

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH Irene Neff

CONDUCTED BY Peg Harrington

DATE February 13, 1985

TRANSCRIBER Hazel Storm

Irene Neff was born in Monmouth, Illinois, on September 21, 1897. Her parents were David Lee Orr and Altie Hall Orr. Irene recalls the years of being a working mother, after her husband's death in 1937, and the activities in which she participated as a child.

INTERVIEW TOPICS
CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1--When were you born? Where?
- 1--How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- 1--What are your parents' names?
- 1--Where did you go to school?
- 1,2,4--Are you married or single?
- 2--Did you raise a family? How big?
- 2-3,18,37,40--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)
- 2,4,5,23 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
- 5 --Horses and First Automobiles
- Mud roads and the seedling mile
- Hunter Airport and the first planes
- Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

2. Communications

- 7 --Newspapers
- 3 --Radios
- Advertising
- 3 --Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation

- 22-23 --Motion Pictures
- 1,14,26 --Cedar Rapids Parks
- Dances
- Carnival Week
- Chautauqua
- Community Theater
- Little Gallery
- Symphony Orchestra
- 9 --Circus
- Greene's Opera House
- Amusement Parks (Alamo)
- 10--Camps
- 10--Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)

2. Famous Characters

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

3. Lifestyle 22,27-28

12--Life before air conditioning

12--Winter Activities

34,36 --Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving,
Christmas)

13,14,27,29-30 --Clothing

14 --Toys

--Saloons/Taverns

--Farm Life

4. Family Life

14--Household Help

--Women's Roles

9,10,14,22, 24--Childrens' Activities/Behavior

14-15--Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue
Laws)

5. Ethnic/Minority Life

--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

2. Government

--City Services

5,6--Streets/Roads

18--Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)

3. Medical

30--Hospitals

32-33--Patient-Doctor Relationship

--Broken Bones

32 --Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases

--House Calls

31--Home Delivery of Babies

4. Business and Economy

- 19--Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
- Local Brewing Companies
- 20,30--Retail Businesses /Department Stores
- Professions
- Banking and Finance
- 23--Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
- 20-21,30--Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
- Farmers Market
- Mills on Cedar River
- 3,23,26--Buildings Erected
- Manual Labor/Types of Jobs
- Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)

5. Attitudes/Values

- Children/Discipline
- Sex/Petting
- Charity
- Divorce
- Work
- 3,39--Working women, Voting Rights for Women
- Patriotism (World War I)

D. Historic Events in and Outside the Community

1. Catastrophic Events

- Clifton Hotel Fire (1903)
- 19--Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
- Bank Closings (1933)
- Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
- Public Library Murder(1921)

2. National Historic Events

- Womens' Suffrage
- 16-17--World War I
- Roaring 20's
- Prohibition
- Great Depression

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PH: Mrs. Neff, where were you born?

Neff: Monmouth, Illinois.

PH: Do you remember what year it was?

Neff: September 21, 1897.

PH: How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?

Neff: Since 1906, I believe... 1905 or 1906.

PH: And what were your parents' names?

Neff: My father's name was David Lee Orr. My mother's name was Altie Hall Orr. Her name had been Hall.

PH: And where did you go to school?

Neff: Well, I started out in Peoria and then we moved to Cedar Rapids just at the moment that I went into the first grade here in Cedar Rapids, and I went to Polk School. And then I ended up at Washington High. I don't know that they even had junior highs then; I don't believe they did.

PH: You think Polk might have been...

Neff: I think I went through eighth and then I went to high school.

PH: Polk was up in the northeast side of town?

Neff: Yes, it still the same as where it is now.

PH: And the Washington School, is that the same location or was that downtown?

Neff: No, this is where it is now when I went there.

PH: The Washington School?

Neff: Washington High. Isn't that downtown by the tracks? At Fifth Street and Washington High School?

PH: That it has been taken out of there, you mean?

Neff: Has it been taken out? Oh, that's where I went to school. I graduated from there.

PH: How did you get back and forth to school?

Neff: Well, at that time we had moved to about 13th Street and Third Avenue, and I walked. I didn't think anything of it.

PH: Are you talking about when you went downtown?

Neff: When I went to Washington. But they did have streetcars, not buses, streetcars. And it went right by our house, so in case of bad weather, I could go get a streetcar.

PH: The streetcar went out Third Avenue?

Neff: It went out... um hmm. Incidentally, that was the first job I had after my husband died. I went door to door in Country Club Heights and explained the changeover from streetcars to buses. Now today they'd probably just put it on the radio. But they had me go to every house and explain it to them. That was really quite an education for me.

PH: You mentioned your husband dying, Mrs. Neff. When were you married?

Neff: I was married in 1921, I believe, and he died in 1937.

PH: And how large a family did you have?

Neff: Four sons.

PH: Had you worked before you were married?

Neff: Yes. I graduated from Bradley in Peoria, Illinois, in home economics. Then I came back and my father said, "But I need somebody in my business." He had quite a large farm implement supply

store down on First Street--the building is still there. And so that was a wonderful education, because he just taught me all kinds of things. Oh, I forgot. He taught me all kinds of business things that the ordinary boss wouldn't teach a secretary, you know. But he wanted me to know how to work for my father, and because I was in the family, he taught me all kinds of confidential business things that you wouldn't teach the average secretary. I was very, very fortunate. So that when I did go to work then, I had the education to hold... after my husband died, I had to go to work. There was no welfare; I'm glad there wasn't. And I went to work first for the Turner Company who made microphones, and then to LaPlant-Choate, which became Allis Chalmers. And I had the education, so I was supervisor of the Purchasing Department.

PH: Was this unusual, do you think, in your time and age, for women to be working?

Neff: Well, and to be, like, supervisor of a large department. Women didn't do that. But I was supervisor of the Purchasing Department there and I understand they think I did well. I tried to. At least I had the friendship of all the people in my department. And one thing I was looking at the other day, I didn't tell them, "You do so and so." I asked them to do it... what ever thing [needed to be done].

PH: A good rapport with them.

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: When you worked before you were married, you said you worked for your father.

Neff: Yes, I was just "general everything." You see, I went first to Bradley and graduated in home economics, and then I came home and graduated from business college. You see, I hadn't had any business experience, but I learned typing and shorthand, and just everything.

