

# **Madison Historical: The Online Encyclopedia and Digital Archive for Madison County, Illinois**

## **Elizabeth Christian Oral History Interview**

Libby Christian, Interviewer

Florissant, Missouri

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**Libby Christian (LC):** My name is Libby Christian and I am interviewing Elizabeth Christian, formerly Busarow, for the Madison County Historical Project. Let us begin. Tell me about your childhood growing up in Madison County.

**Elizabeth Christian (EC):** So, I grew up in Collinsville, Illinois, I mean it was a rural town of about 20,000, 25,000 when I grew up and it was a safe town a quiet town, not a lot going on. We, it was pretty normal childhood. I grew up in the 70s, went to grade school in the 70s, and high school in the 80s, mid 80s. We rode our bikes, we had skateboards, we played out till dark, after dark. Rode our bikes all around town. So. What I would consider normal now not normal for the kids growing up now. Um went to, swam at the bath and tennis club in the summers, and uh pretty normal, I guess.

**LC:** So where did you go to school, grade school?

**EC:** I went to grade school at the Lutheran grade school, Holy Cross Lutheran. Um, my dad was the minister at the church, so I had to ride the bus to school, so had to ride the bus to school and home from school. Um, went, there, from kindergarten to 8th grade had girl scouts, all of that stuff. Um, there it was primarily um all white school, so that is much different now, um rode the bus with the catholic school, that was interesting. Um.

**LC:** And you guys didn't live to far from the school?

**EC:** No, we lived about oh probably a mile and a half, two miles from school. But I didn't ride my bike to school. We bussed and, the we had to listen to the radio for school closings 'cause they didn't call and no internet or any of that so um but no we didn't, I didn't walk to school we rode the bus. Um. So.

**LC:** And what about your transition to high school, how many of your friends went to the local high school versus

**EC:** Um prob, so I went Lutheran high school in Edwardsville, Metro East Lutheran High school. And probably um I would say it was about half and half that went to the Lutheran High School and half that went to Collinsville High School, so um and it was an easy transition to Lutheran high, Lutheran high was very small. When I went there my class was the first graduating class to start in the existing building and graduate out of that building. All of the other classes before me they started in um a church in Wood River and then maybe or they even started on SIU campus and then got shuffled around a little bit till they got a building um so. Um but mine was the only one that started in the building and graduated out of that building so there were only 31 in my graduating class out of the high school.

**LC:** What was the demographic like when you were in high school?

**EC:** So, when I was in high school, maybe when I was a junior uh, I don't think a senior there were only, it had to be a junior. Um maybe a sophomore, there were only um maybe one two three four, four black students, in the school, they weren't in my class, um I didn't have any black students in my class. There was one black girl, two grades above me and she didn't start with that class, I don't know where she came from, what uh neighboring town she came from, maybe Edwardsville. And then, um the class below me had two students a brother and a sister and then another grade maybe in that same class there was another um black student and they came from maybe East St. Louis so there were just the four and um no other, no Asian no Indian, that's it.

**LC:** Do you think with the SIU campus that the demographics had anything to do with that?

**EC:** No um the two, the brother and the sister, their father I believe was some kind of minister and the gal who was two years ahead of me I don't know what her parent's occupations was, and then the other boy he may have come because of the other two. So, I don't think SIU really had anything to do with it, I believe it had everything to do with probably getting a better education than what they probably would've gotten um where they were at.

**LC:** Well isn't Collinsville, didn't most of the area schools or areas kinda combine into Collinsville High School?

**EC:** So, it depends on, on where they came from. East St. Louis had a high school, Cahokia had a high school, Granite City had a high school so depending on what the dividing lines were it all depends on where they went to high school, Edwardsville had a high school so kids from, depending on where they lived in Glen Carbon they would've gone to Edwardsville, Maryville went to Collinsville. Fairmount City they went to Collinsville High School, Venice, Venice had a high school, Lovejoy had a high school, or Venice and Lovejoy may have combined, Granite City had their own. So those areas, I'm not really sure about but, I know about Venice and Lovejoy because, Lovejoy and Venice we played in high school, so I know about their them having their own high schools but Collinsville drew from a few of the surrounding areas but not too far out.

