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Interview with Virginia Pannell About Her Life (FA 154)

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Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

TAPE1, SIDE1

CHARLOTTE POSTLEWAITE: {Chuckles}

?: I'll tell you what ??

CP: Uh, this is Charlotte Postlewaite, and I'm at the Greenville Senior Citizens Center. It's July 16th, 1986, and we're working on the Oral History Project. I'm interviewing Virginia Pannell. {Pause}

VIRGINIA PANNELL: I was born in 19n10, right on the city square in Greenville, right by the courthouse, and we owned, a great, big, lot, which has now, been made into, three businesses, and at one time, we had cows, and horses, pigs, chickens 'n, and, and we uh, canned a lot, from a garden, 'cause we had a large, we were a large family. And we also, uh, shoed our own animals. Uh, of course, a bit later on, they passed a cattle law, cattle, law, I guess you would call it, and we couldn't, couldn't

CP: Couldn't do that.

VP: Couldn't do that. Oh, I would say when I was about six years old, which would make it '16, 1916, I

CP: And what kind of law was that?

VP: It was a law that you couldn't have, horses and pigs and cattle and in, right in the middle of Greenville. {Both chuckle} Oh, I came from a large family, and I'm the youngest, and I'm, they're all gone, but me. And uh, when I graduated from high school, I went into, to Western, to school, to college, and after two years of college then, you could teach, so I taught five years in Owensboro, Kentucky, and that's where I was during the Great Depression, and I'll never forget it. Through the worst of the Depression, see, I graduated from high school in '29.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: So I, my time, through right there to the Great Depression, and then after five years, I came here, and taught, thirty-six years in Greenville schools.

CP: Okay, let's start this

{Tape stopped}

VP: Bought the land,

CP: Start right there.

VP: Okay. Uh, in early years, uh, our little city, had what was called "academies" or "colleges", and people came from all through Kentucky and Tennessee. And in 19-, in 18n97,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

the citizens of Greenville purchased that property and it was made into, a, high school. Now, they gradually added one year, until the 1910, they had the first, four year, high school.

CP: And that's when you were born, 1910.

VP: I was born in '10, so I didn't remember that.

CP: Right,

VP: But {Chuckles}

CP: Okay, so,

VP: Uh, I remember going to school, at Emory, in the uh, what they called the college dormitory then, and they opened, the grade school classes.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And I went from the first to fifth grade there, and, uh, sixth grade there, and upstairs was the gymnasium, so you can imagine the noise you listened to sometimes. I remember that. {Chuckles}

CP: Oh.

VP: And then, I moved, in 1923, the high school building burned, and we children were very happy and very thrilled about it.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: Because we thought we were not going to be able to school, but to our surprise, we did not miss a single day, because the churches and the courthouse, and people who had big basements, allowed us, to use them. They, started a new building that was ready for the next year.

CP: Well.

VP: In '24. Uh huh.

CP: Well, how were children treated then, when you were in school? Now, you taught. You had something that you can compare that to, but when you were in school?

VP: Uh, they were more strict, however, I was a very strict teacher. I guess I've done it, naturally, because I was raised very strictly. And uh, but we didn't have, yes, we had football, and basketball until, the 1930s and the Depression caused them to have to, take ??, all of those sports out.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: But you didn't, they didn't have to quit having school?

VP: No, no, no, we continued having school there, and so we had one little building then, and we had the old, one more building, that was left, and they tore that building down where I went to uh, the first six grades. They tore that down and built a gymnasium in 19-, in the 1930s.

CP: Okay.

VP: And uh, so, we brought basketball back, but it's just been in the last three years that they brought football back.

CP: Oh, is that right?

VP: And we are not in the same, well now the, elementary school is on one side of town and our, high school is on the other side of town now.

CP: All right, what else do you remember about family life when you were a child? What'd you all do for entertainment, at home at night,

VP: Well,

CP: When you were...

VP: Occasion, occasionally, uh, we went to the movies. Of course, they were silent movies, but we always had somebody, there that played the piano that tried to suit, whatever the movie, the, whatever was playing on the movie, and we all went to church, and we all, were very closely attached to our church, and the, things that they would have for the children.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Oh, I was a little Sunbeam, and, {Chuckles}

CP: Were you Baptist?

VP: Baptist. Mm, I was a little Sunbeam, and then I went to the BYPU. They don't call it that now.

CP: What it that, BYPU? Baptist?

VP: Baptist Young People's Union. They call it the Training Union now.

CP: So, your church provided, a lot of?

VP: A lot, and still does.

CP: Uh huh.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: For the, children, now.

CP: What, what did you do at home at night?

VP: At night?

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Well, I studied, and my father had a great, library and he encouraged his children to read because he read a lot. I miss his library, he had one of the best libraries, and in the family, because he bought them for us to read.

CP: Now, what did your father do?

VP: My father was, uh, one of the few people, that went to college, way back there in those days, and he had two years college, in what they called the old Bethel College at Russellville, as a lawyer, but then when he came back to Greenville, he got into the politics and was elected the youngest sheriff that Muhlenburg County has ever had.

CP: Mm.

VP: And we lived there right there on the corner, and here was, the courthouse right over here and here was the jail right over here, so it was very convenient. {Chuckles} And he was very interested in politics, and, uh, he was campaign manager for uh, a couple of the....state campaign managers for, a couple of the governors that were elected, and,

CP: Mm.

VP: Some of his closest friends were Alben W. Barkeley who was vice-president.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Later on, and uh, uh, some of the uh, statesmen.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: I, we had a great big front porch. It was nothing unusual for them to come, and

CP: Really?

VP: Plan it. Plan the campaign right there, in my living room or on the front porch.

CP: Well. What were some of the chief concerns of people, back then? Now I know everybody's concerned about something, makin' ends meet or, healthcare or something, what were people's

VP: Well, we didn't

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Biggest concerns, and...

VP: We had to work hard to make end meets, ends meet because we were a large family and Dad was trying to send us to college. Now most of us worked part of our way through college.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Some of my other brothers and sisters didn't want to go to college,

CP: Mm hm.

VP: But most of them did and they worked their way through. Uh, now what was the other part of it?

CP: Oh, I was just wondering uh, you know, about healthcare, were you concerned about healthcare?

VP: Yes, we were.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: We were worried about healthcare, and Dad was very interested in that, and at one time, when uh, they had a trachoma hospital here, tra-, tra-, trachoma, it's a disease of the eye.

