

Interviewer: Kendra Payton

### INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Mary Bogosian Carson

Date and Place of Birth: 7-17-25 in Lincoln Place

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Interview Date, Time, and Place:  
November 10, 2001 10:20 Am At the home of Mary Bogosian Carson.

#### Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Mary was excellent to interview. She was a warm and friendly person to be around. Being 76 yrs old, her memory isn't the sharpest and she mentioned that off record. She provide some good memories of the time she spent in Lincoln Place, birth to age 20. She remembered a lot about the clubhouse and what went on there. Mary shared some precious childhood memories and memories of the 3 mile walk to school. Mary also touches on the 1940 basketball championship. Overall, a brief personal look at growing up in Lincoln Place and her heritage.

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

The interview was done at the home of Mary Bogosian Carson for her convenience.

Kendra Payton  
Bio-summary Hist 447  
November 26, 2001

## Biographical Summary of Mary Bogosian Carson

Mary Bogosian Carson was born in Granite City, Illinois. Her birthplace was in her home on July 17, 1925. She was born with the help of a midwife. Mary mentioned that the house that she was born in still stands on Maple Street today.

Mary's parents were both Armenian so she is also an Armenian who was born an American. Her father came to America first and found a job then later brought his wife over with the help of the Red Cross. Mary wasn't for sure how old her parents were, because they lost their birth records. Mary spoke of her siblings, both brothers and sisters. She never said how many there were total, but she gave me the impression of a large family. Mary did say that she had lost a brother at a younger age. She mentioned that she has two sisters that are spread out throughout the country. I know one lives in Arizona.

Mary lived in Lincoln Place growing up until she was 20 years old. Her father took the family into St. Louis so he could start a business. Mary attended Washington School and Granite City High School. She told stories of how she had to walk three miles to school in the rain, sleet, and snow. The bus service didn't come until her last year in school. Mary had some good memories of growing up in an immigrant family and how everyone got along. She spoke highly of the clubhouse and Mrs. Prather.

She moved to St. Louis with her family and later met her husband. They lived in St. Louis for some years and then later came to Belleville, Illinois to live. Mary said that her son was the last to leave home and he left from where she resides today. Mary has lived in Belleville for the last 15 or so years.

Mary spoke of her children but never mentioned exactly how many she had. I gathered from our conversations that she had one son and two daughters. Mary also spoke of the many grandchildren she has. She spoke a lot about a granddaughter that is in college. She seemed very proud of her.

Mary has been a widow for some years now and never spoke of any jobs outside of being a housewife and mother. She seemed to enjoy that job a lot. Her current job would be, being a grandmother.

Spending the short amount of time with Mary that I did, I'd say that she enjoyed her life and still does. She did seem to be lonely, but that's expected of someone who lives alone. Mary has a real bubbly spirit and loves to laugh.