

Interviewer: Today we are blessed to visit with Ms. Hatfield and I'd like to start off by asking you to introduce yourself to our viewers and tell us about yourself.

Hatfield: Thank you I was born Nicole Wable in Northern France in January 10, 1930. And I was raised in France and I came I taught French in different European countries and I came here on a Fulbright scholarship in 53 and I met my husband Gene Hatfield. And we were married at home in 57 and I've been living in Conway since then and taught French at the University of Central Arkansas and I'm now enjoying retired life.

Interviewer: Well wonderful you had gotten out a map earlier when we first began to visit and maybe we could start off with you showing us a little bit about where you were born and this is a map of France.

Hatfield: It might help here to understand the background. You have Northern France here going all the way England and Belgium here and my family is from this area near Holland, Belgium, and all these flat lands which for centuries have been the vast of invasions. And to explain the background to my grandfather in 1867 was three and remember the depressions coming in his house and WWI his house was destroyed by a bomb. And my parents had to leave their home here during WWI because the Germans were coming. And then I was born there in Douai and when I was four we moved here to a little medieval city about 12 miles from the English Channel and that's where I grew up. And because of these events which occurred not just to my parents but all the people who lived there we grew up in fear and almost a hatred of the Germans and mostly Hitler and all because of all of that it was in the air. That the Germans would cut off the boys right hands and that they would give poison candy to kids I mean that's what we would hear and that's what entertained this climate an uneasy feeling really.

Interviewer: Well thank you for showing us where you were born. And it definitely as you had mentioned was a hot spot where for many many many years was a hot spot for invasions. And I couldn't imagine what it was like to be were a third generation person to live in that area.

Hatfield: Yes

Interviewer: Wow well let's see I appreciate you giving us that background information because that will be so helpful to people when they are excited at the opportunity to know what it was like form a young lady that lived in France. And what I would like to ask you next is what was your life like prior to the invasion of 1940 of the Germans?

Hatfield: Just went to school and played in the summer. Now I remember the summer of 39 though when the people knew there was something. And we had a little summer home in a resort on the sea really and when war started because otherwise the summers all run into each other people were scared. We were given gas masks and it seemed like every time a plane a German plane crossed the border whether it was true or not the sirens would go up. And some people got scared and went on to the beaches just you know they did not know what to do and then things got settled down. And my father had had ear problems when he was young so he didn't go until January of 1940 in an officer training school. So he came back to our house in August of that year so we were lucky there okay. But in May was the invasions through Belgium and the refugees started coming through our town on sous. So on the 20th of May my mother was 33 and we had a car and after she hid what she could silver and things like that in the car with my grandfather who was living with us and 75 and us three children. I was ten I had a sister seven and my little brother was not five yet there was a mattress on top of the car and a