CP: Oh.

VP: Uh huh. And Dad was very interested in that, and got, the doctors from Louisville to come down and take care, I can see because he took me down, to uh, to be examined to be sure I was all right.

CP: Now what, what kind of a disease, what did it do to they eyes?

VP: Oh, one just couldn't, see, see, if you didn't do something about it, you would go blind. Uh huh.

CP: Uh, tell me about the hospital.

VP: Well, it was a great, big, three story, white, home, down on lower Main Street. We would say in those days, lower Main Street and it's a Fraser property now. And I can see Dad right now, going down there, and helping the doctors take care of the children, something that he was very interested in that.

CP: And it was an epidemic?

VP: It was a just a regular epidemic of trachoma.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Well,

VP: Mm hm.

CP: How many doctors did you have here in Greenville?

VP: Oh, I can't remember. At that time, I can't remember, but about three.

CP: Is that right? Did any of them perform surgery here in Greenville?

VP: No. If we had surgery, we had to go to Hopkinsville, or Madisonville or Louisville. I know I had to go to Louisville. And one time I had to go to Hopkinsville before our hospital was built, uh, by, um, oh, during the Depression, by the WPA.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And, that was some time in the 1930s, and then from then on, of course, we, by that time, we had gotten a surgeon in here.

CP: And so...

VP: And now we had a nice hospital,

CP: Mm hm.

VP: For the children.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Uh, when people had surgery, was that uh, I know people are always concerned about surgery.

VP: Oh, yes.

CP: I mean, without the, the type of anesthesia we have today, what did people do to prepare for surgery, and?

VP: Mm hm. Now that, by that time as far as I, know the anesthesia was ether.

CP: Ether.

VP: Mm hm. And how I used to fight when I had to have surgery a time or two.

CP: You went to Louisville?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: You may notice it, but uh, from the time, 'course you wouldn't want to put this in your, your uh, story but uh, I was born, uh, I had uh, an injury to my, left eye.

CP: Mm.

VP: And when I was six years old, why, I had it removed.

CP: Ah, I didn't know that.

VP: Well, I sure did.

CP: Well, tell me then what transportation was like. You said that you had to go to Hopkinsville or somewhere, when you were a child,

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Before the first uh, well uh, now you just tell me when you saw the first automobile,

VP: Well,

CP: Or your family had one. Tell me how you got there.

VP: It was uh, well, we did have a car, but that didn't come in until about 1909, or 1910. The reason I, know of that time was my Mother had a horse and buggy, and she and a friend of ours, were out one afternoon, and uh, the friend had, me in her lap, and coming down what we called the, the Methodist Church hill, there was one of the first cars in town was coming up, was coming up the hill, and scared the horse, and the woman was scared and it threwed me on the,

CP: Uh.

VP: On the, street, and now you know what's the matter with me. {Both chuckle} Uh, I don't remember that, of course,

CP: Yes.

VP: But they told me. Mm hm.

CP: Uh, can you tell me about the first car, and how you got it?

VP: Well, uh, oh yes.

CP: Must have been a big one, for your family.

VP: Yeah, it was, well, no, it wasn't too large, and I've forgotten what the make was. Uh, but uh, uh, we were on the IC Railroad, and at that time, we could go take an early morning train to Louisville,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And shop or go to a doctor or something or so, and take a later afternoon uh, train and get back by about nine o'clock that night.

CP: Now, is that the Illinois Central?

VP: The Illinois Central, mm hm.

CP: How long would it take to go to Louisville on the train?

VP: Oh, I don't know, as many times as I went, I don't remember.

CP: { Chuckles } Was it, were they open passenger cars, fairly open or?

VP: Well, they were enclosed. You dare not raise the window, but uh,

CP: But why?

VP: Well, the soot and

CP: Oh. { Both chuckle } Did you enjoy the draft?

VP: Yeah, for many times, mm hm.

CP: When you went shopping, when uh, can you tell me a little about uh, the fashions or, prices or, a typical shopping day in Louisville when you were younger?

VP: Usually we were looking for clothing.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And uh, we always stayed at the old Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, which has recently, uh, been restored.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And I want to go up and see it.

CP: I'd like to do that, too.

VP: Uh huh, and uh, because that's where the Democratic Headquarters, office, was, and that's where Dad, of course, would stay, when he would go.

CP: I see. He was a Democrat.

VP: He was a Democrat.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Most people here in Greenville? Which way did people lean?

VP: Uh, well, generally, in most elections it's, it's the Democrats, but there have been times when there have been Republicans elected.

CP: Uh, what would you consider the greatest evils of, when you were a child and a teenager, what did people think, were the evils of society?

VP: Drinking, gambling, and uh, uh, adultery, the usual, husband and wife, and so on.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Getting divorces and such.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Yeah.

CP: You know, I, I didn't know that was very common,

VP: Uh huh.

CP: I, uh...

VP: It was, because I remember it.

CP: How did people react to a divorce, when you were a

VP: Divorced?

CP: It's so common place now.

VP: Oh, they just didn't, like it at all. They, looked down upon them, but uh,

CP: Mm hm, mm hm. How did women fit into society when you were a little girl, now, now, eventually women got the right to vote, but were women, an important part of Greenville society?

VP: Yes, and they had what they called the Woman Book Club which became, the Woman's Club, known as today. And uh, they were very able and civic, uh in civic matters. In fact, they were, the ones who started our city library, and uh, since then, of course, it's been taken over by the, because of the tax, that has been levied by the county, of course, everyone pays. We have a nice library here now.

CP: Mm mm. Uh, what about the black community here in Greenville, were they very visible?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Yes, we had a lot of black, people, but, in my church, when my sister got married, for example, she had a big wedding, and, the negroes that we had helping us to cook and clean, went to the balcony and sat.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: We didn't, we didn't never have any trouble at all.

CP: But they did come to your church?

VP: Yeah, they did come, but they were sitting in the balcony.

CP: Yes.

VP: Mm hm. There was very few of them. They had their own church. Finally they got their own church. We got a Methodist and a Baptist..

CP: Mm hm. Did they go to school with you?

VP: No. Oh, no. They did, no. Why uh, from the first grade to the seventh, eighth grade, they, we had, a special school for them out here, and then when we they got eighth grade, they were bussed, to Drakesboro for high school.

