

Narrator: Tomea Loman Kirchoff

Interviewer: Lindsay Schmitz

Date and Place: October 29, 2001 at Mrs. Kirchoff's home located at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Begin Tape 1, Side A

**Lindsay Schmitz:** So when your dad first came to Granite City, what type of work did he do?

**Tomea Loman Kirchoff:** Well he, when he first came, I guess, I don't know what kind of work he did the but when we came and found him he had a saloon with another man, another man – two of them. The other man's family was already here and so we came and he didn't stay there too long. So he went and got a job at the American Steel Factory that's there in that Lincoln Place in Granite City and so he worked there.

**Schmitz:** And then later he owned a grocery store?

**Kirchoff:** Later on, I tell you what, I was married, I went to school to learn the language. I didn't go any further than the eight grade because my dad thought I was educated enough, you know, because my mother, his wife didn't know English at all, I don't think. And then he says to stay home you have brothers and sisters to help your mother with. And I did, so when I was 19 years old, or 20, I got married to John Kirchoff. And he was a grocery man – he was a grocery man about 2 years with another man – his partner, they were both partners. And a couple of years after that we bought out the building that is still there that Mr. Levitchoff had the building and we kept the store and paid him rent for

about 15 or 20 years and then across the street from 824 we built our other store. And so many years my children were in school so many years after that my husband passed away in 1950.

**Schmitz:** So did everyone work in the grocery store – you and the children also?

**Kirchoff:** Oh yes, they were in school and college and everything but when they were home we all helped. I helped too. When was that article written? Turn that off.

[At this point in the interview Mrs. Kirchoff asked that the tape recorder be turned off.]

**Schmitz:** When you were a child in Granite City what types of games did you play?

**Kirchoff:** Well I'll tell you what, the community clubhouse in Lincoln Place which is still there was our everything to everybody. We used to go there on Sundays and have Sunday school. They would have teachers from different churches and the lady that teaches ... what do you call, Commonwealth? [Commonwealth Steel Industries] Mr. Moore and Mr. Howard built the community clubhouse for us – for all the immigrants. We used to have teachers come from downtown, Mrs. Prather and Mrs. Needles, we wonderful leaders and we would have Sunday school there. And as time went on they had basketball games and we used to have entertainment and meetings with different ladies groups. The ladies group that I had for 75 years we used to meet there and we had it like home which is still the same way. They have a lot of ... of course I moved out of



there in 1957, I think, let's see, he passed away, in '56 or '57. But after I moved out, I built this house, why I didn't go as often but we used to have wonderful leaders. Mrs. Prather, that was, Mr. Moore and Mr. Howard and her to handle – to be in charge of everything. And she was like a mother to me, I lived across the street, we lived, you know, and she used to come down all the time. And I used to be with her very close and she used to have sewing classes for the girls. Of which I was so surprised that the lady that came down during the war as a nurse for us to make bandages during the war that she is still living.

**Schmitz:** Oh really?

**Kirchoff:** So many years ago, or a few years ago or so I was talking with, I didn't know that was her daughter, Mrs. So and So. I said something to her about Lincoln Place and that we had a nice woman that came down that was teaching us how to make bands and what else did we used to make? Anyway, for the soldiers?

**Schmitz:** That was during World War II?

**Kirchoff:** Yes, for the soldiers and I have a picture of her with a cross and everything. And she says "well that was my mother." I says "is that right are you" ... And so she told me her name and I and her daughter belonged to the museum we have in Granite City. We are members and through that I met her mother again and we have Christmas parties every year and we get together – our group and I see her. Which is nice, isn't it?

**Schmitz:** Yes, that is nice. So there were several ... the immigrants in Granite City came from several countries in Europe did all...

**Kirchoff:** You want me to tell you?

**Schmitz:** Yes, please.

**Kirchoff:** First I got acquainted with , as customers you get acquainted with, we had Armenians, many Armenians came there and then we had Hungarians. We had Germans, I think there was a Bohemian too that I knew. That wasn't too big of a place, you know, and we had, then we had Mexicans that started coming in quite a bit. Quite a few we had and still now there's some there living. And what else did you ask me?

