

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Campbell, Ohio During the 1930's and 1940's

Personal Experience

O. H. 1238

HELEN E. TARCY

Interviewed

by

William M. Kish

on

July 11, 1989

HELEN TARCY

Helen Tarcy was born on June 13, 1917 in Campbell, Ohio, the daughter of Mike and Susie (Szabo) Kish. Helen's family is of Hungarian descent and first settled on Robinson Road in Campbell. At a very young age, her family moved to 342 Sanderson. Helen is the only daughter; three out of four brothers are living and reside in Campbell. As a young girl she assisted in household chores. She graduated from Campbell Memorial High School, Class of 1935. After high school, Helen attended and completed a beauty/cosmetology training course.

Helen was involved with the beauty and fashion industry during the late 1930's. During World War II, she worked at General Fireproofing Company; a company that made airplane parts in Youngstown, Ohio.

In March of 1945, Helen married Albert Tarcy. Albert, during this time, was still on active duty in the U.S. Navy. Helen and Al have since moved to 338 Sanderson in Campbell. Helen has four children, Jerry, age 41, living in New Castle, PA; Bob, age 39, living in Campbell; Bill aged 35, living in Columbus; and Barbara, age 31, living in Campbell.

Helen is a very active member of the Hungarian Independent Reform Church in Youngstown, Ohio. Being associated with the Campbell Senior Citizens and the Happy-Go-Lucky Club allows for socializing in which she enjoys the most. Her family and grandchildren's needs keep her busy. But she still finds time to enjoy her favorite pastime- dancing.

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INTERVIEWEE: HELEN E. TARCY
INTERVIEWER: William M. Kish
SUBJECT: Family history, employment, wages, gardening
transportation systems, entertainment
DATE: July 11, 1989

K: This is an interview with Helen E. Tarcy for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Campbell, Ohio during the 1930's and 1940's, by William M. Kish, at 338 Sanderson, Campbell, Ohio, on July 11, 1989, at 1:00 p.m.

Aunt Helen, could you describe your family?

T: Well, we moved up here on the top of the hill when I was about five years old. We lived down on Robinson Road until then. My dad worked on the railroad and my mother was a housewife. I had four brothers. I was the only girl.

K: Four brothers, you said?

T: Four brothers.

K: Your brothers are all living?

T: No, one is deceased. I have three living, and they are all residing in Campbell. The one brother was a policeman for the Campbell Police Force and my other brother worked at the Sheet & Tube and my third brother was a teacher. My fourth brother worked at the Sheet & Tube, also. I was a beauty operator. I graduated from Memorial High School.

K: What year was that?

T: In 1935. Quite a long time ago. I went to cosmetology school. At that time, everything was very reasonable. Jobs were plentiful, but very low-paying. I worked for \$3.50 a week for quite a while. I graduated to \$7.50 a week.

K: That was doing what?

T: Doing beauty work. Then I graduated to \$12.00 a week. Of course, transportation passes were \$1 a week.

K: What years are we talking about now? Are we talking about when you were in high school?

T: No, this was after I graduated. This was in about 1938 or 1940. Passes were \$1 week.

K: To ride the bus?

T: To ride the bus anywhere from Campbell around the place. You could ride as many times as you liked, or else you could go down the hill and borrow a pass for \$0.10 and ride downtown and come back and it would only cost you a dime.

K: Transportation?

T: Transportation to town if you wanted to go to town and you didn't have the means.

K: Are we talking about a bus?

T: At that time we had streetcars. Now, of course, we had trolleys after that.

K: The main line in Campbell was where?

T: Down on Wilson Avenue. Of course we had a bus that came all around Campbell. If we wanted to go downtown, we had to get this bus because we lived on top of the hill. We had to get the bus and go down either Stop 10 or Stop 1 and get the trolley to town. If you wanted to go to Idora Park to dance, you had to take another trolley to Idora Park. So, in other words, you had to get off and on three times, and get on three different buses.

K: Did many people have cars during this time period?

