

Interviewer: Lisa M. Smithe

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Annie M. Kovach

Date and Place of Birth: May 27, 1926 at 837 Pacific Avenue, Granite City, Illinois

Address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Interview Date, Time, and Place:

Interview was on Wednesday, November 14, 2001, at 3:30 pm at Mrs. Kovach's residence

Interview Summary:

The interviewee, Mrs. Kovach, is a 75 year old widow of Hungarian decent. She was born and raised in Lincoln Place. She is the youngest of five girls. Mrs. Kovach is a good historian. She talked a lot about the businesses that were running all the way back into the Depression Era. She talked about what it was like being a child growing up in the Depression in Granite City. She was the only one in her immediate family to go to high school. There is a lot of remincing to school and neighborhood activities. Some of the highlights of the interview centered around Hungarian dishes and Christmas traditions. Mrs. Kovach talks about the great flood that came to Lincoln Place with pictures that illustrate how deep the water really was (see attached photos). Mrs. Kovach talks a lot about her family, especially her sisters. Side b of this taped interview continues with family stories. She also reflects upon the many changes of the neighborhood since she was a child. There is a hint of regret that surfaces throughout most of the side b. Mrs. Kovach being a "shy" person states there were many things she wishes she would have done differently.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Mrs. Kovach was unsure of her knowledge about Lincoln Place so she had a written list that she read some of her information from during the interview. Also, there is some occasional creaking of furniture as both parties shifted position during the interview.

Revised 12/4
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Biographical Summary

Interview of Annie Kovach By Interviewer Lisa Smithe

Annie Kovach is a seventy-five year old widowed Hungarian female who formerly resided in Lincoln Place in Granite City, Illinois. Mrs. Kovach is the youngest of five girls who lived in a shotgun house on Pacific Avenue (later changed to Neideringhaus). Her mother and father came to America from Hungary in the early 1900s. Her parents moved around often, but later chose to settle down in Lincoln Place. Mrs. Kovach tells a fascinating story about her life as a child growing up here. During the Depression, her father was laid off from General Steel Castings. So it was her mother who was the only member of the family to have a job. She illustrates what life was like living on a small income with such a large family. Social gathering, holidays, and pageants are just a few of the many activities she vividly recalls.

maiden name?

Mrs. Kovach shares stories of attending school and what it was like being a young girl in the late 1930's early 1940's. She talks fondly about the Lincoln Place Community Center as the building ⁱⁿ which she received her Sunday school teachings, and where she learned different craft making skills such as embroidery. She was the only one of her four sisters to ever go to high school. Mrs. Kovach discusses important Hungarian recipes and certain traditions that are now becoming extinct in her present family. She looks back to her life with few regrets, and can easily depict the changes that Lincoln Place has gone through over these past decades. Included with the interview are pictures that Mrs. Kovach photocopied and allowed to be placed in the archives. These photos are a

This is a summary of the interview, not of Kovach's life

wonderful way to journey into the past. Mrs. Kovach is presently retired and enjoying her free time by keeping in contact with old friends and with her family.