

S21Interviewer: This is Mrs. Lillie Mae Martin. Would you please state when and where you were born?

Lillie Martin: I was born in Cheatam County.

Interviewer: What year?

Lillie Martin: 1910, 2nd of October.

Interviewer: Ok, so when the, you remember the Great Depression?

Lillie Martin: Oh, yes.

Interviewer: Fairly well?

Lillie Martin: Yes,

Interviewer: What was the impression you got when it happened?

Lillie Martin: Well, I remember when everything got scarce, and uh sugar, we couldn't have very many desserts, I remember that, and clothes you didn't find even material, to make your clothes. It seemed that just everything that you needed was uh, rationed but we never complained because we thought of the boys at war, and what they were going through and what little we had wasn't bad at all.

Interviewer: Now, during the depression your dad, you said your dad was a farmer?

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: Where was his farm?

Lillie Martin: Well he, he bought 2 farms and lost them, during the depression so then he just went and farmed, he just rented other farms.

Interviewer: And this was all in Cheatam County or...

Lillie Martin: No, we'd come to Montgomery then, when I was, I remember being 4 years old, we still lived in Montgomery, we were living in Montgomery then, so we didn't stay in Cheatam too long.

Interviewer: What kind of uh, chores did you do, growing up on the farm?

Lillie Martin: Oh, we did, we milked cows, took care of chickens, in the spring, soon as the blackberries were ripe, we sell, blackberry picking. And we started blackberry picking, then we went to plums and then all kinds of vegetables, my daddy really was a good farmer, although he didn't get anything for the farm products but he was a good farmer, and he raised big gardens, we had all kinds of vegetables to can and uh, I remember he would even raise a big thing a

sargum, and we would make sargum molasses, I remember that was a great time, when we would have the mill there and we would bring the sargum up to the mill, and call it stripping it, you know getting the leaves off and everything, we always enjoyed watching that. And another nig day, my mother would make craut, and we'd, she's get us a lot cabbage all washed up, and she'd, we'd all get to chopping, and um, she had big pots that she'd put different salt, then she's put limestone rock on top of it, and put it in the cellar, and keep it until winter, and then it would, we thought it was awfully good. So, we had plenty of food, we had cows, milk and butter you know, eggs.

Interviewer: So your dad was never unemployed during this time, he always farmed...

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: ...during the depression?

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Lillie Martin: There was 11 of us. I had 2 sisters, and 8 brothers, I just got 2 brothers living and 1 sister.

Interviewer: And how old were you, where were you in the scheme of all that?

Lillie Martin: I was 5th. I was raised to mind the big ones, and take care of the little ones.

Interviewer: In 1939, when uh, Hitler started his campaign to take Poland, uh, were you aware of this?

Lillie Martin: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: How old were you then?

Lillie Martin: That was 39', I was born in 10', I was just 9. But I remember very well, I remember my mother praying so hard over all, over all that, she was in her closet, and we'd let her alone, and she's go in there and pray.

Interviewer: Now, how many brothers of yours served overseas?

Lillie Martin: Served in war?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Lillie Martin: Well, Tom, my one brother saw action, he went over D Day, he would have went through it, then I had another brother, that uh, I believe he was just in peace time, so just one of them went through the battles.

Interviewer: And did they both survive?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, sure did.

Interviewer: What um, what do you remember from like newspapers, and things of that nature, you know the radio, about the war, what was going on?

Lillie Martin: Well, we didn't have a radio then and um, I remember the newspapers would give it pretty good, but news then is not like it is today, you know everything happens now by the day, but it didn't then, and when we heard the boasters when the boys came home, you know the neighborhood boys, they would come and talk to us and tell us, what they went through. Now, I'm thinking about the First World War now, I'm supposed to be talking about the second World War.

Interviewer: Well, we can talk about the first, do you want to talk about the first?

Lillie Martin: Well, that's what I had on my mind, my brother wasn't in the first, but I remember the first, you said how old was I in 39', didn't you?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Lillie Martin: Well, that was when the first World War was.

Interviewer: The second, the first was in 1914, so you would have been 4.

Lillie Martin: Yeah, yeah, well, I remember that very well.

Interviewer: You remember both very well then?

Lillie Martin: Oh, yeah, but I remember when peace was declared, in the First World War because all the people met up in that little village, and they were ringing bells, carrying on and shouting, you know, and I was, they were young but I remember so well. I'm sorry, my throat keeps going...

Interviewer: Go ahead, do you want to get a drink of water? If you ever need to get a drink of water just go ahead.

