

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



Jana (Miars) Minor

Interviewed 14 October 2021

Biographical Information and Summary of Interview: Jana Miars Minor was born in 1941 as is the daughter of Robert T. “Bob” and Clementine C. (Stenger) Miars. She grew up in Brimfield, Illinois during the 1940s and 1950s. She attended Brimfield Grade and High Schools and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. In 1961 she married her high school sweetheart, William “Bill” Minor, Jr. They lived and raised their family of four children in Brimfield. Jana’s father, Robert “Bob” was a businessman in town during the early 1940s until his retirement in the late 1970s. He ran the Miars Standard Service gas station and car repair business. Jana talks about growing up in Brimfield, her father’s business, church life and getting the current library building built.

Time Stamp for major topics:

Introduction

01:15 Origin Story – Birth and Parents

02:59 Miars Standard Service

13:26 New Library Building

25:05 Free Saturday Night Movies

27:55 St. Joseph’s Church Burning

35:22 Community Building

38:59 School days

Topics Covered/Key Words:

St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, Illinois

Brimfield Grade School

St. Joseph’s Church

Rodney and Barb (Wagner) McKown home

Gerald and Dorothy (Rench) Heinz home

John Powers

Brimfield Public Library

Governor Walker

Energy crisis in the 1970s and gas wars

Interstate 74

Frances Blundy, librarian

Mary (Miars) Best

John Dungan

Brimfield Area Men’s Club

William Minor, Sr.

Mrs. Hartley

Free Movies on Saturday Nights

Don Bride

Parkside Café
Rookie's
Father Thomas Harrison
John Fuchs
Robert "Bob" Best
Community Building
Brimfield Volunteer Fire Department
M. R. Clark
Frank Clark
Amy Powers
Dean Johnson House
Fred Johnson
Arbor Johnson
Johnson Hardware store and funeral home
Charles "Charlie" Sauerwein
Old Settler's
Summer of Night by Dan Simmons

Interview Format:

Zoom with Slide Presentation

Interviewer:

Diane Minor

Total Time:

48:04

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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