

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



Charolette Woodrow Fletcher

Interviewed 5 November 2021

Biographical Information and Summary of Interview: Charolette Woodrow was born 18 September 1934 on a farm in rural Brimfield to William Frederick and Mildred Johnson Woodrow. Because Charolette's mother died in childbirth, Charolette was raised by her aunt and uncle John and Margaret Johnson on a farm east of town. She tells us about her life on the farm and the schools she attended including Cahill School, Brimfield Grade and High School where she graduated in 1952. Charolette offers a glimpse of what life was like growing up in Brimfield in the 1940's: working at Cady Grocery Store, attending Saturday night movies and Old Settlers Picnics, getting engaged and married at St. Paul Lutheran Church, and later living in the historic Guyer brick house. During the interview, Charolette identifies and describes multiple Brimfield businesses.

Time Stamp for major topics:

- 03:23 Life on a farm
- 07:20 Farm house
- 08:20 Cahill School, Mrs. Bragg, teacher
- 12:53 Brimfield Grade School
- 14:47 Growing up in Brimfield
- 16:28 Prom; boyfriend in service (1951)
- 17:40 Activities for fun in 1940's in Brimfield
- 18:15 Work in Brimfield, Cady Grocery Store
- 23:00 Tour of southeast Rt 150 downtown businesses
- 25:29 1953 Wedding, engagement
- 26:45 St. Paul Lutheran Church
- 27:10 Historic Guyer Brick House
- 31:00 Brimfield News Correspondent
- 33:00 Old Settlers Picnics
- 36:43 Free Show Saturday Nights
- 38:30 Businesses & Movie Night
- 39:45 Businesses identified in photos

Topics Covered/Key Words:

- Living on a farm
- Cahill School
- Brimfield Grade School
- Old Settlers Picnics
- Cady Grocery Store
- Mrs. Bragg
- Cahill School teacher and Brimfield Grade School teacher
- Bill Archibald, meat cutter
- St. Paul Lutheran Church

Brimfield News correspondent
Historic Guyer brick home
Brimfield businesses in 1940's

Interview Format:

Zoom mp4 with Slide Presentation

Interviewer:

Kim Claybaugh Hanks

Total Time:

52:57

The interview is archived at the Brimfield Public Library District in Brimfield, Illinois.

The Brimfield Oral History Project is a long-term effort to record the stories of Brimfield's past in the voices of those who remember and make these original sources available for generations to come. This collaboration is a partnership between Brimfield Public Library District, Brimfield Area Historical Society, and the Peoria County Genealogical Society.

Readers of interview transcript, if available, should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee, and editors sought to preserve the interview as recorded. Brimfield Public Library District and project volunteers are not responsible for the factual accuracy of this interview, nor for the opinions expressed within.

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