CP: I see.

VP: Mm hm. Yes.

CP: Um, did you think that we would get involved in World War I? Now, I know Woodrow Wilson, had in his campaign slogan that they'd, he'd, he'd kept us out of war, but...

VP: It was the war to end all wars.

CP: Yes.

VP: Uh, I had a brother, that was in the war, but he never did get, get to Europe. He, he, just about the time he was ready to be shipped out, they, declared the Armistice. But I remember uh, my mother, and all of her people would roll bandages and knit socks and knitted scarves.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Knit scarves and so on, that was sent, remember that. Uh huh.

CP: Very many people from Greenville have to go to war?

VP: Yes, there were quite a few. Uh huh.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Now during that time, how about, how did the flu epidemic hit Greenville, were any of your family sick?

VP: Oh, my goodness, yes. My mother was so contagious, and uh, uh, in fact it got so bad, that in my family, and I remember that. My older brother which was, in camp, at Fort Knox, they allowed him to come home. They'd have to take care of 'em, because he'd already had it, and they didn't think he'd take it again. He had it.

CP: Did all of you have it at one time in your house?

VP: No, one just as fast as the other.

CP: What, what, now, was it just, what kind of flu was it, intestinal or respiratory?

VP: Respiratory, more respiratory than intestinal, but it's a terror. Oh, just a plain, old-fashioned flu, and of course, you ached all over, and a high temperature and so forth.

CP: How did you treat it?

VP: I don't know, what they gave us to be frank with you. I don't know.

CP: Mm. Did it...?

VP: I can't remember any shots like penicillin then, but

CP: Uh huh.

VP: ...like that...

CP: Uh huh.

VP: I don't know what it was.

CP: Did very many people die from the flu?

VP: Yeah.

CP: I know they said that about ten million people died from that flu.

VP: Yes, yes, uh, uh, one of my doctors died as the result.

CP: Is that right?

VP: He just kept goin', an' kept goin', and he contracted, the flu and then into pneumonia and died. One of the doctors. I remember that because he married an aunt of mine. Mm hm.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Do you remember what some of the popular songs were in the 1910s?

VP: I was too young.

CP: That's right, you were, you were only nine or ten years old.

VP: I was only nine years, ten years when I was nine years old.

CP: Uh huh. Well, let's go on to the '20s and '30s since you were a little bit older then.

VP: Oh, uh huh.

CP: Okay? Uh, one other thing that I wanted to ask you about was uh, what was courting like when you were a teenager?

VP: {Chuckles}

CP: In love, young love, tell me a little bit about it, a typical date.

VP: Oh, well, there wasn't any where to go, and we didn't have cars back then, and 'course the boys then didn't have cars like they do now. And uh, we, we went to the movie. And we

CP: How many movie houses did you have here?

VP: Just the one.

CP: Okay.

VP: I think that it was called the Palace. Uh huh. And there really wasn't much for us to do. Of course, we took in all the ballgames.

CP: Okay.

VP: And uh,

CP: Did you court at home a lot?

VP: Oh, yes, in there on the front porch, and our front porch had two great big swings on it, and we courted on the front porch, or in the living room in the winter time. Mm hm. I remember one of the hardest spankings I got was, there were French doors, between my living room and a bedroom, and uh, my older sister, just older than I, Louise, was dating, of course, much more than I, at that time, and she was going with, the coach, in high school. And they caught me peeking through that door. They caught me and said come out. {Both chuckle}

CP: Who whipped you?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Mother. I remember a whippin' from my Daddy but once.

CP: { Chuckles }

VP: I think, from my Daddy, but once. I was kind of, a Daddy girl.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Mm hm. Yeah. Uh, mm, forgot what I was gonna say now.

CP: Did you have uh, I'm tryin' to think, did you have a radio, did you all listen to the radio or?

VP: Oh, yeah,

CP: Victrola or what?

VP: 'Course, we had a Victorola. And then of course the radio came in. My brother who was, at that time, was a graduate of the University of Kentucky and uh, joined with Western Electric in Chicago, and he found out that, that we didn't have a radio, and uh, by that time, Dad wasn't very well, and so he sent us, one of the first radios we had.

CP: Tell me about that radio.

VP: I can't think what the name of it was. The make. But it was, off-white.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: It had a power line wire.

CP: Huh.

VP: Can't think what the name was, what make it was.

CP: Was it, did you plug it in or was it a battery operated?

VP: No, we plugged it in.

CP: Mm.

VP: Plug it in. Mm hm.

CP: What kind of shows or, we, what, what kind of programming?

VP: Well, we could get Nashville and then, the uh, the type of music there, you know what I'm talking about? And uh, uh, I don't know, oh goodness, I don't know.

CP: Well,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: It's been so long.

CP: { Chuckles }

VP: You know.

CP: Well, if you think of anything, well, you know, we can come back to that.

VP: Yeah.

CP: Uh, in uh, the '20s and '30s, now, I, we had a note that a Mathis fellow, a black man...

VP: Oh.

CP: A...

VP: Oh.

CP: Was a real popular restaurant.

VP: Oh, yes.

CP: Can you tell me about that?

VP: Oh yes, on Main Street, South Main Street, and, and I think they had a restaurant, and uh, the negroes would eat in the back, and the white people would eat in the front. What, he was so well know for, he uh, cooked beef roast, well, in large amounts, and of course, you know that, made it that much better, and we could take our, little bucket or our copper pan, and go up there and get the beef and gravy. I've made a many a trip from my house, which was right down here, and go up, right over here. I've made many a trip up there, to get, B. Mathis is his name.

CP: B.

VP: B. Mathis.

CP: Was that an initial or was that his full name?

VP: That was an initial.

CP: Okay.

VP: Now, I don't know what it stood for. Mm hm. And you

CP: How much did it cost to get a big,

VP: Oh, I don't know.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Chunk of beef?

VP: I don't know. I'm gonna ??

CP: We heard that was one of the most popular places.

VP: Oh yes, it was. Oh yes.

CP: Anything...

VP: And it was on the corner, um, it's been torn down, but, in the last six months, the corner there, uh, across from the courthouse, was very popular for the young people. Mm hm. You know, after a ballgame or,

CP: Mm hm.

