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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

LUCILLE DILLARD

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
12 January 1988
OHRC accession #88-67-1,2,3

INTRODUCTION

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Lucille Dillard
DONOR

Aug 9 1988
DATE

Catherine A Jones
INTERVIEWER

7/29/88
DATE

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INTERVIEWEE: Lucille Dillard

INTERVIEWER: Catherine Jones

DATE: January 12, 1988

SUBJECT: Life history review in Paoli

TRANSCRIBER: Catherine Jones

Jones: ...[My name is Cathy Jones and I'm here with Lucille [Dillard] in Paoli, and today's date is the twelfth of January. Let me make sure I've got everything _____. Ok. Okey- doke. Well let's just start at the beginning. Where were you born?

Dillard: I was born in Washington County, over beyond the Knobs on the other side of Salem, on the other side of Borden really. My daddy was overseas at the time, and...

J: Why was he overseas?

D: In World War One.

J: World War One, ok.

D: And...

J: What year was this that you were born in?

D: Nineteen eighteen. I was born, oh, three weeks at least before the Armistice was signed. And I had an uncle there at the same time, in Belgium at the same time. My daddy had been wounded actually about a month before I was born, but we didn't know it you know, my family didn't know it yet. And the same day my dad was wounded, my uncle, my mother's brother was killed, in Belgium, the same day, and they say at about the same time.

J: Wow...what a story. ...Where was your mother from?

D: She had grown up in this little community on the other side of Borden. It was called Swayback, was the nearest place to it.

J: What county was that?

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D: That's in Washington.

J: That's in Washington and _____.

D: And _____ where she born, where my mother was born, she was born in Clark county and I was born in Washington. But is was on the same farm, my grandfather's farm straddled the two counties.

J: Ohhhh, I see.

D: And they built a house when she was two. But of course we still lived there all the time my daddy was overseas. Do you want the story of when my dad--my mother meet daddy?

J: Yes, sure.

D: I think I may have told you this, but my mother's brother was drafted from Washington county and sent to camp Taylor, Kentucky. Her name was Owens. So my daddy was drafted from Orange County and sent to the same camp and his name was Owens, but they were not related--oh, I think probably three or four hundred years ago they may have been--we, but I have traced it back to the Revolutionary War and we haven't found where they're related. And he, Mother goes down to camp Taylor to visit her brother and her, and Frank is in the bed, in the bunk next to him see? And that's how she meet him and married him before he went overseas.

J: Hmmm. ...What kind of work did your father do before the war?

D: Before he went to the army he worked at the chair factory here; it was called the Paoli Cabinet factory then. He had worked for the railroad. But he worked in the Cabinet factory, and when he went to leave, to go to the army, he had a big round old-fashioned oak table half-way, and they scooted it over in the corner and left it. And when he came back from the army, a year and a half later, that table was still there, and he and Mother ate off packing boxes until he finished that table and bought it.

J: I'll be darned.

D: And, I don't have it now, I gave it to my daughter about a year ago.

J: Oh that's nice though.

D: But its been in the family ever since.

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J: Your dad was a craftsman then, at the Cabinet factory?

D: He did that for about a year after he came back from the army, and then, maybe you didn't know we had government training after WWI too.

J: No.

D: And he took government training as a mechanic, which was a brand-new thing then you know, we had very few cars in those days. And dad was one of the better mechanics around here up until--oh when they came out with the new model A and Dad said he would've had to gone back to school to learn more and he wouldn't do it. But after that he worked more as a machinist I think.

J: Still at the factory or just...?

D: No no.

J: Just?

D: No, no, not at the factory at all, he went to work--well and then in the twenties, oh say in the mid to the latter twenties, Dad and two other guys here in town owned a string of quarries all, oh there was Palmyra, White Cloud, _____, I don't know all the places, around the southern part of the state. And Dad used to go from one to the other every day you know just ...

J: Hmmm.

D: ..._____.

J: And how about your mother, did she work also?

D: No, Mother never worked. Well-her...the thing that she did...during--mother sewed all of her life. And her mother had the first sewing machine in that part of the country. And they thought they were great sewers, they actually were very crude! [laughs] But they thought they were great sewers. And, when she was, during the war, my mother, her mother, and mother's two sisters--that would have been four of them in the family--all made shirts for the government, and they made two bundles, that was sixteen shirts a piece a week. That everyone of them made. And the day that I was born, my mother had finished her sixteen shirts and her mother had finished her's and made a big barrel of sauerkraut, the same day I was born. [Both laugh.] I said, they couldn't take time out for me to be born, I was born at midnight that night!

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J: I'll be darned! [laughs] After the whole day was through, right?

D: Yes! After they--they got the work done first.

J: Oh that's something.

D: But this was strawberry country where my grandfather's farm was, see. At that time, Washington county was the strawberry capital of the world, and ...

J: Was your grandfather a farmer then?

D: Yes. And, and all of his sons. You know--I often say that in those days a farmer had to raise his farm machinery.

J: Yes, right.

D: So, when a man had kids, naturally he wanted boys. And let's see, Grandpa had...George, Delbert, and Bert, Clifford, Hallie and Cecil, he had six boys.

J: Six boys. How many girls?

D: Three girls.

J: Three girls. Nine children.

D: And, yes, because they had to have big families to to do the work.

J: But yet your brother, I mean his son, your father, eventually did not go on in farming.

D: No, this was my mother's family.

J: Oh, I'm sorry.

D: Now my father's family, there were eight children, and dad was the baby. And the day that my daddy was born, his father left home. And...went a long way away to Washington, Indiana, [laughs], but he lived there until he got old and sick. And he was very well thought of--his daddy, my grandfather, was a Baptist minister.

J: Hmmm.

D: And his, my grandfather's daddy...my greatgrandfather was a Baptist minister. My grandfather's family...no--my

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grandfather-- he always taught Sunday school and everything like that over there and they, he was very well thought of. But still, there was no mention of child support or anything. He came back to grandma when dad when about seven years old and stayed a few, I think a few days, if might have been a few weeks, and left again. When my dad started to go to the army, he hadn't seen his dad but just that one time in his entire life.

J: So--your grandmother was then supporting the kids by herself?

D: On whatever and however she could. I, I don't just have my daddy's story for this. I mean they, it was direst poverty. I've heard my dad tell about going to the school barefoot in the middle of the winter. ...But Dad was crazy about education. And even though he only went to the fifth grade he read, and Dad used to buy a book every week in the world.

J: How do you suppose--where did his thirst for knowledge come from? Did his grand--did his mother encourage him or...?

D: I don't know, but he had it. I mean, as far as my mother was concerned it wouldn't have made any difference whether we went to school or not. You know something that was really embarrassing to me, a friend asked me a while back what school I went to.

J: Yes.

D: I said "What do you mean?", he says "What college did you graduate from?".

I said "I graduated during the Depression, I was glad to get through high school". ...But, that has hurt me. But my dad had to see us three kids through high school, he said that that was what we had to have. And, but it has really hurt me when someone says where did you go to college, because there just was no money for college then.

J: Did you really, did you want to go a lot at the time?

D: Oh yes, I did.

J: Yes.

D: I guess my sister just got her degree? She's sixty-seven and she just got her degree the other, oh about a year ago.

J: Her college? She went--oh, that's great!

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D: And in business administration! I said "Mary, are you going to work?"

"No!" She didn't want to work, she just...

J: Oh that's great. ...Of your brothers...brothers and sisters, did any of them also feel that same way about education or was this something...?

D: Oh, I think we've all three done, for just high school, I don't think we've done too badly. My sister has said, I have one sister and brother, and my brother retired an army captain, and oh he's President of Southern California something or other, I don't know Lion's Club or something or other, and he travels all over the United States and stuff like that.

J: Ok. Let me ask you this, how did you all, when did you--when did you move from Washington County to Orange County.

D: When I was three months old.

J: When you were three months old. Why did your parents decide to move?

D: Well Dad came back from the army.

J: Right, sure.

D: See, we lived with mother's family until he came back from the army. And then as soon as he came back, why we moved up here.

J: Had they lived here before he went to the army?

D: Not, no. Remember mother met him while he was in the army.

J: Oh that's right, ok, alright ok, I'd gotten things jumbled.

D: She met him while he was in the army, but--and married him then, and then of course she was pregnant by the time he went overseas. And then when he came back why...oh I guess almost within a week of the time he came back, we moved up here.

J: So you're the oldest child.

D: Yes.

J: And you're sister is ...

D: Sixty-seven.

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J: So she's about...

D: Two years younger than I am. And your brother?

J: He's about three years younger than I am.

D: In a little less than three years there was the three of us.

J: And when you moved here to Orange County, where did you move?

D: I told you the house over on fifth street? It's torn down now.

J: The one that was behind Bob's Burger?

D: Yes, well no, the one that's behind Bob's Burger is the one we built and its still there. The one across the street was torn down so they could build a street down through there. And we lived there and the folks bought a lot there and one in the Wakefield Addition here, and they hadn't decided, they were going to sell one lot to get enough to start on the other house. And that is what they did, and they gambled that that part of the town would build up before this part. Mother always wished that they had built over here, but I think maybe they did better over there. I mean its...but I told somebody just the other day that this house that they built was the first house within three blocks that had water in the house. Or a bathroom inside or anything. And this is this funny little story about the superintendent of the Light and Water department, he was also the town marshall then. And he'd objected, oh he violently objected to putting water up that street, he said nobody else would ever want water at that street. And--that nobody would ever want water in the house you know. [laughs] Can you imagine?

J: Such an odd idea.

D: This is just five blocks from the square!

J: Wow...and that was 1919?

D: Twenty-three when we finished the house.

J: Why did your parents move to Paoli then?

D: Well that's where Dad was raised.

J: Ohh...ok.

D: See, Dad went from Orange county and my uncle from

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Washington county when they meet at Camp Taylor.

J: Ok. ...Did your dad have, how much of his family lived here in Paoli?

D: Oh, his entire family, except one sister, lived in French Lick. All the others lived within a radius, you know, country around here, within maybe five miles of town.

J: Ok. What was it like being a kid in Paoli at that time?

D: [sighs] Well, for me it was a very sheltered life because Dad wouldn't let us get out with other kids and things, and...if we, when we went to school, they knew within minutes of what time we had to be home. If we were five minutes late we had some explaining to do why we were late.

J: Was he as restrictive with your brother too, or was it mainly the girls?

D: Yes he was...except by the time Earl came along, why maybe he broke a few more rules than we did. And...Earl was working at Kroger store when he graduated from high school and the day after he graduated they sent him to Jasper, so Earl has not lived in Paoli since he was--graduated from high school. He will be here this summer.

J: Yes. But your sister does live here now.

D: No, no. My brother and sister are both in California. They live about a 100, maybe 125 miles from each other in California. My sister comes in every year, and my brother comes in about every other year.

J: Ok. ...Did your dad talk very much about the war.

D: No he did not. He would not discuss it with anything...he just--he didn't want us to know and then one night while my mother was really bad before she died my brother and I sat up out at the hospital and Earl and I talked all night long about where Dad was during the war, and about where Earl was in WWII. I think I learned more war history that one night than I have in...

J: Do you remember, as a kid, did people talk about the war that had just happened?

D: ...No, except...I think people in general were more...well they honored our soldiers more from WWI than from what we've--maybe because we had so many in WWII. But I can't remember, or maybe I'm grown and more a part of that generation, but I do not

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remember people making as much of an issue over WWII soliders as they did of WWI. And of course when I was little we still had about oh maybe ten civil war veterans here and like memorial day we always honored them and everything.

J: When you said a big issue over them, were there ceremonies in honor of them or...?

D: Oh on Armistice Day especially and Memorial Day we used to have this bandstand here that Edith Stipp had a fit to get torn down. I suppose you've heard about that.

J: I didn't hear why it was torn down.

D: Edith Stipp always had this...antipathy towards this bandstand, and it did mess up the--I have to admit the courthouse is prettier without it. But I have wondered if maybe she had this thought for one reason. Her husband, we used to have band concerts every Thursday night in town, and everybody in town came, and listened you know, and they sat on the square and would walk around and get an ice cream cone and talk and everything...I think all the older generation looked back with pleasure on those Thursday nights. Well Edith's husband was a dentist here and he used to play in the band every week. And I wonder if she resented maybe one night of practise and one night band concert every week. Because she wanted that bandstand torn down worse than anything.

But see what we used to do on Armistice day and on Memorial day, we would have these speakers would gather up there on the band stand and all the schoolkids would march from the school downtown and fill the courtyard and different kids, you know one or two from each class would get up and make speeches and things like that. And then on Memorial day, why everybody in town brought their flowers and they were all divided into bunches and the kids carried those and marched to the cemetary and put them on the soliders' graves.

J: Ohhh, everyone would bring flowers...?

D: Whatever flowers you had in your yard. Of course peonies were always good on Memorial day, and whatever other things happened to be in bloom, but everybody brought their flowers and then they were divided into little bunches and tied up in bunches and all the kids marched to the cemetary and put those on the soliders' graves, which were marked.

