

Personal transcription by Patricia Sanford Brown, July 5, 1996

THELMA E. SANFORD

PB: This is for Voices of Lansing: an Oral History Project, by Patricia Sanford Brown, and we're recording at Burcham Hills on August 22, 1990. We're starting about 10:00 a.m.

PB: Well Thelma, it's very nice of you to agree to be interviewed, and we're anxious to hear some of your memories of how things were done and how people lived in a time you remember very well. It's wonderful that even with some macro degeneration, you can see beautifully into the past. Do you want to just say hello?

TS: Hello, there. < Laugh >

PB: That's good. Let's just start out by talking about the fact that you were born in Springport, Michigan on August 11th, 1899, and your father was Arthur Chester Haite and your mother was Dora Belle Haite, and her family/maiden name was Geiger. Do you know where they are buried, for instance?

TS: Springport

PB: They both are buried at Springport?

TS: Springport Cemetery.

PB: Arthur and Dora are buried --

TS: No, Arthur and Dora are buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery here in Lansing.

PB: That's good to know. So we'll talk about Springport just a bit: Tell me what you remember about what the town looked like. Now you were real young, I know, but what do you remember about the town itself?

TS: It was a small town with one main street, and on that street were the grocery stores and the bakery, and my father's furniture store was on the corner. It was a big store. He had his furniture store and the undertaking establishment there.

PB: The road turned right there, didn't it?

TS: It turned toward Albion.

PB: Which side of the corner was that on? As you were going toward Albion, which side was it on then?

TS: Left-hand side.

PB: OK, so it would have been on the southeast corner. Is that right?

TS: Yes.

PB: OK. There's a building still there, and I don't know whether it's the -

TS: Yes, it's been a gas station and everything.

PB: Oh, OK, and that's where he had his business, and tell me a little about what that meant. You say he was a --

TS: Well, he had the only furniture store in Springport. It was, as I said, a small town. It [the business] was well stocked and well kept up, but it was mainly for the Springport population. The undertaking at that time was done in the home, so he had no chapel. He had his funerals at the homes or at the churches.

PB: What did he do in the undertaking business? Did he have to do anything in that building as an undertaker, or was it just an office for him? Did he have some caskets up there, for instance?

TS: Yes, [he] had loads of caskets.

PB: And those were on the second floor?

TS: Second floor.

PB: Anything else [up there] with the caskets, or was that about it?

TS: No, we lined our own caskets at that time, and I had the humble project of doing that. Everything was marked for me, all the fan-shaped things that were on the casket at that time, and we always put a plaque on the casket -- R.I.P. (Rest In Peace)

PB: Was this in Springport? because you were pretty young at that time.

TS: In Springport, I was very young.

PB: Yes, but did you do the work on the caskets in Springport? [or] That was later?

TS: That was later.

PB: Did your father have furniture to show people on the first floor?

TS: Oh, yes, he had a big furniture store, Then as I say, the mortuary end of it was held -- funerals were held in either the home or the church. So he didn't have that to do [in the store]. He did all his work, his embalming work in the home [of the person who had died].

PB: Did he have chairs that he took to people's homes if they didn't have enough chairs?

TS: We had chairs, folding chairs.

PB: What we're talking about in Springport was between when you were born, in 1899, and 1905. I have a Springport Signal [newspaper issue] that shows that in 1905, your father was elected President of the Village of Springport.

TS: That's right.

PB: That was for a one-year term, was it? So do you figure that you stayed in Springport until -- when?

TS: Oh, until when we came to Lansing early in 1906.

PB: Where did you come to when you came to Lansing? Do you remember where the house was?

TS: Yes, I remember it very vividly. We first stayed in the Wentworth Hotel, because in order to have a home in Lansing, we had to have a place in the residential part with two barns on it; one for horses, and one for our hearses and ambulance. So we had a

hard time finding it, but we lived in the Wentworth Hotel for a week, I'd say, and then moved to 926 [Pat thinks it was 916] Seymour and thought we had a very fine home. We had a nice neighborhood, near a grocery store and churches, and school was just a block away -- Walnut Street School.

PB: [Much later] When I went to [that same] school, there still was a corner grocery store on that corner. Is that the same one?

TS: Yes.

PB: OK, 926 [916] Seymour was the first place [your family lived in Lansing], and do you know how long you lived there?

TS: My mother died in 1908, [1909] and we lived there then. My father remarried in 1910, and we bought a home at 1422 East Michigan. We weren't there -- I went to Bingham Street School one year as I remember, the fifth grade. No, wait a minute on that.

PB: Yes. You would have moved there when you were eleven, probably, so you went to school at Bingham School for one year after you moved there.

TS: Then we got the chance to buy this place on the corner of Seymour and Willow, and [they] lived there until my parents both died.

PB: The Willow address was 300 West Willow, and the Seymour address, on the other side, was 1301 North Seymour. I have a picture of that house, and I'll make a copy of it for this record. It was a big red brick house on the corner. You lived there, but it was the second home then that your father and his new wife had lived in, is that right?

TS: Yes.

PB: OK, Now let's go back to when [your father] remarried in 1910. He married who?

TS: Isabelle McHenry Haite.

PB: Isabelle Lucille McHenry, and then she became Mrs. [Arthur C.] Haite. When did your father's funeral business get started in North Lansing?

TS: In 1906.

PB: OK, and right away he had a business there on --

TS: He came to be a partner of A.A. Wilbur, who had an establishment started in North Lansing. Mr. Wilbur was an older man and saw that soon he would need a younger man to take his place. My father worked with him about four or five years. Then a man named William Joy joined him [my father] and they were partners in a furniture and undertaking business for -- This is what fails me. [my memory about the length of that period]

PB: That's OK. Tell me about what the business looked like then. I have a postcard of a photograph of the Joy & Haite establishment, and was that on Grand River [Avenue] then?

TS: Well, it was [called] old Franklin [street] at that time. It's now [called] North Grand River.

PB: You don't remember the address, I don't imagine.

TS: No, I don't.

PB: OK, but do you remember what other businesses were in the area?

TS: Right next to my dad [dad's store] was a department store, Rourke & Price. North Lansing at that time was quite a town. It had two mills, one a grist mill and one a flour mill. One was owned by the Breisch family, and the flour mill was owned by the Thoman family. Then we had a Stabler's Men's Shop, and W.O. Kantlener Jewelry [Pat has a gift box from that business], and Sam Schied had a marvelous place to eat on the corner of Franklin and Turner. Now Turner was a very short street but a very bad street at that time. It had a brewery on it, and, as I say, it went to North Street, which made Turner a very short street. It had several saloons, both sides of the street. It had one nice hardware, Dunham Hardware. Then back to where my father's business was, there was a nice drug store. I can't tell you the name of it.

PB: While your head is [thinking] doing something about that, let's talk about what the business [Joy & Haite] was like as far as furniture and undertaking. Was it different? [compared to Springport?]

TS: Very good. Very good business. It was composed of pretty nice people.

PB: Was it the same idea of having furniture on the first floor and the undertaking upstairs?

TS: First and second floor [for furniture]; undertaking was on the third floor, because remember I said it was done in the home.

PB: Yes, still then.

TS: But we had the caskets to show and the so-called workshop.

PB: [workshop] Upstairs, and was that the time when you began working on the cloth that was the lining for the caskets, or was that later?

TS: That was where I learned.

PB: So you folded the cloth to make the shapes that would be --

TS: The fan shape, and had to put on the plaque.

PB: [The plaque that said] R.I.P.: Rest in Peace. Tell me about the hearses, the hearses in Springport. I have a picture of your father in a bearskin coat, driving the hearse with two horses in front of his building. Was that the only hearse he had in Springport?

TS: Yes.

PB: He had only one, and it was wood, was it? -- the hearse itself?

TS: Sure.

PB: It was made of carved wood?

TS: It was pret-near all glass, you see.

PB: Oh, I see. The sides were all glass?

TS: The sides, the long end [side] of it, was all glass. The doors opened, double doors on the back.