bicycle in front. And we were each allowed one little suitcase about this big with our favorite toys and off we went left our house. And the first day I think we went about 50 miles because we would go a little bit and stop because there were convoys there were other people. There were cars in the ditches and all we were not lots of people had German planes with machines and all we were not subjected to that. But we went about that far and spent the night in a butchers basement the three kids on that mattress in a basement I can still remember the smell of that meat. And then the following morning somebody said around four o'clock they said the Germans are in Rouen where there were lots of gas tanks and all of that. They are burning the Germans are here you need to go. So we went and it took us three days to get to Brittney southern part of Brittney. You may look on a map it was on Vannes where my parents had a cousin and they had agreed I think before the war that if this evaluation as we call it occurred again they would try to meet there. So we spent the summer there and to us it was plain you know I went to school a little bit and then when the Germans arrived there I remember that was one of the biggest fears in my life they days before they arrived. You know what are they going to do are they going to take us are they going to whatever. And then my father came in August and went back through with bicycle and so on back home and he wrote my mother the house is still standing but it's not in good condition so you stay there a while. So my mother put us in the car and we got back home. And which was kind of difficult because there had already been different zones and we were able to cross the river the Sin River between noon and twelve when the German guards on duty were gone eating lunch or whatever you know and we got home. The house was standing the Germans were occupying it but they wanted from what we heard they wanted life to continue normally so my father was a lawyer. So that the infrastructures would allow you know life to continue for us and for them. And lots of people next door to our house had gone and not come back. So there were Germans in the house and they were supposed to give us one room for my father's business and one room to live in and we had a two story house. So people other refugees and neighbors had emptied the house. So we my parents found a mattress borrowed a mattress I mean everything was gone practically except big pieces of furniture and yet some was gone too. So we lived upstairs for a while and most of the time the downstairs was used by a German doctor and so he would have patients lining up in the staircase and we as kids would come down you know to go to school through them and all. And that is we had a beautiful yard garden and all and there were trucks on the lawn and trucks in the garage. And funny thing has nothing to do with the war but anyway our house was on the hill like this so that when part of the garage was level with the yard but looked like it was on the second floor. And they had put horses there too and so people said when we came back said they put horses on the second floor of your house. But anyway, then life started with ups and downs you know. We still as a little girl we hated them you know. Yet some of them I realize now were young and far away from home and I remember one time one gave us a little bit of preserves that they had that I hid under a chest of drawers because it was war it was fear you know. And so my friends would so do you like them or do you not how can you. And that was the first time I had to explain you know everyday life and yet general feelings. Of course they got worse as they were kind of losing and as the Atlantic war was going on. And we still had to live within that zone and that's something sometimes is difficult to understand. We would play it's a wall city we played in the walls we did this and that. And yet I forgot his name a big German general came and spent the night in the house across the street from us. You know we had to kind of live in fear and yet have your everyday life. And for instance one evening one night my mother didn't feel good and she said if I'm sick in the middle of the night and I need to go get a doctor will you go? Well the _____ was next to us with a soldier in a pill box you know. And I was thankful that I didn't need to have to go I mean because in the middle of the night I don't know what might have happened. You know it's hard to explain that feeling of fear and at the same time having to live with them. And people of course disappeared from the area my father we had to return the bicycles every evening to the Germans so that either they would have them if they needed to leave or we wouldn't have them to go places. We saw British powers their pilots

being shot down and we were too young we would go and see those parachutes come down you know but there was nothing we could do. And my mother that's where the fear was really very important to everybody. My mother said if a British soldier should come his plane had been bombed down and you'd come to the house and ask for something my mother said what would I do and she said I think I would give him a piece of bread and tell him to go away. But that would have been enough for us all to be deported you know there was that always. And then in 42 when things looked like they were really building a unique wall most children were sent away. And I was sent to boarding school my brother was sent in middle France to an aunt and so on. And I was sent in a town which was more bombed than our own town. Every evening every night we'd have to fold our clothes and put our things you know at the end of the bed because in the middle of the night there'd be alerts and we'd have to take all of our things and trail to the basement you know and during classes too. And so that entrained that climate of fear you know.

Interviewer: Please forgive me for interrupting.

Hatfield: Sure no

Interviewer: You spurred a question in my mind. Was it your parents that made a decision to send you and your siblings to boarding school or was it something that the Germans

Hatfield: No no no it just my parents just knew that it was getting dangerous and so they.

Interviewer: Well thank you for letting me ask that.

Hatfield: And the first year I was at boarding school that town was bombed way more than where we lived so the school was closed for a year.

Interviewer: Oh wow

Hatfield: So yea

Interviewer: Wow

Hatfield: One thing that we still do not understand and I questioned a friend about that recently then the school reopened in 43 and we were told that in one wing of the building there would be little Jewish girls coming. Now the school I went to was called Our Lady of Sion an order of nuns founded by a Jewish person. And the order was supposed to pray for the conversion of Jews that's the way it was. So we so the town was occupied there was a German soldier in a pill box at the rear end of the playground. But we were told the little Jewish girls were coming and they were coming from Paris and they were sheltered there they were accepted there. You were not supposed to look at them you were not supposed to talk to them. But that's a fact that there was a German soldier here and those little Jewish girls there. And then again it's a contradictory example of life had to go on some how you know with in the overall that's weird but that's a fact that is a fact.

Interviewer: That's very interesting.

Hatfield: Yea that's kind of unique I would think. That's something that did exist.

Interviewer: You spoke of the forbidden zone.