J: How long, how long did they--for how many years did they, did that tradition go on? Like that.

D: [sighs] I don't know. When I was in grade school, I'm not

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sure about, I don't remember anything--I can remember making speeches when I was like in seventh or eighth grade. But I do not remember anything particularly about it in high school--it seems to me like in high school on Armistice day that somebody blew 'Taps' out in the hall or something at 11:00. I'm not sure, do they do anything like that even now?

J: No.

D: I think most kids don't even know what Armistice day means?

J: That's probably very, very true.

D: Well, as long as we did make something about it, maybe the wars meant more to us than they do now.

J: Well, I wonder...did you have the feeling that a lot of families in Paoli had been directly effected by the war, by having fathers or uncles or grandfathers...

D: I don't remember a great many of them in--from WWI. Arthur Wilson was buried just oh maybe two months ago, and he and my dad were in the army together. Carl Boyd was...oh I'm sure there were a lot of them that I don't remember, but, but still it wasn't as general as it was in WWII, because everybody was there.

J: [pause]...I think I asked you this other day, why was your father so strict about, about you kids?

D: I don't know. I really don't know. It's just that he was so determined that we become somebody. Maybe because he was so deprived when he was a kid. ...But he was just so determined that we made something out of ourselves.

J: And so he didn't want you off just wasting time and playing or something?

D: Well we played. But we had the basement and the, my sister and I had playhouses built into the corner of the basement and you know, my brother took his little wagon and he went 'round and 'round, he was driving a car, see men were very superior in those days. I remember from the day my brother was born he was 'men folk'. 'Men folks' they said. And when, oh he wasn't a year old, if we had cake or if we had pie, Earl got two pieces because he was 'men folks'.

J: Really?

D: And, and boys were just special. For that reason I...I just can not understand anybody that wants a boy! [both laugh]

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And you know, this is funny, my mother had two girls and then Earl and my husband's mother had two girls and then her son. But between the time that my brother was born in 1921 there wasn't a male born in direct line in our family until 1980...then Joey was the first male. I had the two girls, my daughter had three girls, and her first daughter that had a child had a girl...

J: Maybe you all felt the same way. [laughs]

D: That's why we finally had a boy! But let me tell you, the last five babies born in the families have been boys, I'm getting ready for a girl now.

J: Were there other ways too that you got the hint as a little girl that little boys were better or more special or something?

D: Oh, I think everything.

J: Can you...

D: I think boys were always special. Like I said, my mother had two girls and a boy, my husband's mother--in other words, in those days even after they didn't, they were on a farm where they _____

_____ have boys. You can understand, when they lived on a farm the farmer had to have boys. But even after they moved into town they didn't have to have boys but they kept going until they got a boy. Now if they'd had ten girls I don't know but I suspect they would still try for boys.

J: Hmm. You think that if she had a boy right off or after the second child...

D: Probably. They might have had two, but I don't, I doubt you know if they'd a had three. But understand that was in the days when a lot of people did have big families.

J: Well, see, that's why I didn't think twice about it, because my impression is that at that time still having four kids or something like that was entirely...

D: Oh no. Or ten kids.

J: Well, even...

D: My mother's family had nine and my daddy's family had eight.

J: But, ok but now, but in the town...

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D: Let me tell you about the rest of my dad's family. My daddy's oldest sister had I believe it was five, let's see, there was Lucy and Emma and Reba and Louise and Bill. She had five. His next sister just had the two. But his next brother...oh it would've been Glasford and he had Mable, Ada, Irene, Clinton, and Irvine. But his wife died younger or he would probably have had another half dozen. And then uncle Arthur had eleven. And uncle Tom had Darrel, Mildred, Lee, Clarence...Marjy Jane, Ruth, Fay, Pearl, and Tommy.

J: Well I guess...

D: He had nine or ten.

J: Were those folks still farming or did they live in the town?

D: No, not all of those lived in town. Now all of my daddy's--Uncle Glasford lived in the country and he was the only one that lived in the country, well, Aunt Molly did too, and all the rest lived in town.

But in mother's family, mother was the only one that lived in town. All the rest lived the country. And all within a few miles of where they grew up.

J: So, for people in town, large families were still...

D: I think very much so.

J: Ok, as a writer I'm going to appeal to your appreciation for examples to illustrate a point. Can you think of any other ways that you can help me understand how else little boys were made to you know made to seem superior?

D: [sighs] Oh I don't know. Not all school. Not at school, the top kids in our class were girls.

J: Would the teachers you know spend as much time with the boys and the girls?

D: Well, one particular teacher spent more time with the boys.

J: Would girls answer questions in class as much as boys or would boys tend to answer them more? Can you remember that?

D: I would say on the whole in our class it was girls. I think we had one boy come in third.

J: Well, did your mom ever...you and your sister, would she...talk to you about you know being able to...did she try and prepare you for work afterwards...

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D: No I don't think so, I think you just grew.

J: You just grew.

D: I don't think we were ever really...

J: Do you think that was different with your brother?

D: No. I think he made it for himself.

J: I wondered if maybe there had been different expectations.

D: Remember this--my mother knew nothing about working. I said her entire life had been spent planting strawberries, harvesting strawberries, and sewing, and things there in the country. Hoeing fields and pulling weeds.

J: She knew a lot about work, just not about getting paid for it.

D: Oh yes. But like on fourth of July, you know this celebration at Peken is the oldest in the country I think that's been going continually.

J: Peken?

D: You didn't know there's a Peken Fourth of July, what a big day it was over there?

J: What is Peken, or where?

D: Where is Peken? You go to Salem and then I believe its 145 that goes out of Salem and runs into Peken between there and Borden. Well you'll have to find out about this, I think they call it homecoming or something now, but its the oldest continuous celebration I think in the country. I've read that. And they did always come to that. Grandpa would load them all up into the wagon, you know they would cook chicken and all the things from the country and mother said that many times they would get up, you know, and it would be raining or something and Grandpa would say "No we can't go", and everyone was so downcast but--after a while they would all get started and they would still get to listen to-- they all had big speakers--I'd been over there, oh, it must have been forty years since I've been there but they have speakers and they have games and contests and things like that and then they have this big fireworks display at night.

J: What other things were kind of, you know, special events?

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D: Well...I mean all holidays were special at our house. Mother was a great traditionalist. And and we always [laughs] but you know we celebrated them at home. But my sister and I always got a new dress for every holiday, that was because I think because maybe mother didn't have the clothes she wanted growing up in the country.

J: Yes.

D: And, and we always got a new dress for every holiday that came along. And we got fifteen cents a piece to spend, that was a fortune in those days. We got a nickel for a bottle of Orange Crush or Grape or whatever we wanted, a nickel for a candy bar, and a nickel for Cracker Jacks.

J: On the holidays.

D: On the holidays. Each one of us. And that was our great day. And of course when the carnival came to town it used to be on the square instead of out in the hills like it is now. And we got to go--most kids went every night, but we got to one or two nights when the folks would take us and...

J: Now was the Countdown parade...

D: There wasn't anything like that then.

J: Not at that time, ok.

D: The parade is oh 15 years maybe or 20 at the most. I don't know, not too long. It certainly wasn't before I left here. And then I said I was gone for about 25 years. I came back in '66. I was actually here in '65. I came down that summer in '65 and helped take care of my dad before he died.

J: Yes, I remember that.

D: And then we moved back here in March of '66.

J: When you were young, say in high school, did you have any aspirations of what you wanted to do?

D: Not great ones. I think that's probably been my greatest trouble. I don't have that much ambition. All of the great things that have happened, and I've had more good things happen to me than most people, they have just come to me. I know one night, oh about 6 or 8 years ago, I was state lodge officer and one night on the stage up there, and all of a sudden this thing came to me, and this is what I'm putting on the front page of my autobiography, is "I reached for a star and it fell into my hands." And I've been gathering stars my whole life. But it's

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just that these things just come to me. I don't ever--I said I have not ever had the ambition you see, and I was just talking to someone the other day, I think that we teach kids too much ambition because a great many of them...have you ever stopped, Cathy, to think what it would be like to spend your entire lifetime and never be first or be at the top of anything? Don't you feel sorry for people who never get--oh I thrive on praise.

J: Yes.

D: And what about the people who never do get it? How do they live? I think I'd starve to death without it. And...(short pause) I don't know what I was going to say about it. Excuse me, but this is one of the things about getting old.

J: One of the things about being young too I must say. Should I go ahead and ask you something else or do you want to try and remember it?

D: No, there's just a blank spot there.

J: Ok, alright. It will come back. ...You mentioned your father's attitude towards education. Your mother you said really wasn't that interested in it?

D: No I think if it'd been left up to mother she would have been thrilled to death if we'd got past third grade. [laughs] I don't really think mother cared!

[END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE]

D: ...It's just that for the kids that are destined to be great, nothing is going to hold them back. But I think that we should have a course in school, if we're going to have all these extra courses, to teach kids to be happy with what they have. Most, most people do not appreciate what they have.

J: Yes.

D: And I think that's been my greatest thing as a--I can be contented with whatever I'm doing.

J: You mentioned the other day that [clears throat] that you were born with a pen in your hand.

D: In one hand. And a needle in the other.

J: And a needle--when, when did you start writing, had you

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always done that as a kid?

D: Ohhh...well--not before I started school, I, you know, could print A,B,C's and things before I started school...

J: Sure, sure.

D: Well I think they don't teach them that nowadays like they used to. Or maybe they are coming back to it.

But, oh I remember I was writing poetry by the time I was in the fourth grade and I was making speeches by the time I was in the third grade. I remember one time, it was at the gym in the Presbyterian church. Now that was before we had the building with the new auditorium, the one that's the old building now. And Mable Allen was my teacher and there was, each class was contributing something and she asked me to write this thing about our depot up here which no longer exists. But it was in deplorable condition and she wanted me to write about how it needed to be remodeled or something done to it. And I remember making that speech at the, in the Presbyterian gym that night because 40 years later, remodeling was done. Now this, let's see, in the third grade that would've been in about 1927. And radio was still young. But this was done like it was a radio...thing, and each one of us were making speeches that were over a play radio. And I remember that. ...But...you know I've been doing one thing or another ever since. Oh, about twenty years ago, shortly before my husband died, well it started with a demonstration I gave at Home Demonstration Club and I was asked to come back and give it to the whole town, at the 4-H building. Anyhow it was how to decorate dresses, and you know I gave that and I was asked to go to four other counties with this one speech.

J: Wow.

D: I couldn't, I was working. It was when my husband was having heart attacks _____. I just could not take time off from work to do it. But I wish now that I could--well anyhow what I was going to tell you--about three years after that, long after he was dead, somebody introduced a girl to me one day and she says "Oh I know you!".

And I said "I don't know you".

"Oh" she says, "I heard you give this lecture one day on how to decorate dresses". And she said "You started out 'Let's don't wear homemade clothes, let's wear handmade ones.'" Well at the time I didn't remember that. But you know, after that I ran across the draft of that talk and that's exactly how I started out so if it fell on good ground for one person I think

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it was worth it.

J: [laughs]...Let me go back to being a young girl there for a few more minutes.

D: I don't think I was ever young. I think I was born an old woman.

J: But I thought you said you were still young!

D: [laughs] When I was three years old, my mother was putting pillows around my brother on the bed and leaving him and my little sister for me to watch while she carried water twice a day from oh all the way from 3 blocks to 5 blocks depending on what well was broken. That was until we moved over to the other house.

J: Did you have a lot of responsibilities?

D: Absolutely! I said I never was a child. I mean Mother would leave me to watch the two of them while she went to town. I was from October until December past three when my brother was born. And I know Mother and I talked about it before she died, she said "Well I had to do". Well I don't think she had to, I think I would've found another way...because...

J: Had to...give you so much responsibility as a...

D: Yes, because she had to, you know, she had to have somebody to leave her kids with. But I can't see it that way. Because a three-year old, you won't think of leaving a three-year old without a baby-sitter much less to watch two others.

And...I think I remember this. At least I've been told it many times. My little sister, one time mother had gone to town and my little sister decided to go run off and go after mother. And see at that time that street we lived on, it wasn't even gravel, it was big rough rocks. And down the street she ran and here I was carrying this baby and running after her. We got to the corner and my neighbors came out and one grabbed her and she was trying to take the baby from me and I won't let her, let her have him! And when Mother got back there was one, the girl was holding my sister, and her mother was holding her arms under me trying to keep that baby from falling. [both laugh] Well there was no way I would've let her have that baby!

J: Wow. ...Did you feel...how can I say this...were you aware as a kid that you were doing a lot to help?

D: I was aware that I was an old woman. Because understand my mother was transplanted into a--forty miles or forty-five miles

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isn't much now, but then it was a long way, and she had left her family and, and was living in a, you know, strange place. And I was more her best friend than I was a daughter. I mean the person that she told everything to. Even when I was a little bit of a girl. For instance, I remember like when I was three years old, or four years old, I can't, I don't really remember that much about three, but at Christmas she would always show me what she had for all of us. Before Christmas, because she...