- PB: So he had one hearse and two black horses in Springport. Then when he came to North Lansing, did you have more than one hearse?
- TS: Two hearses. We had a hearse that was used for the funerals of women and children, and that was white, and it was driven by four of the most beautiful black horses. The other hearse was black, and it had to be driven by dapple grey horses -- a team. That was used for men and boys. That was a regular ritual in those days.
- PB: Tell me about where the horses were kept.
- TS: They were kept at 926 [916] Seymour.
- PB: For the time you lived there -- and 1910, when you moved to East Michigan?
- TS: As far as I can remember, we never had a barn anywhere else. We certainly never had one on East Michigan [Ave.].
- PB: When you wanted to go somewhere and you needed a buggy and a horse, where did you get it?
- TS: My mother had a driving - what they called a driving horse, and that was fitted to a -- was it a cart in those days?
- PB: They called them carts, [yes.]
- TS: It had the bright red spoke wheels, and this horse of hers was named Roamer. He was a beautiful animal, but he didn't like bells. As we started out to find out about our new home in Lansing, the Gauss Baking Company had a bakery truck, and it had in it the loudest bell I've ever heard, that was run by the foot. They stomped on the bell to make sure the neighbors heard that the Gauss Baking Company truck was out in front, and they could buy bread and cookies and rolls and cakes; everything, from the bakery. Well, Roamer didn't like that, so he reared, < Laughter > and frightened us to death, but my mother was a good driver and the man got out of the truck and helped us bring the horse down to earth.
- PB: So you didn't quite have a runaway.
- TS: No, we didn't have a runaway at all. The horse was just frightened and he reared.

PB: But that was within the city limits of Lansing?

TS: Oh yes, the 900 block of Seymour < Laughter >

PB: Oh my goodness. What a welcome to the city.

TS: We had just left home for a short ride. Mother had to wait till after school was out at 3:30, before she started. It was late for a start, but she went as far as she thought she could before she had to be home for dinner. We had just got started and this truck from Gauss Baking Company rounded the corner, and Roamer didn't like it. < Laugh >

PB: But Roamer was kept in the back of the property then on Seymour for a while. When you lived on East Michigan, do you know where the horses were?

TS: I don't remember that. I don't know when we switched to the automobile.

PB: Which auto was your first auto? Do you remember the one you finally bought?

TS: That we owned? I don't remember owning a private - personal car. I know I was in college; it was in the twenties, and my father didn't like to drive. I did the driving.

PB: How did you get around before then?

TS: Walk. We had nice streetcars in Lansing, and we could go almost anywhere by streetcar, but we were two blocks from Washington where the streetcar [ran] went. We had to walk there if we were going downtown, for example, we had to walk to Washington to get the streetcar.

PB: Where did you go to get groceries?

TS: At a very fine grocery store -- two, in North Lansing. One was run by A.P. Walker and the other was run by Affeldt's, and that's the one where I traded.

PB: But did you walk to the grocery store?

TS: Oh yes, with a market basket, every morning at 8:00. Just as soon as the children were off to school, the market baskets came out.

PB: Because there was not much refrigeration, and people had to do their shopping almost every day?

TS: Sure.

- PB: You walked to the grocery store every morning.
- TS: I certainly did.
- PB: Do you remember anything else about life at the time when you were living on either East Michigan, or when you had moved to Seymour and Willow? Were any special things going on in your life? You were about thirteen, perhaps, when you moved to Willow, and what was happening then for you?
- TS: I entered high school in 1914.
- PB: Where did you go to school before high school?
- TS: Walnut Street School, and we had eighth grade promotion with Eighth Grade Graduation and everything, and then went into senior high school.
- PB: So when you went to senior high school, you went to what was called Lansing High School.
- TS: Lansing High School. It was the only high school in Lansing, and I graduated from there in 1918.
- PB: What did you do each day when you were still going to Walnut School, or on vacation or -- What was what you did?
- TS: Well, I took piano lessons for one thing, and the rest of the time was just practicing piano, of course < Laughter > and recreation.
- PB: And school, I suppose; but you got up in the morning, and did you have to help at the house before you went to school?
- TS: Not until my mother died. After my mother died, my father made me a contraption that looked like a ladder -- acted like a ladder. I cooked on a woodstove, of course. He made a contraption for me to stand on [in front of the stove], and I was a better cook then than I am now.
- PB: Well, your mother died in 1908 [April, 1909], so you were nine at the time and you did the cooking. What I was more thinking about was after you had moved to Willow and Seymour, and had a childhood. Then, until Eighth Grade Graduation, what was

your day like when you lived there? You got up in the morning - and did you help your new mother at home?

TS: I helped. I set the table for breakfast, and she had the breakfast ready to serve then, because I had to leave there [for school]. I had thirteen blocks to [walk to] go to high school.

PB: I'm still talking about Walnut School, so you didn't have that far to go. But you would get up and help at the house and then be on your way to school. How long was the school day?

TS: How long was the school day? From 8:00 in the morning until 3:30. On the way to school, there was a Deer Park. They had live deer, and of course, all the school children from my end of town went by that park to get to Walnut Street School. Oh, it was a big thrill. They would come to make a fuss over, and we couldn't feed them or anything, but through the thing [fence?] we could feel their nose. We used to hurry to get to this [and] be the first in line to pet the deer.

PB: Where was the Deer Park?

TS: On the corner of Franklin and Walnut, and I lived on the corner of Seymour. It was just a block to Walnut and a block up Walnut to Franklin.

PB: That's interesting! So you would go to school, and then when you came home from school, what -- ?

TS: More practicing ! < Laughter >

PB: More practicing on the piano? And any homework?

TS: Oh, yes. Yes, we had a little homework. We had to do especially vocabulary and phonics, which are outdated - way, way long ago, but we had to practice those. Of course, my mother was a school teacher, so she knew all about this.

PB: Your new mother. Do you remember the names of any of the teachers in your elementary school, or in Walnut School?

TS: Sure. I remember all of them. Mary Shafer was the first grade teacher. The second grade was Grace Ackerman. The third grade was Wagner - C. Mae Wagner, and the fourth was the one I liked the best but can't think of her name. The fifth grade was Isabelle Hamilton, and the sixth grade was Mabel Hartshorn, and the seventh grade was Mae Crilly.

PB: Well, we'll talk about the school and maybe it'll all come back. Do you remember the eighth grade teacher's name?

TS: Beatrice B. Hunt < Laugh >

PB: Oh, OK If I remember right, the school was more than one story tall.

TS: Yes, the old school was.

PB: How many stories did the school have?

TS: Two.

PB: Two, and I remember pictures of it. [It had] kind of a domed roof, was it?

TS: A beautiful bell tower to ring for the entrance of the day.

PB: Do you have any idea how many students were going to the school at the time? That school was torn down, and the school I attended as Walnut Street School was built at the time I went there, and I started there in about 1935 or 6.

TS: There was an orthopedic --

PB: Yes, there was a wing for handicapped children.

TS: And that was supposed to be very, very special, and I can remember my little girl coming home from school very crippled, and when she was offered her lunch she was just too sick to have that lunch. So I had her take her hat and coat and leggings off and lie down on the davenport. Then I found that she didn't like the lunch I had prepared for her, so she didn't have any lunch. I ate my lunch and found out that the cripple -- the terribly crippled child -- was due to the fact that she had been taken through the orthopedic school early that morning and had seen all the very fine

equipment, the swings and everything they had there, and she made up her mind she would like to go there to school.

PB: < laughter > You're telling stories on me now!

TS: That crippledness finally wore off quickly, and she went back [to school]. Helen Barnharta great friend of mine, was principal of Walnut Street School then; and when my little girl got back, she had been crying. I suppose she'd told everybody between our house and the school that her mother wouldn't serve her lunch. Helen Barnhart got ahold of her, and she took her on her lap and she said, "Now, I know differently because I know your mother, and I know she had a lunch prepared for you." "Yes, but I didn't like it. My mother said: 'This isn't a hotel. You have to eat what I prepare.;" so she elected not to eat! So when it came time, I got her all dressed up [for outdoors] and sent her back to school -- just hadn't had a bit of food; and Helen Barnhart said that she knew your mother better than that, that there was lunch prepared for her. So the crying stopped too.

PB: Did that [memory] help you remember any of those other teachers that you were trying to remember?

TS: Oh, I know that seventh grade teacher so well.

PB: Well, we'll come back to that in a minute. When you were living at 926 [916] ` Seymour, you say your mother died. Do you remember much about her becoming ill or anything like that? You were pretty young.

TS: Yes, but [I remember] my mother was sick. They couldn't do anything for her here, so my father -- owning the ambulance, took her by horse-driven ambulance to Ann Arbor. That's where she died of a ruptured appendix, something that now we could handle in an office call.

PB: Practically, yes.