**LC:** How many other areas of Madison County did Metro draw from, do you know?

**EC:** Lutheran High drew from all over the surrounding areas. Lutheran High drew from um any of the surrounding churches that were called association churches, so they drew from Alton, Wood River, Edwardsville, Collinsville, Granite City, um Bethalto um Staunton Worden, Prairie Town, um they drew from uh um Mulberry Grove they drew from the Belleville area all though not too many came from Belleville. Um and that uh Alton some folks came from Alton not too many but a few. Um so the surrounding Metro East area.

**LC:** And I know you were going to Concordia Mequon after high school um why did that change and why did you stay in Madison County?

**EC:** Um my dad died when I was 16 so he died in December of my junior year um so really, I stayed back to stay with my mom. I was the only child left at home, so she wasn't ready for me to leave home

yet.

**LC:** What was it like starting at SIU in the later 80s for you?

**EC:** Well I started SIU in the fall of 1985 so it was in the middle of the 80s. So um it was interesting it wasn't really a huge change from high school other than you got to meet a bunch of different people and really it was um interesting to see people that you went to high school with who were a couple of years older than you and um experience them in a different way see them in a different light, because it was really the time of what the Midwest might consider the punk movement, more of maybe the new wave so you see these people dressing in combat boots and the army, the long army coats and expressing themselves that way and then you have you got to be friends with people from Alton maybe who they were a little bit more progressive and so it was interesting and fun to branch out and meet people and learn about people that way. Um

**LC:** What were you originally going to Concordia for?

**EC:** Um I wanted to be a lawyer at one point, so I was going to study paralegal studies um at Concordia.

**LC:** What did you end up studying at SIU?

**EC:** I was a psychology major and a biology major.

**LC:** So, a double major. Did you um join any student unions or clubs while you were there?

**EC:** At the time, I don't know if they still have them, but the fraternities had little sisters, and I was a little sister to the Sigma Pi fraternity.

**LC:** What were the demographics like in your class at SIU? Were they different from Metro?

**EC:** Um, there were, from what I remember, there were mostly white students in my classes, from what I remember. I know that um a lot of students from East St. Louis were bussed in. There were busses that brought students in. I do remember that um around that time I believe was when the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday was becoming a holiday and SIU, I don't believe was going to celebrate it, so there was a big protest um, I remember that. Um, other than that I mean it was pretty unremarkable, uh so there were the Sig Pis had VFW, they had parties every Thursday night at the VFW in Edwardsville and the guys had to be 21 and the girls had to be 18 to get in, so that was different.

**LC:** Were you around for the expansion of the dentistry school in Alton and the Center in East St. Louis?

**EC:** Um no, not that I can remember.

**LC:** What about the cougar on campus, I know that you had siblings that went to SIU?

**EC:** So I have a brother who's ten years older than me and he went to SIU and I don't remember, I don't think the cougar was on campus when I went to SIU but the cougar was on campus when he went to SIU and I remember seeing the cougar um when he went there and I believe it was kept over they had a religious center and I think it was kept over there and I remember seeing it when he was there. Which

would have been he graduated from SIU in 1981. So, it would've been

**LC:** Not too much before you, a couple years, back to the Martin Luther King Holiday ordeal, were you around for the protests or do you remember anything about that, did you attend classes that day?

**EC:** I think they had classes, I remember going to the one Science Building and there being some kind of a hubbub around um but

**LC:** What was SIU like while you attended there and being a little sister to a fraternity besides the partying did you do anything else run charity events or anything?

**EC:** Um no charity events um it was just it was much more a commuter atmosphere when I went to SIU then I think it is now maybe they didn't have hardly any they had some apartments and um not very many of those you just kinda came in and did your went to your classes and hung out maybe in the university center with your friends and then that that was it. There wasn't a whole lot of time that you spent on campus.

**LC:** Were there any parties thrown on campus or was it a dry campus?

**EC:** I never went to any parties on campus; the fraternity had a frat house. And um they had parties.

**LC:** Did you ever go to the Grainery or other nightclubs in Madison County you hung out at?

**EC:** So, I didn't go to the Grainery, that was more when I was in high school, um I know where it was, I didn't go there. Um Collinsville had a place called Panama Jacks um.

**LC:** Is that where Wild Country is now?

**EC:** Yeah, um and they would have concerts sometimes, um but I didn't I just didn't do whole lot of that stuff.

**LC:** But you went to parties at the frat house?

**EC:** Oh yeah

**LC:** Being from Madison County these towns are kinda like rural towns but with a city like vibe, what did you all do for fun? Being in high school and in college.