T: Very few. My brothers, none of them had cars.

K: What did you consider a person that owned a vehicle?

T: Probably their parents gave it to them, or their fathers probably had a good job and would give their children a car, because at that time, none of our brothers, and I know none of their friends had cars at all until they started to work.

K: Now we're talking about the time period right after graduation, right around 1938 or 1939, 1940?

T: Yes. Like I said, things were quite different than they are now.

K: Meaning?

T: Price-wise, wage-wise. I guess my dad never made more than \$3,000 a year. Today, they make that in a month, some people do. Of course, you could go down to a butcher shop and get a pound of beef for \$0.25. You could buy a pair of stockings for a quarter. If you wanted a nice dress, they were \$3.98 and if you wanted a better dress, it was \$5.98. Well, today, you can't buy anything.

K: You said you were making what when you started out?

T: Well, I made \$3.50, then \$7.50, then \$10.00, then \$12.50. That was supposed to be a good wage at that time. You worked long hours for that, too.

K: How many hours would you work?

T: Well, beauty work, you'd work until whenever you were done. There was no set hours like in a factory. In a factory, you'd go, you'd work from 9:00 to 3:00, or 9:00 to 4:00, but when you did beauty work, you'd work until 5:30 and sometimes, you worked evening because a lot of people couldn't come in the afternoon.

K: You weren't married at this time?

T: No. Then for a while, during the war, my husband at that time, was in the service. I went to work at G.F. then. I quit beauty work for awhile and then I went to work at General Fireproofing that made parts for airplanes. I worked in the office. I worked for \$0.70 an hour at that time in the office. Of course, the girls on the floor, I think they made a little bit more because they would be on the floor winding and drilling and doing all that.

K: Now this is during the 1940's, during the war years?

T: Yes, during the war.

K: So there was an increase in wage?

T: Yes. I'd imagine so, but I don't think it was that much of an increase, but the ones that worked in the aircraft plant, they got a little bit more, the girls did.

K: What did you do, you worked in the office?

T: I just worked in the office, yes. I got \$0.70 an hour. It was nice work and I enjoyed it. Then I got married and I quit doing that and I went back to beauty work afterwards. I came back to Campbell and I had the four children and like I said, things do change.

K: Aunt Helen, what do you remember most while you were going through high school. You graduated when?

T: 1935.

K: Okay, so we're talking through the early 1930's. What did you do for entertainment during this time period? What did some other families do?

T: Well, when I went to school, there wasn't much entertainment because the young girls at that time did not do anything. We would belong to different clubs like the Fre-Le-Ser-Cit and the Red & Black Dramatics, and if we belonged to a play.

K: A play that was going on at the school?

T: Yes. And it's not like today, there wasn't night clubs or things for young girls to go to. We just more or less... We liked to dance. Around seventeen or eighteen, we started going dancing. That was our main entertainment which is dancing. Of course after we got a little bit older we went to dancing at Idora Park or the New Elms, that was our entertainment. A lot of people would go down to the Ritz Bar on Wilson Avenue, that was probably the biggest night club around. Some of the boys and girls would go there after a dance.

K: What time period are we talking about now, the Ritz Bar?

T: That would be... Because I was married in 1945, that would be around the early 1940's to 1943. Of course, there were these great big bands that would come to Idora Park, all those, Charlie Barnett and all of those fantastic bands. They used to play in the afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 then we'd go back at night from 9:00 to 12:00 and really have a good time.

K: It was an all day affair?

T: No, it wasn't all day, but you'd go in the afternoon, they used to have \$0.10 a dance. You're friend or whoever asked you to dance, would have to pay a dime, get a ticket and put it in the slot as you went in on the dance floor and it used to be \$0.10 a dance. At night I don't remember what it was then, if there was a fee to get in or if it was just \$0.10 dance. I know in the afternoon, it used to be \$0.10 a dance.

K: How was the crowd? Was it crowded or...?

