

Interviewer: TINA M. YOUNG

### INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: NELLE BOGOSIAN

Date and Place of Birth: 901 NIEDRINGHAUS AVE, GRANIT CITY, IL  
BORN 1926

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Interview Date, Time, and Place: NOV 14, 2001 At 3:30pm in kitchen At [REDACTED]

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

CONNECTION TO LINCOLN PLACE  
+ PARENTS - MOTHER'S ORDEAL COMING TO AMERICA  
ARMENIAN MASSACRE - LACK OF RECOGNITION BY UNITED STATES  
FAMILY VIGNETTES - FIRST TIME BROTHER SAW A BLACK PERSON  
MISS PRATHER AND KINDERGARTEN / COMMUNITY CENTER  
SUNDAY SCHOOL / BAPTIST MISSION / CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES  
POOL HALL  
EXPERIENCES AT SCHOOL / BEING SHUNNED  
RELATIONSHIPS IN NEIGHBORHOOD BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS  
FUNERAL PROCESSIONS  
DANCES / FESTIVITIES OF DIFFERENT GROUPS  
HUNGARIAN HOME

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

AWKWARD INTERVIEW, MOSTLY SURFACE INFORMATION  
TAPE 1, SIDE B RUNS OUT

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Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

ARMENIAN SCHOOLS  
PASSING ON LANGUAGE IN FAMILY / YOUNGER GENERATION  
WORK / WORK AS FAMILY BABY-SITTER  
MOVING OUT OF LINCOLN PLACE  
FIRST JOB / FREEDOM TO TRAVEL  
RUNNING INTO ELDERLY ARMENIAN WOMAN IN DETROIT (STORY)  
FOODS / FAVORITE  
IMPACT OF ARMY DEPOT  
LESSONS FROM MISS PRATHER  
PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT MADE GOOD  
ORGANIZATIONS IN NEIGHBORHOOD  
BIG CHANGES IN NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER WWII → 1950s

~~Note any special circumstances involving the interview:~~

OPINION OF "TURKS"  
"MIDDLE EASTERN" COFFEE  
TRAVEL - MEXICO, ARMENIA, CUBA "BEFORE CASTRO", FRANCE  
TRIP TO ARMENIA - SHORT STORIES  
SEPT. 11  
GRACELAND  
HOW GOVERNMENT IS HANDLING SEPT. 11 ATTACKS  
READING COFFEE GRINDS AS SOCIAL ACTIVITY

To: Dr. Anne Valk  
From: Tina M. Young  
Date: 8 Dec 01  
Subject: Biographical summary for Nelle Bogosian; Lincoln Place

Born in 1926 at 901 Niedringhaus, Nelle Bogosian lived in the Lincoln Place neighborhood for sixty three years. She is of Armenian heritage, and her parents were both originally from the same town named Van in Armenia. Her father, Haroutiun, immigrated to the United States in 1914 where he hoped to earn enough money to bring over the rest of his family. However, when the Armenian massacre occurred, coupled later with the onset of WWI, he lost contact with his family for twelve years. He searched for them through the Armenian newspapers and finally found them in 1926 and brought them to this country through way of Istanbul.

Her father, nicknamed "Blubby," opened a pool hall in Lincoln Place in 1928, and after he died her older brother took over the business. Some of Nelle's earliest memories are of her kindergarten days and of Miss Prather, whom she both loved and feared. As the youngest child in the family, Nelle said she was denied nothing, especially by her father. She grew up a free-spirited individual that did as she pleased. She has many memories in regard to gatherings and festivals of all the different groups within Lincoln Place when she was a child, and was most impressed with the Mexican activities. Nelle also had some very painful memories from her younger days of being shunned and called names by other children who considered her a foreigner.

In her narrative, Nelle discussed the impact of the army depot, her own work experiences and those born in the neighborhood who made a good life for themselves. In addition, she talked about her many travels and gave her thoughts about the September 11th terrorist attacks.