Hatfield: Uh huh

Interviewer: On our earlier conversation this morning and I was curious I don't need if we need to get the map back out unless you feel comfortable

Hatfield: No yea there was a narrow strip along the channel from ____ which people know _____. And I don't know how far south that was very heavily occupied. People who had left in May of 1943 couldn't go back and we had radio we had curfew we had no telephone we needed a German passport to leave town and so on. And that is when they started building the Atlantic wall and which again was a wall the streets that went to the sea were closed by concrete wall. And then on the Romald is the one that spent the night across the house the street from us. They started mining the beached and also putting big poles like this you know that would entangle parachutes or prevent landing of the allies. Which is really what sent them further south west you know frontward because my hometown is not Normandy it is _____. People often think maybe it was Normandy but it was further. But it was we would be easily stopped you know asking for papers or whatever beacsue of that. And that is also where they had removed all the signs on the roads so that the British people would not know I mean soldiers or whatever would not know where they were. They had built near the airport a fake village you know so that planes would not know where they were. And that is also where they started building the first missiles the V1s and V2s very close to our home. And the first ones were not adequately finished I should say and they would fall most anywhere and that's when fear really started. Because bombs you could hear you know it got to where we could recognize the sound of an ally plane or a German plane. But these would just fall without warning and that's when people really got scared. So yea

Interviewer: That's very interesting. I wanted to ask if you a couple of things. First of all let me ask you Mrs. Hatfield did you speak German did you know speak Dutch and did you know

Hatfield: No and that is a funny thing I would have thought that we would have been encouraged to learn German in schools but they did not teach German. And I never did understand that in fact the kind of program I was following was languages it would have included German like English and German. And they had English and maybe more math or science and it was not in a matter of what should I say fighting them. I don't know I never did understand but where I was in that area we did not know German.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am. Were there a lot of the officers that spoke French?

Hatfield: No no my poor my mother tried to learn German and of course next door to us were all German soldiers. And one time the bicycle the only bicycle we had disappeared and my mother I think saw a soldier take it so she went next door and tried to complain. And of course they had all the soldiers come in the yard and asked my mother to recognize the one who had taken it. And of course she could not because he wasn't there and she was so humiliated you know. That's part of they you know every day little things that would happen anywhere but no we did not speak German.

Interviewer: Well thanks for letting me ask that. You were talking about your experiences and going to boarding school and you talked a little bit about everyday life actually you've been able to give us a really good background on that. What I'm curious is maybe what was it like do you recall your parents talking and some of the adults what their thoughts I know you said it was common the fear would grow

especially after certain things would take place in your in the village that you lived in. What was it like in their conversation when the wall began to be built?

Hatfield: They did not speak much in front of us I would not know. And even afterwards my father never spoke much and I guess in that generation we did not live them. You know my mother often said we started living with them not just us but my generation when we were all in one room because again the Germans had the others or the house was not heated so there were just two rooms where we had some heat. But they never did discuss things much with us.

Interviewer: What were some of the hardships I mean I can imagine that there would be many hardships that you've spoken how that the idea was to keep the framework of everyday life going without the complexities of being having an occupying army in your country. But what was it like to just everyday life were there rations were there things that put hardships upon you that the German military required as far as goods and?

Hatfield: Yes that is difficult they did it came gradually and it is difficult, if you would excuse me saying so, to imagine things if you haven't gone through it. Because there was a time when you lack everything you know like one night if you were told let's see the other day you can get one pair of shoes per year. How many do you have in your closet you know so you feel well okay. But after a couple of years you just have one pair of shoes and they're bad shoes because they were made with what we called then ____ you know make shift whatever. So people would find some wood that would be cut you know like in the shape of a sole and then we would raise rabbits to have a little bit of meat and with the skin we gave them some money to tan them. And then they would nail them to the soles to make shoes you know and then one day I remember my brother could not go to school he had no shoes to wear. Salt for instance was rationed but what we got was full of dirt. So my mother would boil it in water put it in the sun so that we get the real salt. We didn't have coffee we had a little bit of meat we had when you got to be 13 you got no milk not any at all. We got I think two slices of meat per week bread was rationed. When I got to be 13 I guess we got this much per day. Now some things were free but they were not good like dry beans and then my mother lived in the country and my father was a lawyer and sometimes they would give him something. And I remember that's maybe not what you wanted anyway she had some kind of piece of meat or ham that she hung from the ceiling. And the mice were hungry too and the mice learned to go to the ceiling and come down the rope and eat the meat just to show you. But the food was not good and we would get infection and boils and things like that all over and it just we were malnourished really. There was no electricity I mean there were cuts in electricity for instance in school our paper was not good. We wrote on the lines and between the lines with pencils first and pencils were not too good. And then when we were through writing on the whole book we would write in ink over the what we had written in pencil you know.

