

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Hubbard History Project

Hubbard Bicentennial History

O. H. 302

ESTHER HAINZ

Interviewed

by

Dorothy Bullock

on

November 18, 1975

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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INTERVIEWEE: ESTHER HAINZ

INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Bullock

SUBJECT: Businesses, Streetcar, Residents, Churches, School

DATE: November 18, 1975

B: This is an interview with Esther Hainz for the Youngstown State University Hubbard Bicentennial History by Dorothy Bullock at 21 Church Street, Hubbard, Ohio, on November 18, 1975, at 10:00 a.m.

H: I don't remember anything when I came here because I was only two years old; that was in the early 1900's. If you think I'm going to be specific, you're crazy.

B: I wouldn't want you to be. When you came here did you come to the house on the corner here?

H: No, I don't know which house we came to. I think it was about a year later.

B: Did your father build it?

H: No, it was there. T. R. Mathews owned it; I don't suppose you remember him?

B: No.

H: He used to have the store down at the northeast corner of Main and Liberty Streets years ago.

B: What was it then?

H: It was a general store.

B: Oh, I don't remember that.

H: It was there for a good many years. He owned quite a bit of property in Hubbard at the time, among which was this house over here which my folks bought from him. It had been in a fire at one time. I don't know whether it had been repaired before the folks got it or whether they bought it in that condition and repaired it. I do know that at one time they did some remodeling of it. I remember there was a high wind storm and things were just propped up against openings. I was so afraid they were going to blow in on us. That kind of memory a kid has.

B: Right.

H: I went to Sunday school at the Methodist church, and that was the old church. I don't suppose you remember that, do you?

B: No.

H: That was a frame building, it wasn't very big compared to what we have nowadays.

B: I don't suppose.

H: There was a main sanctuary and then there was a smaller room behind it which served as a Sunday school room for all classes, all ages.

B: You mean all together, or were they divided off?

H: No, they were divided off. I remember our class being at one age, I don't remember at what age now, meeting in this end of the building just grouped around the teacher. There were about a dozen of us girls, about ten or eleven years old.

I can remember the dinners they used to serve in that church. I can remember the fun the women had.

B: I'll bet.

H: That was my mother's group, the "Ladies Aid" they called them then.

B: They had a kitchen in the basement of this church then?

H: No, I don't think there was much basement to it. The kitchen consisted of a stove probably, or maybe two stoves, I don't remember that, and also probably someplace

to wash dishes. They also put up tables with horses, not folding tables like you have now. It was with horses and they laid out the food on that. They used to serve dinners and make money for the church. I think the women made more money than the men ever did.

B: I think so.

H: Every time the church needed some money the board of trustees, or whatever they were called then, were after the ladies to raise some money.

The day school, that was the old building. You don't remember it, I know. Your mother might remember it, I think.

B: Was it on the same spot as Roosevelt?

H: Yes. I don't know what they call them, what is this one up here?

B: That's Reed School up there.

H: It was an old, red brick building.

B: I didn't know that.

H: Yes.

B: They tore it completely down?

H: Yes, when they built the new one. It had three floors. The girl's outhouse was down this way and the boy's was down the other way, over where the present football field is, over in that area.

B: They had a long way to go.

H: When you came up Orchard Avenue and you cut across lots to go to school you went down a drop of about two feet. We used to go through that when it snowed so we could go through the snow. I wish you could have seen our outer clothing in those days; we wore those leggings that buttoned up the sides. Those took forever to get on because you had all those buttons to do.

B: Yes. How was the school heated?

H: Coal, no, I think they had a furnace.

B: Did they?

H: Yes, I'm sure they did. I'm sure there were no heaters in our rooms.

I'm not sure about the first grade, but I think Merta Bailey was the teacher.

B: How many teachers were there in that school?

H: There was just one for each grade.

B: Each grade was separate though?

H: I take that back. They were separate in the sense that they were taught separately, but two grades might be in the same room and taught by the same teacher. She would take turns with them. The third and fourth grades were in the same room, or the fourth and fifth, something like that.