Lillie Martin: Ok.

Interviewer: You, we were talking about FDR before, we started the film here, could you repeat some of the things you...?

Lillie Martin: Well, I remember that so well because that's when we, the prices of everything had been so low, and we just didn't have any money to spend, we just had to pay our debts until we got out, then we had a little money to buy things that we wanted, like a radio, those kind of things, and I said it'd been a great blessing when we got electricity here, then my husband got a

machine to milk the cows, that helped out so much, we just uh, we really did appreciate those things. He did more the country than any other president I've ever known.

Interviewer: Now, when were you married the first time, what year?

Lillie Martin: 26'.

Interviewer: Ok, so you, you were already married by the time the second World War started, did your husband go overseas?

Lillie Martin: No. Neither one of my husbands' had to be in service.

Interviewer: Now uh...

Lillie Martin: This one that I have now has been in, but that was second World War.

Interviewer: Ok. What kind of help did your family get by the New Deal?

Lillie Martin: Well, two of my brothers went in 3 c's, that helped, they started uh, social security didn't it.....?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Lillie Martin: That was a blessing. I remember some of the farmers were fusing about it, and my husband said that's the best thing that's ever been done for the farmers and uh, it really has proven to be.

Interviewer: Now do you remember uh, I guess I can ask specific examples, do you recall anything about the TVA in this area?

Lillie Martin: I remember they came through, and brought electricity to the country.

Interviewer: Do you remember what year that was?

Lillie Martin: No, I remember it well but I don't remember just the year.

Interviewer: You said your brothers, I'm going to switch gears on you for just a second, you said your brothers, you had 3 brothers that went to the triple C?

Lillie Martin: No I said I had 2.

Interviewer: 2.

Lillie Martin: Yes.

Interviewer: Now do you know where they went, what camps they went to?

Lillie Martin: I thought they were in Clarksville a while, um, I heard from them all the time,

Interviewer: Do you recall, that being a good experience for them?

Lillie Martin: Having what?

Interviewer: Do you recall that being a good experience for them?

Lillie Martin: Oh, yeah. Yeah. They had a 3C camp over here in Clarksville and my brothers was in there and then uh, I would just, I would hear from them and write to them, but I couldn't tell you. I, another thing, I think I kind of got in mind, where my older brother that I'm talking about, was in during the war, he would be in these places, you know, um, camp so and so, I remember those.

Interviewer: Now your, how old were your brothers, what year were they born?

Lillie Martin: Let's see, I believe uh, 23', I believe was my older brother, and my younger brother, was born in the, maybe in the early, early 30's.

Interviewer: Now the brother that uh, or I'm sorry, let me back up and ask a different question. Were you, did you have a job between...30...?

Lillie Martin: I never did work.

Interviewer: Ok.

Lillie Martin: I never had any, I never did work, I married young.

Interviewer: You were talking about the rationing in World War 2.

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: What kind of stuff do you remember from that?

Lillie Martin: Well, I remember how hard things were to get and uh, I remember sugar more than most anything I guess and lard, you know those kind of thing.

Interviewer: Is that the kind of white stuff you had to mix in the yellow packet?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, that wasn't, that was margarine.

Interviewer: Ok.

Lillie Martin: But uh, shortening, seemed to be short, hard to get and sugar, and as I said before materials even just, you used what you already had, you didn't buy much.

Interviewer: Could you give me an example?

Lillie Martin: Well, I know that we would make over our clothes that we had had for a long time, instead of buying new ones and uh, I don't remember whether shoes, shoes must have been rationed, but I can't remember having a hard time with shoes.

Interviewer: So your clothes, you really patched them quite a bit?

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: So you had to know how to sew?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, re-did them, re-made them.

Interviewer: What about gas, what do you remember about gas?

Lillie Martin: Well, it was rationed too. Uh, you didn't travel much. I was trying to think uh, but it never was as high as it is now.

Interviewer: Do you ever remember it being really hard to get, you said that you didn't travel much, what, you know like today we kind of drive around as we wish, what kind of things would you do then, to occupy your time, other than work, because I know you guys worked a whole lot?

Lillie Martin: Uh, well really you didn't do much recreation, I guess families got together and uh, one neighbor I had and she picked the guitar, and they would come to our house, and she would, we would sing, you know, and those kind of things.

Interviewer: So, music definitely...

Lillie Martin: Yeah, and being in school had its programs, we would always go up to school, and that was the most entertainment I can remember.

