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# Beatrice Bodiker interview for Wright State University Oral History Course 685

Elaine Wallace

Beatrice Bodiker

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Marjorie McLellan  
Oral History 685  
Interview #1

Elaine Wallace  
February 8, 2003

*This is a summary of a taped interview with Bea Bodiger, my next door neighbor, for Oral History 685 with Dr. Marjorie McLellan*

### **Childhood In WWII**

I was born here in Sidney, Ohio in '32, 1932, and I had a good family life. My parents were excellent people in raising five of us--four girls and a boy. I live close to where my family home was, and I think what I remember most in the beginning of my life was the starting of the Second World War.[in America]

I remember it was on a Sunday. It was December, and my mother had gone down to the Presbyterian Church to decorate for the Christmas holidays, and my father said he would stay at home with me while she was gone. Back at that time we just had a floor-model radio-I remember that real well, and I remember my dad sitting in a chair right in front of that radio, and I thought it was so strange that he was listening to Carlton Bourne that was a newscaster on radio, because he never did his program until Sunday evening, and it was early Sunday afternoon. My dad never moved, and if I'd ask him a question, he would say 'I'll get to you later'.

Well, pretty soon it came time to go after my mother down at the church, so he took me along, and when he went in he told all the women in the church, he said 'Today is not a good day'. I remember him saying that, and my mother says 'Why, what's the problem?' He says 'Well, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii', and he says 'That is not good'. So that stuck with me.

He (*my father*) was an automobile mechanic, and did a lot of electrical work too; fixed a lot of radios; of course in that time, the cars weren't like they are today. After that happened, [the outbreak of war] a lot of things changed in town. I remember them taking all the cannons and cannon balls; anything in the city that was made of metal they collected in order to start making weapons. I lived within a block of the Monarch--the Monarch was a machine and tool company, and it was small at that time. I remember the shop being not very big, and as the war kept progressing, they started tearing down houses in a two-block radius on the south side of them, and they started building a bigger plant. And I remember that so well, because I used to go down and watch the contractors put up steel beams, and would pitch up their—I don't know—their nuggets (*rivets?*) or whatever they used, to put a steel beam together.

I remember my mother going to the grade school and she was issued rationing books. And they had stamps in where you were rationed on sugar and flour and lots of food staple items—I remember her getting those. Then, I was able to participate too. I could buy a stamp every week I was in school to put in a book that ended up being a United States War Bond. It was a twenty-five dollar war bond, and I was so thrilled because I was helping out my country and my government by buying this little stamp every week to put in this book. Those things really stick to you!

I remember my mother crocheting strips of bandages out of crochet cotton-- they would crochet yards after yards of this, and I watched her do that. She knitted scarves, gloves, hats, anything that the military could use, and she did this through the Red Cross.

The Monarch finally finished their building, it was really big, and they hired as many men as was available, and made lathes that would make guns or whatever was needed in the war weapons area; it just seemed like it was impossible for them to do what they were doing, but they did, you know, even though a lot of men were older men that had to work in the shop because the young ones were gone. I had only one brother and he went to war. And I just grew up in that neighborhood watching things advance.

The third ward school building had some ground in back of them that came along the B&O Railroad track over here, and of course it went down a hill until you came to the tracks. We, as children, were on recess and we would go and stand at that fence and watch the different types of trains go through. We'd watch them that had a lot of military men on, and wave and holler at them, you know, and then we watched the trains that had-Oh! Trucks and cannons and tanks, and you name it, was on these flatbeds that went through too, and it was fascinating, really, really fascinating.

Radio was the only thing that we had for information as to what was going on, because at that time we didn't have television.

My brother was drafted into the army, and he went to Fort Lewis, Washington for his training, and he was shipped out from there and he ended up in India, and he worked on a monarch lathe in India, and produced guns over there. That's where he was shipped to, but a lot of his buddies he had was involved in the Normandy Invasion.

During that time, my dad did go to work for the Monarch, because he was an electrician, and he wired the panels of these lathes that they made and shipped out. And that's what he did, day in and day out. He worked sometimes seven days a week and just kept up with it. He did a lot of things that I never thought would ever come about and it did. My mom worried! Worried about the son, and then naturally worried about my dad working so many long hours, and doing what he did for the Monarch. But it all came to an end, and to a good ending. My brother (*Bob*) came back, and things was good with him, and my dad was able then to change to another job.

Bob is still alive, and he is seventy-eight years old, he is older than I am. He lives in Troy, and he was at one time a City Manager for Troy, so he's been up there in the city offices, but he's now retired.

