

Interviewer: Joshua D. Koenig

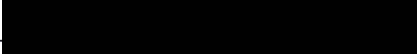
INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Mary Spiech

Date and Place of Birth: Granite City, Ill. April 16, 1916.

Address: 

Granite City, Ill.

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place:
11-16-01 1:30 PM

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Interview topics include: home life, World War II, the depression, Lincoln Place, religion, community involvement, and the loss of community

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Interviewee had difficult time understanding/hearing questions. She requested the tape be stopped on a few occasions. Interview had a few interruptions. Some topics were off track. Interview was very frustrating for interviewer

Biographical Summary of Mary Spaich

Mary Spaich was born on April 16th, 1916 in Granite City, Illinois. Born of Serbian parents, Mary is the first child to have been born in America. Mary's parents left Yugoslavia in 1914, and moved to Tri-City Park, near Madison, and then ultimately to the Lincoln Place Neighborhood.

When Mary graduated from high school, she began working as a sales clerk, and eventually moved her way up to the position of department manager. Mary met her future husband Michael while she was at a wake for one of the residents of Lincoln Place. The two started dating, and in 1952, Mary and Michael were married. The couple decided to stay in the Lincoln Place neighborhood. Over the years the couple had three children, however, one of their daughters was stillborn.

Mary's husband Michael worked for McDonald Douglas as a template maker. Mary thinks the world of Michael. She has stated that he was an excellent husband, father, and grandfather, who always took care of the family. Michael past away a few years ago on Christmas. Mary misses him dearly, but says that her life has been great.

Mary recalls all of her fond memories growing up in Lincoln Place. She recalls playing with her girlfriends, and the convenience of life growing up in Lincoln Place. She remembers how life used to be, and how the neighborhood has changed. Mary is not content with the way in which Lincoln Place stands today. She believes that the way of life has simply changed, and she is happy that she had the opportunity to grow up in her generation. In the meantime, Mary enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren who reside in the area. Mary is still very much active within her religion of Serbian Orthodox. Whenever she has the opportunity to do so, Mary likes speaking

Serbian with her friends. She explains that she can not complain about her life, and wishes that everybody could have shared the experience.

Lincoln Place Oral History Project
Dept. of Historical Studies, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Biographical Information and Family History

Current Information

Full Name: SPAICH MARY X
Last First Middle

Maiden Name: KOSICK

Current Address: [REDACTED]

GRANITE CITY, ILL 62040

Telephone Number: (home) 618-877-4581 (work) X

Best time/way to reach: any time

Family History

Years/dates lived in Lincoln Place: 49

Address(es) in Lincoln Place: [REDACTED]

GRANITE CITY IL. 62040.

Date and Place of Birth: ^{4/16} 1916 GRANITE CITY ILL.

Current Marital Status:

single [] married [] divorced [] widowed [X]

Spouse's name and place of birth: MICHAEL SPAICH, GRANITE, ILL.

Mother's name and place of birth (if known): SOPHIE POLVA, ^{Bygonia, Missouri}

Father's name and place of birth (if known): ROY KOSICK ✓

Children's names: Joseph Spaich 1954

Barbara Fowler 1956

Katie Spaich 1957

Education History

Name of School Place Dates Year/Degree Completed
(City, state)

Madison High School Jan. 1935 4 yrs.
Madison, Ill.

Work History

(current and most important previous jobs)

Job Employer Place Dates

F. W. Woolworth Granite City 1936-1952
Floor Walker - take care of clerks, duty
order clerk for merchandise

Religious History

Current Religious Denomination: Serbian

Current Church Affiliation: _____

Past Church Memberships (name, place): _____

Activities and Organizations

Please list any organizations to which you have belonged or currently belong, or any activities or affiliations you hold (civic, community, military service, educational, unions or professional, political, or hobbies and interests; include dates and places, if possible):

Clubs Union - Granite City, Ill. 1936-1952