**Schmitz:** Did all the groups get along well together?

**Kirchoff:** We all got along. We children all met at the community clubhouse and we all went to school together. And our parents didn't speak English but that started gradually. Some young parents that came in they naturally learned the English language. But my mother, to tell you the truth, she was older and she died soon. She didn't know very much, very little but thank goodness we managed.

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** We had a lot of nationalities. We had a German girl was one of them.

**Schmitz:** So how important was church?

**Kirchoff:** Well now I'll start, how important was, well. The first church was St. Cyril and Methody in Lincoln Place was built on Maple Street – in the middle of Maple Street. And the way, this was the first church not only in Granite City but the first Orthodox Church in America. It was first started to be built in Madison but something came up during the depression that they couldn't build, so it was built here. And this church is still there on Maple street. After we left there, that was where I was married and all this a Macedonian – Bulgarian church. After we left Lincoln Place and moved out here we turned the church over to the Armenians. And they had it for quite a few years until they built one over on Pontoon about four or five years ago. Beautiful big church and this was left closed and I heard at one time that they had someone else – another religion of some kind there. I don't know exactly – I am sorry I should have you can get this and anything of interest to you. Take it – whatever you want. [Here Mrs. Kirchoff is referring to a church publication that explains the history of St. Cyril and Methody. A copy of this is included with this interview.]

**Schmitz:** Okay.

**Kirchoff:** Whatever you want of interest. This is the main thing about the church. This is it. Now, whatever year you have here, I guess 1969 was ... Do you have that thing off?

[At this point in the interview Mrs. Kirchoff again asks that the tape recorder be turned off.]

**Schmitz:** So after you moved here, did your family continue to cook traditional food from Macedonia?

**Kirchoff:** Oh yes, we still do. The other day my sister, we like long peppers, they are not the mango peppers, they are the long peppers. We chop them up and have a little oil, olive oil, or something, peppers and tomatoes and we sauté the peppers first and the tomatoes. Really it's a side dish and some people put onions in it, some people don't. You know how it is we change all that. But we just had lunch out of that – we make a sandwich out of that. It's like being on a diet.

**Schmitz:** Yes

**Kirchoff:** It's nourishing. Oh yes, we still cook our chicken the way we used to. I still make, like, ...with cottage cheese and stuff like that. Yes and most of our people still, the old people, not the young people. Naturally, like my granddaughter she'll take, she buys the philo dough and she takes, you know what the philo dough is? It's dough in the

freezer they sell it already rolled out in thin sheets like this, and then it's in the freezer. So you have to work with it really fast, you put your cottage cheese and then a little butter and roll it up and bake it and eat it.

**Schmitz:** Now, what is that called?

**Kirchoff:** We call it Zelnick, the Macedonians call it Zelnick and different parts of Macedonians call it Pita, more of a Greek word because now the part of Macedonia where I was born is under the Greeks. We had a war, it shows in here somewhere so many years ago they divided our Macedonia. They gave part of it to Greece and part of it is Macedonia which now, if you ever read the paper, you're too young to be that involved in politics. European, we get it in the *Post* all the time, even the other day they had a big article again about it. Macedonia is looking for its freedom. At that time we divide up so where my distant relatives live there are under Greek. They all had to change their name, instead of "off" they had to change it to "os." The Greeks, most of them have an "os" and the Macedonians and Bulgarians have an "off." See as soon as we see an "off" we know it's Bulgarian or Macedonian. But with interchange and marriages here in America you have all kind of names. Probably your family, I don't know what it is, but you're probably the same way.

**Schmitz:** Oh, yes, yes. Sure. Earlier you mentioned about the, that you were a member of the Bulgarian Ladies Aid Society.