J: Even you?

D: Yes, because she had to have somebody to talk to see, it was...

J: Was it hard for her to adjust to town people--were their ways different?

D: For her, it was moving to a big town, you know. She had never been here but here but one time in her life. She had been through Paoli once when--before she moved here. And you know...

J: You know I've been told that at that time, people in the town had a certain kind of attitude towards people from the country and I'm, I wonder if she...

D: Oh, they did, even when I was in school, you know now that farmer is the...well-liked person, the important person in the community.

J: Is that true?

D: Don't you think it is?

J: I don't know, I don't know.

D: Maybe we have two kinds. Now I have had some friends you know that, well almost exemplify the country way that we used to talk about. But nowadays, well now I remember when I was in school one boy, who came from the country who was always nicely-dressed at school and everything. But most of the country kids you know came in overalls and, as my dad said, barefoot and stuff like that. And in those days country...well it just, farming wasn't what it is now.

J: But...and so people also didn't think as much of the people who farmed.

D: Oh no. They were the poor people. ...Weren't we all poor.

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J: Yes.

D: Especially, see I would've been eleven years old when the Depression, when the stock market crashed. But we were not that poor, we were always taught how poor we were but my mother drew half of her brother's insurance every month. And my daddy was getting a pension from being wounded. Besides, I said I _____

_____, this sounds small to you, but in those days it was a fortune, I've known Dad to make a hundred dollars a week because he was a darn good mechanic.

J: Right.

D: So we were not, I remember right, oh I would say it was '30 or '31, Dad bought the last new car he had. And I remember when he brought it home, it was a new Pontiac, and we, we were all walking around that, you know, and looking at it and ohhhhing and ahhhhing and Dad says "I don't want a one of you going to school and saying a thing about this in the morning." Dad was modest. At no time at...I did take a lot of prizes at school and things but at no time did my dad ever tell me I did a good job. He told the neighbors, not neighbors, his friends you know where he would be sitting drinking and stuff and--you know, those were bootleg days, and I think it must have bored them to death and then when they got bars and that. But at no time did he ever say you did a good job. And I said this to my sister just a year or two ago and she says "Well Lucille we just knew that we couldn't do that." You know, that they couldn't come up with that kind of grades and things that happened. But I don't remember us kids ever being jealous of each other or anything like that, but my sister has told me she says well I think were a little bit jealous. It was just that it was easy and natural but nobody ever said 'that's a good job' at home.

J: Yes

D: So, it was fun to get away from home. I said I thrive on praise but you sure didn't get it at home.

J: Right. (long pause)...You mentioned the Depression. What was that like...?

D: What was it like?

J: Yes.

D: I was 12 years old in 1930 which would have been the year after the Depression started...I made dresses for the neighbors for a quarter a piece. Grown-ups dresses, or a dime for kids clothes.

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J: You were sewing them?

D: Yes. Oh I made my own clothes...I made my first whole dress when I was eight years old.

J: Wow.

D: I told you I was born with a needle in my hand!

J: Right. Well...you were right!

D: And then when I was 12 why I was from that time on until oh till today I made everything we had, wore.

J: Was this something, would the family have had to buy clothes if one of you hadn't sewed?

D: Oh yes. I 'm sure we would because I told you that at that time Mother's half of the insurance Mother was drawing, she was drawing \$28.75 a month and Dad was probably getting 35 or 40, besides what he was making. But in that day the main factory here well, for a while the cabinet factory went bankrupt and then it did open up again as Paoli Chair Company and now its Paoli Incorporated I think. But the main factory here was the Basket factory. And we had neighbors, now understand there was no welfare or anything to live off of then. We had neighbors, they made \$7 or \$8 a week. And in the summer they had to lay back like 25 big 24-pound bags of flour and all kinds of canned foods to get them through the winter. Because they won't be working in the winter on \$7 or \$8 a week! Does that tell you anything about poverty?

When I was married in, I was married the first day of 1941. And I figured \$5 a week for our groceries. And we ate well because I like to cook.

J: So then it sounds like actually your family was ok off...

D: Oh we--we were much--Dad drank an awful lot. We were never deprived, I mean we always had a nice home and we had good clothes...

J: And you had a car at some point.

D: And a car and things like that. We we had the things you know, and and, but now we didn't go places. I told you, I think, somebody I told that I never had been to but one movie when I graduated from high school. But that was because my dad took Mary and Earl sometimes, they were smaller, but Dad had the idea that it wasn't...becoming for a man to take a young girl to

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a, you know--even his own daughter.

J: Even his own daughter? But _____.

D:

So the one time I went he paid the neighbors' kids to take me.

J: I'll be darned.

D: Life wasn't the way it is now in those days.

J: You mentioned, you know, your dad drinking with his buddies... was that one of the things that men, that just the men did...

D: (laugh)...Well during the Depression, I called Owen Stout about this a while back and he didn't even know, I thought this is one thing that I can always find out--when I need to know something--from Owen. I wanted to know how you made home brew. I want to put that in my book because home brew was a great thing when I was young. That was during the...

J: The depression?

D: That's not the word I'm trying to think of. Re-...no...we had repeal when we got over it...what was it called when we had the, when you couldn't buy liquor.

J: Oh--...prohibition.

D: Prohibition! Alright, it was during prohibition and every family that drank made home brew and and you know you made it on the kitchen stove in this great big crock stone jar, you know, like that (indicating size with her arms), and then when it got to a certain stage you bottled and then they put it in the attic to cure or age or whatever they called it and this is the common thing that's happened at every family sooner or later, that is, it only happened like when the preacher came to call or Lady's Aid was there or something like that. (interviewer laughs) These bottles would start blowing up in the attic going bang, bang, bang! (laughs)

But I can remember now my mother never went out with Dad drinking. But she did have his beer parties for him there when it was his turn to have one, they all came to our house.

J: I have to admit, I have forgotten when the prohibition was, what time period are we talking about.

D: Oh, it started in 1919, I think that started just about the

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time we moved to Paoli, and it was repealed in 1933.

J: Ok, I hadn't realized it lasted quite that long.

D: Now those could be wrong by a few days but--it was, that was one of the first thing Franklin Roosevelt...was the repeal of Prohibition.

J: Hmm.

D: And in 1920 we had women's suffrage, you want to hear about that too?

J: I sure would, but before, but before we get on to that, so was it common then for most, you know, men in the family to have a little home brew going?

D: Oh I think practically everybody--I mean Owen, now a few people didn't drink. Ray Payton I'm sure never had anything like that, but most of, these are guys, church guys and things, because I said it was just common knowledge about the people that, that it would always blow up while someone was there. And every once in a while you would have a batch that did blow up.

J: But I mean it wouldn't have seem hypocritical to drink at home and go to church or things like that.

D: Oh no!

J: It was just common, right.

D: The fact is, I've never tasted beer to this day.

J: I'll be darned.

D: _____.

J: Do you not drink at all?

D: I would taste wine, if its a sweet wine I would taste it, but I would be afraid to drink it. I wouldn't want it here because my daddy was an alcoholic and I would say, I would just say _____

_____ it's here and I spent a lot of lonely hours--you don't believe this, we had a talk but--at midnight, a lot of this poetry I write is about lonely hours, I had no idea how many of them. Until I got to going through them for these books I was printing. But...it would be awfully easy if you had a bottle to keep on getting another drink, I think. And there's no way I would start it. None of us kids drink.

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J: Was your dad, was there just a certain period in his life or did he drink as long as you can....

D: Oh, I think he must have drunk a lot when he was young. And when he first came back from the wars he only drank on weekends. And eventually by the time I was in high school he was drinking... instead of working most of the time. But the fact is that we always had enough income to live on, it never kept us from--I really believe that my dad thought enough of family life that if they'd to have the money to live on I don't think he would've used it. But he was...(pause)...

J: That must have been hard. (long pause) Is that something that you tried to keep in the family?

D: (sighs) No, it isn't; it should've been. I think, you know, with most families it wouldn't have been known. But my mother was one who wanted everyone to know how bad he was and how good she was. I can't quite forgive my mother for it. Because, when I came back down and helped take care of my dad that last summer, I think I grew up hating my dad. I was taught to.

J: Well, if you were your mom's best friend too.

D: And, and we were taught you know that dad was mean to us and things, he wasn't mean to us, he never, you know people that come in you know and beat the family and stuff, Dad wasn't like that. When he came in he was a nuisance when he was drunk. But-(sighs)...I'm sorry, my mind does go sometimes.

J: Oh gosh that's ok.

D: I don't know what we were saying, we might as well talk about something else.

J: Ok. You know if at any time you want to ask for a minute or two or something like that...

D: No, its just that things sometimes blank out. I've had two strokes, and sometimes there is some brain damage. With someone that talks all the time maybe you don't believe it! (laughs)

J: Well, I was, I was going to made a smart aleck comment I guess is that I do that all the time. (Dillard laughs) But I didn't know if you'd appreciate that or not! (laughs) ...What...when you were growing up, who were you taught or who did you have the idea were the important or the respected people in the community?

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D: Oh...I think mostly the people in our church, of course we didn't have as many churches as we do now. Probably I know some people in the Methodist and Presbyterian, outside of that well there weren't--but one of the greatest people in mind, I don't know if she would talk to you, I'll tell you somebody who remembers things that used to be and that is Bernice Farlow.

J: Right, right.

D: She is getting very old. And another person who is, she'll be 88 her birthday is Mabel Miller, and I love Mabel Miller.

J: Is she a retired school teacher?

D: No I don't think so.

J: She didn't teach--alright, both people have been mentioned to me.

D: Well, they're elderly. And I'll tell you somebody who is 90 that I had a card from Christmas, I mean I get cards from all these people, but Mabel Davis is a former school teacher. Have you heard from her too?

J: No, I've just heard of her.

D: Well she is 90. And I know I got this card at Christmas from her "Now please don't ever stop writing, I love to read what you write."

J: That's nice.

D: I mean you know, somebody real old like that that you've known like a 100 years why...

J: Right...Did those people click into your mind too because of the question I asked about who were the respected people?

D: Well, now I don't think that Mabel Davis did that much in those days. But Mable Miller and Bernice Farlow were always the important people. And of course our minister when I was little and his brother James Copeland, J.J. we called him. He was superindent of the schools here back in the early '20's mainly and he was a very important person. And of course Raymond Stout always had the bank and everything. And my dad went to school with the Stout kids. And Arthur Wilson that was, he was county school superindent all those years but he and my dad had grown up together--I'm talking you know about people that I have known ever since I was a baby.

J: And you've mentioned the people at your church which was the

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Quaker church.

D: Well most of those were Quakers. Most of those that I've just named were all, I'm not sure if I've named a one that wasn't a Quaker.

J: The superintendent at the school and Albert Copeland, minister?

D: John Copeland was superintendent of the schools back in the early 20's, long before I started school.

J: Ok--oh and the banker, Stout.

D: John Copeland had married the sister to the banker. Oh I'm trying to think! Oh, well the greatest person, and of course you've heard about this person, the one person, two people that have done more for everybody for Orange County would have been Aunt Jennie Troop who died about 1937,
_____. And Anna Jane Maris.

J: Right.

D: I mean you can't, you can't talk Orange County without talking about those two people, they were great.

J: Right, I have about them. ...What were people's attitudes towards the _____, again speaking mainly when you were younger, about women working. Was it very common?

D: No. A very few women maybe worked at the basket factory when I was 10 or 12 years old or something like that. But you know if you had a house full of kids which most people had, a house full of kids, it was cheaper to stay home and take care of them. Although it probably cost you \$5 a week to have gotten all five of them taken care of. But that's what they were making, \$5 a week too.

J: The last thing is...what were some of the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small town?

D: Well the big advantage that I can think of is this: I lived here practically my entire life except those first 3 months until after I was married, we lived away from here for about 25 years and came back and it was just like I had never left town. I had still had all the friends I'd always had. And when my husband died I would not have been anywhere else but right here where I had all the people I've known my entire life support me. That is something you do not have in the city and I have lived in the city and I worked there, well I guess I even worked once in a while. But I did a lot of volunteer work in the city. And it wasn't that I wasn't very well known. It was just that...it'll

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never be the same as it is in a small town. There's just no two ways about it.

J: Were there certain things about living in a city that were difficult to adjust to because you came from?

D: No way. I have never had a problem with strangers honey, at one time--I'm sorry, that didn't go well on tape did it? (both laugh) I call everybody that!

J: Oh, that's fine don't worry--forget the tape.

D: I think I called a doctor that once! ...But...(sigh) there it was again...

J: I think you were talking about that you probably never had trouble adjusting to wherever you lived.

D: Oh, at one period I lived in 13 places in 2 years.

J: Wow.

D: See, my husband was doing construction. And I've lived in 39 different houses in my life. And see I had never lived in but 3 until I was married.

J: Well now how come he, he had to travel...if he was in the construction business why did he have to travel? Couldn't he have found enough work here?