**EC:** Uh well in college it seems like a lot of time was spent at the um fraternity house, in high school there were people, friends who had property out in the country, so we'd go out there. Um and there were always parties out there, now it's all built up. Um and otherwise we would just go to, Lutheran high didn't have a football team they had basketball team and soccer, I was a cheerleader so there was that on the weekend nights. There was, it might still be there, a Pantera's in Edwardsville we'd always go there after games. Um or um sometimes I'd go to the Collinsville football games with friends, um but we just all hung out with our friends. My friends weren't huge party scene friends in high school we just hung out in a big group.

**LC:** Being from Madison County what, which town was the most progressive and I guess which was the most rural? How would you distinguish the towns?

**EC:** Edwardsville is probably the most progressive. The kids from Edwardsville were definitely more progressive they were um there was always more money in Edwardsville. Um and the town was always seeming to expand more, Collinsville was more kinda I don't know uh maybe it more country I suppose. But um maybe because um Alton seemed to be more progressive, I suppose and that could just be my perception because of the people I met and encountered. Um so we always seemed, Collinsville always seemed a little backwards I suppose.

**LC:** What about Godfrey and all of those little towns out there?

**EC:** I never did a whole in Godfrey or um any of the other places.

**LC:** Was Wood River considered almost uh factory town?

**EC:** So, Wood River has a high school um and we were would play them in sports because of the size but it was definitely small and definitely a factory town because of the oil refinery and the oil and brass

**LC:** Did St. Jacob have a high school or were they a part of Troy?

**EC:** Um St. Jacob did not have a high school and we never went over there, it was just one of those places I never went to.

**LC:** Where did you mostly hangout I guess in Madison County? Just Collinsville?

**EC:** Um I actually probably hung out more between Collinsville and Edwardsville.

**LC:** Was Maryville a bustling town like it is now?

**EC:** No, Maryville was, uh 159 was a two-lane road street and you never sped through it cause only a couple cops that sat there and um it was tiny there was 159 and uh main street was teeny tiny.

**LC:** What about Pontoon Beach or did you mostly consider that Granite City?

**EC:** I just considered Pontoon Beach Granite City, and I never went to Granite City.

**LC:** You never went to Granite City?

**EC:** Never

**LC:** Were you around for the high schools merging or at your time was it just one high school in Granite City?

**EC:** I didn't know they merged, oh yeah there were there was north and south. Wasn't there?

**LC:** I believe so.

**EC:** Well I didn't pay any attention.

**LC:** Being from Madison County, what is what has changed the most since college and high school?

**EC:** Um well Edwardsville is huge and um Collinsville doesn't seem to be quite as nice as it used to be. Um but Edwardsville keeps getting larger and larger, but Collinsville is just not as nice as it used to be which is sad.

**LC:** When you lived in Collinsville how many Lutheran churches were in Collinsville?

**EC:** Well there were three, and then uh I guess Maryville has, I always forget about Pleasant Ridge, which I guess is Maryville, not really Collinsville. So, there's a teeny tiny one and then there's the two larger ones. Well one's larger now but when I was growing up it was small.

**LC:** And is that Good Shepard?

**EC:** Yeah

**LC:** Good Shepard seems to be taking over the schooling besides Holy Cross.

**EC:** Well there's, Collinsville's more built up on that end of town, so which to me would make sense.

**LC:** Do you think that's because of just the way people are moving into town, they're moving towards Edwardsville instead of back towards Fairmount city and all those other cities back that way.

**EC:** Well there's no place for Collinsville to grow that way, so it's just logical that Good Shepard would expand because Collinsville has grown out off of Keebler and all that country where people had all of that land where kids would party off Sugarloaf Road is all grown up, big houses out there and young people are moving in and they need a place to educate their kids and there's no place out there so where are they gonna send their kids, they're gonna go to Good Shepard.

**LC:** So, all those subdivisions in Maryville, I guess you remember when that wasn't there?

**EC:** None of that was there

**LC:** How much of Maryville and Glen Carbon and all of that really picked up?

**EC:** Well Keebler used to be after a certain spot it was just nothing, it was just a tiny country road that was fun to drive down and now Keebler runs into Maryville and all of these subdivisions. It was really easy to kinda get lost back there and now I drive back there and I'm trying to remember where these people lived or where their property was that you would go and there would be parties after the football games you can't find it because.

