

TITLE: "Germans in Center Wheeling" (1 of 2)

NAME: Mary Lou Henderson #46A-1

INTERVIEWER: Michael Nobel Kline

INTERVIEW DATE: 7/5/94

MNK: Can you say "my name is"

Mary Lou Henderson: My name is Mary Lou Henderson. My name is Mary Lou Dueker Henderson.

MNK: And today's date is.

MLH: June 7th

MNK: July 7

MLH: July 7, I'm on the wrong month.

MNK: And we're at the West Virginia Independence Hall. And you walked over here from the Library?

MLH: No, I parked in your backyard today. I drove in from home. I live out the pike.

MNK: You work at the --

MLH: I work in the Wheeling Room at the Ohio County Library, Genealogy Department.

MNK: Can you start out by telling us a little bit about where you were born and something about who your people were?

MLH: Okay, I was born May 6, 1927, at 2506 Chapline Street, across the street from the Wheeling Post Office right now in a part of town that's called "South Wheeling." My father was George Charles Dueker. He was born at 2518 Chapline Street, right down the street from us. He lived at 2506 all his life.

He married Mary Elizabeth Naley. At St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 22nd & Chapline Street. I was married there too. I was married in '49 and my dad was married in 1918, my great-

grandfather, my grandfather was married there in 1886 and my great-grandfather was married there in 1860 so we're four generations in the church. My father was a restauranteer or as he would say "saloon keeper" and he had a restaurant at 2601 Chapline Street for 30 years. My father was in the United States Cooks and Bakers School and was the last man in his company to die. In 1918 he served at Camp Meade, Maryland, and when his time was up, he came home and went into the restaurant business. The restaurant was my grandfather's before that, my grandfather was Carl August Dueker who came here from Germany in 1880. He got his citizenship in 1886, married my grandmother and was in the restaurant business. Only in his case it was also called "saloon keeper." My grandmother, grandmother Dueker, was Alvena Reese. Her father was a painter and he built the house at 2518 Chapline Street in 1860 right after they got married and grandmother was born in 1861. Grandfather Dueker was in the business for 30 years and grandfather Reese, who lived across the street at 2518, was a painter and he was in the painting business painting houses and everything else. And after he had built his four-room brick house, he painted it, he muraled the stair, the rooms were not wallpapered like many of them were, his were all painted and they never referred to them as the living room or the dining room or the bedrooms, they referred to them as the "goose girl room" or the "swan lake room" and I don't know what the other two were, my father never told me and my mother didn't know because they'd been covered up with 28 layers of wallpaper by the time I moved in in 1952. And then I lived there for 2 years; and we only found out there were 28 layers of wallpaper because a piece of the plaster fell out with the wallpaper and we put it in the kitchen sink and let it soak while we were away at work and came back and it had floated apart and there they were, 28 layers of beautiful victorian wallpaper. I think they painted over plaster and then they did the wallpaper every other year or two because some of these hadn't been done for years.

(52) MNK: So there was no chance of uncovering this artwork?

MLH: No. No the artwork was all gone, in fact, I sold the house after my father died in '73 and the plaster was all deteriorated and falling apart. But grandfather also painted, made his own stencils and painted the staircase. All the way from the first floor up to the second floor was all stenciled all along the border line,

across the ceiling, and up the stairs. Very interesting. Some of the design still was there when some of the paint came off at one point. This man was fantastic, he'd work

CNK: Is that house still there?

(60) MLH: It certainly is. The people who have it now have changed all the windows, finally. Somebody has it and they're actually doing some restoration work. But it's in the neighborhood with Coleman's Drug Store, on the corner, and next door to that was Graby's house which was the one my father bought and that house was built in 1858 and that's the house in which I was born. And then next to that one was the, when I was a kid, was Pappas' house and before when the house was built back in 1850's, 1860's, it was a hospital. That house is 2508 Chapline Street and it runs from Chapline Street back to the alley. And in the alley there was an old stable and that's where they parked the horses and the ambulance. And then they would bring the stretchers in down two or three steps to the first floor and the first build, the first door on the right hand side downstairs was the operating room. And then the doctor's offices and so on were on the bottom and then on the second floor was all recovery rooms. It's a big building and it has a lot of rooms in it. And by the time Pappas' got it they turned it into a boarding house, but it had been a boarding house long before that, they had one-room apartments upstairs and I forget how many people they had living there. And then the next one was the barbershop was Karcher's, Karcher's is now an advertising place. And it was built by, begins with a "C", the same one who built the house on 25th & Chapline on the corner, on the northeast corner. I can't think of the man's name, begins with "ch" anyhow, he was a contractor. He built Karcher's house and then sold it and then moved over to the other house and built it and that's the one that Winkiter's lived in. But Karcher's Barber Shop was a great

place to go. They used to put me up in the chair on a board across the arms, put a bowl on my head and make the trip around. So I became a "bowl head," a little dutchman. Now the corner was at one time was Cleavis' bar and boarding house, but the corner was torn down. And Joseph's bought the place and built a house down there so they had two stories, one downstairs was an apartment and one upstairs. And then across the street on 26th Street was a saloon and that one belonged to, I can't think who that one belonged to, but when my dad was in business it belonged to George Vance. Now my dad and George Vance were good friends.

(094) And then next to them was Dave Watson's little produce store, the whole corner now belongs to Jebbia. Everything that's there, including the place where my father was on 2601 is now a lovely little garden it belongs to Shrader. And Shrader's Casket Company is still there. And then on the other side of Shrader is another house that was torn down and they're using that for Jebbia's parking lot. Most of the stuff there that belonged to my relatives is gone. They tore down my Uncle Charlie's house and they put the front door of the post office in. And they went around the corner and at 26th and Eoff Street they tore down my Aunt Flora's house, my father's sister, and they put in [a] parking lot because Jebbia needed another inch. And behind Jebbia's across the alley they tore down Wendel's house and put in a parking lot but the other two are still there. I don't know if Remke wouldn't sell it to them or what but that's the way it went.

(107) MNK: So I get the sense that your relatives lived right close around.

MLH: My father's family. My father's family.

MNK: Could you tell us more about that?

MLH: Well, my father, of course, was the oldest and then my Aunt Charlotte married and went to Cleveland. And then my Aunt Flora married and she

lived in Wheeling. Her husband was Harry Grimm, her first husband was Harry Grimm, and he was a plasterer and he did a terrific job of plastering all these different houses. For many years. And then when they divorced, she married a policeman named George Hohney. And it was George Hohney's house on Eoff Street and 26th that she moved into. And then after George died and urban renewal and Jebbia finally got it and they tore it down. So that took care of that one. My mother's sister lived at 25th & Chapline Street and they tore down her house and she moved out the Pike, out on Lynwood Avenue. She ended up down at Mound View Constant Care Center she and her husband both. She died at 94 not too many years ago, and Elwood a few years before her. Let's see, who else lived in the neighborhood. Well, if you wanted to go north, from 24th & Chapline Street on the river side, which would be the west side of the street, there was my Aunt Hilda and Uncle Elwood Eckards. Hilda was my mother's sister. And then as you go on up the street, the next one was Waterhouse from the Waterhouse Foundry, Harry and his mother, and then the next one, I can't remember that woman's name. And then the next house was Chris Steeber and Chris Steeber's granddaughter was Eleanor Steeber the opra singer. And they mo.. the son and Eleanor had moved to Warwood. But Chris was there until he died. And then the next part of that house was a rooming house and my Uncle Charlie Dueker, who is my father's brother, his wife was Helen Serig, and Helen Serig's sister, Alma, was married to George Thomas and they lived on the other side of Steebers. So far, okay, and then going on up the street I don't know who had the next two houses. But on the corner was a grocery store that belonged to Henry Carouth and Bob Burns. And I don't know who had it before they had it.

MNK: What was it called?

(139) MLH: C&B. C&B Grocery, now were talking 30's and 40's, okay. Across the street on Chapline Street, which is now the parking lot and IGA store were a lot of houses and John Medic's family lived across the street. John Medic is the banker that was written up in the paper not too long ago. He's fifth generation John Medic also. And they started out at St. John's and then they went from there down to South Wheeling down to 38th Street to St. Paul's, to help set up St. Paul's. And, of course, there was Minkamiller's Barber Shop was about the middle of the block, and next to Minkamiller's was let's see, John, Jenny John, her family, her brother was Louis John who was a district attorney here at one point. And then on down, Charnock was the name of the corner. Charnock, he's the one who built the house at 2510, oop missed somebody, 2512 Chapline Street was Lapakas upstairs and downstairs was Tramolis and I don't know who they bought the house from, but they were two greek families that moved in there. And then my uncle, my mother's brother, bought the house. And he and his daughter shared it after the 40's. Hilda Pollak and Tom upstairs and Jim and Clara Naly downstairs. So far, we're in three different generations. Okay?

MNK: Go ahead.

MLH: Go around the corner on 24th Street toward Eoff Street and you came across Gene Long's house. And that's Gene Long, the singer we were talking about earlier who sang. He and his brother and two sisters sang with Wheeling Steel Hour in the 40's. And if you come back down to 25th Street and go up to Eoff on the corner of 25th and Eoff Street was Donald Gilbert Michael McGrael. And Donny McGrael was known as the Bobby Breen of the Ohio Valley at that time. And he, beautiful voice, he sang at my wedding. He had a beautiful voice.

MNK: Irish tenor?

MLH: Ah yes, and a delightful Irish tenor. He since got cancer of the throat and he has no voice, he has a little tube in there that they talk through. Yeah. If you went on down between 26th and 27th Street on Chapline Street at one point, when my dad was growing up there were nine saloons. Nine saloons. And these weren't bars like they are today where people will go in and get themselves as drunk as they could get just to see how drunk they could get. These were bars that fellows would go in after work, stop and have a few drinks, talk to each other, go back in the evening, talk to each other. Pub house type thing. Yeah, and another thing too, while we're talking here, my great grandfather, Henry Reese, my grandfather, August Dueker, my father, George Dueker, all belong to the Black Knights of Pithius. They were the Black Lodge. And the Knights of Pithius Temple, the Castle, was down at 27th and Chapline Street and has just been this past year torn down. And it was an oldie. It was a beautiful old building, I was --

(187) MNK: What's your sense of that organization?

MLH: I've not been able to find anything except that I know that my father and grandfather and great grandfather belonged to it because it helped the people in the neighborhood and it was part of if you need help, we've got the money, we'll help you, in whatever way you need, financially or we'll bury your dead or take care of your sick or whatever. That type of thing. And if the father died, then the rest of them would pitch in and take care of the mother to make sure she got a job and raise the kids. That type of thing. And St. John's was great for that too. Because these were all German families who were in there and that was one of the first things that they had was a benovolent society. And they set aside a lot of money and a lot of people for the benovolent society. And St. John's Church also had people like Louie Steifel who was the founder of the Steifel Calico Works and they had George E. Steifel who was

business man here and had a big department store and Henry Steifel who was in the Calico Works. And these are the people that went out and set up the Steifel Mansions out the Pike. There are three of them out there, there's Henry Steifel's Mansion, which is Shadow Knoll; and there was, I forget which Steifel it was that's behind the Church of Christ, and no it's Christian Church, First Christian Church, they left 22nd, 20th and Chapline, 20th and Market Street and went out the Pike and built their beautiful, beautiful church and it has a great big glass window, circular, and lately, they've been shot out three times and everytime, they build it back, they'd shoot it out again. But these were the people that were in there and the Steifel Mansion is right behind their church. And then there's another Steifle Mansion that's now Oglebay Towngate. Oglebay Institute, excuse me. Zion Church is their Towngate Theater. And that was also German people that started from St. John's.

(214) MNK: Were these wealthy immigrants that came here, or did they amas their fortune here in Wheeling?

MLH: Many of them were invited here, some of these people came because they were trying to get away from the lousy war that was going on over there constantly, some of them came here because they were tired of famine and they wanted to go someplace that they could grow something that they could eat, and some of them came because they answered an ad in a newspaper or on the wall and it said "Come to America, to Wheeling, West Virginia, and work in the steel mills" technologists, and some of these people had money when they came here. They weren't all a bunch of broken, poverty stricken peasantry, ignorant, they were not. Many of them came here they were very high skilled engineers, technologists, the brewers who came here that made the business go. They had the skill from the old country. They brought it here and set up their breweries. Smooba brought a brewer from Germany here to

set up the brewery. Raymond had one here, of the Raymond Brewery out here. And these men were absolutely initial in starting the cities park system here. Not just breweries and businesses, but Smooba was one of the greatest entrepreneurs the city of Wheeling has ever known and never really recognized it until just lately, within the past ten years they've begin to recognize him. He was the founder of many things, he came here at the age of 7, an unskilled laborer, just a little kid, no time to go to school, had to go to work with his uncle on the boats, and before he was 17 was already in the business of owning the boats. Yeah. This is a kid that decided to put his money in the bank businesss, and while he was in the bank business at one point they were going broke because of the cotton. The bole weavil got the cotton and Henry said, "don't close the bank. Put the money in tobacco." They did. They made a boom. Everybody else closed up and folded. But not Wheeling. He's the one that started a placed called Wheeling Steel. And he told them the bridges would work. He was also involved in LaBelle Nail. He was involved in setting up the first railroads to go through here and Fairmont and Clarksburg. He also had a railroad line that went from Wheeling all the way to Pittsburgh. He set up the trolly lines. He set up the incline to go to the park at the top of Mozart hill. And he had a park up there at the north end of the Island.