T: It was very crowded. The young people, that was their entertainment. Not like today, they have all kind of bars and stuff. Well, bars were unheard of at that time. It was just more or less dancing. I think the most vice anyone had was maybe drinking a little bit or smoking, that was it. There was no such thing as drugs and things like that at that time. That was unheard of.

K: This was during...?

T: During the 1940's.

K: How did people dress when they went out? What was their dress in comparison to maybe today?

T: Some of the clothes now are coming back. In fact, whatever you wore then is coming back but in a little bit of a different style or a different material or something, but even the hairdos are coming back, the straight, the waves, and the spiral curls that we had at that time. Because with every few years the styles change and it seems like the hairdos we wore then, most of it is coming back.

K: Kind of like a cycle.

T: Kind of like a cycle. At one time, the boys wore their hair down to their shoulders, now they're coming back with short hair cuts, and crew cuts. So its in the time, as it goes along.

K: Getting back to talking about Campbell in the 1930's, how did people get along in the way of stretching things and doing things in the home to extend their budget, maybe describing their gardening.

T: Well, almost everybody had a garden. I know my parents, they had chickens, they had ducks, they even slaughtered some pigs in the fall. They would make ends meet that way. Of course, we did not have the mail coming to our house, we had to go down to the post

office down on Wilson Avenue and we had a mail box and we would have to get our mail everyday with a key and then bring it back home, all the way up here. There was no such thing as the mail coming to your house every time you would... Now you just run out to the mail box and get your mail. At that time, if you didn't go down and get your mail for a week, well, it would pile up. It was quite a distance from our place to go all the way down and get our mail, but we did it.

K: Are we talking about paved roads or what?

T: Paved roads, yes. They had paved roads. My dad never owned a car. So he had to walk to the railroad and walk back home every night. At that time, they did not have four and five cars to a family. They didn't even have a car because cars were so expensive. I know my girlfriend's brother-in-law bought a car and I think it was one of the first cars that was around here. He used to be a watermelon camel and I think at that time, he paid like \$600 for the car. It was a big thing.

K: Was it fairly new?

T: It was a brand new car. It was \$600 at that time.

K: This was when?

T: I was younger, like I was fifteen years old. I remember going down and looking at the car because it was a novelty. Nobody had a car. It was like \$600 which was really something, to get a brand new car at that time for that kind of money. I know you could get a beautiful house for \$2,000 or \$2,500 with a bath and everything else.

K: Do you remember what you paid for your home?

T: \$2,500.

K: The home is on 342 Sanderson.

T: At that time, I would say it was about sixty-seven years ago. I was about six years old when we moved up here.

K: How would you describe Campbell? Right now it's very residential, there is not that much available open field. How would you describe it from your house located on 342 Sanderson, how would you describe the area around?

T: When we first moved here, there were no houses here. I think we must have had about three or four houses on our street. Two in the back of us. The area, it was

all fields. Where they would have their cows graze, they would take their cows up there, now it is all residential. It is absolutely, there is no such thing as fields anymore. We have no cows anymore. Nobody has any I guess because you are not even allowed to have them.

K: You're saying that everybody in Campbell basically had a farm or produced...?

T: Produced or had some kind of an animal. They had dogs and cats, but then most of the people around here had their own chickens and their ducks. Many of them had cows and they would get their milk from the cows. In fact, my girlfriend's parents used to sell milk. They used to deliver it at night.

K: They came around in a car?

T: No, they would have this little container that would carry six quarts of milk in a container and they'd fill up these containers, then she would deliver them down on Penhale or wherever people wanted the milk. Of course, the milk was very, very good because in the wintertime, if your milk was frozen outside the cream would pop up and it would be four inches above the bottle. The cream would come way up. Today, there is no such thing as cream and stuff because everything is homogenized. So things were quite different. We used to have a baker come to the house everyday because our parents didn't have a car to go to the store and we'd have a baker come and we'd have men with trucks of fruit that would come around. My mother would buy fruit for the week. She would buy bananas, five pounds for a quarter. They used to be \$0.05 a pound. Everything was quite reasonable. Of course, I think it was on account of the wages, too.

