

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET KRUMBOLTZ

CONDUCTED BY JUDY MAPLES

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Mt. Mercy College

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INTERVIEW TOPICS

CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1 --When were you born? Where?
- How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- What are your parents' names?
- 1 --Where did you go to school?
- 1 --Are you married or single?
- 1 --Did you raise a family? How big?
- 2 --What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

1. Transportation

- Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
- 22 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
- 20 --Horses and First Automobiles
- 21 --Mud roads and the seedling mile
- Hunter Airport and the first planes
- 24 --Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

2. Communications

- 23 --Newspapers
- 23 --Radios
- Advertising
- 24 --Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation

- 19 --Motion Pictures- Plays
- Cedar Rapids Parks
- Dances
- Carnival Week
- Chautauqua
- Community Theater
- Little Gallery
- Symphony Orchestra
- Circus
- Greene's Opera House
- Amusement Parks (Alamo)
- Camps

2 --Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)

2. Famous Characters

- 19 --Cherry Sisters
- Grant Wood
- Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
- Marvin Cone

3. Lifestyle
 - 11 --Life before air conditioning
 - Winter Activities
 - 12 --Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
 - Clothing
 - Toys
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 - Farm Life
 4. Family Life
 - 7, 10 --Household Help
 - Women's Roles
 - 18 --Childrens' Activities/Behavior
 - Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue Laws)
 5. Ethnic/Minority Life
 - 13-15 --Immigrants (Czech, Greek, German, etc.)
 - Indians
 - Segregation of Blacks
 - Jobs Available
- C. Organizations and Institutions in the Community
1. Education
 - Cedar Rapids Schools
 - Coe College
 - Mount Mercy College
 - Cornell College
 - 4-5 --School Board
 2. Government
 - City Services
 - Streets/Roads
 - Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)
 3. Medical
 - 9-6 --Hospitals
 - Patient-Doctor Relationship
 - Broken Bones
 - Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
 - House Calls
 - Home Delivery of Babies

- 4. Business and Economy
 - Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
 - Local Brewing Companies
 - Retail Businesses /Department Stores
 - Professions
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 - Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
 - 16 --Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
 - 17 --Farmers Market
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 - Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)
- 5. Attitudes/Values
 - Children/Discipline
 - Sex/Petting
 - Charity
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 - Work
 - Working women, Voting Rights for Women
 - Patriotism (World War I)
- 6. Service
 - 2 --YWCA
 - 6 --United Church Women
 - 6 --Governor's commission on women
 - 7 --AAUW
- D. Historic Events in and Outside the Community
 - 1. Catastrophic Events
 - Clifton Hotel Fire (1903)
 - Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
 - Bank Closings (1933)
 - Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
 - Public Library Murder(1921)
 - 2. National Historic Events
 - Womens' Suffrage
 - World War I
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 - Prohibition
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Margaret Krumboltz was born on October 3, 1903, in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1924, where she met Dwight Krumboltz, a native of Fairfield, Iowa. They married in 1927 and moved to Cedar Rapids where Mr. Krumboltz established his law practice. They had four children, two boys and two girls. Margaret Krumboltz became very involved in the Cedar Rapids community. She is a life member of the YWCA Board of Trustees. She served six terms on the School Board and was also active in her church; including state president for United Church Women, and served on the first Governor's Commission for the Status of Women. Her memories include sponsoring refugees during World War II, early theater in Cedar Rapids, and transporation.

Interview with Margaret Krumboltz

Date of Interview: 11 March 1985; Mt. Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Interviewer: Judy Maples

Transcriber: Sheri Marmann

Krumboltz: I was born in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, a small town near Allentown, on October the 3rd 1903. I lived in Catasauqua for two years and then my family moved to Bangor, Pennsylvania, and from Bangor we moved, after four or five years, to Allentown, Pennsylvania. It was in Allentown that I had most of my elementary school, in fact, up through the eighth grade, and then my family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where I had high school and Junior College, and then went to the University of Michigan and was graduated from the University in 1924.