D: Well he worked with these great big buildings see? He was a plumber and steam fitter, he was actually a steam fitter. But he worked on like 30-story building and stuff like that. And you know...

J: Well, was he from Paoli? How, how did you meet?

D: Yes he grew up here.

J: How did you meet him?

D: Just during the war they needed it and he was a, he was a plumber then but he went and got his steamfitter's license. And, of course it paid well and that's where we went. Wherever the work was. The first year we were married, why we were only married 3 months when he was in the hospital for 3 weeks. They told me he couldn't live with stomach ulcers, he kept having one hemorrhage after another.

J: Oh dear.

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D: Now he came back on Friday and a week from that Sunday why they took me to the hospital. (laughs)

J: This is after, just after 3 months of being married?

D: Yes.

J: By the way, how old were you when you got married?

D: Me? I was 22...wait a minute, I was married the first day of 1941, I was 22 in October before I was married.

J: And how old was your husband?

D: He was 28. And a half.

J: So--when you married him you must have understood that you would probably be leaving and moving?

D: Oh yes.

J: Yes, you knew what you were getting into and everything?

D: No! I did not know that he was going to go into that. He had a filling station when we were married. But then after all those hospital bills we needed money. I think that's partly why he went into steamfitting.

J: Oh.

D: And I can remember when he--the first job he went into after that was at Charlestown and he was making \$60 a week and everybody would laugh about you've been getting these high paying jobs. See, \$60 a week! And then in October he went to Alabama, there was a big job they put in at Childersbury. And I lived down there, I went down in the first of November and I lived there until in January, maybe the first week of February. My uncle died and I came back for the funeral and never did go back until he came home.

J: So it was more for economic reasons that...

D: Well, probably. I mean this is a good town to come back to...but in those days there was no industry here, I mean, to amount to anything. But I can't imagine my husband would not have been any good at all working at a factory. I think it takes a certain kind of person who can exist just doing the same thing day after day like that.

J: Right. I wonder, were very many of his friends also...you know, leaving Paoli to make their way?

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D: Oh yes. Everybody left. Like I said it's a place to come back to!

J: (laughs) This is in the late 30's, early 40's...?

D: I was married the first day of 1941.

J: Forty-one, ok. ...And so at that time, his friends too would be leaving? Young people would be leaving?

D: Oh, many! Because a lot of places where we would live, there would be other people. Now like when we were in Alabama, why there were about 5 families from here that lived--there was no place to live. (laughs) My first son-in-law, no not my first, my second son-in-law was telling this story--once he told his wife, he said, well he said "You know you and I ought to get along", he says "your daddy says that he and your mother lived in a tent--in a camp once!" And I laughed, sure enough he was telling about, you know, Larry thinking--I said "Well it wasn't because we didn't have the money." I said "We were in Alabama, there was no place to live." And they had what was called, this tent city and they had a few trailers but they didn't look like trailers do now, they were just little _____. But, they built wood floors and walls up so high (indicates with hand) and then just stretched a tent over it. And there was whole--this was at camp, it was called Mid-way, between 2 towns, and it was full, maybe 50 or 60 tents like this stretched.

J: I'll be darned.

D: And I had my hide-a-bed, we called them studio couches then. And you know all the furniture and everything, we tried to make them just as much like a home. I can remember we even stretched curtains between some of the rafters to make it look like we had windows!

J: But, did you say then that there would be other people, other couples from Paoli?

D: Oh there were, I'd say at least 5 families from Paoli. I'm trying to think who. I know Clarence Gregory and his wife were there. Bob Easterday and Margie were there and Joe Hill and Mary Jo were there...but there were, oh--Thelma Holiday and Harris were there and Mable Ham, I can't remember what her husband's name was. I know that many families from Paoli were all in the same camp we were in.

J: Were there certain family--

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D: Oh, Arbuckle Freeman was there and a man named Morris was there...I don't know. There were probably 10 families from here down there.

J: So at many of the places that you lived would there also be other people, other families from Paoli?

D: Yes. We all neighbored with--I mean we stuck together, we would ride together into town after our groceries and things, and we would all meet at each other's houses and things like that. Then we lived at Clinton and oh, there were probably 3 or 4 families, I remember Clayt Love lived at Clinton and oh, Red Farlow did, Red Hall, not Red Farlow, he married a Farlow.

J: But...

D: Almost everywhere we lived there were other couples from here. And you know you would sort of, you kept--

[END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2]

D: Well, I think that was in 1920, when that passed, oh I know, it went into effect on August 26, 1920. The day my sister was born. And you know, Dad didn't have much to say because you know women didn't have enough sense to vote to elect anybody, you know that. You talk about superiority of men, now there is a big case where it was. And Mother said that Dad and his brothers would sit around on Sunday and talk you know about the horrors of what women would do if they started voting.

J: Well---someone suggested to me that, that they may have thought that women would be swayed by their looks and their charm and appeal...

D: Aren't we? Aren't we? Don't you kind of think of what a guy looks like?

J: Well, but there's a difference between I guess a guy and a politician though.

D: But, but--I don't know...oh well.

J: Did I?...you were saying...

D: I think that women are just as smart as men. I did think they were until I found somebody that was so much smarter than I was that I was beginning to wonder if we are!

Anyhow...

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J: There they were sitting around, talking about women...

D: Yes, but then, one day while Dad was at work and this lady that came around that came around to register people was the wife of one of Dad's partners where he was working at the time. And of course Mother talked with Leota Hoke and she told Mother that you know that they would need to be registered, that they wouldn't ever be able to do this or that unless they were registered. So she registered. And Leota explained that it didn't mean she had to go vote, that just if she would be registered... And when Dad came home and Mother told him I think he didn't speak to Mother for about 3 days over that.

J: Really?

D: And she said "I will never vote." And all of those years she never voted till I think it was maybe in the mid-30's. One time there was a man that Dad especially wanted elected. And he wanted every vote he could get. (laugh) And he asked Mom if she would go register and go vote that year and that's when she started voting again.

J: I'll be darned. Do you think...

D: Again?--I mean that's when she voted for the first time.

J: For the first time, I'll be darned--is that story do you think unique to your family or do you think that that was more common among women?

D: Ohh!...both.

J: Both.

D: How could it have been? To a certain segment of the population I'm sure it wasn't at all unique.

J: What segment would that be?

D: (sigh)...Maybe the uneducated. Don't you think maybe that the educated person would be a little more likely to believe that a wife could be capable of voting?

J: I would think so. But...

D: But that would be my, because I would guess that many of my dad's friends probably felt the same way. That their wives never voted. And then too, a good portion of this town to this day, they vote the way they are paid to vote.

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J: People vote the way they're paid to vote?

D: Why, absolutely! (laughs)

J: Can you explain it to me? (laughs)

D: I'm not kidding you a bit! I mean, maybe I don't hear about quite as much as I did even 10 years ago. Now I used to go work at Democrat headquarters and I never saw anything out of the way, but I knew it was going on. But this guy who was county chairman had gone to school with me and I think he knew better than to let me see anything. Because I never saw a bottle of whiskey, I never saw any votes paid for or anything, but I knew it was being done by both parties. But my neighbors over there, where I said where Mother lived?

J: Yes.

D: Well one day Meredith Peters was running for town board and he was at my house, well Meredith is, oh he's really about a second cousin to my husband, but his mother and I grew up together and played together and worked together. And Meredith was at my house and we were talking election and he said "Well, what about your mother?"

And I said "Well you can go over and talk to her."

And he says "And what about Jenny? And how will she vote?"

I said "Who ever pays the most." (interviewer laughs) So he just thought I was laughing you know and then before he went to leave he says "How about Jenny really?"

I said "I told you! Who ever pays the most!" Listen they didn't pull any bones about it. They would say "Well what did you get with your election money? I bought a new dress, or I bought me a new dish pan".

J: Seriously?

D: Seriously.

J: Wow.

D: One of the best friends I have, I don't think she would do it now, but 10 years ago she was voting which ever she was paid for.

J: Is this something that all, I mean who were the people that would be paying?

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D: They were poor people.

J: Who were the people that would be paying them?

D: Party...big-shots.

J: Was this in both parties?

D: Oh yes. You know we had, well I think we've had a couple of scandals, but we had a republican scandal over here a few years ago that went to court over it. How he got off--I think he's dead now. But, oh anybody that knows it here (?) I mean, it may be nothing more than, even when I was a kid, well I could remember a neighbor of ours that was sort of a power behind the scenes in politics and like he even had his daughters carrying whiskey, hauling whiskey to people on...you know, a bottle of whiskey was the same as ...

J: Money or something?

D: Yes, that many people would vote for a good bottle of whiskey then.

J: I'll be darned. And I think you, you mentioned that it would be mainly the poorer people who would be...

D: Oh I think so. If they didn't need the money, what would be the use to be paid for it? I mean, you couldn't sway a vote, you might sway a, a person that had money, you might sway his vote by promising him some position that he wanted or promising him certain things like that. Just as we've got in court today in Washington. This _____ went to trial today. But...it was the poor people you know that if they got paid \$2 for voting and it wasn't at all--I know they paid as much as \$20, I don't know more than that.

J: I have also heard, this is off the subject for just a second, I've also heard that, that women would sometimes vote according to their husbands?

D: Oh well that was always done.

J: That was always done.

D: But, listen that it generally done because even today, you're in college, people are different, with education, but understand we're not all educated, and a great many people, this is something I've written once about, that they think that their politics are something that they are born with, like their color. That they can't change. "Daddy was a republican, I'll be

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a republican, my kids will be a republican and we can't change." They could not tell you for the life of them what a republican is, what he stands for, what a democrat stands for...but that is the way it is. They think that their family has always been republican and that's the way it is.

J: Yes.

D: And I said I have worked for many years for Democrats and I'm getting more disillusioned by the day. Now that I'm old and retired I'm not sure if I'm not going to be voting more republican than I do democrat!

J: I'll be darned. Would you...

D: I don't dare tell my friends that now do I? But I can do whatever I want.

J: Was your dad a republican?

D: Very, very much republican.

J: And your mother?

D: Well yes, her family was republican too but she was republican because Dad was. Let me tell you how republican they were. My sister, after she was married in 1946, her husband was democrat, and I said, in I think it was 1956 that Major and I changed. We, I said...we decided that we were thinking like democrats and voting like republicans.

J: So you were about 28 at the time?

D: Oh no, I would've been older than that?

J: You said '46?

D: Forty-six when my sister was married.

J: Oh! But when you became democrat...

D: And when I was, well let's see 1950 would be 32, 38 years. It was Eisenhower's second term when we changed. But, we never told any of the family, we were afraid to. And my brother is just that violent a republican now...but my sister never told him all those years that she was voting democratic and I never did either, and suddenly after our husbands were dead, she and I found that both of us had been voting democrat all those years! (both laugh) But we were afraid to tell it!

J: Now how about your husband, was he...

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D: He was born, oh my husband was so, his parents were so republican, or his daddy was, that Mr. Dillard would not have wanted to go to heaven if he thought that there was a democrat there. But that he didn't worry about it, because he knew democrats couldn't get in to heaven...(laughs) does that tell you anything?

J: Did his son share those sentiments?

D: No, we changed after his dad was dead, but I'm sure we would never have told him anymore than we told my parents if he'd been alive. We talked it over, we were just sitting talking one night and we said we're being foolish, that we've been thinking like democrats but we've been voting like republicans and so we decided it was time to change. So I went down to democrat headquarters and asked them what they needed done and from that day on I worked. And then when we came back down here the county chairman was the guy I'd gone to school with and he knew I could write and stuff and I said he kept me busy...I wrote all the democrat stuff for years here.

J: What kind of stuff?

D: Oh stuff for the papers here. Well advertisements too, like you know, things that came over that radio at election time and stuff like that. But anything, any kind of a meeting they had or any kind of a celebrity that came to town for me to interview and even after I went to work why one of the other girls went and interviewed them and wrote the notes down for me to write it because they said that if I wrote it he would print it the way I wrote it.

J: Well, let me ask you this. You said that you two talked and said that you were, had been thinking more like democrats these years...what was different in the way you were thinking versus how the republican people here thought?

D: The big thing with us was that the economy always seemed to be at a higher level...

J: With the democrats?

D: When democrats were in. There was more money, we had better jobs, nicer places to live, you know, and then we would get a republican, you remember we had a recession, we don't call them depressions, they're recessions nowadays, just the big one. But we did have during Eisenhower's term you know and I think that's then when we decided that---and then of course you said was that John Kennedy's bust (indicating sculpture in the room)...(sigh) I think everybody sort of worshipped John Kennedy. He wasn't just

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a democrat he was John Kennedy. And those are Eisenhower prints on my wall. And I've had them for years and the first person ever that knew what they were, except unless I told them, just the other day a retired school teacher was here and she said "Lucille is that an Eisenhower print?"

I said "They are all!"

J: What are they? I mean were they printed during his time or...?

D: Well, he painted you know. And these are prints of his painting.

J: Ohh...I didn't know that at all.

