

DAISY BLOODWORTH

Interviewer: Damian Macey--

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D: This is Damian Macey, representing the Marshall Public library and the friends of the library project of oral history. I am visiting today Thursday August 13th of 2015. And I am out at Burnside. And we are visiting with Daisy Bloodworth, who is a long time resident of the Marshall area, and has also been involved with libraries for many many years. Daisy you are up.

DB: I am Daisy Bloodworth. I was actually born in Melrose and my parents moved to Walnut Prairie when I was like 2 years old. My parents were Roy and Beulah Drum. I attended Walnut Prairie grade school and they consolidated in the year 1953, it was in the year 53 when they consolidated with Marshall and there was a division between Marshall and Hutsonville and I got in the division to go to Marshall High school and I was the only one to graduate from 8th grade elementary country school.

DM: Top of your class

DB: Yeah, I was the top of my class. I won all the awards that the county gave out for that area. I think they had so many; they had to do something with them. And I came to Marshall high school in 1953, in the fall of 1953. I was scared to death. I had gone to a country school all my life, I had never been in the Marshall high school, I was so afraid I wasn't going to get to my classes, I wouldn't remember where they were, I wouldn't remember where my locker was, I wouldn't remember the combination to my locker cause we lived in the country and so there was never keys for anything. I am really happy, at the time when I was as a teenager I hated living in the country but now that I gotten older I am also happy to having the experienced living in the country.

DM: As a youngster do you remember some maybe of the chores and things that you did in the country for past time?

DB: Yes I do, I don't know if they were actually past time but I aa I milked the cows, I fed the chicken, we had ducks at one time, and my mother's mother which would have been my grandmother lived with us at that time. And that was always, you know a treat as she and I would go out and feed the ducks together and that was basic, I would weed the garden, I would hoe the garden, I would plant the garden, I would always hated out whenever stuff got out particularly pigs because they were the hardest things in the world to get back into their pen. Just about anything that I could help with, I was volunteering to do whether I wanted it or not.

DM: Do you have a favorite animal or pet?

DB: oh yes, we always had a dog. As a kid, my parents grew up in Arkansas so every summer we would take a trip to Arkansas and we visited this one uncle of my dad, one year and he had baby goats, and ohh I thought they were the greatest ,oh yes they were so cute, so he insisted that I have one and to get it all the way to Illinois, how are we going to do that. We must have looked like hillbillies I mean at the time, I don't think I was so excited to have this goat for a pet and it was all mine and it was on a crate at the back of the car. Now we would be stopped for animal cruelty. But his name of course was Billy and I took Billy with me and you know he was really my buddy. He didn't like my mother, because I think she would take the broom to him. And he started digging up to her boobs and she would get really upset with him and take the broom to him. We had a swing by the porch lying and it was the front porch and her bedroom was right there by the window swing; he would get there by night and swing and would go beeee beeee and keep them all awake. And then he got to where he started to butt and my mother because he didn't like my mother so he is giving that to me .and we knew this was something to do with Billy but as a kid I didn't think anything about it but this was terrible story whenever we went to visit my grandparents one Sunday which we usually did in West Union ,we came home and two of my mother's brother in-law were butchering Billy .we got home too soon. Ooh I was so upset just cried and cried, but of course I got over it, but that was my special, special animal as a kid for a while.

DM: Did you do most of your shopping in West Union or did you do it at Marshall?

DB: yes we did, the grocery store at that time was called trading. Because my mother would take eggs and you know, so much for the eggs and what else was left they paid for the groceries. And I remember stepping in an egg carton when one time the carton was in-between the seats of the car and it was terrible, I was in a mess

DM: You scrambled them before their time,

DB: I did, so I guess I was short on trading that particular Saturday and we usually got to go to the movies, there was a movie theatre at West Union at that time and I think it was a whole dime to go, of course they would have was a series on Saturday night and then the movies it was usually western. We didn't get to go through the week to the good movies. But it was always a treat.

DM: In those early memories, I know there were several businesses in the West union but I am not sure a while ago if you mentioned a couple of them.

DB: The theater, there was Ellis's grocery store ,there was Krock's grocery store and Marvin's grocery store.

DM: Three grocery stores.

DB: And Marvin's actually is the one that had all kinds of merchandise, they had clothing, they were part of the Walmart at that time.

