

Interview: Mary Spaich
Interviewed By: Joshua D. Koenig
1:30 PM November 16, 2001
Lincoln Place: Granite City, Illinois

Koenig: This is Joshua Koenig, interviewing Mrs. Spaich on November 16th at 1:30 PM.

Would you please state your name and spell your last name.

Spaich: S-P-A-I-C-H

Koenig: Would you please start out by telling me background information about yourself.

Spaich: My background? You mean my parents, oh all right. My parents were Serbian and they came from Yugoslavia in 1914, and they brought four boys with them. They came to Madison; their grandparents were there. They made their home there. My mother had to go to work. My father was sick for a long time. After he got better, he got a job, and worked on the steel mills. I was born in 1916, April the 18th. I was their first born in America. Then there were three more after me. One of them, well he died of pneumonia or something. Then I had two more brothers, still living. Do you want their names? (I nod) John Kothik and Steven Kothik. Then I had an older brother. Do you want the older ones too? Well, those two, do you want their ages? (I nod again). Then I have a 97-year-old brother in a retirement center, he came from Europe. Let's see, what else can I tell you. Well, my parents came from Yugoslavia, my mother, her father was Serbian, and her mother was Romanian. So, there was a mixture there, you know. I guess they had some German in them too, because my father was blond and my mother had coal-black hair. They spoke Serbian, and when they came here, well they went to Italy to get on the boat. They brought another young man with them, he decided to come to America, and he thought he'd be able to stay here. My uncle's wife and daughter

came along with them. When they examined them, they found out that the girl had sarcoma, and they wouldn't let her stay. So, the mother could come, and the daughter went back, and the young man, he didn't have anybody that would sponsor him, so he had to go back. So, they made their life up here. We lived in Tri-City Park. I don't think you have even ever heard of it. Well, across the track from Madison, its still there, it's a little village. Anyhow, my father got the job, and he worked, and they bought a house, a little two-room house. Then they had a great big, well I call it a shed. They had cow, they had a place for a cow, and they had a kitchen there. We had a lot of fun there, we grew up. Then, when I was six we moved to Madison, across the street from where we lived. I went to Madison school. I went to three different schools. I went to the Lewis Bair School that was from first to sixth grade. Then I went to Harris school from seven to eight, and then I went to the high school from the first to the fourth. So I graduated as the second in the class. My girlfriend was first and I was second. Then when I graduated the depression came along. You couldn't find a job. I looked all over. You know, the boys all had some kind of a little job, and my father worked a little bit. They managed, you know how they'd pool their money, and help each other. They don't do that anymore. The kids take it and stick it in their pocket. Anyway, we lived pretty good. The depression was kind of rough though on a lot of people. The Madison police department had a truck, and every so often, people would ask for food, they bring them a sack of flour, some canned goods, and some Australian beef in a can. Some of my mother's friends said they didn't like it. So they'd bring it over to my mother, the beef, and she would make stew. It was real good. Then another thing, they used to give, the grocery stores, could take certain coupons. You would get so much meat. Well, this

grocer in Madison, he had a grocery store downstairs, and a rooming house upstairs. A lot of single guys. They gave him the coupons. So he brought them, and gave them to my mother. We always had plenty of everything. She was the same way. You only got two, you know. We never wanted for nothing. You know. I think that's the way, a lot of the people, they made their own wine and whiskey. My mother made beer, (laughing) down in the basement. My brothers drank, not too much, and my father had friends come over. They didn't make it too much. We had a lot of good neighbors. All kinds of different nationalities. We had Slovaks, Bohemians, Greeks, Russians. What else? Jewish, every nationality that could be. They all got along, and they're married. The depression was over, and everybody started feeling pretty good, and then the war came (laughing). So, we were getting coupons then too. My five brothers were in the service. My oldest brother, Steve, he was I think 36 when they drafted him. Then they said that if he could, a paper, that if he could fill it out and take it to where he worked at the mill, that they would make sure that he had a job to come to. So they discharged him, and he worked in the mill. My other brothers, one was in Baltimore in the coastguard. One was in, close to Japan. Another one was in Germany. They were all, we were lucky none of them were killed. So many of them in the neighborhood were killed. We got that, I don't know if you noticed it as you come off of Madison Avenue, right there by McDonalds, they have this big, I don't know what you call it, but they have the names of all the boys that were killed during the war. There was a lot of my neighbors that were. What else? Then things started getting better. I went to work at Woolworth's. I worked there as a sales clerk. Then and order clerk, and I was in charge of all the employees. Making schedules and all that. Then I got married and quit the job, to take care of the baby. It