**LC:** Would you consider Collinsville a mining town when you were growing up at all?

**EC:** Well not an active coal mining town because now I don't really think about it, if I sat and thought about it sure because uh that was the thing, like where I grew up, where my house was um there were old

coal mines and we would go back in the woods growing up. My brothers, I'd go back with my brothers or had ride his motorcycle back there and back where Gaslight was there were old coal mines back there and they weren't properly closed so if you really wanted to you could get down there which would not be safe but um it was fun to go and explore and now there are some houses back there which I'm not sure how safe that it is and there's the other end of town which probably gets closer to Troy maybe where there are mines um so um yeah I suppose in the old days you could see where there were old dunes like that were covered possible old mines, could look like coal there um so yeah.

**LC:** And back by Collinsville's city limits by Troy is that back by what is now called the Seven Gates of Hell?

**EC:** Yeah, you know they didn't, I never really heard people talk about it so much but you could go back there and it would be kinda creepy we used have some older friends that lived back there, had a huge farm back there, um and uh it was just an interesting area to go back there you just didn't go back there. Um

**LC:** Was that a really old part of town back there?

**EC:** It was the country and you just didn't go unless you needed to go back there. We would go back there a couple times a year for various types of events. I never, I've driven back there a couple times but it was just not an area that I frequented mostly because I wasn't familiar with it and then I couldn't even necessarily drive back there now and know where those areas are.

**LC:** Growing up in a congregation what would you say what mostly those occupations were and how was it growing up as a preacher's kid.

**EC:** Um I didn't have any problems growing up as a preacher's kid I wasn't rebellious or any of that because I was a preacher's kid and I had to prove something that I wasn't um but mostly the occupations in the church they were varied there were some farmers, there were just business people in the community um that was probably mostly it, you know.

**LC:** What were the demographics in the congregation versus the demographics now?

**EC:** Um they're close to the same, mostly white. There might be um there's probably an Asian family, a couple Asian families, there might be a black family, I'm not really sure. There might be some in the school or maybe mixed. Um but I think that's about it, I know there is a Lutheran congregation close to East St. Louis.

**LC:** Being from Collinsville what would you say the most dangerous part of Collinsville was growing up?

**EC:** Um that would have to be if you went down by what would now be the area by 255 and St. Louis Road um that intersection down closer to Fairmount City by the race track.

**LC:** Oh, is that how you get there, to Fairmount?

**EC:** Yeah. Down there

**LC:** Isn't that where you grew up?

**EC:** No

**LC:** Well off St. Louis Road

**EC:** Yeah but it wasn't dangerous there but if you went down that hill, farther down, um that's where I would consider that to be dangerous. I didn't really consider any part of Collinsville dangerous um but if you went down there, I would probably consider that area past the race track.

**LC:** Do you think that nowadays that's how people are moving out starting at St. Louis Road and 255 kinda dwindling up to Main Street and then towards Maryville and towards Glen Carbon and Edwardsville, do you think that's the path that people are taking to move out cause now it seems that that area of Collinsville is not necessarily uninhabited but it doesn't seem like it is progressing. Seems like that area is just failing.

**EC:** I think there is still some nice areas there, homes are still intact I just think that they're smaller and people want bigger homes and when the young people move in, they want a bigger home, they want something nicer. They don't want to live on that end of town they want to live on the end of town where there is more amenities, there used to be gas stations and pizza um a pizza parlor, and there was a drug store and there was an ice cream place and there was a little pantry where you could go and buy things, it was family owned places and it's all gone now and people aren't putting things back in there, there's nothing, it doesn't seem like there working to build up that end, people put so much effort into expanding 159 on the downtown side of things that that's all there doing. When I go back to Collinsville, I don't see a lot of effort in revitalizing Collinsville. Um I mean even Home Furniture is closing and I am sure it's because they can't compete, nobody is going downtown to buy anything I don't go back to Collinsville for any festivals because why, it's they're not, it's just don't see a whole lot there, they have put some really nice bars in they're nice but they aren't drawing a whole lot of people in there. So, I think they need to put more of an effort into just revitalizing things.