PH: Here in Cedar Rapids?

Neff: In Cedar Rapids I went for a year to business college. So, I had a good, all-around education.

PH: We were talking about your children. You said you had four of them and then went to work after your husband passed away.

Neff: Yes. The oldest one, when my husband died, was 14, down to 6. And I fortunately had the youngest one in school, because I had to go and leave them, you know, while I worked. The oldest one was 14, but he just stepped right in and ran the family. He learned to be a cook; he's a gourmet cook now.

PH: Oh, that's wonderful. You mentioned petitioning for the city buses when they changed them. Can you remember how frequently the streetcars were run?

Neff: I don't know. I think every twenty minutes or thirty minutes. They weren't real close together. Of course, we were on Third Avenue in a location where they were run more often than they would perhaps in an outlying. We lived at 12th Street and Third Avenue at that time, or 14th Street. Right in that block.

PH: Did you family have a car, also?

Neff: Yes. That was the interesting part about it. My father taught me how to drive a car before he taught my brothers.

PH: You were driving at an early age?

Neff: Um hmm. You didn't have to have a driver's license or anything.

PH: Oh, didn't you?

Neff: No, not in those days. Well, as I say, I was my father's confidante, and so I can see why...

PH: Do you remember what your car was like?

Neff: I think it was a big, old, red Buick. It was a big car I remember.

PH: Did anyone around you have horse and buggies, or were they still under...

Neff: No, we never had a horse and buggy. We had moved here from Peoria, and I suppose some people did have. But we never had one.

PH: The reason I asked that is there surely must have been still some mud roads.

Neff: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

PH: What were the streets like in town?

Neff: Well, evidently they were passable. But I don't remember... I can remember when they paved most of the main streets. I couldn't tell you what year, but I can remember them paving them. Third Avenue had the streetcar line on it, and when they took out the streetcar tracks and stuff, then they paved it. But I don't remember just what year that was, but I think about 1937 or 1938. However, I'm not sure of that. But it was 1937 that I was around petitioning for buses instead of streetcars.

PH: Can you remember what the streets were covered with before the paving?

Neff: They were brick. A lot of them were brick.

PH: Through the city, you mean. What about... Do you remember the airport? Had you ever had any reason to fly any place?

Neff: Yes. I don't like airplane flying. I went down to see my second son graduate. He and his wife both graduated with high honors from Georgia Tech, and I went down to see them and I was sick the whole way down. So I have never wanted to fly since.

PH: Well, speaking of maybe early planes, when they just had Hunter Airport and the small planes.

Neff: No, this was a big commercial plane... was the only one...

PH: You were not familiar with the small ones?

Neff: No.

PH: Can you remember any of them having any ferries on the Cedar River? When you were a child or in early high school?

Neff: Well, I kind of think I do, but I wouldn't want to say for sure. It just seems to me I remember they had a ferry across, instead of the bridges. I remember when they built some of the bridges, but I couldn't tell you what year.

PH: Were there just a few bridges, or...

Neff: Well, they rebuilt I think the First Avenue one or the Second Avenue one. They had been one of that kind with the high ornamental work above, and then they made it over and made the cement walkways.

PH: Did it go over, the ornament above, like the steel-covered bridges?

Neff: Well, not steel-covered, just a high up, well, sort of grillwork or something.

PH: Was the grillwork connected from one side to the other? Or just high grillwork?

Neff: I think just high grillwork.

PH: Can you remember anything about the... when you were in school and/or about that age, do you remember anything about the newspapers in Cedar Rapids?

Neff: Well, we had two newspapers here at one time. We had one called The Republican, and then The Gazette. My father was very much for newspapers, so we were brought up on newspapers--reading the news.

PH: Did you get them both? Or were they both published every day, do you remember that?

Neff: I don't remember that for sure. Whether one was morning and one was night, or what, I'm not sure. But I remember one was called The Republican, and that's the one we got because my father was a staunch Republican. So I don't know if that had anything to do with politics, but anyway...

PH: Can you remember if they had a radio station, or one or two or more?

Neff: I just don't remember.

PH: You can't remember for sure about the radio stations? But you had a radio in your home?

Neff: Oh, yes.

PH: You don't know if you listened to local stations?

Neff: I don't know. Probably depended on what four boys wanted to listen to.

PH: No, this was before you were married.

Neff: Oh, before I was married. Oh, no, we didn't have a radio station, I don't believe, before I was married. I was married in 1920 or 1921, I forget just which year, but along in there somewhere.

PH: Mrs. Neff, your... I didn't say your first name was Mrs. Irene Neff and your husband's name was Howard... Do you remember the... did you have telephones? Every house had a telephone?

Neff: Yes.

PH: Now, I'm speaking of the time when you were very young.

Neff: Well, as far back as I can remember. It was the kind you cranked. It was that type.

PH: Private lines?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: And up on the wall?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: Do you remember anything interesting about them? Could you hear other people's rings in your house?

Neff: I don't remember ever hearing them. Of course, we lived in a house; we didn't live in an apartment.

PH: No, I was speaking of... I know there used to be, like, party lines, and they would sometimes ring in other people's houses and you knew which ring was yours.

Neff: I'm sorry, I've forgotten--it's so long ago that... I know we had a phone from the time people had phones, and it was the kind on the wall that you rang. I remember that.

PH: What did you do for entertainment during those days, when you were growing up and going to school? Were there any carnivals that you could go to?

Neff: Well, we did go to carnivals some.

PH: Were these the ones that traveled through the town?

Neff: Yes, they traveled through the town. I don't remember too much what we did. My family and I were very close, and I went with my one brother, who is just a couple of years older and he since has passed away, and my husband. From the time I went with my husband, from the time I was six years old we played together.

PH: A long romance, huh?

Neff: Yes. His grandfather was John B. Turner, and they lived right across the street from us. Everybody that knows about it thinks that is rather unusual, for us to have gone together all of our lives.

PH: That is. Did you have a... when you spoke of carnivals, like they traveled with a circus or something like that, did any of them set up?

Neff: Yes, yes. And sometimes... Did they ever put it down here at Brucemore? It seems to me they put it somewhere where we don't expect to see circuses or... oh, out at that park by Marion. I think that's where...