**Kirchoff:** Yes.

**Schmitz:** Now was that affiliated with the church?

**Kirchoff:** No.

**Schmitz:** No?

**Kirchoff:** No. We organized that, you see I've been president of that for so long. Two or three years ago we dissolved the organization. We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You know these ladies were all old when they came there. I don't know, they were in their early 20's, early marriages, all these were. Married in Europe. Okay, this was my mother. This was my aunt and that's me back there. [At this point in the interview, Mrs. Kirchoff is showing pictures of members of the Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies Aid Society.] This was taken at, here's the community clubhouse and my grocery store is right across the street from that. We used to always meet here, it didn't cost us anything. Every month of every year. Let's see, here in this one is Mrs. Prather. This must have been the first or second year celebration. [Here Mrs. Kirchoff is referring to a picture of the members of the Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies Aid Society that she dates around 1927. This photograph is included with this interview.] I don't know exactly, I didn't write it on here, but I have other records. But we organized it with about 10 or 15 women to get together and we called it Macedonian Bulgarian because we speak the same language.

**Schmitz:** Okay.

**Kirchoff:** It grew to the point that we were up to 75 members. And then this one died and that one died. And I have beautiful articles that I used to put in the local newspaper about the organization. It came to the point – what it all was – in case one member died we gave a donation all those years. When it came to the end we had a lot of money and about three years ago. Oh, I thought I had those papers here but I don't and I don't want to take your time.

**Schmitz:** Oh, no. That's fine.

**Kirchoff:** Is that all right?

**Schmitz:** Yes

**Kirchoff:** Let's see I'll find it.

**Schmitz:** Okay.

[At this point Mrs. Kirchoff gestured to me to turn off the tape recorder and she requested that it not be turned back on.]

Follow-up interview with Tomea Loman Kirchoff

November 12, 2001

Interviewed at her home in Granite City, Illinois

Interviewed by Lindsay Schmitz

**Lindsay Schmitz:** This is Side 1 of a follow-up interview with Tomea Loman Kirchoff on November 12, 2001.

**Schmitz:** Okay, how was the Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies Aid Society started?

**Tomea Loman Kirchoff:** Well we are all Macedonian immigrants who came from Macedonia and Bulgaria, like Lincoln Place we had so many different nationalities. And then this was about 1926 we organized the Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies Aid Society. And I wasn't married then, let's see I got married, no we organized in 1925 and I got married in 1926. And now you have probably seen what year this was, so I don't get mixed up. I'm forgetful now. And then we met at our church one day a month and we were just a social club, that's all, we all met and had different things going on. Once a year we celebrate our anniversary with a big gathering at the community clubhouse like you see in that picture and we had, at times, we had dancing, our Macedonian dancing. I could show you pictures that what we used to dance. You've seen the pictures.

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** And then many times we had dinner at the same time and then we'd have our dancing. And then we had a place and we learned all the songs of Macedonia, all the Macedonian songs which I still remember. And we learned our religious things and I'd have to look to find more.

**Schmitz:** So it was just Macedonian women in the beginning?

**Kirchoff:** Macedonian and Bulgarian, yes.

**Schmitz:** Were there women from other immigrant groups later on, or was it always just Macedonian and Bulgarian?

**Kirchoff:** Well, later on a few but mostly just Macedonian and Bulgarian. Even we had Miss Prather join us. In the first picture, whether you have the first or second, she is in that picture. Later on as years come in and every year we had a big celebration and had pictures taken and as time went on we got smaller and smaller. The last ones I had are in a book, before I know what I am talking about...

[A few seconds of silence while Mrs. Kirchoff goes to get her photo album]

**Kirchoff:** All those books are full of pictures, like this, then we had other groups like men's groups.

**Schmitz:** There was a men's group?

**Kirchoff:** Oh this is the first picture, 1926. That's me. We had this from (inaudible) for appreciation about our club, our Macedonian ladies club. (Inaudible) Oh, I didn't know I had these pictures. That's my son. Let's see if I have any of the dancing. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. [Kirchoff is now describing the pictures she is looking at in her photo album.] And we used to dress and that's our national outfit.