Interviewer: Do you remember Pearl Harbor?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, it was on Sunday, and we was fixing to go to church and we heard it.

Interviewer: What were your feelings?

Lillie Martin: Hmm?

Interviewer: How did you feel?

Lillie Martin: Oh, very depressed, very upset because I knew that was serious. That was when we were going to get in it.

Interviewer: What did you think about the Japanese at this point?

Lillie Martin: Well, I thought they were about as sneaky as anybody can be.

Interviewer: You thought they were pretty sneaky, huh?

Lillie Martin: Yes, didn't you?

Interviewer: Well...

Lillie Martin: They were pretending, they talked peace, you know, and all that came up Pearl Harbor.

Interviewer: And so then they, so you remember that there was 2 Japanese in America talk peace with us and then they bombed us at the same time?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, but you know I felt sorry for the Japanese that had been here all their life and were citizens, they were really mistreated, I mean nobody trusted them.

Interviewer: Right, did you, was there any living around this area that you knew?

Lillie Martin: No, there wasn't.

Interviewer: But you heard of it, you knew of it?

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: So there was some, I guess maybe racism towards them just because of their ethn..you know their race?

Lillie Martin: And I remember during the second World War it was hard to get labor because uh, so many had gone, and my husband would get the prisoners of war from Germany and work them in the red barn.

Interviewer: Really?

Lillie Martin: Hmmhm.

Interviewer: On this farm?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, and the prisoners were tickled to death to get to come here and the river ran right though, the river bottom, and at night after they would get through work, a lot of the time they would jump in the river to bathe and enjoy.

Interviewer: Now just so that they know, this is Dotsonville Road, off of Dotsonville Road, your farms on Martin Road...

Lillie Martin: That's right.

Interviewer: ...that connects to the Cumberland River....

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: ...just for the recording. Now, what were your impressions of the German POW's?

Lillie Martin: Well, I had no trouble with them, they were all just as easy going and on board, glad to be out, I think every country are made to do things, you know the people are, a lot of them don't want to and so I'm sure the prisoners had to do what, when they were in Germany, what they told them to do, of course over here they were free of that and really and truly I think they were happier. I guess they had been treated better here than anywhere.

Interviewer: Now, what kind of chores did you guys have them do on this farm?

Lillie Martin: Oh, we had a lot of cows, we both had lots of hogs, cattle, a lot of cattle, had to feed them, take care of them.

Interviewer: Did uh, did they stay on the farm or did they stay somewhere else and come out every day?

Lillie Martin: Oh, you mean the Germans?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Lillie Martin: They'd stay over in town, I guess over locked up wouldn't they?

Interviewer: I don't know, I'm sure they would.

Lillie Martin: All together.

Interviewer: So you would Army personal bring them out every day?

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: And then drop them off and they would work, how many hours would they normally work?

Lillie Martin: Well, they'd get you early and stay late.

Interviewer: A long day?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, a long day.

Interviewer: So they, you guys were getting, did you have to pay any money for this or was it basically free labor?

Lillie Martin: I believe it was free labor. I don't remember paying. I don't remember my husband paying.

Interviewer: I mean they are prisoners, I mean it makes sense. Just trying to find my spot here. What about the black market for scarce items?

Lillie Martin: We heard of that, we didn't take part in it.

Interviewer: Did you know anybody that got in trouble for participating in that?

Lillie Martin: No, I didn't.

Interviewer: So...

Lillie Martin: We'd just read that, mostly.

Interviewer: What, how did you feel to send your brother over?

Lillie Martin: Oh, I was very worried, I still have letters in an old trunk from him that he wrote while he was in service.

Interviewer: Now was he married during this time period?

Lillie Martin: No, he wasn't married then. He's married now, they interviewed him too, he lives out on Dover Road, Tom Harris. I'm sure he could tell you a lot about the war, but he, you know, he never has wanted to talk about it.

Interviewer: That seems like a reoccurring theme with a lot of World War Vets. What about uh, scrap drives and things like that for aluminum...

Lillie Martin: Scrap Iron drives, picked up all the scrap that was on the farm, you know, and uh, have a lot more than you think you have, so uh, I remember getting a wagon, a lot of scrap iron, and carry it, I guess carry it to Clarksville, I don't remember just where they carry it.

Interviewer: Now, was this just like a onetime deal or did they come monthly?

Lillie Martin: I remember more of a onetime deal, if they came monthly, I don't know, but when they got so much, around the stables and broken machinery, first time they'd add up, anything like that in years, I mean used to people would sell that kind of stuff, Lou Harrison I believe, but we hadn't sold anything in a long time. So they got lots of it.

