

MARY SCHROEGER TRANSCRIPT

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Maury Miller Interviewer

Transcribed by Donna Duzan, October 2017

Maury Miller: I am here with Mary Schroeger for the Friends of the Library. Mary, can you tell us when you were born?

Mary Schroeger: I was born Mary Catherine Baker on May 7, 1939.

MM: And who were your parents?

MS: William James Baker and Cecelia Sullenberg.

MM: Do you have brothers and sisters?

MS: My mother passed away when she was 37, she had nine children. She passed away due to cancer. One of the children was stillborn and one died when he was two years old and then I think they spent a couple years with housekeepers, we had a housekeeper named Mary Leroy from Kansas and my dad asked her to marry him, so they got married and they had seven children.

MM: Talk about the neighborhood that you grew up in.

MS: I grew up on a farm and we had cows, chickens and pigs. We put up hay in the summertime, had a big garden so we canned, killed and fixed our own chickens. Went to school and had chores to do so I didn't have time for too many activities.

MM: Let's talk about school. What are some school memories?

MS: I went to a little school in Vidalia, Kansas, there were 3 in my class. The total school had 25 or so students taught by sisters. And I went to high school in Fairview (?), Kansas and there was probably about 25 in our class.

MM: What activities did you participate in in high school?

MS: Hardly any, we were expected to do our chores at home and there wasn't time to participate in sports.

MM: Let's talk about family activities. What do you remember doing with your family, meals, etc.

MS: We ate meals together. My mom fixed breakfast, lunch and dinner. And we would have fried chicken on Sundays, that was always a special time for us. On Saturdays we would go into a little town called Fairview, Kansas and they had free movies.

MM: Did you have any hobbies?

MS: Not really, we kept pretty busy taking care of the children.

MM: When were you married?

MS: We were married at Madagascar (?) Church in Vidalia, Kansas September 28, 1963.

MM: And how did you meet Phillip?

MS: A girlfriend and I were at an inn and we were looking for a room to rent and this Mrs. Stimple had a room so we rented the room from her and Phil would come over and visit with her son who was his age, so we met at Mrs. Stimple's house. And we started dating.

MM: And you lived in Kansas for quite a while. What jobs did you have there?

MS: We had children soon, first we had, Mary Margaret, she was born in 1964, then we had twins, Cecelia and Genevieve, they were born in 1965, Cartha was born in 1968, and Diana was born in 1969.

MM: So you spent your time raising your children. And then what brought you to Marshall?

MS: Phil's friend, Tom Richmond, had the Dairy Queen and he was looking to sell so we bought that business and came to Marshall in 1979.

MM: And you had the Dairy Queen for how many years?

MS: Ten years, 1979 to 1989, and all the girls worked there for us.

MM: And is your family close by?

MS: All the girls except for one, she lives in Sullivan, Illinois, she is an LPN and one works for Thompson Thrift over in Terre Haute, Ginny and Cecelia are working at Walmart and Diana works at First Financial in Terre Haute.

MM: So everybody is nice and close, that's nice. Since you sold the Dairy Queen what activities have you been active in?

MS: Well, I was home about two months and didn't appreciate that, so I went to Manpower in Indiana and got a job working in graphics and worked there for ten years.

MM: Thinking back over your lifetime, what person or event had a big impact on your life?

MS: I would say my step-mother, she was always giving and caring.

MM: And what historical events had an impact on you?

MS: I can't think of any.

MM: Ok, that's fine. What modern conveniences have stood out in your life?

MS: iPad, cell phones, computers. Could I mention my grandchildren?

MM: Absolutely.

MS: We have Mikayla and Michael Wheeler, they belong to Mary and Mike Wheeler; Jared and Justin Maloney, are Ginny's children; Vanessa and Nathan Smith, Curt and Diana Smith are their parents. So we have six grandchildren.

MM: My last question for you is, if you talked to someone about Marshall, what would you tell them is the reason you live here?

MS: I think it is a nice safe town, there are some people that don't lock their car doors or house doors, we have lots of pretty trees, yards are always well kept, and Marshall just has really nice people.

MM: Well, Mary I thank you on behalf of the Friends of the Library for talking with me today.