VP: After school in the afternoon, that sort of thing. They called it Haley's Corner. Which in the early, very, very early years, was a bank. We had, three banks here, at one time. 'Course they've all been consolidated.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And uh,

CP: Now, did any of them close during the Depression?

VP: No. It wasn't the Depression that caused them to close. Mm nhm. And now, I taught, I went to school, two years, and then I taught at Drakesboro, and I was on the committee, with Red Cross, and I had to visit some of the homes, because at the same time, that uh, of the Depression, they had a strike. And that was coal mine.

CP: Now, can tell me about that, we had heard and heard about that strike but, we had conflicting stories about it.

VP: Well, now because, I don't, uh, I, if, it's the coal strike that you're talking about because, our county in has had several strikes that have been very serious. People have been killed and houses has been burned, and, and hard feelings between, families that had been friends.

CP: That's

VP: And uh, but this one, during the Depression, I went to the houses, to see whether they would be eligible for Red Cross, help, and it got on my nerves so I couldn't, and I'd see the children come to school and not have enough to eat, got on my nerves so I, the doctors told me, "You've got to get off that committee."

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Yeah.

VP: And uh, and things were, bad.

CP: Well, now what did the Red Cross, supply, to these families?

VP: Food, and clothing, and in some cases, rent.

CP: And where did the money come from to help the Red Cross do this?

VP: Well, just like people giving just like they do now.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Now, the government did have, uh, one year or maybe two years, uh, they gave enough money that they could feed the children at noon, soup or sandwiches, and some times that would be all the child would have.

CP: Mm hm. Did you all have Health Department here?

VP: Yes. That was something that my Dad was very interested in. We did have a Health Department, and we had a Health Nurse, and a

CP: A what

VP: And a doctor, who went to the school or where, anywhere, and they would give shots for, what, the measles, or uh, flu and that sort of thing. They would give shots.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Mm hm. Typhoid fever. There was one time when, when I was a very small child, that we, uh, that typhoid fever, epidemic. And it was traced through the water, 'cause we had out of that, we had that

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And our whole family, had it. I had a very light case of it. But there was a typhoid fever epidemic here, when I was just a tot.

CP: So, you all had, that eye disease epidemic

VP: Oh.

CP: And that typhoid fever and the flu.

VP: And the flu, mm hm.

CP: When was that?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: I remember that flu, very badly in the family. I remember that, quite well, because as I said, my whole family, maybe two or three down at once, but I had a large family.

CP: Mm hm. When the stock market crashed, I've always heard Greenville was a well-to-do, little town, did anyone here lose anything?

VP: Well, here in Greenville, and I heard on the radio the other day that Greenville had more, millionaires, percentage wise, than the store, could fit in Kentucky or for that matter in the United States. Uh, I don't know of any, 'course I, I was, mm hm, that was in '29, wudn't it?

CP: Mm, uh, well.

VP: I was nineteen years old.

CP: All right, and then on into the '30s.

VP: Mm hm. Yes.

CP: How did people get by during the Depression? Did anyone here lose work?

VP: Yes, oh, yes. They lost work, and uh,

CP: Now, was it the coal mining, people that lost work or did everyone lose work?

VP: Everyone was off work. Everyone lost work. It was bad times come, like it is now, you know, you can't get a job here in Muhlenburg County for anything. We have a very high, unemployment rate.

CP: Well, let me back up a little bit, because we got side-tracked.

VP: Yeah.

CP: The two strikes we heard about over in Central City were, the 1924 Strike which broke the union,

VP: Yes, and they brought what they called the "scabs" in.

CP: Well, can you tell me, uh, how did they break the union? Who broke the union?

VP: I don't know, but when I taught at Drakesboro I kept findin' these very strange names, such as Smith, see, in my D.T. and I didn't know where in the world these things come from, not here, and there were people that had been brought in,

CP: I see.

VP: To work in mines.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Non-union people.

VP: Non-union.

CP: Did some of the union workers, not want to strike? You said that there were bad feelings?

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Did some want keep working?

VP: Yes,

CP: And not want to strike?

VP: That's, that's always the way. Mm hm, mm hm. But people had been shot at and killed.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Houses had been burned.

CP: Why?

VP: Well, hard feelings, I guess. I don't know. Just like, today why's, why, a lot of things happen.

CP: Well, did, did, the coal miners, the local coal miners go on back to work then without their union, did they just finally get forced, to go back?

VP: Finally they did, yes, but, but, by that time, those people were already settled in there and were on the payroll.

CP: Okay, and then uh, the next stri-, uh, I said the next one I heard about was about '33, '32 or '30, somewhere in early '30s.

VP: Now that would be one that when I lived, over there.

CP: And you heard of the Schmidt??

VP: The Schmidts had two boys.

CP: And what were their last names?

VP: S-, S-C-H-M-I-D-T.

CP: Schmidt.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Mm hm. I think, I think there's one of 'em living in Central City now. Mm hm.

CP: What do you remember about Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal?

VP: Oh.

CP: The social programs, but now, uh, you know I've heard, he and, of course World War II, helped us get out of the Depression.

VP: Yeah, I

CP: Is that how you feel?

VP: Well, he did pass some good laws there that helped, and I think he during that time limit, and uh, that was too late.

END TAPE1, SIDE1

TAPE1, SIDE2

CP: What was life like without electricity? When did you all get electricity?

VP: Well, uh, I ought to know that 'cause I wrote the history of the town. I don't remember. I remember when they got natural gas. Well, that was in the 1930s. How glad I was that I didn't have to take the ashes out and burn coal again.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: Mm hm. That was in the 1930s.

CP: Natural gas.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: What was the company? Do you remember, was that, Western?

VP: I guess it's the same company we have now.

CP: I guess it was.

VP: Uh huh, uh huh.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Uh, did you have a refrigerator or and old ice box, or how did you keep things cool?

VP: Well, uh, we had an old, old,

CP: Before electricity?

VP: We had an old ice, they called it; we had a great big ice box. We used that and could a hundred pounds at a time. And uh, we had, ice company, would, would deliver it every so often. Mm hm. That, that worked quite well. Mm hm.

CP: Did your home stay cool?

VP: No.

CP: I know a lot of old homes were built for nice cross ventilation. ??

VP: Well, I guess ours stayed fairly cool in comparison to some of ‘em. Mm hm. Mm hm. We had one of the first washing machines, I know, it was a Blue Bird??.

CP: Uh. What type, now, was that a wringer washer?