PH: What used to be CeMar?

Neff: Yes, yes.

PH: And they would set up out there?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: And then you'd get to go to them?

Neff: Um hmm. I don't remember what year that was. I think that was when I used to go out with my boys. I think it was after their father had passed away.

PH: When you were growing up, do you remember what you did for entertainment? For instance, were camps available that girls could go to?

Neff: Yes, my sister and I always went to the Campfire Camp every summer.

PH: Did you enjoy that?

Neff: Yes, I did.

PH: Did they have plumbing in those?

Neff: Yes. Of course, I was a little tomboy; I liked all the things they did.

PH: Do you remember where the camp was?

Neff: No, I don't.

PH: Or how long you stayed, maybe, when you went to it?

Neff: I think a week or two. I think it depended on how much money you wanted to spend. It cost so much a week or so much for two weeks; and my father believed in it, so my younger sister and I always went.

PH: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Neff: I had two sisters and two brothers.

PH: Did they have any community centers that you can recall? Name some of them, maybe, like the YW or the YM....

Neff: Well, they had the YW. I don't know how young I was, but I remember going there quite a bit when I was in high school.

PH: What did you go there for?

Neff: They had a cafeteria. I went there to eat. I don't remember going for crafts or anything, but I might have.

PH: And it might have had a swimming pool?

Neff: Yes.

PH: Or did you take lessons there, or can you remember that?

Neff: No, I didn't ever do that.

PH: Of the people that came from Cedar Rapids, can you remember, for instance, the Cherry Sisters? Did you ever see them?

Neff: Yes. And I remember their names, but I remember how everybody thought they were a little far out but I don't know that they were.

PH: Did you get to see them?

Neff: Yes.

PH: Perform?

Neff: Yes.

PH: What did you think of them?

Neff: I don't know, but I imagine at that time I enjoyed them.

PH: What about Grant Wood? Were you familiar with him?

Neff: Yes. He lived in the garret over the garage down at the Turner Mortuary, so we knew him quite well because he was a friend of the family. My sister went with him. My sister has since passed away. Of course, he has, too, hasn't he?

PH: But she dated him?

Neff: When she was... oh, when they were in high school maybe. When they were quite young. We lived near them, and I forget just where they lived, but we lived comparatively near.

PH: Well, that must have been quite interesting for you. Did you know he was going to be a famous artist?

Neff: Oh, no, I'm sure we didn't think anything of it. He was just one of the boys.

PH: In those days, what was life like? For instance, we have air conditioning and central heat maybe. Did you have air conditioning?

Neff: No, we had fans. And we happened to always live in quite a good-sized house. We weren't hampered by a little house. But there was no air conditioning. I think it must have been pretty hot.

PH: But you don't remember being uncomfortable or everyone else was anyway?

Neff: Well, everybody was if I was, so I didn't think anything about it.

PH: In the wintertime, what activities did you participate in?

Neff: I used to ice skate a lot on what we used to call the slough. It's now Cedar Lake. We went down there and skated. They didn't have... well, they had kind of a skating rink there but not like they do now, public skating rinks. And I used to go down with my "to be husband" and my brother; the three of us went together all the time. We were quite close then. And I used to skate a lot.

PH: Could you tell me where the Cedar Lake was?

Neff: Well, it's down there at St. Luke's Hospital, that big body of water down there.

PH: On the back side?

Neff: Uh huh. They called it the slough at that time.

PH: Were there any places to go sledding, or did you do that?

Neff: I don't remember us going sledding. I really don't remember that. I don't even remember whether we had a sled or not.

PH: How did you stay warm, now, for clothing? Do you remember how you bundled up to go ice skating and that?

Neff: Well, girls didn't wear long pants in those days like they do today; you know, jeans or that sort of thing. And so I imagine I put on two pairs of hose, maybe wool hose, and put them over my others, you know, because I wore a dress. And then I think going skating I wore my regular winter clothes, I think.

PH: Were the dresses long? That is to say, were they closer to your ankle?

Neff: They were at one time. I've had them all lengths.

PH: You know, hemlines have changed so much, I bet as long as you have lived it's hard to keep track of them.

Neff: I don't remember. I'd go to work... (Equipment problem.)

PH: Oh, you're going to get that one out.

Neff: Yes.

PH: Oh, dear, that's terrible. Take that off.

Neff: Oh, I don't mind. If I can just get it apart. This comes out here. See, I had it fastened across the top because it's hard to slide. This was a picture of my husband, and he had real bright red hair.

PH: Yes, you told me he had red hair. I told you I have red-haired children.

Neff: But none of the grandchildren (I have those all stuck in there) have red hair. You'd think some of them would, wouldn't you? And none of our children had red hair. Well, we'll get that out of there. I've got lots of time to put it back together afterwards, so...

PH: Now, we've established the fact that when we checked the picture of you and your husband, it had long dresses. Dresses were

almost to the ankle then, which would have helped keep you warm in those days. What did you have for toys? Can you remember any of that? When you were a child. For instance, dolls, doll houses...

Neff: I think I played mostly with little boy things.

PH: You played with boy things...

Neff: Balls and jacks, I used to play jacks quite a bit. I don't know that I ever played with dolls too much, because you see, I was brought up like a little... with boyfriends. My husband and my brother.

PH: And then, what was it like at home? For instance, did you have to do the... did women have to do their own household chores, or did they have household help?

Neff: Oh, yes. Well, at the time when I was young, we had a housekeeper. My mother died when we were all little, and we had a housekeeper until I was through high school maybe. My father could afford one; it just happened that way. And we always had a housekeeper.

PH: Did you have chores to do in the house besides having a housekeeper?

Neff: I remember doing dishes and making my own bed, but I don't think I did much of anything else.

PH: That was expected of you, to do the dishes and to make your own bed?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: On Sundays, can you remember childhood activities that you might have done on Sundays? For instance, like you might have gone to church, or any routine you had?

Neff: Well, we always went, I think, to Sunday School. And I remember my sister saying how we always went to church at night. They had church at night in those days. Our father took his five children, and we all went to church every Sunday night. Sat in the front row.

