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C O N T E N T S

This book contains the following order of inter-views:

Catherine McCullough

Book 16

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V. 16

This is Catherine McCullough at 4417 So. Emerald

Q. Mrs. McCullough -- you've lived in this neighborhood, I suppose -- you were even brought up here as a young girl?

A. 1905.

Q. You've moved in as a young girl in 1909?

A. No, I was born.

Q. That's when you-settled here, in the same house all these years?

A. That's right.

Q. You must remember back to the days before the World War I then. As a little girl, what did you kids here used to do for fun?

A. Well I don't know, we just played with the kids in the street.

Q. You' didn't have shows to go to?

A. Well yes, we sure did, we had the, Charm on 43rd & Halsted.

Q. Well that was in the neighborhood all right.

A. Right, you're right. It was there until about maybe 7 or 8 years ago. We always went to the Charm on Sundays and then we would go to 62nd & Halsted to the National, I think, it was called to a legitimate theatre.

Q. They had a real play and theatre up there?

A. Yes, every week.

Q. And they had real acts and all that sort of thing?

A. Yes, huh uh!

Q. All-that is gone from here now?

A. And how.

Q. You were telling me earlier about the National representation in the neighborhood that first the Irish people pretty much settled this neighborhood but then over the years there's been a change.

A. Yes, a mixture.

Q. Can you go a little farther with this?

A. Well we have Puerto Ricans, we have the Mexican people, we have people from the South and our own nationalities and the inter-marriages in the neighborhood.

Q- So the Polich then even came over here to this side.

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. Did there used to be always a close relationship like that with the Back of the Yards neighborhood or did you live in separate worlds?

A. No, I wouldn't say that as far as I'm concerned. Our people, we never lived in separate worlds, No, huh uh!

Q. This has really been an open community rather than a tight little island?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. Very much of the life here has revolved around the church, I am sure.

A. Well our church, yes, St. Gabriel's or the ME, Methodist down the street, because we went there as much as we did to St. Gabriels, to their affairs. They have summer school in the summertime that you could go, which we went. They have gymnasium, they have bowling, which we could attend. We never went to one church for services but you went to the other church just for recreation.

Q. So the kids in the neighborhood all worked together, that's fine.

A. We had a small playground called the Baby Park, it's still there and it was there when I was a kid.

Q. Where did the people here find their employment?

A. That, I couldn't tell you. My father worked for the Government, and he was a mailman at the Stockyards Post Office. I have a brother who works there, and his son is working there now.

Q. I'm sure the Stockyards and the Packing Industry were a big employer of these people?

- A. It could be. Yes, the people next door, Swanson was his name; he was the Speculator and on the corner was Mr. Kimball and he was a hide buyer and they were quite wealthy people 'at that time. Then several packinghouse people, they they worked for the packinghouse.
- Q. I've heard it said that on Emerald, some of the packinghouse were owners.
- A. Well the corner house on 45th & Emerald, I do believe was owned by Swift, but that would be before our time.
- Q. Which corner?
- A. The northwest -- but that was before we came here.
- Q. Do you think the house that Nelson Morris lived in is still standing?
- A. No. I don't think so.
- Q. But the one up at Swift were in is still standing?
- A. Yes, I do believe it is, huh uh! Mr. Parrell was a speculator, at the Yards, and his sons all worked over there. They lived near the Morris'. When the Swanson's moved out next door, the Parrell's moved in next door to us. He also worked in the Yards, too.
- Q. How do you suppose I could go about finding out exactly where the Morris home was? You couldn't think of anybody else here who might know.

A. There is a Parrell left. There is one of the Parrell boys left and he worked in the Yards also. I would think maybe he would be able to tell you, and then there's Helen and Marian. Helen is still a Parrell and Marian is married. They did live in Beverly around 95th & Ashland, in through there. I don't know if they are still there.

Q. Would you say that people of this neighborhood are pretty much staying here? The young people are staying or do you detect a movement away from here out to the suburbs?

A. I don't know, what is this the fourth generation.

Q. What is it about this neighborhood that kept you here?

A. Mainly because I know when you walk down the street, you know everybody and another thing it is convenient. You can get on the Dan Ryan today and from there it will take you to the Kingery, Halsted to the Eisenhower and it's quite convenient. Then you can get a bus and go down to the Lake if you want but if you go to the suburbs, there's a problem with transportation.

Q. It is a problem. And then you have all your friends here, I suppose.

A. Yes, all my friends.

Q. That you grew up with?

A. Most of my friends are still here.

Q. So that really is the answer in large part.

A. Our next door neighbor, McPhillips, he was a horseman. He owned the Green Stable down the street, now they're still living there. One girl is McPhillips and one girl is Mrs. Sullivan, and they have nieces and nephews living down the street.

Q. This was always the Stockyards neighborhood where that awful smell was?

A. That's why we're all so healthy. My mother lived to be 89 or something like that and my father was born and raised at St. James, that would be 29th & Shields. Of course, we were called Town & Lake -- from 39th Street, South.

Q. That's called Canaryville.

A. No, No, Canaryville is at 42nd Street. Now it's called Canaryville.

Q. Oh well, tell me a little bit about that change?

A. Oh, I don't know. That was only Canaryville down on 42nd Street and this was always called Town & Lake.

Q. But this is only 44th Street.

A. But we're east. West of where it was Canaryville and then they changed it and called it Canaryville, not too long ago.

Q. Who would change it?

A. We have an organization called the Canaryville Improvement Association.

Q. So Canaryville was perhaps east of what street?

A. Union.

Q. East of Union Street in your recollection, and this would be Town of Lake, and what would be over at the other side of the Yards.

A. Back of the Yards.

Q. That's Back of the Yards. Well where did that leave Canaryville. That would be South of the Yards -- 47th Street South of the Stockyards!

A. I don't know what they called that.

Q. I thought that was foreign territory.

A. No, not foreign. We never distinguished names -- where do you live -- we live 45th or 44th -- and the Stockyard area.

Q. O.K. When the Meat Packing Industry began to decline here and leave, was that a time of economic suffering for people.

A. Not for us. I don't think anyone from this area. Most of your people here either were hide buyers, cattlemen, or other, and they really didn't work at the Yards as far as we were concerned. No, because the man next door was a butcher and as far as working at the Yards, except as I say, who were buyers, like Mr. Parrell. He was a buyer, so his sons worked there, sure. If didn't affect us. No, I would say it affected

Anybody in this area.

Q. Where did most of the people here work? Say any one industry or any one kind of occupation, that sort of stands out as being a main line of work.

A. Right now, I think you have everything. You have mailmen, firemen, policemen, construction workers, engineers, and what have you.

Q. This is pretty much for city employees.

A. Yes, city employees. We have everything here, school teachers, teacher's aids, you have stenographers and nurses. And people in the Building Trades. Well fine, I've enjoyed this little talk with you and I think that I have taken enough of your time.