(250) MNK: Did he build the first trolly bridge?

MLH: Now I don't know about that, but I know that he's the one who set up the trollies. And he had it all going. But he never stayed with that particular thing. He was 67 when he got married to Pauline Birchy and and 69 when he died. The doctor said he had just worn himself out all his life. But when he died, he was at Roney's Point. Now all his life and all his working life, he was right down here at 23rd street. His home has a great big what looks like a

dollar sign in the window of his door, but it's not a dollar sign, it's his initials "HS." The "H" and the "S" crossing it. And the same way with the brewery down at 33rd street. There's a great big "SH" on the building. And he has beautiful artwork down on there, if you ever take a look at it, it has the heads of all the different gods in charge of the wine and the breweries. And at first I thought they might be his brothers or something, because they all came too, you know, but that wasn't true. No, he has Backus and a few of the others who were the gods of the, the German gods. Okay. The Norsman's gods. And it's very interesting. But this man's life is very colorful and very interesting. He built the mansion at Roney's Point and before he built it, after he bought the land, the land had originally belonged to one Samuel Frasier back in the 1700's and it had passed on down to where Henry bought it and he was running a herd of thoroughbred horses out there, out on the farm. Well then decided to build his mansion and his mansion was a fantastic place. Three stories high, brick building, beautiful gardens, and then in the back, he had septic tanks, two or three septic tanks. Nobody had septic tanks, but Henry did, and he knew how to build them. He also had dumb waiters, going up and down the, he had elevators when nobody else had elevators. He started a lot of things. He had the first greenhouse. And grew all kinds of things in the greenhouse. And then he...

(285) CNK: When did he die?

MLH: In 1914, 1915.

CNK: Could you say his name again?

MNK: Spell it.

MLH: Henry Schmulbach. Okay. And he had his whole family here. They all lived down there at 23rd street. And when he died, they had a train that left here and went out to Roney's Point with everybody who wanted to go visit for a

visitation. They on a train here at the B&O Station and they went all the way out to Roney's Point, got off and had special carriages take them from the bottom of the hill up to the mansion. And then after they were finished with the viewing and whatever, then they would come back down. Those who wanted to stay for the funeral stayed and they were given special cars to bring them back into Greenwood. But the others went back down the hill, and got on the train, and came back to Wheeling. And about half the town turned out. This was a man who was never in the Blue, what did they call it, the Blue Blood Register, the Socialite Register. He was never in that. He was never a part of that. I mean let's face it, he was an immigrant, he couldn't read or write, he didn't have any wife, and they didn't particularly like his company. So he had his own girlfriends and he went where he wanted to go. And they had their Blue Blood dances and whatever else. So he was never a part of the social register. Henry didn't have time for the social register, if you want the truth. He really didn't, this is a man who worked 18 hours a day. But he was really something.

CNK: When you were growing up, do you remember any of his family down, I mean did they did they still live on Chapline Street?

(314) MLH: I don't know.

CNK: (say's something in background, I can't make out her question.)

MLH: Well, his mother and father were here. He had brothers and sisters. And ...

CNK: But he had no children?

MLH: No, he never had any children. Yet when he died, in his will, he left money to a few people who were named for him. The last name wasn't Schmulbach but there were several kids that were named for him, Henry, and I don't know whether they had his brother's names. But, the whole family is buried together at Greenwood. And so is the Birchy family, including Louis. Louie Birchy

was Pauline's brother. And he was the mortician. And that was another curious thing too. Maybe you can answer it. Louie Birchy had two plots in Pennensila Cemetry of 16 graves each, empty. And he's buried with Schmulbach.

CNK: So.

MLH: Yeah, he's out at Greenwood. And it wasn't in the section, well yes it was too, it was in the section that they moved for the freeway. But 32 graves, a mortician has 32 graves, why? Was this in case somebody couldn't afford a grave and he would bury them? On his property? In Pennensila? I don't know. And I think there are two people actually were planted that were called "unknown." There're no stones on them. Were they using it as pauper's graves? Because anybody else who was a pauper in this city or anybody else who was not known, like the body that they pulled out of the river not too long ago, the black man that they thought was from Pittsburgh, he's buried out at Roney's Point. After Schmulbach died, he left it to Pauline and Pauline sold it to the city and county for the county farm, county poor farm. And there is a cemetry in the back around the back. And of course they built the Tuberculosis Hospital on the top. Up there behind Henry's. So if they would die, then they'd take them down over the hill, right behind the hospital, and they would bury them. And the paupers were buried out there too. So, good question. You know, that's were they're still burying them today.

(350) MNK: This sounds like an absolutely fascinating community of people. What was distinctive about them socially. Did they, did they maintain their German language or customs or anything?

MLH: Uh huh, yes. My father went to church on Sunday morning at 6:00, every Sunday. Until he was 14 years of age he had to attend German services, at 6:00 in the morning. And then he got to stay for English services. So my

father spent six hours in church on Sundays. He didn't get home until noon. But after he was 14, his father said "alright George, it's up to you." My father never went back to church. He was too busy. He worked in the saloon. He worked at the drugstore. And that was his idea, to be a druggist at one point. But then after he and mother got married, he had to go into the service for World War I and when he came back it was a little bit late at the age of 30 to start into the pharmacy business. And he knew how to cook. So mother talked him into joining his father who wanted him to buy the business, and he did. That was another thing too, my grandmother cooked in there, my Aunt Flora cooked in there, and then my mother cooked in there. They all took a turn. Everybody got a turn. But the German people here were musically inclined and that was one of the big things that was important. We had a Bethovan's Society, we had the Harmony Society, there was a German Society, Dr. Wolfe could tell you more about this. Because that's his field. Dr. Wolfe, from West Liberty. He's a specialist on the German groups here for music. But they used to have concerts here. They had the Sanger fest here in 1886. And then when they had the Sanger fest here they had groups, singing groups, from all over the valley and they had them here from Chicago and one from California and they had them here from Voitenberg Germany and one from Hanover Germany. And they had guest concert leaders and so on. But, yes, this was very musical. And everybody was tickled to death to sing. And most of them were men. Men's groups. They had up at Bethlehem, were Schmulbach had his park, say 33rd street and then you take the incline up over the top of the hill to Incline Avenue in Mozart and they had a park up there. It's now a baseball diamond. But at that time they had a park and they had a gazebo with band play everyday. They had the brass bands were up there. And the Bethovan's Society would sing up there and then right over the

other side of the hill was house that was owned by Walter Reuther's father. And in the back, because Reuther was part of the singing group too, in the back he had a little house that was built so that they could practice. Right behind his property.

(399) CNK: Do you remember the park?

MLH: No, because by the time I could get to the top of the hill there, it was gone. It had been gone for some time. In fact, it was gone before Henry died. Or shortly after. But between he and Raymond, the competition that was going on is what opened Wheeling Park out there so he could sell his beer; and they opened the Incline Park so Schmulbach could sell his beer and Schmulbach also had the North Island Park over there as a beach, so you could go swimming. And then later on, Raymond opened a swimming pool and a few other things. That's another thing too, Wheeling Park when they first opened the swimming pool didn't have concrete walks, they had sand walks. And when I was a little kid, we used to go out there and play in the sand and get in the water. And the water was three inches deep and went up to 12 feet. And then you had diving boards on the other end. But whole families would get in there. They didn't have any children's pools or anything like that. But it was a great place to go. And they had dances every Saturday night upstairs. Open windows, you know, now they've got it all closed in.

CNK: Do you remember any of the amusement rides that they had, the roller coaster?

MLH: No, that was before my time too. They had a they were already gone by the time I got to go. I was born in '27 and they were gone by '30. They were gone by the depression. As far as I know they were gone by the depression.

(425) MNK: Were they pretty elaborate? Were there carousels? Or a rides, are there any old pictures of those things anywhere?

MLH: There are somewhere, I've got some pictures out home that were my father's and I have to go through them. But when my dad died, they were getting rid of everything at the house and my mother had given, my mother died the year before my dad, my mother died September 6, 1972, my dad died September 6, 1973, my dog died September 6, 1974. So it turned out to be a lousy day, okay. And in 1954, in September 6, is when my husband and I gave up trying to get a job here and went west to California. So, it's a lousy day. But anyhow. The box of pictures, my mother said that I should take because my dad wouldn't do anything with them because by that time he was to a point with artial sclerosis and being 85 years old he wanted to sleep all the time. And she said, "you take these." Okay, I took them, got them out home and put them in a storage drawer and let them go for awhile. And then the next year my dad died, but before he died and we had to put him in the hospital out at Peterson, he handed me a package, an envelope, that had pictures in it. And I asked him what they were and he said, "they're just some stuff I took out of the restaurant." Evidently, my mother didn't know that they were still there. So I took the pictures and took them home and then after my dad died, my brother and I were going through the things and my sister, all three of us were looking these things over and my sister said, "for crying out loud, that was so and so and this was Bill Bartolis and that was Bud Bartolis and these were the guys that served with pop and there's pop's old buddy," yeah. And they had them in military uniform. My father and George Weckerly. Now George Weckerly died many years, I guess about 1922, something like that. He died of tuberculosis. But these were pictures of people I never met. Now the Bertolis brothers I knew because they lived across the street. But my sister and brother could point these out to me because they were older than I, three to six years. And we were going through the whole works. Well then I put

them away and forgot about them. Now, Chip Wess has got the place open up there and it's jogging the memories back. And here they come back now.

Yeah.

(469) MNK: You mentioned a sister and a brother.

MLH: Yes, I have a sister Dorothy, who's name is Patterson now. Dorothy Dueker Patterson. She lives in Fairmont. And she had two children, two girls. And then I have a brother, who's an architect, George Robert Deuker. And he's George Robert August Deuker, all three of them in there, he's on West Coast in Woodside, California. He's an architect. Yeah.

MNK: So, there were ... , you were the youngest of three?

MLH: Three kids. Actually, I was the youngest of four. The first one died at 6 days. Thelma died, she's six days old. And then Dorothy, and then Gus, and myself.

MNK: Can you sort of recreate for us the household in which you grew up. What it looked like, what your mother's kitchen smelled like, what she...

MLH: Aw, come on,

MNK: Yeah.

MLH: You get me back to that point and I'm going to start drooling, because my mother was a fantastic cook. She was a great cook. You name it, she could cook it. We always had a good dinner. We always had things like meat and potatoes, my father was a meat and potatoes man. Not vegetables, but meat and potatoes. So if we want spaghetti, you ate it at lunch, when pop was working. He was not spaghetti, he was German. We had lots of cabbage and lots of saurkraut. Of course, mother being Irish, very, very, what shall we say here, Cosmopolitan, she would try anything, including artichokes. My father says, "what are you doing scraping your teeth on that stuff. That's not for me." But he wanted to ...

(500) Bread, potatoes, meat, and he'd have green beans or peas or something like that. But mother was willing to try anything else. And my dad worked all the time, so very seldom we got to go anywhere with him. But fortunately, he worked across the street. And it was only a half a block away from home and he'd close up the restaurant at midnight and he'd come home at two o'clock in the morning. And mom always waited up for him. And then she'd put us off to school in the morning and she'd sleep in a little bit. But he'd go back to work at seven o'clock in the morning. And he would work and come home and take a nap at lunch time and go to the bank. My father walked from 26th street to the Post Office everyday. All the way up to 12th Street. And then he would go to the bank which was down at 22nd street and then he'd go back home and then back to work. And when the Post Office, they decided to build the new one across the street in urban renewal was getting rid of all the relative's homes, beautiful homes that were over there, my dad had broken his hip so he couldn't go anywhere, and they told him they said, "well George you can't go to the Post Office, so we're bringing the Post Office to you." And they did, he sat on the front porch and watched them build the post office. But, it was an interesting time to grow up. Because in the first place, being the youngest I was given some privileges that the other two weren't. My sister had to report everywhere she went, and I reported about half of them and escaped the other half. Because, my sister would walk out the front door as a lady always, she's six years older than I am, so she was always ladylike, but her younger sister used to embarrass my brother. I invariably would embarrass my brother because I was a tomboy and I climbed the fences to escape, jumped the front fence, at one point I was carrying the violin, jumped the front fence, dropped the violin case, scrambled it all back up into the case, ran up to catch the trolley car so I could get down to South Wheeling to take my lesson.

(542) Of course, the violin was broken, but it didn't mean anything. Just so mother didn't know, and I was late. The other thing is that my brother had cowboy pants at one point and they were fur chaps, who know, oh these are the great ones you know with the lamb skin on the outside. So he outgrew them and he put them in a drawer. And nibby nose me, three years later, I found them, and they fit me, so I paraded myself around the bedroom for awhile and when I found out he was gone, (laughter) I went outside and I played cowboy in his pants. And he came home one day oh he was mad, he came one day and he says to my mother, "she's not my sister, she's not my sister, she is no relation to me, I don't want anybody to know she's any relation to me, she's wearing **my clothes.**" My mother said, "uh oh, gotta take the chaps off." But my brother and I used to fight like cat and dogs because I always wanted to wear his clothes. I liked his clothes better than mine, those frizzy little dresses, those crazy nylon things that you had, oh the terrible things that were starched and you can't sit down right or anything. I wanted to wear the boys clothes, because they fit better. I used to play baseball, football, twenty-one boys and me, then I found out I wasn't one of the fellows and that wasn't such a happy thought.

MNK: Who were the kids you played with, who were the kids in the neighborhood?