D: He painted as relaxation.

J: Oh, they're pretty good.

D: You're too young Cathy!

J: Am I? I guess I am!

D: Your youth is showing.

J: I haven't read my history or something...

D: They don't teach history in school any more do they?

J: Well apparently not _____.

D: Let me tell you something. No, this in on, when you turn it off.

J: Well here I can do it now if we don't forget it. (recorder turned off, then on.) One thing I had wanted to ask you was when did you start working?

D: Out you mean? I mean, I told you that I'd sewn for people when I was in school.

J: Right.

D: But I went to work as soon as I got out of high school. We had this Orange County Strawberry Association here then, too. And each year, of course it just lasted about 4 or 5 weeks, but generally the girl that had the highest grades in commercial subjects got that job if she wanted it. So I did have a job when I first got out of school until oh probably July or last of June or something, maybe past 4th of July, I'm not certain. And then

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I had no job until August. I, one of the things I did I remember, I went to New Albany to a young people's convention thing. And I came back and in the mean time the banker here had daughters that were my age and I was at his house one time and he was telling me about this guy who was opening up a new store, a new store here. And, he gave me his address, said I could write to him, he lived at Corydon, I could write to him and see about a job. And so I did. So one day I was gone one morning, this would have been the 21st day of August of 1944, in 1936. The reason I know is because it was on the--oh I'll tell you that in a minute. And he came down to my house and wanted to know if I wanted to go to work that afternoon and I wasn't there. And he told Mother well, if she wants to go to work tell her to be up there at the store at 1:00. This was before the store opened, see. So of course I went to work, I went in to the front door at 1:00, as I went in the front door he went out the back door, they'd just called him, his wife was in the hospital having a baby. I worked for him for 4 days before I ever met him. He owns the variety store now.

J: Is this Wilson Roberts?

D: Yes, it's Wilson Roberts.

J: I'll be darned.

D: So when the store had been there 50 years, of course it'll be 52 years this August, when the store had been there 50 years, I wrote him a big long book thing about this is your life you know about all those things that...

J: So how long did you work there?

D: Oh, I worked 4 years until I was married and maybe for 4 or 5 years after that wherever I lived, I would come back here and maybe put in a window display or something--that's what I was going to tell you about getting drunk on beer! I am the only person you ever saw that's never tasted beer that got drunk on it. But, I used to put in window displays and that was back in the days when a window was, it had a door at the back, it was just a little tiny room, and you filled it full of all these glass vases and everything balanced on glass until it--they were beautiful. They don't do that now. And I read in a trade magazine that you could paint beer on glass, and when it dried, it would look like ice crystals. And oh I had a beautiful Christmas window with the ice crystals all over it. And you know there this was shut up with the sun beating down on this plate glass every day. And 2 weeks later I go back to take that window out and when you opened the door oh I'd get sick, I'd run to the restroom and get sick.

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J: Oh, the smell of the beer!

D: I'd go back and I'd air it a little bit and I'd move something and I'd go back and throw up. That is the way I got the window out. I washed that window, I scrubbed that window, I washed that window...it was six months before I got that window where I could get into it without getting sick. (laughs) So I know I don't want beer.

J: Now were you also writing at that time?

D: Oh, not for publication.

J: Yes, but just for yourself?

D: Oh, I might have gotten a letter in the paper or an article on the front page or...John Riley had always printed whatever I wrote. Well I said, I used to write feature articles, he would even give me a by-line on the front page some times and things like that. But since this new guy has owned the paper I've never sent him anything...I don't know.

J: Why?

D: I don't know. I mean I have a place that will publish everything I write so why should I...I mean it doesn't matter what I send them _____. Don was talking the other day, and I said, "Do you know what?" I said "You take a dictionary and you pick out any 25 words you want to and I said I'll write that into 1 paragraph, using all 25 words and I'll guarantee you that I'll publish it!" And he just died laughing at me! (laughing) I think she will print anything I publish.

J: Who?

D: Lucille Oakley prints the paper here, the church paper, the one that you saw the whole thing of.

J: Right, right.

D: But Owen Stout and Lucille together started that, about oh I think it was 1973. And I think they started, they don't know it, but I told Lucille many times that they started it just for me. Because my husband had died about a year and a half before that, maybe two years, and I really was, I was getting to the place, I guess I was wanting to come out of it and didn't know how. And when they started that, why she came to me and asked me to do a series of articles on the lifes of some of our old Quakers that had died, and that's what I started. And, I, at first I would not ever write anything that they didn't ask me for and then one day I picked up a couple of old poems I had written and stuck

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them in and asked her if she could use them and from that day on, why they've printed everything that, that I send them.

J: Are you still, and you're still writing alot?

D: Oh yes. Well, its like this. I don't have any great ambitions, I don't want to be great, but I don't want people to forget me after I'm gone. And I tell everybody, I have this horrible idea that after I'm dead I can see two people standing by my tombstone and one person says "Who was that?" And the other, I don't want him to say "Well, I never heard of her." I want him to say "Oh, I remember her", she did this or that. So...Lucille assures me that I don't ever need to worry, that all these papers are locked up in the church vault and two hundred years from now people will still--but I have had letters from all over the United States, I've even had one from Uganda...

J: I'll be darned.

D: That they waited every month to see what I had written. It makes you feel good. That's why I tell my friend I'd much rather be a big frog in a little pond than to be like him. He's got too great ambitions.

J: Right. ...Well, during the 25 years you were gone, would you send stuff back?--Oh no, no, I'm sorry _____.

D: But I did have something in the Star [Indianapolis Star] once or twice.

J: Oh you did?

D: Yes.

J: Ok. During the time that you were with your husband living in all these different places, would you also work too?

D: Oh, about every two years, I would get to the place--nobody, I said, at home or after I was married, nobody ever told me I was wonderful. And I thrive on it. And about every two year I would either go out and take some kind of a night course or I would go down to the Y, well I taught down at the Y a few years, handicrafts and things. Or else I would go out and get me a job and work until I would have to quit. You know my Lupus didn't like me working very much and I would get to the place where I would have to quit. But, long enough for everybody to tell me what I good job I was doing, you know, make me feel like a human being and then I could stand it at home for a while.

J: How old were you when Lupus started to stop you from doing

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some things?

D: I said, the year that I should have started in high school I was in bed a whole year. And, that is the year that the doctors say that that was a classic case of Lupus then. But even when I was in the third grade, I was out with rhumatoid arthritis so many weeks that I couldn't walk. Oh, a horrible experience, but I went back to school and this poor woman, shouldn't have been teaching school I'm sure because--nobody should laugh at kids. But I went back to school, and I said my Mother and Daddy had no education. And I told the teacher that I had rheumatis [rhymed with Liz], that was the way I heard it said at home. And I can remember Miss Grace throwing back her head and just hee hawing that they wasn't any such word, I meant rheumatism. That is how I learned, so many of the things I have learned the hard way. Because at home they didn't know the difference. But no teacher should have laughed at a kid that way. She didn't realize what she did to me, but here, how many years later?, about 50 years later, why I still remember it. However I did--no it was 60 years later. I had another experience about 10 years ago or however many years ago, I had a letter from my first grade teacher, she said, a couple of people had sent her things I'd written and she says "I have followed you all these years." And she really did know who she was writing to too, because she asked about my brother and sister and where they were and everything, I mean she knew. And that was more that 50 years after I was in her class. Makes you feel great when somebody does something like that.

J: Yes. ...Now you came back here in '66. Sixty-five actually, your father was in _____.

D: I was only here a few months. After Dad died we took Mother up there and actually we thought Mother was going to die up there. I look back now and I think that we just didn't realize, understand grief because everybody thinks that when somebody dies that is it. Listen, right in the beginning you are dazed. And about 2 or 3 months later is when it really hits you. And you go through a period there that is worse than, than in the beginning. [pause]...Oh I've written so many of those letters to my friends now that are losing somebody...I bet I've written 200 letters, "I wish I could help you but I can't, nobody can. It's just something that you have to live through. Eventually you'll find out you can live by yourself." I mean you don't say it in the same words, but I--letter after letter because their isn't anything that anybody can do until you learn yourself to cope with it. But you're not going to do that today or tommorrow.

J: I guess friends would be a real big help at a time like that.

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D: Oh yes! And that's why I said I was glad I was down here where I had all of the friends I'd had for 60 years.

J: Were people very...

D: No I hadn't!--I was only 52 when he died!

J: Ok, for 52 years.

D: Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

J: So, people were quite supportive.

D: Oh yes very. People that I hadn't seen for years, but they were suddenly there.

J: What kind of, or did you see any changes--you'd basically been away from Paoli from what '40...?

D: About 1941 to '65. ...But Cathy _____.

J: (simultaneously) What kind of changes, yes.

D: Oh, several things. For one thing, you know Paoli was a sleepy little town and we never had any city tax of any kind here until maybe past 1970, I don't know, maybe a little later than that. And we owned our own water and light department and made enough money on that for the town to support the town. Now of course we have tax and everything trying to survive. But we have, well, we were talking awhile ago about fiscal responsibility. Our government is _____--but so is Paoli. For a place that once could make--I remember, we were talking about Wilson Roberts and he was on the town board. This was before I came back here, when he was on the town board. And at that time, they built this new city office up there that is there now while he was on the town board and still left the town debt-free. Now look at it! We struggle to get by and there's always something that needs doing. But in those days of course there weren't that many houses and I could remember when half the houses in town still had outhouses and people could raise pigs in their back yard. When I was a little girl, when I was a baby we had a cow and then even after we moved over to that house where I was five years old we had a cow in the back yard for a while.

J: When you came back would you still see that?

D: No. No. The town grew up.

J: Did they, was the square...different.

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D: Yes. The square used to be the main place....Now I haven't been anywhere on the square, I'm not sure if, yes, I have been in where the dollar store is, when I first came back here. I would imagine that that's probably the only _____ store on the square now that I have ever been in to. At one time a couple of years ago I had gone two years without ever having been around the square. Since I just get out when I go to the doctor's or something like that, I don't leave the house.

J: But, excuse me if I've misunderstood, when you came back here though were you confined to a wheelchair at that point?

D: No. No, I worked.

J: That's what I thought.

D: Before he died, I went to work for three years after he was having heart attacks. And then after he died, I didn't go to work for six months. And then I went to work, and I worked for three years and that's when I had the first stroke. But even then, I was walking with a cane then, and the girls would have to help me in and out at night. And many times my boss, not just the little boss, you know in factories it's like a caste system, there's bosses all the way up, his was the boss of the whole upholstery department would come to me in the middle of the afternoon, "Give me your car keys", and he would go walk to the parking lot and get my car and bring it and park it right in front of the door so that I didn't have to walk to the parking lot.

J: I'll be darned.

D: See I could sew too. They appreciated my sewing up there.

J: Right, right. But I was wondering if at that point, in going around the square or--did you go to the square at that point _____?

D: Well you drove around it. But I was in very few stores because I wasn't walking that well.

J: Ok.

D: I did go to church.

J: Even from what your friends told you, from what you heard did you get the sense that the square had changed?

D: Oh yes, all of the old things. Well, there was restaurants, there was drugstores, I guess there were maybe I don't know

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what, I think the stores aren't even anything like now what they were like 25 years ago, newer stores, but similiar to what they had been when I came here.

J: You mean, you, you mentioned that the square had been the main place in time...did it still seem that way at that time?

D: Oh yes, the JC store moved out north after I came back here in '65 I think or maybe just before. And at that time I believe all the main stores, there was a Hooten's down towards the west end, but smaller stores, but, but you know, we've got the stores north, we've got the stores south and they branched off the side streets now. We didn't have any of them. There used to be a livery stable here and all that kind of stuff years ago.

J: Well some people have told me that it sounds, it sounds like maybe even before WWI and after--oh WWII, and after WWII, there were some difference in the extent to which the square was still the place that people went to socialize and see each other...

D: Oh, yes, I think when I was little, like I said the band concerts and people meet on the square. Well, we had the town pump up there and like, now Mother carried water from like 3 blocks away.

J: Would she go to the town, to the pump?

D: No, not ordinarily. But sometimes the pump would be broken and that was about 3 blocks one way or about 4 blocks another way and then she'd carry it from the square. But I can't really remember that--I think I remember some of it, I remember a little bit of when I was that age because I know that Mother kept her scissors hanging on the wall, and I remember climbing up there once and getting the scissors once when she was gone, and I [sound of fist against palm] stabbed a little place in my hand. I put them back and never told her. Now nobody ever knew that story till I was grown, so I definately remember that. But I think most of the things before 4 or 5 years old, we remember being told about them.

J: Right, so we begin to imagine it...

D: But there weren't empty buildings, maybe there aren't now I don't know. I went around the square yesterday when I went to the doctor, to the hospital, and I was amazed at some of the building changes that I didn't know had been changed! (laughs)

J: Well, and the Liberty building is, had been

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D: (simultaneously) Well, see that's where Wilson Roberts was when I went to work there.

J: Oh really? I didn't know that.