VP: A wringer washer. Mm hm.

CP: What was laundry day like with a big family?

VP: Oh goodness, it was, we’d take sometimes wash twice, two or three times a week, within one week. Mother was sick one day and Dad decided he was gonna...

CP: { Chuckles }

VP: Do the washin’, ‘cause I was in school, and Louise was in school, and the others at that time were in college or, or uh, at work somewhere, and Dad caught his, thumb, in the wringer.

CP: Mm.

VP: I’ll never forget that if I live to a jillion. Mm hm.

CP: I’ve often heard of people getting hurt, little children especially, with the wringer.

VP: Getting their hands, yeah. Mm hm.

CP: What type of detergent and whitener...

VP: Lye soap. We didn’t have any, oh, and we did have, cotton blueing but I’ve forgotten what it was, but we used the lye soap a lot of times. Just old fashioned lye soap that we made.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: I guess then you had to do a lot of ironing?

VP: Oh, yes. And at first we, used the old fashioned irons that we heated on the stove.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: And we were very happy when we could, get the electric irons.

CP: I bet so.

VP: Mm hm, yeah, very happy.

CP: Of course then too, you had the clothes line.

VP: Oh,

CP: instead of the dryer then.

VP: By all means, the, the clothes line, oh yes. It's the only way we could.

CP: The '30s were uh, I think a good time for literature and culture,

VP: Oh.

CP: And music. Now, as you, as you were uh, growing a little older, what was some of the good uh, plays and stories or books? I guess since your Dad had a big library, do you remember what some of your favorites were?

VP: Uh, I've read so much and I,

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: I don't know whether I can answer that question or not.

CP: Well, uh, a few of them that we teach now,

VP: Mm hm.

CP: That came out in the '30s were *The Good Earth*, and *Brave New World*, and *Mice and Men*. I wonder how popular was Mark Twain was?

VP: Very, popular uh, those were in the '30s?

CP: Mm hm. Toward the late '30s.

VP: Mm hm. Well, I read 'em all but I was thinkin' they were a little bit later than that. Mm hm.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Well, do you want to move on to the '40s?

VP: Mm.

CP: Was there anything, you know, the Red Cross, that interested me, how active you were in, in Red Cross.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Uh.

VP: Well, I had to give that up. It was just, uh, uh, I didn't, uh.

CP: I can see why that would be hard.

VP: Hard, yes, and when I came home, meanwhile, Daddy had died, and I got a chance to come here and teach.

CP: I see.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Had the schools changed much?

VP: Oh, schools had changed a lot. And they are still makin' uh, quite a bit of change because the Greenville and the Central City schools are going into the county.

CP: Yes.

VP: As of, July the 1st.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And uh, I enjoyed teaching. Mm.

CP: How did the classroom change for you? From the time you were a student yourself to when you became a teacher and, and as the years went by in teaching, did you ever teach in a one-room schoolhouse?

VP: Oh, no, but I used to visit, my cousin, that, she lived out in the country, and those schools would start before the city schools, and I just thought that it was a wonderful thing to go to a one-room school.

CP: {Chuckles} Why?

VP: Well, I could see everybody and hear everybody, and, and I was, of course, could, class, attend class.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Uh huh.

VP: And uh.

CP: City schools were a lot different then, weren't they?

VP: Oh yes, much different. And uh, well.

CP: Greenville was uh, quite a little cultural center.

VP: Yes, it's always been considered the cultural center, and the people here have always been very civic minded, and uh, as far as the schools were concerned.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Uh huh.

CP: Do you remember when crank telephones were replaced by the dial telephones or the operator, uh.

VP: Well, my telephone number was 36. {Both chuckle} Back there then, and uh, I don't remember the exact time when we changed, but my telephone number was 36. And I remember Dad, uh, tellin' the story, that uh, oh, there weren't very many telephones in town at that time and some man from out in the country came in, was a friend of Dad's, and he said he didn't believe, that, that something like that could happen. So Dad said, "Well, I'll prove it to you." And he said, "How?" He says, "Well, I'll call my wife, and let you talk to her." So then, by all means, he cranked up telephone, asked for 36, and Mother got on the phone. Mother, he told Mother, he says, "There's this friend here wants to talk to you."

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: And the man was very, very shocked, Dad said, but proved to him that it could happen. {Chuckles}

CP: I guess that was amazing to someone who didn't have one.

VP: I, I, we had one of the first bathtubs in town, too.

CP: Oh, now, tell me, you know, tell me about that and about, the plumbing. You just, tell me about that.

VP: Well, I can remember, when I was a little girl, I had just the, the back yard, plumbing, you know what I mean, don't cha? And the

CP: Outdoor toilet.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Outdoor toilet. But then, uh, they, finally uh, had water put in, and I can't think when that was.

CP: Was it, it must have been after electricity?

VP: Yes, and so we got uh, uh, a bathtub. Of course, they were all on four legs, you know,

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Old fashioned, big bathtub, and we were among the first in town to have one.

CP: Did anyone want to use your bathtub?

VP: Oh, yeah. Mm hm.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: Well,

CP: I bet that was such a

VP: We had such a large family, we used it lots ourselves.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Well, now, your Dad was Sheriff, uh, were there any major crimes that he had to deal with when you were growing up that, after he, became active in law enforcement.

VP: Well now, he, he was Sheriff before I was ever thought of.

CP: Oh, is that right? He must have been after you were?

VP: No, no, he was uh, very young. In fact he, he barely, was old enough to run, the youngest, uh, sheriff, Muhlenburg County ever had. I, the courthouse, we've had several courthouses. The courthouse that you see up there now, at one time, I think it was built, was started in 1907, but I was having a birthday party. Of course I was living right across,

CP: Uh huh.

VP: From, courthouse, and all of a sudden we heard the awfulest noise, and Mother came to the front door. We were playing games out in the yard. And, we knew, that it came from the courthouse but we couldn't imagine what in the world it was. And Mother kept tellin' us, "Don't go over there." Well, we went. And we found out, that the weights from the bell in the tower, had fallen down, all through the, the bottom, floor, of the tow-, of the top part, all the

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

way down, right through a table, they were having court, right through the table where my Dad sat and the stenographer, all the way down.

CP: Ah.

VP: To the bottom.

CP: Did it hurt anybody?

VP: Fortunately, no.

CP: The weights from the bell?

