

Darell Harlow

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Martinsville. My parents were Walter and Martha Harlow. I had two sisters and two brothers: Floyd and Lloyd Harlow and Marie Hills and Zola Wolfe. I was the youngest child.

Q: What year were you born?

A: April 2, 1925.

Q: Were you born in your home?

A: Yes.

Q: How long did you live in the house where you were born?

A: I was there until I was seventeen and then I ran off and got married.

We went to high school together in Martinsville and fell in love my sophomore year. After high school, I asked her to marry me. I had a Model A Ford and we drove to St. Louis and got married. She was 18. We asked two of our high school friends to go along as our witnesses. We were married by the justice of the peace in St. Charles, Missouri. Our friends had to drive back the same day because they weren't married. We stayed at my sister's house our first night and that was the start of it.

Q: How long were you married?

A: 63 years.

Q: What was her name?

A: Rojean Morgan

Q: Did your parents know?

A: No. My dad said well he said he was going to St. Louis. He must've went to the zoo and look what he brought back (laughing). I think my parents took it much better than hers did. I don't know what they said because I didn't get involved in that.

Q: Tell me what was life like growing up?

A: Pretty tough. Every-

one was really poor. I rode a bicycle to high school my freshman and sophomore year, 4 miles every morning and 4 miles every night.

I got a job working on a rail road. I was fifteen and told them I was sixteen, I worked that summer and bought me my Model A Ford.

Q: When you were a kid did you have a farm? What was a day like on a farm?

A: My dad was heavy in produce business and we put out what you call a truck garden full of cucumbers, tomatoes. He would take them to market in Terre Haute and he and mother would stay over there. When I came home out of the service, I worked with them. We put out ten acres that first year of produce and hauled it to Terre Haute at the market. Mother and dad had a little trailer and they stayed over there. We shipped it over to them to sell.

Q: What were your chores on the farm?

A: We had chickens, couple of cows to milk. There weren't too many chores to do since dad was in the produce business. We cut wood and would have to carry wood in. He had a smokehouse. We would butcher our own hogs and they would smoke the meat in the smokehouse.

My mother didn't enjoy this but when we had family down she would kill a chicken by getting it by the head and crack!

Q: What was a meal at dinnertime like?

A: It was good food. Dad smoked his own hams and we would butcher a hog every year. We would always build a big mound in the garden in the Fall and bury all of our produce. You put straw and dirt in there and that was your refrigerator. You cut a hole in the side and take your food out in the

winter. We had a pump with our well in the backyard and mother would put butter and things like that on a string and would bring it up when we needed it.

Q: How many people were on your party line on the telephone?

A: Oh, quite a few. It was quite interesting. A lot of people got on there and listened to everyone's business. It was quite an era of time.

Q: What other changes in technology have really impacted you over the years?

A: Everything. What I have seen over the years.

We were in the food business in 1996 when the computer age came out. We had to get new cash registers in our IGA store. I said this is enough and we retired. We started going to Florida. At the computer age, I knew I was done.

Q: When did you move to Marshall?

A: We rented an apartment in Martinsville. When I came back from the service, we came to Marshall. We set up a produce stand. We put a building up and sold produce.

Q: Were you drafted?

A: Yes. I was 18 when I got my draft notice. I went to Chicago for the induction physicals and I was going into the Army but when I was in line, they stamped Navy on my paper. That was the best thing that ever happened to me. I spent my time in Pearl Harbor and never saw any action at all. I really got lucky.

Q: What stands out to you the most about your time in Pearl Harbor?

A: The hula girls. No, I worked in an office there and my boss was a woman. We didn't like that very well but we tolerated it. It got so bad that I asked to be transferred. I went down into a warehouse and they gave

me a crew and we unloaded ships as they came in. It was quite a job because the crew would run off and hide on you. I like it better than working in the office. I think one of the best experiences, and he just passed away, Lee Greenwell who started a funeral home in Martinsville, he got drafted. I was in the barracks in Honolulu and I looked out and there were two or three guys sitting on the honey wagon picking up garbage and he was one of the guys. We got to talk.

Q: How old are you today?

A: Ninety. April 2. I have been very lucky.

Q: When you returned from Pearl Harbor, what was like then?

A: We rented a house out on Clarksville Road and we had two orange crates and Rojean made herself a vanity. She worked in Terre Haute. I started delivering meat and I was with them for 16 years. They didn't pay a good salary. I got promoted to supervisor. I finally got smart and got the chance to by the IGA in Marshall. I went to a good friend of mine in Martinsville and I borrowed \$100,000. Then, we went into business for ourselves. We also had Dog n Suds.

Q: So tell me about your times as a business owner of IGA.....

A: It worked out well. We worked hard and it was a 7 days a week operation. We were very successful in the store but we worked it hard. We stayed right with it all the time. We got an assistant manager and it gave us the opportunity to go to Florida while the assistant manager took over. We sold it in the mid 90s.