PH: On Sunday evening. You had Sunday School in the...

Neff: In the morning, and then at night... I don't think they have church night services now, but they did then. And we went then to the Central Park Church. We lived near there.

PH: Did you have anything then... What was the rest of the day spent like? Did you have any little traditions you might have done? When you came home from Sunday School, was there anything that you usually did?

Neff: I don't remember. We did go on lots of little family picnics.

PH: Where did you go when you went on the picnics?

Neff: Well, we went to Bever Park. It was in existence then. And one of our favorite parks was Riverside Park.

PH: Where is Riverside Park?

Neff: I don't even know whether it's here anymore or not. It's down by the Penick & Ford... Is Penick & Ford even here anymore?

PH: So it's down there, and you just took... Would you take your own picnic lunch?

Neff: Yes, yes.

PH: The whole family?

Neff: Um hmm. Our father was very good at doing that, and the whole family went. Our father was really a remarkable man to bring up

five children and send them to college. I think we were very fortunate.

PH: Was this in the period of like around World War I?

Neff: Yes.

PH: Did your husband go to... ?

Neff: This picture was taken in World War I.

PH: He has a Navy uniform on there?

Neff: Yes.

PH: He was in the Navy when he was in service?

Neff: Yes.

PH: And you were not married then?

Neff: No, we weren't married until after he came back. We had been going together all... and he wrote me every single day. And one time after I had married and moved away, my stepmother--not meaning to--threw away the box of letters that he had written to me, one every day. She accidentally threw it away, and we all felt so bad about it. Because it isn't very often that a young man will write to you every single day. And if he didn't get to mail it today, why, he mailed it tomorrow.

PH: Where was he when he was in service, do you remember that?

Neff: Well, he was in the Navy and went... I forget how many round trips he made across to France. He went to France.

PH: What did you do during the period while he was gone? You had been dating then. Do you remember, were you working? or at home yet?

Neff: Let's see. I was working. I think that was before I went to college. Well, part of the time he was gone. And then I came home and went to work for my father. I never dated anybody else.

PH: Do you remember any of the volunteer organizations they might have had at that time, like the Red Cross organization?

Neff: I think they probably did, but I didn't belong to it.

PH: Didn't you? I thought there was an article in the paper not too long ago, a year or so ago, about your sister who had been very active in the Red Cross.

Neff: Yes. She was, she was a Red Cross nurse.

PH: Oh, she was a Red Cross nurse.

Neff: Yes, and she served in France, I think twenty miles back from the battle line.

PH: During World War I?

Neff: Yes. She had quite a career of her own.

PH: Each of you was out doing extraordinary work for women in those days.

Neff: Well, yes. I think we owe it to our father, that he wanted us to have a good education.

PH: You feel like he may have thought you, as female, should have an education to be able to look after yourself?

Neff: I don't know what his purpose was. I mean why he thought that. He had a very successful business and had the money to send us to college.

PH: Do you think that is the difference why you might have gone where other ones didn't?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: Other girls, that is, couldn't afford to do that?

Neff: Yes, that's right. He had the money and thought that we should go, and I'm so grateful that he took me into his business and

taught me all the things that are necessary to know if you are going to be somebody in business.

PH: You don't think that you had a typical, like female job?

Neff: I didn't have when I worked... well, I didn't even when I went to work for... first, I went to work for the Turner Company, and I was secretary to the Purchasing Agent there. I don't think at that time I was manager of the Purchasing Department, but I was also with the F.B.I., which wasn't known at the time--I was supposed to keep it quiet. They made microphones for the war, and so I didn't ever say anything about it. Then when I went to LaPlant-Choate, I still didn't say anything about the F.B.I. I've never mentioned that to any employer, because I wasn't supposed to. But when I went to LaPlant-Choate then, I was manager of the Purchasing Department--supervisor of the Purchasing Department, and secretary to the Purchasing Agent. I held that job from the time... oh, from the time I was at the Turner Company. I was just fortunate.

PH: Do you remember any demonstrations they might have had for woman suffrage? Do you remember any of those things going on?

Neff: No, I didn't. I evidently wasn't particularly interested and just didn't do anything about it. I don't remember. See, I always had a good job, so I didn't have to try to get ahead of it.

PH: Do you remember when Marion was with the county...

Neff: Yes, it was the head of the county, wasn't it? I don't remember what year it was, but I remember them changing over to Cedar Rapids.

PH: Do you remember any of the discussions or the _____ going between the two, Marion or Cedar Rapids...

Neff: No, I don't.

PH: ...that they might have had when they were trying to change it over.

Neff: No, I just don't remember that.

PH: What about the businesses that we had here? Can you remember any of the factories we might have had in Cedar Rapids during your growing-up years?

Neff: We had the Quaker Oats, and I believe the National Oats, and Penick & Ford.

PH: Was it called Penick & Ford then? Or was that when it was Douglas Starch Works?

Neff: Douglas Starch Works, yes. I remember when they had their explosion. You know, they exploded one time, and practically the whole building was gone.

PH: What were you doing at the time they had the explosion?

Neff: I think I was home, and we all went down to see what happened.

PH: Were there many people hurt in it?

Neff: I don't remember that. But I know it was quite disastrous when it damaged the buildings a lot. They had to rebuild.

PH: Do you remember if they had any local brewing companies in Cedar Rapids?

Neff: Honestly, I don't know. We were not a drinking family at all. My father never drank. He never even smoked.

PH: What about the stores? Can you remember what stores were in business downtown?

Neff: Well, one of the first ones I remember is Killian's when they used to be on First Avenue and Third Street, over there now where it's the Merchants' parking lot. And then we had Penney's downtown, and I don't remember about Armstrong's--when they started. Newman's, did I mention them?

PH: No. Was Newman's name, the name at that time?

Neff: Newman's. It was Newman's, and they were down where Woolworth's Dime Store is now. They had a couple of men's stores over on First Avenue; I can't tell you their names now. I remember my father used to buy my brothers' clothes there.

PH: What about neighborhood grocery stores? Did they have quite a few of those, compared to what we have, like the supermarkets now?

Neff: We didn't have supermarkets, but we had quite a few neighborhood stores. And as I remember it... of course, we were all busy doing things. We didn't go after groceries; they delivered them to us. Wherever we traded, they delivered groceries to us.

