

Interview with Lurlyne Goekler
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Interview Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ls-CyyasuWA&feature=youtu.be>

[Lewis Goekler] My name is Lewis Goekler and I'm going to interview my mother, Lurlyne Goekler. We are at my home in Marshall and the date today is May the sixth, two thousand one. Mom, to start off with, when and where were you born?

[Lurlyne Goekler] I was born in Covington, Indiana, which is in Fountain County, Indiana uh, to Mamie Askren and Riley Allen. In nine-, in July the twenty-fifth, nineteen sixteen. I had three brothers and two sisters, born to this family.

[Lewis Goekler] Okay, well did you live in Covington or did you live outside of Covington and how many years did you live there?

[Lurlyne Goekler] Well I was born there, but then we moved to Cates where my grandparents had a home and then my Dad built us a home there at Cates, where I attended school. It was a small community and uh, I think we lived about a mile from Cates, and we children had to walk to school when it was nice weather. The community was surrounded mostly by relatives and uh, my grandparents' brothers lived all around.

[Lewis Goekler] How many years did you live there?

[Lurlyne Goekler] I lived there about uh, fourteen years. Then we moved to Marshall, where my Dad was a coal miner and we moved to Marshall and there's where I went to school at Pleasant Hill. The school is now gone, but I went to school there.

[Lewis Goekler] When you were small what kind of chores were you asked or required to do?

[Lurlyne Goekler] Well, we did all of the normal housework that children did. I can remember one incident when my sister Alice was born. Rovene and I had to get dinner. We would stand on a box, and we had to cook for my Dad, and he didn't like the food we would cook very well, but he ate it and was happy that we could do it. We had; Mom usually had fried chicken. We had that on Sunday when we came home from church. And we, biscuits and gravy and ham was my Dad's favorite breakfast meal. And uh, of course there was cornbread and beans and fried potatoes, which we had, and we all enjoyed the normal country food. Oh, and my Dad and Grandpa would always butcher in the fall. And uh, they had a tree with a rack fixed up to hang the hogs on, and that was a lot of fun to watch them scrape the hogs and cut it up, which we all participated in.

[Lewis Goekler] Well, then in your younger days when you started dating, what was dating like?

[Lurlyne Goekler] I'm sorry, I didn't date when I was there, but I started dating Ralph when I was

about fifteen and uh, it was just uh, I suppose the normal activities. We didn't get to do the things that the young people do now. We went to church and uh, I think the first movie I saw was at the Strand Theater and I think it was called "Seventh Heaven". That was the first movie I saw, Ralph took me to that, and uh, we just did the normal thing.

[Lewis Goekler] Okay, then, when, and where did you get married?

[Lurlyne Goekler] Oh, well I got married when I was sixteen years old in October the thirtieth, and uh, we were married at the parsonage at the Christian Church and Reverend L. C. Smith was the pastor at that time.

On our honeymoon I guess, Mom fixed us, or for our wedding dinner Mom fixed us a big dinner. We had chicken and dumplings and angel food cake. Then we went on up to my Grandparents, where Grandma always had a pot of beans on the back of the stove. That was our wedding supper. And then we went to Danville and went to a movie and spent the night there. And then we came back where Ralph had to go back to work at the garage. He worked for Simpson's Chevrolet and had to go back to work then on the following Monday.

[Lewis Goekler] Okay, and Mom, over the years I'm sure you've seen and heard a lot of historical events. Why don't you tell us some that stand out in your mind?

[Lurlyne Goekler] Well, I think one of the most, one that really stands out is the night the Hindenburg um, came down. I can still hear the announcer crying "Oh, my God, it's on fire". That was one of the most outstanding things. And then we lived in the country, we had kerosene lamps, and when the lights went on out in the country that was a beautiful sight to look out over the countryside and see electrical lights on. That was really exciting. And the airplanes, it was fascinating to hear the airplanes go over, which there weren't as many, but the boys would run out in the yard when they would hear it coming and just were amazed to see something in the air that would be flying.

[Lewis Goekler] What about where were you when the Pearl Harbor bombing took place?

[Lurlyne Goekler] Oh when um, when Pearl Harbor was bombed we were on our way to, no we were in in Cape, or Cairo, Illinois, where Ralph and Rovene Blizzard lived, my sister and her husband, and we were there, and we had my sister-in-law, Ina Allen, and my brother, Vernell, was in Hawaii at the time. And uh, that was quite an experience to hear it come over the radio that it had been bombed. And that was one of the, I think, one of the most horrible experiences when we heard this.

[Lewis Goekler] He wasn't, Uncle Vernell wasn't injured was he?

[Lurlyne Goekler] No, he wasn't injured but he was there.

[Lewis Goekler] Um, okay, what modern conveniences do you think have affected your life the most?

[Lurlyne Goekler] I think one of the nicest modern conveniences that we had, that we women have is the washing machine because it was kind of tough washing uh, clothes on a washboard, and it was quite a thrill when we did get the electric washing machine. That was a very exciting thing, and the electric iron. Uh, to heat an iron on the stove which I have done many, many times was uh, you'd get part of your clothes ironed and your iron would get cold and then you would have to wait awhile. So, I think the uh, washing machine and the electric iron was one of the nicest conveniences we had. Then I remember when the television came in. Um, I think it was, I'm not sure when, but we had gone to um, Ann Arbor, Michigan, our friends had one and Ralph said coming home he said, "I'm going to get one of those just as soon as I can." So immediately he bought a television and that was I think maybe the first one in Marshall. But we sure had a lot of fun with it.

[Lewis Goekler] Okay, I've sure enjoyed that, Mom, and I'm sure the people who will be reading this will enjoy it too.

[Lurlyne Goekler] Hold on I want to tell about my family. The Lord blessed us tremendously. We, Ralph, and I had three children, two precious boys and one precious daughter. And now I have uh, seven grandchildren, we lost one, our Jeff. And I have um, yeah, seven grandchildren and I have fourteen great-grandchildren and I have one, two, three, four on the way. So, I have been truly blessed and my family are so very precious. They have all been super kids.