The eighth grade was Hanna Gray. She was an old Hubbard resident. Merta Bailey was too.

B: Who was the principal?

H: We had a dozen or so I suppose. There was one named Gray, there was another one named Dray, and when I was in high school there was one named Benedict. When we were in high school I think it was the township pupils that went to Rayen. They were always having problems with their school board or school authorities. Some of us went to Rayen and some went to Hubbard. I was in Hubbard. Benedict was our principal. While he was there they started the instructions on commercial work, typing, shorthand, commercial arithmetic, and that sort of thing. I had two years of high school with regulation Latin and so forth. When they started this commercial work I switched over because I wanted shorthand. I had some learning to do then in my third and fourth years of high school. Miss Todd was the instructor in that. She was good, but she got into some kind of personal trouble, I've forgotten what it was, and she left. One time while she was there, she had a boyfriend who had either an agency or owned personally a Stanley Steamer. She took all of us for a ride in the Stanley Steamer.

B: That would be quite an experience.

H: I had forgotten about that until I thought of her. I couldn't tell you where we went, but I remember having the ride.

When I graduated from high school there were thirteen of us in my graduating class. Out of the thirteen I wonder how many are alive.

- B: It would be interesting. Do you know of any, are any right here in Hubbard that you know?
- H: Yes, Florence Mitchell; she married Nick Carter. Florence Carter, she lives on Christian. Florence Hamill, she's still living.
- B: Two Florences out of the thirteen?
- H: Bessie Brown. I'm not sure about the boy that lived towards Sharon named Ewart Evans. Isn't that funny how I remember that? It was such an odd name. I'm not sure whether he's living or not, I haven't heard of him in a good many years. There was Floyd Allen, I believe Floyd's dead. Do you remember him being around Hubbard? He was the short fellow with the monstrous head.
- B: No, I don't.
- H: He may be dead, I don't know. Seldon Matthews, he's dead. Ralph Fisher, I think he's dead.
- B: You must have had even boys and girls.
- H: No, I think they were eight to five. Carolyn Taylor is dead. Minnie Paeschke is dead. Ruth Vanness, Ruth Halliday, Mabel Creed, Mabel Furney. How many have I named?
- B: It must be almost thirteen. Would that be Harold Paeschke's mother?
- H: No, Harold's sister, older sister. He was the youngest child of the family. Minnie was the third. Minnie had an older sister Edith and an older brother Bill. She lived right across the street from the schoolhouse and she was always the latest one there.
- B: That's the way it was when I went too.
- H: She used to chew her fingernails when she was growing up. After she got out of school she started to let them grow and you know, she had the most beautiful nails you ever saw. You never would have believed that they would turn out so nice. She only lived two or three years after graduation.
- Carolyn Taylor died within a year.
- B: Of what, from a disease they contracted?

H: I've forgotten what Carolyn died of. I think Minnie had TB. I don't know what some of the other ones died of in the later years. It didn't seem quite as painful as seeing the younger ones go. Sel Matthews became a preacher. His name was Seldon. He was T. R. Matthew's son, one of T. R.'s. T. R. lived down here where Dr. Lurie used to have his office. Next door where there is a vacant lot now was T. R.'s brother Richard, who was Maggie Huff's father. Maggie is gone, she was the mother of Lenore, who was later Lenore Hessen, who was the mother of Mary Kesner. She had redheaded boys, you know that family.

B: You went your whole twelve years in this wooden schoolhouse?

H: Not wooden, brick.

B: Oh, brick.

H: Yes, the year after I graduated they tore it down. They didn't tear it down to get me out of there, but they tore it down very shortly after.

B: They had part of this other one built then before they tore it down?

H: No, they just had it in mind. I think they put the kids in temporary buildings while they were building the new one because at the time I graduated they did have some temporary buildings that they put some of the classes in, because the school attendance had increased to that point.

B: Was the Baptist church there at that time?

H: No. There was a livery stable at the corner of Orchard and Main.

B: Where the hardware is now?