PH: How would they know what to bring you?

Neff: Oh, we'd call them. We had a telephone, always. From the time I can remember, we had a telephone.

PH: And you'd just call and order whatever you wanted?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: Well, now that's kind of sight unseen, too, isn't it?

Neff: Yes. But we got along fine. Of course, we were good customers. And in those days, well, I suppose we bought potatoes by the bushel. You couldn't carry them home if you went after them. You know where that idea...

PH: Do you remember what they delivered them in?

Neff: They had delivery trucks. I couldn't tell you what they looked like, but they had regular... You knew it when you saw it that it was a delivery truck.

PH: What about other little trucks that delivered things around town? Were there any like, for instance, ice or ice cream or... ?

Neff: Oh, I remember the ice trucks going by, the big trucks going by because everybody had to get ice that way. And you put a sign in your window when you wanted ice. I think it said ice on it. Anyway, you put it in your front window and then they'd deliver you ice.

PH: And if you didn't have a sign, they'd drive on to the next place?

Neff: Yes.

PH: So when you were out, you notified them?

Neff: I suppose if there wasn't any sign there, why, they knew we didn't want any ice and that was it. That's all I remember about it.

PH: Any other home deliveries that you might be able to think of that...?

Neff: Well, we always had our groceries delivered, I remember that. There weren't supermarkets; there were just little neighborhood grocery stores.

PH: You know the little jolly truck things they used to have go around delivering ice cream and that. Did you have any little ice cream trucks that went around or wagons?

Neff: Yes, I believe I remember that, them going around. I don't remember whether we, personally, had any or not, but I do remember those little ones. They'd ring a bell and go around.

PH: Did you feel that the children of your growing-up days had any different lifestyle than we do right now? Or how does it differ?

Neff: Well, to my knowledge, anybody I knew didn't get into drugs or didn't smoke young. I didn't know anybody that did that way. I don't think it was common. And in those days, there wasn't even pop to drink. We had lemonade at home or that idea. We didn't even have pop. I don't know. It seems to me it was more desirable than the way the kids do today.

PH: Do you feel that you might have had more chores, things to occupy you, or not? Obligations--things to do at home maybe?

Neff: Well, not having a mother, but then we did have a housekeeper. I don't think we did a great deal. I don't remember do a great deal of housework. We had to make our own beds.

PH: What about entertainment? What did you do for entertainment? Were there movies?

Neff: There were little plays. I don't remember whether they were movies or not, but I remember we used to go down... what did they call that? the Majestic Theater? It's down... I think it's doctors' offices now, about Third Street and A Avenue, or somewhere along in there. They used to have plays there. We went to them.

PH: Was this like community theater?

Neff: That idea, yes.

PH: And who gave the plays? Local or traveling ones?

Neff: I don't know.

PH: You used to go see them.

Neff: Oh, yes.

PH: How about movies? Can you remember the talkies or the silent movies?

Neff: Yes, I remember going to them. They didn't have ones that were kind of a little risqué in those days, I don't believe.

PH: Can you remember also going to the silent movies?

Neff: Oh, yes.

PH: Reading the captions?

Neff: Yes, I remember going to those. One of the first theaters we went to was called the Palace Theater. And then they called that one on Third Avenue--I believe it's called the World now--the Isis. I remember those were the first theaters I went to. And we finally graduated into the Paramount. But it wasn't in existence at the time when we were children.

PH: How did you get there? Did you just walk down or use streetcars?

Neff: Either streetcars or walked.

PH: Did you and your girlfriends... you mentioned one time, I think, when we were discussing going to movies and then taking a street-car home.

Neff: Yes. The streetcars ran until 10:00 or 10:30, but we would go somewhere and eat early and then go to the early movie. So we weren't out late.

PH: You mean you ate when you went downtown?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: Can you think or remember some of the restaurants that were downtown when you were young?

Neff: Well, I remember Killian's had quite a restaurant at one time down in the basement, but that wasn't when I was real young.

PH: You were trying to remember where you might have eaten when you were downtown. You said you wanted to eat before you went to the early movie.

Neff: Well, they had eating places and I remember... I can't remember the names of them right now, but they had regular dinners at them. And then we did go... this one friend of mine, in particular, went to the Shrine Temple. They used to serve a meal every night. And that's when they were downtown somewhere. They weren't out where they are now.

PH: That's fine. Just remember what you can. I wanted to ask you about catastrophic events. A little while ago we got onto the Douglas Starch Works explosion in 1919. Do you remember the Clifton Hotel fire? Or, it would have been too early. I'm sorry I asked you that question; that was before you came here. A murder at the public library. Do you remember that, either? You said maybe, that was in 1921. The library... I think you told me you used to go there.

Neff: Oh, we used to go every Saturday; that was our recreation every Saturday afternoon. We'd go if we'd been good that week. We couldn't go if we weren't good. A lot of children wouldn't be good just to get to go to the library, but that was what we loved. And we were all brought up to go to the library.

PH: Did you just spend the afternoon reading?

Neff: Yes, and we'd take books home. But we'd spend the afternoon reading what they had there that we could. At that time the children went upstairs; I don't know what they do now. I think they remodeled... well, of course, they don't even have the old library anymore, do they?

PH: They just moved... I think they're in the process of moving into the new one. The Lyman-Stark Building collapsed, do you remember that?

Neff: Yes, I remember that.

PH: Well, how... that was in 1913. You weren't real old. Or a young teenager, maybe.

Neff: Yes, I was born in 1897, so I would have been probably fifteen or sixteen. Yes, I remember that when that collapsed.

PH: Where was the Lyman-Stark Building?

Neff: Well, it was about Third Street and Third or Fourth Avenue, down in there somewhere. I just don't remember just exactly where.

PH: Can you remember what made it collapse, or anything about it except that it just collapsed.

Neff: I just don't remember that. I'm sure I knew at the time, but I don't remember now.

PH: How about the banks when they closed during the Depression? Were there a lot of people around you that you think might have been affected by it?

Neff: I don't think we were personally. My father had a successful business. However, he finally, I think... I wouldn't want to...