While I was in college I met Dwight Krumboltz, whom I later married in 1927, and he was an Iowan raised on a farm in Fairfield and thought that Cedar Rapids was the most progressive city in the state, so he started law practice here, and we lived for the first three years of our married life in a duplex at 15th and Bever. Our house facing 15th Street. Then we built a house of our own at 23rd and 5th Avenue, 2231 to be exact, an English type house, and it was a six room house originally and later we expanded it to have eight rooms. We had a family of four children, two boys and two girls, and one reason we like that location was because our children could go to Buchanan School, on Mount Vernon Avenue, and that school is now closed and is now Ambroz Center.

JM: How much did your house cost when you built it?

Krumboltz: Well, we built the house in the height of the depression. I think we were either a little stupid or ignorant, but on the other hand we didn't have to pay too much for the house. We had it designed and built by Bruce McKay, and as I recall the original contract was for \$7,500, and we got an excellent house at the particular time, and the lot, I do remember, was about \$2,100.

JM: It was a corner lot?

Krumboltz: Yes, it was a corner lot, and an odd shaped lot and that was one reason it hadn't sold. There were other houses all around it, and we just loved that neighborhood because we had wonderful people who lived around us.

JM: Since you moved to Cedar Rapids you've been involved with many woman's organizations. Can you tell us a little bit about, for example, your experience with the YWCA?

Krumboltz: Well, the first job I got on the YWCA was on the Industrial Committee, which was responsible for helping the industrial girls in the city. One of the things that the Y did at that time was to have a club for industrial girls, most of whom were in Quaker Oats, and they would come to the Y for a social evening, usually on Thursday night and have a good dinner and then have a business meeting and a program and they had a nice social time. Then later I became interested in the Girl Reserve Committee and the Girl Reserve Club had been one that I was interested in in high

school in Michigan, and they had a Girl Reserve unit here and they met for programs in the various schools. About in the middle of the year the secretary who was in charge of that program got married, and the personnel committee was desperate for somebody to take over that work. So, since I was chairman of the committee, they asked me if I wouldn't be the secretary for four months until they could hire a new permanent secretary, a professional. So I did that work for four months and that's actually the only paid work that I've had in Cedar Rapids since I've been here. But, it was very interesting, and I enjoyed it very much and then I became interested in other things and later became president of the YWCA and also the president of the Board of Trustees.

JM: And you are still on the Board of Trustees.

Krumboltz: No, I am, well I am a life member of the Board of Trustees at the present time.

JM: So you've been involved for many years.

Krumboltz: I've been involved for a long time in various aspects.

JM: Okay, can you tell us about the church activities you've been involved in.

Krumboltz: I had young children in the Sunday School and I became a Sunday School teacher and then later became Superintendent of the Sunday School and worked quite closely with the Director of

Christian Education at that time and we did a lot of things for the children. Then I became the first woman on the Session of the church and also the "A" women. I don't think I was the first, but one woman; we only had one woman on the Board of Trustees, and of course, she was always elected the secretary.

JM: They do that now a days also.

Krumboltz: Then after I had my fourth child I got interested in the School Board, and I was asked to run for election on that, and I served two terms on the School Board. It really was pretty rugged with a young child because so many of the committee wanted to meet after school, in the later afternoon when the men could come, and I always had to make arrangements for the care of my children during that time, but I don't think I missed a meeting.

JM: As a result, there weren't that many women on the School Board.

Krumboltz: No, I was the only woman and I am the only one today that is still living of those men that were on those boards in the six years I was on.

JM: Do you remember some of the men that were on the board?

Krumboltz: Oh yes, Judge Charlie Penningroth, and Clair Blodgett, who was a labor leader, and Ed Moorman, Robert Moorman's father, and Doctor Von Lackum, and Charles Kosek, and Jorden; can't think

of his first name, and I know him, he was a Judge, too. So, we had a really interesting board and we got along fine.

JM: What were some of the main things you were concerned with at that time?

Krumboltz: Well, at that time one of the things was we had to hire a new superintendent, Parker, Clyde Parker, and also it was at a time when finally they broke the old idea that women couldn't teach after they were married and we have had married teachers in the school ever since.

JM: But at that time they made that rule.

Krumboltz: At that time, yes. At that time we made that decision and before that, no married teacher could teach here, she was dismissed or not given a contract the next year.

