

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

(Based on an interview of Margaret 'Marge' Elek Nonn, by Emily Coffin, November 6, 2001)

Marge Nonn has lived in the Lincoln Place and West Granite City neighborhoods for over eighty years. She came from a working-class family. Her father was disabled. Marge and her sister assisted their mother in earning enough money to support the family by selling and delivering milk door-to-door to residents in Lincoln Place. At age 14, she began working in St. Louis Missouri at a factory that made rags.

Marge had one brother. He once won an automobile from a contest in Lincoln Place. He used the car to drive neighbors around town.

In 1942, at the age of 24, Marge married Walter Nonn. Walter and Marge lived with Walter's parents in West Granite from 1942 until the elder Mrs. Nonn died in 1959. During that time Marge worked at Nesco because she couldn't stay at home every day with her mother-in-law. Walter and Marge had one daughter, Diane. In 1959, Walter and Marge built a home at ██████████ where Marge still resides today. The house included three bedrooms, one for themselves, one for Diane and one for Walter's father.

Walter was very active in local politics. He served as a Granite City Alderman for over forty years. Upon his death, Marge wanted to be appointed to complete the remaining two years of Walter's term. However, Mayor Schuler would not appoint Marge. In order to show up the mayor, Marge ran for election and was elected for the two-year term. At the end of her first term Marge ran for an additional six-year term. Marge hated every minute of it!

After her daughter was married, Marge began a new career. She was the bailiff for two Madison County, Illinois judges. She served Judge Shuman for twenty-five years and Judge

Mateosean .for seven years. The last 7 ½ years of her working career she was a bailiff at the Madison County Jail in Edwardsville, IL.

Marge witnessed much change in the community over her 83 years. She believes the presence of the Granite City Army Depot had a negative impact on the quality of the citizens in Lincoln Place. Although the economic benefits to the Granite City area were much more far reaching, the neighborhood of Lincoln Place was never the same.