

Narrator: Millie Todoroff Chandler
Interviewer: Emily Coffin
Date and Place: Interviewed on October 29, 2001 at the home of Ms. Chandler,
[REDACTED]

Begin Tape 1, Side A

Emily Coffin: It's October 29th, 2001. I'm interviewing Millie Chandler. We're sitting in her sunroom at [REDACTED]. Millie would you please say your name and spell your last name for me please.

Millie Chandler: Sure. My name is Millie Chandler, C-H-A-N-D-L-E-R.

Coffin: All right, thank you very much.

Chandler: Sure.

Coffin: I have read your biographical information sheet and family history and see that you were born and lived in Lincoln Place all your life.

Chandler: That's right.

Coffin: Could you tell me one of your most favorite early childhood memories of living in Lincoln Place?

Chandler: Yes. The Lincoln Place Community Center. It is not open to the public at this time I don't believe but I was practically raised there. Ms. Prather was our coordinator there, our director, and I was very fond of her.

Coffin: I see.

Chandler: They named a school after her in Granite City, Prather Elementary School

Coffin: I see. That's where that name comes from?

Chandler: Yes maam. And my fond memories were because I played piano. They had a Sunday school there and I was the pianist and played piano there. They had dances there, which I attended regularly. They had sewing classes. Played ping-pong. Outdoor activities. On the gym construction there and I was there almost all the time.

Coffin: Wow.

Chandler: It was a very safe haven for all the children there.

Coffin: Were there lots of children that were growing up there?

Chandler: Oh yes, yes...of all ethnic varieties. They were Mexicans, Armenians, I was Macedonian, Hungarians, I was half Hungarian. And just every ethnic group you could mention.

Coffin: I see. And you all got along just, just fine?

Chandler: Beautifully. Beautifully. We never had an argument.

Coffin: That's great. I see you were born in 1926? Is that all right if we put that on tape? [chuckle] O.K.

Chandler: Sure.

Coffin: And, can you tell me about the neighborhood you lived in Lincoln Place as a child?

Chandler: Yes. We knew everyone on the block. It was just like family, as I said. We didn't have to lock our doors at night. Everyone knew everybody and took care of each other. If one of the members were not home you just felt safe to go to anyone's house and then wait until your parents did come home.

Coffin: I see.

Chandler: It was...I had a couple of relatives, there were Todoroffs living on the block, my dad's brother one that was totally unrelated but had the same last name. I would bake a cake every Saturday and take it to a bakery where he would bake it for us. He was called Chris the Baker. And my dad would make stews and madsen; take it there on Saturdays. Saturdays was his day he donated for the entire neighborhood.

Coffin: Is there a reason why you didn't cook in your own home?

Chandler: Because Chris wanted to help us out. He was a single gentleman and it, we didn't want to heat the kitchen. Mostly this was in the summer, I'm referring to, that we would take it to him. He baked bread; he gave it all away to everyone. He was a very generous, elderly gentleman at that time.

Coffin: Could you, could you tell a little bit about the house that you grew up in? I mean today, you know, houses are a lot different today I'm sure than they were in the 20's and 30's and 40's [1920, 1930 and 1940]. Could you just describe that to me?

Chandler: Oh certainly. No bathroom. (laughs) The most notable thing I remember about it. We had an outdoor bathroom. And a little pot; the portable pot. And when I moved into a house that did have a bathroom I was 18 [years old]. I thought it was a miracle. We didn't have furnaces as they're known

today. We had coal furnaces and we had a coal bin and one of the things come to my mind at that time when I was quite young... saddle oxfords, black and white, were popular but they, it was also popular to put coal on the white and rub it in, new shoes, and my dad simply did not understand that.

Coffin: Wow.

Chandler: But when I think of the coal I think of that part of my life.

Coffin: Is that right?

Chandler: Yes.

Coffin: Did you have lots of brothers and sisters?

Chandler: No. I only had two brothers. My brother Nigel. My brother was 14 years, I'm sorry, 13 months younger than me. And then my mother had one late in life and he was 17 years older, younger, rather than me. I was 17 [years old] when he was born.

Coffin: Oh, wow! (chuckle) That's quite a span.

Chandler: I treated him just like my own, then.

Coffin: I bet you did.

Chandler: Yes.

Coffin: I bet you did. Your dad came from Yugoslavia, is that correct?

Chandler: Yes at the age of 15.

Coffin: Wow. Did he come to Lincoln Place then?

Chandler: Yes. He came there and he became, went to work at Commonwealth. It was General Steel Castings Corporation. But on the side my dad learned to play the coronet. So, you know, one was kind enough to teach him. And he then learned to write his own music and had his own band for 40 years, called the Rhythm Nighthawks.

Coffin: Wow.

Chandler: And he was an excellent trumpet player.

Coffin: Well how, how did your mother and your dad meet? Do you know?

Chandler: They just met at a dance that he was playing at one time. And she came from a Hungarian background. My grandparents on my mother's side were from Hungary.

Coffin: So did she live in Lincoln...

Chandler: No. Not at that time. She lived behind the mill they called it, which is behind the hospital back there where the mill is. They had a lot of homes and they had a beautiful home which is now torn down, of course, where the steel mill... But, they met at a dance and dated and they got married. Had nothing in common but they got along fine.

Coffin: That's great. That's wonderful! Were there any issues... you indicated that the people of all ethnic groups, you know, were, were residents of Lincoln Place and everything. Were there any issues that, that caused any kind of conflict?

Chandler: None whatsoever.

Coffin: None.

Chandler: I cannot remember one issue. The Mexicans were fantastic. The Hungarians, of course, I knew. Now I spoke fluent Macedonian. I could not speak American [English] 'til I went to school and I had a wonderful teacher that taught me to speak. On, after school she would teach me because I just knew the Macedonian language because my dad had so many of his friends. So my mother had to learn the nationality also. And, was very fluent in the Macedonian language as well as the Hungarian language.

Coffin: What sort of dishes... I don't really anything about Macedonians or really much about Hungarians, except Hungarian Goulash, so... What are some of the ethnic dishes that you remember eating as a child?

Chandler: Oh, quite a few stews, they called them. And soma, that was a Hungarian dish. And Paprikas, that was another Hungarian dish. Mom would do that. My dad would cook the Macedonian ones; but mainly a lot of stews and zelnics. I don't know if you're familiar... Baklava...

Coffin: Oh, baklava...

Chandler: ...or any of the pastries. Yes, my mother made all of those.

Coffin: Wow. Wow. What were the grocery stores like?