**LC:** Speaking of Home Furniture and Main Street, how many home businesses or small-town businesses have moved out of Main Street, I know since I've been a member and can drive, Ashman's Pharmacy has closed and now Home Furniture.

**EC:** Um Ashman's closed, Home Furniture's closed, Evers pharmacy has closed um Bert's Chuck Wagon moved, um I'm not sure where it moved, did it move to Fairview Heights?

**LC:** No, its downtown, it's in a bigger building.

**EC:** Oh okay, uh a lot of places, I think there's quite a few places I know there was a fancier, more upscale dress shop, Mary-Ann's, that's gone but I can't say but that's been gone for a long time. But um so many things are gone, from when I grew up like there was a P-Herschel that was like a five-and-dime kinda place, um yeah so, many places, have closed but the pharmacies are gonna close because they can't compete with Schnucks and Walmart and CVS, and Walgreens they just can't compete. Um so I don't



know how many doctors' offices have actually closed and now they're located in the hospitals, or close to the hospitals. Um so there was pizza place that closed, close to where I grew up. So yeah, a lot of places. Um there was an Italian restaurant way out on 159 that closed; well they merged the names I don't know if the families still own it. But yeah, a lot of places.

**LC:** Do you think that mainstream businesses are taking over rural towns such as Collinsville?

**EC:** Well I think definitely cause you see the chains coming in so.

**LC:** When you were growing up downtown Main Street and all those family owned businesses were most of those families' members of Holy Cross?

**EC:** Well some of them were, and some of them were members of, you just had essentially you had a couple smaller a few small churches and then you had the small Lutheran churches, and then you had Holy Cross was the big Lutheran Church in town and then you had the Catholic Church. So, I don't know how many went there.

**LC:** Do you also think that with Good Shepard growing and even with that side of town bustling do you think that Holy Cross is not losing members but per say but is smaller, gotten smaller over the years, because its hidden away, it's not on the main street it's not most people aren't going downtown anymore, they're not moving in on that side of town obviously.

**EC:** No, I think they have had I don't think that's it, it's just politics. So, I don't think it's necessarily has anything to do with location. They have their own struggles.

**LC:** Now there's still some family owned businesses on Main Street like the Herr family or the Herr Funeral, even now that's starting to dwindle it seems with other main stream funeral homes and just

**EC:** Well Herr Funeral home is not even family owned anymore they sold, it has the name, but they sold to some other company. So that's not even family owned anymore,

**LC:** And most people don't seem to be choosing Herr anymore or

**EC:** There going to it seems they're going to, so there's a gentleman who used to work for Herr funeral home that now has started his own funeral home in Maryville, and that's where it seems like a lot of people are going.

**LC:** Do you think that's just mainly because of people moving or just it not being family owned so it's just not as good?

**EC:** Well I think that you have to look at a lot of things and of course you have to look at the consumer and see what the price is because you are still purchasing something. Even though when somebody dies you don't think about purchasing, being a consumer, and buying something even when somebody dies you have to look at the cost.

**LC:** Well do you think with younger people moving in that and older people that knew Herr family just

as an example um since those younger people don't know them or maybe not a part of Holy Cross Congregation because most of Holy Cross Congregation did choose Herr family um do you think being in a younger generation people don't know or know the connections that are known they just know the main names

**EC:** Um it's possible

**LC:** And there's another funeral home on Main Street isn't there?

**EC:** Um yes, I don't remember the name of it.

**LC:** So more on businesses in Collinsville and Madison County, what, you mentioned Gaslight earlier with the mines, and your childhood home. What was Gaslight to you?

**EC:** So Gaslight was one of the bath and tennis clubs, well it was a private pool club, well there was that one and Town and Country but Gaslight was the one I belonged to it was back behind our houses in a nice area, close to a the mines so it was a members only club there was a swim team and uh tennis team. Um and they were open all summer long and go and swim and hangout all day.

**LC:** Where was the other, I guessing swim club?

**EC:** On the other end of town and I never went so I don't know a lot about it. Gaslight seemed to be more of the affluent swim club in town.

**LC:** How long was it open do you know?

**EC:** Uh it was open for a long time. I think it might still even be open now it might be closed, I think. It was a members only club and you have to pay for it every year to join, it was a not everyone got in.