- TS: But we didn't have antibiotics or any of those things then, and they didn't have any way to handle her. So my father owned the ambulance, and it was easier for him to take her to Ann Arbor than it was to go anywhere else.
- PB: So she had been feeling not too good for a bit.
- TS: She'd had this condition, apparently; a ruptured appendix, and it had put that poison, peritonitis, all through her body by the time she got to Ann Arbor, and there was no hope.
- PB: That was not unusual at that time, I think.
- TS: No, it wasn't. It was quite common.
- PB: I have a clipping from the Lansing State Journal in one of those "five-years-ago, fifteen-years-ago, twenty-five-years-ago" reports of what was in the paper, and it mentioned about the Haite ambulance that was available. It said, "New horse-drawn ambulance featuring invalid cot suspended by springs from ceiling to smooth out bumps, is added to equipment of Joy & Haite, Undertakers." So that was the clipping I found -- interesting. Was he the first undertaker to have an ambulance type of --
- TS: No, we had another firm in Lansing called the M.J. & B.M. Buck, and they too, sold furniture and were good undertakers. Buck's had an ambulance, and it was a Cadillac. Ours was a Reo. We used to have to use their chapel. As time went on and people refused to have them [family members] embalmed at the [their] home, we had to have a chapel.
- PB: Do you know about when that happened?
- TS: Well, that happened in the early teens, I think.
- PB: People began not wanting the funeral at home also, or just the embalming?
- TS: Well, it seemed easier for the family, and everything to go to a [funeral?] home where the body was displayed, and that brought in the mortuary on the chapel end of it.

- PB: Do you remember how the business that your father had [developed] changed names and became the group it is today?
- TS: I can remember following this incident here [change in custom of not having embalming done in the family home], that it seemed necessary to have a bigger store than we had to handle the funerals, so we bought the corner. My father and a man named Jarvis bought the corner of Franklin and Washington, and there they erected the store that is now known as Estes Furniture. They hoped that would take care of their furniture and their undertaking business, but the City of North Lansing decided to put a switch for the streetcar right straight in front of the building. With that switch there, there wasn't room to load a funeral at all, so we had to go back to the M.J. & B.M. Buck to have our funerals; one or two funerals there. My dad was by then getting pretty old to do that kind of business. At night most of our calls were for train wrecks, and it was hard. It was late at night and everything, and he was permitted to carry a gun because of that.
- PB: Were the train wrecks very far from there [home] ?
- TS: The two trains that go through Lansing were the Grand Trunk, [depot] down on South Washington, and the Pere Marquette - [depot] which is on East Michigan.
- PB: And the Pere Marquette [tracks] went right through North Lansing, and is that where most of the accidents occurred on the streets?
- TS: We had some big trains in those days on the Grand Trunk that went from Chicago to Toronto, and the other way, it [Pere Marquette line] went from Lansing to Grand Rapids.
- PB: [And from] Grand Rapids [to Lansing] to Detroit, yes. I have a photograph in one of your photo albums that shows a float in a parade, and on the float is written "Haite & Jarvis", so the business must have had a float in a parade.

- TS: Yes, on Michigan [Avenue]; they always had that. Every year they had a parade - I think they called it "Michigan". Maybe it was called "Lansing". They showed all the new Oldsmobiles and all the new Reos, and the furniture parades.
- PB: Now this is [a photo of] a horse-drawn float, and I don't know what is on the wagon.
- TS: The black team of horses were [hitched] on it, and the driver, and the furniture [on it] was a davenport and two nice easy chairs. I rode in one chair and Dorothea Acheson/Atchison, who was my closest friend then on Seymour, rode in the other.
- PB: We have been talking about your being at Walnut School, and then after you graduated from the eighth grade you went to Lansing High School [to the ninth grade]. That would have been in 1914. Tell me what you remember about downtown Lansing at that time.
- TS: Lansing was to me a big city. I had come from a very small town, and my home was in North Lansing so I learned that first, but Downtown Lansing was the big city and we had many department stores. I think of them often now when we don't have any. We had Arbaugh's and we had Penney's. We had Mills, and we had J.W. Knapp, and we had Dancer & Brogan Department Stores. Besides that, we had the Style Shop, and Sprowls, and Lansing Dry Goods Company, and W.T. Grant Company, which was on the corner of Ottawa and North Washington. I hope I haven't forgotten any.
- PB: That was at the time you were in high school, those stores were already there, and I'm sure other business too, and banks.
- TS: Many banks.
- PB: A lot of them on or near the four corners there of Washington and Michigan.
- TS: We had two on the four corners. The other was the Prudden Building on the left-hand corner of Washington and Michigan. We had several fires. I entered Michigan Agricultural College - later, Michigan State College - in the fall of 1918, and we had many severe fires that meant the firetrucks had to lay their hoses across Michigan Avenue, which prevented my bus from crossing Michigan. We had to cross by foot.

We stopped in front of the Capitol, and we boarded our college bus on the bank corner of Michigan and Washington.

PB: Where were the fires?

TS: Well, the Prudden Building burned, the Wentworth Hotel burned, -- and a big fire.

PB: All in the same day? or within a week or so?

TS: Well no, but it was a very bad winter, very cold. The icicles formed as soon as the water was flowing from the hose, for example, to fight the fire. Great, huge icicles formed; and they had to send for help from Jackson, and from St. Johns, and all the fire engines that were available were sent for because they had to be hand-pumped.

PB: Let's talk about your high school years, because you had four years in Lansing High School. That building was in the place where Lansing Community College is now, I believe, on Capitol Avenue. While you were there, there were a lot of things going on in the world. The First World War had begun in 1914, and I don't know whether that affected people's lives in Lansing at the time. What was going on?

TS: There were many things that were restricted. We couldn't, for example, have athletics. We could have chorus work, but no marching bands or anything like that.

PB: Why was that?

TS: They just needed the wool to make Army uniforms rather than the high school band uniforms.

PB: I see.

TS: We were allowed to take our knitting [to school]. We all knitted like crazy, and we were allowed to take {knitting} to our classes, and to knit in class to make sweaters and helmets and puttees - leggings, they call them, for the Army.

PB: And mittens, perhaps?

TS: I received a very nice -- it wasn't a button, it was small. I wore it on my coat - for doing the most knitting; Judith Breakey and I.

PB: Who was the other one? What was her name?

TS: Judith Breakey was her married name; Judith Jenison [was family/maiden name].

PB: You both earned this - was it a medal that you earned?

TS: Well, it was an award.

PB: -That you could wear on your blouse. That's very good! [Good for you!] That was in 1914 or 15?

TS: In 1914.

PB: You were going to high school by taking the streetcar I assume, from your house - or did you walk?

TS: No sir, we walked!

PB: OK < Laugh > It would cost too much to take the streetcar every day?

TS: Oh yes, and we were a long ways from it. There was no [direct] way to get to the high school [from our home on Seymour]. The high school was on Capitol Avenue, and we'd have to walk from Washington Avenue [after walking to Washington past Capitol from Seymour]. There was [only] a Washington streetcar that we would have had to take.

PB: But you had to walk quite a ways to get to the streetcar from your house?

TS: I would. < Laugh >

PB: So you walked to school every day, and do you remember any of your teachers in high school?

TS: Oh yes, my principal. Superintendent of Schools at that time was E. P. Cummings, and my principal the first year I was there I think was E.P. Cummings, too. The high school was practically new then, and LeFurge followed him -- Charles LeFurge, and I had Nina Derby [sic] for English. -- Jenison for Physics, I remember, and for Chemistry I had --

PB: That's OK I just wanted to have some idea of what you can remember, and that's very good.

TS: Ed. Shaftsberger, who was a former football coach - I had him for Math. Mrs. Ammerman, social studies and Shorty Gardner for senior Geometry. This Shorty Gardner was quite a character. He was a very short man, and he liked to have fun but he didn't know how to do it. He was very austere for his height, and when he would issue things [statements?/assignments?] he had a platform because he couldn't see the back of the auditorium from his point of view unless he had this higher -- So he had this platform built, and we called it his throne. He was our Geometry teacher and our homeroom teacher my senior year.

PB: When I went to West Junior High School later, he was the principal of West Junior High School.

TS: < Laughter > I remember that, too.

PB: And I think you had a Latin teacher in high school.

TS: Nina Bristol was our Latin teacher.

PB: Then there was another young Latin teacher, that came [to the school] when you were a senior, I think.

TS: Nellie McCormick was the first grade -- [teacher of] Freshmen. --[year in high school to take Latin]

PB: And then you went on?

TS: [Yes] - went into higher -- See, I took four terms of Latin, and the last three years were from Nina Bristol.

PB: But Miss McCormick was [your teacher] your first year in high school?

TS: My Latin teacher.

PB: She survived a long time, didn't she? She died at the age of one hundred two, I think.

TS: That was really amazing, so Latin must be good for people. < Laughter >

PB: It must be. Yes.

TS: I enjoyed it. They didn't have any conversation [to translate or to speak]. All you could do was --

PB: Classify verbs and that sort of thing.

TS: Well, yes, and read all about the Trojan wars and how they fought them so differently than how they fight our wars now. They were driven by chariots, of course -- the Army officers.

PB: When you talked about wars then, that brings me to remembering a young man who must have been at the high school the same time you were, because later he became your husband. When was the time you first noticed him, or what was going on for him?