Chandler: They were little, hometown places. You had no big ones to go to like we do now. It was on the corner. We had Louie's Market. And people would just charge it and pay it and they would say 'put it on the bill' in Macedonian, and at the end of the month you would pay this. And then we had a milkman. He would come to our door every day and deliver the milk. There were several. They were competitive. But we chose the one on the corner because we were friends with the...but it was very nice. We didn't know any...you know...to have such a wide variety. But we had all of the ethnic types of food...meats and cheeses that my parents were interested in.

Coffin: Did you have iceboxes at those times?

Chandler: We had an old icebox with ice that the iceman delivered. Yes.

Coffin: So there was an iceman that would drive by?

Chandler: Yes, he would deliver with the picks and put it in ice. Yes.

Coffin: Do you remember when your parents got their first refrigerator?

Chandler: Yes I do. It was quite an experience.

Coffin: Yes. Could you tell me about it?

Chandler: Like a miracle. Well we just couldn't believe that you plugged it in and it stayed cold and you have all that water draining out. Wonderful.

Coffin: At the Center [Lincoln Place Community Center] when all the children would go there an play...what are some of the games that you would play?

Chandler: Well, I was very athletic. I mostly like to play on the monkey bars. (laughs) But we played ball...I'm trying to remember the name...Indian Ball. That was my favorite. But I would get in trouble because my mother wanted me to practice piano, 'cause I took piano lessons. And if she went out the back door I was out in the front they'd be calling me to play ball. But that was one of the things...and the ping-pong as I mentioned earlier. I really enjoyed that a lot, too.

Coffin: Piano lessons...did you go to...what kind of lessons did you take? Did you go to somebody's house?

Chandler: No. The, Ms. Delaney came to my home and taught me for many years. And something interesting about that...this was during the depression. We didn't have much money so she would not charge my mother. My mother

knew how to crochet. And she crocheted her a very large tablecloth. And the longer I took lessons, the larger it became.

Coffin: (Laughs)

Chandler: And that's how my mother paid for my piano lesson.

Coffin: That's great.

Chandler: And I still played in my dad's band. I played piano for him when I was little.

Coffin: Music must run in the family then?

Chandler: Yes.

Coffin: Yes?

Chandler: And my brother also... Yes, speaking of music, my brother became the band director in Granite City.

Coffin: Wow.

Chandler: ...for 32 years.

Coffin: What kind of music do you remember playing?

Chandler: (Unintelligible)...and then I also would play every time they had what they called vicharinkas, which is a dance, and they would have all the children, one would play a violin, I would always play the piano, and they would ask me to play on the stage. It's not...It was known as the Hungarian Home, it's now the Mexican Club in Lincoln, Lincoln Place. On the stage is where we would have that preceding the regular dance and they would feature all the children. And I was always asked to play the piano. But, classical music is what we were taught.

Coffin: Is that right? Is that the kind of music that your dad played in his band? Or, did they play dance music?

Chandler: He played dance music. Oh yes. He played ... He was very popular. He played at picnics, he played at all these dances, he played American music as well as the ethnic, their dances, they called them, where they would have the line dancing like. The leader would have a handkerchief and twirl around. It was quite impressive.

Coffin: Do you remember, do you remember traveling outside of Lincoln Place as a child?

Chandler: Only 5 miles away, I thought it was in another world.

Coffin: Is that right?

Chandler: My vacation was, I don't know if you're familiar with where Maryville School is right now? Maryville Road? My godmother, parents lived there. They owned all of that property. And now it's sectioned off into Angela [Street] and various homes. But they had a farmhouse there. And I would go every year and spend a two-week vacation. That was my vacation; but as a family, no. We did not travel very often. Except one time we did go to a wedding in Indiana.

Coffin: What kind... did you have a car?

Chandler: Well, one that didn't run all the time. But we had a car. My dad had a Ford of some kind I believe it was.

Coffin: O.K. did your mother work outside the home?

Chandler: Two weeks. That was it. (laughs) She decided she'd stay home. No, she did not work outside of the home, but mom loved to be in all kinds of sewing circles and ... She didn't like to stay home in the afternoon, too much (laughs). But... I mean she was a good mother, don't get me wrong, but she was very friendly and active and to her dying day she belonged to 5 or 6 organizations. She enjoyed being with people.

Coffin: That's great. That's great. How do you remember celebrating holidays?

Chandler: Oh my. We had quite a few. Being Macedonian, our Christmas and New Years was two weeks after the American Christmas and New Years. Therefore we would celebrate two. We'd have one Christmas; two weeks later we'd have another Christmas.

Coffin: Did you get presents both times?

Chandler: No, not really. (laughs) But the celebration where people would come and go and then we also had Name Days. For instance, my dad was named James, so on James Name Day it would be an open house and all of the James in Lincoln Place would... People would go from one home to another, like an open house, and we would serve them. And that was a big occasion.

Coffin: Wow.

Chandler: Quite a few people...

Coffin: Now did your grandparents live around, as well?

Chandler: No. I never did meet or know my dad's grandparents. [Refers to her father's parents, Millie's fraternal grandparents] He left Yugoslavia when he was 15 [years old]. I never know them, at all. Never did see them or know anything about them. But my mother's grandparents [refers to her mother's parents, Millie's maternal grandparents], as I mentioned, lived in... behind the mill. One part of Granite City, there... and I only got to see them once a week. We would walk there from Lincoln Place to, behind the mill there, and it was cold. And we'd just go once a year [I think she means once a week]. Then later on when they were older, my two aunts who had lived with them, went to Iowa Street nearby here and they put them in a smaller home behind them, and...until they died.

Coffin: I see. I see.

Chandler: So I just went once a week.

Coffin: All right. So at the holidays did they like come over and celebrate the holidays with you?

Chandler: My grandma and grandpa never left the farm.

Coffin: They never left the farm?

Chandler: No. They were very domesticated.

Coffin: O.K. How about Sundays? Did you...you know, a holy day...did...how did you, how did you observe the, the Sabbath?

Chandler: Actually, my dad was not a big churchgoer. And I was from one Sunday school to another. I just attended with my friends. But we would always take a drive when our car was running. My dad would put my brother and me in the back seat and we'd get a nickel's worth of candy, which was a lot. We'd each have a nickel. And play with it, and we would go to various farms and visit...my father had quite a few friends and we'd go visiting on Sunday.

Coffin: So it would be around the Granite City area pretty much?

Chandler: Yes, and sometimes Highland [A community in Illinois about twenty miles east of Granite City.] My mother had eight sisters and a few of them lived, not too close, but we would visit several of them.

Coffin: O.K. Can you tell me when was it, or maybe, did you ever notice that Lincoln Place was a little different than the other neighborhoods in GC?

Chandler: Yes. I felt very bad sometime. I felt the teachers looked down on us. I do not feel that way now, but as a child, I did feel less than import, than the others. And as a result I was very shy. I could talk one on one, but not in public.