**Schmitz:** Yes, okay.

**Kirchoff:** So that's my sister. And this is my niece. We went to Wood River one time and had a gathering and we had, two of them were from Alton, Wood River, St. Louis. We still have a few families there. And then (inaudible)

**Schmitz:** But the majority were from Lincoln Place?

**Kirchoff:** Oh all, I'll say the majority. Her husband was a big shot at Commonwealth. She was our first, Andria, she was our first president. First (inaudible) of the United States.

**Schmitz:** Mary Andria, okay.



**Kirchoff:** Oh, I don't know what else you want. Mrs. Kincadia (unsure of spelling), she was from Madison. She was educated and was leading us in many things which I didn't go to school very much. And then, I don't know what more. We had, almost every year we had a celebration. This is our 60<sup>th</sup> celebration. That's me and another friend. I was honored at some things. Look I have in my hand. Oh, a Statue of Liberty. I had made a donation privately, it wasn't through our club and I got. No, I don't have that picture, I think. Oh, that Statue of Liberty, here it is.

[A few seconds of silence while Mrs. Kirchoff gets up from the table to find more pictures.]

**Kirchoff:** I know I had it here. Well it's here somewhere. I can't find it but I was going to show it to you. That picture has that we were honored if you want to read it. [Mrs. Kirchoff reads from a newspaper article.] (Inaudible) "president of the Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies immigration from the Balkans, immigrants from the Balkans and their descendents had reported that a group overwhelmingly chose to support the Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Centennial Commission. The Commission will restore the crumbling building and correct the deterioration of the Statue of Liberty in time for its hundredth year celebration next year. Mrs. Kirchoff said she is unaware of any other group in the metropolitan area joining the national drive." I was deeply touched. So I don't know what else is in here if you want to read it.

**Schmitz:** So your group gave a charitable donation to the Statue of Liberty?

**Kirchoff:** Oh, that's the main thing. We gave charitable donations to everything. That was our purpose. Our first donation was to the YMCA downtown.

**Schmitz:** In Granite City?

**Kirchoff:** In Granite City when it was organized.

**Schmitz:** Oh.

**Kirchoff:** (Inaudible) Our donation was \$25. But we thought it was so great, but back then it was.

**Schmitz:** Well back then it was.

**Kirchoff:** It was, it's written here somewhere. Here we have on yellow ribbons. [Mrs. Kirchoff is again looking at pictures in her photo album and reading from the caption below a photograph from a newspaper clipping.] "members wore yellow ribbons at anniversary observance in 1925 when Granite City was 29 years old." [Now she is reading from another newspaper clipping] "The Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies aid society was founded and had enjoyed continuous existence for 55 years." This was in 1980, I guess. So, is there anyone correcting you in these things?

**Schmitz:** No there is no one else that we are interviewing, that is on our list that was a member of this organization.

**Kirchoff:** Oh, well we don't have too many, we dissolved the organization a few years ago.

**Schmitz:** Right.

**Kirchoff:** Oh, I do have, I still have friends my age. And, if you want to see this for any reason, because these are the important things we did. (Inaudible) We met at Charlie's Restaurant on our 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary. [She is now reading again from another newspaper clipping. The first two sentences are inaudible.] If there is anything you want to see, this you could even borrow.

**Schmitz:** Okay.

**Kirchoff:** Here we gave to the Statue of Liberty.

**Schmitz:** So the main purpose of the group, then, was to give charitable donations

**Kirchoff:** Charitable donations

**Schmitz:** To groups in the community?

**Kirchoff:** In the community and we even sent money to Macedonia a couple of times. And one time we sent, I remember there was a war going on or something in the early years, we sent some money that they bought clothes.