JM: What was the reasoning behind that?

Krumboltz: Well, you see it was depression times, and they felt that there should only be one wage earner in the family. I think that really was the way, of course habit and tradition made a difference, too, and they just hadn't gotten away from the old way of married women staying home.

JM: We have now.

Krumboltz: Indeed we have.

JM: In fact, it's unusual when the women do stay home.

Krumboltz: Yes.

JM: How about some of your activities with United Church Women?

Krumboltz: Well, that was an ecumencial group and I thought it was a big step forward in getting all the Christian women together to have some common projects and to get to know one another, and it has done a great deal for me personally because I can see that we are all worshipping the same god, we may have a little different ways of doing it, but we are all together in our purpose.

JM: Are these all Catholics and Jewish people in it?

Krumboltz: The Jews aren't in it, but the Catholics are, and the Mormans and practically all the major denominations. Any church can join if they want to, but some don't want to.

JM: You told me that you were on the first Governor's Commission for the Status of Women.

Krumboltz: That came at the time that I was State President for United Church Women, and they chose each of the heads of the different major religious groups. Like they had the Catholic women, the Protestant women, and the Jewish women, and I represented the

Protestant women. That was just started under Governor Hughes, and we met, in fact, I remember one meeting we had in Des Moines was the day that President Kennedy was shot. It was a very gloomy, dismal, rainy, horrible day, and we were so stunned by the news of that assassination that we just adjourned and came home.

JM: You were involvd with AAUW, American Association of University Women.

Krumboltz: Yes, that was organized in Cedar Rapids, I think in 1929, and we were a very small group, but it grew quite rapidly and we met in homes and had the best time and we got to know one another; we had Coe faculty people and we had ordinary citizens--like me, and then it was during depression time and the bank in which our money was deposited closed, and we lost \$27; if we had lost a million, it wouldn't have anymore crushing than that. I belonged to PEO at that time, too, and I began to find my time getting filled up quite a bit. Fortunately, I had domestic help at home, which helped a great deal to take care of the children when they came home from school, and to do the housework because in those days housework took a lot of time. We had no automatic machines, except a washer that washed, but you had to wring the clothes, and I had no dryer at that time and life was really pretty strenuous.

JM: Does the live-in help stay every day of the week?

Krumboltz: Yes, the first girl I had was when my son, my first child, was about four years old and I really didn't think I needed anybody because I wasn't very active outside the home. But, my husband came home one day and said that the butter maker, at Newhall, had a family of eight children and he simply couldn't afford to feed them and take care of them. So, could he have his oldest daughter come live and work for us? So, even though we didn't think we really needed her, it was lovely to have help because I had a built in babysitter and she lived with us. She brought all of her clothes wrapped in a newspaper, and she was with us for about nine months. She had graduated from high school at Newhall and had taken a secretarial course. So, when my husband needed a new secretary after his other one left, he had her come down to the office and work down there, and she worked down there for him until she married. But, her father didn't think she needed any money, we didn't need to pay her anything when she worked at home, and we couldn't stand it not giving her something, so we gave her \$2; of course, we didn't have much ourselves. My husband was just starting really in law practice and we didn't have much.

JM: Was Dwight in a law practice with any one else?

Krumboltz: No, he shared office space with other lawyers; one or two lawyers, but he never was in any company, in fact, very few lawyers at that time were in any firms at all. Everybody was individual.

JM: Can you tell us a little bit about the medical care in Cedar Rapids? You mentioned you had your babies at St. Luke's hospital.

Krumboltz: Oh yes, and I tell you I just think of the costs that we had at that time. When John was born, he was my oldest child, I really lived it up and had the best room they had at \$6 a day. Then when Mary came along, five years later, we were still in the heart of the depression, they had a room next to the nursery with no bathroom and of course I was in bed the whole time--they didn't let you get up. So, that only cost \$2.50 a day. The doctor only charged \$65 for the delivery and the prenatal care. So really, compared to today it was just nothing.

JM: Really a bargain.

Krumboltz: A bargain to have a baby, of course, we thought it was a lot of money at that time because nobody was making much money.