MLH: Jean Long, Donald McGrail, Billy Miller (policeman's son), Ozzie McGrail (that's Donald's brother), a guy named Doobie Dailer, who's now a magistrate, I can't think of everybody that was there. But it was everybody, oh and Chuck Holmes (he's dead, he died in World War II) he was a fantastic swimmer. And my cousin Chris, Chris Zimmerman, he went to Cleveland. And there were some other fellows that were on the other team that I didn't know but they lived up at 23rd street. But we all played football together, and I was the only girl among the crowd.

(575) CNK: Where was the field?

MLH: The field was the street between Chapline and Eoff, 25th Street. It's all uphill and it was all brick. And we played tackle football.

CNK: In the middle of the brick street?

MLH: Right on the brick street, yes sir, boy they tackled you, you slid. It depended on which way you're going though. Now when you kicked the ball, you always tried to get on the top so you kicked the ball down the hill. Didn't always work, but that's the way it was. Then we found out this was getting a little bit too rough because one of the fellas had skinned his nose. Somebody tackled him by the ankles and he hit and skinned his nose and he had to go home and get a bandaid and that's when his father said "that's enough of that we'll make you a paper ball and you won't have to kick that thing and there'll be no more tackle, from now on it's touch." So they made took a piece of newspaper and folded it over lengthwise several times and then rolled it up tight so that you come out with a cone and then they rolled another one on top of that and then they tied it up with a piece of string. At first they were putting rubber bands on it but the rubber bands broke. So they tied it up with a couple pieces of string and it worked real well. We used to go through three footballs a game. Yes sir, and then somebody, nylon hose came out and then they found out that these made pretty good covers, so they started putting nylon hose over them and it was about that time that I quit playing football. But I was still playing catcher on the baseball team. Same guys, we all played baseball, Hubbard Playground, and they took out Hubbard Playground and Webster Grade School when they put in the off ramp and the Route 2 down at 26th Street. And they've moved Redmond Cemetery and that's where my grandfather was buried. But he had already been moved out to Greenland before that. That was a neighborhood to grow up in, I'll tell you.

(615) CNK: Did you get down to ... in the Center Market?

MLH: Constantly, my father would say “okay, I need” and went to the market house to bring back the chickens, you went to the market house to bring back the bacon, you went to the market house to bring back all kinds of stuff. And if it wasn’t there, then he would, uh by this time I was about 11 or 12 years old and my father would say “I need the Limburger cheese. Get on the bicycle and go up to 20th Street and down to Main Street.” It’s right next to the old Robrecht Building, there’s a warehouse type of building there and used to pull up to the truck docks, truck stop, **truck dock**, okay, and that’s where you bought your cheese. So we’d buy 10 pounds of Mohawk Valley Limburger Cheese. Did you ever sit behind one of those in a basket on a bicycle with the wind blowing in your face? (laughter) Shew, it got to be a bit much. And he’d send me--

(636) CNK: ---

MLH: Yeah boy, every other day, maybe two days in between and I was never allowed to ride on Main Street. I always had to back up to Market Street or Chapline Street.

CNK: Why is that?

MLH: You really don’t want to know, do you? Well, from Main Street from 23rd take it back from 22nd to 27th Street was known as the “redlight district.” And the house that they just tore down here lately had been in business, constantly, for a hundred years. It was behind the Pirate Cafe, Pirate’s Cove. And I was never allowed on Main Street. One day, just one day, one time in my whole life, I decided I was too tired to pump the hill getting up 22nd Street, so I stayed on Main Street to 23rd Street and then went up the hill a little bit, cause it was a little more level, and at 24th Street on Market, and I thought “he’ll never know” and I went up to Chapline on 24th Street and I

rode the next block, pulled up in front of the house, put the bicycle in the yard and went inside, the phone was ringing. My father says, "and just who in the hell told you you could ride on **Main** Street." Now, how'd he know? You know, that bothered me for many, many years. And then I found out who the squealers were, two policeman, one of them was Officer Mueller, and the other one was Officer Millard. Officer Mueller lived right there at 25th Street and Officer Millard lived around the corner on Eoff. And they told on me, cause they went in my father's restaurant to eat every day and they had just seen me. So I was in real trouble. Another time, he'd say "I need tomato sauce, I need a great big can of tomatoes. Go down to the A&P at 29th Street, get on the bicycle and bring me back two cans." So you get on the bicycle and you ride down 29th Street, you buy the two cans of, great big cans of tomato, and bring them back. We're talking lunch time here, eleven o'clock, he's serving lunch at eleven o'clock and he needs more. Another time he sent me down to 40th Street so I could go down to, they had the best metwurst. Freischmooth, I went down to Freischmooth's. It's not the one who's the printer out in Elm Grove, it's his uncle. But Freischmooth had the butcher shop. And they did their own butchering. That and make their own meats and so on. So we had to get down there and get the metwurst and the bratwurst and whatever else he wanted, all the other wursts that he got, but the metwurst was the best. I've never tasted anyplace else like it. Nowhere in this country has metwurst. Not like (end of side A)

Tape 1

Side B

MLH: They wanted me to get that Limburger cheese. I had to stop across, caddy corner from the warehouse there it was Nassoff's Candy Company was on 20th and Main, okay, next to the bridge and I had to pick up the candy bars and the cigarettes, in the cartons, and then go get the cheese. And that's two great smells that you don't like too much mixing. Limburger cheese and tobacco. You know, it's kinda weird. But, anyhow, that day when I was going down there that fast it was different. And I just forgot what I was going to tell you.

(08) MNK: About peddling up, about riding up the street someday?

MLH: The metwurst is hard, like dried salami. But it was big like cooked salami, big enough to fit on a bun. And that very good, really.

MNK: What about Center Market itself, can you describe the market, how it was laid out?

MLH: Well the lower end of the market was always open. The upper end of the market was closed. So that they would be in there all year round. But the lower end of the market, was not, it was open, and so they would have stands come in on Friday and Saturday. And they'd come up here from Marietta to sell their stuff and what they didn't sell, they'd throw in the river on the way home. But those stalls were trucks would pull up before the trucks they had the wagons and they would move the wagon into the and you'd take it off with the wagon. And over to the stall. And you needed more, you went back to the wagon. But it was always, the wagons were always parked on the market side. And nobody parked cars in there at that time. If you wanted to park, you know, you didn't park, you just walked into the market. Most people just walked to the area that they were going to buy.

CNK: Did they sell out of the wagons? In the back of the wagons?

MLH: Some of them did. Yes. But then Bernie Coleman, you know the Coleman Fish Market's in the Market now, his father was John Coleman too. But Bernie didn't sell fish, Bernie sold cheese. And he went down on a farm around Hanibal, Ohio, and he raised his own cattle and he had his own cheese. And then he would come to the market on the weekends and they would make the sales there. Great big wheels would be two feet in diameter, some of them were three feet in diameter, maybe four inches five inches thick. And they'd be cheddar cheese or swiss cheese, they were good. But they were fresh cheese and they were made in an area that you knew about. And then in the winter time he would still come, he was on the closed side, the enclosed side of the market house, on the north end. And of course, Jebbia had a stand in there. The Jebbia brothers.

MNK: They'd sell produce mostly?

MLH: Yeah, Jebbia's was strictly produce. They've only changed lately in the shop down there that they've added anything else. And that's only been in the past five ten years. But in this 50 to 100 years before that it was all produce.

MNK: Did they have their own farm or did they buy it from ?

MLH: They bought it from their brother. Who had a farm in California. Down in Los Angeles County area. They had a big farm down there. And the last I talked to Dominick, he tells me that they split the farm up. And that's what they were worried about, splitting the farm up because there were I don't know how many children and they were afraid some of the kids wouldn't stay on the farm that they would sell it otherwise.

(44) CNK: ...Bananas? Jebbia ...

MLH: Bananas was one of them, yeah, he was part of the family. So were the Orlandos part of the family. There was Jebbia, Orlando, and what was

Nicky's last name, his name wasn't Orlando, anyhow, he went to school with me. Then his mother was a Jebbia. The mother's were Jebbia's, Chris Jebbia had grandchildren, the girls had children. But their names weren't Jebbia anymore, but they were still Jebbia's. No matter what you did, you were Jebbia. Just like me, I got married, I'm still a Dueker. My mother got married, she was still an Alley. But she was a Dueker. If you get my meaning. And my grandmother was Alvena Reese, but when she got married she was a Reese. Henry said so. But she was a Dueker. That was funny though. That's what I was going to tell you, across the street from our house on 25th street, between 25th and 26th, where the post office now is, on the south corner of the block was grandma Steele's house and next to grandma Steele lived George Weisner, a three story building, and then coming on up the street was Bott's, and the next house was LaRoth, and the next house up was Horner's, and the next house up was Bartollis, and there was a barber shop. And that was all part of the Nolte's building, which is on the corner.

(64) Now Nolte had a grocery store, and old man Nolte was worth a lot of money. We had seven millionaires in the two block area, between 24th street and 26th street, seven millionaires. And you never would have known that anybody had a nickle. Horner's were worth over a million dollars, and they lived in a house, two girls never married, their brother married and he had I think one child and the one child had three. And the two older kids were hippies, and the younger one was something like 11 or 12 years younger and Alma was the last one to die and the money was to go to the kids. And when it did, there was a stipulation in the will that there would not be one nickle received by any of them until the youngest child finished college. Now, the two older ones are responsible and they'll be 35 or 40 before this kid gets through college.

"Maybe they'll grow up by then", she said. I don't know if they did or not,

but anyhow, when she died, that was a stipulation in her will. And they were good friends of my father's.

(78) Oscar Nolte, I want to say Oscar but I'm not sure it was Oscar, but old man Nolte was worth over a million dollars. And he put the chimes, or the uh what do you call it over the bells, carillon, in the St. Alphonses Church in his will, that's where it went.

MNK: He put the what?

MLH: The Carillon in the church, at St. Alphonses. He paid for that. He had one daughter who divorced and made him very, very unhappy, but he had one grandson, Billie, who never married and both of them died of tubercolosis, er diabetes. And Billie had cancer and didn't know it. His mother had diabetes all those years and he took care of her and then she died and a couple of months later he found out he had cancer. And so he didn't live a year. He died very shortly after that. And of course, Steebers were worth a lot of money.

(91) The Wingeters were millionaires. They had, let's see there was Ambrose and Charles and Virginia and I'm not sure, I think there was Edna, and another one, there was six kids. One boy I didn't know and one girl I didn't know. But the other two brothers and two sisters lived together and they were all single. And then I found out they had a third sister, when she was brought up here from Fairmont. She had been a nun and she was in the Watson's Mansions in Fairmont when they turned it into the Convent. And she died down there, they brought her back up here for burial in Mount Calvery. And the one brother married, so I don't know what happened there. I don't know where he went, I never heard of him again.

(102) CNK: Where did they make their money?

MLH: I'm not sure whether it was in stock or what. Charnock that built the house was in the construction business and he built Karcher's house and then he built the one on the corner there and Wingeters bought it from him. I don't know how a lot of these people made their money.

CNK: Seven millionaires?

MLH: Seven of them were millionaires within the block, the two block area. And then you go up to the next block and there were two or three more. And millionaires, one of them was a multi-millionaire, because that was Henry Smoobach. But Captain List lived up there too and there was Professor, now I knew his name this morning, because I saw it, my mother took piano from him, he was also the conductor of one of the music groups here. But anyhow, I don't know that he was a millionaire, but he had a big house and the one next to him belonged to a millionaire. And there's another one next to Henry in there the Cleavis brothers built the twin houses and they were in the business for construction.

(116) CNK: Building?

MLH: Yeah, building construction. And then the one who had the boats, who built the boats right down here on the creek. He lived in that area too for awhile. But as some of these people made their money, they moved out of the neighborhood. But most of the old Germans didn't, they **stayed** in the neighborhood. Like Henry, he stayed in the neighborhood almost up to the point when he built the mansion out there. And the mansion was only a couple of years old when he moved into it. It took him that long to build it. But they didn't show of their money, they didn't run around. Oh, Schmichel was another one that was worth a lot of money and so was Minkamiller. Minkamiller lived right down there on 26th street.

(125) And he was a barber. A lot of them, though, got in on the early stock here. This is where the American Home Products started. This is where Sterling Drug started. There were several of them here.

CNK: Can you tell that story?

MLH: What do mean, tell that story?

CNK: About the whole Sterling Drug.

MLH: No, I can't because I don't know that story. Except that I know my father bought at the very beginning when Sterling Drug started, my father bought stock. And when he died, I inherited it, and it was split between my brother, my sister and myself. I know that my father told us that American Home Products started here. And no matter what, we were not to sell it. So we didn't sell it. I've still got mine. We can't sell it now, we can't afford it. If we sold it now and we'd have to pay all the interest on it. It'd be quite a bit of money. I mean, you buy it for a dollar a share, you know, now all of a sudden it's up to what \$72 or something like that.

(138) And they split it and split it and split it until. There was another one that started here too. My father and my grandfather were always getting conned into buying something. Now they bought gold stock several different times. Grandfather would pay fifty cents for it. My dad was getting conned into a buck for it. So these guys could go out and dig gold. Oil stock was another good that they used to get themselves involved with. That never paid off. But they never lost huge amounts of money in it because my dad never invested that kind of money. He'd invest a dollar maybe two dollars and this guy would say, "well George, we're going to bring it in, it's going to come right in George. Just another," you know, and my dad would give him another dollar

and get another one. We'd paste it on the wall. Because he knew it wasn't going to do anything.