K: The wages that you made... Now we're talking about the Depression period, right?

T: An average of about \$10 a week. Some of the girls used to do housework. My friends used to work for \$3.50 a week. Then they would graduate to \$5.50 a week. They'd do housework and maybe come home twice a week. They'd have to stay overnight, too. Then, a few of my girlfriends got a better job at the General Electric. Then, that's where they started making money because that was a factory and they were well paid and they never did leave their jobs after they got it. Some of them are still there, forty-five years. It is a good paying job and good benefits.

K: You are talking about that they got these jobs during the 1930's?

- T: Well, 1940's, because you know, I was born in 1917 and it was almost I'd say in the 1930's, 1940's. That's when these girls were younger and they started getting jobs. A lot of people would go do housework and when I was in high school, I went to work for a minister's wife to wash clothes and never washed clothes. I got \$0.50 for washing her clothes. I didn't know anything about washing clothes but I went and did it, but nobody was paid high wages at that time and I guess you were fortunate to get \$0.50.
- K: You weren't paid high wages during this time period, say the 1930's and 1940's, but yet things were very reasonable.
- T: Yes. Because you could get a pair of shoes for \$2 or \$3 and pants and everything else. The clothes were unbelievable, not like today. Like I said, I could get a dress for even \$3.98 and the girls that worked and made big money would get a dress for \$5.98 and they were a little better clothes. So this is what I'm saying. It would just depend on your income. In this area, nobody had it that good because they all came from poor families and their parents didn't have that kind of a job. At that time the mothers didn't work. They were basically housewives. Today, there is two jobs in every home. But at that time, the mothers never worked they were just home for their families.
- K: An average family during that time period was what size-wise? How would you compare that to today?
- T: I think it was a little more at that time. I think anywhere from three to six children for almost every family. Very seldom. Today, the average is two.
- K: Did you have a lot of responsibilities, did your brothers have a lot of responsibilities around the house?
- T: Well I had the most responsibility because I was the oldest. I always had one of my brothers to take care of because I was the oldest, I had the first one and the second one and the third one and the fourth one, so I had more responsibilities than any of the boys did. Then afterwards, the older boy would take care of maybe the next boy sometime. But I had my household duties. I'd come home from school on Mondays and I had to help my mother iron. At that time, there was no Perma press, they were starch collars and they were rolled up and there were twenty-five shirts lined up and today, you just take them out of the dryer and hang them up. I had to help my mother because things were not as easy. You would have to get pump water from outside.

K: You had a well in the backyard?

T: We had a well in the backyard and the water was delicious. You could just drink water out of that well and it was just fantastic. When my mother washed clothes, she didn't have an automatic, she'd have these big broilers and she'd have a little gas grate and she'd have to boil the clothes first and then put them in the washer and then in the rinse water. So washing was a chore.

K: It was probably a full time job.

T: Yes, absolutely. Then of course, she did a lot of canning. At that time you did a lot of canning from the garden.

K: This lasted like most of the year?

T: Most of the winter.

K: What were some of the things you canned?

T: She would can a lot of pickles and she would can a lot of peaches and plums from the tree because my dad had a lot of plum trees. Then she would make a lot of jelly and jams and things like that. You just had to do things to make ends meet. You'd have your own chickens and ducks and that would take care of your meat problem and your vegetables, you would eat from your garden in the summertime.

K: How would you describe your neighbors during this time in the 1930's? Were they more helpful to you?

T: They all had their own lives and the only thing I remember mostly was there was no such thing as telephones in the house. My neighbor was the first one to have a telephone. If I got a phone call, why she would call me over and say, "There is a phone call for you," because there was no such thing as telephones in anybody's home.

K: Who was the neighbor that got the telephone?

T: The next door over at Yumbar's. She would have a telephone and when I would get a call once in a while, she would call me over and say, "Helen, there is a phone call for you." I'd have to cross the street and answer the phone. Today, there is five phones in every house.