TS: We both attended Glee Club practices, and he escorted me home from the Glee Club practice -- in about 1916 -- I first met Mr. Sanford.

PB: Later he went into the service. What's the story about when he went into the service and where he went?

TS: He left school his junior year and entered the Army at the 308th Battalion of the Tank Corps, where he drove a [WW I] Sherman tank. His corps was the one to load the ship for overseas for France, where we were fighting at that time. He had the responsibility of loading all those Sherman tanks on board a battleship -- and then the armistice was signed. That was a great day everywhere. I can well remember when [armistice celebrants] they came out of the windows and everything else!

< Laughter >

< Tape 1, Side 2 >

PB: (Continuing) - At MAC, an agricultural college. What happened [on campus?]

TS: Well, everybody went crazy, absolutely crazy. They got cars that they had never driven before and drove into Lansing, where they knew the big excitement would take place. When we got there, there were trucks full of people, yelling and screaming at the top of their voice. They were so happy that at long last it was over. Most of our college-age men were of course eligible for the draft, and were drafted and had gone

to war. We were glad they would be coming back [home] and knew that soon they would be back.

PB: People went out in the street making all kinds of noise, did they?

TS: [They used] anything; a dishpan or anything that would make noise. We went up and down Washington and Michigan Avenues, especially, and then all the way out to East Lansing, then went down the streets of East Lansing, and never quit until -- Well, we didn't have any school, naturally. But we didn't quit until 'way late, about five or six o'clock. They we had -- the Lansing people had to board a streetcar and get back home.

PB: When you heard the news, what time of day? You were already out at East Lansing at college?

TS: I was at college, my freshman year, and it was just before noon.

PB: You waited until the announcement that the armistice had been signed?

TS: It was announced on my birthday that year [August 11] that they were very close, but it wasn't actually signed until the ["11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month"] 11th of November in 1918.

PB: At 11:00 a.m., so then the news was broadcast that it had happened and then just everybody --

TS: Everything went crazy, all day long. The stores, of course, had to watch because people were in and out of the stores yelling, "We're all through with the war" and everything, and they were, of course, very happy.

PB: Was there any rationing during the First World War?

TS: Oh, yes. I still have some of the ration things [tokens, etc.]. Sugar was rationed, butter was rationed, coffee was rationed.

PB: We're talking about the First World War, when you were in high school, and those were all rationed then, too. Were most people depending on horses to get around at that time? [because gasoline was scarce]

- TS: 'Most everybody I knew walked. There were a few cars, but very few. Everybody walked everywhere, and I was [living] thirteen blocks from the center of Lansing.
- PB: When you went to go to college, you took the streetcar from [three blocks away from] your home, and took the streetcar every day because you were a commuter [student], weren't you?
- TS: At seven o'clock in the morning, I took the streetcar to MAC.
- PB: It was MAC then, yes; now MSU. The streetcar dropped you off in East Lansing by the Union Building, or where the Union Building is now?
- TS: No, we had a turn-around on campus, and we had a place to eat at that turn-around called The Flower Shoppe. It was run by the Nutrition Department of MAC. Then the car turned around and went back to Lansing. We also had the privilege of another car, an Inter-Urban, that went to Owosso. It too, had to go through East Lansing and then turned.
- PB: Now the Inter-Urban System was quite a wonderful way for people to get from one place to another.
- TS: It was the only way; the only way to get to Jackson unless you drove, and the only way to get to Owosso and all those towns over there on that side of Lansing.
- PB: It connected almost every small town then, to Lansing?
- TS: Dewitt and St. Johns and Pewamo, and all those towns were connected.
- PB: So when they talked about taking the train in those days, it probably was the Inter-Urban train.
- TS: No, the train that was mentioned was the Pere Marquette, and the [NY] Michigan Central, and the Grand Trunk.
- PB: Which train then went to Pewamo, and Sebewa, and some of the other towns?
- TS: Oh, the [NY] Michigan Central -- or Pere Marquette.
- PB: It was north of the Pere Marquette Train, or train track, so I wondered whether that was an Inter-Urban "train"?

TS: No. Of course I knew mostly about the one to Jackson. They had one to St. Johns.

PB: I'm sure they must have had one to Charlotte.

PB: It comes back to me now.

TS: Sure. Well, maybe we'll take a rest for now, and we'll come back to this in a little while.

PB: Now we're going to do some catch-up pieces of information that we discovered while we had a break. One of them was about the Haite family Bible. Do you want to tell about that?

TS: Well, during the process of coming from New York to Michigan, the family Bible and several small pieces of furniture were lost in the Erie Canal. All we had was what was left of a water-soaked page or maybe one or two pages of the Bible, and the rest of it was impossible [to separate, read?]

PB: Do you know where those were?

TS: Well, I had them until I was married to Doc [Leonard H. Sanford's nickname] in the twenties - 1925 or '26.

PB: Another follow-up we wanted to talk about was your father's business in North Lansing. We talked about the business being names Joy & Haite, and then the next time we talked about it, it was Haite & Jarvis when they had the building on North Washington and Grand River. [Do] you want to talk about how the business changed names?

TS: After having built this nice building on the corner of Washington and what was Old Franklin Street - now North Grand River - my father was aging and found out that he couldn't do as much as he could before, so he went out and got a man by the name of Elmer Jarvis to help him. Mr. Jarvis and my dad bought that corner from Dr. Garner and built the building that now stands as the Estes Furniture Store. My father sold to Floyd Estes.

PB: Do you know when that was?

TS: About -- I was still in high school -- 1917 or 1918.

PB: So the building, the business became known as --

TS: Jarvis-Estes. It stayed that way until Elmer Jarvis, who we knew was going to quit, quit; and then it was [known as] Estes-Leadley. They built the mortuary on the corner of Washtenaw and Walnut, that now stands.

PB: OK. That's a nice piece of information. A couple of other things about North Lansing: In our conversation after we stopped the recording, you talked about the fact that St. Lawrence Hospital used to be in North Lansing?

TS: At the end of [North] Washington Avenue.

PB: Oh, I see; where the street ended there.

TS: Yes. The river was behind it.

PB: Then do you know when it moved out on [West] Saginaw Street?

TS: Well, they built that hospital --

PB: It was before 1931, wasn't it?

TS: Yes, it was [built] about 1928, I'd say. It was quite new [in 1931].

PB: One of the things we didn't talk about was the North Lansing Presbyterian Church that was there also, on the corner of old Franklin and Washington. Is that where you went with your family?

TS: My first Sunday School.

PB: Later, was [your mother] Isabelle a member of North Lansing Presbyterian Church?

TS: No, Isabelle was a member of First Presbyterian Church, and that's why I changed to the First Presbyterian Church.

PB: When it was easier to travel, you both went to the First Presbyterian Church. OK, and you were in the old building that faced the Capitol Building on the corner.

TS: A red stone building - a very impressive building, I thought.

- PB: One of the other things we were going to talk about, and now we've kind-of brought the First Presbyterian Church into the picture of Lansing proper: Downtown Lansing during the time you were in high school and college, were there theatres there?
- TS: Yes. The Bijou Theatre is the other building that burned that I couldn't think of [earlier]. It was on the corner of Capitol and Michigan. The remains of it were torn down to make the Hotel Olds.
- PB: Was that the only theatre in town?
- TS: On no, there was the State Theatre in the -- what did they call that of the Michigan Theatre? -- Arcade. And then there was the Plaza, that was a motion picture [theatre] only, and the Colonial on East Michigan.
- PB: Did most of those theatres come about in response to films, or were some of them [because of] road shows or legitimate theatre --
- TS: We got a lot of real nice road shows, because we got them between Chicago and Detroit. We got a lot of nice shows, but they were shown in the Gladmer Theatre. That had a theatre stage and the lights and everything. These other theatres were predominantly for movies.
- PB: You mentioned the Gladmer - Also the Michigan Theatre in the Arcade was a place that they brought [stage] shows, didn't they? The Gladmer was a smaller theatre.
- TS: That's where [Gladmer] we had the high school graduations, though. It had a nice state. [It was the site of Thelma's high school graduation ceremony in 1918].
- PB: The Gladmer Theatre was on North Washington.
- TS: At Ionia.
- PB: At Ionia, and across the street from the Gladmer Theatre was a furniture store.
- TS: Buck Furniture Store. Not The Buck; M.J. & B.M. Buck.
- PB: Then you also mentioned a Cowle's Hedge.