was the good life. I couldn't complain. We never went hungry. We never wanted for nothing. Today, people, they're lucky. They get food stamps, and they go to the food banks, and all. They don't appreciate it. So, I don't know. We went through the Depression and through the war. It was kind of, well when you're young you don't, I was 18 years old. 17, 18 it didn't bother me. I wrote a lot of letters. We were lucky though. They all came back. My one brother was there in Japan. He got what they call, "jungle rot." His fingers, all that flesh was eaten off. Then penicillin came, and they started giving him penicillin, and it healed. He came home, and he was back in the service. What else can I tell you?

Koenig: What can you tell me about childhood?

Spaich: My childhood? Oh it was fun. We had so much fun, us girls. You know, the neighbor had eight girls. Everybody had five or six. Well we'd play out there. We'd go out in the alley and get bricks and stack them up. We'd get a bouquet or something, or we were going to make soup, we'd get bones, not bones but rocks, and we'd play that we were making soup. We had weddings. Oh all kinds of stuff. But then after we grew up and went to school, we forgot about all that. Yeah, and then when I got married, I lived across the street, in a family house. I had my first son in 1952, no I got married in 1952, and he was born in '54. Then I had a daughter, she was born in '56. I had another daughter in '57, but she was stillborn. So my husband worked at McDonald Douglas. He was a template maker. During the war, he was in Iwo Jima. You know on the planes that were damaged, they'd bring them over there, and then he would make these, you know, take the bad part out, and then put the metal and screw it on, or I don't know how they did it. But he was lucky too, he came home. What else is there to say? This house

is old, so we bought it and he remodeled it all redid it all by himself. He worked. We had a good life, I can't complain. We had downtown, it was beautiful. We had two theaters, Washington Theater, right where the bus stop was. There were all kinds of little stores. On the other street, there was another theater. They always showed the Western. We used to go. When we were kids, we used to go for a dime. I went until I was sixteen years old for a dime. That man said, "Mary you know you're supposed to go for a full ticket." I said, "Ok, next time." He'd let us get by. Sometimes kids didn't have money, you know. They had a door on the side where people would leave. So he'd go tell those kids, "go back there." He'd open the door and let them in free. I think we had it better than these kids today. You know, I always helped my mother. I always did this, and did that. When I got older, I helped her cook, I did the laundry, ironed, cleaned house. Today a kid drops the clothes here, there and walks away. All the mothers fuss. I don't know about your life, but I'm satisfied with things the way they were. I guess we were lucky.

Koenig: How did you meet your husband?

Spaich: Oh, how did I meet him? Well, you know we had downtown. We'd always come walk around. There were always guys from here, and we'd come from Madison. A lot of the girls met their husbands there. My husband, he had two brothers, they were twins. They'd be out there, and he was tall, had blond curly hair. He'd always stand in the background. I knew him, but I didn't get involved. Years later, it was during the war. This friend of the family was killed in an automobile accident in New York. He was in the Service. I went up to the wake, my husband and his two sisters were standing there. We talked I said, all night, "are you going to the funeral?" He said, "No." I don't