DM: A general store

DB: yes a general store, and let's see they were like four taverns. at least three - one was mike's supper club and there was down town ,one of it was a kind of its period and there was down town, I remember that and I don't recall the name of the other one but I do remember there were three. And there was a post office in West Union on the corner and at that time, which years ago had been the old bank building.

DM: And there was a couple of gas stations too.

DB: Ummhhh , there was .They were on route one ,I don't remember any other right in down town west union, they were on route one and, then there was what was a drive in at our time at the corner and it was kind of a hangout place and Halloween and my birthday and on Halloween. I can particular remember going to the Halloween contest and I won the 1st place, dressed as a ghost. Oh I was so special, it's such a special thing to get 1st place.

DM: what about elementary school.

DB: Walnut Prairie. That is where I went for elementary school. But oh I remember Paul Henry Wilson; he lives in west union now. He was a classmate of mine and he and I were always in grade school together. He was there at the beginning, at the 8th grade, and then they moved to west union and he was no longer there and that is why I was top of my class.gradulate that is the only one at that time. We had Christmas plays, a lot, I remember those in particular, and I remember we had a hand filled furnace at the back of the room. The teachers had to take care of the ashes and getting the building warm, and that kind of thing. We had a bucket at the back and we all drank out of the same bucket.

DM: on the same common tin cup.

DB: yea umhh, dipper but usually we had outdoor toilets, the boys and the girls and they were quite a distance from the school, because I remember you had to walk quite a distance and of Course I remember there being bees on the grass because grass was not mowed then like it is now ,and it was tall grass.

DM: maybe a few goats or sheep could help.

DB: Might have helped

DM: did you go to the West Union School at all?

DB: No I didn't, No, just for like maybe something special that was going on. And another thing that I kind of thought would be special that would happen in the school a lot is that they would have box servers and people would take the boxes and decorate them and put their food and people would buy and it was a way of raising money.

DM: Did you take part?

DB: My mother did, I remember my mother done the boxes, I usually did the decorating but she had done the boxes.

DM: A little eating, probably.

DB: Aah because you ate after you purchased the box

DM: Aaah, those interesting things of school. You came from there then into Marshall and you mentioned kind of being petrified.

DB: I was scared; I was more than petrified. I was really scared.

DM: Did you have some particular memories in high school?

DB: Well ,the day after that I got over ,really ,being assured that I could find my classrooms, and one of the person that was always there Rosalea Wright ,she lived in west union and she was here in Marshall, at the Marshall high school, so I kind knew her ,and the Bumpes' kind lived on in Walnut prairie and she was older than I, so I joined YEAR A,I remember that.it was a girls athletic association which they don't have now and it was mostly all seniors that was in that it seemed like, and I was afraid of them too, because as a matter of fact, one of them was your wife, Eleanor, and I don't know, they had all been there. And been in that organization for a long time and I remember the initiation group, I was blindfolded and it was quite an initiation.it was quite an ordeal. Also it was we had P.E as my first class my freshman year and I was in with all the senior girls would see me oh we didn't have a bathroom at home and I didn't know how to take a shower. You got it A, if you took a shower automatically, like you know. I just knew they were all making fun of me . It was a frightening freshman year.

DM: Did you have some particular subjects in high school that you really liked?

DB: Ahh I just liked social studies that kind of thing and history, aah I remember Mrs. Bush was such a wonderful person, Mildred Bush she was just really a mother to everyone. And I was scared to death of Don McNary because he was such a big, tall man and he was a teacher at that time time, Mr. Herrington was the principal at that time.

DM: Was there a subject or something in the air that kind of influenced you into your interest in library?

DB: I always liked reading, I guess that, would be what influenced me and the interest to do that. I just thought, til I really got involved with the library, I just thought I just started off at the library, like a great job. To do that you just kind of really you know just read and whenever I got to you know after I got married, and had the children I didn't work you know but ...

DM: How did you meet the happen to meet that young man and in that year did you got married?

DB: I met that he had already graduated but he was still a kid at heart, because he always had a car. And at that time he could pick people to go to town and at that time he was always picking people to go to town, you know.so I started riding with him and you know others that were riding to go up town, candy kitchen for lunch and that is how we became acquainted and he just hang on all the time and just like he was always there. And he knows this because I have told him many times. I really wasn't interested in him, I always tried to fix him up with a friend of mine and I don't really remember - we went on a date

and we went to the movies and the grand theater in Terre Haute at that time. And I was so impressed because there was a hotel that was Deming Hotel across the street from where the grand theatre was.

DM: It was in Terre Haute House ?

DB: I am sorry, yes Terre Haute House, and they had a parking garage and he parked in that parking garage to let me out in that parking garage and I thought boy he is really up town. so I was really I don't care what type of movie we saw, I don't remember and I was just really impressed, with that. I think being a country girl I think he was a man of the world .so he's done exciting things and you know he would take me with him because he always enjoyed racing – automobile racing. He had done a lot of racing things and you know that began when he graduated from 8th grade, when his aunt and uncle took him to his first Indy 500 and after that he was hooked. And you know we went to some races together like a on Sunday ,Salem, Indiana and you know different tracks.it was alright.so we just kind of I guess we were friends and then you know, started dating and that kind of thing.

DM: What year were you married?

DB: In 56.

DM: you remember what kind of car that young man had.

DB: it was an Oldsmobile

DM: wow

DB: he always liked his Oldsmobiles

DM: I wish we had that car today. It would be a nice collectible.

DB: yes, it definitely would.

DM: so in 56 when you got married and you lived in Marshall I think

DB: yes we did, our first apartment was on 7th street, and upstairs on 7th street where English owned it at that time.

DM: Is that where Jones lives now?

DB: umhh, where jones lives now, that is where our first apartment was, it was two rooms. umhha we were married in January and we went to Indianapolis for honey moon and we stayed in Charlie's Motel, I can remember that and there was a radio that you put a quarter in and it didn't work till the middle of the night. And then on the next day that was on a Saturday we went to visit his uncle that lived in Pennsylvania Avenue and two aunties and they lived there. one aunt had never been married and the uncle was a widower and the other aunt was a widow. And we had dinner with them and they weren't expecting us at all they had just come from church. They used individual salt wells at the table .I had

never seen this before being a country girl. At the table it was set elegantly and it was a beautiful old home.

DM: Nice big homes

DB: oh yea, winding stair case and they lived upstairs. was all big for the three and they had their own space then and I just thought that was really elegant and I remember, the next morning there was snow on the ground. We had our apartment paid for, for a month, which was 50 dollars a month at that time and we had a car and we had 50 dollars in cash. That was it.

DM: So you ended back in Marshall.so what was it looking like? Was Bud working in Terre Haute at that time?

DB: He was working at Marshall for Kenny Little at a filling station.

DM: Kenny Little had a petrol station and he was working for Kernel little filling station and Ken was always good to us because he knew we were kids. And people would go there and loaf. And we had a dog as all young people do but we were told we couldn't have a dog in that apartment so we had to move because we had the dog. So Don McNary, he had a little house that was available and it was on 8th street. A little house behind the house that they lived.

DB: and that is where Brian was born and that is where he came home too and we lived there until he was about 10 months old maybe and then we moved to 9th street. 7th ,8th and then 9th street and that is where we have been for the last 59 years in that house

DB: Tim was born 2 years after Brian and that is where he came home too, the house we now live in.

DM: So did you decide to go back to work after that.

DB: No actually, I stayed home and baby sat, I did some baby sitting at home and then when kids started kindergarten that is when I decided to get out and go to work. but in the meantime before I decided to go full time I worked a little in the Tasty Freeze. and then I got a job as a teacher's aide at the kindergarten with Vera Kannamacher. And there was a child that needed one on one attention and I took care of her, I picked her up every morning and took her home at noon and in the rest of the day there was another child in the class that had problems so that qualified because he went to school all day, that qualified me to be able to stay as an aide all day at the kindergarten. The Kindergarten at that time was in the Ohio building.

DB: after that year in kindergarten, I moved to the special ed in south school. I worked for the TMH trainable special needs children and Angie Muller was the teacher at that time and I was with that class for 5 years .I think I stayed with this special aid.

DM: was it challenging too

DB: it was, it was time to move on and I then went as an aid to the high school library. And I remember Tim was in high school at that time and he hated it because his mother was at school at that time. Especially study hall at that time. Then Tim graduated and went for college for a year and then he decided that college wasn't for him. so that broke my heart because he quit school and I decided it is time I moved on with my life so I started while in Terre Haute and I got a job at the Vigo County Public library. And at that time it was on the 7th street.

DM: The old building

DB: The old library building which was on Indiana State campus. Because it is part of Indiana state campus now. And I worked there then they moved, I was there a year ,then they moved to the new building. Which is on 5th and Poplar and I worked for the library for 20 years. I retired after 20 years of service at the Vigo County Public Library. I learnt a lot, we had a lot of workshops, we had a lot of training sessions, we had a lot, I really learned that there is a lot that goes on in a library, that the general public never sees.

DM: They think it's just a warehouse of books...

DB: Right, you go in and you think it's all quiet, but well there's so much to it and the library that many people do not know about that the library has to offer. And they think it's just the library that people go out and hang out .I think a lot of times people think it is a public building, all the bums can go hang out there because they can't get enough because it is a public building. But that is so untrue.

DM: It's changed so much I knew. What year did you retire?

DB: 99

DM: It seems like it's continuing to roll over, the use of computers, and all the program. it's so much more than a book.

DB: It's really kind of hard to explain unless someone goes to the library and see what they do. And the library has to offer and all the information they can get in the library. of course now they have the computers, they can now go onto google. They don't need references librarians as much anymore, but they still need to.

DM: I asked a teacher the other day, a grade school teacher .That is there such a thing as an encyclopedia available. And they really weren't sure but I don't think they are. Everything is on the internet or the computer. so why print a book?

DB: Right!!that was a job for someone.somene would go around selling encyclopedias. I think it is expense for the schools to buy all sets of encyclopedia. More sets of one, encyclopedia type things.yea it has changed a lot and it was computerized when I retired. Of course they keep the progress, they keep changing.

DM: Just seems like everything through the computer and internet keeps evolving into a different world.

DB: Yes it does

DM: With your involvement with the library, were you involving upon yourself into programs, students, college students, and teachers at all, or pretty much more office and the entire personnel?

DB: well, I worked for the department that was called outreach department, and we would go out into the community, we had media mobile, we had a big media mobile that would do collections and we would go to stops. I mainly was in the office part which was called the extension now it is called outreach, I think and I am not even very sure that they still have that department. Because now they have mini little libraries that they have developed or rolled out in many different areas. And at that time there were also branches. And all of the branches have closed now except the West Terra Haute branch and we would go to take collections to nursing homes, we would go to places like ,and st .Mary's we would take collections to the sisters of Providence, and of course all that had to be prepared to take. so I worked a lot on preparations and I also worked in the AV department at the library and that was really interesting too, because that was the type of people that seemed like they came in for all the free videos, you know and they wouldn't return all the CDs, you know wherever, Audio equipment was available , I worked for that department for a while, I worked all the branches at different times as fill-ins, so I worked for a variety of people.

DM: Was the old building called Cunningham?

DB: It was – Emeline Fairbanks, because they were the people, a couple who donated the money to build the building and now it's used as an arts studio in Indiana State.

DB: I think so, well it has, I know when I went to work there, and the old building it had the mezzanine, the floor and the glass floor.

DB: Do you ever recall being in that library?

DM: Yes

DB: It was a neat old building.

DM: Oh yeah

DB: Marble and

DM: it had a dome too, beautiful

DB: Ahaa, it did

DM: I guess modern has to be part of the progress to do all things you need to do. Is there anything you right now you would say, I kind like to go back and maybe do that , kind of change that about a job.

DB: No, I miss friends that I made there and it's always nice to run into them. Maybe seeing people out in Terre Haute or you know whatever, but I really, am pretty busy right now,

DM: Did you have a hobby as a youngster or maybe something that you do today maybe as an extension?

DB: No I really didn't have a hobby, just kind of something that I have discovered as I have grown older, I love decorating. I really enjoy doing that and I do help a lot of friends with things like that. They ask for my advice. So I would say that would be my hobby, I didn't know I had that, I didn't know I had that talent I guess I would say to.

DM: Is there a particular individual, maybe a teacher, or just a person who was so influential to you. Really helped you steer maybe in one direction or another.

DB: Yes, that is Aunt Ellen. I love that woman she was so, Ellen Kohl, Bud's aunt. She was so and I think she is probably the one that got me inspired about decorating and that kind of thing. Because she always had everything really looking nice .I just really really admired Bud's aunt Ellen.

DM: Is there a world event or local event that you really feel is really memorable that changed your life or that you always remember?

DB: oh I think the one that was oh really devastating to me was when John Kennedy was assassinated.

DM: So many people mention that. It seems like everyone knows and remembers that and what they were doing.

DB: Yes I do, and it just seems, the world was good at that time. The economy was good and people, there wasn't this vast difference, of wealth and poor. Everyone was kind in the same, I mean you knew there were people that were wealthy but there wasn't that vast margin that there is now.

DM: And it seems like today with the welfare and food stamps, I know that they are important and that they are needed but it is just grown so much. I think that there has just become an entitlement.

DB:I just think that it is something ,no matter what, there will always gonna be people that take advantage and ruin it for the other people, because there are so many other people that really could use help but they have too much pride and they know hard work. Everything now seems to me that's it's a me generation. It's all about me, selfish.

DM: Don't you think that country living and growing up in the country kind sets you apart from that, it's me and I'm entitled to this or that.

DB: ummh I do ,you as I said, when I was a teenager living in the country I was far away from everything everyone else was enjoying doing and I was in the country but looking back on ,I am so happy I had that experience.

DM: Daisy, will all these modern conveniences that we have today, is there something that you have just got the hang or you could not live without?

DB: My washer and dryer and microwave. But first and foremost my washer and dryer.

DM: You don't want to go back to the washboard

DB: I don't want to go back to the laundromat

DM: I guess with the changes and we are all proud to be living in a small town like Marshall, if you were ever in Europe, somewhere and you said I am from Marshall, Illinois and someone said where on earth is Marshall and what is all that about. What would you tell them about our community and why they might want to visit here?

DB: I would tell them that it is one of the nicest communities around we have one of the most beautiful courthouses around, I think, some people consider clique, but all in all, people really care about people here and I just don't know if I could handle where living where I didn't know people because I am just always used to living in small areas and there are just so many things that happen when you live in a small community that people are willing to help you. If you have a problem you are not afraid to let these people help you and you wouldn't know who. It's pretty; it's pretty trust worthy. In a small town you know the people that you can trust.

DM: We've got quite a volunteer community.

DB: yes, yes, I think the street scape that has happened in town, that my husband when he was mayor ,it was instrumentally getting started, I think it is one of the nicest, things that has happened. The Avenue flags that we have for Memorial Day to Labor Day is actually an attraction to the community. I know a lot of communities have them but it seems that ours stand out some more.

DM: The thing with the street scape - there was a last phase that was done last year. It's the original program that was part of the original proposal and there got some funding and we got to stop there to. so really came about as a result of the leadership of some brothers

DB: Yes it did and Harlan Hall. I remember when that building became available, of the officer that was the head of the time of the Moose, came to Bud and he wanted him to buy but he was a person that a lot of people. He thought maybe it that influential people that were above him and he came to Bloodworth and said "you are the only one that I could offer to sale it to the city for at this price. 'He said and I don't know if Bud ever shared this with anyone and I don't know why you are doing this but I do remember and I said that is wonderful and I saw in town and I said "I am so happy" it's being used .I think we have some very nice churches in town and it is important to have church family. And I think Bud and I have learnt that more ,the years you get older, I think you learn to appreciate that more.aah I guess I am proud to say that I live in Marshall and I know a lot of people might say well where is Marshall so we always put the proximity of Effingham, Terre Haute and Indianapolis

DB: Right

DM: Daisy it's been a pleasure visiting with you and I really appreciate you taking the time out to participate in our oral history project. I've said this is not for today, tomorrow, or even next year but it is part of our history in Marshall therefore future people and generations will look at it and listen to it. So we really appreciate you being a part of that and thanks again.

DB: There's one thing, I would like to mention, and I guess I should have mentioned this before but I am very proud of our boys too. They have turned out to be good citizens and I am very proud of them because those are things that come along and that are very important in our lives.

DM: And sometimes future generations and households are one parent households, and children today, I think have a more difficult time.

DB: I think so too. I definitely do. Thankyou

DM: Thanks again Daisy, it was a real delight and pleasure to visit with you.