H: Yes, right at that corner. We used to pass that livery stable to go to school. In those days men took the girls out buggy riding. We thought we were grown up, of course we were in our teens. The automobile was beginning to come in, but I remember my brother getting a horse and buggy one time and taking two or three of us girls way out to South Road for a buggy ride. We were so thrilled because living here in town you didn't have your own horse and buggy like the farmers did.

B: I suppose not. That was a real treat for you then?

H: It was a real thrill.

B: Did he rent this?

H: Yes. I remember staying overnight with a girlfriend one time who lived out in East Hubbard, her name was Bentley. She was a granddaughter of the Bentleys that used to live across the street from us. Her father was Ed Bentley. He brought us in to school the next morning in the horse and buggy and it was raining. That was such a thrill to me.

B: I guess.

H: The horse and buggy ride was such a big deal.

B: To her it was probably old stuff.

H: Yes. What else do I remember?

B: Was your school day about the same as it is today?

H: I doubt it. We didn't have much in the way of athletic activities. They just started basketball, I was in high school when they started that. There used to be a gymnasium down on North Main Street.

B: Just a gymnasium separate?

H: Actually at one time it was a skating rink.

B: I didn't know we ever had a skating rink.

H: Not an ice skating rink, a roller. The school authorities rented that for the kids to use as a gymnasium and that's where they played their basketball, before this old building was extinct.

B: There was not football at that time?

H: Yes, when I was in high school there was. They just started then. I don't know if I have my old yearbook around or not. When Benedict was there they started the first yearbook. It was blue and white; we selected the color. I'm an old hand at that. In high school we had Latin, English, algebra, and one other class.

B: Did you have a science course?

H: I suppose; I can't recall for sure.

- B: Probably you wouldn't have had that though since you switched to typing.
- H: I didn't switch until my junior year. I know then that I took commercial arithmetic, shorthand, and typing.
- B: Did they have typewriters there for you?
- H: Yes, they had the big, old, heavy typewriters. I can remember when you went to put your little finger on the shift key it hardly moved the carriage. It seemed like your finger was not going to be strong enough to lift the carriage. I remember the first typing lesson was A, S, D, F, space, semicolon, L, K, J, space.
- B: You remember that well? What did you do for entertainment?
- H: They had an occasional school party. I don't remember what they called them. Mostly the parties were held at the school.
- B: Were they dance type things at all?
- H: No, no dancing. I suppose we played games or something. I don't remember too much about the fun part.
- B: Just the work part.
- H: Yes, just the work part. That's why today it seems to me that the kids are dreadfully spoiled because mine was so little of fun. You went to school or else, your mother saw to that. If you were too sick to go to school you were too sick to go out. You didn't get to do any horsing around.
- B: Right. When cars started to come into being do you remember who had the first car in Hubbard? I imagine it was a big thing.
- H: It was probably a big thing, but I don't remember that. I just remember the first car we got.
- B: What was it, do you remember?
- H: Yes, it was an old Overland. It probably sat three or four feet off of the ground. They were so high. They were secondhand, you couldn't afford to buy a new car unless you had a lot of money, which we never did. I can still see that old car. We used to drive up to Kinsman, my mother had an aunt living there. We used to drive up there and we used to go up that hill between here and Hartford and then it was just a dirt road. If it rained it was mud. Sometimes you had one h . . . of a time getting up that hill.

B: I'll bet.

H: Some little, old Ford would come along and go sailing right past you. Those were the days.

B: I guess. Was there a streetcar through here?

H: Yes. It was built around 1900 I think. I can remember that flood they had in 1913. We didn't have high water in Hubbard, but we were stranded in Hubbard, we couldn't get in or out.

B: Between here or Sharon?

H: And Youngstown. I know my dad worked in Sharon and he couldn't get back and forth to work. We had seen my uncle off, he was leaving for India. A bunch of men from Pennsylvania were going over to India to help build a steel mill and he was one of the men. We saw him off in Sharon on the train and then we got the car home and that was the last that anybody got in or out of Hubbard.