know where they were going. So I said, "Well, I'll see you later." So I went to the corner, and went to the show. If he didn't come over the next night all dressed up. I said, "What did you come up here dressed up for?" He said, "Well, don't you want to go to the movie?" I said, "Ok, let's go." It was fun. He was, he was a good man. He was a good father, a good grandfather. When my daughter got divorced, he always said, "Make sure those kids have everything they need." I'd give him them lunch money everyday. Now my granddaughter is fifteen, and my grandson is eighteen. He's in college at SIU. So, everything is fine. I can't complain about my life. I think I had a good life. I had a good husband. He never drank. If we went some place, we always went on vacation with the kids. We went shopping all the time together. Then he got sick. Four years ago he passed away, cancer. Oh, that cancer doctor, oh he was worrying about pushing drugs. My husband was in the hospital there, he came in, my husband was laying in bed. He stands there, shakes his finger and says, "You know you're going to die from this." I said, "What the heck kind of a doctor are you? You're supposed to be helping him, not telling him." He said, "Well, we can help him. He can come over to our office in Fairview Heights, and we can give him shots." He only went there twice. He said, "I'm not going up there. If I'm going to die, I'm going to die." That's all those doctors wanted, was shots and money. On Christmas day, he passed away, in the evening. I have nieces and nephews. They're all over. My husband's family, well they all passed away too. Everybody worked. You know we had the levee here. There was a lot of poplar trees there. They used to go swimming there. Oh, they had more fun there. Everything has changed. You can't go anywhere unless you have twenty dollars in your pocket. Yeah (laughing). I don't know.

Koenig: When did you move to Lincoln Place?

Spaich: I didn't hear you. (Asked for tape to be stopped)

Koenig: Did the community center play any role in your life?

Spaich: Oh yeah. The kids, see they had a little pool back there, the kids could wade in. Yeah, they had somebody there. They had tables out there. The kids would come out there and play. The supervisor, she'd play with them. They had baseball games, basketball, football games. Now they use it for parties. They still have games. During the war, they used to have dances there. They were all right here, from the Army. Yeah, we had a lot of things. When you go down this street, there were three grocery stores, a dress shop, a restaurant, and about four or five taverns. I guess you know that. The plans, down there where you had the Mexicans, you had a big building. They always had dances on Saturday night. We used to get up there and go dancing. I used to come from Madison. We had fun. Kids don't have that fun at all. They stay home. They're on the computer. If they want to go to the movies, they don't want to go to the two-dollar show. They want to go to Collinsville, or Edwardsville. Somebody has to take them, my daughter. Oh boy.

Koenig: What can you tell me about all the ethnic people.

Spaich: Oh you had Macedonians. Well there's nobody in that house. A woman had a bunch of kids. They're all married and everything, and the parents died. They got that house there for a shrine. They say that when, they had a lot of relatives that were from Canada. They come to visit, so they keep that house all furnished and everything. It's really a nice house. Oh, what else. We had some Hungarians, and some Germans, and the rest of them I guess are Americans. They speak the American language. I speak

Serbian, but there's nobody here who I can speak to. I have a friend in Madison, and we get on the phone everyday, and get together and talk. She went back to Europe, and she tells us what happened, how everything has changed. My father went back to Europe. He wanted to go back, and take us three younger kids, and leave my older brothers here. You can go and see what its like. "She said I'm not leaving my kids here." Money he took with him. When he came back, his pockets were empty. He came back, just the clothes he had on. He stayed with my mother's half sister. Everyday, oh she didn't have money to buy groceries. He was giving her money. He came back with his empty pockets, and just the clothes he had. He didn't even bring his suitcase. My mother used to write all the time, and always put money in the envelope. A lot of people said that the post offices would break in and take the money, you know from America. She said that she always got the money. Mom always sent him stuff.

Koenig: How did all the people get along?

Spaich: In the neighborhood where I lived? We got along good. But not in this neighborhood.

Koenig: Why not?

Spaich: Oh, we've got some woman up here, her and her boyfriend are interfering in everybody's business. They want to be boss.

Koenig: Earlier you had talked about how Lincoln Place has changed...

Spaich: Oh how Lincoln Place has changed. Well, we, most of the older people are gone. You know, we had a lot of business places there. Like that Asadorian, she had a little confectionary right across from the clubhouse, and the kids would run in there. She had ice cream and stuff. You know, you would buy stuff. We had three, four grocery stores.