### **Graduation, Marriage, and the Korean War**

I was in the sixth grade when the war (*WWII*) ended, and I went into Junior High. So I finished my High School years and I graduated in '51. I graduated on a Thursday, and the next day I went to work for the Monarch. (*laughter*) I went

immediately to work, and I was a Payroll Master to twenty-two hundred men-worked on payroll for that many people.

I worked for them for three years, and then I met my husband. He was drafted for the Korean War, but he enlisted into the Navy; he went into the Navy, and I went west, and I spent my time on the West Coast.

## California

I lived in Coronado, and I lived in San Diego, and then I went up the coast and I lived in Hunter's Point in San Francisco where the dry-dock is for big Navy ships. Work was very hard to find out there, and of course I had a child while I was out there, I had my oldest boy, and so I didn't work. And of course, they hire a lot of Mexican people on the coastline, that's because they can get them as cheap labor, so it was very hard to get a job. And so I didn't put a whole lot of effort behind it to do it.

But I got along fine, and was able to go places and see different things. And of course, when you're a military person, you're in a big family. Everybody takes care of each other when the men are gone. So, my biggest thrill I think in being on the West Coast, was when I was able to meet my husband--he was on a Carrier, and he came back from fifteen months overseas, and I got to meet the ship.

During the Korean War they spent many months over; they didn't do it six months at a time, it was always a fifteen-month stretch.

Now Coronado was beautiful at that time. It's the island, North Island off San Diego, and you just all live together, all Navy families live together, and we just did everything together. And we was right there when the men would come in from sea, so it was not far for them to get to wherever we were at. San Diego at that time was very Spanish--the homes and all, and I had gone back twenty-five years after I had been there, and it was completely changed.

More modern! Houses and apartments torn down, and six, eight lane highways going through it. So really, where I lived no longer existed, it was gone. I didn't really get to see much of anything that I remembered the most. And I used to go back and forth on the ferry from Coronado to San Diego. I used to push my oldest son Art in the stroller, and I'd go on the ferry, and go up a couple of levels, and I'd stand and talk to the captain of the ferry--I enjoyed that. *(laughter)* It is just things, you know that you don't get in life unless you actually live them. And that was a great thing. So, when I went back in twenty-five years, now they've got a big old bridge that goes across to the Island, and they didn't have that when I lived there, you had to take the ferry.

I was still living on the West Coast, but I had gone up to Hunter's Point in San Francisco, because they went into dry-dock, and that's where he got his discharge from was up there. So, we left San Francisco for Dayton.

We moved in with my mother and dad for a few weeks until we were able to find a place to live, and was able to rent a nice home here in Sidney for a while until we finally bought the home. And my husband, he started out working for a bread company, and then he switched to Mack Truck Company which made fire trucks here

in town; he worked for them for a while, and then he worked for Lockharts here in town, and he helped install furnaces, air conditioning-things like that. Then I talked him into getting involved in taking the Civil Service exam for the Post Office, and he took that and passed it and they hired him, and he worked for them for twenty-five years as a postal clerk until he died.

He died in eighty-three, and I was only fifty-one when he died, he was fifty-three. But he died of a massive heart attack, and he died on the job. So, he's been gone now almost twenty years.

### **Back In the Job Market**

I only worked before I married him, (*husband*) and then after that I didn't work at all. After he died I had to go back in the working field because I had six children, I had three girls, and three boys, and I still had a fourteen-year old son to raise. And I got a job, and '83 was a hard time to get work. The Dietary department at the hospital, Wilson Memorial, had a opening doing utility work, and when he (*my husband*) died in the hospital, they told me about the job posted on the wall.

So I went and talked to Connie Mikesell that was Head Dietician of the department, and I went and talked to her and she hired me, because she says 'we have an awful time trying to find somebody that will do utility work', because that's harder work than sometimes a cook or one of the others have. So she hired me, and I worked thirteen and a half years at Wilson. And that's how I ended up here. (*laughter*)

And the work, yes, it was hard, you were busy, you were runnin', you had *time* to meet. But I still had that contact with people. So my social life over there was great. 'Cause there was people from outside, as well as people I worked with. So I enjoyed my work, yes.

I lived on Forest, which was a block away from my parents' home that they used to have, and I had lived there for thirty years. That was where I raised all my kids!

I've got eight grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren, and I enjoy all of them. (*laughter*) Everybody says, 'you had six kids, and that's all the grandchildren you got?' I says, 'I'm not gonna tell 'em how to have 'em, if there's no more there's no more. (*laughter*) They're almost all grown now, they grow up fast.