**Schmitz:** To Macedonia?

**Kirchoff:** Yes to Macedonian and to the Statue of Liberty. Oh, my sister must have put that away.

**Schmitz:** Did a lot of the members still have family back in Macedonia?

**Kirchoff:** Not too much and many times we had them visiting America, here and

**Schmitz:** Right.

**Kirchoff:** Like now they come the distance. And, let's see, if there's anything that reminded me of anything else. [Again, looking at her photo album.] Oh, this is our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and these are all of our past presidents. All the years that's all the presidents we had. The other ladies, you know, I or we that came as children we didn't know very much about Macedonia, we used to kind of read about it and learn. We were English, but those older ladies that came here at 20 or 30 years old, they didn't learn the English

language as well and we spoke Macedonian most of the time. But as years went by you now it changed.

**Schmitz:** So it was a way for the younger women to learn about Macedonia?

**Kirchoff:** That's right. That's right. These are all past presidents, that's 1987. Every year...

**Schmitz:** How did you choose a president?

**Kirchoff:** Huh?

**Schmitz:** How did you choose a president?

**Kirchoff:** How did we choose...well we had regular, it was all done legally. We had a meeting and so many ladies sat up and we'd vote for them. But you know as time went on the younger ladies were all busy working they were just active to come to the meetings and doings. Like every holiday, we had religious holidays, we had group meetings and religious activities. But these, mostly in here, I think are of the meetings. This woman came from Bulgaria to visit in 1986, a friend of so-and-so's came to visit so we honored her. And the last, mental health thing, we used to donate to everything.

[Mrs. Kirchoff is referring to a certificate she found in her photo album from a mental



health clinic in Granite City thanking her for a donation made to them by the Macedonian Bulgarian Ladies Aid Society.]

**Schmitz:** Oh you donated to the mental health clinic then?

**Kirchoff:** Yes.

**Schmitz:** Was that in Granite City?

**Kirchoff:** [Reading from the certificate...] Mental health services of southern Madison County (inaudible) and then I could give you the letter explaining everything when we dissolved our organization. We distributed money amongst our local, like St. Elizabeth's hospital. We gave \$5,000. YMCA we gave, the park we gave, the mental health something. Do you want to hear about it?

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** Well let me see if I have it. I know I kept it.

[Silence while she looks for the letter.]

**Kirchoff:** We supported our church, that's the main thing. The Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church in, oh that's about the priest. Oh here is something. I have to find, oh I

think I made a note of it somewhere in one of my books. The last letter of how we dissolved. It was in the paper, we dissolved and how much was donated to everybody. I think we had it in there because some of our past members who had dropped out because they were getting older wanted to know what had happened to the money. And nothing was given to us.

**Schmitz:** Right.

**Kirchoff:** Oh and when we first organized we thought we'd give \$250 to each member that passed away. Well we did that, we organized with that cause. I forgot about that.

**Schmitz:** To the family of the member that passed away?

**Kirchoff:** To the family of the member and that lasted about 15 or twenty years. I guess we didn't have very many passing away when our organization dissolved and that's the reason we had \$42,000. That we gave, like I said and I have pictures of Sister Thomas at our hospital. I gave her \$5,000 and when I took it to her, donated it to her, it was just around now. They had their Christmas tree out in the hall in the hospital. She says "would you like to have your picture taken with me?" I says, "I'd love to." And I have a beautiful picture taken with her when I gave \$5,000. And we gave all our money away. I meant for you, let's see if I have it in here. That letter that we dissolved the organization. Oh gee, I should have thought of that before.

**Schmitz:** Oh that's okay.

**Kirchoff:** Oh, I can't find, oh I showed you this one.

**Schmitz:** Yes, yes.

**Kirchoff:** Now do you have this?

**Schmitz:** Yes, that's the

**Kirchoff:** Yes, that's the deactivating, this is the one you saw. Do you have this?

**Schmitz:** Yes, I did. Okay. Okay.

**Kirchoff:** Now did I have any other (inaudible)? I just got an idea, I have read these so many times. [Mrs. Kirchoff is looking through a pile of various newspaper clippings.]  
Oh here they are.