But then, when they started building the mall out there, everybody started going there. Downtown went down. So they tore all those buildings down. Then when I worked, there was a big old drugstore on the corner, then there was Newberry's, Woolworth's, and all down the street, there were main shops, dress shops, furniture stores. You don't have that anymore, nothing. No theater. They have those two motels there, but they have trouble there. We, you used to walk. We didn't have any other way to get up there but walk. Until the war, then they had a bus that would come. Now, you know, as a senior citizen, it's good that we have this bus. It will take you wherever you want to go. All you have to do is call them the day before, and tell them where you want to go, and tell them what time your appointment is, and they will tell you when to be ready, and they will come and pick you up. You know, they pick up women all over, and then they take you where you're going. When you're done, all you have to do is call them, and they come and get you. Well, then we got the other bus. It goes right down the street you know. It comes through all the way to Madison. It comes over the highway, goes through West Granite, and all the way, way out there on Maryville Road. You can go anyplace you want on that bus. Only for a quarter, for a seniors. The other people pay fifty cents, even a child, if the child walks. They pay fifty cents. No we didn't have any trouble, with the neighbors. We had, well we didn't have any gardens here. The highway came and took everything, took our alleys. We got a big ditch, the water comes off the highway. The ditch is full of trash. When the highway, cuts the grass, they just dump it in there. I've called, I don't know how many times, the city, you know what they tell me? "That doesn't belong to us, that's the state. Call the state." I tell them, "Listen, I live in Granite City. You are getting a salary. It's your responsibility to make sure that

we have it good.” They came and cleaned it out. I have to get after them again. We had snakes out here. Great big old snakes. One came around the porch. I saw the darn thing come under the porch. I thought, “Oh my God.” It was curled up. I said, “What am I going to do now?” So, the trash man came by. He said, “Hey lady. Do you know that you have a snake there?” I said, “Yeah, I know.” So thought, “What am I going to do?” So I came in, got on the phone, and called 9-1-1. I told them, and in no time, animal control came. He had a great big stick, and he got that snake, and he put it in a cage. Oh.

Koenig: What sort of activities were you involved in Lincoln Place?

Spaich: I still don’t understand. (Stop tape again.) I go to the senior citizen center. They serve meals there everyday. Then they have bingo, and dancing. I don’t go to any of that. I have plenty to do to keep me busy.

Koenig: What did you used to do?

Spaich: What do I do?

Koenig: Earlier in Lincoln Place...in the past.

Spaich: What did I do, in the past? Well, we used to walk. You know where Wilson Park is at? Well, I lived in Madison, and used to walk. Walk around the park. We would swim. Walk to the shell. Walk up town, and look in the windows. Say, “This is what I would like to buy.” Then we, I don’t know, we’d meet boys up there and we’d talk to them. Boys would come to Lincoln Place, and we went to Madison. We never had any problems, we didn’t fight. It was a good life though, that’s all I can say. Because, you know the families at that time stuck together. Like I say, my brothers all had some kind of a little job, and they always kept so much for themselves, and then give Mom. Well, we had electric bill, not even two dollars. Water bill was cheap. Some

people had the old fashioned pump. This woman and this guy over there have a pump. They water their garden. Yeah the women like my mother and all of them, we had front porches. They would get done with supper, and they would go out on the front porch and they would talk. All the women get together, and the kids did the dishes and cleaned up. Yeah , I used to scrub on a wash board. We had that old, I don't know what they called it. It was like a big old stand, and they had two places where it opened up. Like a bench where you could put your tub to wash. Then a ringer. You sat there and scrubbed. Hang it on the line. Now you have a washer and dryer. I tell you, I've been through the depression, the war. It wasn't anything bad. For some people it might have been. When it's a big family, you stick together. I don't know if all people did that, but everybody in our neighborhood did that. Everybody had seven, six or seven or eight kids. When they got to be fifteen or so, they found some kind of a job. They gave their mother money, they kept their own little for themselves. That's the way it was. That's the way everything, my husband had two sisters, he was the youngest. They had twin boys, and an older boy who was married. The father, he used to butcher. He worked at the packinghouse in East St. Louis. I don't know if you know where that's at, that was. Sometimes they'd bring in pigs that had a litter, and he'd go over there and get those little pigs and raise them. When they got big enough, he'd butcher them. He made his sausage, he had a little smokehouse. They went to the levee over there. The boys used to shoot rabbits during the depression, a lot of rabbit. Some people ate the squirrels but we didn't. I tell you, we had the library, we went to the library up here. You could go to Madison. We had restaurants in Madison, and grocery stores. Other stores there too. The bank, we had a bank there. When I worked at the dime store, we had a bank across