Interviewer: Conserving paper

Hatfield: Yes and so when I came here and I saw people wrote on just one page you know and also I came in 53 and people would leave on their plates you know butter, bread and things like that. And it was difficult to accept then because it went on a long time after the war. We clothes were difficult you know we got so much everything when you it ended up where you lacked most everything absolutely everything. And sometimes they would get a shipment I remember of bananas and some would be rotten and my mother would say well you know I'm paying for all you know that's all we have you have so many ounces or whatever. And so we would take our bag since we lived in the country and try to go to farms that we knew and beg them for maybe two eggs or a pint of milk. And the woman who we

knew said don't come back for another two weeks you know and that's coffee was just also ___ as we said. Just everything it's just surprising that we survived without being in worse health you know. I know that I said that our teeth suffered from lack of calcium you know things like that.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am

Hatfield: And that's impossible to imagine you know if you have not lived through. It was cold

Interviewer: Well thank you. I'm curious about when we were talking earlier you mentioned, and I may be wrong about this, did you say that your grandmother passed away in 43?

Hatfield: In 43 and she was young she was 57 but again she had been malnourished she was always frail. And she was of course outside of this zone which cuts practically through our town so that people who had a vegetable garden needed an ___ a passport from the Germans to go to it you know things like that. But so I was in that boarding school there on the other side and it so happened that my father came to visit me that weekend. So the principal told him to tell my mother but otherwise she would not have known in time to go to the funeral. And my mother had an aunt in Belgium and she was allowed to go to because Belgium was part of the northern part that was heavily occupied too. She said when she came back she did not tell us all the things she had seen oranges. She bought some clothes she put around her head as if it had been a turban or something so she could make a skirt for me I mean because they had more things than we did because of their Congo there. But really as I think of it I'm telling you those fun things children remember but it was really a climate of fear. As war went on and they knew they were in a poor situation it was more tense we were really always afraid I mean we just you know. For instance and if I may go into more personal feelings it's a feeling that grips you and that my generation will have had time forgetting. And recently when styles have been purses looking like a cow you know fur and hair with brown white or black white big patches spots the German soldiers had pouches like this you know. And I can't have one I mean you know it's still there it's maybe should not be but it's it will go with my generation.

Interviewer: Thank you let's see.

Hatfield: Now when in 1944 I was in a boarding school and we did not have radio because and we knew that there was something going on but we did not know for several days. And I was away from home and the mail did not work very well and that was of course early June and again being in the country so that we would be far away from town and all of that when we started being bombed by allied you know in preparation from landing. They would bomb all of the railroads and everywhere so I stayed my sister was with me then and in 44 was 14 she was 12. We stayed there until about the end of August because by then of course there had been no gasoline. We had no cars during the war and no car the trains did not work anymore you know because everything had been bombed and so on. And one day I think it was a good friend of my parents came by the school about 80 miles from our hometown. And we were told they would come back in an hour and take you home that was the end of August. Then we were liberated by Canadians early September followed closely by Americans. But the Germans left in the morning and the Canadians came that afternoon so we were in the cellar you know. And we knew that they would come pretty soon Paris had been liberated the end of August then the allies went kind north east and we were in that pocket north of it and there were you know it was not a strategic area so we were not liberated until September. And my mother was sewing she was sewing with a little piece of cloth a blue, white and red flag. But she said it's not don't look at the window as they leave. They were leaving with wheel barrels they were leaving with the German soldiers with bicycle and everything. And

she said don't let them see you because they will be mad at you and then she was trying she was sewing near the window she didn't want them to see we were making flags.

Interviewer: Well I was curious you had mentioned about the different things the mail didn't work was there censorship of mail was it tampered with?