B: It's a good thing you got home!

H: Yes. I think that was 1913.

B: Did people board the train in Hubbard ever, passengers?

H: I think occasionally, but it was so far down. In those days it was far because you had no way of going down except by walking. That was quite a little walk to carry a suitcase or anything like that. I think as a rule people probably took the streetcar and went to Youngstown or Sharon.

B: I suppose.

H: The streetcars went at least every half hour I think. Sometimes they went a little more often than that, but at least every half hour. I can remember going to work on the old streetcar. I can remember coming home on the old streetcars when they had two. Those great, big, old cars; I don't suppose you remember them? They were great, big things. They would have two at five o'clock over there to load up people and some of us would be hanging on the steps when they left Youngstown, that's how many people rode the streetcar.

B: Did they make numerous stops on the way to Hubbard?

H: Yes, they stopped all along the way. Stop number this and that and the other, stop number 21, stop number 18, stop 16. Stop 16, I had cousins living over there. Stop

19 I had cousins living there. Stop 21 was around Jacobs Road. Right up here at the end of Hubbard was stop 32 or 33. They numbered them starting in Youngstown. On this end I remember stop 40.

B: The streetcar line went up around Jacobs Road right, not in Route 7, or did it go both ways?

H: No, it went on Jacobs Road.

B: That's what I thought.

H: It went on private roadway from Jacobs Road.

B: Did you get a job right out of high school and start working?

H: Yes.

B: You worked in Youngstown?

H: Yes. I think my first job was working in the Stambaugh building. I worked for two different men whose companies were out of town. They were the local representatives and they shared an office and a stenographer. I went to work for them. The one man was in the office practically every day, but the other man was in about once a week. That was my first job. I can't tell you what the names of the outfits were or the men either because I was a scared little rat. I worked at two or three different jobs until I got a job with the streetcar company. I went into the streetcar company in the stenographic department. It wasn't just a streetcar company, it was the transportation, power, and light. It was all one in those days. The name of it at one time was Shenango Valley something. They changed the name about the time I went there, they changed it to the Pennsylvania-Ohio Power and Light Company.

B: Was this in Sharon that you were working?

H: Youngstown.

B: Oh, it was in Youngstown.

H: I never worked in Sharon. I went to work in the stenographic department. There were six stenographers and the chief stenographer. They chased us all around the building to the different men who needed a stenographer at the time. You got all types of dictation and all types of dictators, which was very good experience. You got good dictators and you got lousy dictators.

B: I'll bet.

H: It improved my ability as a stenographer or a secretary. Once you got out of that racket you were good.

B: Do you have any idea what your salary was at any of those jobs?

H: Yes, when I first went to work I worked for \$50 a month.

B: You probably thought that was pretty good, I suppose.

H: In between my junior and senior high school years I worked at McKelvey's as a wrapper. Did you ever hear of a wrapper?

B: Yes.

H: I got \$6 a week.

B: What did your trolley car cost?

H: Five dollars a month. You could buy a book of tickets for \$5 a month. That had 54 tickets in it. You had 27 round trip tickets. That was a bargain wasn't it?

B: It sure was.

H: Also in those days they had a ten-ticket strip for a dollar, which was a little more expensive than the book, but also very reasonable. If you didn't go every day you could buy the ten strip tickets. If you traveled every day the \$5 book was your best buy because that would take you for a month practically. When you figured \$50 a month salary your transportation was only \$5 so you had \$45 out of that.

B: To live on.

H: I paid board too because my mother believed in the principle that you should learn the value of a dollar and you should pay your way at home as well as out. I often borrowed, but I always paid it back.

B: And then borrowed it at the end again.

H: That was a lot of fun. I worked at the Ohio Bell up in their plant department, that was on Marshall Street. This was before I got started at the streetcar company because I worked there when the First World War armistice was declared and the town went wild.

B: I'll bet.

H: That was 1918, no I don't remember what year it was. I can't recall whether it was 1918 we got into the war or whether it was 1918 that the war was over.