K: Do you remember when you got your first phone?

T: I don't remember that, I really don't. I imagine we did have one over there. I know my dad was the one to have the first victrola and it was a Victor one. We used to have people coming from all around listening to the Hungarian records because nobody had a victrola.

K: Do you remember what time, like the year?

T: I wasn't married then so it had to be like 1935 or when I was still in high school. It was just something that nobody had.

K: So your neighbors would come over and listen to music?

T: Oh, yes, because we used to have these Hungarian records and TV was unheard of. We had radio, but the record player, nobody had a record player. So we really enjoyed that.

K: That was something new.

T: Hopefully, I still have some of the records but I don't, I don't know where they disappeared to. Then of course, we still have it, a gas and a coal stove combined.

K: How would that work?

T: In the wintertime, it would be so cold, because we had a furnace, but we had our kitchen downstairs. My mother put coal in the stove and then you'd warm up the house and then there would be gas next to it where she would do her cooking. In fact, it is still downstairs, it's an antique. It's a Tappan stove and it's still there. It's got to be a good seventy years old. So at that time, you had to make your own fires and there was no such thing as automatic gas stoves.

K: You didn't have heating in the house or anything?

T: You had a furnace though, but you had to buy coal. I don't remember how much a ton used to be, I think it was at that time, \$7 or \$8 a ton. I'm not sure. You'd have a little window and the truck would come and slide it down into your coal chute. You'd have to put coal on your furnace all the time to keep your house warm. In the wintertime, you didn't dare let the fire out because your house would be ice cold by morning.

K: How about water, how did that work?

T: We got water, but then like I said, we did have a good pump outside. It was delicious well water.

- K: When you were in high school, did you have indoor plumbing like with running water.
- T: Oh, yes. Afterwards yes. They had hot water here, and cold. At first, you would have to get water from the outside before they got all that on the street, then they got the hot and cold water inside. They started delivering mail, I don't know what year, along side the streets.
- K: My father mentioned this. Maybe you could kind of clear it up. Did you always have electricity in the house?
- T: I don't remember, but I do remember a lot of kerosene lights.
- K: That's what my father mentioned too.
- T: A lot of kerosene lamps.
- K: He said, he remembers his father cleaning them.
- T: Yes, we had a lot of kerosene lamps at that time, I think when we first moved up here. I don't think they had electricity for a little while, but I don't think it was long afterwards they did. But they did have quite a few kerosene lamps. You would put kerosene in them and it would light. In fact to this day you could still use them, especially if there is a thunderstorm or something.
- K: How would you describe some of the business activities going on in Campbell when you were a young girl? Where were the places located at?
- T: Down on the bottom of Robinson Road was the area of all the stores. In fact there was a clothing store and an Isaly's dairy and there was a bar and there was an icecream place, down on the corner, Sables, that's where Calex's started to manufacture their aluminum store windows. At that time, they had wooden storm windows. They started their factory on the corner there. All the business areas were down on the bottom of the hill. There were no business areas up on the top of the hill. There was a barber shop down there and a clothing store. Kroger's was down there at one time, right on the corner. Across the street was an Isaly's store where you could get lunches and your ice-cream cones and down on the corner was this icecream parlor where you went and got these enormous banana splits and sundaes and that was a hang out for all the school kids because the smell was just wonderful. You'd go in there and everything was just delicious.

K: Where was that located at?

T: Right on the corner of Robinson and Twelfth. It was fantastic. You could get a big banana split for \$0.20 and it was just great.

K: Some stores? What were some of the stores around?

T: They had a clothing store right on the corner and Snitzers was there. Mrs. Liebel used to have the store right on the corner there, she has a clothing store there and everybody in Campbell would buy their clothes. They wouldn't go downtown because, like I said, there was no such thing as cars. People would just walk there. Then there were not too many doctors. There were two dentists in town. I think there was one doctor as far as I know.

K: Do you remember the doctor's name?