JM: How long did you stay in the hospital after having your baby?

Krumboltz: Well, from ten days to two weeks.

JM: Now they kick them out after two or three days. Would the doctor make house calls if you had problems?

Krumboltz: Oh indeed, an office call was just \$2 and a house call was \$3, and they would always come if you called them. I mean there was no question about it.

JM: What was it like living without some of the modern conveniences? You mentioned about not having a washer and dryer really.

Krumboltz: Well, it was a lot of work really. We always washed one day and ironed the next day. Everything had to be ironed, too. There was no polyester, and so, it was really a lot of work. Some years after I didn't have full time help, I had a cleaning woman come once a week, and she would come at 7 o'clock in the morning and iron all morning and then clean all afternoon. She did that for a number of our neighbors and she just died a few weeks ago.

JM: Mrs. Schultz?

Krumboltz: Mrs. Schultz, yes.

JM: You had told me earlier that you also left the doors unlocked in your home. You did not worry about people breaking in?

Krumboltz: Oh no, even though it was depression time we never were afraid that people would break in. In fact, the summertime, in 1936, the heat was so tremendous for such a long time, that we just left all the windows and doors open; we put a hook on the screen doors, but that was all. The heat was so intense at night, that we finally brought our mattress down from our bed and put it in front

of our big picture window, which had openings so that we could get fresh air and had the porch door open and the front door open to get circulation, and we brought the baby's crib down, the beds down for the children and that was the way we spent the night. It messed up the living room, but it was comfortable and we could sleep.

JM: At least you could sleep.

Krumboltz: Yes.

JM: That was in the days before air conditioning.

Krumboltz: Right, we had a screened-in porch and sometimes somebody would sleep out on the porch, but only a hook on the door.

JM: You mentioned about an opening or a little window in your front door.

Krumboltz: Oh yes. We had a very heavy oak door for the front door and it was paneled in small squares, and one panel at the height of my eyes would open. So, we had many, many men come around wanting something to eat or asking for work. So, I would open that little panel because I was kind of afraid of what these people might do. I would open that little bit of a tiny window, and they would be so startled by it that they'd almost forget to talk. But it was my way of protecting myself.

JM: Did you often let them in, or give them something to eat?

Krumboltz: If they did come for something to eat, I would make them come to the back door and eat outside. They didn't come in the winter-time for something to eat, but in the summertime I would feed them outside.

JM: They just couldn't find a job?

Krumboltz: I didn't have any work for them to do, but my husband would always try to find something for them. He was really a very kind person in that respect and tried to help people. I know one man came and he had done a lot of odd jobs for us. He cleaned out the furnace one time when we had too many clinkers and I couldn't manage it and my husband was sick in bed at that time. But he came and said that my husband told him he had to varnish the woodwork and I said the woodwork doesn't need varnishing, and we had an argument over one door that I didn't want done. He insisted that he was going to do it because Dwight told him to. So, he varnished that door and I never did like that door afterwards. It didn't look right.

JM: Can you tell us a little bit about how you celebrated holidays?

Krumboltz: Well, my husband was often asked to give speeches in small towns and he did it down here in Cedar Rapids, too, on the 4th of July and Memorial Day. Most of the time that was the way we spent those particular holidays. I don't know that he did anything--well

he spoke at many churches; he was very much interested in church work and he had a job as a temporary minister, you might say, a lay preacher in, well, he was in Clarence, Iowa, for several years and Tama for about a year, and then Atkins and Newall for too many years. Quite a few, but finally he gave that up.

JM: Can you tell us something about some of the foreign visitors that you had in your family when you were raising your family?

Krumboltz: We had three different Thanksgivings when we entertained foreign visitors at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. We had a Deputy Premier of Indonesia and his wife one year. We had two Australian members of parliament another year. We had a Brazilian professor and his wife one year. They were very interesting experiences and I would have them for a 1 o'clock Thanksgiving dinner and usually have a few other guests because the table extended to seat ten. Then after dinner I would clear away everything and have friends in, in the evening, to meet these people, too, so that they could meet as many Americans as they could. The Americans could have the privilege of meeting them. I still hear from one man who was the member of parliament in Australia, and every Christmas I get a card from him.