(148) Same thing with grandfather's gold stock, when the gold stock was good. My grandfather was buying gold stock, he'd buy a couple of shares at fifty cents apiece and he'd put them into the drawer. And then they'd come back and say, "we need some more money," and grandfather would say, "how about a beer instead?" Because it wasn't paying off and he was putting good money after bad and he wasn't about to get involved with that. But there was a neighborhood and a half down there, because we had all the industry was in that neighborhood. We had railroad people, steel people, the tile works, we had people who were, the box factory up there, Steinmetz box factory. We had the railroad workings in that area, we had pottery plants, we had saw mills, we had construction companies, just to name a few. And they all came to my dad's restaurant to eat and they would come in and eat from ten o'clock until two or three o'clock in the afternoon. And then take their turns and then go back.

(162) And at one point, my mother wanted my dad to upgrade. "George, let's put some new paint on the walls and change the tables the booths" and my father said, "No." He serves working men who come in here dirty, there's a sink in the corner to wash in, there's a sink in the men's restaurant to wash in, we have the commodes back there, if they want to sit down, bring a woman, if they want to sit down at the tables, they've got the back room. No, we are not upgrading. Everybody sits on the bar stool around the bar, we can serve them fast, they have two tables out front, that's it, we don't need to upgrade. He wasn't going to embarrass these men when they came in to work by having to feel like they needed to be like victorian people wearing a coat and tie and white shirts. You know, he wasn't going to go for that kind of thing at all.

(174) And it was great because when these people, we had one man who had six kids, and good old George, he was one of those who liked to play the pinball machines and he liked the slot machines, and Bill Lias made sure that everybody had at least one in their place. It was always kinda, “George, I’ve known you all your life and you need one of these.” And my father says, “No I don’t,” and he says “yes George, you do. You need a front window and yes George, we don’t want to have to replace it but you do need a slot machine.” And so my father says, “Well, I guess you’re right Bill.” And Bill was going to give him so much, you know, commission for it. So they put it in and this friend of my dad’s, George, lived down the street, he loved to play the slot machine. He’d get paid on Friday night about five o’clock, my dad would cash his check, and he’d slug the slot machine, all night long. Putting his nickles in until he was broke, that and drinking the beer.

(189) Well, one day, George’s wife came over and she asked my dad if he would please when he settles his tab don’t give him anymore, don’t let him play them, because they didn’t have any money for groceries, the kids needed shoes, they didn’t have any clothes and it was cold. And my dad said, “I didn’t know that.” So, he’d give George credit all week long, and he’d put it on the tab and on Friday, when he came in to get his check cashed, he’d hand it to my dad and my dad would take the money what he owed him, and he’d take out some more than what he owed him, and allow him a certain percentage of it to put in the machines and to drink his beer. And then he would meet the daughter, who was my age in school, at the back door and he’d give her the money and say “take this home to your mother.” So they didn’t starve to death, my dad made sure of that.

(202) And it was during the depression. And the other thing, I always thought my dad was a great guy, but the other thing he did, during the depression, he

would let no man lose his dignity. They came to my dad after their work was gone, and they wanted to eat, they wanted a job, my dad would say okay (her voice seems to be more emotional, choked up, here) “you get the broom, you’ll work from that corner of the door up here to the staircase, and you take the broom and you work from the staircase to this staircase and you take it from this staircase to the back door, and you take it for the first flight of steps, and you take it for the landing, and you take it for the next flight of steps and you take it from the top landing, you on that side of the lodge room, you can do this side of the lodge room, and you do this side of the lodge room, and you only do half. Now you guys do the other three, and this half.”

(214) And he’d go back downstairs, and somebody else would say, George, they’d like to eat and my dad would say, “Okay, you take the broom and you go over there and you work the sidewalk up to here, from Shraders up here to the corner, and you work from this corner back to the steps, and you work from the steps back to the alley.” And then anybody else would come in, “okay, now you take the broom, and you work over there under the tables and that’s all, and you work over here under the bar, that’s all, you can sweep the back room.” And he put down that they worked for their money, they worked for their lunch. And the next group would come in and they’d start all over again, same place. And if he had too many people working in the restaurant at the time, you know everybody doing they’re shoveling, they’re sweeping, and all this good stuff, he’d call my mother and he’d say, “Mary, I’m sending somebody over to sweep the porch. Now, there are five guys here, one’s to do the back yard, one’s to do the entry, and one of them’s to do the porch and one of them’s to do the front yard, and one of them’s to do the sidewalk. And don’t give them any money. Because if you give them any money, they’ll just become bums and they’ll start drinking.

(232) And these guys will not get any better, they've lost their dignity. This way, they're working for their living. And then send them back over here." And he did. That's the way he handled it for a long time, and he carried it on a tab. And then when they started to go back to work, then they'd come back into the restaurant. But he kept his business that way. But he would not let any of them be bums. They had been men, they had their pride, and they had their dignity, and he would not allow them to become anything else. And we never thought about that as kids. You know, a guy comes to the door and asks my mother for a dime. My mother wouldn't give it to him. Mother, you're selfish, you're mean, you're nasty. Father won't allow it. My father's dirty, nasty and mean. Yeah, but he wasn't.

(245) We found out later, when World War II started just how much all that meant to my dad. And how much that meant to those men. Because on lunch hour they came back.

MNK: When World War II started, is that when everybody went back to work?

MLH: That's when they all went back to work. Yeah, and we had a booming town going then. Of course, we had to close the restaurant on Sunday. And I had to go to work on Sunday morning and count the tax money and count all the ration stamps, that was my job. By then I was in high school. I used to have to keep track of all that stuff. My father would say to me as he was sitting there watching me count pennies, "Now don't you make a mistake either, because the government will know it and he'll get you. (laughter) You make sure you get the red coupons and the green coupons separated. We need sugar, we need meat, and then you get the blue ones for the cans. And you make sure when they turn that stuff in, that you get them."

(258) We had to count all that stuff. And people would bring in their ration books and they'd give you so much if they had to eat at your place. And you were

only allowed so many stamps and if you didn't have the right number of sugar stamps you couldn't get any soda pop, and if you didn't have the right number of meat stamps you couldn't order any meat for the week. And you had to order can goods so you better have the blue ones. And it was a crazy time too because during World War II people who didn't drink were given ration books and they were allowed a fifth of whiskey or two fifths of whiskey a month on the ration book. And my dad had gone dry, because my father used to celebrate once every four years. Well, he never celebrated during the war at all in any way shape or form, he only took a vacation once every four years. But during the war, all these people that didn't drink, that never bought whiskey in their whole darn life, were suddenly up in line at the liquor stores getting two fifths of whiskey.

(273) And I asked my dad one day, "What the heck are you going to do with all the booze?" Because he couldn't sell it, he didn't have a license to sell liquor, only beer, and his word was, "when the boys come home, we'll have a big party. When the boys come home, my cousin Bud, my cousin Bill, cousin Elwood, cousin Ted, brother-in-law Pat, my brother George, there were about five more of them on the other side of the house. When they all came home, we're going to have a big blow out." By golly, they all came home too, everyone of them came home, which was a surprise. We didn't lose anybody in the immediate family.

(284) CNK: Was there any antagonism about being a German, do you remember being a German during the war and then...

MLH: Yes, I remember, and I remember two little kids laying on their belly looking in German Meuller's house in the basement because he had a light on down there and he had his kid down there too. And we layed on the belly in the alley and looked down that basement window to see what he's doing, we're

spying you see because this man has a name this is German. And we were told all the Germans were spys. So, okay, two little kids were looking down the hole.

(291) CNK: Deuker?

MLH: This was Deuker and Zimmerman. Yeah, a couple of good English names. (laughter) We're watching this Mueller down there, he's building a soap box derby for his son, Billy, so they can race up there at 29th street down the back side of the hill. And when we got home, we looked at each other and my mother said, "well, what have you been up to?" "Well, we've been spying." I mean, we were part of this secret rings and all that kind of good stuff and Jack Armstrong, the all american good kid. So we were telling my mother about it and she says, "that's great, that's just great. Two dumb German kids, spying on an honest German officer in the United States police department."

(laughter) Ah, heck, but we had fun. We did have Germans here though, we had the Beunds, as a teenager I was in the CACP, and every Sunday afternoon from two to five, we did our drill on the Warwood parade ground, which was the Warwood Park. And we'd go up there and practice marching, so that we could be in the contest when it came down to the southern end of the state.

(310) Drill practice, forwards and backwards, and all that kind of good stuff. The only thing we didn't have was a flag. And we left at five o'clock and when we left there was another group came on to march and they were the Beunds', they were the Nazis'. But nobody bothered them. They were all teenagers like us and they were in there with their black armbands doing their march. But nobody bothered them. And I asked one time, why nobody bothered them, because my father was a block warden, my mother was a house mother, in case anything happened, she was the block mother. And she also worked with the Red Cross. And everybody in our neighborhood, all these Germans

in the neighborhood, were either in the service or part of this neighborhood block party. In case anything happens, you go out there and you shovel the sand and you put the fires out and all this type of thing. And I asked my mother why nobody bothered those people, any my father piped up and he said, "well it's easier to keep track of them if you don't try to push them around, because if you start pushing them around, they go into hiding and you don't know who they are. This way, they're wearing their black armband and they're public and they're marching and so you **know** who they are." And, he was smart.

(330) My grandfather, we were never allowed to study German, however, German language. My brother was in college and my father told him very flatly that if you study German he'll pull you out of college. And he told me the same thing, I was a senior in high school. My father never knew, I couldn't tell him, I was studying German on Friday's, after school, with my Spanish teacher. And the next year, the two years, I was a junior not a senior, my senior year the kids from the Island, there were twenty of them, were supposed to come over and take German too and that would let me get into the class with the German II students. And then I could get my credits for it, but my father told us, no no. So my brother didn't study German, and then he was drafted. And I didn't study the German, but I was allowed to sit on a stool and listen to my grandfather's speel and talk to me in German for hours at a time. As long as nobody outside knew we were speaking German in the house.

(345) No my father didn't speak English until he was six and went to school. He spoke German at home. He had to know German to be in German Sunday school and church for six hours on Sunday. But we were not allowed because of what happened to grandfather in World War I. My grandfather, of course, had been here for twenty-five years and ran a restaurant and as long as there

was a war going on in Europe that didn't involve the United States, my grandfather used to talk to his customers and they would have arguments about which side was which side and what the Germans were doing was good or what the Polish was doing, you know, was bad and so on. And grandfather always stood up for the German. Well, his people were Irish and Polish and we had some Syrians and Greeks in the business there and then the United States went to war. And the next day, at seven o'clock in the morning when he opened the door, these people came in and they said, "all right Gus, now where do you stand?"

(362) And they were all set to tear the bar apart. And grandfather says, "right under that flag." And he had the American flag hanging over the front door and in order for them to see it, they had to turn around and look up. It's his country, that's his flag, and so they didn't tear up the bar. But my father had learned that you don't argue with your customers. And my father would never carry on an argument with them. But my grandfather was always having fun with them. My dad was very serious, and he wouldn't do that. And he was afraid of that kind of reaction for us, and he didn't want to take that chance. But I studied German anyhow, I was a defiant little brat. In more ways than one.

(375) MNK: Was that a pretty wide held belief in the German community to deny this...

MLH: By the time my generation was growing up, it wasn't so much that the German words, the German families, were bad, but by this time, we were second generation German, most of us. Some of us were third and fourth generation German. And then we had in our neighborhood, Syrians and Greeks and we had Poles and we had Irishmen and Englishmen and it got to be a mixture. But in World War I, it wasn't. In World War I there were very few Irishmen or Englishmen, we didn't have a whole lot of Syrians and Greeks.

They didn't come in until the beginning, about 18 about 1910 someplace along there they started to come in.

(389) But before that, it was an established German neighborhood, and the Polish people went to South Wheeling on down to 30th street, 38th street, down around the Ritchie district. In fact, they went down farther than that. They went down around 38th to 48th street. Where Pulaski playground is. And that's where the St. Latislas Church is. But that was all Polish down in that area. And so we did have ethnic in the neighborhoods up until 1952 when urban renewal decided to screw the whole city up. And they did a lot of things they didn't have to do. But they destroyed the urban neighborhoods and everybody had to move someplace else. But the Germans, in World War I really had a much worse time. Because, from 1914 to 1917 there was a problem going on here. The Germans were over there, but these people still speak the language.

(406) And there were a lot of these kids who had gotten rocks thrown at them. They were tormented because they had bowl haircuts. Of course, that carried over for a long time, but they used to call them "kraut" and harass them all the way home, that type of thing. That was the other thing, you didn't speak a foreign language. World War I decided that if you spoke a foreign language, you were not an American. Americans speak English, and that was the language of the country, that was the language of the people and you had to learn English. I don't say that's bad, being a linguist, I don't say that's bad, establishing a national language. However, if you spoke a foreign language, you didn't speak it outside your home. So a lot of the Polish kids, my age, never learned Polish. The German kids didn't learn German. So they couldn't talk to the grandparents anymore. The Greek kids still learned Greek because they took them up to the Greek church and had Greek classes. The

Syrian kids still spoke, went up to our Lady in Lebanon and still learned Syrian. But the Germans didn't. We now, as of 1920, 21 someplace along in there, we were now speaking English in the church.