Coffin: Did you go to a school with children from other parts of the town?

Chandler: Yes. And, like I said I felt they dressed better and...which probably wasn't true, but I felt like I just wasn't equal to them.

Coffin: Did the children, were the children mean to you? Some people say that children are mean... but

Chandler: A few, a few were. They kind of ignored us, I felt. But I will say this, all of the children from Lincoln Place, with a few exceptions, became very successful in life. And we were so proud of them. I'm sure you've heard of Andy Phillip?

Coffin: Right.

Chandler: He lived down the street from me. I used to play tag with him.

Coffin: Right.

Chandler: And he was wonderful. And quite a few of the others that are still living. And, some... you know, like I said my brother became a successful band director. And, we were always proud of our parents. My dad spoke fluent English when he became a citizen, a naturalized citizen. We celebrated, had a great big party. And he was very proud of being a citizen. He taught us to be proud to be Americans. I'll never forget if I would tell him I wanted to go see a movie I told him my teacher wanted me to see it. He'd say go. He taught us to respect our teachers, our elders, so we had a good background I believe.

Coffin: That's great. Now, what was the movie theater like in... was it like downtown?

Chandler: It was Washington Theater; it was called at that time. It was nice. It was big and it was very nice. Then they had a second one, Rialto it was called. No longer in existence. Well neither one are no longer in existence of course. But they were nice and they were ten cents (laughs) at that time.

And we thought it was a privilege to go because we were so poor at that time.

Coffin: How did you get there?

Chandler: Walked.

Coffin: Walked?

Chandler: There was a streetcar service available but we had to walk practically a mile to get to the streetcar. But I belong to a bowling league in Madison, a nearby city, and I would catch the streetcar with my friends, and we'd go bowl and then come back on it and walk the rest of the way. So walking was very routine.

Coffin: What were some of the styles like?

Chandler: (Chuckle) I was not allowed to wear shorts, I can tell you that. My dad was from the old country and did not want me to wear shorts. So, as a young girl I liked to wear overalls and jeans. I was brought up with those. I liked to wear short dresses, but he didn't like that so my dresses were a little bit longer. But I liked the skirts to be...they were pleated at that time, and pretty much the cycle runs that way. That I always liked the long tops with short skirts. I remember my girlfriend and I...we each had a blue and white check dress. And every Friday night we would put that same dress on, not realizing we were probably making fools of ourselves. But we would go dancing on top of the pavilion at the Wilson Park. We would walk there and have a real good time and walk home.

Coffin: From Lincoln Place you would walk...

Chandler: From the park all the way down to Lincoln Place, yes. We thought we were really something with those dresses that matched. (laughs)

Coffin: Let's see. Did you...we talked about some of the, some of the Macedonian food and the Hungarian food. Did you, did you share different dishes with neighbors of different ethnicities?

Chandler: Oh yes, oh yes.

Coffin: Yes?

Chandler: For instance, the Mexicans they had the spicy food, which I loved. Spicy foods. And I have friends...and my...one of my best friends was an Armenian girl. And, I learned they have very similar foods as the Mexicans. Highly seasoned. In fact when I first got married, I married a

boy from Georgia, and he'd go to the doctor because my food was so spicy and the doctor told him he had to...not try to keep up with me because my stomach was cast iron and his wasn't. (laughter)

Coffin: Oh that's funny. Where did you meet your husband?

Chandler: I worked at the depot [United States Army Depot] and he was in the service. And I was standing by a jukebox in the commissary one time and he came to talk to me and I wouldn't talk to him. So that night I was in bowling league and I was going to walk home and some girls said "I'll take you home, but first I want to stop at the depot. I'm in charge of the band there at the dance." I said "O.K." so I stood there and here he comes up and asks me to dance. And she said "Go head, I'm busy." I looked at my friend and so, we danced. And then he asked me to stay and I only lived three blocks away from the depot. So I called my mother and asked her if it was all right if I stayed. And that's how we met.

Coffin: Was the depot always there...as long as you can remember?

Chandler: No. No. It was built, I can't quite remember the year, but it was not always there. It became very popular with the war [World War II].

Coffin: Yes?

Chandler: ...in '44 [1944].

Coffin: ...in '44 [1944] around? Yes. How did, how did the coming of the depot change the, the neighborhood?

Chandler: Oh, quite a bit.

Coffin: Did it?

Chandler: ...quite a bit.

Coffin: Could you, could you elaborate on that?

Chandler: Well some of the older people were a little apprehensive of the soldiers being around, you know, from different areas. They didn't trust them, more or less, you know. But, the City of Granite City grew as a result.

Coffin: Sure.

Chandler: And, it thrived. I think economically it was much better. I think it was a better place after the depot...In fact when I graduated from high school I went to work there. And I worked for four years at the depot.

Coffin: Were there a lot of girls from Lincoln Place that worked at the depot?

Chandler: Yes. Yes. Quite a few worked there.

Coffin: Did any of the soldiers from the depot, live, you know, rent any, you know apartments or anything?

Chandler: Yes, as a matter of fact, my mother went to the upstairs. We had an upstairs in our home on Maple Street. And she rented to a soldier and his wife. They were... his wife was from Germany. And we became very good friends. Yes so, they did take advantage of the rooms that were available.

Coffin: I see. I see. What kind of a job did your dad do at the mill?

Chandler: He became a foreman.

Coffin: A foreman?

Chandler: Yes. Yes. He was very successful. He retired when he was 65 [years old]. And six months later had a stroke and lost his leg. So he didn't get to enjoy his retirement. But, in addition to being a foreman for all those years, he had his own band, as I mentioned.

Coffin: Right!

Chandler: So he...

Coffin: ...kept pretty busy...

Chandler: ...very busy, yes.

Coffin: Did his band play after he retired?

Chandler: No. In fact he had to quit a little bit before he retired because his lips were getting bad. And he was starting to feel bad. But up until the end he played very well.

Coffin: O.K. You said your mother belonged to lots of organizations and clubs and stuff. Could you tell me about some of those?

Chandler: Oh yes. The Ladies Bulgarian Macedonian Club where they would meet and socialize and have bingos. She belonged to AARP [American Association of Retired Persons]. And then she belonged to the park district [Granite City Park District]. I'm trying to remember all of these... SIU [Southern Illinois University Edwardsville]; she went there quite a bit because they did have bus service available. Thomas Mortuary sent them

different places. Well there were several Macedonian organizations and the church group, she had that also. I believe everything that was available Mother signed up for.

Coffin: She signed up for?

Chandler: (laughter) Yes.

Coffin: O.K. Was that, was that true do you think of most of the women that lived in Lincoln Place? Did a lot of them do social organizations?