PH: We were talking about the bank. Can you remember any of the, like, newspapers having a lot of comment about the banks closing or people running there to take their money out?

Neff: I just don't remember. I think I must have known at that time, but...

PH: Too preoccupied with four young children. (Laughter) You mentioned that your husband had died in 1937. And what was he doing before he left? When you got married, where did you live?

Neff: Well, we lived for a while out on 17th Street, N.E., way out by Daniels Park, out in there. And then we did live on 16th Street and Second Avenue, and at the time of his death we lived on 24th Street Drive, S.E. I kept the house for ten years and then sold it. And that was rather interesting. At the time, everything we had, he wanted me to be sure to be able to take care of the boys, so everything we had was in my name. So if we had had to have gone through an estate, I don't know what would have happened. But as it was, it was my house and so finances weren't considered. It was my house, so he said, "All I want is for you and the boys to have a home."

PH: I think you told me one time when we were visiting that your husband was an electrical contractor?

Neff: Yes.

PH: And that he had a business on 14th Street?

Neff: Yes, 14th Street and First Avenue. It's still there; it's a barber shop now.

PH: Did you live close by there on 14th when you had the business?

Neff: No, we lived in the house that was connected to the building, after we were married, but as a girl, we lived across from Polk School. I think they've torn the house down. And the Turners, with whom my husband lived--that was his grandfather--lived across the street. That house is still there. That's how I knew him.

PH: I asked you earlier what it was like keeping house when you were first married. Doing your laundry, for instance?

Neff: Well, we had a hand washer. We did have a washing machine that you served it this way with a crank. It wasn't connected up to electricity. You just kind of rotated the wooden tub.

PH: Was there, you mean, a paddle in it, or something like that?

Neff: Yes.

PH: And then you just moved that back and forth in a raking motion, something like if you were mashing potatoes, wouldn't you?

Neff: Well, it was...

PH: Not quite the same.

Neff: No. And it wasn't electric.

PH: How did you wring your clothes out?

Neff: I had a hand wringer that fastened right on the tub, and it had a crank that you ran it through. And then we had to hang them outdoors, always.

PH: You didn't have any dryers?

Neff: Oh, no. I don't think there was even such a thing as dryers, but we didn't have one.

PH: Did you do your laundry a certain day of the week?

Neff: Every morning.

PH: You did laundry every morning, because it was easier to keep up?

Neff: It was easier to keep up, and we didn't have to have as many clothes. And four young boys, you know... And even after I went to work, I used to get up every morning and do the washing before I went to work. And then I came home at night and I ironed. In those days, you had to iron their white shirts. Now you don't, but I had to iron four. If I didn't iron four tonight, I had eight to iron tomorrow night. And then the third night they

wouldn't have had any. I mean, they just didn't have more than that. So I washed every morning before I went to work.

PH: What about cooking? How did people cook? Did you have a gas stove? or electric?

Neff: We had a gas stove. No, I don't think they... I didn't even know anybody that had electric. We always had a good gas stove.

PH: Was this bottle gas, in tanks?

Neff: No, no, we had city gas from the time I can remember.

PH: Did you have city gas when you were growing up in your home?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: How about heat?

Neff: We had to have... we had coal when we first moved into our house. I've forgotten just what year they put the gas in. But we didn't have gas when we first moved there. We moved there... we must have lived there five or ten years before we had gas. We had coal.

PH: Now, when you spoke of coal, was this in a furnace or heating stove?

Neff: In a furnace. Everybody had to have a coal bin where they'd come and deliver the coal.

PH: That was another thing they delivered, is that right?

Neff: Yes, yes.

PH: That took care of your laundry and for cooking you had your own gas stoves. Can you remember the food that you cooked then? I mean we didn't have fast food places.

Neff: No, I know that I cooked lots of meat and potatoes and vegetables. And I don't think we had a lot of sweets, as sweets, but we had lots of meat and potatoes and vegetables.

PH: Did a lot of people have gardens, or do you remember if you might have had one?

Neff: We never had a garden.

PH: What about the farm market? Was that popular in Cedar Rapids at the time you were growing up, where people grow fresh vegetables?

Neff: I know that we went sometimes, but I don't think much.

PH: Then how did you have your food? Where did you get your vegetables?

Neff: At the grocery store.

PH: But was it just stacked? I mean, you had fresh ones all the time, or were they... did you have to can them?

Neff: I think we did lots of canning. I personally did lots of canning, fruits and vegetables.

PH: So that you would have them available when they didn't have fresh?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: If you didn't have much refrigeration, how did you keep your meat and things? Or did you...

Neff: We probably just didn't buy it ahead very much. We had just ice-boxes, we called them. They weren't electric, just iceboxes. I think we just bought every day.

PH: What about clothing and shopping for clothing? Did you do a lot of shopping or did you sew some of your own?

Neff: I made a lot of our own clothes. I had the education to do it.

PH: Earlier, when you were a young girl growing up, did you buy your clothes, do you think? or can you remember?

Neff: I just really don't remember whether we bought them. I can remember buying good clothes, when I was a girl, in Craemer's. You remember Craemer's were here many years ago? They were one of the stores, and I remember us going to Craemer's and my buying clothes. But I think we made a lot of our own. I made all the shirts my boys ever wore.

PH: Did you have a sewing machine in your home?

Neff: Oh, yes.

PH: I mean when you were little. I'm talking about when you were young and growing up.

Neff: Yes, we always had a sewing machine. My father was a very expert sewer himself, seamstress. He could sew pret' near anything. And so we just grew up knowing how to sew. He sold sewing machines for a while, and so...

PH: Can you remember the hospitals that were in town when you were growing up? Were there two of them at the time?

Neff: I think so. I think there were Mercy and St. Luke's.

End of Side One, Tape 1

Neff: Yes. The doctor in those days... some women went to the hospital, but he'd bring his own private obstetrical nurse to be there during the time I had the baby, and then it was up to us to hire a practical nurse to take care of me.

Neff: You're speaking of the days in the twenties when your sons were born?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: Did the doctors come to your house on any other occasion if you called them?

Neff: Yes, we had one that was very, very marvelous to come, whenever we needed him. I don't know whether I should say his name or not, but he was very marvelous. It was Dr. Mundon. I don't know whether you've heard that name. He was very marvelous to come at the slightest call.