the street. Oh, that was fun, working in the dime store. We used to, like on weekends sometimes, us girls would get together and say, “Where are we going to go?” “Oh lets go to the boat.” See we’d get on the streetcar, and go to the boat, sit around, talk, dance. Every place had, here in Lincoln Place, they had two or three places where there were dances, or sometimes weddings in Madison. They didn’t cost anything. You’d go in there and dance. The only thing is if you wanted soda, and the boys all got their beer (laughing). I don’t know, maybe other people feel differently, but I didn’t have anything to worry about. I guess I was lucky. I had a good husband. He didn’t drink, he didn’t, you know. Where ever we went, we always went together. We took the kids if we went on vacation, we took them.

Koenig: What can you tell me about you culture, being Serbian.

Spaich: Serbian, my parents didn’t speak English very well. They learned a little bit. Oh no, we, my mother and father wrote letters to Europe. A lot of her friends didn’t know how to write, so they’d come over and she would write letters for them. They would put money in the envelope, and they always got it. But, one friend told us that when she put money in the bank, or envelope, her relatives said that there was never any money in it. No, that, the first language I learned was Serbian. Then, when I was a little girl, everybody in the neighborhood had maybe pigs, or a cow. Mom had a cow. She did the milk. I had a little metal can, a cup. When she’d go milking, she’d wash the udders, and she’d throw the water away. I’d stick the cup under there. She’d say, “What do you want that milk for? That’s warm yet.” I like it. I drank it all the time. They used to tease me about it. Well then she had the milk. She made butter and cream. Everything was simple. The neighbor across the street, she never had a cow. When she wanted

butter, she'd always come over and ask for butter and cream. My mother gave it to her. If you don't give it away, it would spoil. We didn't have, we had iceboxes. I don't know if you have ever seen them. We'd get a chunk of ice and put it in there. Well, then on Sixteenth Street there, they had an ice plant there, where they used to make big old chunks of ice, you know. We used to go out there and watch them. Sometimes they'd break off and fall on the ground. We'd get our coaster wagon, and fill it up with that ice, and take it home. We'd wash it, and Mom had a tub, and we'd put it in there, and she made beer, she'd put some beer in. We always had something. It was, I don't know. Today people don't know how to manage. Maybe because our parents were from Europe, and they had a different background, and they were used to doing all that. They all had a little piece of land somewhere, and if they had some pigs, or a cow, every morning they'd take him up to pasture. They had chickens, they always had, you know, whatever they raise. Now, her now, you can't raise anything. Where? You've nothing but weeds, or grass.

Koenig: What European traditions did your family...

Spaich: Religion? Serbian Orthodox. Mostly the Russians, Serbians, and Macedonians, Bulgarians, and the Armenians. They are all Orthodox. It's about the same, just like all your other religions. But, it's the people. They don't get along sometimes. We had a Slavic church there in Madison. We had a Bulgarian Church, we had a Russian, and a Catholic Church. This Catholic school, where a lot of kids went. We didn't go there. We went once when there was a wedding or something, you know. Every religion is religion. I don't care what religion you are, if you believe in God, and Christ, that's all there is. It's just them those Arabs, Allah. Well Allah is just like we say God. Their

