

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas

Section 2, Pages 31 - 38

This transcript of an interview with Maribel Carlson is part of an oral history project entitled "Patterns of Change, Edwards County, Kansas 1950-1970" conducted by the Kinsley Public Library. The project was supported by a Kansas Humanities Council Heritage Grant. Carlson talks of her family, education, and her memories of the Edwards County community.

Creator: Carlson, Mary Isabel (Owen)

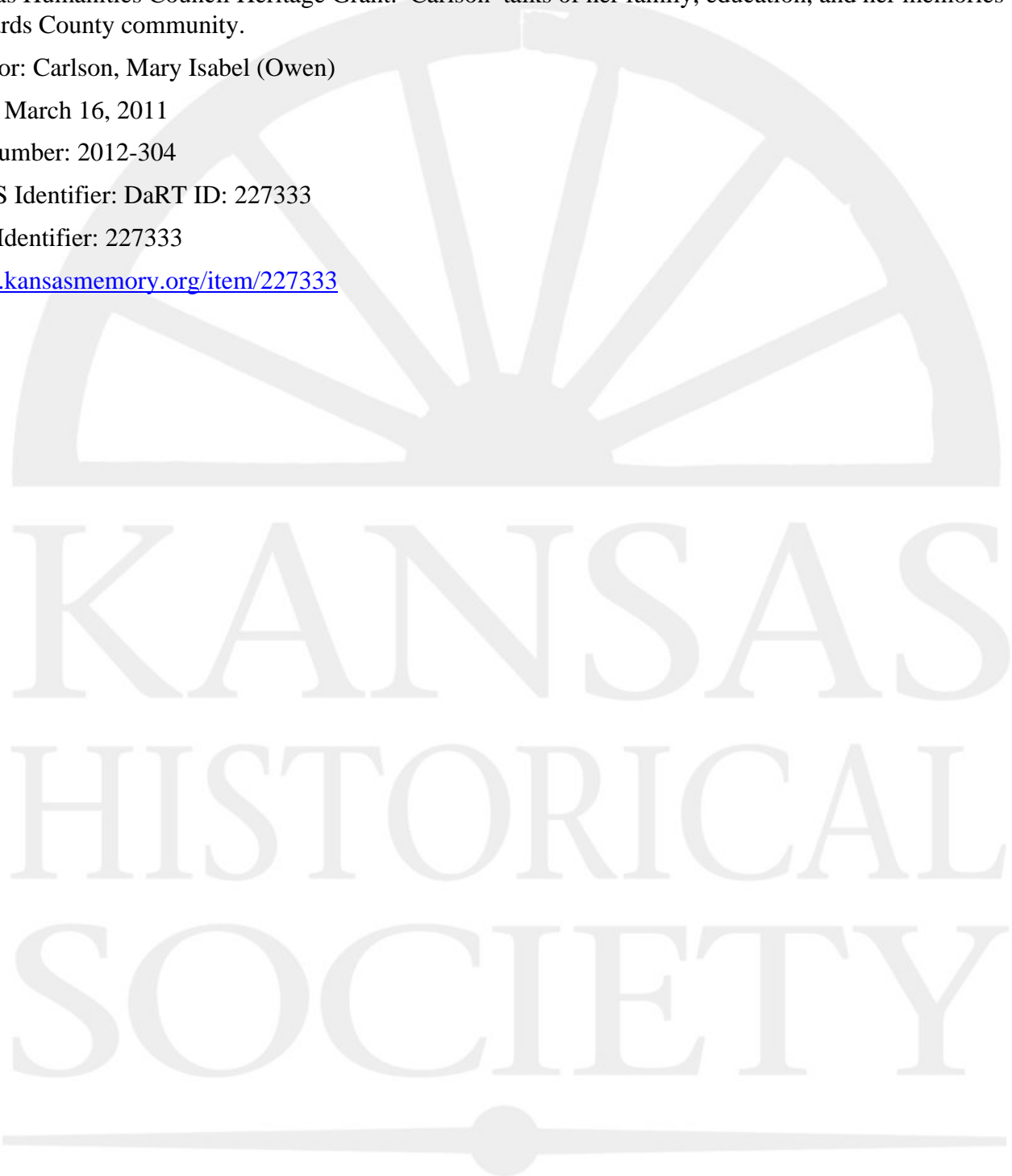
Date: March 16, 2011

Callnumber: 2012-304

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 227333

Item Identifier: 227333

www.kansasmemory.org/item/227333



Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas

Maribel Owen Carlson - 31

Maribel: Thank you!

Rosetta: Or you wouldn't have been elected for 16 years.