D: He was there until the JC store, JC store was where he is now. And I would say it was about until 1965 when he moved, when the JC built that other place. Maybe it was '66 or '7. Anyhow, when they went out there he bought their store and that's when he moved over there.

J: Right. Now, when you came back, would people talk to you about things that had changed or things that were different or did it just seem exactly like you came back and...

D: No, nobody made any mention of the fact that I hadn't been here. I said it was just like--

J: _____.

D: Yes, like I had been gone a day and came back and talked to people.

J: Did people make it seem like it had just been a day in Paoli or would they talk about things that had changed and ...

D: Noo...I think when we first started talking about changing was when I got older and Beulah Horner (?) died oh, about 4 or 5 years ago. But Beulah and I couldn't either one get out and we used to talk over the phone--

[END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1]

J: And that's when you...

D: That is the first I really remember talking about you know that there was any difference because they just acted like well you hadn't been gone. I said I had all the friends I'd ever had!

J: Hmmm.

D: This was really funny because just the other day I was talking about just that and I said that when I came back nobody ever made me think I had been gone, they were just like I had always been here and I had the same friends, and of course made a lot of new ones too.

J: At the--which factory were you working in?

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D: The Chair factory.

J: The Chair factory. And you were a...?

D: Sewer.

J: A sewer. What would you do there?

D: Sew.

J: Well, ok--now come on!

D: (simultaneously) Well isn't that a _____.

J: Now come on, give me a break! [both laugh]

D: You know that was the only job I'd take. Honestly, I worked at Beta [factory in another town] for 3 years before he died. And I have to tell you I had to have pull to get on both places. They do not hire somebody that's near 50 or 60 years old to work in a factory with no experience, I'd never worked in one. But my husband had a cousin who was a boss that worked at Beta and when he started having those heart attacks why I went over there and I told her and she talked to them and by the time I got home from putting in an application there was a call for me to come to work the next morning. I know however 3 days after I worked there why I wouldn't of had any trouble getting a job. And then after he died I told them I would come back and they said that whenever I got ready to come back, just give them one day's notice, that maybe they couldn't hire me that day, they would the next.

J: Right.

D: Beta was a hard place to work. I told my boss once if they hired 10 people 1 day that half of them would be gone by break and 3 more would be gone by that night when you come back the next day. And he says "If they had to, the other 3 might make good workers!"

J: What--I'm not familiar with Beta.

D: They moved out. It was out, you went to Salem, I think its 145 that goes through there from Salem to New Albany that way, and its just a couple miles after you get out of Salem.

J: Why didn't you--you worked there first.

D: I worked there for 3 years while he was alive.

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J: Did you live...?

D: Here.

J: You lived here.

D: I drove back and forth.

J: Were you not able to get something here in town or...?

D: Well, I really don't know. I said, they don't hire you at a factory, I did try a, there was one bookkeeping job and it didn't pay nearly as much as factories did. See, I'd always been a bookkeeper. And it didn't pay nearly as much as factory's did. Well, I'd wanted work and it seemed ideal. But then, after he died, I had planned to go back to Beta, but I told myself I was going to take six months to rest. The week he'd been dead six months, I told a friend of mine, I said, well I'm going back to Beta this week. And she said don't go there, give them a chance to hire you at the Chair factory.

J: There you go.

D: I said they're not going to hire me without any you know...and she picked up the phone and called Irwin Vest who was a boss out there and I went up there that afternoon and the personnel manager already had a blank filled out for me on the desk. Course he had a few things that I had to tell him after I got there, and then he told me, well I would like to hire you, but he says, I had told him that I won't take anything but sewing see. He says, I can't--we've got all the sewing machines full right now but let me go talk to the upholstery foreman whatever they called him, and he came back with this--Dale Kendall was that then--and when he came back into the room with Dale, they had gone in and taken a girl off a sewing machine and put her off in the upholstery department so that I could have a sewing machine the next morning and go to work.

J: Oh dear.

D: ...Now you want to talk about being incredibly lucky...I have been. Whatever I do I reach for a star and it falls into my hands. I haven't ever worked for anything in my life.

J: What was it like working there? How did you like it?

D: At the Chair factory?

J: Yes.

D: Well, what _____ about that too. I

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think maybe I worked there 2 or 3 weeks when there was one chair that everybody was having trouble with and mine were passing and so they kept wanting--the girls in the room wanted me to sew all of them and the boss said no there was too many I couldn't and finally the upholsterers threatened to quit if I didn't. [laughs] And so the boss came to me and said "Do you think you can sew all of those?"

And I said "I think so." So, first thing, I was sewing all of that one chair where I could make a lot of money. You know if you do the same thing over and over. And--how much? How--5,10 years, 10 years after I quit there, why upholsterers were still coming to see me and tell me that they wish I was back. At one time I was in the hospital and I got one card with 147 names on it from up there. ...Is that what you want to know?

J: Something like that...

D: They were grand people to work with.

J: Did you know many of your fellow workers before you went there?

D: No, no. I mean, I might have known them to speak to but believe me I knew them before I quit.

J: Did you like going to work or was it...

D: It was something to keep me busy. I never wanted, when I went to work at Beta, they wanted to put me on one machine and then another. I said "I don't want to do that." And my boss says "Well look," she says "then you can get a job like mine."

I said "I don't want a job like that. I want no responsibility, I want to work here and I want to go home at night and be free of responsibility." I said the same thing at the Chair factory. If I'd been starting out working in the factory when I was young, well yes, I would've wanted to gone somewhere. But there was nothing I wanted to do except just put in the time and get paid for it and go home.

J: Right.

D: And I know one funny thing that happened. The boss above my boss, one day he came in and sat down at the empty machine right by me while I was working see. What he was asking me about his mother had died when he was a kid. And his daddy had recently died and he'd found a whole lot of quilts his mother had quilted-- had pieced. And he was asking me who he could get to quilt them and you know we just kept talking about one thing or another, and I heard that my boss asked everybody in there,

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trying to find out what he was talking to me about! I think she thought I wanted her job. There was no way I would've had her job!

J: Right.

D: And then, oh that one chair that I told you that I did do so many of and then they got an order from the Minnesota legislature, I think it was more than 450 of them, it was an enormous bunch of chairs. So they call me into the office, "Do you think you can get that many done?" Well, we didn't any of us know whether I could sew that many because there was a penalty clause--if they didn't have them finished by a certain time, why they had to pay for every chair that wasn't done. On the other hand, if they put girls that didn't know how to sew them and they had to do them over, they would've been worse off...So the last week that I worked on those, there was a steady stream of bosses come in, "Are you going to make it, are you going to make it?" And I just felt like saying, "Just leave me alone, just leave me alone."

So on Thursday at noon, we had till Friday night to get them done. On Thursday on noon, I had a part of one chair left. So I sat down and wrote my famous poem about the "Ode to the Raspberry Chair." [both laugh] And you know, when I'd finished that chair, after I went back at noon, I pinned that to the tail of the chair. I thought that the carry-out girl would get a big kick out of it. She takes it to the upholstery department and passes it around and everybody out there reads it. By that time, they brought it back into the sewing room and everyone was reading it, see. During work time, they were all reading it. And after awhile it got to me, and I grabbed it and put it in my pocket. And here came my boss then, not my, not the boss next to me but the next boss higher up with the guy that owns the place. He'd never been to the sewing room before. And he comes in there, he comes straight to my table, he comes straight to my table, he says "Where is that poem?" [Jones laughs]

I said "In my pocket!" [laughs] I took it out and handed it to him, he read it and started folding it up and putting it in his pocket. He said, "Now I want to take it and get some copies made of it."

I said "You can't have it!" I reached for it and he handed it back to me! I said "You can't have it!" I don't know why I didn't get fired, I was so tired at that point it didn't matter. I said I didn't write that on your time I wrote it on my time! [laughs] And actually, I didn't, I wrote it on my time, but about 300 people had read it on his...

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J: Oh his, right.

D: I said "I promised some of the girls I'd make them copies tonight" and I said, "I'm going to take it home tonight." So he walked out without it. And that night, I think I made about 20 copies, I went to work the next morning, tired, and I said "Here it is, you can quarrel over them, and that's all I'm going to do." So the boss took it down and had copies made. But I never did know if Joe got his copy, until oh, about a year after that, I was at some kind of a meeting once and somebody brought the story up, and--the girl that is treasurer of the place now, was at the meeting, at that time she was just working at the office, and I said "I don't know if he ever got the poem he wanted, he wanted or not."

And she says "He got it!" But he wanted to send a copy of it with the chairs. [laughs]

J: That's funny.

D: Well, you know, in this thing, I--first I wrote about how hard a time we had getting them done, and then towards the end, I said I wondered what kind of people would sit in these chairs and what kind of thoughts they'd have and what kind of laws they would pass and stuff that would change the course of the country and all that kind of stuff. [both laugh]

J: Did you have to work overtime to get this done or was it just during the regular hours?

D: No. In the beginning I did work some overtime and then the doctor says no more overtime and he wrote a note to the office that I was never to put in anything but the eight straight hours. So here the other girls were working overtime and I was getting up and walking out. Well, one day we were really far behind and I told Vern, I said "I will stay and work if it'll help."

He says "I can't let you." He says, "Your insurance won't be worth anything!" [laughs] So I never worked another bit of overtime.

J: Was it fairly common though for people to have to?

D: Oh yes, yes. Oh even before Christmas this year, up there, those girls were working 6 10 hour days.

J: Wow. I wonder, are they paid overtime?

D: Oh yes, time and a-half.

J: Time and a-half, yes.

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D: Well, if you're fairly fast on piece work, why you can make a lot more money than you can just on a, well, probably not more than you could on a government job, because government jobs are paid pretty well, but I mean bookkeeping, but just--jobs around here, I can make a lot more money up there than I can make elsewhere because I was fast when I sewed.

J: At the, when you were working at the Chair factory, was it piece work that way.

D: Yes.

J: Ok, ok,...how did you and the workers feel about that? Did they like it or did some of them think that it was a form of...

D: Well, piece work essentially...I'm not sure that it's good. Because I said you can make more money that way but there is also the temptation to do a poor job to get more done. But that's what they told me when I went there, they didn't care if I ever made piece work, what they wanted was a good job. But we had a couple that did, that probably made more money than I did. But they were, you know they weren't that careful with it. And then we had a couple of girls who, poor things, couldn't have sewed if their life depended on it. They did lousy work and of course they didn't stay very long too.

J: But how do you think most of the, can you remember how your fellow workers felt about it? If they thought it was good for them, a chance to made more money, or if they thought it was management just trying to...

D: I think they thought it was just a job. Well now, I said that's what it was for me. I just, although I don't think I've ever had a job I couldn't make interesting. But, but I did not want to go up. There's no way I wanted to be a boss or anything-- after all I was 55, going on 56 when I quit there. I guess that's not as old as it sounds. I thought it was old then. I thought it was old!

J: I see you've changed your ideas about that too.

D: I quit in 1975, I had the first stroke and doctors said I couldn't go back, my blood pressure was then running around 265 and ...

J: Wow, yes. ...You know, I was thinking about your daughters. I was remembering what you said when you were young and you wondered why anyone wanted a little boy...Um...

D: And we never had one, and actually I did wish after the

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kids were grown that we had had a little boy for him [Major]. However he was the one that wanted a girl in the beginning. When we were first married, I wanted the first one to be a boy and then a girl because I'd always wanted a big brother. But he had two sisters, both died of cancer in their 20's, and I think that's the reason he wanted a girl. Oh, when Mary Lou was born, see, people with Lupus, notoriously have a hard time with babies. I was unconscious 4 days when she was born and in the hospital 3 weeks.

J: Oh dear.

D: And when we started out of the hospital that morning, he was carrying the baby and I was still in an ambulance, I still was in bed 3 more weeks, I think it was 6 weeks before they let me up...and of course they wouldn't even let me feed myself. My heart quit beating while I was unconscious all that time.

Anyhow, here comes some old woman as we were going down to the ambulance entrance and she was about like I am now, and she stopped right in front of us with her arms like that on both hips and she says "Oh what a darling big boy."

Major says "It's not a boy, it's a girl."

"Oh, what a pity."

But he says "We wanted a girl."

And she says, "Oh, well maybe you'll"--no, she went ahead and talked to him while they stood there and held, you know, pushing me and him holding that baby for about 10 minutes while she talked. The last thing she says is maybe you'll have better luck next time. And we knew there wasn't going to be a next time and that didn't help. But... 'maybe you'll have better luck next time.' See--people really have that idea--well, I think they still do! Because, I said the last 5 babies in our family have been boys. Well I know my granddaughter had a baby last year, she wanted a boy. My 2 nieces have, and they wanted boys. But I'm looking for another girl, I'm getting tired of boys.

J: Yes. Well, did you do anything...because you had girls...ok, here's what I was wondering. I was wondering, because you had baby girls and you had grown up at a time when people were saying little boys were better...did you consciously do anything to try and you know, change that idea for your girls?