VP: The bell, mm hm, fortunately, no, mm hm.

CP: Goodness.

VP: Oh, I guess I was about eight or ten years old, when that happened.

CP: What kind of noise was it, to you kids out there?

VP: Well, it was uh, very big noise. It was, 'cause we were playing out in the yard at my birthday in April, uh huh, and we could here it that far.

CP: Yeah.

VP: And it caused quite a commotion in Greenville.

CP: Were there any, famous trials, right over there across from you all at the courthouse that you recall, cause a big stir,

VP: Oh,

CP: Or made people come to town?

VP: Oh, yes, but my father would not allow me, to go to hear those trials.

CP: He wouldn't?

VP: Mm nmh.

CP: Why not?

VP: He said, that they were just not for young people's ears. {Chuckles}

CP: Is that right?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Mm hm. But, we had a very, I know, the murder trials that, people came in for. People just standin' around the walls, there so they can hear it.

CP: Were there any public executions here in Greenville?

VP: Uh, they tell me, and I would read about it in um, in Rothbert's Muhlenburg County history, that, there was a negro that was hanged on the tree there at the corner of the courthouse.

CP: What was his crime?

VP: I don't know. I don't remember.

CP: You know when that, about when that would have been?

VP: It was, before I was ever brought up. Way back there.

CP: Was the uh, Klu Klux Klan or the Possum Hunters?

VP: The Possum Hunters came through here.

CP: Well, now, how, who were they and what did they represent? And when were they?

VP: I don't know. I really don't. Because, Dad was given uh, a key to the, jail in case, something happened, and he slept with it under his pillow.

CP: Now, what was his, what was his job, at that time, when he was holdin' the key?

VP: Well, well, well, he was, uh, a lawyer there in town and uh, already was, uh, campaign managers for the different,

CP: Uh huh.

VP: And I, I really don't know, hon.

CP: Was he worried about what the Possum Hunters did in a community?

VP: Yes. And they came all through the county. We didn't have as much trouble with 'em as some of the neighborin' counties did. Mm hm.

CP: What did they do?

VP: To be very frank with you, I'm not sure.

CP: Well, was it a racial thing, or more of uh?

VP: No,

CP: A moral society or what?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: No, it wasn't racial thing. Mm nmh.

CP: Mm. Uh,

VP: Now I, I, I, my Mother and I told on 'em, to, to ask about it, to answer your question there. But they did come through here, and as far as I know, we never had and trouble with the KKK.

CP: Okay.

VP: Uh huh.

CP: Were the Night Riders a different group? I, I've been hearin' all three of those names, but I don't think they're the same thing.

VP: The Night Riders, now one of 'em, caused it, they called it "The Tobacco Wars." And I don't know whether it was the Possum Hunters or the Night Riders. Uh, they were talking about the price of tobacco and so on and how, how, they sold it.

CP: I see.

VP: Uh, but I don't know which ones which. Mm hm.

CP: What was the main way of making a living here in Greenville since this is uh, city, a small, it was a busy little town?

VP: Uh, Greenville, before Muhlenburg County in the early days, was thought of as an agricultural county, and it still is to a certain extent, but we mine coal, oil, natural gas,

CP: Now, when do you,

VP: Limestone.

CP: Recall the first oil wells? I know it's a busy little county, or it was at one time in oil field? Was that uh?

VP: That was in the '30s, I think, that they began that, if I'm not mistaken.

CP: Oh okay.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: How did people feel about, Adolf Hitler?

VP: {Chuckles} Oh, my word.

CP: Or the whole world events of the early '40s? Were people in Greenville afraid that,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: You mean about World War II?

CP: Yes, uh huh.

VP: Mm hm. Oh, I don't know how to answer that. We, uh, many of our, boys volunteered at once,

CP: Mm hm. Was that?

VP: To go. To go over there.

CP: Were there any who, resisted? Were some of them?

VP: Not that I know of. No, I don't know of any draft dodgers.

CP: Do you remember what you were doing when Pearl Harbor occurred?

VP: Yes. I was riding in a car, coming from Madisonville, Kentucky, and coming home with my sister and her, boyfriend that she, oh, and he had the radio on.

CP: Could you all believe what you were hearing?

VP: Uh, it was very hard to believe, but I remember that Paul said, "That means war."

CP: Well.

VP: And of course it did, withing a couple days. Mm hm.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: That's where I was, between here and Madisonville.

CP: Did uh, did World War II affect any of your family?

VP: Yes.

CP: Directly?

VP: Yes. I had uh, a brother, a nephew that was, in the Battle of the Bulge, under Patton, and, he was, badly wounded and today he's still livin', but he's on crutches.

CP: Oh.

VP: And then I have another nephew that flew, fighter planes in the Pacific, and he flew one of the planes that, oh, that uh, uh, with, with, the plane that dropped the bomb.

CP: Is that right?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Mm hm.

CP: How did he feel about that bomb? How did all of you feel about the atomic bomb that ended the war on the one hand?

VP: It ended the war, it ended the war but I've always been against. I, I don't think that they should have done it. But that's, you don't put that in your story. {Chuckles}

CP: You know that everyone we've talked to has said that.

VP: Uh huh.

CP: Everybody feels that way.

VP: Mm hm, mm hm. Too bad.

CP: Did people have any idea that the atomic age was, that science was had gone that far?

VP: No.

CP: Life changed after that, didn't it?

VP: It changed after this in school, and you know this, everybody said that the, uh, the schools weren't teachin' enough science, and that sort of thing, you know.

CP: Did you all have to change your curriculum?

VP: Yes, we did, and at the same time, a little bit later on, came the new math, and as you know, we all had to, to switch to, new math and all that sort of thing.

CP: During World War II, there were a lot of women that went to work.

VP: Yes.

CP: Did you notice it affecting children and the way,

VP: Uh,

CP: Your teaching?

VP: Yes, there were several teachers that went to Evansville, and worked. They were making boats there, and there were several teachers that went.

CP: War boats?

VP: Uh huh.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: I didn't know that.

VP: There, yeah. Mm hm.

CP: And the teachers quit teaching?

VP: Mm hm. Dedication, the Librarian went. There were several.

CP: Well.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: How did it affect family life when, when women started leaving the home to, take jobs outside of the home, did you notice a change in children's interest, or not?

VP: Excuse me.