TS: This was a funny place. It was in the 700 block of North Washington between Saginaw and Madison. It had been a very lovely red brick home with a red brick barn, and it was a whole block. It remained a jungle because no one kept it up. It was quite widely used on Halloween, but otherwise it wasn't ever used, and it grew up and the weeds were high. The first sign of spring, long before the robin came, (was) somebody walking down toward town saw a boa constrictor in the Cowle's Hedge. The whole town went bizarre, and they finally found that if there was a snake of that caliber, it [had] dug a hole in the ground. History proves that there was no such thing -- probably a garter snake. But the hedge was done away with when William C. Durant came to Lansing as head of the Fisher Body Company, and he bought that [property], and they made it a park. They've called it Durant Park, and it's a very lovely city park. It has a fountain [in the center] and is very much better looking than the Hedge was. < Laugh >

PB: That's a good one. Also, during World War I, you wanted to tell us about "gasless Sundays".

TS: Oh yes. We were running out of gas, so they said "Alright, we'll have a gasless Sunday." They put the things on the board - what dates they were. I was then about a senior in high school, and I had a friend who lived in Dewitt. Her name was Hazel Langton, and she knew a lot of the farmers in that vicinity. So she twisted their arm to borrow a horse and buggy for gasless Sunday, and away we went. It was quite an experience. I think four couples went, and somebody knew of a watermelon patch, easily accessible by horse and buggy. So sure, everybody liked watermelon! - we'd go to the watermelon patch. Well, they were all for stealing them and I wouldn't submit to that at all. She knew this farmer by name, and we went to his home first, and talked with him and told him what our mission was. He said, "Well, I'll take you right out to the patch." So he took us out to the watermelon patch and gave each of us a watermelon. We came home with one watermelon apiece for gasless Sunday.

PB: Was it every month?

TS: No, it was every Sunday of the month.

PB: For how many months?

TS: Oh boy, it was a long time.

PB: What it meant was people weren't supposed to drive their autos on that day?

TS: No - weren't supposed to use any gasoline, for tractors on the farm, or anything. They weren't supposed to do anything like that.

PB: Also during the First World War, was there quite an organization of the American Red Cross in Lansing?

TS: A very big organization, and it was there that we learned first to knit, and learned the necessity for the knitting. That's where I got my award.

PB: Red Cross had a meeting, every week, was it?

TS: It was as often as we ran out of yarn. They always had their thing [place] open, and we could go get more yarn. The yarn was free, of course, and we knitted those helmets and mittens and stockings and sweaters.

PB: That was very good. Now I'll switch to another topic - that of Michigan Agricultural College. We had just begun to talk about that, I think, when we stopped for our break. Do you want to tell me about the courses you took at MAC?

TS: Well, having been blessed as a woman, there was just one course [of study] that I could take, and that was Home Economics. I wasn't allowed to take anything like Chemistry, or anything like that, which I liked. But my junior year I could specialize. I could "major" in a subject, so I chose Chemistry. The Home Economics Department exploded. I was a woman; therefore I had to have my degree in Home Economics. Well, it turned out that during my senior year, when I came down the elevator [to the hallway and the announcement board] my name was emblazoned, "See the registrar at once. You may not be able to graduate in June." Of course, that put fire in everybody because it was very close to June. I called

Lyda Yaekley and made an appointment with her, and cut a class, and went to save this big thing of mine. She said, "What did you ever take Chemistry for? No women take Chemistry." I said, "Well there are five in my class, and we're enjoying it very much. Dr. Houston is a very good teacher, and that's one of our top subjects." That infuriated them more. You asked what courses I took. I had to take Basic English and Basic Math. I had to take the same Algebra I took in high school. Then I took Calculus and Trigonometry, for my Chemistry. I ended up taking twelve terms of Chemistry and eleven terms of Bacteriology. The reason I didn't take the twelfth term of Bacti was because I was in charge of the nutrition of the Lansing Public Schools [as an assignment]. I had this one control group at what they used to call Franklin Avenue School. I had to make graphs of [the students'] weight each week, so I spent my one vacant hour a week from "State" [MAC] on the streetcar going to that school.

PB: This was a requirement of one of your courses, that you do this outside -- like an internship?

TS: It was to save my soul in Home Economics. < Laugh >

PB: So it was an assigned course outside the campus.

TS: Down in Lansing Public Schools.

PB: Some research.

TS: Yes, and we talked --

PB: What was your research supposed to accomplish?

TS: Well, to help the mothers give [good] nutrition to the children that we found needed it badly. One girl in particular needed some help badly. We sent home recipes for hot chocolate and cereal and puddings. This poor little girl that I recall was very petite, anyway. She was small-boned. She was to be a small person, and she didn't make any progress on the chart at all. So I reported to my Dean, and she suggested that I make contact with the family. After my class session at the school I went to the

family home, and there I met four men. I asked if Mrs. Bozack [sic] was there. They said, "No, she ain't." And he said, "Can I help you any?" I said, "Well, I'm Mary's teacher of Home Economics." "Oh, you're one of them!" I said, "Yes, and we aren't at all pleased with her progress, and we think she needs more help." "Listen here, Sister," he said. "Do you see that?" and the bicep muscles he raised were just unbelievable. He said, "All I've had all my life is beer and pretzels for breakfast." I said, "Well, surely, looking at her, you wouldn't give her beer and pretzels for breakfast? She's just a china doll. She just needs more food. So I never did talk to the mother. The Dean contacted her on the phone and assured her that I had tried to make contact with her. I was graduated by that time, but Mary died, and she had Tuberculosis.

PB: You were teaching a course at the [public] school, for the children, and then following up with them for --

TS: After the regular school period, I met with these people that I mentioned, that needed nutritional help. I was allowed an hour with them. Some didn't need it at all, which gave me more time with those that did. The rest of them responded very nicely, and I had several letters - at that time - from parents, telling me what a good job I had done, but this family would not cooperate.

PB: Let's move on then to the fact that you were graduated in 1922 from Michigan Agricultural College. How did you arrange your degree? There were only three schools if I remember correctly: the Agricultural School, the Engineering School, and the School of Home Economics. Is that right?

TS: I suppose so. I suppose Forestry and -- were under the Agricultural School.

PB: But you were not allowed to take a degree in any school but Home Economics?

TS: And Music. I could have taken a straight course of study in music, but being a woman, I wasn't allowed to take those other courses.

PB: But you did take Chemistry, and you did take Biology, and they did let you graduate?

< Laughter >

TS: But I had to take all those Chemistry [courses] and push them back through Childcare, Institutional Management, Marketing, and the one I hated most - I can't think of. Oh, that's enough anyway.

PB: Ok, so when you were graduated, what employment did you find?

TS: None, because the war was still -- the aftereffects of the war were still on. The men that took the jobs that I would have taken, were taken by the doctors who were returning, and rightfully so. So it was September something, and I got a call from Jackson Public Schools that their teacher who had been hired to teach Beginning Home Economics had decided to go to Columbia [University] in New York City. That job was open and I got it, so I taught one year in Jackson.

PB: In what school?

TS: West Intermediate, and the school is gone now.

[NOTE from Patricia Sanford Brown: The text will depart from the oral words for a bit, since I made an oral error on dates, and my mother didn't realize it, and didn't correct me.]

PB: After that one year of teaching -- what year did you begin teaching?

TS: Well, I started teaching school in 1922, when I was graduated from college [MAC]. I taught in Jackson that full school year, until June, 1923. Then in June, 1923 I joined the staff at Sparrow Hospital.

PB: Did you work in the laboratory?

TS: But there's a title to that -- Medical Technology.

PB: You were a Medical Technician in the laboratory of Sparrow Hospital. How long did you work there?

TS: Until I was married, September 20th, 1924

PB: So you worked there from June, 1923 until when -- ?