B: I think it was over, but my history is very bad.

H: Mine is too.

B: Were there any banks in Hubbard when you were little?

H: Yes, that bank that is now the Dollar Bank, that was the Hubbard Banking Company. Mr. March, who lived on the corner of West Liberty and Bentley, was president.

B: Where the senior citizens parking lot is?

H: No, it was Hager and West Liberty. There was an old, big house there, a great big, old house. He had Andrew Mayers in the bank working for him and as years went by Andrew came into that bank as the manager, or at least part owner. That was owned by March originally, it was not an institution.

B: They didn't have branch banks?

H: No. It was Andrew that eventually let it go to the Dollar Bank. Andrew later married Pearl, and she was related to March. Was her maiden name March?

B: I don't know.

H: I don't know either.

B: What kind of grocery stores were there?

H: Tom Matthew's General Store, he had groceries.

B: That was groceries too?

H: Down where Weitz's Butcher Shop used to be; it was one doorway this way. Frank Shook had a grocery store. He was there for a good many years. There was one down here on the corner where the gasoline station is now. I've forgotten who owned that.

B: Where the ambulance sits?

H: Yes, there was one there. That was there when we were small kids because I remember my mother sending my

brother to the grocery store for graham crackers and he came back and he told her that they didn't have any. She said, "What did you ask for?" He said, "Gingham cookies."

B: No wonder they didn't have any!

H: When they were surveying around here for sidewalks we had a little slope from the top of the lawn to the street level. They had put sticks in the ground which they do when they're surveying and I went out there one day and went down the hill and tripped over a stick, landed at the bottom, and broke my arm. I remember that well too. My mother sent my brother for Dr. McMurray, one of the local doctors. McMurray wasn't there and as she had told him if McMurray wasn't there go to Dr. Button, he got Button, who came and set my arm.

B: At home?

H: Yes. A couple of days later he wanted to be certain that the arm was set all right so he insisted on my mother and I going on the streetcar with him to Youngstown to the South Side Hospital for an X-ray. That was a big deal.

B: I guess.

H: Mom and I went to Youngstown and he carried me from one streetcar to another. When he lifted me off the steps of the first streetcar I turned around yelling, "Come on Mom, come on Mom!"

B: You were afraid she would be left behind.

H: Yes. She had told him he couldn't get very far without her. He said, "I can understand what you mean." I think I was eight or nine at the time.

B: Had the road been paved already at that time?

H: No, it had not been. I can remember them paving both streets actually, but the Front Street was first, South Main Street. I can remember them paving that because we were just entranced with the one man who laid bricks. You never saw anybody move so fast, lay bricks as fast. He wouldn't be allowed to be in the union these days because he worked too well. He laid those bricks so fast.

B: Probably neatly, too.

H: Oh yes!

B: Did they do Church Street very soon after that?

H: I think it was several years after.

B: They did all four main streets at about the same time?

H: Yes, I think North and South Main and then East and West Liberty.

B: By then the cars were starting to be popular.

H: Yes. They were taking ground off your property for the street and not only that, but making you pay for the paving, it was charged to your property. You had to pay for it.

B: Whether you wanted it or not.

H: If you didn't have the money, it went on your taxes. We had quite a bill for the corner.

B: You sure did.

H: What else can I remember?

B: You're doing great!

H: Yes, I didn't know you wanted that kind of stuff. I thought you wanted more in the way of historical dates and so forth.

B: No, just what life was like in Hubbard and what buildings were around.

H: I'll tell you, one building is still there and that's Bessie Barnes old barn down there.

B: It must have always been there.

H: Down at this corner, on the southeast corner, there was an old hotel, did you know about that?

B: No.

H: We just called it the old hotel. It was a frame building.

B: Was this in the days where there would have been horses and buggies?

H: Yes.

B: Where did they keep them, behind the hotel?

H: Possibly that barn was in connection with it, I don't know. Where Bessie is now located French Clingan had that store.

B: Did he build it?