JM: You mentioned that Dwight helped sponsor a family from Latvia.

Krumboltz: Yes, we were very much interested in the problem of refugees in Europe at the time after the--was it the Second World War--yes

it was the Second World War and we had sponsored, our church had sponsored some people from other countries. We had some Czechs and--Hungarians I should say--and other people and then we sponsored a Latvian family. When they arrived on a Sunday afternoon, there was a father and a mother and their two sons. They arrived with three suitcases. One of which contained all books and we had them for the evening, or late afternoon after they got here and I wanted to serve them ice cream and cake. It was a hot day that they came but the mother wouldn't let the children have any ice cream. She said that it was too rich, that they would be sick. Well, we put them down at a hotel in Cedar Rapids, to take care of them. They were there about a week and the children came down with either measles or chicken pox, as I remember. Dr. Block came and took care of them. Then Dwight found a house for them. They moved out to a house on an acreage that we have out in Marion and they lived there for 25 years. The man got a job with Cherry Burrell and they really did quite well. Their two sons grew up in the schools in Marion, but later wouldn't join the army. They fled to Canada.

JM: What was involved when you sponsored someone to come live here?

Krumboltz: Well, you had to find housing for them, you had to find a job, you had to furnish the house, and our friends all helped in furnishing houses. We gave them really discards until they could get going. But, it took a lot of things. I remember for this one family, our living room was just full of pots and pans and furniture and bed-

ding and all kinds of things for them plus clothes; they didn't have many clothes. It was really quite an ordeal to get them started, and the hard part was finding a job. My husband found a job for this man on a farm, temporarily to help a farmer, and of course the language was a problem, they didn't know English and the farmer told him to chop some wood and he evidently didn't understand, so he chopped down the fence. But, you had a lot of amusing and still quite serious problems with them. But, they've gotten along now and are doing quite well I think.

JM: Do you remember in the 20's and 30's were there any particular groups of immigrant that came to Cedar Rapids? Any particular country that had many in them?

Krumboltz: Well, these people were from Latvia, which was under Russian domination. They went to France for awhile and a man worked in a coal mine. Then we had some Russians, too, out on our farm who lived there until they died, really. Dwight was a great one to help people and he did a great deal for them. They paid a rent, but it was such a meager amount that it wasn't even hardly worth while.

JM: Do you have any other remembrances from the depression? Anything that stands out in your mind?

Krumboltz: Well, I still think that any depression that we've had lately hasn't been as bad as the depression, that first Great Depression. We used to see people sitting along the streets selling pencils and

apples and there were no welfare programs at that time and it really was a terrible time for people. We were all, everybody was just conscious about how they spent their money. I remember my husband telling me, he said don't buy anything you don't, absolutely, don't need. I went to a store that a friend of mine; gift shop it really was, and she had rubber scrapers to scrape dishes and I wanted one so badly but it cost \$0.25, and I thought oh, Dwight told me not to spend any money if I didn't need to. I could get along without that, so I didn't buy it.

JM: What was the downtown shopping like in Cedar Rapids?

Krumboltz: Well, it was a great time to buy things because things were inexpensive. But although we didn't have much money we still found that prices were very low. Craemer's store was going at great length at that time, and they had built the addition on 2nd Avenue. I mean from 1st Avenue--from the alley into 1st Avenue, where they sold yard goods, and that place was so packed all the time that I finally decided that if I wanted to buy any yard goods, because I was sewing for my children at that time, I would have to go early. The stores opened at 8 o'clock and I would go down, and I always asked for Fred Long, who was manager of that store, and he was a wonderful person. He knew design, he knew fashion, he would help you select the pattern and the material and help you to trim it and everything. He was just a wonderful salesman. That store was really going just great. But, we had a number of excellent stores at the time, and no shopping center, of course, everything was downtown and it was quite a

thing to go downtown, and we had buses to take us down. Fortunately, we had a bus stop in front of our house, so that it was no problem for me to go downtown, and the bus fare was very reasonable, so it was really quite a delight to shop.

JM: What about Armstrongs? Had that started yet?