D: Oh, I think we just made them feel like we wanted girls, that girls were important. And girls have been important to us. Well, see, I had kids from both really. But I guess most

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of them have been girls. I've had like Brownie scouts and Girl scouts and Campfire girls and Bluebirds and block kids and Theta Rho girls, see I've been--and I kept welfare kids. I kept welfare kids, a boy and a girl when we kept welfare kids. And then I said we adopted one, so I've had experience with--and Sunday school and vacation bible school and all that kind of stuff. It isn't that I've never had any boys around. It's just that I loved to make little girl clothes.

J: Do you think things are any different now, in terms of how little girls are raised and little boys are raised?

D: Oh yes. I can remember when I was about 6 years old probably, it was after we moved to the new house. Mother had taken my sister to town with her, and my brother and I were there. And the little boy who was my age and lived in the next block came over to play with us; we were allowed to play with him. And my brother had his wagon and Russell and I and we were all 3 playing, you know riding the wagon out in the yard. And my daddy happened to come from work in the middle of the day. And boy, did he haul me in the house right then, he told me little girls didn't get out and play with little boys that way. Can you imagine that having happened now? Is that your answer?

J: Right.

D: And I remember, oh course there was no such thing as a swimming pool, the nearest swimming pool when I was kid was at Bedford. But, well, most of us, the kids, had a hose and they would stand...but Daddy got one of those fountain sprays you know and we would set that up in the yard. Well, they got us bathing suits. But every once in awhile, my mother would feel sorry for these other kids when it was real hot and dad wasn't there and she'd call the kids across the street and they'd, they'd just come over with their clothes on, but we'd all play in that water. We had just as much fun as they do out of a bathing pool--swimming pool. There was always something to do. 'Course we had 4-H and things like that to keep us busy and...

J: ...How have you...(long pause) What's been your feeling about education for your kids?

D: Oh, my kids both quit school to get married, and then went back and got GED's. Both of them. But I said I'm hoping great things for little Angie.

J: Right, your granddaughter.

D: What, how? The same things I said awhile ago, because I was editor of the school paper, I wanted one of my kids to be and it didn't turn out to be a kid, but my grandkid who's made it. A

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better job than I did too.

J: Right. Have, have, have your daughters tried to push education on their kids or...?

D: Well, you don't have to push it on Angie.

J: Yes, but--

D: Angie's a whole lot like I was, she thrives on it, she reaches for it.

J: Right, right, I just wondered about the rest of them, because_____.

D: But now, like my brother and sister, I think they both tried to take courses and things and I said Mary did go to college then.

J: Right, right..[sighs] Ok, just a few more questions.

D: I don't know if Cheri would insist their kids go, I mean if one of them wants to go I'm sure they'll try and make it, but, well I'll tell you. This is a different--Cheri's husband can't read and write.

J: Really?

D: And I said Don teaches up there in this VITAL program too. [Public Library volunteer program to teach reading.] And, I just wonder if he could in any way convince Cheri's husband to go and learn to read and write. I said there's no use for me to say anything to him because we don't have that good a...rapport, but Don has this wonderful personality and I just think if he might someday might be able to convince him that he might be able to go out and there'd be, you know, other things, jobs he could get if he could read and write.

J: What kind of work does he do? Do you know?

D: Odd jobs.

J: Odd jobs.

D: And Cheri works in a nursing home.

J: And how about your other daughter?

D: She doesn't work. Her husband, he has a pretty good job and they... She's always stayed home, but you know same old routine like I had. All the volunteer work that you do and

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everything...

J: Right. So she's real busy.

D: At one time when I was at Indianapolis I had the whole northwest section under me for Red Cross work.

J: Oh.

D: See, I did a lot of work like that when I was younger...

J: Right. ...If someone were to ask you when were the good old days of Paoli, in Paoli, would that be...?

D: When were the good old days...? Let's say it would have to be a composite of the old days and of today. Because I think kids have it harder now.

J: In, in which ways?

D: Well, for one thing, we don't have the recreation that we had then. Well, I think we expect more of them. I read this like 15 years ago and if it were true like 15 years ago think what it would be now, that 90% then of all the things that kids are taught in high school wasn't known to man when we went to school. Now think of that one.... Think of the history that has been made since I went to school. It's been 52 years since I graduated. Think of all the things that have happened in this world since I went to school. I, they have to leave out something, do something. My idea would be that maybe they'd put an extra year of high school in there. Because I think that sometimes they have to work too hard. That they aren't.... Now I think of some of the frivolous things that they do that maybe we could eliminate.

J: The kids?

D: I remember, I had a friend in Indianapolis, I don't know if maybe they teach this stuff down here or not, but when her kid was trying to make out their high school program, why she suggested to Debby that she take jewelry making because that ought to be an easy subject to get by on. And I never took anything because I thought it would be easy. (laughs) Just the other day, this woman I told you down here that you know was wanting me to type for her, she's trying to write, and I said, she wanted me to type some stuff for her and I said I 'm not really that good at typing. I said I only took one year of typing in high school. I said if you want to know why, I got an A- and I wasn't going to have my report card messed up with an A-, and I wouldn't take it the next year. Anyhow, the next year, when I took second year shorthand and I did not take

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second year typing like I was supposed to and the commercial teacher says you can't do that, she says all the rest of them will be able to transcribe the notes before you do. I said, the principal says I could. So I did. And I came out third highest in the state in shorthand that year. So--with only one year of typing.

But anyhow, what this woman says to me, she says "Well, I'll bet you that you wish now that you had taken that other year of typing, it would have done you more good than what you took instead." No way. I would not be a good typist if I took 10 years of it, because my mind moves faster than my fingers do, there's just no way that I'm going to be that good. But I took 4 years of Latin. And I enjoyed that and everybody says yes but it didn't do you any good. Well, those four years of Latin have done me more good than almost anything I had in school. It has made life richer and I learn things from it. I learned more about writing from my Latin than I did from my English courses.

J: Right. Do you...

D: And they don't teach it anymore.

J: Do you think there's been some kind of loss for the kids in the way education is now?

D: (pause) I'd liked to see the schools, I guess this is probably universal with people my age, but I'd like to see the school more like they were when I went to school. Except that's there's so much to learn. Well, I tell you what, I read this the other day, I'm sure you read it too. A couple of years ago, you heard this thing on TV about college kids that couldn't locate places like Miami, Florida and... on a map. But just the other day, I read of a new study that was out and oh, like maybe 30% of these kids, students that were tested, could not, within a framework of 50 years tell what year the Declaration of Independence was signed, what year Columbus came over here, and what year the Civil War was, World War I and World War II, they couldn't locate those within 50 years! Well, we have this horrible thing nowadays about not wanting to teach kids dates, that dates are hard to remember.... I heard of a high school principal once that said that all high school students should have to take one year of Latin, for no other reason then for the discipline of doing something that they didn't want to do. And I don't think that that's a bad thing, that we are going to do things that we don't want to do all the rest of our life, and maybe a little of that wouldn't hurt. But you don't want me to preach though...

J: (laughs)

D: When I get into that I preach.

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J: Well, OK. You started, we got into this, you were talking about, I asked you the questions about when were the good old days and you said it's a composite.

D: Yes, because we see, on a TV commercial, oh several years ago, you don't see it so much now, and she comes on and of course she's talking about the ecology, but she says "All they want is the same kind of world that we lived in." Let me tell you, they wouldn't have liked the kind of world we lived in. I was 12 years old when my brother and sister and I saved our pennies all summer and bought my mother her first electric iron. Before that you heated irons on a heating stove, a coal stove, and you know, when they began to cool, you took them out.

Ah, the television. Just a few years before my mother died, a few years ago, a neighbor's kid, who was a high school graduate, asked my mother what kind of television programs she watched when she was young.

J: (snickers)

D: Dumb...? But all of the things that this generation thinks are a have-to, are things that didn't exist when I was a kid. For instance, one of those things is about fans. Of course we never had air conditioning. It didn't exist, I don't suppose, I don't rem--I remember when they first started air conditioning in big buildings because my husband was one of the best at it. But I know, like you know, the Indiana University complex at Indianapolis, the hospital complex, he put those in there. But I asked, well you won't know here, but Bill Hutchison's wife, Bill used to be the postmaster here and he and Helen were both in my class at school. And I had been to Helen's house, she had a beautiful house out in the country when we were kids. And I said "Helen Ruth, did you have a fan at home?"

I said, "We never had a fan until I was grown up."

"She said, "A fan? We didn't have electricity until 1935!"

But I can remember worse than that. Down there, where I told you I was born, they got electricity in 1948! This is the first time that country people have that kind of stuff. Now if, if this TV kid wanted life the way it was when we were young... boy she can have it. I don't want to go back that way!

J: Right, right. Hmmm.

D: But there were a great many things. We didn't have AIDS.

J: Right.

D: And I think a lot of the freedom that we have now, maybe too much freedom.... Oh, I don't know. 'Course the main thing we didn't have was the national debt we've got now, our country

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was... (pause) I don't know, I just... my mind is boggled when I think about what is going to happen.

J: In the future, yes.

D: That, something has to give. And what its going to be, I don't know. I wish I knew the answers; if I did, I wouldn't be sitting here with you would I? If I knew the answers, no one would believe them would they?

J: Let me just ask you one or two more quick questions and then that's really about it. (pause) Now I'm losing things in my head--do you think, do you feel like there have been any turning points in Paoli's history? In the community?

D: Yes. When Anna Jane Maris quit teaching school. She raised more kids and instilled better judgments in those kids than... listen, anybody of my generation or before that can tell you some example of what Anna Jane Maris has meant to their life.

J: When did...

D: (simultaneously) Let me tell you about my husband, when he was in school.

J: OK.

D: He and about 3 or 4 other guys were sitting in the auditorium chewing tobacco and spitting it out the window. And she didn't say one word to them. She walked over beside them, took a chair and sat down between them and the window. And they had to swallow that. She never did ever say a word to them. But shortly before she died, I forgot where we were, but anyhow, I was standing, talking to her, my husband was standing sort of behind me, and all of once she just stopped right in the middle of a sentence, she looked around at him and she says, "James, did any of you boys ever chew again?" No, she says, "James did you ever chew tobacco again?" (laughs) Just like that!

And he says, "No, Miss Maris, none of us did!" (both laugh) But, now that was, I mean she didn't say one word to them, she just walked over and sat down where they couldn't have spit that out.

J: Yes, I've had a few people mention her to me.

D: Well, I really think that we have never had anybody since that has made as much difference.

[END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE TWO]

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D: _____ tuna salad, how does that sound?

J: I'm fine, I'm fine, honest to God... thank you though. Thank you very much. ...Who did try and teach your children...you know, were the respected people in town?

D: My kids were never raised--yes, Cheri was here in high school, which...

J: Oh, yes, that's right.

D: But, when Cheri came back here, I told you that the principal up there wrote to me for a couple of years after I came down here, and I remember writing and telling him once that the day that Cheri entered school here, was the day Cheri discovered boys and boys discovered Cheri (laughs) Life was never quite the same. They were all that was important.

J: Maybe I should ask it, who now do you think... who are some of the people that you would consider?

D: In town here?

J: Yes, in town here.

D: Ugghghhh.

J: I mean you can even name them by position.

D: You know, it's just different. Ohhh... (sighs) I don't know. The people that I respected so highly have all died off in the last three years. I'll tell you one that's very high in my estimation is Owen Stout. And I said our Quaker minister is very, he, he teaches over here at the school over here too.

J: What's his name?

D: Jim Walters

J: Jim Walters.

D: And of course he hasn't been here but a few years. He was a preacher here back in the early 70's. Mid 70's, mid 70's. And then he went away and then he just came back a year or two ago. But he is a very good man. Ohh... Ruth Uyesugi, [at the High School] is probably the most respected teacher they have. Gee, I don't know. See, I don't get out that much you know. Oh, John Riley is just wonderful. I mean that owned the newspapers all those years and--have you talked to him.

J: No, because I guess he...

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D: He's in bad shape.

J: He had a stroke or what-not, but he's, he's, I guess he's not getting any better.

D: He's on oxygen all the time.

J: Oh, really? Well then maybe he hasn't gotten better.

D: But see, John is an authority about the Civil War and he and I used to talk a lot about that and he originated, he was the guy that was responsible for starting our high school newspaper here about, in about '25 or '6. A long time ago, isn't it? [laughs] And the new newspaper editor, I don't know, because he has come here since I haven't been able to get out. I don't go to these places where I meet people that I used to.

J: He's from Chicago or something?

D: Somewhere up from there, I'm not sure.

J: You know--I'd asked you... what did I ask you?-- oh, turning points in Paoli's history. In the community and you'd mentioned...

D: I'd mentioned Anna Jane, because without her...

J: Right, it seems real different.

D: [laughs] If I say this you're going to laugh.. I think you told me you hadn't talked to Wilson Roberts yet, didn't you?

J: I went over and chatted with him the other day.

D: [both chuckle] Now, he's something.

J: He is.