**Schmitz:** Right. Okay.

[She has now found the newspaper article that explains how much money her organization donated to various groups in Granite City.]

**Kirchoff:** Sure. Now does that have the amounts, I kind of held back I did not want to brag that we gave so much.

**Schmitz:** Huh-huh.

**Kirchoff:** Let's see, oh this is just who we gave to, not how much we gave to them. To some we gave \$1000 but most we gave 5. We even sent 5, I think, to Macedonia and we gave to the Macedonian Tribune that is published in Indianapolis.

**Schmitz:** Is that a Macedonian newspaper?

**Kirchoff:** Uh-huh and St. Cyril and Methody Hospital, that's in Skopje in Macedonia. And here it is, "gifts will also be made to other charities". Well we gave it all, we distributed it, well do you have this?

**Schmitz:** Yes, yes.

**Kirchoff:** Okay.

**Schmitz:** I have a copy of it.

**Kirchoff:** I don't know whether you needed it or not.

**Schmitz:** I made a copy of it.

**Kirchoff:** You did?

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** I don't know what else I'd say.

**Schmitz:** So,

**Kirchoff:** You have this?

**Schmitz:** Yes. Yes, I have that.

**Kirchoff:** Do you think the ladies would want all of this?

**Schmitz:** Oh yes, this is all very interesting.

**Kirchoff:** You asked me a question and I forget.

**Schmitz:** During the Depression, did you do any other activities to help out members?



**Kirchoff:** We continued even during the Depression but we did it on a smaller scale. We had our meetings and we did out minutes, we'd talk and visit. We'd have a little refreshment. Maybe just a get-together. We were no card players. We didn't play cards. We used to like bingo. We played bingo.

**Schmitz:** Bingo?

**Kirchoff:** And about Miss Prather, let's see, this is the one that I was thinking. It's interesting what they did at the community clubhouse which today still exists – the community clubhouse. But today they don't do these things, I don't know what they do now. I moved out of that area and I don't see the people that much. I see them but there's not many left. Then we foreigners, I'll say foreigners, we drifted away as we made more money and we lived different. And the ones that are there are not as active I don't think because I am not involved. Maybe those ladies that are left, there's a few of those ladies there from that area. Now the Armenian girls (inaudible) they're the ones that kind of started this. Do you know that?

**Schmitz:** No.

**Kirchoff:** Oh, yes, the Armenian girls they lived there the longest. They grew up there at the community clubhouse. Now, what was I going to say about that? They would be able to tell you more about that, after I left that area, more about the activities.

**Schmitz:** Did they have a separate ladies group?

**Kirchoff:** Well I tell you what. I don't know but I think they must have because now...

Oh wait a minute, well before I forget about this about the first church. Did I give you the material about the first church?

Schmitz: Yes. Yes, I made a copy of that.

**Kirchoff:** (Inaudible) we didn't have a priest. We used to get our priests from Bulgaria and they were Bulgarian ceremonies at that time. In Madison the church was newer and our church was pretty old. The first church, now that should give, we have a lot of articles here about the first church. I wonder, I wanted to correct something there. Now this is the one, you have this one don't you?

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** Okay, now this is the first church on Maple Street in Lincoln Place that was built and we used it for our church. But it says down here that the first church was in Madison. What it was, they started building and then the Depression came and they stopped building on Madison Avenue. And in a few years it was better and [here she is reading from a newspaper article] "in 1909-1911 the economy recovered and between 10,000-15,000 immigrants came to American from Bulgaria and Macedonia. After 1912, when the Balkan war erupted about 12,000 male immigrants went as volunteers to the Bulgarian army to fight for the liberation of Macedonia." And still today they are

fighting. Today I say on television as I was reading that part that Macedonia has trouble still. "They raised a number of ... state department." What part do I want to say? Oh, "then in 1907 (inaudible) of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church to Granite City and Madison to strengthen the spirit of the immigrant." Now this, I think was already built. "So Lincoln Place, a section in Granite City, the spirit at that time was better." Let's see, where am I at? "A church board was estimated an at that time Cyril and Methody was erected," this is the one, "and consecrated placing holy (inaudible) and I can't even pronounce the word so-so and "Reverend Christo Karabasco (unsure of the spelling) offered the first divine liturgy." In America, now this is.