Krumboltz: Armstrongs at that time was mostly a men's store. My husband wouldn't think of buying a suit from any other store than Armstrongs and from a certain clerk, who's known as Red. I didn't know him but Dwight liked him very much. Then later they opened a shop for women, and they have continued to expand until they have this wonderful store now.

JM: Who were some of the early owners? Did you know the people who were starting?

Krumboltz: No, I got to know the Armstrongs and we are still friends, but I didn't know the Craemers, except for Fred Long who worked there. I got to know some of the clerks very well because I was buying many children's things at that period, and I got to know them and they helped me a great deal.

JM: Did you go to market in the summertime?

Krumboltz: Oh yes, market was wonderful. It was along the river under some very temporary shelters, but it was the greatest time to see your friends and to buy things and of course at that time I did a great

deal of canning, and always canned five bushels of tomatoes every summer to make tomato juice. It all had to be strained tomato juice. Then we bought lots of fresh vegetables, of course I had six people to cook for or seven really with the help. There was a lot of purchasing to be done, but it was always fun to go to market.

JM: You go down early in the morning?

Krumboltz: Go down early in the morning, yes.

JM: Can we talk a little bit about some of the activities going on in the community. You said you starred in a play at one time.

Krumboltz: Oh, when I had three children I remember they were all young; it was the mistake of my life really, but I had been in a number of plays, in fact, I had the lead in the senior high school play in Michigan. Then in junior college I was active in dramatics and even at the University of Michigan I did a little. So I thought that I would try out for a community play and I did and I got a small part in this one play, Max Hahn was in it and Fred Petrick. I can't even remember the name of the play, but we had to rehearse at night because the men worked in the day time and then I would have to go home and if the children were sick in the middle of the night it really was hard. That concluded my dramatic career and I gave up the stage.

JM: Where did they put on the plays?

Krumboltz: Now let me think, I can't remember where it was that we put it on.

JM: Not the old community theater?

Krumboltz: No, they were doing some plays in the Congregational Church and seems to me some at the YMCA, I can't remember really where it was that we did it.

JM: What were some of the entertainment that you would enjoy in the evenings, such as movies, going to the theater?

Krumboltz: Oh well, we went to quite a few movies in the theater. It didn't cost too much at that time and then the theater used to give premiums, or prizes for attending. Really, they would have certain nights that they would give things away. We would go to movies and we also liked theater and they used to get a lot of road companies coming out of Chicago and going west. I remember seeing Ethel Barrymore and a number of famous players. Sarah Bernhardt was here and I saw her in Camille and I can't remember all of them, but we tried to take in as much as we possibly could because we enjoyed them. We also went to see the famous Cherry Sisters, but there was no screen in front to prevent people from throwing things and nobody did throw anything that night, but they were really so terrible that they were pathetic. But, they lived in Marion and I would occasionally see them

on the street; they would walk down the street. They made quite a name for themselves.

JM: How did these road shows get here from Chicago, did they drive or did they take the train?

Krumboltz: Oh, they came by train. We had a wonderful train service at that time. We had the city of Portland and the city of Los Angeles come through. They were streamliners and they all had stewardesses on them. They had excellent dining cars where you could get a good meal for \$0.50 and a lunch for \$0.25 and it would be well served by waiters. Those trains were so smooth, they kept the tracks so smooth that it was really a delight to go into Chicago, and it didn't cost too much either.

JM: How about automobiles? Did your family have a car?

Krumboltz: Yes, we always had a Ford. My husband was a great believer in Fords. In fact, when we were married, we had a Model T Ford and went out through the Black Hills and Yellowstone. I think we were the only Ford that ever tried to get up the Shoshone paths without a special transmission. I always had joked about it saying that it was a good thing we were in the Rocky Mountains because I had to hop out of the car and put a rock under the back wheels of the car so it wouldn't roll down because the engine stalled. We would go about 15 or 20 feet and then the engine would die and finally by leaps and bounds we got up that path. It really was scary, the roads, they were working on the roads, too, a great

deal. At one place I remember that President Coolidge passed us and I saw his ear through the window of the car. That was all. He spent his summer vacation at a cottage out in the Black Hills at that time and there were soldiers all around guarding that place. But I did get to see him just a bit. From a distance, of course.

JM: What were the conditions of the roads?

Krumboltz: Oh they were terrible, just terrible. They were, and of course, nothing ever stopped my husband. If he wanted to go a certain way, he went. I remember one road going into Deadwood, South Dakota, that was just all torn up on a mountain side and we went through it, we got through we got there without any accidents; but I was scared to death. The hotels at that time were very interesting in that part of the country, too, because they didn't have any locks on their doors. They had a hook so when you were inside at night you could hook the door, but no lock. Nothing ever seemed to disappear, at least not with us. But, things were really pretty primitive. We saw the Cheyenne rodeo, at that time it was in its early day. It was really a very exciting thing.

JM: What about the roads around Cedar Rapids?

Krumboltz: Well, the roads around Cedar Rapids were terrible, too. The road going to Clarence, which we made quite a few weekends for a year or two, they had one seedling mile between here and Mount

Vernon. Otherwise it was mud roads and when the weather was bad, either rain or snow it was just ghastly.

JM: What do you mean by a seedling mile?

Krumboltz: Well, they put in one mile of paving to show people what it would be like to ride on paving. Then the streets in Cedar Rapids in the wintertime in those early days, were just awful because they didn't have the street cleaning equipment they have now and one of the bad parts were the ruts that would develop in deep snow. It really was miserable to try to get any place.

JM: Did they have the trollies?

Krumboltz: Yes, we had street cars that went up; for us we took the Bever Park line and it went up to Bever Park and was fine and the motor man was always very good and very nice. There was kind of a lot of comraderie on that car with people that rode it regularly, you know. So, it was really quite pleasant and then they came around with petitions asking for bus service. Of course, then the tracks were covered up with paving and we've had bus service ever since.

JM: When did they first start bus service? Do you remember?

Krumboltz: I don't remember what year it was. I really don't know but a long time, I'd say in the late 30's early 40's. I'm not sure about my dates.

JM: Well I don't remember seeing the trollies when I was growing up.

Krumboltz: As a newcomer to Cedar Rapids, I used to read the Society section, very faithfully because I learned to know names of people in the city. At that time the society editor always would call people if she thought they were having any dinner party or any party of any kind and asked them about it, what kind of party it was going to be and who the guests were and what they were going to do. If you would see guests lists in the paper, it would give you an idea of who their friends were, and it was really quite interesting. Then the Gazette changed that, now I feel as if I don't know anybody, except my good friends.

JM: What about radios? Of course, you didn't have TV's back in the 20's and 30's.

Krumboltz: Oh, I remember when we got our first radio, it was about the second year that we were married. We had a big cabinet that looked almost like a writing desk with the radio in the center. I thought we really had something. We listened to radio and enjoyed those radio programs very, very much. That was our evening form of entertainment. Even now, occasionally they repeat some of those old programs and they are fun to listen to.

JM: And then, did you have a telephone?

Krumboltz: Yes, we always had a telephone. That was, that wasn't, I don't think it was, I don't know if it was an automatic. Yes, I guess it was a dial tone. I think it was the dial. But, yes we were lucky in that respect.

JM: Those came earlier.

Krumboltz: Yes. The first television, we had a television very early, in fact, I have records that I wrote in a notebook of television parties that we had when Eisenhower was elected and inaugurated. I had invited about 20 people for lunch and to listen to his inaugural address and the whole inauguration. Also, when Queen Elizabeth was crowned I had another luncheon for people who didn't have television sets. We had about 20 people that time, too.

JM: I think I remember going to something like that.

Krumboltz: Well, I don't know either. I have a guest list some place, yes I really have a guest list.

JM: Can we conclude with any general impressions you have of life during the 20's and 30's in Cedar Rapids?

Krumboltz: Well, one thing, we don't have the terrible floods that we had. In 1929, I remember Dwight took me down to look at the flood at the river. It really was a tragic flood. That's one thing. There have been changes that way. I think the city is a wonderful place to live. I've been glad that I've been here. I love my friends and I

surely don't want to leave it. I think Cedar Rapids is a wonderful place to raise a family.

