nut margarine and vegetable margarine and you'd open the end of it, it was wrapped in paper, and you'd shove your finger in it to make an indentation and then you'd put a little capsule about that big in that for that pound and then you'd take that home and you'd put the margarine out in a bowl and you'd let it get soft. Then you'd put a pin in this and squeeze it out in to this and then you'd mix that up so that the color would be all out in it so it would look more like butter. It didn't taste nearly as good as our margarines do today. We ate it, cause we didn't have enough butter to go around and we ate oleo and it would make my wife so mad when somebody would say I guess your getting enough butter and hang up.

RS: Oh my.

EM: And actually we were eating oleo. Then, right after the war when butter first was coming, say you could buy 15 or 20 cases if you needed it and we had old sulfur cooler that's what they used before we used freon, sulfur, you know what sulfur smells like?

RS: Yes.

EM: Well, this system had sulfur running through it and one Friday night it busted some place and it left all the sulfur out and it rend all that butter and everything in that cooler, I couldn't sell a thing I hauled it to the dump. Is there anything else I can do?

RS: I think I am just about done here; I've got to... unless you've got anything else to say I am going to end this interview.

EM: Well, I'll be thinking of them for the next week.

RS: This had been a great interview I have enjoyed every minuet of it and I thank you very much.

EM: Well, you're most welcome. I hope that I've done you some good, but I am a history nut...

RS: Are you?

EM: and this goes right into it.

RS: Well, this concludes my interview with Ed Maloney on World War II: The Home Fronts.