PH: When you had your babies then, did you get to get up shortly after you had them?

Neff: No, they made you stay in bed about a week then. Now they don't.

PH: And you had to have care when you came home? You know, you mentioned that you had to get another nurse after the doctor left.

Neff: Yes. Well, I know they made you stay in bed longer than they do today. I was in bed at least a week. I don't think I needed to be, but that's the way they did do it in those days. I didn't have any problems.

PH: Can you remember anyone having broken bones, like in your children or yourself or your brothers or that, that might have had to go to the hospital if they had to have X-rays? Or whether the doctor came out to check them?

Neff: I don't think we had anything like that.

PH: What about scares that went through the health problems, you know, tuberculosis was one?

Neff: Yes, we didn't have that.

PH: Nor anybody in your neighborhood? Did you know anyone or were you familiar with it?

Neff: No.

PH: And the time they had polio?

Neff: Oh, my youngest son had polio. And he is a little lame today. He was about three or four when he had polio. He's a little lame, not bad, but noticeable if he's tired, particularly.

PH: In those days, did they have to be hospitalized for long periods of time?

Neff: No.

PH: He just was at home?

Neff: Yes.

PH: Did he have to be in bed?

Neff: I imagine so, but I don't really remember. I just know that he had polio, which was very unusual in those days, to have polio. Yet, they didn't immunize them, so maybe it wasn't as unusual. But he was the only one that had it.

PH: I've heard that people speak of the influenza epidemic that they had during... was that around World War I?

Neff: Yes. Well, World War I, my sons... my husband was gone--he wasn't my husband yet. And then my sons were all in World War II. They all went to war. And then came home and took advantage of their advantages and went to college. They are all college graduates.

PH: That's quite an accomplishment.

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: How would you say the association is different between the patient and a doctor now than it used to be?

Neff: I don't think there's the personal interest in the patients. I have wonderful doctors, but as I remember the one we had then, he

was just part of the family, really. Well, kids could even go to him on their own and tell him their problems. It wasn't that Mom had to take them. If they didn't feel good, why, they just went down and saw him and he always saw them down at his office. So I think they were more personal then.

PH: How about health insurance? Did they have health insurance then?

Neff: No.

PH: So that when you got your hospital bills, they just had to be paid?

Neff: We never went to the hospital. See, I didn't have any of my babies at the hospital.

PH: You didn't have any occasion to have to go?

Neff: No.

PH: Can you remember any ethnic groups that might have lived in Cedar Rapids during the time you were growing up, or up until... ?

Neff: I just don't remember. There probably were, but I don't remember anything about them.

PH: When you mentioned going to the Riverside Park, now, that would be down where the Czechs are?

Neff: Yes, yes. But I just don't remember. We didn't mix with the people down there. We just went on our own.

PH: Or whether there were hard times, can you remember during the Depression about people being out of work or seeing bread lines or soup kitchens?

Neff: Oh, yes.

PH: What do you remember about those?

Neff: Well, it was during the Depression that I went to work. And so we were more fortunate than many people. Of course, maybe one of the reasons they hired me was because they could get me cheaper, I don't know. But it turned out for the best anyway.

PH: Can you remember if Cedar Rapids had any soup kitchens going for the people who were out of work or unemployed?

Neff: I don't know. We never took advantage of it if they had it?

PH: No, I mean, what about information in...

Neff: Yes, but I just don't remember that. I really don't remember whether they did or not. I would think they would have had, but I don't know.

PH: I want to ask about what you did during the holidays when you were a child growing up. For instance, on Memorial Day, were there parades that you might remember? or if they went to the Vets Auditorium on Memorial Day?

Neff: I don't think they had the Vets Memorial Building when I was a child. I think that was built later; I don't know what year.

PH: I see. Then the Fourth of July, what did you do?

Neff: Well, we always used to shoot fireworks. We always had harmless ones. And generally we'd go on a picnic. That was the extent of our celebration, going on a picnic. But we'd shoot fireworks at home first. I know that we'd get our father up at four o'clock in the morning to shoot fireworks because he wouldn't let us shoot them unless he was along. So he went along with it and got up at four o'clock in the morning.

PH: Waiting for the fireworks.

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: Thanksgiving. What did you usually do for Thanksgiving? Did you have any special traditions you might have done? Did you have any relatives you went to visit?

Neff: Well, we, generally speaking, had all of the family affairs at our home, even when I was a girl. We didn't go other places; we had them. And then when I was left alone with my family, we always had all the family gatherings because we had a place to have them. So we always have them now. I miss having that house anymore.

PH: When you had the family gatherings, you mean you had relatives--aunts, uncles, cousins--that would come to your place?

Neff: Um hmm.

PH: And did you usually have turkey? or goose?

Neff: I think we had chicken. I don't think we knew about turkey in those days.

PH: And Christmas, now, do you remember anything you might have done on Christmas? How did you spend that holiday when you were a child?

Neff: Well, I can remember us children. There couldn't anybody go downstairs until we were all ready to go. Then we all marched down the stairs single file. But we had to all be ready. Anybody couldn't go down ahead of anybody else.

PH: You mean on Christmas morning? Did you have a... ?

Neff: Yes, Christmas morning. Yes, we always had a tree. And we always had Christmas on Christmas morning, not Christmas Eve. But I can remember that yet, how we had to line up at the head of

the stairs because nobody could go until everybody was ready. So whoever wanted to sleep that morning didn't get to. (Laughter)

PH: He had to get up and go with the rest of them. What kind of decorations did you have on your trees? Did you have lights?

Neff: No. Oh, we did have candles at one time, but I don't remember what year that was. But candles never were safe. Generally speaking, we had all these little fragile ornaments of different kinds. We always had a tree. But we didn't have electric lights. We did have candles one year, I remember. But that's dangerous.

PH: What kind of gifts would you expect to receive on a Christmas when you were a child?

Neff: I think mostly we got clothes. We always needed clothes, and I think that's what we mostly had. To all us brothers and sisters we might have given just little toys, you know, of some kind. I know we were quite a close family and did things together. I can remember that.