H: I don't know whether he built it or not, but that had been in the Clingan family. I don't know whether he started it or his father.

B: Who came to stay in this hotel, people traveling through?

H: Yes, I suppose salesmen and that sort of thing. In the days before prohibition I understand that was quite a lively place. At one time Hubbard had fourteen saloons. I don't know that of my own knowledge, but I remember my folks told me about that.

B: Really?

H: Yes.

B: We were a jumping town.

H: Yes.

B: Were there a lot of feed stores?

H: It's possible. I don't recall any other than that one of French Clingan's, that was a feed store. I don't think he had all the junk in it that Bessie has nowadays.

B: It's quite a place I guess.

H: Yes. That was a feed store. She worked for him. She was a class or two behind me in school. I don't know whether she went to work for him directly out of school or not, but she worked for him for a good many years.

B: What about a post office, was there a post office?

H: Yes, the post office was down on North Main Street. Old man Boyle was the postmaster. He later represented the city of Hubbard in a lawsuit against the streetcar company; he was an attorney. I've forgotten what it was about. He was the father of those Boyle children that lived up on East Liberty Street. I don't recall who

followed him, but one time Grace Randall was postmaster and she was there for quite a few years. Do you remember that?

B: Not really, just hearing about it.

H: I don't remember what year the present post office was built, do you?

B: No, I don't have any idea. There's probably a cornerstone down there, I'll have to look.

H: Probably.

B: Was the Methodist church the only one in Hubbard at that time?

H: No, the Presbyterian was one over here on the corner of West Liberty and Hager. The Baptist was down on North Main just about opposite the old Catholic church. The Central Christian was where it is now only it was an older building and that was torn down.

B: The one that burned down?

H: Yes. There wasn't any Assembly of God.

B: Was there a Catholic church then?

H: Yes, there was a Catholic church. We were talking about that the other day and trying to remember the building previous to the yellow brick and we can't remember just exactly where it was.

B: Maybe someone will come up with pictures of it.

H: Yes, they may. It was the four Protestant denominations and the Catholic church.

B: Okay, let me see if there is anything we missed. I think we've covered pretty well everything on here. Do you know why your parents chose Hubbard to settle in?

H: No. My father came over from West Middlesex. My mother was raised in Hubbard, she wasn't born here, but she was raised in Hubbard or just out east of Hubbard. Whether it was because of the closeness of the two locations and they didn't want to move away from what they were familiar with, I don't know.

B: Your dad worked in Sharon?

H: Yes.

B: He took the streetcar?

H: Yes.

B: I think you've done very well.

H: Good. I'm glad I was of some help.

B: Yes, right.

H: I didn't think I would be much help to you.

B: You told me all kinds of things I didn't know. Even though I remember a lot about Hubbard having always lived here, I remember some of the old things like Hagen's Bakery down there, I remember when that used to be there, but it's really interesting to hear what people a little older than me can tell. I think this will turn out to be an interesting thing.

H: I remember here several years back when Phyllis Gamosh was putting pictures in the paper.

B: Oh yes.

H: I sent her a correction one time that she never acknowledged.

B: She had something in the wrong place?

H: Yes. I've forgotten now just what it was. It was in connection with the old T. R. Mathews' property here on South Main Street. She didn't have it right and I sent her a correction.

B: You never read any more about it?

H: I never got any acknowledgement or any thank you, I'll tell you that.

B: Where did people first buy cars when they first started to become popular?

H: That's a good question.

B: Overland just appeared out of nowhere?

H: Yes, just out of nowhere. The first agency that I remember in Hubbard was the one that what's his name had on West Liberty. What was his name? Ray Matthews, that's the first one I remember.

B: I don't suppose you remember what your parents paid for their first car?

H: No, I haven't the faintest idea.

B: It would probably shock us now.

H: I don't know if I even knew at the time.

B: Probably not.

H: I know it wasn't any great amount because my folks never had that much money.

B: Right. It might have seemed a lot at the time they had to buy it.

H: Yes, it probably did.

B: Well, this has been great. I'm really glad I came down. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW