

EVELYN ANDERSON ORAL HISTORY

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Interviewer: Damian Macey

Transcribed by Donna Duzan, June 2017

D: This is Damian Macey and I am with the Friends of the Marshall Library Oral History Project. I am here today with Evelyn Anderson. Evelyn, I turn it over to you...

E: Hello, this is Evelyn Anderson and I was born in Marshall, my parents were Olen and Tressa Lee and my brother was Duane Lee, Duane passed away, he had cancer. I have lived here all my life, well actually I lived here until I graduated.

D: Did you go to the old North Side School?

E: Yes, I did.

D: And then from there to the high school but not the building that is there now.

E: Our high school was pretty. Then I got married and moved to Indianapolis. I have two children, Susan Nave and Rex Wood (?). When my husband died, I came back to Marshall.

D: Do you know about what year that was?

E: No, I can't really remember.

D: So you came from Indianapolis back to Marshall?

E: My mother was here and I have never regretted coming back. My children went through school here.

D: Is there a particular event that brought you back to Marshall?

E: My mother...we thought it would be a good place to raise the children and grow up in. And they have never been sorry, I don't think.

D: Going back to the time that you were a youngster, what changes have you seen in Marshall?

E: I can't think of anything specific.

D: How about the neighborhood that you grew up in? North 7th st.?

E: It hasn't changed a whole lot...

D: The house that you grew up in is still there, isn't it?

E: Yes, that house is still there, of course my folks died... then we sold that house and moved to Sixth

Street with the kids, that was a good location because the schools were close and they could walk to school.

D: I'm sure they enjoyed that..

E: Yes, they have.

D: Did you work someplace in Indianapolis before you came home?

E: No, I just stayed home and took care of the kids. I did work at the Morris Plan until I had the kids.

D: Were you making loans there or dealing with customers?

E: I was a loan officer. I don't know how many years I worked there until I had the kids.

D: Do you think you would like to work in an office that made loans today?

E: I enjoyed that job, I really did, but of course when I had kids I quit working. And then my husband died and we moved back to Marshall. When we came back here I worked for the State.

D: Here in Marshall?

E: Yes, I worked at the public aid office, and I'm not sure how long I worked there. I worked there until I retired.

D: Do you have a particular memory of something that happened while you worked there?

E: No, nothing special.

D: Sometimes when we work with the public, we have a particular event that happened that we remember.

E: Well, nothing outstanding.

D: Did you enjoy working with the public?

E: Yes, I did.

D: As a youngster, I know you must have spent some time downtown like at the Candy Kitchen, what are your earlier memories of downtown Marshall?

E: Well, we spend a lot of time at the Candy Kitchen, we ate lunch there and we went there after school, we spent a lot of time there.

D: Do you recall who owned it at that time?

E: Rademaker's

D: They owned the ice cream shop and bottled Double Cola, I think Eamer Haugh managed the

Candy Kitchen.

E: I don't remember anything after that.

D: Kind of sad, the way it looks today, isn't it?

E: Yes, they were going to remodel it.

D: I am thinking of some other stores we had downtown, I remember a Kroger Store.

E: C D and I had an ice cream sandwich place. It was where the bank is now.

D: What was the name of your place?

E: I can't remember.

D: You dipped up a lot of ice cream then,

E: Yes, I didn't care much about that, it was a lot of work.

D: Did you make your own ice cream?

E: No.

D: I remember Rademaker's had some wonderful flavors. I used to be great to go in there. Their location was in where Bill Meehling's law office in now.

D: How about the place called the Strand Theater?

E: Oh, yes, I think they had a movie every week. I would probably go to every movie, and they had good movies then, not like today.

D: What I remember is, on weekends, they would have serials to get you to come back, especially with the westerns. Is there a particular movie that you liked?

E: I can't recall any specific movie.

D: Do you remember what the price was? I remember as a youngster, it was nine cents. And then adults was twenty or twenty five cents. It was kind of a focal point around town.

E: Yes, it was, I didn't think of that till you mentioned it. I forget about a lot of things.

D: I remember that we had so many small grocery stores.

E: Oh, yes, just about every block. Of course we had Kroger's downtown, then there was another down the block.

D: There was some people call Ridpath, Bobby Ridpath was in my class, his family ran a grocery store but I don't remember where it was. Do you remember Mr. Keefer and his goat's milk?

E: Keefer Drug Store, oh yeah.

D: Did you like his goat's milk sodas?

E: I don't think I ever tried that. I remember the drug store though.

D: It was a popular place for a soda or a sundae.

D: Mr. Keefer promoted his goat's milk as a healthy food. That was kind of a good place to meet, back then. He had magazines to sell and you could take your photographs in there to be developed and duplicated. Then there was another store on the corner called Benson's, it's where the Marshall Mutual Building is now. It was a grocery store and a drug store before that and then it was Benson Drugs. That might have been when you were in Indianapolis.

E: I don't remember that.

D: And then on the south side of the street there was usually an auto dealership. Flowers Pontiac.

E: There was a billiards store on the corner on the south side of the street.

D: In the 40's you could buy three or four different types of cars here. There was a Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick and Studebaker dealership. And Clatfelter's had Hudson's. Do you remember that?

E: Yes, it was about a block away from our ice cream store.

D: Those businesses are gone but a lot of those buildings are gone now.

E: I forget all that stuff until you mention it.

D: I remember some stuff but not all of it. I grew up here. I was born in Terre Haute but we moved here, we lived at 620 Cypress St. I went the first four years of school I went to the old north side school. Then my dad bought a grain elevator in Martinsville and we moved to Martinsville and I finished out school there. So after I finished college I moved back and then moved to Chicago. A lot of things happened in that period of time that I don't remember.

E: I was in Indianapolis and then we moved to Frankfort, IN and then my husband passed away. I really like Frankfort.

D: How large a town in Frankfort?

E: Oh, they had a movie house and a park for the kids. I was just there a year after Jim passed away. They had a golf club which had a pool for the kids. I played a lot of golf. They had a dime store...it was just a nice town.

D: I've known you to be a rather aggressive golfer.

E: Oh, yeah. Should have been a lot better than I was.

D: Did you participate in any tournaments?

E: Yes, in Frankfort, and in Marshall I played tournaments. I won one of the senior tournaments that I played.

D: Was the tournament held here?

E: Yes, in Marshall.

D: Do you know how many people participated in that?

E: I don't remember, they had a girl's league and a men's league. The girl's league had several tournaments every year. It was a fun group and a fun thing to do. Then later on I got sick and couldn't play anymore. Then I sold the house and moved here with no regrets.

D: With your golf history, sounds like you were maybe a lady Tiger Woods, would you say that?

E: No. NO, not hardly (laughing) I never played that well, but that one time I won that tournament. There is even a plaque out there on the wall.....I don't know if it's still there or not.

D: I am not a golfer. I used to play but I decided I either had to work at it more or quit. So I sold the golf clubs.

E: Well, we really enjoyed it and that one year, I guess nobody was any good !!

D: Do you watch any golf on TV?

E: I watch it every weekend.

D: Is there any other sport that you like?

E: Of course, Jim and I danced all the time.

D: Oh yeah, I remember that.

E: We really enjoyed that.

D: Was there any place that you particularly like to dance?

E: They had dances here that we liked to go to. At the Legion and VFW. And we would go to Paris to the VFW.

D: Was there a particular dance that you liked?

E: Oh, the waltz was my favorite. We liked the jitterbug...just liked to dance to whatever was played. In those days they played music that was easy to dance to. Its wasn't the kind of music they have nowadays.

D: Some of the music today just seems like noise, you can't understand what they are saying.

E: I agree.

D: Did you ever play any musical instrument?

E: No, I was a majorette for three years in high school. There was six of us. Mary Ellen Koutsoumpas, Mary Jane Johnson, Margaret Daly and Nancy Claypool, Nancy Bennett and me.

D: Did you have a particular friend in the majorettes or in school that you are especially close to ?

E: Mary Ellen and Mary Alice, most of them are gone now.

D: I haven't seen Mary Ellen for a while, used to see her all the time in Tom's Restaurant. Do you have a particular memory about Tom's?

E: We were in there a lot, just eating and visiting folks in there. It's just not the same without Koutsoumpas's in there.

D: No, it's not, and I remember it being such a busy restaurant. The Trailways and Greyhound buses all stopped there to eat. It was just full all the time. And people would come from out of town for the pies and the rolls.

E: Growing up here was just great.

D: Another restaurant I remember was the Key Stone Cafe.

E: Yeah,

D: It was such an unusual building there on the corner. The front was only as wide at the front door.

E: Yeah, I had forgotten about that too.

D: Is there anything in particular you remember about high school? Is there a subject you liked better than anything else?

E: No. I took Latin but I don't remember anything else too much.

D: I took Latin too, but I don't remember any of it today. Is there any specific person from your memories, from here or anywhere, that you feel connected to or you feel a real admiration for?

E: Right now my mind is a blank, I can't think of anybody, I'm sure there is someplace or somebody that impressed me.

D: So many people say Franklin Roosevelt because he had so much to do with World War II so I thought that might be someone that you would think about. Is there a particular historical event that you feel really influenced your life or maybe changed your thinking.

E: I went to Germany for a year. There was this German girl who decided to go back to Germany and I decided to go with her. It was a wonderful thing to do.

D: Was this strictly for visiting, or travel ?

E: We lived with her family and they really treated us well.

D: And what town were you in?

E: Salzburg.

D: Did you learn to speak any German?

E: I tried, but they would just laugh at me....

D: So being in a foreign country, did you have any trouble communicating?

E: No, we went over on the SS America and came home on the SS United States. What a trip it was.

D: So you were an early cruiser...

E: It was really wonderful. An experience I will never forget.

D: When you were in Germany, did you travel to other countries?

E: Yes, we went to France, when we went over, we met a man who worked the United Nations and he said that we should come and see him while we were in France, so we called him and went to see him and his wife in Paris. They treated us like royalty. It was wonderful.

D: So you got a chance to kick up your heels in Paris then.

E: Yes.

D: In my lifetime and certainly in yours too, we have seen a lot of changes in travel, appliances, modern conveniences, is there some conveniences that you could say to yourself, I just couldn't live without it?

E: A microwave might be something we had later on.

D: Yeah, I don't think there were microwaves too far back. I had one lady say in her interview that she couldn't live without her dishwasher. And so many people say that electricity is an invention they couldn't live without.

E: Well, that's true.

D: Well, Evelyn, it's been fun talking to you. If you were back in Germany again, and you were trying to tell someone about Marshall, what would you say about why it is a good place to live?

E: Well, I used to know everybody which was nice, and it was just a nice place to live. I'm glad I lived here, glad I moved back when I did.

D: Well, it's been fun talking to you, and experiences like being in Germany and golf tournaments, I didn't know those things about you. So thank you for being part of the Marshall Public Library Oral History project.

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