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** "At the end of the following year, 1910, the second Holy Trinity Church of Madison was completed but many places", many places, they say, Madison was the first church which is that. But the first church, this is the one on the corner of Grand Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup>, this one here, and it is the one we still use. "Reverend (inaudible) was the Parish priest, was the same Parish priest" and then he'd come and serve here too. (Inaudible) of Holy Trinity, that was later on, Reverend (inaudible) was transferred to Pennsylvania, the organization of", anyway some people have said in books that I have seen that this was the first church, while this was the first church built, at times. After this was built then we served here but we had no priest. We had a church with no priest. So if you have, do you have a copy of this?

**Schmitz:** Yes, I have a copy of that.

**Kirchoff:** That will explain it more, I wanted to be sure because many times when people immigrate, have immigrated, later on here. They say no that's the first church, we say well that's the first church built but that's the one we were using. So anyway, so you have an idea. [Reading again.] "Parish priest of St. Cyril and Methody," see this is the one.

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** I was married here, no, this is the one. Wait a minute, these are both Holy Trinity. Well this is the one we are using now.

**Schmitz:** Oh, okay.

**Kirchoff:** We had the meeting here. I remember I was there too. We had an Armenian congregation and the Armenian congregation bought our church, bought it in Lincoln Place. They had it for so many years. And then now, the last five or six years, they built right here on Pontoon Road. So you have an idea. Some of those girls will talk to you about it. You have an idea and that's what it is.

**Schmitz:** Okay. This is the Church you were married in? The Holy Trinity?

**Kirchoff:** No, this is the Madison one, the one that I go to now.

**Schmitz:** Oh, okay.

**Kirchoff:** I went to St. Cyril and Methody.

**Schmitz:** And that's the one you were married in?

**Kirchoff:** And some of us christened Cyril, that was a Macedonian name. So, anyway, you have this in mind because it is very important for history in the Bulgarian books and things. They said this was the Church, if you read it when you think about it, the more or less it will stay in your mind. This was the Church. And then they started out, this was about 10 years, 10 or 15 years that first that started being built there, was left with just the bricks. Were left and then a company bought it and they were manufacturing something and it was a big huge thing. And then a few years ago they tore it down, 10 or 15 years ago. And we all went there and got bricks and if you want to have a brick I have them outside on the walk.

**Schmitz:** Oh, you have them...

**Kirchoff:** It has an insignia, a religious insignia. You wouldn't have any use for that?

**Schmitz:** No, no.

**Kirchoff:** You think, if in the conversation they might say something, those Lincoln Place people might say something,

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** But they don't know the past.

**Schmitz:** So the bricks were from the Holy Trinity?

**Kirchoff:** Yes and we still go to the Holy Trinity Church. This was the first one, this was about 32 years ago, I think, oh, no, more than that. Oh, my husband was still living then. Anyway, the dates or whatever you'll find in that.

**Schmitz:** Right.

**Kirchoff:** You have that for reference. Now is there anything else you want to ask me about?

**Schmitz:** Now what about during World War II, did the ladies group do anything different during the war?



**Kirchoff:** Well what we did by donating our money, well yes we did. We did, oh where is that page? Well yes, oh this is the one, honey. I'll read it to you. You've got this?