### **Family**

My middle daughter lives within two blocks of me, over here. That's Mary. Then I have an older daughter that lives down on Norwood, and she works for Upper Valley Hospital. She's a CPA, and a financial-I don't know- financial something for payroll and all that kind of stuff, she's worked for them fifteen years I think. Then, my youngest one was a boy, and right after high school he went into military service, and he spent four years in the army. Then He got out and came home, and he is a 'computer nut', (*laughter*) that's all I can call him-a 'computer nut'. He's in the science area of computers. He can fix 'em as well as run 'em, or whatever, you know. Right now he's working for the Montgomery County, in Dayton. He fixes

their computers, and sets them up for the court system, and then he works for the Green County also, and does the same thing for them.

And now, my middle son is the RN, and he's a Registered Nurse at Wilson in the ER, and he's been there now four full years. He's involved in other things outside the hospital that he goes down to Dayton for; he joined a group where they can go out on any kind of catastrophe, you know, and do medical work.

I can't tell you what he called it, but it is in that area, they can call on him anytime, but Wilson would have to release him to go.

He was put on the group that was to go to the Olympics, and spend two full weeks there in case, you know, anything tragic would happen. They cancelled out on the one's that were appointed, only five could go in the state of Ohio, but the trip was cancelled because they was able to use a group that had just finished in New York City on the 9-11 tragedy, and so they were already experienced, and packed and ready to go so they just simply took them on out to the Olympics, so my son didn't get to go. He wanted to go real bad, but he didn't get to go-the five from Ohio didn't get to go.

Then my oldest son worked for a long time at Rockwell out of California, he had spent six years in the navy and was a submarine man, and worked on computers on a submarine. That's how Rockwell had gotten in connection with him, is because some men had to go on his submarine to do some work, and they got to talking to him, and told him to come to Rockwell, they would like to interview him further. So, he took his discharge and did go to Rockwell and got a job with them, and that was all outer-space work that he did.

He even got to go on a shuttle in Florida. Whatever he did in his field, you know, he had to go on the shuttle for, so he did get to go in and see everything they had in it, and how the seating arrangement and everything was.

Oh! And he would have given anything if it would have just gone on out. He was more interested in outer space than anybody I ever knew.

He decided he would change his field, and go to another government contract of doing something else. Well he did, and this company was trying to build a mini-tank, and I said 'why a mini-tank?' and he said 'well they want to build it so all the technology, and everything inside of it, all you have to do is punch keys. The big tanks they build in Lima up here are too big and heavy to put on the cargo planes, to take them around the world. So they have to be shipped by boat, and they want one they can fly out in those cargo planes'.

I have not asked him since, what happened to the mini-tank, I don't know! (*much laughter*)

The youngest, Caroline, on works for JIC, which is a Mother plant to Honda at Marysville. So she's a welder, and she lifts fifty pound parts, and I don't know how she does it, but it is great laboring work. I don't look for her to change as she's been with them a long time, working with Japanese and locals.

Now my middle girl Mary was an automobile mechanic, of all things. But that's what she loved, and went to JVS for her training, and did real well. When she goes any place and needs mechanical work on her car, she's standing right there telling them guys what they have to do. (*laughter*) They have gotten used to her doing this,

because she knows what she's talking about. But then sickness took her, and she has MS, which is giving her a rough time. She has one girl.

~~My oldest girl, Anna, has a boy and a girl, and works full time at Upper Valley. (Hospital) I would call her a Director of the Department of Finance and Payroll. She handles all the payroll for a little over four thousand employees.~~

In '97 I had gotten sick, and developed pneumonia. I was in hospital for five full days; they got me over the pneumonia, but I showed up with diabetes. I had been borderline for a few years, but then it went the other way.

The only time I had problems again was when I had shingles, and that took six months to get over. I am still taking Vitamin B Complex, which controls a lot of the muscle and nerve endings, because they said shingles could return, because I'd had them real bad.

The doctor would like to put me on insulin, but I want a little more time to see if we can't make the medicine work. Otherwise, I feel fine.

Marjorie McLellan  
Oral History 685  
Interview #1

Elaine Wallace  
February 8, 2003

### A Taped Interview with Bea Bodiger

I am interviewing my next-door neighbor Bea Bodiger for my Oral History Class with Dr. Marjorie McLellan. I am not sure what he is going to talk about, but I am sure it will be interesting.

Elaine. Bea, where were you born?