Interviewer: Now, was this kind of early on in the war or later, or do you remember it being, do you remember it being at a specific time after a significant event?

Lillie Martin: No, I don't, I just remember people talking about scrap iron, wanting scrap iron.

Interviewer: What about war bonds, did you buy any war bonds while you were...?

Lillie Martin: Oh yeah, whenever I want to get the grandchildren something I would buy them a 25 dollar war bond for 18 and then it matured for 25. I don't remember how many I bought but I bought quit a few.

Interviewer: So pretty much, there was hardly any people that didn't buy these bonds?

Lillie Martin: That's right.

Interviewer: So everybody wanted to help out.

Lillie Martin: Yeah, and they had stamps too, didn't they? I remember something about...

Interviewer: Yeah, stamps too, if you can't afford the whole price then you buy parts...

Lillie Martin: I guess that what they were doing, yeah, and then you could buy one.

Interviewer: ... and then the stamps would fill up the booklet and then you would turn that in for a bond. So that's how you did it?

Lillie Martin: Hmmhm.

Interviewer: I think a lot of people did it that way because not everybody could afford the price right up front.

Lillie Martin: Hmmhm. You know, I had forgotten about just how we did it, I hadn't thought about it in so long.

Interviewer: Did you, this is just an odd question, did you hangout a star on your window to show that your brother was gone?

Lillie Martin: No, I don't remember having, I don't remember anybody giving us any stars, I should have gotten one somewhere but I didn't do it.

Interviewer: What about a yellow ribbon on the tree or anything like that?

Lillie Martin: No, that didn't come till later.

Interviewer: Oh, ok. How often did you hear of people in your community getting killed or wounded?

Lillie Martin: Well, we were very fortunate, there was, I can't remember, one death, I remember 2 boys, that, Pearl Harbor, they almost got it but they lived, but uh, I don't remember anybody getting shot, you know.

Interviewer: So you were actually lucky enough to not have known anybody...

Lillie Martin: Yeah that's right.

Interviewer: During this war did you have a telephone or you said you didn't have a radio..

Lillie Martin: Mmmhm. Didn't have a telephone either.

Interviewer: What about uh, you basically corresponded with your brother via mail, letters...

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: How do you look at those years, from 39' to, well really 41' till America entered the war till 45', how do you feel about it now, was it good times, bad times?

Lillie Martin: I thought it was bad times, I thought it was a time that you were so anxious and uh, so you know, you just thinking something may happen all the time, and I remember getting a letter, that the war, that my brother was going to come home....and uh, I got we had to go get, get the mail, well, when I first married..., we had to go out to Dotsonville Road to get the mail. Then we got so they would brought it down Martin Road, and our box is, we live up on the hill over there, we had to go up a little drive way to get the mail, and I got a letter telling me that, and I was just going down the road, crying and laughing, and my father-in-law saw me, he thought it was some awful news so he came over, you know, but I said naw I was just shouting because I was so happy he was coming.

Interviewer: You were close to your brothers?

Lillie Martin: Yeah. We were a close knit family. Most big families were I believe during that time.

Interviewer: Do you think the war brought the family closer together?

Lillie Martin: Maybe so, but I think we was already close together because you didn't have money to go out and spend, and you made your own recreation, you played uh, you had neighborhood children would come and you would play jump the rope, and anny over, you know what that id, throwing the ball, yeah so you'd play that and hide and seek, you made your recreation and everybody was close.

Interviewer: Do you recall anybody not being for the war effort?

Lillie Martin: No.

Interviewer: What about, about, I'll wait. What about German Americans, now we talked about people not really liking the Japanese, during this period, how about German-Americans, was there the same...?

Lillie Martin: I don't believe there were.

Interviewer: You don't think there was the same...

Lillie Martin: No, just didn't trust any of the poor Japanese, that had been here all their life, and uh, even the government didn't trust them, so that was sad, disrupted so many families.

Interviewer: What do you remember about the uh, the A-Bomb?

Lillie Martin: That was the first bomb that went off.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Lillie Martin: Well, we knew it was very destructive. We knew that it might help us a lot, in a way, but um, it's a pity how bad the bomb was a curse to the world, I really, and poor Truman, he had to make that decision to bomb Japan, he said he never regretted it, it sure did a lot of damage to those people, now of course they did a lot of damage to us too, they attacked Pearl Harbor. But did you know, if they had a comeback, Roosevelt, I heard him say, they didn't know what condition they left us in, if they would have come back soon, they may have gotten, whipped us.

Interviewer: Comeback a second time?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, because we didn't have much left. During, well after the first World War, they said there wouldn't be no more wars, they went out and sunk our war things, them ships, wasn't that a horrible thing.

Interviewer: They sunk them and then, we should, we should have kept them.

Lillie Martin: Well...

Interviewer: I guess we didn't know there was going to be big war.

Lillie Martin: We thought we'd, we thought that was a war for peace, wouldn't be any more wars, the first World War, but it didn't happen like that.

Interviewer: Now what...

Lillie Martin: Wilmer Wilson was our president you, know.

Interviewer: What did you feel, what did you think about him?

Lillie Martin: Oh, I thought he was a good president, and uh, he tried to get something passed, what was it.... It would have done wonderful things for the country, I've read about it and know I can't recall. League of Nations

Interviewer: Yes, the 14 points.

Lillie Martin: He couldn't get it passed. It really, people thought, he never got over that.

Interviewer: You think that would have, in your opinion prevented World War 2?

Lillie Martin: Well...

Interviewer: If we would have joined?

Lillie Martin: If we would have joined it. I kind of felt like it would have, I don't know, nobody knows. But you know so many people thought we would never be, people would all be afraid to get us on the count of ocean on both sides, they thought that protected us, didn't think that even, Lindbergh didn't think we could ever be whipped, uh attacked, because we were protected by those 2 oceans, boy we can fly around the world now. That was really awful.

Interviewer: I have a question about today, in reference to then, what did you think, did you feel similar, or the same maybe, when 911 happened opposed to Pearl Harbor?

Lillie Martin: Well I know it was nearer to us, then Pearl Harbor was, uh...

Interviewer: Now, you've lived through both.

Lillie Martin: Yeah I think, that was most frightening because we didn't know how many traitors was here, you know, or what else they were planning, and we still don't know.

Interviewer: Now we could make the same mistake, with the Arab-Americans that live in our country, that have lived here all their lives as we've made, as we did make...

Lillie Martin: With the Japanese.

Interviewer: Did you think uh, what do you think about that?

Lillie Martin: Well, I think we are better informed now, about how to go about those kind of things and I, maybe more trustworthy. Japanese so many of them was just as good as for our country as we were, but because that had happened with their people, they were mistreated.

Interviewer: What kind of things did you hear about their mistreatment, was it mainly after the war or during?

Lillie Martin: During the war, they would uh...

Interviewer: So you had a, everybody had an awareness of what was going on?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, of how they were being treated. You still get a lot on TV about it now, about how they were treated.

Interviewer: How many children do you have?

Lillie Martin: 2, had 3 I lost one. I lost my first baby, I have a son and a daughter. My son lives in Pensacola, he taught pharmacology in Lawrence, Kansas, 19 years, and he married a woman from Florida so she said she just couldn't stand it when he was there so he had to, he couldn't

wait to retire from there, he just had to leave, so he's in the hospital there in Pensacola. He's kind of head of the Pharmacy department. But 2 years ago, more than 2 years ago, his arm started swelling, and he had come home with that stocking thing on his arm, but he didn't tell me that he had cancer, but he had cancer, he operated and then 2 years ago it came back on real bad, so uh, he had to have surgery. And so many doctors, well, I guess Pensacola, there were doctors everywhere, but he has a son-in-law that's a doctor in Pittsburg, he's a heart specialist, so he got him to go there and he said I'll get you to the best doctor in the state trying to save his arm, you know, because his arm was affected like that, so these 2 doctors worked and worked and took all kinds of x-ray and they did everything, and they had a little hope that they might save his arm, well when they got in it, they had to take his arm and shoulder off, they said they found his shoulder full of cancer cells, so he had to have his whole side amputated. He had never said one word of pity and he was in the hospital and he said well it's not the end of the world, I'll get up and go on, and in 12 days I believe he was back in Pensacola, and didn't stay away from work, any time hardly and church too, and uh, I was out there and uh, let's see, fall, yeah and we went to a musical thing in the park and somebody saw us come, this lady came up and said I want to meet Gene Martins' mother, said he is an inspiration, he's one of the finest people I ever saw. He came right in, went to work, acted like nothing had even happened, he didn't ever show one, show of pity, that he was sorry for himself. So he said, mother, I had everything in world done for me, that I had churches praying for me, I had the best doctors, and I thought about the boys on the battle field, so they way he took it, surely helped me. (...gets up and grabs a picture off the mantle..) There he is with his wife.