**Schmitz:** No, I don't have that one.

**Kirchoff:** You could have this one we [Reading from a newspaper clipping] "Girls of Lincoln Place hold exhibit" oh we used to do a lot of things. Oh let me see here. "this afternoon and this evening, the annual tradition of the Lincoln Place community club center. Dresses, 47 of them, all of all sizes, colors and designs, and made by girls varying in age, from age 8-15 are being exhibited." We were learning how to sew. "The dresses were all made by the children under the leadership of Miss Alice Soboleski." I think her sister is still living but Alice is gone. "Assited by Miss Sophia Prather, director of the Community Clubhouse. These dresses after being judged this afternoon by Miss Louise," I don't know what, I can't, maybe the other ladies would know that name. Oh but those are all young ladies and they wouldn't know this. (Inaudible) "Local dressmaker will be given by the girls who have made them in a style parade to be held as part of the evening program. The dresses were started by the children, by the children June the 17<sup>th</sup> and all of them were completed by the children in time for the exhibition today. They were placed on display yesterday. In addition to the dresses," oh, we did so many things. "Specimens of the embroidery are being shown at the social center, the work was done by girls of all ages and all nationalities." That's important, I think this is very important. Now this was 1931, this was. "Miss Prather had established that there are 13 different races represented."

**Schmitz:** Wow.

**Kirchoff:** Yes, you can see that by this. If anyone says well, I don't know.

**Schmitz:** [laughter]

**Kirchoff:** Beautiful quilts, oh I'll never forget the quilts. We used to embroider quilts, you know. I lived right across the street from the community clubhouse on that side. And then Miss Prather would measure for them, the children, the way they were sewing. And she had to have measurements and she'd come to my house, my bed she'd measure and she'd set them up. She was a wonderful.

**Schmitz:** Now, did they sell the things that they made?

**Kirchoff:** Now they made them for themselves and they just fit.

**Schmitz:** Oh, okay.

**Kirchoff:** [Reading again] "Beautiful quilts, old patch and embroidery on display having been done by girls 11 years of age and up to 19. There are 14 of them on display, including three friendship quilts which contain the names of the girls." I wish I knew who had those quilts.

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** Friendship quilts were made by Verka Eftimoff,” now this is, her sister still lives here, “Sophia Pappidenoff,” that’s my cousin “Anna Loman,” that was my sister. Oh my goodness. “Two other patchwork quilts were made by Louise Guiroff and Eva Sumoroff.” “Embroidered quilts were made by Mary Barth,” she’s Hungarian “Daisy Jateff,” she was Macedonian “Anna Bossrick,” she was, her father was Serbian, I guess “Queenie Eftimoff,” she is still living and she just lost her husband about two months ago “Alice Soboleski,” her sister is still living “Verka Koleff” is gone “Mary Matcaroff,” her sister is still living, “Anna Sepesi and Amelia Obrycki.” (Inaudible) “Most unique is the exhibit,” those were Polish girls “Most unique is the exhibit of, most unique is the exhibit of artistically decorated glassware prepared by the children, but perhaps more unique is the way it is prepared. The articles to be decorated are dipped into a specially,” oh it showed how they were done. “Continued on page 4,” I wonder if this is 4? Yes, oh yes then the rest is here. Yes, you can have that.

**Schmitz:** Okay, I will make a copy of it.

**Kirchoff:** I thought you had it and I found it home. When I found it, I put it there and I says when she comes back be sure to give it to her.

**Schmitz:** Yes, this is interesting.

**Kirchoff:** Because this is what the community clubhouse was for years and years. And then they had basketball teams and that's where our boys learned how to play basketball. Well you have heard about that?

**Schmitz:** Yes.

**Kirchoff:** And they have celebration not long ago. I didn't go, I couldn't.

**Schmitz:** Oh, an anniversary for when the team won?

**Kirchoff:** Yes.

**Schmitz:** That's nice.

**Kirchoff:** Oh I made a donation, this is just to you I am saying this [she motions to the tape recorder]

**Schmitz:** Oh I can turn that off.

[At this point Mrs. Kirchoff requested that the tape recorder be turned off.]