Chandler: No. No. Mother was an exception. Quite a few of them were homebodies. Mother was not. She just enjoyed being with people.

Coffin: She sounds like a really interesting lady. Actually.

Chandler: She was, she passed away three years ago, but she was 94 [years old]. She was very active and did have several [women friends from Lincoln Place] with her. But mostly in the church groups, they were good friends.

Coffin: When did, when did your family move from Lincoln Place? When did your parents move?

Chandler: 19...I'm trying to remember, now, just a moment. 1960 I believe. My...

Coffin: Why did, why did they decide to leave the neighborhood?

Chandler: My, my dad wasn't feeling well and my brother, Dan, talked him into moving into a beautiful home where he could help take care of them.

Coffin: O.K.

Chandler: And I was still in Lincoln Place then. We moved after...

Coffin: So you and your husband, after you married, you did live there as well?

Chandler: Yes and he didn't want to leave. He loved it.

Coffin: Really?

Chandler: Yes he did.

Coffin: What did he like about it?

Chandler: He liked the quite, not so many people. He came from a very small town in Georgia. And he liked the small group that were like family. He knew everybody and he felt very much at home there.

Coffin: O.K. We haven't said anything about...did the people in the community garden? Have gardens?

Chandler: Oh yes. I did too.

Coffin: Yes?

Chandler: I had a big garden. My dad was great with his garden.

Coffin: Really?

Chandler: And one year I planted everything and he taught me how to do it. He was very proud that we could garden. And my grandma spoke of him. The Hungarian grandma? She had a great big garden. She was less than five feet tall and she could garden beautifully. Yes. She raised everything. In fact the answer would be almost everyone did.

Coffin: And then...

Chandler: And they canned. We canned tomatoes in the summer. We did all of this for the winter. Yes. That's how we survived.

Coffin: O.K. So did most of your produce then come out of your garden. So there wasn't a lot of produce in the market, I would assume?

Chandler: Well I tell you something interesting. They had a produce truck drive by everyday. In fact we knew the gentleman very well. And he would go to the early market and he would drive down the streets and he would have all of his potatoes and carrots and everything, what someone would need, everyday. And they would know about the time he'd be there. So they didn't have to go to the grocery store. If they didn't have it in their garden, that's how they'd...what their produce.

Coffin: So the habits were a little different, in that, did you like, not stock up and buy a weeks worth of groceries, or a months worth of groceries at a time?

Chandler: No, we didn't have any...we couldn't. Now we have freezers.

Coffin: Right.

Chandler: Of course that was unheard of in those days.

Coffin: Right. So you almost did it on a day-by-day basis, sort of?

Chandler: Yes. Yes.

Coffin: How about livestock? Did people raise chickens or a cow or whatever to butcher?

Chandler: Oh yes. (Interrupted by ringing telephone. Tape recorder was turned off.)

Coffin: O.K. We just paused for a few minutes, and I don't even remember what we were talking about. So, we will move on to something else. But we had talked about coffee while we were breaking...

Chandler: Exactly!

Coffin: So let me ask you, if you didn't drink coffee until you were married, was coffee a beverage that your family drank, and you just didn't? Or, did, did Macedonians and Hungarians not drink coffee?

Chandler: They had the coffee that was so thick, and I trying to remember what they called it, just like you would tell your fortune from it. You know, the little coffee cups that...it was too strong. I never developed a taste for it. I drank milk. I never did drink any liquor in my whole life. I just acquired a taste for it. So, I guess it was just the milk I would drink. And soda [pop] of course.

Coffin: Yes. Soda [pop] came in bottles, glass bottles, at that time?

Chandler: At that time, they did (laughs), old coke bottles. No cans. Exactly! You're stirring up my memories here. (laughter)

Coffin: I remember that. We talked about what your dad did, but do you remember what other men in the neighborhood...what sort of occupations did they have?

Chandler: Quite a few worked at the General Steel Mill. My dad was fortunate to be a foreman. They weren't. They worked in different areas. They called them by their departments, what the trade was. Most of them worked in the factories, they would call them...

Coffin: O.K. And the women that worked...were there many women that worked outside the home? Or most women...

Chandler: Very...I don't remember any of them actually they were housewives.

Coffin: Really?

Chandler: Every one of them. Mother was, with the exception of two weeks, I don't believe... [interrupted by ringing telephone] many of them tried that. [Tape recorder was turned off.]

Coffin: [Resumed taping] So the women generally spent their time taking care of the home, doing the laundry, that sort of thing?

Chandler: It was really unheard of... I wanted to attend college and my dad said, "Girls don't have to go to school. You're going to be a housewife." That was their train of thought, everyone of them. You'll have to remember they were all from Europe. So they were very old fashioned.

Coffin Did all the, all the students, all the kids in Granite City pretty much go to the same high school?

Chandler Yes. There was only one high school.

Coffin And how did you get there?

Chandler ...the same one now.

Coffin The same one that's here now?

Chandler Walked.

Coffin Walked?

Chandler Five miles.

Coffin Do you remember any teachers that were particularly kind to you, or that you, that you liked, or that you disliked and you want to talk about (chuckle)? I mean... is there anybody that stands out?

Chandler There was one teacher that I felt didn't like us from Lincoln Place. The minute she found out we were from Lincoln Place, Ms. Blackburn. She was a speech teacher. And I was so shy, anyway, and trying to speak, you know... it was oral speech; 'Oral Communications' I believe it was called. And I couldn't do my best because I felt so inferior. Then there was... I did excel in short hand... I'm sorry, in typing, because I played the piano. So I was well liked by my typing teacher cause I did great in that. And she liked me. Ms. Tabbacaw.

Coffin Did you participate in extracurricular activities, or anything?

Chandler No I wasn't allowed to. I was in Job's Daughters on the side, but none, nothing from the high school. I only attended one football game in my high school years. My dad wouldn't let me go.

Coffin And was there a reason for that?

Chandler He just didn't think I needed to go. And my brother that I spoke of was in the band. So he played in the band. And he would see that he got there, but he said I could stay at home. And so I didn't get to go.

Coffin Did you have to help your mom around the house with chores?
[Interrupted by ringing telephone.]

Chandler ...with everything. Yes.

Coffin With everything?

Chandler Yes. [Tape recorder is turned off.]

Coffin [Resumed taping] O.K. What sort of things do you remember about helping your mom around the house?

Chandler The canning, mainly. And then when my brother was born I was the built-in babysitter. But I loved him. I didn't mind that at all.

Coffin Sure.

Chandler Washing the clothes in those days of course there was nothing automatic. You had to put it through the wringer and rinse it and put through the wringer and hang them up to dry. Making them very stiff for the ironing. So I was in charge of that.