(427) MNK: And that was it?

MLH: And that was it. No more German classes, no more German notes, no more German anything. But the Catholic church was still teaching Latin up until the 1960's. But they had their church services in Latin too and the Greeks still hold theirs in Greek and the Syrians still hold theirs in Syrian and the priest is Syrian. They call themselves Lebonese now.

(435) MNK: How about the Ukranians?

MLH: And the Ukranians still speak Ukranian. And the Polish people still speak polish among themselves. But they don't teach the children polish. And so the kids don't grow up learning it. And it's sad, you know it really is sad, because they've lost, with this idea of an isolation policy in World War I, they've lost a tremendous amount of intelligence when it comes to people speaking to the rest of the world. We've almost isolated and downed ourself totally. They were tickled to death in World War II when they found a fellow from Wheeling who could speak Italian. They were stuck in Italy, and nobody knew anything, but this kid from South Wheeling could speak Italian. Well, it's a good thing, because they found out where they were going and what time the enemy's coming through and they had one guy that could speak german and could read german, he understood it, he could lead it through. But their company's their country, they speak our language.

(452) Japanese learned English real easy. And then over there in the fox holes in the Pacific, "hey Joe" you'd stick your head up you'd get it blown off. But they can't pronounce an "r." They eat lice and you have a raparooza, they can't say an "l" a "raparaoza" was the key word going through. As soon as you

got that on and you hear them say “raparooza” you knew they were not the Americans, because the Americans say “lallapalooza.” But they sent their people here to learn the language to go to our colleges to get educated. Same way with the Nazis’, they spoke english beautifully. The Frenchman, now of course Frenchman has an accent, but the Frenchman can tell the difference between German and French too.

(471) And one of the, maybe you know the story of the officers, there was an American, and a British, and two Frenchmans sitting at a, er an Italian, and a Frenchman sitting at a table. And the one man starts to speak, two Frenchmans, and the one man starts to speak French, and he pronounced the word, and the other officer stood up and shot him. Right through the head. And the American said, “why’d you do that?” Everybody got all excited, and he said, “he’s no Frenchman, he’s a German.” “How do you know that?” “One word. Nobody says ‘mish you’ like the French.” Meaning ‘mister.’ Nobody. And that’s been the key in several different things. Like the lallapalooza in the Japanese, and you’ve got ‘shalom’ or ‘salem’ from the Hebrew or the Arabs. And that’s clear back in the early days in the Bible, you’d make the wrong word, your dead. One give away, and it’s the thing the Americans used alot was slang and when they play games with slang, football, or basketball, or baseball terms; and during World War II it was almost all baseball, not anymore. Today I guess you’d probably have to fight football. But everything that they did was baseball terms.

(497) MNK: Their codes?

MLH: Yeah, right, everything. Because they don’t play baseball like we did. And this is the only, at that time, this was the only country in the world that played football like we play football. Everybody else plays football, it’s soccer. But

the United States plays football and we call it strategic football, in different languages. But to us it's only football.

(506) MNK: Can you tell us a little bit about your school days and German --- in the schools?

MLH: Like what we got in schools? Well, in school it didn't make any difference. If they couldn't pronounce your name they changed it for you. That was the first thing. Like a friend of mine whose name was Vanoccus, teacher was having a little trouble with that, so they changed his name to Vanos, they could handle that. So the family went up and changed the name legally to Vanos and then within the year, they got a letter from Greece that the grandfather died, but the grandfather had a stipulation in his will. Anybody who changes their name, does not inherit. And Stevie's father ran right up to the courthouse and tried to get it changed, but it was too late. He changed it back to Vanoccus but it was too late because grandfather's will was already settled and it was all over. Of course, it was a pretty good inheritance from Greece.

(524) But if they couldn't pronounce your name, they'd change it. Like, what a friend of mine's name, it was Olefsheski, they never called her Olefsheski, they left the 'ski' on the end, but they called her 'Oleski.' Sometimes, like my great-aunt, her name was 'Fuchs' (she spelled this out) and they said, yea but that's not English, 'Fox.' So she became 'Fox.' Your name is Zimmerman, well we can pronounce Zimmerman but that's not English, so we'll call you 'Carpenter' that's English. They did a lot of that.

MNK: The school teachers?

MLH: Yeah, right in school. And if they couldn't pronounce all the syllables, they'd drop some of the syllables and you'd go by another name. Like they did with Vanaccus, but they could come up with Vanos that was okay. I wonder what

they'd do with some of the ones I've had? Boy, they'd have a real good time with that one.

(544) When we had classes, you had to be in your seat on time, which was pretty good. And if you weren't, you usually ended up standing in the cloak hall. And if you were supposed to write with your right hand and you were left handed, they'd bang on your left hand with a ruler until you picked the pencil up with your right hand. They did that to my dad until they took his left hand and made him right handed, but my father always wrote with his right hand but he did everything else with his left hand, cut the meat, use the saw, everything else. But he had to write with the right hand. If you were not good, you got sat on the stool. You might get a beating. I got a beating, I laughed one time in class because a kid threw, this Stevie friend of mine, threw a crayon in the air, the teacher wasn't in the classroom, she was out and everybody was laughing, second grade, she came back in, everybody was in the seat, they'd said "here she comes" we all sat down real quick and she came in and my desk was nose to nose with hers.

(566) And, of course, dumb bell me, I had to give my last little chuckle and she caught me, stood me in the cloak hall and that was the very first thing in the morning and I stayed there all day, till noon. And then after everybody went home to lunch, because we didn't have cafeterias, everybody had to go home for lunch, she took a strap and she beat me from the back of my ears to my heel and she put three inch welts on me all the way down. I never let out a scream. I went home, walked in the front door, went to the kitchen sink and screamed and screamed and screamed. And my mother asked me what was going on, get up here, because she was upstairs. I went upstairs, she pulled up my dress and took one look. She put my dress back down, she took me right back to school and embarrassed me to tears. I had to pull up my dress and let

the principal look at my back. Little girls just don't do that, you know, but the man had to see what happened. Teacher was reprimanded. She wasn't fined. She wasn't sued, she wasn't thrown out of the job or anything else. But I never used my first name after that, for many, many years. My name's Mary Lou, so was hers.

(592)

They'd never call, I've never answered to the word 'Mary Lou' after that, for many years. No way buddy. But her name was Mary Lou Casto and Mary Lou Casto got married a few years after that with one understanding, that she would have **no children**. And that was agreeable. She hated kids. But her parents said that the only decent job a woman could take was teaching school. She couldn't be a nurse, which is what she wanted to be. She couldn't be secretary, because they were dirty, everybody knew what secretaries were. And a nurse was even worse. But she could be a school teacher, that was dignified. And of course at that time teachers were being told what they could do, who they could see, when they could visit, and a man, you've got to be kidding, a man could be your father or your mother and you met in the living room. And you talked to them. You could not have the company of a male friend.

(614)

You just didn't fraternize with the other sex. That's all there was to it. And then you had all kinds of jobs you got to do. Like clean the windows, and sweep the floors and empty the wastebaskets, clean the boards and then they finally got, during World War II, if you were married, good-bye. You were gone, but in World War II, they got desperate, real desperate, because the fellows that were gone off to service and the women were taking jobs in the war plants and then the women who were married were taking the place of the male teachers and so they came back. And it didn't mean any difference then if you were married, but you weren't allowed to be pregnant. If you were

pregnant, (sigh) that was terrible condemning on those children. Why would you want to parade yourself like that before those poor little children. Of course, some families had twelve and fourteen kids, you know it's not like the kid never saw a pregnant mother. But the teacher wasn't allowed to be that way. And that was really weird. Now, today they don't even tell you what your second job can be.

(641) CNK: Well, do you remember the women in your neighborhood going to work and taking the place of some of the men that had gone off to war? Did they go down to work in the factories here in Wheeling?

MLH: Many of them did. But I don't remember anyone in particular who went. I knew that all the women who were twenty years old to thirty years old were working. Some of them were married, their husbands went off to war. My cousin was one of them, Mary Amrine. Her name was Eckhard, she married Ed Amrine, he went to the navy, she went back to the telephone company and worked. A lot of the women were working at different kinds of jobs. Some of them worked in the box factory and some of them worked in a war plant, and some of them worked, my aunt worked at Block's Tobacco Company for forty years. She worked daytime, my uncle worked at night.

(664) CNK: Do you know how many of the industries in Wheeling switched over in order to, or did they switch over in order to, go into war production?

MLH: I really don't know that. I couldn't tell you that, I don't know. My father made sure that we didn't know a whole lot about anything, except our homes. In fact, my father wouldn't let my sister go to work because that was a job for, was taking a job from a man. My brother could go to work from the age of sixteen. He worked from the age of fourteen on, that's all right, he's a man. My sister could work in the restaurant in the back and help mother, that was okay, that's family business. I wanted to go to work and my father said "no"

you can work for me in the restaurant, because you're taking away from a man's job.

(683) Well the men were going off to the service, so I didn't see how selling shoes was going to take away a man's job, especially since it was in Horne's, women's store. But my, that was my dad's idea, you don't take a man's job away from him. But then, when the men all went, there were a lot of women going to work and my father didn't fight me anymore, I could go to work.

CNK: You could go to work?

MLH: Yeah, as long as the fellows, I wasn't taking a man's job, it would be alright. But he wouldn't allow us to work in a factory. My father was very protective and very particular where his girls were going to work. I mean, he just wasn't about, in fact, we had a woman named Alma Henderson, who drove a white cadillac, white chrysler, and Alma had a great reputation in this city for many, many years. She was known as the.... (end of side B)

NAME: Mary Lou Henderson #46A-2

TITLE: "Germans in Center Wheeling" (2 of 2)

INTERVIEWER: Michael Nobel Kline

INTERVIEWER: Carrie Nobel Kline

INTERVIEW DATE: 7/5/94

### Side A

MNK: Now, this is tape two of this interview. This amazing interview. We're talking about working in a shoe shop, I believe.

MLH: Oh yeah, that was a beautiful thing. They were selling the shoes for thirty dollars apiece, and this is in 1945, and it was Easter, and my father allowed me to go to work for part-time, which was just great. So, while

I'm selling shoes, I find out that, I was doing part-time and the regular clerks were sending me upstairs to get a drink of water every now and then. Well on one particular day, they sent me up three different times for water and I'm thinking, "why don't you go yourself?" And I had worked on a woman that morning who was very small and had very small feet, she wore a size two, and we had the size two in the window. So, I had pulled out the shoes, and she bought three pairs. And the three pairs of shoes were thirty dollars apiece. But at the time she was buying the shoes she said to hold them because she'd be right back because she had to go over to the bank.

(012) So, okay, I put the shoes on layaway there for her, put her name on it. And little while later, she didn't come right back, about an hour later the girls are saying, "oh, I'm just dying of thirst, and it's hot in here.

Why don't go upstairs and get us some water." So, I said, "okay," being a very congenial person, I went upstairs and got the water. And I came back down and this woman was sitting on a chair, waiting, so when I walked over to her, I said, "oh hi." She says, "I would like to pick up my shoes and then I want to talk to you for a minute." And I thought, "oh boy, I did something real bad," because this woman was in her thirty's and I'm a teenager, and you know, but I didn't know what I could have done wrong.

(020) So she told me that these women had tried to take my sales, and the way they were doing it they said that they would write up my ticket for me and they'd make sure that I got it. And she said, "I will make sure that she gets it." And they said, "well that's alright. We'll write up her, we've done it before, we'll write up her ticket for her so that she can get her commission." The woman said, "I'll wait for her." And finally, she convinced them that she would wait for me. Thank heaven. Because they had been taking my sales and my biggest commission for having worked

for three days a week was up to that point five dollars. And with this sale, I made \$7.50 on the one day. I quit. There was no sense in my doing that. I wasn't going to fight these people for the money. But the other girl was an older woman, she was in her thirty's or forty's, and was working there as a part-time clerk too for Easter, and they'd been doing it to her too.

(031) And she was trying to survive, because it was all the money she had, you know. But I told her what was going on, and she said, "I knew something was." So the two of us went back and complained to the boss. And he said, "well I can't help that." And my feeling was "yes, you can. And I know the kind of man you are because here he is, tall, slim, dark hair, mustache, young fellow, and the two clerks had been flirting with him all day." So you know what's going on. You couldn't miss it. But he wasn't going to help me, no way shape or form. He could replace me real quick. And that's when I decided to replace me real quick.

(039) And then after that I went to college and I didn't need the job. But it was an interesting store to work in. They sold all kinds of women's clothing and they're still there.

MNK: Speaking of flirting, you were talking about somebody who drove a big white Chrysler.

MLH: Oh yes, that woman. She didn't flirt much. She didn't have to. She just stood at the door and answered the telephone and patrons would come in.

MNK: What was her name?

(045) MLH: We're talking about Alma Henderson, here, and Alma Henderson was known as the chief prostitute of the city. But she drove up to my father's restaurant and she would be in her big white Chrysler and as she pulled up, my father spotted her every time as soon as she would pull up next to the store, my dad would find someplace for me to go, and one of the big

things was “here” and he’d draw a beer, and wipe off the foam and “take this upstairs to your grandfather, it’s time for his beer.” One day, my grandfather got four of those beers that he wasn’t expecting. And by the time he drank all four of them he’s wondering “what’s the matter with George”. (laughter) But grandfather lived upstairs of the restaurant. But my father would never let me see this woman. We were never allowed to be in the same area with that woman.