language, it would be Allah. A lot of people don't understand that. They think they have a different God. They have the same God that we have. The only thing is that some of their people are a little more squirrely. We had, like my grandkids, like if they want to go someplace, to the theater. They want to go either to Collinsville or Edwardsville, my daughter would have to take them. Now everybody wants to go to the mall. Well, we had the best stores in town there. If you'd like something, you'd go in there. If you didn't have the money, if you had a dollar or two, you'd put it in the (will call). Maybe every week you'd add a little more until you paid it all out. I guess, maybe your parents could tell you a lot too. I don't know. Well, I'm 85 years old, so I'm from a different generation. That's why I say, we always kept everything new. We took care of our clothes. When I was going to school, I'd come home from school and take my dress off, I'd look at it. If it wasn't dirty, I'd put it back on the hanger, and then I'd put an old dress on. Today kids, it's just, on the floor, and let it go. We had, I like my generation, a lot better than this one. For the kids, we had a pond behind, where I lived in Madison. It was like two empty lots, you know. In wintertime, that ice. We, some kids had skates, but we didn't. We'd take the ...can, I guess you know. We'd mash it down, use it as a shoe, and go skating around on a can (laughing). When I tell my daughter that she says, "You mean you skated like that?" I say, "Sure, we had a lot of fun. And it didn't cost anything." Oh, there were a bunch of young girls there, 13, 14. When there would be a wedding, we'd all go and watch it. We'd say, "Hey let's pretend and have a wedding." One would say, "Here, I've got a curtain." "Who's going to be the bride?" We fix her up. "Who's going to be the groom?" We didn't have boys. I tell you that was the best. I

think my generation was the best. It was. Everybody was more, you know. Maybe because of the war.

Side B

My grandson, he's at SIU, he just started, you know. He works part time. I don't see him very much anymore. I go over there you know. So, we stick together. I have a lot of cousins, alive you know. One of my brothers lives in Florida. My two nieces are here. I have one married to Steve Vahland, the superintendent of schools. The other one is in Belleville. Oh, I have cousins. We don't get to see much of each other. I don't know why. When we were younger, we were always running to each other's house. Now, you know, you're living in Madison, and you don't have a car, you are not going to come all the way. I don't know if anybody else got to have as good of a life as I did, I think I did. Other than my father. He always would hold me in his lap, and bounce me up and down. He always wanted me to rub his head, he had headaches. My mother used to fuss that, "Why are you making that kid rub your head all the time?" He said, "Oh that's my daughter, you just go ahead and do what you want to do, and let her do it." Yeah, I liked it, that's what I'm saying. I had no problems. I had six brothers. We never had any problems. I was the only girl. I was always helping Mom, when she was cooking, and baking. I said, "Let me do it." "Ok." She used to make chicken soup, and she would make her own noodles. I would watch her, and then she would break an egg. I said, "Let me do it." So I would mix it. We had a rolling pin, not like the rolling pins they had. She had a, like a broom handle. Make a great big, I guess you would call it a noodle. Anyhow, when they dried, you would cut it up, fold it up and the get a knife and cut it

real fine. We had real good noodles, and it didn't cost you but an egg, and some flour. Jelly, we used to make a lot of jelly, canned peppers, cucumbers. The farmers used to come by. One time, Mom got some peppers, hot peppers. I washed them, I was washing them. I got such a burn in my hands. Oh, I didn't know what to do. So, I got two jars, filled with water in them, and stuck my hands in there (laughing), and walked around. My oldest brother came home from work and said, "What's wrong with your hands." I said, "They burn, from hot peppers (laughing)." Oh I tell you, I don't know if anybody else, I don't know how many you interviewed, if they had as much fun as I did. It was a grand life. I was the only girl in the family, but we all respected each other. I helped my mother with her work, and God those shirts, ironing them. We had, the cuffs were stiff, and the collar starched. I learned how to iron. We didn't have an ironing board either. We put a blanket on the table, and the sheet, and boy you just keep turning. We didn't hang them on a hanger, we would fold them. We would have a whole drawer full of shirts. My youngest brother, he worked in a flower shop. He would change everyday. It was in the summer, the woman who owned it said, "How come you are always changing shirts everyday? Who does your shirts?" He said, she said, "Do you send them to the laundry?" He said, "No, my sister." We helped each other. It wasn't like today. The mothers go one way, like women. They get divorced or separate. They find, they get a boyfriend. Just like the other day, woman came down, she was looking for rent. She lived in a trailer. You saw where the trailers are. They put her out. She said she had a boyfriend, and she had twins, twin boys and a girl. She was looking for a house to rent. I said, "I don't know anymore houses here." She said, "Well I can't find anything." I said, "I'm sorry. I wish I could help you." You know, that house on the corner, that blue