002 Bea. I was born here in Sidney, Ohio in '32, 1932, and I had a good family life. My parents were excellent people in raising five of us--four girls and a boy. I live close to where my family home was, and I think what I remember most in the beginning of my life was the starting of the Second World War [in America]

Elaine. What do you remember about that day?

019 Bea. I remember it was on a Sunday. It was December, and my mother had gone down to the Presbyterian Church to decorate for the Christmas holidays, and my father said he would stay at home with me while she was gone. Back at that time we just had a floor-model radio-I remember that real well, and I remember my dad sitting in a chair right in front of that radio, and I thought it was so strange that he was listening to Carlton Bourne that was a newscaster on radio, because he never did his program until Sunday evening, and it was early Sunday afternoon. My dad never moved, and if I'd ask him a question, he would say 'I'll get to you later'.

044 Well, pretty soon it came time to go after my mother down at the church, so he took me along, and when he went in he told all the women in the church, he said 'Today is not a good day'. I remember him saying that, and my mother says 'Why, what's the

problem?' He says 'Well, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii', and he says 'That is not good'. So that stuck with me.

Elaine. What was your father doing at the time-how was he employed?

058. Bea. He was an automobile mechanic, and did a lot of electrical work; fixes a lot of radios, anything in the electrical field besides being a mechanic too on an automobile. And of course in that time, the cars weren't like they are today. And after that [the outbreak of war] a lot of things changed in town. I remember them taking all the cannons and cannon balls, and anything in the city that was made of metal they collected in order to start making weapons. I lived within a block of the Monarch-the Monarch was a machine and tool company, and it was small at that time. I remember the shop being not very big, and as the war kept progressing, they started tearing down houses in a two-block radius on the south side of them, completely removed them, and they started building a bigger plant. And I remember that so well, because I used to go down and watch the contractors put up steel beams, and would pitch up their—I don't know—their nuggets, or whatever they used, you know, to put a steel beam together. And I used to watch them hang those steel beams for the big plant.
- 100 Then, I remember my mother going... (digression), and of course also in those rows of houses was third ward grade school, from one to third grade, and of course it was involved in being torn down eventually.
- I remember my mother going to the grade school and she was issued rationing books. And they had stamps in where you were rationed on sugar and flour and lots of food staple items—I remember her getting those. Then, I was able to participate too. I could buy a stamp every week I was in school to put in a book that ended up being a United

States War Bond. It was a twenty-five dollar war bond, and I was so thrilled because I was helping out my country and my government by buying this little stamp every week to put in this book. Those things really stick to you.

Elaine. Little milestones!

118. Bea. Yes! I remember my mother crocheting strips of bandages out of crochet cotton-- they would crochet yards after yards of this, and I watched her do that. She knitted scarves, gloves, hats, anything that the military could use, and she did this through the Red Cross.

130 With the Monarch they finally finished their building, it was really big, and they hired as many men as was available, and they made lathes that would make guns or whatever was needed in the war weapons area.

Elaine. A kind of munitions factory then?

137 Bea. Yes! They made a lot of lathes for a lot of things that had to be needed, and so it seemed like it was impossible for them to do what they were doing, but they did, you know, even though a lot of men were older men that had to work in the shop because the young ones were gone. And I just grew up in that neighborhood watching things advance.

Elaine. Did you have older brothers that went into the war?

148 Bea. Only one, and he went to war. The third ward school building had some ground in back of them that came along the B&O Railroad track over here, and of course it went down a hill until you came to the tracks. We, as children, were on recess and we would go and stand at that fence and watch the different types of trains go through. We'd watch them that had a lot of military men on, and wave and holler at them, you

know, and then we watched the trains that had-Oh! Trucks and cannons and tanks, and you name it, was on these flatbeds that went through too, and it was fascinating, really, really fascinating.

Elaine. To a child, yes!

161 Bea. Yes! Yes! Radio was the only thing that we had for information as to what was going on, because at that time we didn't have television.

Elaine. What part of the armed forces did your brother go into?

164 Bea. He was drafted into the army, and he went to Fort Lewis, Washington for his training, and he was shipped out from there and he ended up in India, and he worked on a monarch lathe in India, and produced guns over there. That's where he was shipped, but a lot of his buddies he had was involved in the Normandy invasion.

Elaine. What did your dad do during the war?

177 Bea. During that time, my dad did go to work for the Monarch, because he was an electrician, and he wired the panels of these lathes that they made and shipped out. And that's what he did, day in and day out. He worked sometimes seven days a week and just kept up with it. He did a lot of things that I never thought would ever come about and it did.

Elaine. What did your mom do during all this time?