Maribel: Thank you, I appreciate that. It was really quite an experience for me. It was kind of a highlight of my life because I didn't think I would come into that. But that's like I tell anybody, you know, if you think you don't want to run, think it over. Maybe you should run!

Rosetta: Well, all your business training that you got, you used that, really, all your life because you said you were doing bookkeeping and stuff for people.

Maribel: Yes, well when we were in town before we moved to the farm. See, we lived in town for a while, and then when his dad died, that's when we moved.

Joan: When did you move back into town?

Maribel: When we built that house in '76. We didn't move back into town until '76. We were out there 13 years. It seems like it was longer than that. We went a long time without water, I know that!

Joan: Being the treasurer was the highlight of your life. I think your three children were too. Where are your three children?

Maribel: Believe it or not, they're all around here.

Joan: Isn't that unusual?

Maribel: Yes, it's unusual, and I'm very happy about it. Of course, Jim's about a block down here. He has his business in Trousdale, "Jim's Repair". Gary has been up in Larned all these years. I don't know what's going to happen there. There are going to be a lot of changes there. I don't know if you folks know about that or not.

Rosetta: I only know what you told me several months ago.

Maribel: Well, Gary's making a lot of changes. Then Tommy lives just a little north here. He never married, or anyway he never told me about it. So yes, I'm very happy. Tommy has a lot of ground and farms for a lot of people. So evidently he's doing all right, or they wouldn't be wanting him.

Joan: Do you have grandchildren?

Maribel: Yes. There they are up there; there's the three. Then there's Loni, I consider her my granddaughter also. She's over here. Elizabeth is in the blue, she's Gary's daughter. Loni is over there in the picture with the black, the small picture, she didn't graduate. That's fine. So I have four. And then six greats. Elizabeth has a little boy; Gary has a two year old grandson. The rest of them are all Jim's. I've got a lot of pictures.

Joan: So looking back over all, how do you thing living in Edwards County has affected your life?

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas

Maribel Owen Carlson - 32

Maribel: Well, I think it's been good if you figure everything in. There's been times I thought about it, and I really do think it's probably been a good place to live. Of course, every once in a while you think about what if you'd done something else, but really not. It's been great. And I got a, oh I'm going to show you guys before you leave.

Joan: We'll wait a second on that. What do you see for the future of Edwards County? Where do you think we're headed?

Maribel: I think sometimes with the way the people are working hard to keep it, that maybe we do have a future. But otherwise you'd think that everybody else had buried Edwards County a long time ago. But I don't think maybe it is going to be that way, do you think?

Rosetta: I think we're going to be okay.

Maribel: That's what I think too. What do you think?

Joan: I think we're going to be okay. I think maybe technology will help us. In another interview, we talked about the fact that we have water. Maybe not up north!

Maribel: Not everywhere.

Joan: We have water, and we have major highways and that sort of thing. With land and water, we will survive. It may be different. It's going to be bigger farms...

Maribel: We were used to a whole different way of doing things. We're used to more people, and it can't be done that way anymore. No, I'm very proud of Edwards County.

Joan: Is there anything else you'd like to add on the tape?

Maribel: Well, there was something I was going to mention. I don't know if you folks remember in 1975, Edwards County gave out ceramic plaques to nine worthy residents or recipients. Do you remember that?

Joan: I wasn't here then.

Rosetta: No, I wasn't raised in Kinsley.

Maribel: Okay, these plaques stated that they were given for distinguished leadership and exceptional service in Edwards County. I listed the people here. My mother was one of them, one of the nine.

Joan: Why don't you go ahead and read the names, and then I'll take your piece of paper with me, if I can.

Maribel: Mr. and Mrs. Abner Offerle, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Brodbeck, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hahn, Mr. and Mrs. John Newland, Mrs. Minnie Owen, Walter Mathes, Mrs. R.E. Schnoebelen, Mrs. Maxine Draut, and Mr. Joe Akins. Now Mom's plaque is in here.

Joan: Why was your mother chosen?

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas

Maribel Owen Carlson - 33

Maribel: Well, exceptional leadership and distinguished service. She had been in charge of the Cancer Society for many, many years. And Edwards County, many of those years (and I know because she told me and she was very proud of it) was the highest for donations. The reason she worked so tirelessly on that was because of my brother that died. She was very dedicated toward it, and I always presumed that that was the main reason that she was on it. Then a lot of those people, I think, did a lot to get the hospital. You see, that would have been in '75, when they built that second hospital. So I think that's why a lot of those names were there. That's why I wrote them down.