PH: Do you think rather you had more clothes than you would have had toys?

Neff: Yes, I think that... well, we needed the clothes. We could get along without too many toys. You know what I mean.

PH: What did the stores do for advertising for Christmas? Were there a lot of toys and Christmas decorations?

Neff: I don't really remember when I was really young. I just really don't remember what they...

PH: Well, when your children were young, can you remember their advertisements? Or how about getting ready for street decorations and that before... ?

Neff: Well, they always had them then, but I really don't remember.

PH: During the twenties, can you remember anything about the "Roaring Twenties"?

Neff: Not too much. Of course, that's when I was married and when I graduated from college. I really don't remember too much about it. And then I went to work. I was married in 1921. I just don't remember too much about it; that's quite a while back.

PH: You mentioned, Mrs. Neff, that after you had worked for your father, before you got married, then you worked until you had your first child--for your father in his company. But then your husband had a business, and you worked for him. What did you do for your husband in his business?

Neff: Well, I was a secretary and telephone operator. He had an electrical repair business, and so I handled the phone calls, which there were some. He did all kinds of electrical repair. And I kept his books, I think, as I remember it.

PH: You were a working mother and juggled your... ? Was that common in those days?

Neff: No.

PH: Then how did you... I mean, did you have any friends that you knew that did that?

Neff: I don't remember anybody.

PH: I was curious because it seems like you were ahead of yourself when you were in the working force for so many years, and raising a family, even before your husband passed away when you had to go to work then. So that if you felt like you were raised... that your life was any different from other women that paralleled your

age group. Do you think that might have been true? I think you referred to one time that if you hadn't gone to work for your dad you probably would have been a teacher.

Neff: Yes, yes. I graduated with a diploma ready to... I think I probably had a teacher's certificate, but I never did teach. I never even applied for a job because he said, "But I want you in my business." Which was something I hadn't even thought of.

PH: So that your life took just a little bit different line.

Neff: Yes, and it was so much better than if I had been a teacher, because I don't know what would have happened when I had to make a living.

PH: You mentioned also that you were a manager of several offices. Did you feel that was unusual for a woman? Did you feel any discrimination in those days?

Neff: Yes, I did have a little problem once in a while with some of the help. And one of the girls that worked under me, I don't remember what... I remember them saying in a write-up about me that I never told people to do anything, I asked them to do it. I mean, there's a difference in that. And she just wasn't going to do what I asked her, and I said, "Well, you don't even have to work here if you don't want to." That was all I said, and she said, "O.K., I'll quit." And I called our personnel manager and I stood in well enough with him, he said, "She can't quit. We've just fired her."

PH: Among the other department managers who probably male, did you feel there was any discrimination?

Neff: No, I got along just real well with them. At the moment, we go to Kenwood Park Presbyterian Church, and of course that's in that location where Allis-Chalmers was, you know, and LaPlant-Choate, and I still am good friends with all those fellows that were heads of the other departments. They remember me, but, you see, I had white hair when I was in my twenties; so they have changed, but I haven't changed much.

PH: You still have your white hair.

Neff: I have had it since I was in my twenties, and I'm about the same size. I've never changed much in size.

PH: Do you think that might contribute to your longevity?

Neff: I think, because I'm not too heavy.

PH: And you've always been active or worked hard?

Neff: Yes, both mentally and physically. I used to walk a great deal; I'd go on hikes with my grandchildren, seven and eight miles. But I haven't done that for a while, and right now I don't walk anywhere because of the eyes. I feel uncertain of my footing.

PH: But you did mention today that you had been to the Red Cross. Do you go there once or twice a week?

Neff: Oh, yes. Twice a month. And one of the Red Cross workers has a car. She was gone, so we didn't have it for a couple of weeks, but she's back and she came and got us and took us. She took us down and brought us back.

PH: How long have you been going to the Red Cross to work?

Neff: Oh, about... let's see, I retired 22 years ago... I've been going maybe fifteen years. When I first went to work for the Red Cross, I was in their office and answered the telephone and was

receptionist. That was when they were downtown about Third Avenue and Eighth Street. Then they moved out where they are, you know, and they offered to come and get me and bring me home because I couldn't get there otherwise; but about that time I'd had a few health problems and my family said "No." It was all volunteer; I wasn't paid. And they said, "No, you can't do that." But I go down now twice a month and sew. We work on baby layettes and quilts and things. And I enjoy it.

PH: Weren't there some other things you sewed... you were showing me...

Neff: Well, yes, that is for... it's called Rehab, the Legion Auxiliary, and those go to the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City. Every veteran when he comes gets what they call a "welcome kit." And I've made 3,500 of them.

PH: Do you want to describe those little kits that you've made for what you were telling me about?

Neff: Do you want me to go get one?

PH: No, because it can't be recorded, but like the little...

Neff: Well, it's like a... it's made of material, generally speaking, like drapery material that the different department stores donate samples of, and it's made like a little envelope with a flap. And a veteran gets to take it home when he goes, of course. We try to make them attractive; they're of different material. A little envelope that folds over and ties, a little flap, I mean.

PH: Is this through the... ?

Neff: That's through the Legion Auxiliary.

PH: Do you belong to your... ?

Neff: Oh, I've belonged to the Legion Auxiliary... I think my last card said 56 years. I belonged while my husband was still living. He was very active in the Legion, so I went along and was active in the Auxiliary. They asked me to be an officer one year, but I just had too many other things, I couldn't do it. So I didn't even try.

PH: But you do sewing for them at home?

Neff: Oh, yes. Most every day I make one or two of these welcome kits. I enjoy it, and they tell me... I've had two letters from the head of the hospital telling me what a nice job I did. So you can't beat that!

PH: Sure can't. It's nice to be appreciated, isn't it?

Neff: Yes, but I don't do it for that reason. But I think it's nice that they enjoy them. They said the men did, they enjoyed them. I try to make them attractive.

PH: I saw one of them when I was here visiting you the last time. It was quite attractive, and I remember you said you'd made a great number of them.

Neff: Yes, 3,500.

PH: That's a great deal to make. And I am happy to have interviewed you, Mrs. Neff. This is Peggy Harrington. Thank you for your time.

END OF INTERVIEW