186 Bea. Worry! Worried about the son, and then naturally worried about my dad working so many long hours, and doing what he did for the Monarch. But it all came to an end, and to a good ending. My brother came back, and things was good with him, and my dad was able then to change to another job.

Elaine. What was this brother's name?

Bea. Bob!

Elaine. Is he still alive?

198 Bea. Yes he is still alive, and he is seventy-eight years old, he is older than I am. He lives in Troy, and he was at one time a City Manager for Troy, so he's been up there in the city offices, but he's now retired.

Elaine. Bea, what about your own work?

204 Bea. I was in the sixth grade when the war ended, and I went into Junior High. So I finished my High School years and I graduated in '51. I graduated on a Thursday, and the next day I went to work for the Monarch. *(laughter)* I went immediately to work, and I was a Payroll Master to twenty-two hundred men-worked on Payroll for that many people.

Elaine. That was a responsible job!

214 Bea. Yes, Yes! I worked for them for three years, and then I met my husband. He was drafted for the Korean War, but he enlisted into the Navy; he went into the Navy, and I went west, and I spent my time on the West Coast.

Elaine. Where on the West Coast?

222 Bea. O.K. I lived in Coronado, and I lived in San Diego, and then I went up the coast and I lived in Hunter's Point in San Francisco where the dry-dock is for big Navy ships. I spent three and a half years in California, until he was done with his enlistment, and then we came back to Ohio.

Elaine. Well of all the places you could have gone, that was rather pleasant wasn't it?

229 Bea. Yes, Yes!

Elaine. Did you work while you were out there?

230 Bea. No! Work was very hard to find out there, and of course I had a child while I was out there, I had my oldest boy, and so I didn't work. And of course, they hire a lot of Mexican people on the coastline, that's because they can get them as cheap labor, so it was very hard to get a job. And so I didn't put a whole lot of effort behind it to do it. But I got along fine, and was able to go places and see different things. And of course, when you're a military person, you're in a big family. Everybody takes care of each other when the men are gone. So, my biggest thrill I think in being on the West Coast, was when I was able to meet my husband--he was on a Carrier, and he came back from fifteen months overseas, and I got to meet the ship.

Elaine. I bet that was a thrill.

Bea. Yes it is, it is!

Elaine. That was a long time apart.

247 Bea. Yeah! During the Korean War they spent many months over; they didn't do it six months at a time, it was always a fifteen-month stretch.

Elaine. So what were you doing all that time?

249 Bea. Just staying at the apartment we had in Coronado, and San Diego. Now Coronado was beautiful at that time. It's the island, North Island off San Diego, and you just all live together, all Navy families live together, and we just did everything together.

Elaine. You had a good support system there.

256 Bea. And we were right there when the men would come in from sea, so it wasn't far for them to get to wherever we were. San Diego at that time was very Spanish, homes

and all, and I had gone back twenty-five years after I had been there, and it was completely changed.

Elaine. How?

263 Bea. More modern! Houses torn down--apartments torn down--, six, eight-lane highways going through it. So really, where I lived no longer existed, it was gone. I didn't really get to see much of anything that I remembered the most. And I used to go back and forth on the ferry from Coronado to San Diego. I would push my oldest son Art in the stroller, and I'd go on the ferry, and go up a couple of levels, and I'd stand and talk to the captain of the ferry—I enjoyed that. (*laughter*) It is just things, you know that you don't get in life unless you actually live them. And that was a great thing. So, when I went back in twenty-five years, now they've got a big old bridge that goes across to the Island, and they didn't have that when I lived there, you had to take the ferry.

Elaine. When your husband came out of the navy, were you still living on the West Coast?

281 Bea. I was still living on the West Coast, but I had gone up to Hunter's Point in San Francisco, because they went into dry-dock, and that's where he got his discharge from was up there. So, we left San Francisco for Dayton.

Elaine. You came directly back after he got his discharge then.

Bea. Yeah! Yeah!

Elaine. So then what did you do?

286 Bea. Well then, I come home, naturally, (*laughter*), we moved in with my mother and dad for a few weeks until we were able to find a place to live, and was able to rent a

nice home here in Sidney for a while until we finally bought the home. And my husband, he started out working for a bread company, and then he switched to Mack Truck Company which made fire trucks here in town; he worked for them for a while, and then he worked for Lockharts here in town, and he helped install furnaces, air conditioning-things like that. Then I talked him into getting involved in taking the Civil Service exam for the Post Office; and he took that and passed it and they hired him, and he worked for them for twenty-five years as a postal clerk until he died.

Elaine. When did he die, Bea?