Hatfield: That I don't remember I know my mother could write to me in the school but otherwise I don't remember. I had an uncle who was prisoners of war of course and he would get so many letters once in a while a month or whatever or cards and of course they would be censored. And of course I had friends I had, that had nothing to do with it either, but a polish girl friend at school. And one time I received a note I mean well mail anyway saying both of her brothers had been shot you know they were polish. And I had friend who was in the underground working for the allies but we did not know anything until she received a big award she was 13 looked so innocent you know almost and her blond hair with her little curly thing here. And she went home a lot and we would never had thought it was all that you know. We give you maybe a factual thing we were living my boarding school was maybe about 35 miles from my home but there were no trains we had no gasoline or no car. And so there were several of us from that area you know and heavily occupied. It would take us a day to go home we'd go to by train to a little town and had to wait six or eight hours in a station where all the windows had been broken by bombs and all. And then take another train that would take us close to our home and then a doctor the father of one of our friends who went to school with us had some gasoline and he would come and pick us up. It would take a whole day to come home and we'd come home very rarely because of the situation and where the town was.

Interviewer: Sounds like but when the group of you wanted when you really wanted to go home it was that was

Hatfield: That's how we went home yea.

Interviewer: That is so interesting. I was curious you mentioned that your school mate had been working for the resistance. Was that something that was that you as a student were not necessarily aware that she was but were your family and people around you were they aware of people in the community that were working with the underground? Or was that just something that was really

Hatfield: It was extremely dangerous to know and you know because you never knew what who the Germans whom they would come to get or what they would ask you or we knew that some people were not always seen. But my mother was very thankful because on the eve of D-Day my father was gone to see my brother in the center of France. And a young man son of friends of theirs came to our house I wasn't there either and they told her if I were you I would not spend the night alone at home. So my mother of course would not ask anything she said she took her jewels or whatever and went and she spent the night in their basement. Her friends was there the daughters and all but the all the men were gone and nothing happened but it could have been that the landing was there you know.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am and I think from what I heard the men did not know where it would be but they knew that it was coming that night. And so wherever it was I think that young girl I was telling you about it was a matter of communication. I think she would carry you know messages something like that. And the young man who came to tell my mother had a twin brother so that when he would be, and he had been stopped by the Germans, he could always say no I was there you know. I mean those little things like that you know. But then there was several I think 20 men from our town that were sent away and

we did not know why but it was assumed that they were pro-allies you know. And we always felt we were lucky that they were not sent to Germany or killed or whatever because there was always that fear.

Interviewer: Were there any of the young men that were drafted or constricted in to any kind of military service that you knew of?

Hatfield: Well okay those like my father for instance came home he was not taken prisoner so he came home in August of 1940. Other men that were not in the military were able to go home also because you know we signed addition or whatever in June 1940. My uncle was prisoner and he came back in 45 now there's one thing. We knew and I've read things since then that's one thing I have asked my mother several times. Maybe it's because we were separated from the rest of the country we knew that that Jews had to have a star. We knew that but we did not know what was going on and I've asked my mother several times we just did not know until after the war. We knew there was something's' what also what they did what the Germans did and that's what I understand I think it's true. They started a program asking young men to go work in Germany so that the prisoners would be free. And from what I understand some went and then it became the STOs ____ the compulsory service for young men to Germany because not enough accepted that. And that is how young men would hide in what became the center of France you know the real center of underground. But then they could not have their ration books and it was really difficult to live if you didn't have your ration book because you really could not you know.

Interviewer: Was given to each was it only given to the men in the family?

Hatfield: No everybody had one everybody.

Interviewer: But that extra would have been

Hatfield: You know if you didn't have yours if you were in hiding supposedly.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am

Hatfield: Now when in 43 one morning we had a teacher her name was Bastia ____ Bastia. One morning at eight thirty she disappeared. And we were told never to talk about her never to think about her. Who came for her I don't know what size, who was it, where she went and you see I think it was that way for a lot of people. It was too dangerous you know you don't think about her she's gone. And she was replaced by a young man who I'm sure was trying not to be sent to Germany you know and had a job or was hiding in the country or whatever. And so that was also part of everyday life you know that you loved in that climate. But had to go on living and since you were young you still played you know it's a kind of double train of reactions and feeling that's difficult to explain.

