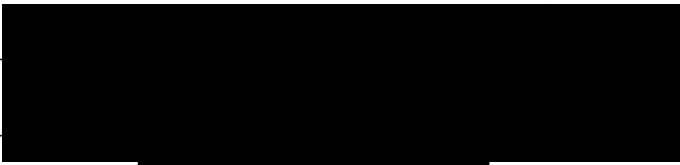


Interviewer: TINA M. YOUNG


INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: ANNETTE SIMPKINS (VARTANIAN)

Date and Place of Birth: 3 FEB 1931, GRANITE CITY, IL

Address: 

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place: 26 NOV 01; 3:30 pm at 
IN KITCHEN

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

CONNECTION TO NEIGHBORHOOD / LENGTH OF TIME LIVED THERE
PARENTS - WHEN THEY ARRIVED - BEFORE GENOCIDE
NAME CHANGE OF PACIFIC TO NIEDRINGHAUS
MISS PRATHER
BUSINESSES IN NEIGHBORHOOD
DEPOT - HOW IT IMPROVED ECONOMY
WORKING AT DEPOT
ETHNIC GROUPS - PERCEPTIONS AS A KID
FATHER'S JOBS - FOOD PEDDLER / STEEL MILL / THEATER
FIRST THEATER - FATHER PRODUCING ARMENIAN PLAYS
LANGUAGE NOT PASSED DOWN TO HER OWN KIDS - REGRETS
FATHER - ARMENIAN LANGUAGE ONLY IN THE HOME

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

MRS. SIMPKINS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A WAKE.
AN OLD FRIEND FROM LINCOLN PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD HAD
JUST DIED.

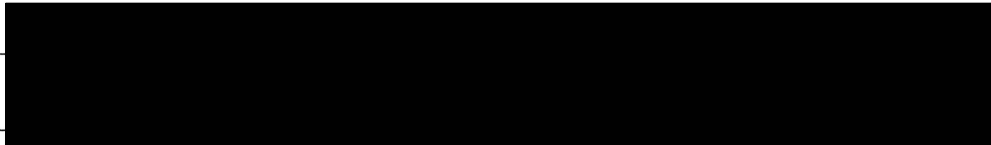
PHONE INTERRUPTS NUMEROUS TIMES.

Interviewer: TINA M. YOUNG

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: ANNETTE SIMPKINS (VARTANIAN)

Date and Place of Birth: 3 FEB 1931, GRANITE CITY, IL

Address: 

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place:
26 NOV 01 ; 3:30 pm at 3017 WAYNE AVE
IN KITCHEN

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

SISTERS - DIFFERENCES IN AGES
MOTHER'S MISCARRIAGES / VERY YOUNG WIFE
FOOD - SUNDAY MEALS / PASTRIES
SITUATED AT SCHOOL UNLESS MALE ATHLETE
COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES / SUNDAY SCHOOL / PLAYING
WHY PRESENCE OF BAPTIST MISSION / MISS LAMPERT
MOTHER COMING OVER / HARD LIFE
HELPING FATHER WITH FOOD PEDDLING
FATHER BUSTED AS BOOT-LEGGER
FATHER AND CITIZENSHIP PAPERS DENIED
MEETING HUSBAND / MOVING OUT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
ARMENIAN SCHOOL / LIVING IN GERMANY / TRAVEL

~~Note any special circumstances involving the interview:~~

JOINING THE CHURCH / STAYING AWAY FROM WOMEN'S GROUPS
REFLECTIONS IN GENERAL ABOUT ETHNIC GROUPS
RELATIONSHIPS / PEOPLE KNOWING ONE ANOTHER / FEELING SAFE
WHY PEOPLE STARTED LEAVING AFTER WWII
THE FIRE OF 1953 / WALKING TO SCHOOL / PEOPLE DYING OF CANCER
FUNERAL PROCESSIONS / REMEMBERING HER SISTER'S DEATH IN 1936
HER SISTER DYING FROM A BOTCHED ABORTION
NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCES AT HUNGARIAN HOME / KIDS TODAY

To: Dr. Anne Valk
From: Tina M. Young
Date: 06 Dec 01
Subject: Biographical essay for Annette Simpkins; Lincoln Place

Annette Simpkins was born on 03 Feb 1931 in Granite City, IL, and lived in Lincoln Place until she married in 1952. Her father, Aranos Vartanian, arrived in the United States in 1905, and her mother, Biazar, arrived in 1908. Her mother was sent to the United States by her parents in the hope that she would have a better life. She married Aranos shortly after her arrival, and they had five daughters. As the youngest, Annette stated that she felt like an outsider because all her sisters were so much older than her. Although she speaks fluent Armenian, she never learned how to read and write the language.

Annette's father worked several different jobs, from the American Steel company, to peddling fruit and vegetables from the back of his truck throughout Granite City. He also owned the first movie theater in Granite City, but this was before Annette's birth. Her mother hand made all the girls clothes, and was described by Annette in modest and sad terms. As a child, Annette helped her father peddle fruits and vegetables on the weekends and during summer vacations from school. In addition, Annette told many humorous family stories, such as the time her father was busted by the FBI for boot-legging, and the time she accidentally sabotaged her father's chance at getting his citizenship papers. Annette met her now divorced husband at the nearby army depot, and was regretful at not teaching her children to speak Armenian.

Annette shared many vignettes about the neighborhood, and some very definite opinions about how, and why, the neighborhood changed after WWII.