302 Bea. He died in eighty-three, and I was only fifty-one when he died, he was fifty-three. But he died of a massive heart attack, and he died on the job. So, he's been gone now almost twenty years.

Elaine. Did you go to work before he died, or after?

307 Bea. I only worked before I married him, and then after that I didn't work at all. After he died I had to go back in the working field, because I still had a fourteen-year old son to raise, and because I had six children.

Elaine. You did?

Bea. Yes! I had three girls, and three boys.

Elaine. Do you still have them all?"

312 Bea. I have all six of 'em, yeah, uh huh! And I got a job, and '83 was a hard time to get work. The hospital out there—the Dietary department had an opening doing utility work, and when he died in the hospital, they told me about the job posted on the wall.

Elaine. Now, what hospital was this?

Bea. Wilson

Elaine. Oh, Wilson Memorial

316 Bea. Uh huh! So I went and talked to Connie Mikesell that was Head Dietician of the department, and I went and talked to her and she hired me, because she says 'we have an awful time trying to find somebody that will do utility work', because that's harder work than sometimes a cook or one of the others have. So she hired me, and I worked thirteen and a half years at Wilson. And that's how I ended up here. *(laughter)*

Elaine. Did you enjoy working at Wilson?

326 Bea. Yes! It's the social that you have with people, all kinds of people. I enjoyed that. And the work, yes, it was hard, you were busy, you were running, you had time to meet. *(a length of time in which to get things done)* But I still had that contact with people. So my social life over there was great. 'Cause there was people from outside, as well as people I worked with. So I enjoyed my work, yes.

Elaine. So where did you live before you came to live here?

335 Bea. I lived on Forest, which was a block away from my parents' home that they used to have, and I had lived there for thirty years.

Elaine. That's a long time.

Bea. Yes. That was where I raised all my kids.

Elaine. Your parents are not still alive, are they?

338 Bea. No. They died. My mother died the same year as my husband did, she died in January, and he died in June.

Elaine. Oh dear!

Bea. But my mother lived in Dorothy Love

Elaine. The Nursing Home?

343 Bea. Yeah. So, she was being taken care of. But my home was a block away from my parents, so I did do a lot of running to help them at the last of their time.

Elaine. So, how many grandchildren do you have Bea, out of your six children?

347 Bea. I've got eight grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren, and I enjoy all of them.

*(laughter)* Everybody says, 'you had six kids, and that's all the grandchildren you got?' I says, 'I'm not gonna tell 'em how to have 'em, if there's no more there's no more. *(laughter)* No, that's what I have, and *(wistfully)* gosh! They're almost all grown up now; they grow up fast.

Elaine. Where are your children?

Bea. My children?

E. *Your* six children?

355 Bea. O.K. My middle daughter lives within two blocks of me, over here. That's Mary. Then I have an older daughter that lives down on Norwood, and she works for Upper Valley Hospital. She's a CPA, and a financial-I don't know- financial something for payroll and all that kind of stuff, she's worked for them fifteen years I think. Then, my youngest one was a boy, and right after high school he went into military service, and he spent four years in the army. Then He got out and came home, and he is a 'computer nut', *(laughter)* that's all I can call him, a 'computer nut'. He's in the science area of computers. He can fix 'em as well as run 'em, or whatever, you know. Right now he's working for the Montgomery County, in Dayton. He fixes their computers, and sets them up for the court system, and then he works for the Green County also, and does the same thing for them. So that's what he does, and where he's at. He lives in Middletown.

And now, my middle son is the RN, and he's a Registered Nurse at Wilson in the ER, and he's been there now four full years. He's involved in other things outside the hospital that he goes down to Dayton for. He joined a group where they can go out on any kind of catastrophe, you know, and do medical work.

Elaine. Is that the EMS?

382. Bea. No. It's a higher one than that one. I can't tell you what he called it, but it is in that area, they can call on him anytime, but Wilson would have to release him to go. He was put on the group that was to go to the Olympics, and spend two full weeks there in case, you know, anything tragic would happen. They cancelled out on the one's that were appointed, only five could go in the state of Ohio, but the trip was cancelled because they was able to use a group that had just finished in New York City on the 9-11 tragedy, and so they were already experienced, and packed and ready to go, so they just simply took them on out to the Olympics, so my son didn't get to go. He wanted to go real bad, but he didn't get to go-the five from Ohio didn't get to go. He is strictly in medical. He lives in Houston, (*Ohio*) and he's married, and she had two children of her own; so they've not had any children between the two of them, so it's just the two children she had.

Elaine. These are your step-grandchildren that you talked about?