Q: You bought it when?

A: In the 1960s and we had it 30 years.

Q: Tell me about Dog n Suds....

Darrell Harlow

A: Oh that was wonderful. We had car hops and we did very well. I sold it to Al Wesley and then bought it back.

Q: How long did you have Dog n Suds?

A: 20 some years or 25 years.

Q: Did you start it in Marshall?

A: I was traveling on the road and they put one in Robinson. It was a very unique building. I called Champaign and got some information on how it all started. We bought the building and it was It was a good buisness. We had new employees every year. They were high school girls. Our daughters even worked there. Alot of memories at Dog n Suds.

When you think back about your life, what are some historical events that stand out to you?

I was traveling up north. They started to build these storage buildings and I went to see if I wanted to get involved in it. It was the night of the presidential election and Jimmy Carter from Georgia was elected and I could not believe it. It turned out really well though. He is such a nice guy.

Q: Tell me a little bit about your children.....

A: We had Daralea, Jeannie and Sherry were our three daughters. They all went to Marshall. Sherry married Bob Crocker and they have one son. Daralea married George Smith and had three daughters and one son. Jeannie married Larry Strohm and have two daughters and a son. We have grandchildren from each one of them.

Q: Where do you live now?

A: Florida. After Rojean passed away that next year I sold the big house.

Q: Where did you live in Marshall?

A: We lived at the old James Jones home or the Writer's Colony. They looked around Marshall to find a house to buy. We ended up taking the barracks building and turned it into a home.

Q: Tell me about the barracks. and how it was.....

A: It was four or five doors going into someone's part of the barracks. I had Warren Arbuckle worked on it. We added the same amount on the back side of it as there is on the front. We made a one bedroom house out of it. We copied our floor plan from our apartment in Florida. It was very quiet. So after Rojean passed away I had a bad frame of mind and I decided to sell it.

I had someone look at it and had a look at it. He gave an offer and I took it. He loves it out there. He sees squirrels and wildlife out there.

Q: Did you ever do any tours?

A: We did two years ago when the writers were here and they had the writer's colony reunion. We opened the house up.

The little building out there had croquet and some score sheets. One area was a shower room and the little building is still there.

Q: When did your wife pass away?

A: She passed away in 2003.

Q: Tell me about Rosie the Riveter.....

A: (Everyone laughs) My wife went to Chicago with a friend of hers. She got a job at the plant up there. She was Rojean the Riveter and she made good money. One of the proudest things, when I came out of the Navy, she saved up money and we went to Goekler's Chevrolet and bought a new Chevrolet, red, four door and paid cash. She did well. She stayed in Chicago working.

The sad part with coming home, I had a brother I just loved.....he passed away the day before I got home. I came off the train in Terre Haute and that was the first message I got and he was only 38.

Q: How did he pass away?

A: He had Empezema and he couldn't breathe. The doctor told him to move to Arizona and his wife wouldn't do it.

Q: How old were your parents before they passed?

A: Dad was 65 and mother was in her late 70s.

Q: Tell me about Harlow's market....

A: All I remember is Daralea going to the checkout line and flirting with the old men.

Q: What was Harlow's Market?

A: It was a grocery store on the south end of town. This was before IGA located at 1002 S. 6th where you turn to go to TRW at the corner. It was torn down recently. it was a nice little grocery store. When we opened that IGA store though it ruined us.

Q: Is there a Speed Wash in here too?

A: Harlow's Market was turned into a coin laundry location. There were even heated dryers in there for your hair. Ray Murphy took care of our machines. He is still alive too. The same age as me. Ray is the only long time friend I have in Marshall.

Q: What about KFC?

A: I was in a partnership and we built a new KFC in Casey. Since I lived in Marshall, one part was in Clinton and the other two were in Champaign so I got the job of opening the business and we had one in Marshall too. I worked the noon hour in Marshall and got home at midnight form the none in Casey. Rojean ran the one in

Marshall.

The KFC was in the same location as the Dog n Suds which is now the Human Resources Center.

It was never very profitable. I had problems at the KFC. Alot of chicken going through the window. The manager was a generous guy. It has been a very spread out life.

Q: What are some of your proudest moments?

A: Every 18 months we got to go on an IGA trip to a country. It was everyone that had an IGA in our area. We went to Potugal and other places. Retailers would take an 8-10 day trip and we saw alot of countries.

Q: What is your favorite place that you have traveled?

A: Portugal because it was so clean and had nice people. Beautiful country.

I had a good friend from Danville. We bought a lot of beer and iced it in his bath tub. My friends wife had to go to another room to take a bath.

Hawaii was a highlight. I got to see the barracks. The whole downtown has changed.

Q: Is there anything that you would change or done differently?

A: We were both working so much but when we got to go on those IGA trips it made it worth it. I can't think of too much I would change. it wasn't an easy life but it was a great life. We worked well together and we worked hard to play hard.