

Interviewer: EMILY COFFIN

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: MILLIE TODOROFF CHANDLER

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Interview Date, Time, and Place:

10/29/2001 1:00 PM AT MRS. CHANDLER'S HOME,

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Mrs. Chandler was a gracious lady, anxious to say nice things about Lincoln Place. She told about the significance of the Lincoln Place Community Center.

Mrs. Chandler provided a view of the neighborhood from a young girl's perspective. Immigrants from the 'old country' printed their ethnic customs.

Young women were not allowed the same opportunities as the young men.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Her telephone rang several times, interrupting the flow of the interview

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

(Based on an interview of Millie Todoroff Chandler, by Emily Coffin, October 29, 2001)

Seventy-five year old Millie Chandler was born in Lincoln Place. She resided there until 1951. Her father had immigrated from Yugoslavia, to work for Commonwealth, known as General Steel Castings Corporation. Her mother, who was of Hungarian descent, had lived 'Behind the Mill' and moved to Lincoln Place when she married.

Ms. Chandler describes life in Lincoln Place to be 'very nice'. It was a safe haven for all the children. People were friendly and helped each other. Despite the different ethnic groups that resided in the neighborhood, everyone sort of socialized with people of their own ethnic background. Family members spoke the native tongue of their parents at home. English was often not spoken by the adults.

Ms. Chandler's father was fortunate to have a good job at Commonwealth. In addition he was a terrific musician. He taught himself to play the tuba, and had his own band. The band played at dances all over the area.

Her mother was quite a social person. She always belonged to organizations that would allow her to get out of the house and be with others. She stayed active until she died.

Music played an important role in Ms. Chandler's life. She played the piano at the Community Center. Her dexterous fingers also allowed her to be quite good at secretarial classes in school.

She has mixed emotions about her years in school. She thought the teachers looked down on her because she came from Lincoln Place. Despite being shy, she was a good student. She would have liked to attend college but her father would not allow it.

Opportunities for young women must have been limited. It seems like her brothers had more opportunities to go to attend sporting events during their high school years, to attend college, to learn to drive. Much time Ms. Chandler would tell me something that she was not allowed, and then she would quickly follow with saying that it was O.K.

Ms. Prather and the Lincoln Place Community Center were important memories for Ms. Chandler. She credits Ms. Prather with teaching her to sew and embroidery. Ms. Chandler enjoyed playing sports at the Community Center as well.

Ms. Chandler is a gracious woman. She learned at an early age that the boys got to do more things than the girls were allowed to do. She is proud of her heritage and has tried to teach her own children some of the cultural ways.