house. We can't do anything with it. That damned inspector won't approve it. They want to tear it down. That's all they think about in this town. If you go down Niedringhaus Avenue, you know where the clubhouse is at, they have a big sign out there, that they are going to tear that house down. There was a grocery store at one time. Oh I tell you, that's all that, Granite is tearing down. Try to get something done. They rip you off. Yeah they do. Like I had that porch, a new floor put on it. I told them that I wanted regular floor boards. They came back with that plywood. I said, "I don't want the plywood, I want the floor boards." Oh they don't have them. It would have been work, putting the floorboards on. This was the easiest. I tell you, whenever you have somebody do something for you, they don't do a good job. If they do, they charge you so much.

Koenig: How would you like Lincoln Place to be remembered?

Spaich: How do I like it? Oh, I like it.

Koenig: How would you like it to be remembered?

(Stopped Tape) (Continuing Later)

Spaich: ...I don't know, we always called them Hoosiers. That's not nice, you know people that came from the country or something. It's ok. It's not like, we had a cleaning business. We had everything here. We could go down the street, go to one store or the other store, and get you groceries. You don't even have to bring them home, they bring them for you. Lincoln Place is ok. I guess it's probably better than a lot of places, because you have a lot of farmers. Farmers kind of take care of things more. We don't, we only have a few Black families, over where the plant is, that street there. But they do not bother anybody. In Madison, they have a lot of blacks. No, Lincoln Place, what we

need is a Theater. They did have a theater here at one time, but I don't know about it. We had beauty shops, barber shops, there were two barber shops, a beauty shop. We had a big old restaurant, a cleaning business, a little confectionary, and all of those taverns. The clubhouse. The kids love the clubhouse. My kids went there and then the grandkids went there. When they, the only thing they do there play basketball or something. There isn't anything much for little ones. See, they used to have some benches out there, in the back, a big table. They had two or three, I don't know what you call them, but they were like, we called them teachers. They would take a bunch of kids, sit around the table. They would draw, or color, or something, play games. It was fun. They had dances in there once and a while. It was fun. But nobody dances. I don't remember hearing anybody say they were going dancing. On television, look what they do. Those girls, expose themselves so much. I watch some of those shows once in a while. Those girls, thirteen, fourteen years old, they have babies. They don't know who the father is. One program, they take tests, and find out who the father is. Now where are the mothers at? My granddaughter, she has two more years to go, this year and next year. I don't know what class she was in. They always had them write, like a story, when you come to school, what did you see, what did you do, you know. I don't know. I found that book, and I was reading it. I guess. (Phone rings, tape stopped). I wish we had the same old things, where the kids could go and have some fun. See, the city at one time, said they were going to make a place where the youngsters could go, dance or skate, or something. They never did anything. Where did they go, hang around some place on the corner, smoke, drink. You would be surprised how many young kids smoke.

Koenig: So do you think that Lincoln Place was better...

Spaich: Yeah, like I was telling you how my daughter (I think she meant granddaughter). She wrote in there one time, she said, “You know, we have some pregnant girls in school.” The teacher read that, and said, “Yeah I know. We have to help them.” She said (Now I think she is meaning her daughter) “If you ever think of doing something like that, you come and talk to me.” She was only about thirteen, fourteen years old. I found that book. It was something she was hiding, because whatever she wrote, she didn’t want us to know. Yeah, that’s nothing today.

Koenig: Well, thank you.