CP: Or anything about families? And now, that's when I heard that, the divorce rate began to climb.

VP: I was gonna say, yes, it uh, we did. It was uh, quite a problem, uh, who's gonna take care of the children and that sort of thing.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: It's quite a problem, and uh, you couldn't get teachers.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Mm hm, and uh, our, uh, pastors, very often, taught. We had three pastors here, preachers here in town, that taught.

CP: Mm.

VP: One was James Wheaton and one was brother, mm, what's his name, Brother Flowers and then, Brother Brooks that taught over there.

CP: Okay.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Do you recall rationing during World War II and how it affected you?

VP: What?

CP: Rationing, gas rationing,

VP: Rationing, oh, I didn't know what you said.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Sugar, rationing.

VP: Uh, yeah, yes, and cheese, shoes.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Yeah, oh yeah. We, we had our little ration books and, and had to watch our sugar.
Oh yes.

CP: Did you ever run short on anything?

VP: Oh, yes, we used to run short on sugar, and on shoes. When I was a tomboy and I was runnin' out of shoes.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: Yes, oh, yes. We'd have to go and register, you know, and get your book.

CP: Oh, you did?

VP: Mm hm, and your book had little stamps in it. Mm hm.

CP: And how did you use those, you tore the stamps out

VP: Yeah.

CP: When you needed something?

VP: Oh yeah.

CP: How often did you get a book?

VP: I don't know how.

CP: Now, were you teaching, uh,

VP: I was teaching in the '30s.

CP: Uh.

VP: Late '30s on, mm hm.

CP: Did you have to drive to, did you, where did you teach during the gas rationing?

VP: At

CP: Did that affect you and, did you have enough gas?

VP: Uh.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Or were you back here, in Greenville?

VP: No, I was in Drakesboro.

CP: You, well, did you have to drive back and forth?

VP: At that time, the county required the teacher to stay in the community where they were teaching.

CP: Oh, why's that?

VP: Well, they just thought we should take, part in,

CP: I see.

VP: Community affairs,

CP: Huh.

VP: But I would go home, well, I would say, every other weekend, and Dad would come get me. Mm hm.

CP: Well, that's how you worked that out.

VP: Uh huh, and uh, the road from Greenville to Drakesboro was not, uh gravel, and so we had to go from Greenville to Central City to Drakesboro.

CP: {Chuckles} Cars couldn't get back and forth on it.

VP: No.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Mm hm, mm hm.

CP: Uh, did, did people resent rationing or did they feel that like was a cause that everyone had to pull together to?

VP: I think they thought it was, that it was something they could do, do it.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Yeah.

CP: Do you remember having to save meta, or anything like that?

VP: Yes, we had paper drives and metal drives,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And all that sort of thing.

CP: Okay.

VP: It was done through the school, 'n Scouts, 'n whatnot.

CP: Anyone cheat on the rationing?

VP: Oh yes, we had people who would do that. {Chuckles} Mm hm.

CP: How did they, how did people get by with that? Wonder?

VP: Well, I don't know.

CP: Well, uh, how did you react when the war ended in 1945, did it, did it change life drastically here in Greenville?

VP: Well, not right at first it didn't, but then, very shortly afterwards it did, because we, we had more comin' back home, lookin' for jobs 'n,

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And uh, things began to look up. Mm.

CP: Was coal mining, did?

VP: Uh, coal mining, coal mining,

CP: Pick up?

VP: Coal mining for many years was just done by shaft mining, but then later, came the uh, surface mining.

CP: Yeah.

VP: Strip.

CP: Did that provide a lot of jobs or take away jobs?

VP: Uh, that took away jobs, when that came. Mm hm. And now, we're not doin' anything much.

CP: Yes.

VP: Mm hm.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: When did you get, do you remember the first TV you had, or the first one you saw?

VP: Yes, I saw, uh, it was a friend of ours, uh, had one, and we wanted to see it before we bought one.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: But we would go up there once in awhile and watch it. 'Course it was black and white, and it wasn't, it wasn't very clear, like snow.

CP: Is that right? {Chuckles}

VP: It was like snow.

CP: Was it a big screen or a little screen?

VP: Oh, oh, about like that.

CP: Well, that's pretty good size.

VP: Yeah, not bad. And I, me, I'm not sure but I believe that it was a Zenith.

CP: Do you remember what the television show was that you, first, watched?

VP: No.

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: No, I don't. I can't remember that.

CP: Okay.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Well, I'm trying to see, I believe we've just about covered everything. Is there anything that you think we've, left out or something you would like to talk about? I see that you have some history here. Uh, I'm really mainly interested, though, in your lifetime, now.

VP: Yes.

CP: I,

VP: Well, I

CP: I'd like to limit it to what you remember first hand.

VP: Mm.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Uh, you stayed here all your life. Did you ever travel any out, uh, do any travel away from Greenville?

VP: Oh, yes I, traveled, to Chicago, and New York and New Jersey and,

CP: Never had the desire to, to leave Greenville?

VP: Uh, to live?

CP: To, to leave.

VP: To leave?

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Probably, no. All my friends and my relatives are here, so,

CP: Yes.

VP: So I stayed right here. Mm hm.

CP: Well, is there anything you'd like to say, anything else you recall about life in Greenville and Muhlenburg County or teaching?

VP: Well, I don't know, hon, about,

CP: Well, let's stop just a minute.

{Tape stops?}

CP: Prohibition.

VP: Oh...

CP: How did that affect the, it really, it

VP: At one time, way back there in the real early years, Greenville had, uh, saloons, way back yonder.

CP: Is it dry now?

VP: Uh huh. And uh, then, I remember, that it, was voted, that they could bring beer in. I remember that, because I remember my brother, comin' in, and getting' it, and I can't, my, I don't what, what that was, what kind it was. And then they had another, another vote, election, and voted "dry" and it's been dry every since.

CP: Well, even though they voted the county dry,

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Mm.

CP: Did people have, alcohol in their homes?

VP: Yes,

CP: For social drinking?

VP: Yes, ma'am. They could all, uh, bootleggers around here. Still are.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: Or they could go to Owensboro, or uh, Hopkinsville or Madisonville to get it.

CP: Mm hm. Were the churches active in the wet-dry election?

VP: Very, very active, in, mm hm.

CP: How did they?

VP: Especially the Baptists in Lebanon.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Mm hm, mm hm.