401. Bea. Yes. And then my oldest son is involved...(*digression*) He worked for a long time at Rockwell out of California, he had spent six years in the navy and was a submarine man, and worked on computers on a submarine. That's how Rockwell had gotten in connection with him, is because some men had to go on his submarine to do some work, and they got to talking to him, and told him to come to Rockwell, they would like to

interview him further. So, he took his discharge and did go to Rockwell and got a job with them, and that was all outer-space work that he did.

Elaine. *The Space Program?*

411 Bea. Yes. He even got to go on a shuttle in Florida. He actually got on to one. Whatever he did in his field, you know, he had to go on the shuttle for, so he did get to go in and see everything they had in it, and how the seating arrangement and everything was.

Elaine. That must have been interesting.

416 Bea. Oh, yes! And he would have given anything if it would have just gone on out. He was more interested in outer space than anybody I ever knew. I guess once it gets in your blood you just can't get it out until you have accomplished that, and oh, he would have given anything to have gone to outer-space. But he got laid off from Rockwell, and he decided to branch out to something else, and he stayed with the government in a lot of contracts and things he was involved in, but was always in the computer field.

So, he's been all over the country, he travels everywhere, flies in and out, everywhere you want to go. Right now he's working for a company down in Dayton. He was working for the government up in Michigan; I'll tell you about that one, it's very interesting! He decided that he would change his field, instead of being in outer-space stuff and that, and go to another government contract of doing something else. Well he did, and this company was trying to build a mini-tank, and I said 'why a mini-tank', and he said 'well, they want to build it so all the technology, and everything that's inside of it-all you do is punch keys'. And he said 'the big tanks that they build at Lima up here, are too big and too heavy to put on those cargo planes, to take them around the world'. So he said 'they have to be shipped by boat, and they want one they can actually take up and put inside

these cargo planes and fly 'em out. And I said 'OK. How many people does it involve running it? He said 'a lot less than on the big one, because it's all the technology inside of it just the greatest thing you'd ever want'.

Elaine. Computerized?

444 Bea. Uh huh! It's all push-button. Then they finished that. In fact, they didn't even have the tank completely built yet, and they sold it. And I said 'how can you sell something if you don't even know if it runs? He said 'Well, I don't know, but they bought it'. I said 'tell me who bought it, and when are you going to test it out?' 'Well, they'd go out to the Mojave Desert area-out in the Flats or up around Andrews Air Force Base, I think, up in California where they have the dry flats where they hope she'll go fifty or sixty miles an hour'. I said 'My gosh!

Elaine. That's fast!

Bea. Oh, yes! And I have not asked him since, what happened to the mini-tank, I don't know! (*much laughter*)

Elaine. Wait for the next installment.

456 Bea. But, he has been in the field from outer-space down to tanks now, and his field just grows bigger.

Elaine. What about your girls?

459 Bea. Well, my Mary... (*digresses*) the youngest one works for JIC, which is a Mother plant to Honda at Marysville. So she's a welder, and she welds parts of the automobile for them, and she lifts fifty-pound parts, and she'll do, well, she's gotten up to eight hundred and eight hours, and I don't know how she does it, but it's tremendous work-it's

great laboring work. So that's her job, and she's been with them for a long while, so I don't look for her to ever change. It's working with Japanese and locals.

Elaine. And where is this?

Bea. This is in Westerville, which is close to Springfield.

Elaine. Ah, yes!

473. Bea. So she drives from Columbus to Westerville, to the plant, and she says it takes her about fifteen minutes, and it's not bad for her to drive. So, that's what she does for Honda.

475. Bea. Now, my middle girl was an automobile mechanic, of all things! But that's what she loved, that's what she went to JVS for, and took the training, and did real well. When she goes any place and needs mechanical work done on her car, she's standing right there telling them guys what is wrong that they have to do. *(laughter)*

So now they've gotten used to her doing this, because she knows what she's talking about. But then sickness took her, and she has MS.

Elaine. Oh dear!

483. Bea. She's got it in her back pretty bad, and she needs back surgery done. She had one back surgery done, but they think this time that it's bone spurs and adhesions that she's had from her first surgery, and so she has to go back for another one. But the MS is beginning to take over, and she's having a rough time. She just has one girl. She said one was enough to raise. Now my youngest girl doesn't have any children-she didn't have any at all.

492 My oldest girl she's got a boy and a girl, and so, she's got plenty to do. Working full time at Upper Valley, and holding the job she had with them, it keeps her going, it keeps her going.

Elaine. She's at the Upper Valley Hospital?

Bea. Uh hmm!