Coffin Did you have a laundry room?

Chandler We had a basement. And it wasn't wonderful to go in the basement. It was dark and dreary. We didn't like it too much down there.

Coffin Did you, did you have a routine with your family where like Monday was wash day and Tuesday was ironing day and...

Chandler Yes. Monday was washday exactly! Tuesday was ironing day. And Friday was always cleaning day and beans day or fish. My mother was not a devout Catholic, but she followed the trend in the cooking.

Coffin O.K.

Chandler So we rather knew what we was going to eat and what jobs we were going to do.

Coffin Did you go out for dinner very often?

Chandler Never.

Coffin When you later got married and lived in Lincoln Place then did you go out more?

Chandler Never.

Coffin No?

Chandler No because we had children and we just stayed home with them.

Coffin What did you do for entertainment?

Chandler ...had company. Had people over. We played games together. And board games and just enjoyed talking and baking and swapping recipes. That was our entertainment. The children.

Coffin Was radio big in those...at that time.

Chandler Oh yes, yes. We enjoyed the radio.

Coffin Did just about every body have a radio?

Chandler Yes. I'll never forget the first time I saw television. It was like a miracle. The neighbors across the street called us over to see if Milton Burl was on. I'll never forget...and it was like being in a big movie house only in a little room. And I wanted one very badly but we couldn't afford it at the time.

Coffin Did you get a TV before you left home?

Chandler Well this was after I was married.

Coffin That was after you were married?

Chandler Yes, mam. Oh no we didn't have much money...at all...when I was growing up.

Coffin O.K. Why don't you tell me about, tell me about your wedding. Did you, did you do that in a church and have a big wedding like we have today?

Chandler Yes. We did. We were married in the Orthodox Church on the edge of Madison and Granite. And my husband being from Georgia wasn't too familiar with the ceremony. He was of a different faith. But my dad did ask if we'd be married in the church. So we were. The priest was very

shaky. He had to clasp the wine cup with two hands. He was spilling it. My husband and I had to wear crowns and we walked, walked around. I was totally unfamiliar with the procedure also. But our pictures showed his confused look on his face (laughs). But it was a nice ceremony. We had a nice reception after that.

Coffin What were the receptions like?

Chandler Oh, well my mom had everybody cook everything. And they, we did not have a wedding dance. My dad didn't want that. Where they would give the money. He would play at them, but he didn't want it for me. He said he didn't want to ask for money. But we did have a lot of people attend. And had a great big feast.

Coffin Was the reception at your home, or at a hall, or at the church?

Chandler No, it was at a hall.

Coffin At a hall?

Chandler At a hall. My mother made someone... (unintelligible)

Coffin What did you, did you have, did you have chores outside in the yard in the summer? Like, did you, did you take care of lawns and have flowers and all of that?

Chandler Oh yes. Mother had roses all the time. And when the leaves were falling it was my brother's job and my job to collect the leaves. And in those days we could burn them. But then when we lit the fire I would get sick. I couldn't... so my brother had to stay there with that part of it. However, there were quite a few jobs, yes. We helped around the house quite a bit.

Coffin O.K. Tell me about your best friend.

Chandler I had several. Jen was my best friend. She went off to go to a nursing... to become a nurse. Which I wanted to do but my dad said no I had to stay and help my mother raise my little brother. So I didn't get to go there. But we bowled together. Went to dances. She was my friend that we had the sa... look alike dresses. We still laugh about that. Then I had another one, the Armenian girlfriend. She became a Spanish teacher. I had a lot of friends.

Coffin Did most of your friends go to college?

Chandler No. Charlotte did to become a Spanish teacher. And Jen went to become a nurse. No in those days they really didn't. The girls were not encouraged to attend college.

Coffin Did the boys go to college?

Chandler Yes. My dad insisted my brothers both go. (laughs) They got the car, the bicycle... I could get nothing. (laughs) But I did not resent it. I just didn't expect anything.

Coffin When did you learn to drive?

Chandler When I was 28 and my husband (laughs) taught me. But he was not a good instructor. And I wasn't too happy with his instruction. But I tried to teach my mother later and my dad got very upset with me when I tried to teach her. She was a real challenge.

Coffin Did she learn to drive?

Chandler Not very well. Mother never left her hands go with the wheel. She would turn and turn until she couldn't turn anymore. But I'll never forget one day, this is humorous... my dad, of course, had one leg off, and he was wheel chair bound. And he called me one day and said he was going to get a divorce from my mother. He said she told me she was going to shake a rug and I saw her driving the car about the block. So I had to come there and go to his home and talk to him and tell her not to lie to him anymore. She said if he didn't want me to go so I just got in the car and told him I was going to shake some rugs out. (laughs)

Coffin That is funny. (laughs)

Chandler It was a good thing I learned how to drive cause when I did go to work then... I waited fourteen years to go to work until my children were all in school. And then I decided to get a job.

Coffin So you waited until you were an adult to decide to, to get a job?

Chandler Yes. When I had my three children were from four to eleven.

Coffin Did most of your neighbors have cars?

Chandler In my early years? As a child in Lincoln Place? Not too many. And they were not good cars. They were very old. Model T Fords. Some of them did. But no... I would say the majority did not.

Coffin At the, at the community center where you learned to sew... can you tell me, can you tell me about what sorts of things would you sew?

Chandler We made pillowcases. We would embroidery. I never did like to crochet. My mother wanted me to crochet and I wanted to play ball so I never did get to be a good crocheter. But I did embroidery a lot. I made doilies. In those days you put doilies on all your furniture. It was very popular in those days. I made a lot of those, and runners. And aprons... we would stamp a pattern on the apron and embroidery them. I remember making several different items like that.

Coffin What did the boys do at the Community Center?

Chandler They did woodwork. They had a place there that they would teach them. They instructed very well.

Coffin Really?

Chandler Yes.

Coffin Did they, did they let the boys and girls mix? I mean, play things, play games together or did they keep them...

Chandler Well ping-pong we did of course. And the weekly dances, we danced, you know. We became real good friends mostly.

Coffin What sort of dances did you do? What was popular?

Chandler Jitterbug. (laughs) My husband was good.

Coffin Was he?

Chandler Yes. Much better than I was. He won some contests in Georgia. He was very good. Some of the boys wouldn't dance. They felt embarrassed. But the others in the bands... we would have local bands and I remember, I was dating a boy that was in the band, so I'd stand around. He didn't want me to dance one time (unintelligible) but I can't remember too much else about it.

Coffin Was there a fee to get in?

Chandler No.

Coffin All free? So the band didn't get paid?

Chandler No. They just to be noticed. No, I never paid for anything at the Community Center. It was great! I have many fond memories. In fact I was there for the first time in all these years when we went to this meeting where I first heard about your project. It was so nice.