CP: I, I know Baptists today,

VP: Yes.

CP: That still do. Well, I'm a Baptist that, we don't, we, we don't drink, but a lot of our friends do who are Baptists, and I just wonder if,

VP: Uh huh.

CP: Even then, during Prohibition that idea, well, if you can control it, drinkin's really not all that bad, I mean,

VP: True.

CP: The movement.

VP: Mm hm. Well, they finally voted to, and they tried, oh, they've had, what kind of election do they call that?

CP: I don't know.

VP: Well, anyway, but it's been voted a couple times.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Mm hm.

VP: The last two times they voted, still dry, but you won't have any trouble if you want, to find it. {Both chuckle} So they tell me, I'm afraid I wouldn't vote. Mm hm.

CP: I wonder if anyone got sick on, on bootleg liquor?

VP: I don't think.

CP: I've always, often heard that that's uh, can be pretty poisonous.

VP: It's uh huh, pretty bad. Not that I know of, what did you, what did they used to call that, "bathtub gin".

CP: {Chuckles}

VP: Mm hm. Something like that.

CP: Did people think that those saloons, were gonna ruin Greenville or did people just more or less, live life with them?

VP: Well, that was way back there in the early days, I was not, when I was not around.

CP: That was before you were born?

VP: Oh, yes.

CP: Oh, I see, I thought that you meant during your lifetime.

VP: No, no. No, I don't. There hadn't been a saloon here since, uh, but you could get it at the restaurants, when they voted, the beer in.

CP: Oh, I see.

VP: You could get it at the restaurants.

CP: I see.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Well, I believe we've just about covered everything that I can think of. I'm wondering uh,

VP: I don't know, uh, the Presbyterians had the first church that was built, here. And then, the Methodists and Cumberlands.

CP: Are there any Catholics in Greenville?

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

VP: Uh, there's not a Catholic Church here, and I, doubt if there are more than a half dozen Catholic families.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Mm hm.

CP: You wonder how that came about.

VP: I do not know.

CP: That's unusual because even in uh, Ohio County, there are a few,

VP: Uh huh.

CP: There's a parish.

VP: Oh, I know. Now, Central City has a small.

CP: Oh, does it?

VP: Yeah, but it's very small. Uh, in Greenville itself, uh, right now, I can't think of but two families.

CP: Have the churches had a great influence on the community of Greenville?

VP: Yes, yes, a very great, just especially the Baptist and the Methodists there.

CP: Is that right?

VP: They're the two largest denominations.

CP: Have they always had uh, revivals and,

VP: Yes.

CP: And community?

VP: Community. We've just gotten through a revival at the Baptist.

CP: Oh, really?

VP: But now in the early days, the revival would be two weeks long.

CP: Oh, my goodness.

VP: And you would do it twice, twice a day, morning and night, or either afternoon, but now we do well to.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: Even on weekdays?

VP: Mm hm. I can remember that.

CP: Good grief, that's a long time to sit. {Chuckles}

VP: I know.

CP: Are people as active, you think, in church today as they were uh, in the '30s and '40s? Do people have more or less?

VP: Uh, as far my church is Southern Baptists,

CP: Really?

VP: I think they're more active than they were.

CP: Oh, really?

VP: Compared to years ago. Uh huh. I can't speak for the, Methodists.

CP: How are they active, in social programs or?

VP: Social programs. They have a wonderful youth program at our church.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Now, how old is your church?

VP: How old? Uh, well, hundred and ten, would be the, '69,

CP: 1869?

VP: Nine.

CP: 1979, and you wrote this book?

VP: Yeah, I wrote it.

CP: Do you uh, do you write a lot?

VP: I have written some, mm hm., and about the school.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: 1910.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: 1810 to 1979, when did you retire from teaching?

VP: '72 or, '3, I, that was, mm hm.

CP: Were you ready to retire by then or?

VP: Well, I thought I was. I could have taught two years longer. But I, thought it was best uh, I wasn't seeing very well. I didn't have sense enough to go to the doctor, and found out I had stomach ulcers.

CP: Oh my. Did teaching do that to you?

VP: Uh, I don't know, that's what the doctor said.

CP: Well,

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Anything big or small that stands out in your mind about, 1910-1986, that we haven't covered?

VP: Mm.

CP: Who's the first president you remember? Which one do you remember? Now, children don't pay that much attention, I don't think, but, when did you become aware of, of, who the president was? Did you know Alben Barkeley yourself?

VP: Uh, he lived at Paducah, and he would come out up on that IC turn, IC railroad train, and, come on to my house, and I was a little girl, and he always brought me something and if he didn't bring me something he'd give me some money. I said, I've not been real smart. I would've kept what he brought me.

CP: {Chuckles} Now, you

VP: Uh, I didn't know.

CP: He was Vice President for, Roosevelt, who?

VP: I've forgotten my history, honey.

CP: I have, too.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Two school teachers sitting here and we don't know,

VP: We don't know ?? about that.

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949

Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)

CP: {Chuckles} Huh, what was he like, tell me what Alben Barkeley was like? Was he a big man or a little man?

VP: He was big, but he was a big man. And uh, not, not very big, but he, he was a good size man, and very kind, and very considerate, and uh, uh, he and Dad would sit out on the porch and talk and make their plans, and maybe some of the men, from town would come over. And it was just like, having an office. {Chuckles} Bought, bought beautiful things, and made ?? and my living room.

CP: Did that make you a political person?

VP: Well, I think, that made me, enjoy history more.

CP: Mm hm.

VP: And Dad was very interested in history, and uh, I think it had some influence on me. And it was A.O. Stanley who was Governor was often in my home.

CP: Is that right?

VP: Mm hm. And uh, Judge Gus Tomblinson, was judge for the district, in Frankfort, he was often in my home. My sister worked for him in Frankfort.

CP: And they took the I&C Railroad? I didn't realize that Greenville was such a hot spot politically.

VP: Well, you see there's two railroads, Central City, is the crossroads from, L&N goin' this way.

CP: IC.

VP: IC comes this way.

CP: IC.

VP: We don't have any trains now except freight train.

CP: Uh huh.

VP: Mm hm.

CP: Well, I think it's been real interesting, Ms. Pannell. I

END TAPE1, SIDE2

Folklife Archives Project 154 – A Generation Remembers, 1900-1949
Interview with Virginia Pannell (CT 67)