- TS: I entered Sparrow, and I worked until I think it was May or something of 1924. I was married in 1924.
- PB: So one year of teaching, then about one year working in the laboratory of Sparrow Hospital. That's something to show some people that thought women weren't being employed at that time, doing anything other than teaching.
- TS: By the way, we could no longer teach after we were married, and we could no longer fill the position at Sparrow. That's why I quit. I had a very good job at Sparrow and I liked it very much, but I was being married the 20th of September, 1924. So my career was ended.
- PB: That was not unusual. Most teachers did have to leave their job if they became married.
- TS: Yes, if they became married.
- PB: We'll talk a little bit now about your being married in 1924 on September 20th, to Leonard Holbrook Sanford, and just give a little background about Leonard. He was the son of Thomas Matilla Sanford, who was a physician in Lansing, and his mother was Leila [pronounced Ly' - lah] Sanford. Her family/maiden name was Daniells [pronounced Dan' - nels]. Thomas and Leila lived in Dewitt for a time and then moved to Lansing, and we'll talk about that. Thomas M. Sanford's parents were Holbrook Sanford and Charlotte Kellogg Sanford, and Leila Daniells' parents were Lyman I. Daniells and Sarah M. Daniells. Her family/maiden name was Brooks. Lyman and Sarah Brooks are buried at Wacousta. Leila and Thomas Sanford are buried at Dewitt, and Holbrook and Charlotte Sanford are buried at Portland. Let's talk about Leonard Sanford. You said that he had been away at war, and came home. What did he do when he came home from the war?
- TS: He met the Governor of the State of Michigan on the way home when he was downtown. It was A.J. Groesbeck, and he saw by the ribbons that Doc wore that he was a

discharged -- honorably discharged -- war veteran, so he stopped Leonard and asked him if he had a job. Leonard said no, he'd just gotten back, The Governor said, "Well, I'm the Governor, and I am starting the Administrative Board, and would very much like to have you consider a job with the Administrative Board." Doc [Leonard] was very pleased to have that chance, so Governor Groesbeck told him that anybody he knew that had also served in the [First] World War, that they would meet in his office at 10:00 Tuesday morning, I think it was. So he and Stuart Friant and a lot of -- there were four of them went -- and they all got jobs on the Administrative Board of the State of Michigan. Now the Administrative Board had two sections: Transportation, and the regular Administrative Board. Leonard was assigned to Transportation and served there about two years. Then a friend of his recommended him for the Insurance Department as [an Examiner, and he traveled in the US and Canada as a member of examining teams in home offices of insurance companies doing business in Michigan. In time his Civil Service status allowed him to advance to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Insurance and Chief Examiner. After a period as an officer of an Insurance Company [Mid-America Insurance Co.] in Detroit, then as a member of an insurance agency [C.M. Verbiest & Associates] in the Detroit area, he returned to Lansing and the Michigan State Insurance Department in 1942 as Second Deputy Commissioner, later promoted to First Deputy Commissioner of Insurance, until 1956.] *[The oral story is a little jumbled. - Patricia S. Brown.]* In 1956 he left the State of Michigan [Insurance Department] employment, and moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to be Secretary-Treasurer of Preferred Insurance Company. Quite soon after we got to Grand Rapids, the President of the company died. The Board elected Doc as President, and later Chairman of the Board, so we lived in Grand Rapids from 1956 -- a year after your wedding -- until 1965. That year he had major surgery at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, and then we returned to Lansing and made our home in the Pine Forest Apartments here in East Lansing.

PB: One thing I want to back up a little bit with -- when he was Deputy Commissioner of Insurance. Was he that [title] when he left in 1938 to go to Detroit for three years?

TS: He was Second Deputy Commissioner when he left to form this company in Detroit -- I would have forgotten that -- with Marce Verbiest.

PB: And he was in Detroit for three years -- or we were all there for three years. Then he came back to the Department in 1942, because he was sent to Canada to do one of the examinations the summer of 1942. So he rejoined the Department of Insurance earlier that spring.

TS: Gee, all those dates have slipped me. I just don't know for sure.

PB: Well, we moved after school finished [in 1942] I know that, and then we went right on to Canada on the train to Toronto to stay for a month, and then to Montreal to stay for a month while he [Doc] worked. Then I came back with you to go back to school [in September]. So he came back to the Department as Deputy Commissioner of Insurance in 1942, and stayed there until 1956. You moved to Grand Rapids in 1956, after Tom and I moved to Boston.

TS: That same year.

PB: Yes. So that was 1956 that you moved to Grand Rapids, and then came back to East Lansing in 1965. After that he was doing all kinds of consultant work, wasn't he?

TS: He was asked to be on a special board of Chief Examiners who had also retired from their permanent jobs, and were sought by other states to help with the examinations of companies doing business within their borders. We went all over [the USA]. We went to Phoenix, Arizona, and to Philadelphia, and to Atlanta, Georgia.

PB: And Des Moines, Iowa.

TS: Des Moines, I-o-way. < Laughter >

PB: And Rhinelander/Waussau, Wisconsin?

TS: We went twice to Milwaukee, both six-month terms, two different years. Then we went to that place where we took the kids to see the Ringling Brothers -- where they had all the old trains.

PB: Oh, that was in Green Bay [while you were living in Appleton, Wisconsin, and Dad was working there.] That was a train museum in Green Bay that we went to. So he [Leonard] did a lot of traveling and he continued to do work when he wanted to as a consultant. [He had just completed such a job in the fall of 1982.] Then he passed away December 17, 1982, and is buried at Deepdale Mausoleum in Lansing. We should also mention that Leonard Holbrook Sanford's nickname was "Doc" and that he was born in Dewitt, Michigan on February 21st, 1899. He lived with his parents, Dr. Thomas and Leila Sanford, in Dewitt for about six years until 1905, when they moved to Lansing - [just as Thelma's parents had]. Dr. Sanford's house -- I don't know whether that was the home they moved to directly from Dewitt -- 805 N. Washington -- Did they come directly from Dewitt to that house?

TS: No, I don't believe so. I don't know where they lived, but they built that house.

PB: Oh, the Doctor built that house?

TS: [Yes] -- and the next one to it, where Ghinelli's lived.

PB: I have pictures of those three houses: Dr. Simmons' house, on the corner -- a big white house; then the next house at 805 was Thomas M. Sanford M.D.'s house and also his place of work after a time. We'll talk about that. Next to Dr. Sanford's house was the Ghinelli House, and what was the father's name there?

TS: Peter.

PB: Peter was the father, and then he had some sons.

TS: Paul and --

PB: That's OK. Sometimes it's nice to just kind of know who was there at the time.

Dr. Sanford practiced in a downtown office building. Do you know where that was?

TS: The Tussing Building on the second floor.

PB: That was on Washington, was it?

TS: Corner of Washington and Ottawa.

PB: Do you know how long his office was there? Did he start out there, in a office?

TS: He started out [his medical practice] in Dewitt. You've got a picture of the old first [Lansing] office.

PB: Yes, I have. I have a picture of that, but he came to a downtown office when he [first] came to Lansing. Is that [correct] as far as you know?

TS: I'm sure of that.

PB: Later, he took his office to his home on North Washington. Was that after he retired? -- because he still practiced medicine from there. He had an examination room in that house, and he had a waiting room. A waiting room in the front [by the front door], and then his examination room with his X-ray machine and all his instruments, and his couch that you could lay down on. Then the back room was for his pharmaceuticals and for the powders that he would mix for people to take home. Do you know when he brought all that to the house at 805 North Washington?

TS: That was before my time; before 1924.

PB: He had his practice at home then, and that was not unusual.

TS: Well, he didn't practice at home then, because I was there.

PB: After you married, yes. He was still downtown then?

TS: He was still in the Tussing Building. He closed that out in 1926 or 1927. Must have been 1926.

PB: And just came home and just had his practice right out of his house. People came --

TS: Well, his old customers -- clients came, and would see no one else but him.

PB: He practiced medicine until about two years before his death. He had been affected by a stroke, so that his walking was very difficult, but he still saw patients even then.

TS: He made the hospital calls -- made his visits there, and had another physician do his surgery, and he didn't go in for surgery at all.

PB: He was certainly a caring man, and I have a certificate among the historical records of our family; the certificate from the Michigan Medical Society honoring him as an Emeritus Member in 1946. He died in 1949, just after his 84th birthday. So this was another part of the business world of Lansing that we've been talking about. Now you married Leonard Holbrook Sanford on a lovely day in September of 1924. Where did you live after you were married?

TS: At 805 North Washington.

PB: You moved into his home?

TS: Because Dr. Sanford's wife had died in April [1924], and he was unsure of what he wanted to do then; whether to sell the house and just forget it, or stay there. So he decided because of a telephone arrangement that he had, that it was easiest and best for him to stay at the house. He remarried.

PB: When did he remarry? [Correction of oral material as to dates, immediately below]

TS: Before you were born.

PB: Before 1931?

TS: Yes, the late 1920's he remarried, and we moved to 800 Cleo Street.

PB: You and your husband. Was I born yet?

TS: No, and we moved from Cleo Street -- We went to the Canadian Companies [for examination by Insurance Department], and we put our stuff in storage; and took it out to move to 926 [This is correct] Seymour, where my first baby was born.

PB: After I was born, was it too small there? Did I need more space? < Laughter >

TS: I needed another bedroom, so we moved then to 806 North Washington, which was right across from 805, from Dr. Sanford's house. We lived there until Patricia started school, and from there we moved to 724 North Walnut and stayed there until 1938, when we went to Detroit. We lived in Detroit --

PB: Three years.

TS: Oh, longer than that.

PB: Three and a half, because we moved from Detroit in June of 1942, and we moved to Detroit in October of 1938. We lived on Wildernere -- 16246 Wildernere, near the University of Detroit. Then when we came back to Lansing it was during the Second World War, and it wasn't easy to find a place to live.

TS: So we lived in the Dean Apartments.

< Tape 2, Side 1 >

TS: -- 727 North Capitol Avenue.