Coffin We did get to go in and see it

Chandler Did you?

Coffin. It is a nice facility.

Chandler I imagined to be so big and...when I was younger. And it appeared very small to me when I went there the other day.

Coffin Oh my goodness. When did you notice that the character of Lincoln Place changing?

Chandler Shortly after I got married. We...ethnic groups they were moving out and the other people were moving in. Not of the ethnic background. And it seemed to be different at that time then, gradually. That's why I didn't mind leaving because most of my friends were leaving the area so I didn't mind leaving.

Coffin And about what year was that, generally?

Chandler '60, '61, [1960, 1961] something like that.

Coffin The early '60's. Yes.

Chandler Started quite a bit awhile ago...

Coffin Did you take your children back there and...

Chandler My husband would drive there every week. He missed it so much. Now, they didn't miss it. They liked it, being there, and they had friends there. But they adapted quite well to their new neighborhood. We were in a nice quiet neighborhood in Granite City and they enjoyed it. So they didn't miss it that much I would say.

Coffin We're going to jump way back...in the...you would have been just probably really young, but do you remember how, how the families, after the...during the depression, like after the big stock market crash and then during the depression, how did families...

Chandler ...exist?

Coffin Yes.

Chandler Well they had the WPA. My dad was a member of the band then. I do remember that. And he paid \$80 a month to perform in the band. (unintelligible) He would play in East St. Louis and he took my mom and my brother and I and we say Eleanor Roosevelt at a band concert outdoors. Now along the line of food, I remember to this day, similar to Karo syrup, that they would put in cans and that was given, I guess like a welfare. And we had to resort to that. And we had a lot of bread with that on it for a while. And as I said we'd go to these nearby grocery stores and put it on the bill until you could pay for it. And then my dad would slaughter pigs. He would have... he had to give it to everybody because you had to consume it right away. There was no safe way... he'd make a lot of sausage and we would share it with the neighborhood. They would all pitch in. And he did that in the backyard. You could have the pigs squealing and everything. I remember that. He went hunting. He was avid hunter. And we would have that meat, shared with the neighbors because you couldn't preserve it for a long length of time.

Coffin So you just shared with neighbors?

Chandler Right. That's how we got by. We ate a lot of beans. (laughs)

Coffin Was there a lot of political activism in the neighborhood?

Chandler No. I don't recall any.

Coffin No? O.K.

Chandler As I said my dad was so happy to be a citizen that he... I don't think he cared for politics at that time, at all. My mother was a die-hard democrat though. I do remember that. (laughs)

Begin Tape 1, Side B

Coffin Of all the ethnic groups that we've talked about, I've noticed that there aren't any African Americans that lived in the community.

Chandler None. Absolutely none.

Coffin Now is that true...

Chandler Not only in our community, in Granite City at that time. I can't recall when it started, that they did come into our area. It...for no reason at all we don't know why, but there were no blacks.

Coffin So there wasn't anything done to discourage them?

Chandler No. It just didn't happen. My understanding, many years later, was the fact that the realtors would not sell to a black family. And then I think the government stepped in and made that impossible. But, I'm not for sure about that part of it. (Unintelligible) I worked with them at the Depot. I like them. I had no, no racist about me, nothing. My dad, he...(unintelligible)

Coffin ...time that your family went to St. Louis. Did you do that very often?

Chandler I remember mainly going with my mother on the streetcar. We would catch it a mile away and we would go shopping. Not very often. But if we needed to go for anything in particular.

Coffin Like what would you shop for?

Chandler A dress. And we never agreed. (laughs) But we would go shopping. Mainly clothes I would say. That would be it. And then we'd come home. We'd have lunch sometime and that was a big event if we did that. But my dad never did go with us.

Coffin No? What were the stores in Lincoln Place like? Were they just grocery stores? Were there other kinds of stores there?

Chandler Only grocery stores. Much later they had women's...one store was to...buy...purchase women's clothes. It didn't last long. Now they have a barbershop. They did have a coffee shop there and an international restaurant, they called it. And then they had, they called it Seemo's place and there is Planet Hair shop there now, that's quite exclusive. It's in that building, but at that time the men would go there, they called it the Coffee House, and they would play cards and drink their little coffee. And then there were too many taverns down the block. I think I counted nine taverns in the two-block area there one day.

Coffin Is that right?

Chandler Too many.

Coffin What kinds...different kinds of churches were there? There?

Chandler They had an Armenian Church. The Macedonian Church, the Orthodox, we had to go to Madison [a community adjacent to Granite City] at that time. The only one in Lincoln Place at that time. Well we had Sunday school as I mentioned, it was a Methodist Sunday School. Then they would teach Armenian classes sometime. I attended that to learn to count

to ten Because [we] mingled with everybody...as I said there weren't too many church buildings. We had to go downtown to attend churches.

Coffin To attend churches? O.K. How about police protection? Was there...

Chandler Yes. It was safe. It was very safe.

Coffin I guess, I guess...did Granite City patrol that like they did any other part of town? Or...

Chandler I don't remember seeing them patrolling. Actually...no. But, I'm sure...and we had the fire hydrants so I'm sure we had the fire protection. But I don't remember seeing very many policemen actually when I was growing up. We just felt very safe as I mentioned.

Coffin O.K. All right. Why don't you tell me what you remember about your teacher at the Community Center?

Chandler Oh, Ms. Prather?

Coffin Right. Ms. Prather.

Chandler She was like my mother. She was very good to everyone, not just to me. She didn't single one person out. You could tell her your problems. She had many assistants also. She had an Alice Soboleski and a Pauline Wier that I remember that were very, very good assistants to her. If we were, for instance, doing our embroidery and she thought we needed help with it she'd sit down and help us with it. In Sunday school she was always there to guide us. She was just very motherly.

Coffin Were they volunteers or were they paid employees?

Chandler You know, I don't know if Ms. Prather got paid or not. Nobody ever mentioned it. We never even thought about it. I believe the assistants were just volunteers.

Coffin O.K. And if they taught Sunday school at the Community Center and it was Methodist based, but there wasn't a church service that went along with it. It was just Sunday school?

Chandler Just the Sunday school. I remember we would learn scriptures and I was given a bible for, but Wetzel Brown, who was the superintendent of Madison School. And he gave that for me remembering so many scriptures. I won a contest of some kind. And they just would have little sermonetts and bible study. And then we'd sing.

Coffin O.K. Was the grade school in Lincoln Place?

Chandler No it was in West Granite. We had to walk to Washington School. It was cold.

Coffin I bet it was! (laughs)

Chandler It was a little bit of rivalry in those days between Lincoln Place and West Granite.

Coffin Oh really?