Interviewer: I'm going to zoom in.

Lillie Martin: Huh?

Interviewer: I'm just going to zoom in. What about your daughter?

Lillie Martin: Well, she has a good life, she's an artist you know, you want to see them?

Interviewer: Sure.

Lillie Martin: And she had 3 children, every one of them are a blessing to her.

Interviewer: They have nice smiles.

Lillie Martin: Hmm, hm. He just came back from Pittsburg, visiting his daughter, and he was talking to this woman, about his little granddaughter, about 6, and he said she had a hard day, they day they went up she had to go to school a whole day, where she had just been going half, because they had some kind of a program, then she got home, they were there so, she played with them, she went to bed that night, she told her mother she said well I'm so tired, I never do want to grow up, I never want to grow up and get married, I never want to grow up and have a

family, I never want a job. And my son, his name is Gene, genie, well after a while she thought and said, well is it an easy job, she had to do something you know. Is there a easy job.

Interviewer: Now, since we have a little bit of tape left and I'm pretty much done with what I need to ask, um, let me ask a couple things but I do want to end on your piece. How long do you think that will take?

Lillie Martin: When's that, piece?

Interviewer: Yeah, how long's it normally take, to say it?

Lillie Martin: How long you think about 5 minutes?

Interviewer: Probably. I'm going to ask you a few more questions, then I want you to say your piece.

Lillie Martin: You do?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Lillie Martin: Ok, and that was recreation of schools, that was all we had, programs for school children, they'd have a fair at the school, and that was wonderful, all the schools would have a float and go to Clarksville, and they would go up and down the streets and then they'd judge whose won, you know, whose was the best. I can remember that so well, that was such a big event, that just really did something to you, just made your heart glad.

Interviewer: What, what uh, what kind of festivities did they have during the war or after the war, like patriotic things? Did they have uh, uh...?

Lillie Martin: Marches?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Lillie Martin: Yeah, they had marches and uh, that's about all I remember, bands and marches.

Interviewer: Was there quite a few of them?

Lillie Martin: Hmm,hm.

Interviewer: And they were what, mainly down in Clarksville?

Lillie Martin: Yeah.

Interviewer: From the 101st guy, from Ft. Campbell?

Lillie Martin: Yeah. Yeah and everybody would go, they supported it.

Interviewer: Um.

Lillie Martin: I'd tell you one thing but I don't...

Interviewer: Go ahead, tell me.

Lillie Martin: ...I don't want this written down, my daughter would have a fit if she knew I told it. I told my son, I might, and he said mother I think that would be fun. We had very few toys, we had nothing hardly, Christmas we'd get candy, you know candy and apples, and all those kinds of things but didn't expect anything else, my daddy would kill hogs, he would have 6 or 7 big hogs hung up on a scaffle, we kids would walk up to the hogs and give us platters, we would put cane in the bladder head and hang it out until it dried and it would be like thin tissue paper, it's be a nice toy, them would be our balloons, and sometimes we would put beads in them. And my daughter wouldn't want me to tell that because she thought that was very crude. Well, I think that's funny.

Interviewer: No, I like that, you played with pigs bladder.

Lillie Martin: Oh, goodness, gracious. My daughter, do you know Will Sandford?

Interviewer: No ma'am.

Lillie Martin: Well he's a great friend to her, and Glen, the other man, I said uh, my son told her, and said and mothers going to say, and my sister Joe, because she really wouldn't want it told either. They would think that was so something. That people would think that was terrible, hogs bladders, but you know they would be just as dry and be just like tissue paper, just as light, real nice toys.

Interviewer: What other parts of the hog would you all use?

Lillie Martin: What?

Interviewer: What other parts would you all use other than the bladder and obviously the meat?

Lillie Martin: Oh gosh, we had everything to eat, hog meat you know that's the best. That's all we played with, that hog meat, soon as they would kill them, my momma would get a big rib, and cook it and that was the sweetest, best meat, and love, everything was good, you used everything but the squeal, because it used feet, they were good.

Interviewer: Everything but the squeal, huh?

Lillie Martin: Yes, and uh, we smoke the hams and the shoulders and uh, that side meat was so good, sausage, made good sausage.

Interviewer: So hogs were a primary staple during the...depression?

Lillie Martin: Absolutely, all through my life.

Interviewer: How many hogs did your dad have, let's say the most at one time or maybe the average at one time?

Lillie Martin: Well he would have 12 or 15 I guess, my husband, one year my husband had 80 little pigs, on the farm you know, he would have several big barn sales, he said hogs were his mortgage lifter, he sold hogs better than anything else, so he =, we depended on hogs meat, and you were judged by your social standing on how many cans of lard you had.

Interviewer: So if you were uptown, how many cans of lard would you have, would you say?

Lillie Martin: How many what?

Interviewer: Cans of lard would you have if you were like doing well?

Lillie Martin: Oh, I ain't heard what you said, yeah, oh, if you made 6, 7 five gallons cans of lard...

Interviewer: You were doing well?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, and then you judge it by how much can fruit you had, that was the social thing.

Interviewer: So if you went to somebody else's house during the depression, you saw how much stuff they had you could tell, how well off they were?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, yeah, that's right. That's right, you really did.

Interviewer: That's funny.

Lillie Martin: And all the women would ask each other how many cans of so and so do you think of sugar, when they would see each out, how many cans of beans have you got and so and so.

Interviewer: Now would you guys cross load, let's say you had a neighbor down the street that was really low on the, like the totem pole...

Lillie Martin: Yeah, we'd give them things.

Interviewer: So there was a lot of community help, not only family help but community help?

Lillie Martin: Yeah. Community, that's right. Well I've done that here, we would have so much stuff, you know, I would have friends from Clarksville come by for bags of tomatoes, peas and beans, and you going?

Unknown Female: I have to go pick up Kyle from school. I brought him some corn sticks, so he can finish them.

Lillie Martin: Ok. See you.

Unknown Female: Have fun.

Lillie Martin: Ok. She's got three children, she's got a 16 year old daughter, then she had a little boy 6, and a little boy 8, I believe, but this little boy 6 just had uh, let me see, what kind of blood disease...

Interviewer: Leukemia?

Lillie Martin: Yeah. He stayed in the hospital so much, but he's out now, they got it stopped they think, that's my husband, they think maybe he won't be bothered anymore. But he's, when they have a holiday, she's letting them come over here and eat with us, and so the other day, I started out, I had 3 corn sticks in a plastic bag, I said what you gonna do with those, I said will he eat them, she yeah, he'll eat, ate them before they got home, and just corn sticks and nothing else, so she's going home and making him some corn sticks. Yeah, we were judged by what we, our canned stuff, and our cans of lard, oh and chickens, how many chickens hatch off you know, all those kinds of things.

Interviewer: Did you eat quite a bit of chicken?

Lillie Martin: Oh yeah, that was our Sunday meal, soon as they got big, we would watch those chickens like they were everything, until they fried inside. We were tickled to death, we would have chicken, and another thing my daddy used have little English peas, and when you raised them in the garden, oh they were so good and we would start off having English peas and fried chicken and maybe a radish and lettuce and ...(speaks to cat) come one, come on...those kind of things.

Interviewer: ...(speaks to cat) go say hi to your mom. So what about the beans you wrote down here on the bottom, are those the same type of...

Lillie Martin: Soy beans...

Interviewer: Would you guys grow that, soy beans?

Lillie Martin: No, you'd sell those, I mean we didn't eat soy beans.

Interviewer: So did you grow any of that while...?

Lillie Martin: Not while...

Interviewer: ...during that period?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, but not during that period, soy beans that were just last maybe 20 years, Brought out to the farm, he sold soy beans out there every year. But last year the deer got most of them.

Interviewer: The deer?

Lillie Martin: Yeah, they had crops.

Interviewer: If you would like to say you peace...

Lillie Martin: I don't mind.

Interviewer: We have about 5 minutes left. Now explain what this is before you say it so...

Lillie Martin: Ok, we had very little entertainment, the most we got was from our church and from our school, and we would have programs there, and all the parents would come and support us and this year, I remember the night, our superintendent was Mr. Jobe and he brought two or three more VIP's with him, so we were all thrilled to death at school that day, and had a program and uh, they would usually give me what they called a reading, and I had one that day and uh, and I said it and after I said it he got up and at the last of the program said now, Miss Harris, I was Harris but I had never been called Miss Harris before, so that thrilled me, and he said if she will come and say her peace again we'd appreciate it. So I went up and said my peace again, and I'll say it now, so you'll...

Interviewer: Ok. Go ahead.

Lillie Martin: Say to the dead Kip Averet, that's my boat, we's going out fishing on Soap Creek, he said I might go along too if I'd be awfully still and not scare the fishes away, so we got up just as early, Kip thinks everything of me, so he does, and he let me dig up all the worms for the bait, while he got the other thing ready, it's a lot of fun diggin' worms, I got ma's milk pail hay full of them, and then I heard the old milk man ringing, I had to run like everything and put that pail back quick so he wouldn't know I'd used it, but I got it back, Kip was awful cross, he wouldn't let me speak a whisper for an hour, well I spect it's over two hours, I had to keep biting my tongue between my teeth, I don't know why it's so bad we didn't catch any, I'm glad a snake didn't run over my feet, then I had to scream like everything, owwww, and he got mad, I said well we'll just go home, he said, can't fish where womens and girls are, and my ma said, when you get married you tell ole satan to get behind ya, so I was mad too, so I made him get behind me, and he went and pushed me right in the creek and I had on my bestest aprons and stockings, and when we got home, there was a lot of company there, and one old man said she needs a To guide her a few years, I just went up and says well who you think you're talking to, why we'll fire you out bodily, ma cried, pa laughed, but brother Fred got a big stick, he couldn't catch me though casue I can run fast from a whippin, I had to go hide behind the rose bush, close to the hamlet for a long time til they forgot about me, that's where I made Mary and Mr. Sparky, I

know I had to go back, I knew I had to go back or I had to go under, what you think I done, I bet you can't guess, I crawled under that rose bush so I can be taken...., and if Kip didn't know how to spark, I will, I couldn't hear nothing saying though, they be saying for a long time, then they were low, and then pretty soon Mr. Spicer said precious darling, I never could love anybody in the whole wide world but you and he gave her a kiss, she didn't say quit that or nothing, so I said oh what a great big lie, you got a girl on Soap Creek, I saw you taking her for a buggy ride too, he said why you little rattle snake, where do you spect to go tellin so many lies I said, I spect no where you do, old spark, old, I hate every boy in this world, Kip Averet, that's all the boys there is too, but whne I got back to the house the couple was still there, and I says, well ma says city folks always coming here 3 times or once, and the boys have to sleep in the barn, and one old man said now children is fools who speak the truth so we'll go on at once, I said we don't want you here no how, say to the day I just went along thinking how smart and pretty I was, well I heard somebody say well that little girl is the prettiest and smartest girl in the whole town, and they meant me, and said well she just a regular dandy, well I'm think it so, cause my pa's so rich, there aint no sign I'm smart, he could throw money at the birds if he wanted to, but he don't want to, well, this is about the worstest dress I got, well it aint the worstest, it's about the bestest, I could have anything I wanted, but I just got the sense not to want something I can't get, Kip had a party at his house the other day, he invited me and when I got there, all the kids done said their peaces, nobody asked me to say mine so I got up and says well I guess I'll speak my peace now, I guess they thought I spoke it good, I didn't hear them say it, but I guess they though I did, I'll speak a tiny weeny little bit and let you know how I spoke at Kips party, I know it but I can't hardly, think of, I know it, Billy bumpkin, hoped and jumped and and carried water from the pump, he seen a chicken on the stump, and hit it with a dreadful thump, oh Billy boy, you know lad, you'll make you mother very sad, by doing things so awfully bad, well, that's all of it.

Interviewer: That was great. Well, that just about does it Lillie Mae, if you want say anything, normally at the end of the tape I'll let you kind of say whatever you want...

Lillie Martin: I'm not.

Interviewer: Do you have anything to add?

Lillie Martin: No.

Interviewer: Mokay.

Lillie Martin: I wish I could have helped you more.

Interviewer: No, you did out.., you did wonderful. That was absolutely wonderful, that was perfect.

Lillie Martin: Wish I had thought about telling about the.....

Interviewer: Oh that's, no big deal because they edit this, they're going to make it how they want it.

Lillie Martin: Oh they are?

Interviewer: Yes ma'am.

Lillie Martin: Well then did you write down about...

Interviewer: Yeah, I'm going to get you a copy.

Lillie Martin: ...about the lard and all that?

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah.

Lillie Martin: Yeah, that was kind of good, but it was true. It was kind of rated how much lard you made and how many cans a fruit and vegetables you canned and all those kinds of things.

Interviewer: Your cat is uh, kind of wild.

Lillie Martin: She's a nascent.

Interviewer: She keeps scratching me.

Lillie Martin: She will, yeah don't let her, she'll stick her paws in you, she plays but she don't know how rough she is. She came in and stuck both her paws in me, still shows where they been,

Interviewer: Well, I'm going to kill the tape now, this is Lillie Mae Martin about the Depression, World War 2, and some of World War 1. Thank you.