T: Doctor Tate. In fact I understand he is still practicing. There was Doctor Warren, he was one of the two dentists that were in Campbell. Dr. Riley was the physician in Campbell. There was a Dr. Jones and they would make house calls if you got sick. You would just call them because there was no such thing as going to his office because you didn't have nothing to go to the office with, because you didn't have a car. So they would make house calls. As far as I recall, there was only two doctors and two dentists in Campbell. They did pretty well because everybody would walk down and get their teeth fixed.

K: So they were located basically on Twelfth Street or Robinson Road?

T: Yes. Now Dr. Riley's office was on Robinson Road half way up the hill. Dr. Warren and Dr. Tate, they had their offices right down below there, right on Twelfth Street there where all the business area was. They had a drug store down there.

K: Sanderson is north of that area?

T: It was more of just a housing area, there was no business areas up around here, none whatsoever.

K: More or less it was basically open field in this area?

T: That's right. There was a few churches and afterwards, the churches started to build up like the Greek churches, then the Campbell library moved up here later on.

K: You mentioned the Greek churches in certain areas. Did Campbell basically have their sections of town for

- ethnic groups, like maybe the Polish people...
- T: Well, I'd imagine but see, we had to ride three street cars to get to our church on Mahoning Avenue. My dad used to belong to a church on Wilson Avenue, it was a Catholic Church, which is still there, St. Stephen's. But as far as I know, there weren't that many churches and the church had just started. Of course Campbell is known as a city of churches because there is almost a church for every nationality and different kinds, beautiful churches.
- K: At this time you had the Polish church, and a Romanian Church here in Campbell...
- T: I don't know about a Romanian Church because I think the Romanian Church is downtown. But they did have the Slovak church, was St. John's down on Reed Avenue and I remember a Baptist church on Reed Avenue way on top of the hill, that was a church and of course, St. Stephen's on Wilson Avenue. I don't know about St. Lucy's. I don't recall where the Italian church was. I think that is a fairly new church, there on Twelfth Street.
- K: You were surrounded by what other types of nationalities here on Sanderson?
- T: A few Italians, a few Hungarians, and a few Slovaks. Right next door we had a nice family from Greek descent. Because their church is here and most of the Greek people are buying homes up around here. Lovely neighbors. Mostly all ethnic groups.
- K: Would you say there would be a wide variety of ethnic groups in Campbell during the 1930's?
- T: Oh, yes.
- K: Basically the main employer of this time period was what or who?
- T: Most of the men would come from Europe or somewhere, the young boys, they would go to the Sheet and Tube. Now my dad got a job on the railroad. So there was either the Sheet & Tube or the railroad. That was about the two basic places a man could work, as far as I know.
- K: Again, during that time period there was a lot of work?
- T: Oh, yes. There was a lot of work. I don't think there was any problem about getting a job because even if you didn't know how to talk English, if you knew how to use your hands and work-- of course you would have to get

laborers work-- but it would pay well and it made them a living.

K: Basically you said Sheet & Tube paid well?

T: Well, whatever was good for that time. Whatever the pay scale was at that time. I think that they would get a lot of benefits, too.

K: This was during the 1930's. How about now during the late 1930's or when the war started, what do you remember about the beginning of the war period, say when my father went off to the service or something, and say other families, what were they doing when the war basically got underway?

T: If you had young boys, they would be in the service. All of my brothers were in the service. My husband was in the service, he was in the Navy. Mostly anybody that was over twenty-one years old had to go to the service unless you were disabled or you had something wrong with you and you were considered a 4-F, they called it at that time. Mostly everybody, the young men all had to go to the service. Most of them enlisted too, because they wanted to go because they felt it was their duty to do so. Then, the ones that didn't go had to work at the factories like at General Fireproofing and different places where they made airplane products.

K: So you were at General Fireproofing and they made things for airplanes?

T: Yes, different things like the flaps and the aileron and the wingtips and stuff like that, that made up parts of the plane. They didn't assemble it here, they would just make it and deliver it to wherever it was supposed to go.