Chandler It's sad to say but they would call us 'hunkies' and we'd call them 'Hoosiers'. And that was terrible when I look back now. You know, as a child, you know, you went along with the crowd.

Coffin Sure.

Chandler You didn't think anything about it. We didn't have any racial slurs, you know. But that was just as bad when I think about it now. Cause they were my friends even. But we'd still have that tendency to say that because we were foreign and so they called us 'hunkies'. So we had to get back at them. (laughs)

Coffin Did your school days always start with like the Pledge of Allegiance?

Chandler Yes. Yes.

Coffin Is that how it was in school?

Chandler Yes, I was grateful for that.

Coffin And, and did girls get to wear their overalls to school?

Chandler No I had to wear dresses there.

Coffin What was your favorite subject?

Chandler In the elementary level? English. I think I had extra help because I couldn't speak it very well at first and I had a wonderful first grade teacher. Mary Friday. And she taught me to learn it very well I think. In fact when I was in second grade I got a double promotion to go to third grade so I got a little ahead of myself. And she was wonderful.

Coffin What was your favorite subject in the Middle School or High School?

Chandler Middle School, I was out of school for a half of year. I had my appendix burst on me so I had to do home study. I didn't get to graduate with them, but I did my homebound studies so I don't remember too much about my Middle School. But the High School, I loved the business courses. Typing. I believe because I excelled in that I enjoyed it.

Coffin Sure. You had an early experience then with medicine if your appendix broke. What was that like?

Chandler Well I was unconscious for ten days and I was in bed for three months. Had to learn how to walk again.

Coffin At home?

Chandler Yes. I was in the hospital. They didn't expect me to live. I had blood transfusions. In fact my dad had to go to the tavern of all places, on a Sunday afternoon, and get somebody to give me blood. And they came right away and helped me and then I recovered. But it was a long time. In those days it was more difficult than now.

Coffin Sure. Did the doctor make house calls and stuff like that? Did he come to see you?

Chandler Oh yes. On the day I became sick my dad carried me upstairs of the Fleischmann building upstairs, Dr. Wiessman was up there and he immediately told my dad to take me to the emergency room and he met us there. But after that he would come to the house. Yes. They made house calls. We went to their office. It was quite different than now.

Coffin Right, right. You said that your dad had to go to the tavern to get blood. And although you don't drink, did most, did most people, most of your neighbors and especially the men, did they, did they go to the...?

Chandler The men. Not the women but the men. Yes that was their gathering place. They didn't get drunk but they drank. Like we drink coffee they drank their beer.

Coffin Sure.

Chandler But he was so frantic, and it was a Sunday, and he didn't know where to find any one so he just went there. And found this one gentleman that was real kind. He called me his blood brother after that.

Coffin (Laughs)

Chandler He was young, by the way. He wasn't old.

Coffin What was the, the age distribution of the people who lived in Lincoln Place? I mean, I guess when I think of, when I think of immigrants, for some reason I think of older people. But, I mean...

Chandler No my dad was 15 [years old] when he came. So that's not true.

Coffin No. I know.

Chandler They were all ages.

Coffin All ages. Yes.

Chandler Very young. They stayed here. My dad, in fact, had two of his brothers. He paid for them to come to the United States. One remained and the other one was homesick and went home. But he would send packages, like care packages, to his family quite often.

Coffin So were there older people there as well, though? Like were there many grandparents who came as well?

Chandler Oh yes. Oh yes. And then they lived with their families. There were no nursing homes or anything like that so they had to stay with the families.

Coffin O.K. I've seen some photos, not too long ago, of Lincoln Place and I mean, we look at the streets and the sidewalks and the tree lined avenues... Describe for me what it was like in Lincoln Place in terms of were there paved streets?

Chandler No. They were like blacktops. Blacktops. I do remember in the summertime when they would become very warm. They would open up the fire hydrants and allow us to have the water there to cool off. I'm sure you've seen it St. Louis on TV. That reminded of when I was a child, how they would do that for us sometime.

Coffin Did you have pets?

Chandler We had a dog named Jiggs. Yes, when I was young.

Coffin Did most people have some kind of a pet?

Chandler Quite a few. We had rabbits. My dad liked animals.

Coffin Pet rabbits?

Chandler Yes. He loved those. We did have. Some people did, yes. About average I guess.

Coffin O.K. Did the people of different cultures wear different sorts of clothing?

Chandler Yes. The Mexicans tended to have real bright colors. Now the Macedonians they would blend in a little bit, but... more subdued than Mexicans, of course. Some of the women would wear bandanas around their heads. I'm trying to remember... the Armenian ladies... I think about them... It was Turkish coffee that they drank, I couldn't remember before, that's... the Armenians did that. Now I'm envisioning this one woman that would do this and try to tell me her, or my fortune.

Coffin Oh yes?

Chandler Yes. She was a fortune-teller she said. But some of them dressed very nicely. I don't think they looked bad at all. But they had their bright outfits I would say. The culture was like that.

Coffin Did people dress up on Sundays? I mean was Sunday a dress-up day?

Chandler Yes. Sunday was a dress-up day and church day. Yes we did. And they didn't do too much on Sunday, just sat around.

Coffin I know I'm jumping all over.

Chandler That's quite all right. I am too.

Coffin How did your family, and how did the families, react to Elvis Presley when he came out with his tight pants and his loud music and stuff like that? Was that...

Chandler Well, I was married then. My daughter liked him; my son didn't. I think it was a female thing more than a male thing. But they liked him... she liked him I should say. But my two boys didn't. But I liked the beat myself. I though it was nice. It was a good change I though.

Coffin How old are your children?

Chandler My older boy is 53 [years old] now and my daughter was just 50 [years old] and my younger son will be, well he was just 46 [years old]. My daughter is a nurse.

Coffin Is she?

Chandler But she left her nursing to become a medical transcriber at home because her two daughters had babies six days apart and she's helping with them now. (laughs)

Coffin (laughs) So actually your children and I are the same age.

Chandler Yes, I know that. I could be your mother. (laughs)

Coffin (laughs) I'd fit right in the middle there.

Chandler There you go.

Coffin Can you think of any areas of living, of life in Lincoln Place that I've forgotten to ask about?

Chandler I'm trying to remember... growing up we played a lot of jacks, I remember that, because we didn't have money for games. And the boys would play marbles a lot, and the girls. These were the type of games and we would, they would make their own guns. My brother made his own gun out of wood. Because of lack of money we just didn't have... you had to make up your own. We'd sit there and tell stories; things children wouldn't do now. I mean it's no fun to them. They need the video games. My grandchildren included. I remember being more quiet. Quiet times then was they took a radio and (unintelligible). Now it seems like, including myself, we have to have activity going on all of the time. And it was more calm in those days, I feel. Growing up poor though, you didn't have an opportunity to know any differently so...

Coffin Did you think, did you think that everybody in Lincoln Place was about in the same boat in terms of economic status?

Chandler Yes we were financially. I know we were.

Coffin Did you think of people in the other sections of the city were a little bit better off?

Chandler Yes, I'll have to admit I did, especially in some of the sections. The downtown area, what we call downtown, that was the elite part of town then. And that's where I felt looked down upon from those kids.

Coffin Weren't the wages though of the men who worked, with any of the industries related to steel, weren't their wages pretty good?

Chandler Yes they were. They were better. My dad was probably one of the fortunate ones to become a leader and a foreman.

Coffin ...and a foreman. Yes.

Chandler He was fortunate.

Coffin Were the families larger? I mean you came from a pretty small family, just two brothers. But...

Chandler Yes I did.

Coffin But were some of the families large?

Chandler Not necessarily. I don't... well a few. I should say. There were some with nine children on Maple Street. I'm trying to remember... one of the Catholics had the bigger families. But not all of them were Catholics of course, so they didn't. They had smaller families.

Coffin Sure.

Chandler The one's on the block I'm thinking of, that I was raised on, two or three children were the most for a lot of them. They have four at the very most. Some had one. So it was small.

Coffin Did most of the, most of the young men, did they join the army, or whatever military for the WWII?

Chandler Yes, my brother did. He joined the Navy immediately. And then when he came back he went to college on the Bill of Rights {G.I. Bill}. So did my other brother. Most of them that was the only way they afford it then.

Coffin Were there like parades and everything sending them off to war.

Chandler No.

Coffin No parades?

Chandler Nothing. No recognition whatsoever except private parties. We had a private party at home. But it wasn't too elaborate. My time was really spent mostly with music. Because my dad had his band practice at my house every Friday night.

Coffin Oh really?

Chandler Right. And all the neighbors would sit outside and listen. (laughs) We had like a band concert on our block every Friday night.

Coffin Your neighbors must have loved it! (laughs)

Chandler They did, they were very kind. They didn't ask him not to do it because they liked it.

Coffin Sure.

Chandler But then through the week of course my dad would play. And then when my children, when I got married and had children, they were all in the band so I was raised with a lot of music, which I like to this day.

Coffin Do you, do you like to go to the symphony (St. Louis Symphony) now and stuff like that?

Chandler I do occasionally. Yes. I enjoy music.

Coffin Once you get music in your blood it's really difficult to...

Chandler Yes. Yes it is. My younger grandson, that was here yesterday, is in the Collinsville Drum Line. And they got first Saturday. So I was real proud of him. So it kind of runs in the family s little bit.

Coffin Oh yes. All right. I think we've really just about covered all the subject...

Chandler I'm can't remember anything else, I'm trying to think about... except I did have an enjoyable childhood in Lincoln Place. I was not as proud then as I was after I got older and more mature; maturity and sense to realize how fortunate I was to be raised there. I feel like I was fortunate to have a father that really wanted me to be proud of being an American because he was. I, as I get older, I think more about that. How nice it was that he instilled that in me. I think some children now should have that. They just take it for granted. They are not aware of how fortunate they are to be born and raised here I think.

Coffin What were your thoughts on September 11 [2001] when the terrorists ran, crashed those planes [refers to the crashing of jet airliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.]

Chandler I was crushed. I just...I couldn't believe it was happening to us here. I was sad and I still am.

Coffin Yes.

Chandler Sad for the people that perished and sad for our country that we are in this position to be attacked by terrorists. Because I think we have a wonderful country and I'm real proud to be an American.

Coffin It makes us kind of sit back and think we really do take, take our lives for granted and all of our, all of our rights and all of our privileges and they could very easily be snuffed away from us.

Chandler I know. I know. Exactly! And I think we are doing the right thing as much as I hate it because I have grandsons that could actually have to go. That possibility upsets me, but they are all willing to go. They are 20, 21 and 22 [years old] three of them in a row. I hate that. But I know we are doing the right thing.

Coffin Yes. Do you think people reacted the same way this time as they did when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor? Do you see similarities?

Chandler I'm trying to remember...now on that day I was at a wedding. My aunt and uncle were getting married. And I remember, I was fifteen, and I remember hearing about it but it didn't strike me as seriously as now. You know, so far away. It wasn't in our country...land here.

Coffin Right.

Chandler And I was sad cause I knew war was bad. But I think it struck me harder now because it was here in the United States. I was actually watching television when it happened.

Coffin Were you?

Chandler Yes I was. I was watching the early show. I was one of disbelief. I just couldn't believe it.

Coffin Yes. I think with our media, too, it makes it much different now.

Chandler It does. They add too much to it. Just like that anthrax. I know it is serious but, and I shouldn't say I'm tired of hearing it, but I think they should let up just a little bit on it. Maybe I'm being wrong...

Coffin No sometimes a little bit too much information doesn't do any good. We're all aware now, and so...

Chandler Exactly! We should all be careful and when you get an envelope be careful with it. But it's just like it's so much news for them and then they are at it all the time. I love to watch the news. But I get tired of watching the same thing over and over.

Coffin Yes, I know. It's like if there's no new news, they rehash the old news and...

Chandler What worries me now, I've been listening today, on the radio about people are thinking we should be finished with this war right away. Well they have to be careful they cannot finish this war right away. And send our

troops in to be massacred like that. I mean we were told it was going to take a while. And they have to be careful this time.

Coffin I think for a lot of people though, right now, a month is a while. You know. They want immediate gratification. I mean that's sort of ...

Chandler But you realize when we bomb, if we bomb, they might put their soldiers in a Red Cross place, and if we hit a civilian they are going to blame us. And we have to be careful because of the other countries that won't back us then.

Coffin That's right.

Chandler But, I...and I think they are not giving us all the information and rightfully so.

Coffin Oh and I think they should keep a lot of the information to themselves.

Chandler Exactly! But the media tries to build it up and I think they are the cause of all of this problem now. And I'm getting upset with them.

Coffin Yes. I kind of wish the media would just back off.

Chandler Really!

Coffin Because if we are getting it, you know that our enemies are getting it. You know. And that's probably not very healthy.

Chandler The only person benefiting from all of this is Gary Condit [U.S. Senator from California who has been in the news recently due to the disappearance of his young, female intern]. (laughs)

Coffin (laughs) I said the same thing!

Chandler They are off his back now!

Coffin He's probably glad that something happened. Anything!

Chandler He's choosing to run again now. Oh goodness.

Coffin Well Millie I want to thank you very much for your time...

Chandler You're so welcome. I enjoyed it.

Coffin ...and I will stop this tape now.