(054) And it wasn’t until years later that I found out what she was and who she was. In fact I had, when I was teaching school, I had somebody call on the telephone and ask if they could speak to Alma. And I said, “I’m sorry, but there’s no Alma here,” and he said “well I’m sorry too because I had to talk to her she owes me some money.” And I never thought about until later and I said something to my husband and he said, “it’s one of those prank calls, they’re looking for Alma Henderson.” And it still didn’t hit me who it was, until he said “white Chrysler” and then I knew. But my father had no use for women who smoked, he would never allow us to have a cigarette, in his presence, we did not smoke, that’s all there was to it, because Alma smoked. He didn’t like to see a woman with a lot of makeup on, because she used to come in the restaurant and buy her beer and buy her sandwiches and she would buy her cigarettes, and take them with her.

(065) That was all well and good. But he knew what she was and we were not going to be anything like that. So sayeth my father. So worrieth my mother, ha ha.

CNK: When you were told not to ride your bicycle down main street.

MLH: That’s why.

CNK: That was why. But did you have any idea why you weren't supposed to go beyond 22nd?

MLH: Yeah, but, I had no idea.

CNK: Did you have any idea why you weren't supposed to go beyond 22nd?

(070) MLH: No, I just knew that I wasn't supposed to go below Market Street.

CNK: Okay.

MLH: I was allowed to go to Market Street, but I was not allowed to go down on Main Street.

CNK: Except if you went down to the place near Robrecht's.

MLH: Well, up on 20th Street, yeah but that was clean district up there, that was business strictly. Big buildings, lots of stores.

CNK: But you didn't know what was going on down on Main Street?

(074) MLH: I had no idea. I just knew it was bad down there. I didn't know why it was bad. But I was allowed to go with my uncle. We'd go clear down to the river with my uncle, because he had a boat, and we had to go with my uncle past main street and down over the railroad tracks, down to the river and get on a boat. And then I got to row, see, my Uncle Elwood used to take us down to row, that's my mother's brother-in-law, and my father's brother, Charlie, had the boat. And then the friend of my dad's who lived at the restaurant, he lived downstairs in the back of the restaurant, and he'd do the sweep up with my dad at night to pay for his rent, Mike Marco, and his brother, Leo. Well, Leo didn't stay around too long, but Mike was there for many years before he went in the service. And so Chris and I would go down and talk to Mike and he'd say, "let's go fishing." And he'd take us down to the river and get my uncle's boat and we'd go fishing.

(084) CNK: What was the river like down there? What was the bank like? How were the boats?

MLH: Well the boats were the little row boats, you know, and it was always a matter of rowing the boat and trying to stay out of the wake from the paddle wheelers, from the steamboats that would come up.

CNK: Were the boats just pulled up on the bank?

MLH: Yeah, they pulled them up on the bank and sometimes we had houseboats down there too, people lived in the houseboats, and they'd just pull up to the bank, yeah, you'd leave it by a houseboat, they'd take care of it overnight, nobody stole your boat. And we had, the river was dirty, it stunk, and there were days here lately that it smelled like the days when I was a kid, like fish, has a fishy smell. And when I smelled that, I was clear up there on top of Bethlehem, up on top the hill. So, where'd the smell come from?

(094) CNK: When you went fishing, what did you do, how did you fish?

MLH: Well, we always had shrimp. We went up to Coleman's and bought a half a pound of green shrimp. I see a question mark over there, like where's Coleman's, right there in the Market House. Yeah, and Colie sold green fish, green shrimp. So we'd buy half a pound of green shrimp take a little piece of it, put it on the hook, toss it in the river, and then hope. We never caught anything, the fish always got to eat, but we never caught any. Might get a twig or something, if you're lucky you got a boot.

(101) CNK: If you did catch a fish, did you ever eat it?

MLH: No, no, we would have had to put it back. Not because it wasn't good to eat, but because we my father and mother wouldn't clean it. And that's the type of thing it was. But my cousin used to go down and catch the fish and he'd come back one day and he said that he caught a twelve inch fish,

and my mother said, "Ed, that's crazy." And he said, "Mary, I've caught bigger than that, I've had twenty-four inch catfish down there." My mother said, "no, I don't believe that." So one day, he was down there fishing, and when he'd catch a fish, there were two colored fellows who would sit there and argue who's going to get it. So Ed never ate the fish himself, he never, anywhere he went fishing, even in the ocean, he never ate the fish himself, he'd give it away.

(109) So these two colored fellows he would always give his fish to one of them. Well, this particular day, he caught one that was twenty-six inches long and he was going to bring it up to my mother to show her and these guys were arguing all the way from the river clear up to Chapline Street, 2506, following him all the way, arguing who's going to get the fish. And Ed finally turned around and he said, "no ones going to get it until I show it to my aunt. No just cool it." So they got up to the house and he showed mother the fish and she said it if she hadn't seen it she never would have believed it. And Ed turned around, and here are these two guys still arguing, and he took the fish and tossed it in the air, so whoever caught it got it. And he went back down to the river to fish again. He only lived down there 2518.

(119) That's the other thing about 2518 for 113 years it was in the family and there was always a family member living in the house. Whether it wasn't the same generation necessarily or the same immediate family, but it was part of the Dueker-Reese-Naley family living in the house. But the Ohio River has big fish. It has catfish that are six feet long and when they put in this new dam up here, a friend of mine, Bill Fredricks, was a skindiver and he went down at the bottom where they were supposed to be doing some work and he came back and he refused to go down anymore unless he had

something comparable to a 30-30 rifle. And they said, “that’s crazy.” And Bill said, “no, there’s six-foot fish down there and I’m six foot tall and when the fish get bigger than me, I’m not going down without protection.” And they laughed and thought this was a big joke, it’s another one of the big fish stories, you know. Well, two other divers went down and came back and said, “yeah, that’s right, that’s what they are, they’re bigger than any of us, and thicker around too.” So, I don’t know what they did about protection, but I know Bill quit the job, because whatever it was, they weren’t going to give it to him.

(135) But then I found out later that down at Marietta they used to send out fishing boats that came up the Ohio and they got a breed of catfish that was six foot long and that was back in the early 1800’s, they used to catch them, and they were still doing this in the late 1800’s before they polluted all the streams.

(139) CNK: What was it like walking down there and crossing the river banks?

MLH: It wasn’t bad.

CNK: Weren’t there alot of trains going down---

MLH: We had a lot, I used to go to sleep with the trains at night. The “woo, woo” of the whistles. I used to lay in bed and listen to them and go to sleep at night to the “clickety clackity, clickety clackity, clickety clack” of the wheels. I enjoyed that, you know, and I missed it terribly after I left here. But the trains ran regularly, they used to run 300 cars. We sat one day and counted coal cars, 300 of them, and they had two engines on the front and one on the back and then when they got down to Benwood and they got over into Bellaire they added another one to the front and another one to the back so they could get up the hill all the way to Zanesville.

(147) But 300 coal cars, filled. And that was regular, I mean this was a normal routine. And then all of a sudden there are none. That was a big mistake pulling out all of the tracks and taking off all the trains from the city. I don't care if they do want a beautiful park down there, they took all the transportation out of here. How are you going to get down to Littleton? No buses run that way anymore. Nobody goes in through Cameron. Nobody goes down to Metz.

(154) CNK: Do you remember the train station over here?

MLH: That one?

CNK: Yeah.

MLH: Oh yeah, sure. We used to go in there every Christmas and see the train set up. They had them over there in the lobby that was on Chapline Street, and they had a great big set up, bigger than this room. And the fellows that had been engineers and the guys that were model engineers they had a big layout, a great big table with all kinds of trains. Not those little tiny ones, you know. They had the big Lionel's that were twelve inches long and they had tunnels, they had lakes, several of them, oh they had them all day long, and you could go in from the 16th of December until about the I believe the 10th of January.

(164) For a full month in there, they would run those trains everyday, all day long. Sure, I got a ticket over there from 1947. And I bought it to go all the way to Mexico. On the Sunshine Special. And I got on the train and went to Pittsburgh, got the Sunshine Special and went from there down to Mexico. Had to fly home, somebody stole my train ticket. But, we used to get on over here and go to all the ball games. You'd get on a train over here and the special train would take us down to Morgantown and it would take us down to Fairmont.

- (173) CNK: And you'd go to ballgames in Morgantown and Fairmont?
- MLH: Sure! We played football! Big time football, boy, I was in the band. You didn't dare not go. And we walked all the way, it was high school football.
- CNK: And you'd go to play other high schools ...
- MLH: And we'd go on the train, depend on how far it was, and they'd have a whole excursion, everybody get on the train and we're going to go. And then you got in line and you walked through all the cars back and forth and back and forth until you got there. Then we had to march on the field, get off the train and march over to the field, time for the ballgame, and then get back on the train and march all the way home.
- (181) That was a lot of walking when you stop and think about it. No wonder I was tired the next day. We had other excursions too. Like grade school, for instance, we used to get on trolley cars down at Webster at 26th street. You go down Chapline Street and got on the trolley car and they would take the whole class all the way up to Warwood. And then we would go up to the filtration plant and get to go all through the filtration plant and then get back on the trolley car and come back to school in time to go home. You paid your nickel, you got to go. That's all it was for a trolley car, you'd pay a nickel and you could go all the way to Warwood.
- (191) Trolley cars at one point here could go all the way to Moundsville, you could go all the way up to Weirton, on the West Virginia side. On the Ohio side, you could go all the way to Steubenville. And we could go all the way over to Little Washington and then up to Pittsburgh or down to Waynesburg on the trolley car. And you get on here, you'd went out to St. Clairsville or you could get on to Bellaire and Shadyside, these were the normal runs. And you went to Mingo Junction and over to Tiltonsville

and you didn't have to trade cars once you got to 10th Street, 10th Street you traded cars, you go on to go across the river or sometimes to go to Warwood you'd catch one coming up to go to Warwood. But most of the exchanging of cars was done over here at 14th Street.

(202) Most of it was at 14th Street. 14th and, 14th Street, between Market and Cha, between Market and Main, they'd come around.

MNK: Was there a terminal?

MLH: No, it wasn't a terminal, it was just where everybody got on and got off. The terminal was up at 10th Street. And the old building that was a terminal is still there. It's just before you go to the Suspension Bridge on the northeast corner. That was a little lunchroom in there. And it was actually a station that you went inside and waited for your car to come. Then you got on it an go north.

(210) CNK: You mean where the Bridge Street Cafe is?

MLH: That's the one, yeah. It's across from the music store, on that side of the street. The building is still there but they've changed the way the things work now. Of course, the parking lot wasn't there. They had another building there and then Marsh Wheeling Stogies was right behind it.

(215) MNK: So there was a lot more people in Wheeling in the 30's and 40's than there are now?

MLH: Well, how does 69,000 strike you in 1945? That was the population in the city of Wheeling. Sixty-nine thousand people here in 1945. 1894 we had 39,000 people here.

MNK: More than ---

MLH: And then in 1994 we have 37,000 people.

CNK: 34,000.

MLH: 34,000? We're down to 34, oh my. We're not going to be a city much longer. You realize that don't you. What is it, 30, 000 they cut us off? Something like that.

(224) CNK: ---

MLH: I forget what the number is, but we're going to lose it.

MNK: Our city hood?

MLH: That's right, we'll be known as a town, we'll no longer be a city.

MNK: Where did all those people walk, when there were 69,000 people. Where'd they put them all?

MLH: Oh we just walked around and shoved each other around a little bit. Everybody was on the sidewalk somewhere. It really wasn't dead. It was a busy town. It wasn't everybody on the sidewalk at once. But when you wanted to see people on the sidewalk, you should have seen it on V-J Day. V-J Day, we had lots of people out. And V-E Day we had lots of people out. When the war was finally over, you were back to front, elbow to elbow, shoulder to shoulder, everybody screaming and hollering, yelling, hugging each other, kissing each other, crying, screaming, all kinds of good stuff. Oh, we had all kinds of celebration then boy. It was over, the fellows were coming home. They had a big day.

(231)

CNK: Where was the celebration?

MLH: Everywhere. It wasn't, we didn't have the civic auditoriums, so everybody could get in there and go have music. No, no, we were standing on the street out here screaming and yelling and hollering and all kinds of good stuff. All, the whole street, all the way up to 10th street you understand, from 16th to 10th street, Market and Main, was packed. Anybody who lived around here they didn't have to park a car, we didn't

have any gasoline to go in your car, you came by bus or trolley. Mostly trolley, because the buses weren't running yet. Yeah.

(248) MNK: Was Wheeling quite a different place when the boys came home? Socially?

MLH: Yeah, because a lot of the fellows came home and left. They found better places in the country to live. So that's where they went. My brother went to California. When he came home, he went to school, in Ohio State, in Columbus. And then after graduated in Columbus, then he went on to California. He had served time out in San Francisco area, loved it, and they went back to the San Francisco area. He bought a home in Palo Alto and then he built his home up in Woodside, up above Palo Alto, up above Stanford University, up on the mountain. And he's lived there ever since 1950. I graduated in 1949 from WVU, in 1950 with my Masters and my brother graduated 1950, in May, from Ohio State. He left and I stayed.

(262) And in 1954, I left and went out to join him for awhile. By this time, we were getting along very well. We quit fighting. When he went to the service, we quit fighting.

(265) CNK: And your husband went with you?

MLH: To California? Yeah, we were married in '49.

CNK: Was that to find jobs? To find employment?