K: There was a lot of females working there since you said a lot of the men left?

T: Oh, yes, quite a few girls worked. They would weld a lot. It was mostly like a man's job, even for the girls.

K: Also, did they get paid a man's wage?

T: Oh, yes. They got the same wages because they did the same work. They had to work hard. The girls worked just as hard as the men did.

K: You said your brothers were in the service. Do you remember any other families in Campbell that sent a lot of brothers to the service? Obviously, my father, Bill

- and Robert and Lou were in the service at that time. How many other families were there in Campbell that sent a lot of brothers to the war at the same time?
- T: Next door, they had boys, but I don't remember if the boys were in the service. They had three boys, I think one was too young to go to the service. But around here, they either had a lot of girls and the girls would go out work, but I don't recall too many families with a lot of children in the service, not around here, anyway.
- K: How would you describe the attitude of the people, in other words, the people working and the news coming in from the war, with the newspapers, front page stuff. How would you describe the attitude? Were the neighbors talking? With the war effort, was that a priority in everybody's mind?
- T: Our parents were of the old type. They just would go along with anything that would happen. It's not like the younger generation today, they are more active in everything that is going on. To them, it was just a matter of life, they had to send their children to the service and that's what they had to do. You know. You just prayed that everything would come out alright and they would all come back without being killed.
- K: There were quite a few of Campbell young men that got killed in the service.
- T: Oh, yes. We were the fortunate ones that came back. War is terrible.
- K: You worked just at G.F. during that time period during the war?
- T: That's all. Just a few years and after I got married, I left.
- K: What year was it when you got married?
- T: 1945. I left G.F. then, during the war. Of course the war was over a year later. Then, of course, the factories all broke up, rather, they went back to making chairs or desks or whatever they make out there.
- K: Since we got done talking about the war, to just kind of basically finish up the interview, what do you remember as something major and significant or something that just stands out in your mind during this time period, like say when you were a young girl in high school, or out of high school, say before you started working at G. F.?

T: Well, my father was a citizen, but my mother wanted to become a citizen. So she did not know how to read or write in American and there was a place called the Neighborhood House and they would have teachers coming in and teaching these ethnic groups about Government and things they would have to memorize to learn. That's how she became a citizen.

K: They taught her in her own language?

T: No, she understood in American but then they had translators that would tell her what to do and she learned quite a few words in English and then they became citizens. She was allowed to vote and she became a citizen then.

K: She had to take a test or something?

T: No, I think it was more like an oral test, and I think they took it as a group. They were told to recite something that was important and they were taught this at the Neighborhood House. I remember she got them, she was so proud of her papers and she had her picture taken when she became a citizen and she was real proud of that.

K: It was called a Neighborhood House?

T: It was called a Neighborhood House where the immigrants would go and teachers would teach them. That was different.

K: That sticks out in your mind during that time period?

T: Yes.

K: Just to finish up here, now, fifty years later, how would you compare 1989 now to 1939, maybe?

T: Well, lets just say, everybody had it a little bit harder, especially the women around the house. Today they have every convenience that they possibly can have. At that time, they did not have automatic washers and automatic dryers, you had to hang clothes outside or else in the wintertime, you'd have to hang them around the furnace or they would never dry. There was no such thing as dryers. You didn't have microwaves and disposable diapers for the younger generation and you had to wash seven days a week if you had a large family.

K: So the home conveniences weren't there?

T: No, nothing. Even sweepers, there were no sweepers, you used a broom, or a scrubbing brush because things really changed, of course for the better.

K: You think they changed for the better?

T: Oh, my yes. The young women of today got it made, but of course they have to have a job and they have to go out and work, where our mothers did not. Like I said, our mothers were housewives because their job was a full time job.

K: Okay, anything else you would like to add about the 1930's and 1940's?

T: I'm just glad I'm still here to see the new part.

K: Thanks a lot, Aunt Helen.

T: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW