

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



Charlene Martzluf Kelley

Interviewed on 15 July 2022

Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:

Charlene Martzluf Kelley was born to Charles “Charlie” and Grace (Wickwire) Marzluf. She was born in Peoria, IL and grew up in Brimfield during the 1940s–1950s. She attended Brimfield Grade School and High School. Her parents ran two restaurants in town during those years: Lucky’s Grill and Parkside Café. She attended the Union Church and sang in school and church choirs. Mrs. Kelley talks about growing up in Brimfield, school activities, her parents’ businesses, church life, and what she did for entertainment during that time.

Time Stamp for major topics:

Introduction

00:35 Origin Story – birth and parents

01:26 School days

03:38 Community Building

05:29 Old Settlers

08:48 Church life

09:44 Restaurant businesses

21:08 Saturday night movies

22:34 Charlie Martzluf employment

25:09 Closing

Topics Covered/Key Words:

Brimfield Grace School

Brimfield High School

Roller skating

Bowling

Old Settlers and parade

Mrs. McDonald’s BBQ and chili

Union Church

Lucky’s Grill

Gambling – slot machines and punch boards

Shelton Gang from Peoria

Hunts Drive Inn Peoria

Parkside Café

Free Movies on Saturday Nights

Farming

Interview Format:

Zoom mp4 with Slide Presentation

Interviewer:

Diane Minor

Total Time:

26:19

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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