**LC:** Do you know what the going rate for it was?

**EC:** I don't, I don't me just know that you had to be of a certain level to get in, not just anyone could get in.

**LC:** Was it a certain demographic, salary range?

**EC:** It was definitely a certain demographic. A white-only club you could bring guests but you still, I babysat for two summers for a family and um they had two adopted children and one was white, Tim was white and the little girl, Mindy she was black, and she might've even been mixed and prior to the parents adopting these kids they were members of Gaslight and they had to fight really hard to keep their membership and to let the little girl go, and they were probably 7 and 8, she was probably 7 when I started babysitting her and it was a huge fight to get her to belong and she was the only one.

**LC:** When did the demographics do you think started change and started to take affect and really show in the community, what were their responses?

**EC:** Well I don't know I think that it still might be a bit of a struggle depending on where you're at, having gone to private grade school and private high school and having belonged to a private community all of my life I think it still is still a struggle sometimes, for to change. Um but I think that it might be changing for some of those that might be one reason why Gaslight closed, I don't know I haven't been back in Collinsville for so long. Um but it still seems like that Collinsville seems to be a white area, Edwardsville had always been rather integrated um but Collinsville just didn't they were more of um like Fairmount City was not an integrated area, East St. Louis was definitely was not and if it was it was because of the old people who couldn't get out and cause a long, long time ago East St. Louis was white, and they started moving out in the sixties.

**LC:** Do you think that Collinsville was mainly white because of the Italian and German settlers that really began that town or the rural setting or the farming?

**EC:** Um probably usually because of who are the settlers in the town

**LC:** Was Gaslight the only instance um anyone of color turned away?

**EC:** Well they weren't turned away they just had to fight to get in, and then no other there were no other members of that color. I just never really thought about it that I knew.

**LC:** With demographics and you know your friends and growing up in a small town, what was it like knowing the police chief in town at the time?

**EC:** Oh, I mean I don't know I just knew him it wasn't I knew the police chief, I dated a cop, and there was no weirdness. It wasn't like it was now, where I stood.

**LC:** What do you mean it isn't like it is now?

**EC:** Well there was no fear of the police, like people have the fear of the police like their gonna get you know the police is gonna chase you and they're afraid when the policemen pulls them over that they're gonna get beat up. Or anything like that there's no fear that way, I was always told you know don't tell them you know me or you are friends with me because that's not gonna help you get out of the ticket, there was that but um it didn't really do anything for me and I didn't I didn't spend, when he became police chief I didn't even live there so much anymore. He was a sergeant when I lived there. So

**LC:** With everything going on nowadays with race tension and police, what really, I know I asked earlier, but what really has changed, in Collinsville um has it fallen behind the times, is it struggling to keep up do you think Collinsville will ever bounce back to what it was before or compete with Edwardsville?

**EC:** Um I don't I just think they are struggling to keep businesses to keep up I don't know if I feel like they are struggling to keep residents in that town in that city, um so much seems to be moving out um it seems like people are moving out to Maryville and Glen Carbon or Edwardsville, it could just be people are leaving Illinois, that could be it to, I would like to see Collinsville be revitalized but maybe it can't, I don't know that their city government looks like, um what their plan is it would be great to see it.

**LC:** What is it like to see it Home Furniture close and you know Ashman's moved out and the Sandwich

shop is closed now and Herr not being family owned and Holy Cross you know failing to keep a congregation, you know all of the things you grew up with leaving or falling away.

**EC:** Well I think it's sad, um I think I think that Holy Cross is coming back but I think it's very sad to see that. Because they could I think that Collinsville could be a great place of everyone could work together, there seems to be competition mostly between Collinsville and Edwardsville and now you've got Maryville in the middle and seems to be sucking people out of Collinsville, and Edwardsville or Maryville seems to be the one in the mix that is pulling it away, I don't if Maryville will ever have the stores and that that a Collinsville has, I think that as Maryville continues to grow that your gonna see the west end of Collinsville continue to fail that end that's closest to Maryville, that area isn't so bad it'll have some of the stores but that end of Collinsville that's closest to 255 and Fairmount city I think that's gonna continue to not do so well.

**LC:** Well with that being said it seems like that could be a positive um future Collinsville, let's hope for bettering I used to be really nice and lots of stores and just the homey feelings. Thank you so much for doing the interview and telling us about your childhood and the demographics side and what you grew up with.

**EC:** Thank you.