Elaine. Now, what does she do there?

Bea. She's ah—I would call her a Director of the Department of Finance and Payroll.

Elaine. I see.

496 Bea. Yes. She handles all the payroll, and she has about four thousand—a little over four thousand employees that she takes care of.

Elaine. And her name is?

Bea. Anna.

Elaine. And who is the one with MS?

Bea. That's Mary. That's the one you see around my driveway.

Elaine. And Hannah?

Bea. Anna Marie

Elaine. Then you have another one, right?

Bea. No. I had Art, Don, and David as the three boys; then I have the three girls, Anna, Mary, and Caroline.

Elaine. Oh. I'm sorry. I thought you said Anna, Marie.

Bea. Well! Everybody puts the Marie on. *(laughter)*

Elaine. What about your own health?

Bea. My Health?

Elaine. Yes.

Bea. Other than sugar diabetes....

Elaine. When did you have the onset of that?

Bea. In '97. I had gotten sick, and developed pneumonia.

Elaine. Was that after you came here to live?

Bea. Uh huh, yes.

Elaine. And that was when your son took you to the hospital. What happened then?

511 Bea. Well. I was there for five full days; they got me over the pneumonia alright, but I had showed up with diabetes. I think I had been diabetes (*diabetic*) well, quite a few years, borderline, you know. I just didn't get over into full-fledged diabetes, but I stayed at that line, and after I had pneumonia, then it went the other way.

Elaine. You manage every day to...

Bea. The only time I had problems again was when I had shingles, and it took me six months to get over it.

Elaine. But you are over it now?

520 Bea. Yeah, yeah! Only they still want me to continue to take Vitamin B Complex; that controls a lot of the muscle and nerve endings that become infected, and they said mine (*shingles*) could return, because I had 'em really bad.

Elaine. Now, regarding your diabetes-are you on medication or...

Bea. Yes, I'm just on strictly medication.

Elaine. And is that working for you?

526 Bea. Oh, not as good as it should; the doctor would like to put me on insulin, but I want a little more time to adjust the body to see if we can't make the medicine work instead of

going to insulin. I said, otherwise I feel fine. I have not had any problems other than shingles. That's all I've had.

Elaine. Now, is there anything else you'd like to talk about, great moments in your life, or maybe not so great moments?

533. Bea. Yes. When I was in grade school-I must have been around the third grade, and we used to roller skate on the sidewalk, we had the metal roller skates. Oh, we was great, you know, doing that! And my mom and dad's house set up on a higher level, because it would go down a hill and then you were in a valley. Well, in the valley area sat Goodes's Castle, and you could see it from my mom and dad's house-just the upper half of the Castle, and it happened to be a good warm spring day, and the kids in the neighborhood we were all roller skating. The sun was out, but the sun had gone over to the Castle area that was down in the valley, and we all said that was the sun hitting the windows, it looked real bright, you know. *(laughter)* It wasn't that at all-the Castle was on fire.

Elaine. Oh my!

546. Bea. I remember that so well, and all of us had to go down. That was a big landmark in town, that was a big home, and we had to go down and see what was going on. Goodes's had the third floor area of the Castle burned, and it was a really substantial structure where it got burned really bad. I think about that over and over when I was a kid. When I go past that Castle on West Avenue, I look at that and say 'Oh, I remember the day it caught on fire'. Oh my God! That was terrific.

Elaine. Did they rebuild it then?

Bea. They restored all of the third floor, and put a roof and everything all back on.

Elaine. Now who had the Castle then?

555 Bea. Goodes's, G-O-O-D-E-S, G.F. Goodes. They had a summer home that was over across town that was along the river. It was a gorgeous home, and they would go over there and spend summer; then they would leave it and come back to the Castle for the winter. Oh, they had money- they had a lot of money- they were very rich people. But this was a big Castle; it was always known as the Castle.

Elaine. Still is, isn't it?

562 Bea. Huh hmm. And now it has the name, 'The Great Stone Castle'. There is a couple from Florida that bought it. But what is inside of it that the Goodes's left is beautiful- pictures and antiques of all kinds, gorgeous things on each floor level- it's just a beautiful home. *(tape turned-side 2)* At Christmas time they have different organizations go in and arrange Christmas decorations for dining room tables and entertainment, you know, for people at Christmas time. But I just always remember roller skating, and thinking it was the sun on the windows, and it was the Castle on fire! It was the fire coming out of the windows. *(laughter)* Gosh! I don't know! There's probably lots of other things I could talk about too, but...

Elaine. Well, why don't we leave that for the next time.