PB: In the [Dean] Apartments -- and this was during the war -- we had [there was] a grocery store in the basement, and a beauty shop, and a drug store.

TS: That's right.

PB: Then when the war was over, in 1946 we moved to the house that you and Dad bought at 612 North Jenison, [they had only lived in rental housing before that] and lived there until -

TS: Patricia was married.

PB: < Laugh > Nineteen fifty-five; I was married August 27th. Then a year later, you and Dad moved to Grand Rapids, and later came back [to East Lansing] -- as you said earlier. One of the things I think is interesting about some things during your life was the traveling that you did. You mentioned a little bit about traveling with my father and me to the Canadian companies when Dad had an examination of the companies, and you went to California in 1934. Something amazing happened while you were there.

TS: It certainly did; an earthquake. We went through one of the -- [registered] 7 something on the Richter Scale.

PB: You were in Long Beach, and that was 1934. I was along, but I don't remember much of it.

TS: Probably not.

PB: You were in a car with me, if I remember right. What happened when the earthquake happened?

TS: Well, the car jumped up and down, and I thought it was some of that that always happens in the summer when you shut off the motor quickly after you've driven a ways -- it bumps. [diesels] So I got out with my baby girl -- or started to get out, and found no place to put my feet! < Laughter > The ground was bumping. So I got back in and sat down, and the friend that was taking me for the trip to Forest Lawn was Frances Sly Laine [sic]. She came out of the house quite hurriedly and said, "Guess what? We've had an earthquake!" I said, "So that's what that bumping was from." She said yes, and I said, "Well, the tree did the tango at the top of the hill there. I saw that tree dancing, and I thought that was funny, but living in California's different from living in Michigan, so I just wondered what it was." She said, "It broke every plate on my plate rail in the dining room." So we went on to -- So I was actually in the cemetery < Laugh > when the earthquake hit. But I was living in an apartment building, and I didn't know this: that it was earthquake-proof. I worried, not because of myself, -- because my husband and I had big feet and long legs, but we worried about that baby girl. So we went out -- he rented a car, and we went out to an olive grove at night. He figured he could hold up that cabin, if he had to, till we got out. We spent four nights in that, and we had 284 major shocks after the big one.

PB: You were in cabins, in that grove? What kind of a grove was it?

TS: Olive.

PB: There were cabins between the trees?

TS: Yes. Like most of the motels in California.

PB: Oh, I see. It was just a regular place for people --

TS: Regular place to stay, and they were all filled, because Los Angeles was emptied. Nobody stayed there that didn't have to. They all went to these motels that were closest to Los Angeles. We were pretty fortunate to get a place in it. So we weathered the storm, and what was so pleasing to me: I had a friend there, whose children, every time a heavy truck would pass -- after the earthquake -- they would scream and yell, and I at least protected my child from being afraid. I sat all night with her on a davenport in the lounge of the lobby of the hotel.

PB: Traveling has been interesting in both your life and in my father's life -- Leonard's life. I don't know which you want to tell first, about his trip in 1921 out into the "Great Unknown" known as the West? Do you want to tell a little bit about that story?

TS: Examining?

PB: No. In 1921, when you were still in college. [She didn't answer this question. In 1921, my father and two of his friends drove a Ford out west 'to see the sights'. It took a long time, since they had to stop to repair the car, and go off the main road to see national parks and they stopped at every possible "sight", etc. They went as far as California, and turned toward home, planning to see the Grand Canyon, but had seen all the scenery they could handle, and just drove straight back to Michigan. We have a few photos. -PSB]

TS: [Remembering another auto trip] We naturally didn't have much of a honeymoon because of Mrs. Sanford's death; and so he [Doc] was not allowed more than two weeks -- He was a state employee, and we had two weeks and two weeks only, of paid vacation. So he had really taken that [when she died] ahead of time, so when we were married we had to have a short vacation. The next June [1925] we went to Yellowstone Park. He was a big [enthusiastic] camper, and he had previously gone camping with friends of his, back out through the West and learned much about it and was anxious to take me. So out we went! The first night we slept on the ground, and

that ended the sleeping outdoors. We went through Yellowstone and Yosemite, and then the rains came! Out there when the rains come, the soil is gumbo, and it's as slippery as soap. We bought a tow-rope. We got to Sundance, Wyoming, just in time for a great big funeral, so we had no food. All the food we had was what I carried with me. We had no gasoline for our gasoline cooking stove, so we borrowed the stove the next morning for our breakfast from two schoolteachers who were on vacation. We had a nice breakfast and then we started out, and as we started out we saw all these cars in the ditch. We wondered what in the world they were doing in the ditch. We soon found out. We followed a Buick, and old-fashioned Buick, and it had a [tire] tread on it of about four to five inches. [As compared to the narrow tread on most cars then.] If the driver had just had any courage, he would have taken the caravan of fifty-four cars that left Sundance the next morning safely. But he didn't have any courage, and his wife had less. Every time she came to a puddle in the road -- this was a dirt road -- she'd get out and walk. Everybody had to stop because they stopped. [And lost traction, and slid in the mud.] Finally we persuaded them to let somebody [else lead the "caravan"] -- and guess who was elected to do it -- Doc and I. So we led the procession of fifty-four cars into Gillette, Wyoming. We got out and kind of stretched, and refreshed ourselves, and then went on west.

PB: To Yellowstone and Yosemite. You saw a lot in the two weeks you were on vacation.

TS: We sure did.

PB: Did you have an agreement about how far you'd go on a vacation? [They would travel as far as they could get using half the time, then turn toward home! - PSB]

TS: No, we hadn't, and we had no choice. When this gumbo hit us, we had no choice. We stayed in -- A man let us use his garage for a sleeping place. In our car, we had it cut down to make a bed inside the car, and we were very glad we did, because we just had to break the front seat then with butterfly bolts and we had a bed. So we were high and dry as far as that's concerned, but we woke up in the night with the car

weaving. I asked my husband what in the world that was. He got out, and he found a bear after our food. We had wedged the foodbox under the runningboard, the only place we could wedge it. It had no lock on it, but we could wedge it under there. We figured he couldn't, but he moved the car -- < Laugh > He moved the box, so he was getting to it. Then we went on.

PB: That was at Yellowstone Park probably, where the bear got the food?

TS: Yes. The bears hunt the dumps, the food dumps.

PB: They don't much anymore, because they're [park rangers] doing a little more management of the food and trash.

TS: I'm sure they are.

PB: You took more than one camping trip, I think. You were talking about your honeymoon trip first; and then you went out [west] one more time, did you, that way? -- camping that way?

TS: Well, we learned not to sleep on the ground. We slept in the car, of course. We went out there[west] -- oh, I don't know -- several times. I think I've counted eighteen times that we went that far west and back. That was our favorite vacation spot. Then when we got a whole month vacation, we had lots more time to see the sights.

PB: OK, we're going to [have you] answer these four questions that are asked of each interviewee, and the first question was , When did you or your family come to the Lansing area, and why, and I think you answered that when you were telling your story. The second question is: What changes have you observed in the Lansing area?

TS: Well, when we first moved to Lansing, Washington Avenue was covered with red brick, and each spring -- we had had bad winters. We had a streetcar [track] the length of Washington Avenue, and each spring those bricks heaved up and that was the first job - to flatten those out. It was very bumpy traveling, from about March until the paving was done. Then, of course, I have mentioned Cowle's Hedge. Then

Saginaw Hill -- Saginaw Street had a hill from Washington down to Grand [Street] and it was the mecca of all who owned a toboggan. We went tobogganing on that hill, as all teenagers did. The family that I went with had a double toboggan, and some thoughtless person pulled the plug on the second toboggan and the one went across into the river, and one went into the Friedland Junkyard pile of tin cans and everything else. That was the one [pile where] I went; the other one which went into the river had two people with broken arms. We came out whole but very disturbed, to think we'd made that -- We were glad that junkyard was there, 'cause it stopped us.

PB: That was also a good hill to ride a wagon down on if you were carrying newspapers down to Friedland's.

TS: Sure. And then I remember that some of those buildings that burned [mentioned earlier] were some of our most important buildings. I also remember them building that they called the Prudden Auditorium. W.K. Prudden sponsored that. Whether he owned the property before the Board of Education bought it, I don't know, but that's where we held the [high school] graduations after mine. Mine [in 1918] was held in the Gladmer Theatre.

PB: During [or after?] the Second World War, the Prudden Auditorium was the site of Friday night dances for the high schools.

TS: Yes, that was THE auditorium in Lansing for all dances and everything like that; and the Lansing Women's Clubhouse was on North Washington, and that was the place where all of the society dances took place. The J-Hop in high school [LHS] was held in the high school -- what did they call that?