D: I mean you can't understand a word he says, and I can't, after all these years I've known him, but, but listen, he does have a great deal of brains.

J: Oh yes, no actually, he was talking up quite a storm. Smoking his stogy.

D: Imagine when you get the two of us together then! [both chuckle] Well, his wife is the sweetest person in the world, she's his second wife, his first wife died in the '50's. And, she's been a great help to him, and I don't believe he could get along without her now. I think she's just really the driving

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force behind him and of course, he's been awfully good for her too.

But I would say that Wilson Roberts' coming here and starting his store 52 years ago has been a...

J: Yes.

D: ...because everybody in town respects his judgment, I'm sure of that.

J: It seems like an institution almost.

D: [sighs] Oh, let's see, who else...? I think all the people of my generation are dying, I can't... I could pick out the people that I think have influenced our church or you know something like that, but... _____ in the town....

J: Well--maybe not even people, just events or...

D: I was thinking about when the theater burned here and we've never had a theater since, of course, they had that same experience at French Lick [referring to recent fire there].

J Right.

D: But, you know, this used to be something that kids could go to and I don't believe they got in as much trouble then as teenagers, as high school kids would at a drive-in.

J: When did it burn down?

D: It would've been some time about 1966. It was after we moved back down here. But it was in the late 60's, mid-to-late '60's. I remember when it happened.... Maybe World War II was a turning point for every community, don't you think? I mean, suddenly people who hadn't been rich, and I mean many of them made their money off black markets, we know that. I worked at the ration board [at Columbus] during World War II.

J: How, what, how did you, how do you think it affected Paoli?

D: [soft sigh] I don't know.

J: Were a lot of men from Paoli...

D: In the war? Yes. I lost a lot of friends. See, I was at the age, I said I was 23 when we declared war and, and I was right at the age where you know they were prime and then, before the war was over, they were taking up until 39 or something like that, and I even had a few, you know, friends that were older than I was that was there.

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But, but I think the whole world has been different, because I remember during the war they kept telling us about this new material called plastic and how everything was going to be made out of plastic after the World War. See, we didn't we didn't--the nearest thing we knew to plastic was using glass before the war. And, and just think that plastic has just really changed the whole world, but, but then something else that changed then, and this is a little thing, but if you ever had to wash with soap, you'd know what I meant, because all we had to wash our clothes with was soap. And you remember few of us had washers either. And you washed and you rubbed it on a board. I got my first washer during World War II, what I had ordered about two years before I got it. And, they kept telling us about this new thing called detergent that we were going to be able to get and I remember the first box of Tide I ever used, that was the most marvelous thing I've ever seen in my life. It was, it was so different from making water with your soap and then in a few minutes all you'd have left is a curd around the edge and all that.

J: Yes.

D: Just a little thing, but it sure has modernized our world about, about everything _____, be it cleaning house and keeping house and things. [signs] For another thing, when I was married, you couldn't buy tomatoes or anything like that in the winter because there was no transportation for them. You know, they had to have refrigerated trucks to get those things here. And in that year that we moved to Alabama and you could get tomatoes in the stores down there you know, and I thought that was marvelous, because I like to live on tomatoes.

J: Yes, and that's a whole new concept in what you could get in the market.

D: But, but just everything, our whole world has become electrified, electrified or, I'm going to make a word or two here... and then of course wouldn't you say--maybe it didn't actually change Paoli, but it changed our thinking, doesn't it change Paoli, when we come across nuclear things and the, when we landed on the moon and all that. This is something that my mother had us do when we were kids and I think I have, if I ever got them all together, I want to put them all in the back of my autobiography if I ever get it finished. Whenever something big happens, sit down and write "Today I watched something" or today something happened.

J: Like Kathryn Marray.

D: Yes, she did do that. Well, Mother had us do it. And the night that the first man landed on the moon, oh, my grandkids

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would've been about seven years old, I gave them a quarter a piece to sit down and write "Today I saw, tonight I saw a man land on the moon." Because we got them out of bed, you know, it was in the middle of the night when they landed. And, but, but the night that John Kennedy was killed, I sit down and wrote what was going on, and the day, oh that big blow-up over in Russia, the nuclear plant over there, I've got all of it written down, how I felt about it. And this might seem silly to you but I think if I had something that my grandmother had written the day that the Civil War was over, she was four years old, when the Civil War was over. And the day, if I had something that she had written then and that she was specting her Papa to come from the war, cause that's what they called him, is "Poppy," why won't that have been something? That is the kind of thing I can leave to my great grandkids and they probably won't give a darn.

J: No, no, no, no.

D: But that's what I wanted to leave for my kids.

J: Well, I can appreciate that, I mean I had a strong reaction reading what Kathryn Murray had written when she was 12 all about World War I.

D: Well--well, I do remember this one thing that she showed me that was written in this childish hand or you know, across the bottom of a school paper.

J: Right. Just one more thing, and then [Dillard starts to laugh] and I promise [both laugh]... I've been saying one more thing for at least an hour!

D: Well, I'm alright if you are, I know you're tired and I think I ought to feed you.

J: No. [laughs... sound of someone knocking on the door] Oh, there's the door now, let me go get it-- [tape recorder turned off, then on]

D: ...Her house was made, it had big windows and double-windows in the dining room and double-windows in the dining room and double-windows in the living room and you know and she'd [Jones laughs] she'd just sit in a chair where the _____--she'd keep her chair sitting right in the middle of her dining room with the bedroom door open and she could look out and see the... well, where the park is, the street that goes down to the park, she could look out and see anybody that went down that street. She could look straight through the front glass door and see anybody that was going up the street and she could look straight down the street and see anybody that was coming up. And I'll tell you, Mother and I, there were many things we didn't agree

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on. The one thing we did agree on was what she was doing when she was young and she was in a nursing home for a year and every year--every night, she would call me at 6:00 and I would sit there and I've got notebooks full of notes I made about what she did when she was young, 'cause we nevear quarreled over that. We didn't quarrel anyhow, we just kind of felt bad about each other.

But I, this did hurt, it hurts me yet, that it happened. But about a week before she had the stroke that did kill her, it was about three weeks before she died, but she couldn't talk. Mother was telling me one night, she said, well she lived on that street, let's see '81 when she died from that... 20 would be 61, 62 years I guess, that she lived on that street. And she said nothing ever happened on that street but once that they didn't know about. And I couldn't help the little bit of sarcasm, I said "Why mother, aren't you ashamed?"

She says "What do you mean?"

I said "That you missed something!" [Jones laughs] Still, see Mother never did get this, see this is why Mother and I couldn't understand each other, and she says "What do you mean?"

And I said "That you missed something."

"Well no," she says, "It happened in the middle of the night and we were asleep or we would have known it!" [both chuckle] But you see I'm...

J: But she definitely wanted to know everything that was going on?

D: ...Given to...stretching things to the place that you know that I don't mean it. I mean, like when I was working, I might have said "Why at the rate I'm going now, I'll finish a chair by the day after tomorrow" or something like that, where of course everybody knew you were lying. Or I'll say "Well, I got 67 done on and I hope to get more done this hour." Everybody knew that you weren't telling the truth. But if I said to Mother like that, she's say "Ohh, surely not that many." Or, "Ohh, you must have gotten more done that that." I mean she was so literal about everything that we just did not understand each other.

J: Yes. Did you all...

D: [simultaneously] She loved me, but she, I don't think she liked me. [chuckles]

J: Did you also , did you agree on, I don't know if gossip's the right word, but the whole idea of wanting to know everything.

D: That's right. We certainly didn't.

J: Yes.

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D: Because actually I've never had any room for it, I've always had too many other things to talk about.

J: Yes. I guess I just wonder...

D: [simultaneously] But understand that we're talking, my mother went to the fifth grade and she doesn't, she never knew that much you know and...

J: And, yes, she didn't have something, like you had writing.

D: And, and that's what I said, that she, to her, an education was not a necessity. My dad didn't know much school than she did but he realized how necessary it was. But to Mother, you know, they were raised out in the country and all of her brothers and sisters died down there, they never got away. They didn't need to know any more.

J: [sighs] Yes.

D: If you could, well, in this biography of mine, I keep saying that you know that Mother's prime thing in her life was that a girl grew up to get married and have a husband and that she couldn't understand when we would bring awards home from school, what good those were going to do us about getting a husband. Because as far as she was concerned, that was the only thing for a girl to do. Even in my generation, it was, really. I mean, we might go out and get jobs but girls didn't go out for a career.

Oh Cathy, if I were going to school now, I don't think I'd want to be a lawyer, I won't want to be a doctor, but I know what I would be, I'd be a writer or a school teacher. And if I were teaching, I would teach English and journalism.

J: Yes. Like Uyesugi.

D: Yes. That's what I would go out for if I were in school now. But, in my day, women didn't go out for things, that's what I was telling you that nobody in our class was anybody great. We were just lucky we got through school and you worked and like I said, just imagine living day after day and never having any fun happen to you. Anything different. And I think about factories because most of those people, you know, they get up and they go to work every morning and they work through the day, the same job, the same motions, the same thing. They go home that night and they eat the same things for supper, probably exactly the same, maybe. They go to bed at the same time, they get up tomorrow and they might even do the same things at night, huh? [chuckles] And they go back to work the next morning and same thing over day after day for maybe 50 years of their life. How would you live?

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J: Do you think that describes very many people here? Or very many people in Paoli?

D: Oh, I would say it describes half of the people you know.

J: Just in general you mean.

D: Yes. Because they just... you find a few people like me and my daughter that have to get out and do something different. And, but I think you know, that it does, it never amounts to anything what I do. But if I were to do it over again, with the opportunity that people have, that girls have today, because when I went to school, when I graduated from my school, there were two professions open to women... that was teaching school or being a nurse. And no--had been out of school maybe 7 or 8 years when I met my first woman doctor and I never met another one for 20 years after that. Fifteen years or so.

J: Yes.

D: Women just didn't have the opportunities they have now.

J: Right. So it's one step forward but...

D: But two steps backwards.

J: Yes.

D: Well, I used to tell everybody you know that I did not believe in women's lib... because I liked being treated like a lady. And then suddenly it occurred to me that you take two people, one man, and one woman, on the same job and he's making half again as much as she is, not doing a bit better work. And that galls. So now I've gotten to the place that I do believe in a certain amount of women's lib and now you know that I'm getting old... I'm not so sure that I believe in it after all. [laughs]

J: Really?

D: You know I really--oh I don't, I still think that if women you know do the work they should be paid for it. But I'm not sure only that women had something more when women were ladies. And they were respected as that. Then nowadays when we're just people. And we have to work. I don't know what, oh there's no question on this. If I could go to school now in the day that we have now, yes I would try and be somebody. I guess I've got more ambition than I think because, because I've never you know, tried that hard, I said everything that has come to me has just come to me, I haven't had to work hard for it.

J: But, I mean, but you've also always done the things that you

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really like with the needle, with the pen.

D: Yes.

J: So... do you think women...

D: [simultaneously] See, even when I was working I was sewing.

J: Right, right.

D: There was no other job I would've taken. I mean even when I was working in a factory I was still sewing.

J: Right.

D: The other jobs I had of course were with a pen. Or with machinery, but...

J: And that's something, you know. A lot.

D: Well its funny. Now, like great big adding machines you know with 10 columns of figures, 10 bunches of figures clear across them that all have to balance at the bottom?-- I can do that, why can't I hit a typewriter as accurately? Sometimes I can do a whole page without a mistake and other times I may have 20 mistakes on a page, so... that's what I was telling Kathryn that day, that I always use erasable typing paper because it's the only way I can make mine look neat and she said they weren't allowed to use erasable when they sent their papers in, they had to be on a certain kind of paper and I said "Well I can't type for you then." Because that's the only way, somebody asked me says, "Well you must be a great typist, because it looks so neat."

I said, "No, I just use erasable."

J: Which is the secret of a lot of typists, I'm sure. Do you think women's lib, how do you think or do you think it's touched Paoli or affected women here much, or I don't know....

D: To be honest... my friends come to see me, I don't get out that much.

J: I know that.

D: Now, the first few years I was back here I did go to democrat meetings for oh maybe ten years, and I said I went through Rebekah Lodge in all the district offices and stuff like that. But, as far as, well especially since, no I did the lodge bit after '75, but most of my activity has been more or less curtailed since '75.

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J: The reason I asked is because I know that you get so many visitors and phone calls and that you are very much aware of what goes on in town, but it occurs to me the question I asked might be hard to answer because it's, it's just something that people might not talk about, but might be changing.

D: I really don't think that my friends do talk about it--I have a bunch of friends. Some friends you know call with things on the news, and to discuss or to see if I can tell, a lot of friends that call because I look up everything and they don't. And I got a lot of friends like that and I've got other friends that come because they like to sew and stuff. I got other friends that come just because they like to talk, I guess.

J: Okey-doke. [sighs] Is there anything we forgot to talk about? [laughs]

D: No, but we'll think of it later on. [Jones laughs]

J: Thank you so much; I've really enjoyed....

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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