MLH: Yeah, there wasn't anything here. I worked at Wheeling High School right after I came back. He was in the service, he got called back when Truman decided that we're having an emergency and called the fellows in the Marines. And Dan was in the service then and then his outfit went over to the 3rd Battalion, Second Marine Division, went over to Korea. But he didn't go to Korea, he went to the hospital in New York, up in St. Albans. They had built a five star hospital on Babe Ruth's golf course.

And so he was in the naval hospital up there with cancer. But, he had cancer of the thyroid, and they operated on him and sent him home in November. So he didn't go with his outfit.

(277) And then we were here, he went back to WVU for awhile and I was teaching in Wheeling High School. When Hilda Davies died, she'd been the journalism teacher for twenty-five years, and I walked into her job. No notes, no nothing, and I was supposed to put out a newspaper and a yearbook. Shew, that was quit a job. Bill Meuge helped me a whole lot. He used to be the fellow that printed the paper for them. So Bill helped me out. And I stayed, walked in, it was examination time, semester exams, and the first thing that came to my mind is "good God, I haven't been here for a semester, I have no idea what she taught, I have no idea what the kids are studying, what am I supposed to put together for an examination I'm supposed to give today?" "I have five minutes."

(289) And Wertha Steenicker walked in the door and she said, "here Mary Lou, here are your exams." The whole works. Wertha Steenicker had been my English teacher. She was a gem. She was a great woman. I never got a chance to tell her that either. But she was also the head of the English Department. And so she put together all the examinations for everybody. They'd decided what they'd have and she put them all together. When Hilda died then, I got the exams.

(296) But I stayed there until June and then, he was working at Nailers, now Nailers was a company and a half. They started on the flatboats, on the river back in the 1800's. And they had wholesale dry goods. And they'd go up and down the river and sell the dry goods. Well then they finally got a place to park down at the warf and then the next thing that they had was a building, down at 14th and Main. It's gone now, it's a parking lot

for the Civic Center. But they did that in the 50's, they got rid of the building. Well when they got rid of that building, Dan had no place to work and I'd been working in Adena, and I wasn't particularly fond of driving 19 miles each way every day. And he said something like, "wonder if we can get a job in California, yeah, so let's try." So we packed up our stuff and left.

(308) Sixth of September, brr, lovely day. But we went to California, we stayed with my brother until he could get a job. Dan got a job with "Monkey Ward" "Montgomery Ward" that is. And I still couldn't get a job teaching. But in the meantime I was taking a commercial art course and then I got pregnant. He'd gone back to the hospital and I'd gotten pregnant. So, I couldn't get a job. And then when he got out, he was in the hospital mostly for check-up type thing, it wasn't any surgery. He's had thirteen operations on his neck and this was not one of them. But anyhow, he came back and he got a job with some insurance company for awhile and that didn't suit him.

(322) And then became a sheriff's deputy for the Woodside Sheriff's Department and he used to take old man Folger home. The one with the coffee company. Folger's Coffee Company. He would lead him from San Francisco, he'd get out there and blow the siren all the way out to Woodside so that nobody would be on the road when old man Folger came home drunk. He was so drunk, he was lucky he could get anywhere. But as soon as they got him inside his gate at the farm, then they didn't have to worry about him anymore. And one night they got out there blowing the sirens, he and three other guys, so that they'd clear the highway before he gets there, he got up to the gate, and one of the other cars opened the gate and he went through and went right off the road. He made it that far, but

they didn't have to worry about him because his own people would take care of him there.

(335) But they had a place called Peanut Farm. And one group would meet him at the Peanut Farm and then they'd go on down. Well, Dan had the night duty and then in the morning the first thing he had to do was to drive down to the school and direct the traffic and make sure that Abigail Frazier, er Abigail Folger got to school. Abigail Folger, you know who that is.

CNK: The---

MLH: She's the one who was executed by Charles Manson's group. The one who was beastily, savagely killed with Polanski's wife.

MNK: So, how long did you stay in California?

(349) MLH: Fifteen years. We bought a home then after that. We had lived in Palo Alto and then we bought a home in San Jose and moved down there. And my baby was born in Oakland and then we took Danny, he was a week old, we took him to the new house, in San Jose. We were there for Christmas. We stayed for fifteen years and two more children. And then we came home. But by that time he was working for Sears and Roebuck and was transferred from California to the Wheeling store.

(356) MNK: So was he looking for that transfer?

MLH: Yeah, he asked for that transfer so we could come home.

MNK: Why? Why did you want to come home?

MLH: Well, my parents were old, to start with, they were elderly and my father was sick and so was my mother. My mother had had kidney operation, she was diabetic, severe diabetic, and she had a severe heart condition. My father had had angina since World War I when he carried the stretchers for Camp Meade. He worked twenty-four hours a day over

there. He spent twelve hours cooking and twelve hours carrying stretchers and if he got any sleep, we never found out.

(364) But he had angina as a result. So when my dad's heart began to kick up and he developed diabetes also in old age and he had already had a broken hip so they weren't coming to visit us anymore, we decided to move in with them. So we moved back here. We didn't move in with them literally, but we did move back here and I put my two kids in school up at Sherrard because that's where we bought the house and I went to work full-time. Dan said he wanted to take a year off, I said, "fine." So, that's the first time I ever had a job offered to me.

(375) I went over to put my two kids in, the older two kids in school, because the baby was only a year and a half old, and the principal said, "what did you do in California?" I said, "well, I'm a school teacher." She said, "what do you teach?" I said, "Spanish." And she said, "swell, how would you like to have a job?" I said, "do you mean that?" She said, "yeah." I said, "well, that would be fine with me." And she said, "what kind of hours to you want?" And I'm thinking "school teacher, you're asking me what kind of hours do I want." That just didn't sound quite right. That's when I thought she was pulling my leg. She said, "well you can have one hour or you can have a half a day or you can go for a whole day. What's your choice." I said, "you have a French teacher." She said, "yeah, but she's retiring. So you won't want to teach one hour, half a day or a whole day?" I said, "well, we kind of like to eat, so how about a whole day?" And she said, "fine, set up your own Spanish department, order your books." So I got one Spanish class and the rest of them were all English. That's fine, I didn't mind that, I'd been doing that for quite a while. But anyhow, I took the job and I stayed twenty years.

(394) MNK: This was in the mid '60's when you thought about coming back?

MLH: '69. In '69, I got the job in '70. I sent the kids to school the first year. Dan decided after being retired for three months that he had had it. He was, he's kind of antsy to start with, and well, he want to something he wanted to do all his whole life long. And, God help me I don't know why, but he wanted to be a prison guard. So he went down and applied at the prison and got himself a job at the Moundsville Penitentiary. Wasn't that exciting! Four years. Yeah, so anyhow, I taught school and he went to the prison, the two older kids went to school, the youngest one went to the neighbor for babysitting. Then when he was three years old, Kings Daughters would take him. So I bring him down here at seven o'clock in the morning, put him in Kings Daughters and rush back up to be in Sherrard by eight. Then Dan would pick him up in the afternoon because his shift was finished something like two o'clock or something. So he'd come down here about two thirty, by the time he got up here to pick up the kid to take him home. Why anybody would want to be a prison guard, I don't know. But he did. And he was very good at it.

(418) He rode the rails. He rode the car, shackled, prisoners shackled to the seat, shackled to the feet, shackled to the hands. But he grew up out in Woodsdale area. He was "out the Pike" that's what they always called it "out the Pike." So out in that area, he knew about Triadelphia, Junior High School, Senior High School, and all the people that lived out there. In fact, he could tell you every house on every block of everybody, their names and everything, I can't.

(428) MNK: What part of Woodsdale.

MLH: He lived on Poplar Avenue. And he knew Hopkins, Stu Hopkins, well.

MNK: What had happened to Wheeling while you were gone, in the fifteen years you were away?

MLH: Well, in the fifteen years I was gone, they changed my neighborhood completely. We had been back and forth every two years, we'd come home. We'd save our money and then come back, we drove. And then toward the end, we started to fly.

(438) MNK: So, you were aware of these changes.

MLH: Yeah, we were aware of the changes, in fact, I made movies at one point so that my kids would get a chance to see the city as I knew the city.

MNK: Oh yeah, you still got those?

MLH: Yeah, but the big deal with this was it was South Wheeling, mostly, and it was from California to Wheeling and from Wheeling to Fairmont and back. You can get seasick unless you take a Dramamine. But the whole thing, we watched the change, we watched them tear down the relative's home across the street. And at one point we were here when they were going to tear down Steele's house, and Weisner's house down on the corner, 26th and Chapline. And "oh, their going to do all this, and they're going to do it, and in a month they're going to have the whole thing level and ready to go." So, okay, we watched them, we were here for a week at that time, they put the ball on the chain, they decided to pull out the pillars in the back, from the alley, and they hit the pillars and they're waiting for the house to fall down. Nothing happened. They went through and took out a second row of pillars, and waited for the house to fall down, and nothing happened. They went through and took out the third line, sure it's going to happen. Nothing happened. Then they decided they'd start on Nolte's house up on the other end. So they took that crane and ball clear up the other end and thought, "well, we'll just go through the roof."

(463) Well, that was great, that's a beautiful idea. They pulled the ball up, clear up to the top of the crane and let it drop, and it bounced, twice. And they pulled it back up and moved it over a little bit and they dropped the ball, and it bounced twice. And they pulled it back up and decided, "it's not going to go through the roof." They did that one twice, see that's pretty good, they got that smart. So they decided, "well, we'll swing it through the wall. We'll get them, we swing it through the wall." So they backed up and they swung the thing up against the wall. And I think a little bit of dust rose. And they backed up and they hit it again, nothing happened. And they hit a third time and nothing happened. So they decided that it wasn't going to come down that way, they would have to go back and find out what happened.

(479) Well, when they went back down to Steele and Weisner's house they found out that the houses were connected where the sidewalk is, the fourth line was connected interlaced somehow and it wasn't keeping the building to fall down. You know, the building is still standing. The only thing gone are the pillars from the basement, nothing is falling. And when they went back up to Nolte's and checked it out, they had what my dad used to call "tin roof" they weren't tin, they're steel plates, sheet steel, they bounce, the ball didn't go through, it didn't even shake the nails loose. And when they went through the side, they decided they're going to have to take this thing down with a hammer and a chisel and find out **why**. Three bricks interlaced! Did you ever see three bricks interlaced? There's no way you're going to hit them with a ball to pull them down. They can go through a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado and still be standing. They were meant to stand, you know. And, so it took them a month to pull down one building. They did manage to get down Bott's house,

because their house was wood, and they did manage to pull down  
Bartollis' house because it was wood.

(504) MNK: All that was where the post office is?

MLH: Yeah, but all those houses were brick, three-interlaced.

MNK: What was that like for you watching this?

MLH: It was hilarious. It was hilarious. I stood there and laughed and laughed and laughed. Because the guy that was going to take it down was so cocky about taking everything down. I knew he wasn't going to make it. I hated to see it go, because the houses were, three of them, were beautiful old homes. But there's nothing I could do about it, I knew that. The people had already been forced to move, old man Weisner died. In fact, Weisner was in the hospital with my father and my dad went to Peterson, and he died six months later, and Weisner died shortly before my dad, and my dad used to say he's not leaving the sixth ward, he's not leaving 26th street, urban renewal's not going to get his home, he don't care, they'll bury them in the basement. And my dad, "you know that's not going to happen, I'm not leaving, I'll just dig a hole in the basement and I'll stay." So, okay, we'll dig a hole in the basement. Of course, my father died at Peterson. But they didn't take his house, they just worried him to death. And that wasn't fair.

(535) But the other people on the other side of the street moved out, well when my dad went to Peterson, he's not going to leave the sixth ward, and I told him one day I put him in the chair, I said, "pop let's go for a ride." He said, "where are you going?" I said, "we're going through the sixth ward." He said, "you mean, we're going down Chapline Street." And I said, "well, close. Just hold on, we'll go for a ride." And I took him next door and he met Tessie Lapakis, who was a neighbor two doors down and

we went down another one and he met Chris Jebbia's wife was in there. Then on the other side of the hall was Alma Horner, whom he had grown up with, and then two doors down was the painter's wife, and I don't remember her name, but the whole sixth ward was there, all his neighbors were in the hospital with him.

MNK: Did people call neighborhoods by their wards?

MLH: You were from the bloody sixth ward, that was everything from 24th street down to 30th.

MNK: Why was it called the Bloody Sixth Ward?

MLH: Because that's what it was. When you're going to have a fight, you usually ended up with blood.

(554) MNK: Your ... were fighting ...?

MLH: I have no idea why it was called the bloody sixth, but that's what my dad always called it, so it had to be when my dad was growing up, that it was called that. And the eighth ward was from 30th street down to 48th and that was Ritchie district.

MNK: And did that have a nickname?

MLH: I don't know. I really don't know what that one was. And then the Third Ward was up here. But the Fifth Ward was from the Creek down to 24th street, that was the Fifth Ward.

MNK: The Market used to be known at times as the Fifth Ward Market.

(564) MLH: Yeah, the Fifth Ward Market, that's right. And then, on this side, you had the Fourth Ward, in this area, the Third Ward was out toward the Creek on the other side of possibly Jacob, maybe Wood, but out in that area. And then Second Ward was up farther from, I don't know for sure where the break was whether it was 12th street or 14th street up to about 9th and

then from 9th north was First Ward. Seventh Ward was, yeah, you got Five and Seven on the Island, Five and Six and Seven and Eight.

(577) MNK: ....

MLH: Yeah.

MNK: We were talking about the different Wards.

MLH: It always struck me as funny that you've got the Fifth Ward starting at the Creek and the Sixth Ward starts at 24th Street, and then instead of going the Seventh Ward at 38th or 30th Street, they cross the river and to the Island, which is Seventh Ward, and then they came back and put in Eight Ward, which is also the Ritchie district. But, you see, and then they called them after schools, Ritchie District was after the school, Ritchie School, and then you had Webster School was the Sixth Ward, and you had

MNK: And that was your school?

(590) MLH: That's my school, yeah. And then you had Center School was the Fifth Ward. Then you had Clay School out here was the Third Ward, I don't know what school was in the Fourth Ward, but as you go up north, the First Ward was Washington, oh that was a lovely old building, they warned people not to walk in there one day, because every time a truck goes by the building goes back and forth, it was ready to fall down. So they built a new school which they are now going to tear down. I don't know what the other school was, there was one in each one of the Wards.

MNK: Madison.

(603) MLH: Madison was the one from the Seventh Ward yeah, it's still there, they're going to keep that one. Ritchie they're going to keep, it's in pretty good shape.

MNK: Tell me some of the other changes that occurred that you noticed while you were away from it in California.

MLH: Well, besides the buildings being torn down, they tore down the church over here, Second Pres, and they built a parking lot, and then they tore down some things up in North Wheeling and they built the, er 10th street, and they built the parking lot. And then they tore down the parish house over here at St. John's and they built a parking lot, because they needed it to connect the hospital. They tore down several buildings that they've used for parking lots, but they moved people out of town and there was no place for them to move. There was nothing in town. They were used to a neighborhood where they had a grocery store and a school and they wanted to stay that way.

(628) But urban renewal came through and tore down their homes and tore down their schools and put in parking lots and put in freeways. And nothing, and businesses left. They didn't bring businesses in. Businesses are still going, they started then, they're still going. People don't have a job, they leave. The, I'm not saying that air pollution is bad, but I remember coming home from college and the bus stop was right over here on 17th Street, it's now a light store, I can't think of the name.

MNK: Electrical Contractor's.

MLH: Electrical Contractor's, right down there on the creek. And I remember getting off that bus and there were flakes of soot the size of a half a dollar to a quarter coming down in the air. Well, that wasn't bad, really. We had that all my life, we had that and oh I was glad to see that soot coming down. Because to me that meant I was home. And I walked home with the soot. I was one of those kids that could take a bath on a summer day and walk out the front doors, step on the front porch and be black. You know, little pig pen. That's me. I just drew the dirt.

(653) And my cousin could come across the street in her little polky dot dress and still be beautiful, clean, and the dress would be shiny bright, and I hadn't touched anything yet and I was filthy dirty. I never understood that, still don't to this day. But that soot meant to me that I was home. And also it means people are working. The foundry's were working, were using coal for their fuel. After World War II they started to go to gas and there was less coal being used up here and more electricity. People came home and some of the plants that they had been in were now closed, they couldn't get jobs again. So they left to find a better place to live, some place to work. And it just kept on going, it never got any better. And we're not getting any better. You know, the irony of the whole business, they want this to be a Victorian tour town yet all the things that were Victorian, except for a few houses, they're tearing out. Now I know this sounds ficious, and I don't mean it to be that way, the railroad was in the Victorian period and this was the hub of the world, right here.

(683) Any transportation, any place you wanted to go, right here, was the stop off point. It all went through Wheeling. North, South, East or West or diagonals. All the roads, all the trains, all the boats, all the buses, everything went through Wheeling. But they can't do it anymore. We've changed to boats, now we're trying to put the steamers back on because that's Victorian, they'd like to have a boat ride once in a while. The train tracks that came through here that we could have put people on to take a train ride, (end of Side A)

## Side B

MNK: You could ride out to Triadelphia on the train?

MLH: You could ride on, well we could have done that, we could have had train rides, go from here out to Elm Grove even and back. We also could have

had, but they did, the trains went all the way to Little Washington and then trains switch tracks and go to Pittsburgh. But we can't do that now. People could take a train from here and go to Cameron and down to Littleton, go all the way to Fairmont, to Clarksburg, to Charleston and Grafton, Grafton was a big station. But we can't do that anymore. They could take a train and go from here down the river to Huntington and beyond, but we can't do that anymore. We could take it from here and go north on the river to connect with Steubenville and Weirton and Follansbee and New Cumberland, clear up around the corner and then back over into Pittsburgh. That's the way I came home from Mexico on the Pennsylvania railroad coming down the river line. You can't do that anymore.

(012) The trolley cars that we used to use in town, and they put them, they were glad to have them on the track because they saved gas and rubber during the war. You know, we didn't want those lines, the trolley lines across the top. So they pulled them all out. They could have buried them, but they didn't. Took out the trolley tracks because people get their cars stuck in them. So we lost that. But there are cities like San Francisco uses the trolley car and has been for a hundred years and still doing it. Going up and down the hill, up to the top of the mark and it's great sport, everybody rides it. Even help push it and turn it around. And you've got the trains running up there in Pittsburgh, they're running them back and forth for short distance and they've got trollys running up there, they've got the incline up there. We had an incline here, but they pulled it down, I don't understand these people. Maybe I've been away too long.

(024) I came back here and I asked a neighbor when we lived up at Sherrard I said about something that was going on, progress. And he said, "we don't

want any progress, we're satisfied with what we've got." And I forget what the business was, we don't want them in here. And he looked me straight in the eye and he said, "we don't need Californian people coming in here and telling us West Virginians what to do." And I lost my cool. I had his kids in my class in school. When I lost my cool, I told him, I said, "I want you to know sir that I was born and reared at 25th and Chapline Street, I went to Webster School, I graduated from Wheeling High School, and I've graduated from WVU twice, and I've taught in Wheeling, and there was no place for me to work here, my father was in business here for one generation, my grandfather for one, and my great-grandfather for one, and they all built a church and don't tell me I'm not a West Virginian." Boy, I was mad at him. He satisfied with status quo, he's not working now. His job closed down. But this is the attitude that we're satisfied with what we've got, and we've got nothing. We've lost it all. We're getting close to it. I'm glad, my brother fought for that building over there.

(041) They weren't going to let a Californian to tell them what to do. He told them how to build Route 2, he suggested where they should build Route 2 and they said, "we don't want to hear anything from California." But they built it where he told them, were he suggested it would be a good idea. They don't want anything to do with Californian's ideas, he told them, he said, "if you lose that building, you're losing a gem." He said, "that's the best building in town." He went over and checked it out before he said anything, structurally sound, only a few changes need to be made.

(048) MNK: Which building are referring to?

MLH: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Building right there, that station. And they saved it, they turned it into the College. But we don't want a Californian telling us what to do. He went up and told them about building a lodge up

at Oglebay. He said, "Wilson Lodge, this would be a beautiful place to build the lodge." And suggested several things the way they could do it, we don't want a Californian telling us what to do. What did they hire? California, but it wasn't George. Which was a shame, because George is a very well qualified architect. He built the hospital over in Saudi Arabia, he built Stanford Hospital and the Linear Accelerator, he built all the business buildings on top of the Linear Accelerator which is two miles long, he built the fountain that's in front of the hospital, he's built four churches out there, he has built two schools, he's a very well qualified architect, but we don't want a Californian telling us what to do, but Saudi Arabia wanted him to build their hospital, and the Germans paid for it, and the Koreans did the work, and the Syrians from Turkey were the ones, the Turks were the ones who were the overseers. Saudi Arabia had the bank, and we're talking about a man whose putting out a million dollar payroll every month, but he's not qualified to do anything in his own home town.

(066) He was good enough to fight for them though, sit on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean for a month, submarine, he was good enough for that. I don't understand these people.

(069) MNK: Do you think they had been lied to, that progress was inevitable, and destroying these neighborhoods was inevitable, and pulling up the tracks, was that was all towards progress, is that what they had in mind?

MLH: I have no idea, unless they think that that was progress. Yeah, maybe they thought that was progress. Now, they want to back up, we've backed up pretty good. Let's see, about 1880, sound about right, population 35,000, 1880. We're doing great.

MNK: If you could...what do you...---

(078) MLH: Visualize the city of Wheeling?

MNK: What to do know in terms of this whole heritage area, developing the whole waterfront for example, that sort of thing, what, how would you, if you were the planner, where would you go?

MLH: Well, it looks to me like the planners have gone back to the beginning. To set up a park that was here in the 1800's. I don't agree with everything that went on from 1800 on through 1950. I don't agree with everything that they did as far as being the buildings, and polluting the river. I don't believe in polluting the river, I don't think they should have been allowed to do that. I think they should have taken several precautions, and I'm glad they cleaned it up. I can remember when we came back here after being gone for a couple years and they started, well they started to clean detergent plants in Pittsburgh, was leaving the detergents wastes out into the river.

(089) They came down one day and they found several hundred thousand fish laying along the beach dead. And that was from the detergent plants and they had a foam riding down the river, a lovely white foam about a mile and a half to two miles long, coming down the river. But, we came home for a visit and well in fact, it might have been '54 just before we left here, because we had been on tour through the country, and came back, we hit every state in the United States, we came back and got a letter from the hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, Dan was supposed to show up there. So, we had driven for twenty-four hours, took fifteen, took four hours to sleep, and then got back in the car and went to Bethesda.

(099) And it was so hot, it was over a hundred degrees in the car, and were wearing nylon, because we didn't have time to change clothes. We got back to Wheeling about three days later and my dad had drawn a gallon of water and had it sitting up on the bar for twenty-four hours. And he said,

“I want you to see this.” I’ll tell you what, if you had seen that before, you wouldn’t drink it. Because in the gallon jug, the first two inches was foam, the next one inch was clear, the next inch was getting a little darker and all the way down to the bottom till it got brown and the bottom got black. It was muck, black goo. And that’s coming, I think that was ‘54. But it was after they had the detergent plants going up there in Pittsburgh and they were putting it out. Putting the waste in the river. But that muck in the bottom showed us what our pipes were like and what kind of water we’re getting. And within a couple of months after that, they started replacing pipes, because the pipes were breaking.

(114) The ones there where we lived at 2518, they had to tear up the street and tear up the pipes all the way back into our water and they showed us what was inside the pipes. We’re talking water pipes that were about four inches in diameter or five and of that, you had you had a width of one little finger for the water to come through. The rest of it over the hundred years had accumulated calcium deposit, lime deposit, crud deposits, and it was that’s all the water, that’s all the hole that was left, and if it hadn’t been for that, we’d have had leaky pipes before. But as it was, you were just getting all the garbage crud coming through. South Wheeling’s built on a sand bar to start with, so, being built on a sand bar, of course it’s all undermined, all kind of rat holes, so at different times if a flood comes up you get it through the rat holes.

(126) And the sewer rats every now and then you have a problem with, but not, I don't know if they have that kind of problem now, we did when we lived down there.

(128) MNK: What were you saying to me last night.

MLH: Oh yeah, do a dutch. When the weather was bad, back in the very early days, I assumed it was when my father was a kid. My father would be 100 years old. But, they used to say about people on a rainy, dismal, dark, dreary day with lightning and thunder about doing a “dutch act.” And somebody else would say, “don't bring the rope” or “hide the rope.” And the reason for this was that were so many people who would commit suicide on days like that in the German community. And I really don't know why they would commit suicide, but I can realize that it can be a very depressing period of time for them, because I know in translating German records, death records, that one particular family within one month's time lost five children.

(139) And then lost the father, to a thing called scarlet fever. And then another time when you start reading 1868 coming through, I was reading summer fever and tooth fever, and it began to bother me because a three-day old baby doesn't have tooth fever, they're not cutting teeth. And then a three-month old baby still is not cutting teeth, but they were dying of tooth fever. So I checked with a nurse friend of mine and she said that what they're doing is dying from the symptoms that would be, first of all tooth fever would be a high fever, and then beginning to salivating they swallow more of the saliva, which creates gas in the stomach, which there in turn creates diarrhea, the diarrhea creates dehydration, and there was no way that they could again rehydrate the baby, so the babies would die. And the other one was collorah, but that was later.

(152) But the summer fever was the one that bothered me. Now, older children, maybe a year old, were having summer fever. So, they had twelve of them within two months, July and August. And I began to get real curious about this because twelve kids dying in one church in two months of

summer fever what is summer fever. So I went up to the county courthouse and looked at the record, and it said that they had twelve or fourteen kids that they knew of in the city who died of summer fever. But they didn't know how many were buried at Greenwood, because Greenwood at that time was a private cemetery. So I got real curious about this and went back to the old newspapers for that period of time and it turns out that they gave the estimates of how many people died during those two months because of very little rain, very hot summer, no health inspector, and of course if you know in 1868, we didn't have automobiles, we had horses, cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, ducks, goose, living in your area as well as your dogs and your cats. And nobody cleaning up anything.

(170) You had outhouses, or privies, you did not have inside plumbing, and in this case, down in that end of town, we also had swamp area, and so it would be dry and then if any rain would come it would wash this dirt out, right? But in the meantime, it's a hot, dry summer, lots of sticky, lots of dirt, filth, and lots of bugs. And the kids were dying of summer fever, which means the water wasn't clean either. So, ..... (end of Side B. There's more tape, but no more conversation.)