Joan: I think that's interesting, the whole story is interesting, the loss of your brother and everything.

Maribel: That is the reason that she was so dedicated to it. She would work on that day and night, almost. It was her way, and people followed her very well, because they were proud. Just about every year Edwards County was the highest group for donations to the Cancer Society. I presume that's the reason her name is on there. She did a lot of things.

Joan: Does the plaque have a date on it? Let's look that up, and we can find the newspaper article about it and find out more. Okay, is there anything else that you think you want to add?

Maribel: Another thing, I was just going to mention shivarees. You people probably never heard of shivarees.

Joan: I have, but we haven't had anybody on a tape mention them.

Maribel: Well, shivarees were common for newly married couples. A wheelbarrow with a wife in it would be wheeled down the main street by the husband. I was! Then the crowd would go to their home to cause any kind mischief they could think of. Lots of times, taking off the labels of the canned goods, so you wouldn't know what you had!

Joan: Now, when did they do this to you? Because you left from the church for your honeymoon. Did they do this when you came back?

Maribel: When we came back, much later, when they finally caught us. That's what they would do with a lot of them. When they could finally catch them, when they'd come back from their honeymoon or something. Some of them got kind of rough, but ours wasn't. We were lucky there. Somebody was starting to take all the labels off, and they I stopped them. I didn't need any extra work to do.

Let's see. The Edwards County Centennial was in '73, but that was the Kinsley one, wasn't it. Well, it doesn't matter, I guess. And this explains why my mother was so dedicated; and believe me, that was right at the top of her list of things she was going to do.

Joan: Okay, I think we've covered everything.

Maribel: Oh, another thing about the war, WWII. It was kind of ridiculous, but I was so worried that my Dad was going to be taken and I'd never see him again.

And Kinsley had an ice plant at one time. Do you remember the old ice plant?

Rosetta: Yes.

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas

Maribel Owen Carlson - 34

Joan: I don't remember anything!

Maribel: It was across the street from where my Dad's station was. But I was not supposed to cross that street! I was pretty little at the time.

Joan: Your parents had lost one child, so they were probably pretty protective.

Maribel: You're right there, that's probably why. I guess I'd hang around that station with my Dad. I remember climbing those old fashioned gas pumps. Thank you.

Joan: You did a good job.

Maribel: I hope so. Thank you. I got kind of excited about this; I've enjoyed reading them all the time. I think all of these things came out of various times. I guess I told you that all three of my sons went to the auto technical school over there in Dodge. Those teachers said, "Another one! All three of them!" Finally, Tommy said, "I'm the last."

Joan: When was Dodge City Community started? (est. 1935) That's an interesting question. Saint Mary's would have been there too (est. 1913).

Rosetta: Saint Mary's was there for a long, long time. But the Juco?

Joan: I'm guessing that was a lot more recent, I'd guess the '60's, but I have no idea. I'll find that out, it would be an interesting thing to know, when education got a little closer.

Rosetta: There was Pratt, I think, and Dodge City Community College, when I graduated. But we weren't encouraged to go to the junior colleges because you wouldn't get a good education.

Maribel: That kind of gets me. Helen went to K.U., and Bernard went to K State. They fought about that constantly, day and night. They still fight about it.

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas



Maribel Carlson

March 16, 2011

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas



Paul Owen Family 1943

CARLSON PHOTO ALBUM

LEFT:

Back: Paul "Squirt" & Minnie
Owen, 1943

Front: Bernard, Mary Isabel
(Maribel), & Helen Owen at
home one mile east of Kinsley



CENTER:

Owen Ranch, 1951
Located 1 mile east of Kinsley

BELOW:

Maribel at work for Junior
Chamber (JayCees) in Wichita,
Kansas



Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas



August 16, 1952 Wedding L to R: Dale Carlson, Bernard Owen, Beverly Craft, Betty Cain, Maribel Owen Carlson, (Merle) Dean Carlson, Helen Owen & Earl Carlson



Bill Owen

ABOVE: Honeymoon included a trip to the New York Giant's training camp in St. Paul, Minnesota to visit Uncle Bill Owen, Coach of the Giants.



LEFT: Dean Carlson wheeling Maribel down the street during their shivaree after they returned home from their honeymoon.

Maribel Carlson interview, Kinsley, Kansas



Tommy, James & Gary Carlson, 1962



Back: Dean & Maribel Carlson; Front: James, Tommy, & Gary, 1976



Dean & Maribel Carlson, January 27, 1979



Bea Coats, Edwards County Clerk, swearing in Mary I. Carlson as Edwards County Treasurer, October 8, 1985