Interviewer: Well like you said I can't imagine because certainly I've never but I think it's amazing that your able to share these experiences with so many people that have no idea what that's like to live

Hatfield: May sounds weird too.

Interviewer: No ma'am not at all. I was curious one of the things that I didn't ask you that you talked a little bit about was the eve of D-Day. Were you still you were in school at that time? Do you recall

people talking you said you didn't have access to a radio but what was your reaction and your fellow students when you heard about the invasion?

Hatfield: What I mostly remember was the atmosphere before that. In the spring of 44 and we know it's dangerous at home. There had been bombings there near home things are getting bad. There's talk of evacuating the town where my parents lived. They send their furniture what they had in farms next door. All those V1s V2 falling flying so on we do go home for Easter vacation my sister breaks her leg. And the last thing my mother wanted was to have children at home then. So I think in April or May when she could my mother took a train which went just half way because of bombings with here who could barely walk. And then I don't know how they were picked up by somebody and eventually my sister got back to the school. But my mother had been very scared one time a German plane came over and my mother had to take my sister down to the cellar kind of carry her she was 12. And pretending she was just seeing whether she could take her down in care there was really you know German bombers coming over. And then you would hear that they were bombing that they and you'd hear the bridges and the hospitals and this and it was coming. But then I was 14 I was in school with nuns so they didn't share much. Then after a while we heard that they had the allies had landed but where was it. And that was just about all it was the feeling that I had personally was uncertainty, fear but hope at the same time you know. And then kind of a blanket was every day was my mother going to come and the other girls we were from further away than most because schools were really catering to children that lived around. So eventually there was practically my sister and me and it was kind of a no man's land and no man time for me you know and wait until I could go home. I was just 14 and so there are gaps there are.

Interviewer: I'm sure I think it's interesting that you said there was a feeling of you had the fear and uncertainty but you had the feeling of hope also.

Hatfield: Yes

Interviewer: What was do you recall what it was like to have the thought of more troops more foreign troops coming in? Even if under the flag of hope and the desire to liberate your fellow countryman what was

Hatfield: We were glad to have them. We were glad to have them gosh. It was only September and those young soldiers were worn out. And I remember we'd go from one tank to another and kiss them and thank them. And they were just like this you know but that was one of the best evening and I had told my mother of course we had had the black out in the homes. And I had said when it's all over that evening I want to light all the house and all. But it came kind of gradually and it was not until May, May 7th or what that D-Day it was Thursday. They're going to sign it they haven't signed it yet they're going to sign it so somehow Doctor ____ brought us home and I think for three days and three nights we didn't sleep. That was you know that was really really something. But I was reading an article in ____ a reading that I get every week which mentioned something and okay so we were liberated after the Germans were still near the house. And they were aiming at our house which was close to where they were we were in the center and all that and then the Canadian and Americans came. And you see one reason we were so glad to have them for instance is mother who was 38 was expecting my little sister. And she had nothing to eat and I remember American soldiers gave us plates to eat out of rations, socks, and a medical thermometer for the baby to come. So no wonder we were so pleased to have them. But the afternoon when we were liberated I was standing on a little square and suddenly I felt somebody spitting at me you know. And I realized I was 14 they had already the crowds the crown in town at home had already arrested some young women and they were cutting their hair and spitting at them. And

they were the women I was almost going to say poor women who had befriended German soldiers. And we had someone helping the house her fiancée was prisoner of war and for four years it's a long time she had gone out with these German soldiers. They were uneducated they were growing up they were young you know they didn't not know any better. I mean those that I knew of I'm sure some were not that good but anyway and I remember her fiancé was coming home. And this young woman asked my mother what should I do what should I tell him will he want me and this and that. And my mother helped and the young man was a very nice man and he took her and they were very happy. But that was one of the big memories of that happy day which was immediately kind of saddened by that. Which I didn't understand and I was 14 I did not know what had gone on you know.

Interviewer: Wow

Hatfield: That's life

Interviewer: Yes ma'am, I'm tempted to ask you this so I will. I was curious what things over the years since then have surprised you about Americans. What they knew and didn't know about the war?

Hatfield: There was one television program I could never watch which was it the comic program for more or less kids with the German soldiers. What was do you know what it was? Hogan's Heroes and that made me mad in a way I thought this is wrong this gives a wrong impression you know. An interesting thing in a way is that we learned the value of things of doing without and certain discipline in a way. And my husband who is four years older than I lived through the depression and we realized it gave us the same kind of strengths of character in a way. To have gone through those years and also to maybe want our children to maybe have what we didn't have. But I feel like we did not go overboard for one thing like everybody else we didn't have any money when we got married. But that is the good part maybe that contributed to that. If you have time I'll tell you what happened this summer. I went to a wedding a friends cousin whose family had lived near Germany and they had a lot of German friends they had invited. And that's the first time since I have lived so far from Germany to living here that was on a friendly situation with German people my age. And we compared you know experiences and all and we went on a walk near the beach. It was in Brittney on a rocky coast and we gathered nice little rocks and when we came back we exchanged it and we said look at this one this one is pink, this one is round, this one is gray. And this German woman gave me a rock and I gave her one and that was the first time I exchanged a gift with a German person. I mean that takes a long time it takes a long time.

Interviewer: I'm glad you shared that with us wonderful story and that was this past summer you said.

Hatfield: Yea but it could have happened before if circumstances had been right. But it's difficult.

Interviewer: Yes ma'am it was the right time.

Hatfield: I want you to know it's difficult.

Interviewer: I just I think I could probably go on until we had to take up more than one tape. And I appreciate so very much I mean I didn't even have to ask you many questions because you just had everything in mind that you wanted to share.

Hatfield: I hope I didn't say too much or say the wrong thing.

Interviewer: No ma'am you've done you've given us so much wonderful information about your story.

Hatfield: The main thing I was a little girl we had to live we had to go to the beach on our bicycles and the Germans would come on their side cars you know. And their cow pouches and we'd make fun of them but at the same time we'd be afraid. But I think that's that double thing that fear that I might not even have mentioned enough.

Interviewer: Well I tell you it's amazing because your story just proves how resilient young people are in any situation because you were a school girl and yet you spoke of how you all were subjugated to such fear each day in your life. But yet you were able to continue on in adversity and your story is just amazing because you were able to go become an educator and dedicate your life to young people.

Hatfield: For a long time I couldn't even talk about that. Students would ask or whatever and it's just in a way it's good that I can.

Interviewer: I'm so glad that you were so wonderful to share your stories.

Hatfield: I hope it helps you and it may not all be accurate but it's what I remember.

Interviewer: It's your story.

Hatfield: My story

Interviewer: There's one thing I failed to ask you and I probably should is how you had mentioned in our conversation about Easter what was it like to celebrate the holidays I was just curious about that since we're so close to having to celebrate some.

Hatfield: One thing I remember was a Christmas because there was curfew and so we could not have midnight mass. And we had neighbors by then they had come home they were good friends. And if you stayed after eight o'clock you had to spend the night until the following day. So they said what could we do we could be together and some had our members some kind of preserved jars and some had maybe a little bit of wine because when you got to be 13 you could not have milk but you could have wine you know a little bit of wine. And so my parents got together with the wine and the preserved jars and I don't remember if we spent the night with them but you know you made the best you could with what you had. And oh I still have for the Christmas tree a little ornament it's our most precious ornament it's a it looks like a drum made of the card center of Daring thread spools my mother made it in a drum and with two matches they looked like you know what you call it

Interviewer: Yes ma'am drum sticks

Hatfield: sticks yea. And she painted it so she would that how she would made do and so when we all got married or whatever we each had one little thing. And I'll have to show it to you next Christmas if you come.

Interviewer: That would be wonderful we look forward to that what a beautiful heirloom.

Hatfield: That's a treasure yea things like that made do. You made your own butter without butter. It's a bit like now when you have cream without any fat free cream. You had recipes you know to things. We

had the first vitamins too we were given vitamins that was the first we had little pink pills and they were good.

Interviewer: Well Mrs. Hatfield I think you so very much for taking the time out of your day to share with us your story.

Hatfield: Thank you for asking.

Interviewer: On the behalf of the archive I just have to say thank you for your graciousness and for hosting us this morning.

Hatfield: Thank you very much you're welcome and I hope I can help some.

Interviewer: Well thank you.

Hatfield: It's a pleasure