PB: Gymnasium?

TS: It's where the cafeteria is now, but it was -- under the auditorium, anyway.

PB: Any other changes in the city that you've observed?

TS: Many changes, and I just can't --

- PB: Sometimes they happen so subtly that they seem to not have happened till sometime later, and you realize something has --
- TS: Well, we lost the streetcars, and that just stopped everybody. We started buses, and they were like all busses -- tried to conform to schedule, but failed. Then the stores began to change because they instituted this -- what I call a crazy -- mall. You couldn't go down Washington Avenue at all, and any shopping you had to do at Washington Avenue, you had to park on one of the side streets and walk to your favorite store. When they made the mall and we could go to one place and stay there, it was quite attractive. Now, I understand, they're kind of tired of that, and they're wondering what they're going to do, but [former traffic patterns] they are back -- they have opened Washington Avenue now. It's no longer a mall, and everybody seems very happy about it.
- PB: The next question is: What feature of the community is most rewarding to you?
- TS: I don't know. That would mean progress, wouldn't it?
- PB: No, what feature of the community -- something that it offers, something that you find here, something available.
- TS: We had very good schools.
- PB: This is in the present tense. now. What feature of the community is most rewarding to you?
- TS: Well, I don't know.
- PB: One thing that occurs to me is the value you've found in your high school reunions of the class of 1918, when you've met practically every year since your 60th anniversary, and just had your seventy-second anniversary this year. You've mentioned Wharton Center sometimes, at the College [University], as being a really wonderful place to be.
- TS: I think Kellogg Center tops that, though. That Kellogg Center is a wonderful place, and is on campus, but only [located] on campus. We [MSU] don't own it.

- PB: Are there any features of the community [that are] least rewarding?
- TS: I sure miss the transportation system we had. It's awfully hard getting around anywhere, and the one-way streets make it impossible. Now I go to Lansing and I'm tee-totally lost, because the place I started out for is on the street that is the wrong way, and I have to go out of my way to get back to the [place]. And that aggravates me.
- PB: You can't use the old patterns of moving to get where you want to be.
- TS: You have to think where you're going when you get in your car, and what street comes closest to that.
- PB: The last question is: What are your suggestions to residents and to business people, for the future of the Lansing area?
- TS: Well, I took a boat trip not too long ago, down the Grand River, and I was amazed at the number of new buildings that are built down there that I don't know anything about; and I've lived in Lansing eighty-four years. I think they should cut down on their growth and really do something. They started with the mall [change - opening the street]. That was a good start, to give Washington Avenue back to the public, because it took not being able to go down Washington, and lots of the stores that were on Washington moved to the [Meridian] mall. I just don't know. Times have changed so hard [much] since I left. [She had become very tired.] All these things, the barricades that they've put up and everything, I don't fully understand. But I would recommend that they keep at that -- well, it's a project of the city, to get rid of the dope and the prostitutes and things like that that we don't approve of, and they're doing a wonderful job.
- PB: There's less dope and less prostitution than there was?
- TS: Yes, and they've raided ever so many houses that had previously been boarded up as of no use to residents, and these [drug] people have moved in and taken them over;

and they've raided a lot of those and arrested the people they found in them and have made lots of progress toward clearing the city of dope and prostitution.

PB: Thank you very much for all of this time and remembering, and we can add to it if you want to a little later. If you think of something you want to add, we certainly can, and it has been a pleasure to have this conversation with you.

TS: Well, thank you at lot! < Laughter >

< Skip >

PB: Now we're back, on September 7th, having a final chance to mention a few other things. When you lived in the house on Seymour and Willow, Seymour became Grand River [Avenue], didn't it, as it turned? Go ahead and talk.

TS: Up the hill.

PB: Yes, but it came through North Lansing, Grand River [Ave.] did, and then when it got to Seymour it turned north, and Seymour [running south] was still Seymour, but what happened to the addresses [of houses on "Seymour" running north]?

TS: It was [called] North Grand River then, and we were [lived] at 1301 North Grand River.

PB: OK, and Grand River [Ave.] -- was that [Highway] US 16?

TS: Yes.

PB: So it was the only road [main highway] then, between Lansing and Grand Rapids, and there must have been quite a bit of traffic by the house. [In the 1940's, I frequently stayed with my grandparents in that house. A traffic light had been installed, so all traffic stopped and started up as the light changed. I remember the noise of trucks braking for the light, then "going through gears" as they started up again - all day, and into early and mid-evening. - PSB]

TS: Lots of traffic.

PB: Trucks, and --

TS: My father bought this house from a man that was a partner in the route north of Robinson Carrier Chemical Company in Lansing, and he got the corner lot; the [northwest] corner of Seymour and Willow. He built a house on the lot next [west] to him, vacant at that time, and then there were two houses [on his property]. There was another nice brick house house [to the] north, and some storage places near the river. Then across the river started what the old-fashioned people called Sugar Factory Hill. On top of that was Michigan's Sugar Factory.

PB: [Making sugar from] Sugar beets?

TS: Sugar beets -- made from beets that had been dug after the first frost. Just tons and tons of beets went by the house up to the hill, to be made into sugar. It was Pioneer Sugar, and it was widely known.

PB: Do you remember when the factory was built?

TS: No, the factory had been built a good many years before this.

PB: Any other things about the sugar beet factory that you remember?

TS: The sugar beet factory employed a lot of people, and there were all those lights -- lots of lights and lots of steam from the vats of the sugar factory. We never felt alone because those lights and the smoke indicated there was somebody near us.
< Laugh > Other than that, there was nobody from the river up to the sugar factory.

PB: North Grand River [Avenue] crossed the Grand River right there.

TS: Crossed the Grand River. That was a new bridge, and it was opened that day that I was married, September 24th, 1924.

PB: How nice! because you were married at your home, weren't you? So people could come who [might] use that bridge, the day you were married.

TS: Didn't go the way we wanted it to, but then we used it. There are many homes up there now. They're nice homes, and it's on the way to the cut-off to I-96 through

Lansing. The State Board of Health is out there, and the airport, of course is on Waverly at Grand River [Road]. So it's got to be quite an industrial center, too.

PB: Do you want to tell anything that you remember about your being at the Capitol Building, or anything connected with the Capitol Building? Do you remember going to it the first time?

TS: Yes. I went to it the first time with a group of students. A teacher took us, but the time that I remember more distinctly is the time I took -- I had an uncle who was Captain of the First Infantry of the Civil War [actually, he was 2nd Lieutenant Thomas C. Kenyon, of the Michigan 10th Cavalry when he was killed April 8, 1865 at Henry Court House, VA] I was an only child [and my mother had died] so I was left with disposing of his memorabilia -- his messkit, his Bible, his -- everything that he had -- and his uniform was on display in one of those things on the [Capitol] rotunda floor, but I understand it's been taken down now.

PB: It's probably somewhere else, but what was the name of the uncle?

TS: Thomas Kenyon. [brother of Thalma's grandmother, Charity (Kenyon) Haite, who also had died] He was a Captain of the First Infantry.

PB: Any other events around the Capitol Building that you remember?

TS: Well, my husband was a State employee, and I think we just went to one Governor's Reception, but that was the social event of Lansing.

PB: Do you remember when any of the statues were put up on the [Capitol] grounds, or any of the landscaping, or anything like that?

TS: Well, they did -- They are continually landscaping and replacing things, trees and things that have gone, but -- the statues: there's just one, and that's our first Governor, Blair, and that is [located] before you get to the Capitol Building itself.

PB: Do you remember being present when any other kind of historical monuments were unveiled?

TS: I don't believe there are any.

- PB: OK. I just thought if there was anything that had been placed in Lansing and people were supposed to gather to [dedicate] notice it -- if there was anything like that.
- TS: Michigan Aggies [MAC] always had their bonfire on the Capitol lawn, and they had all the merchants in Lansing save all their cartons and boxes and everything, and they celebrated after the victory.
- PB: Every victory?
- TS: Well, no. Just at the end of it.
- PB: End of the season? They'd have a bonfire in the street, was it?
- TS: On the Capitol lawn. < Laughter > And they had the fire engines all up Capitol Avenue -- in case. The thing I remember most -- we had a wonderful football player that year. His name has escaped me at present, too. They [football players] all got up and said what a wonderful team they had and how they enjoyed winning, but this fellow -- Gideon Smith, his name was -- got up and he said, "Well, I don't know who's ever going to fill my shoes, but they've got to have very big feet!" He was our first, I think, colored player. [After that final speech] Then they built the bonfire [and] everybody took for home.
- PB: Nobody got upset that the grass was no longer there the next morning?
- TS: Never thought of it. < Laughter >
- PB: That's interesting. They didn't care so much about the grass, I guess.
- TS: It was easily repaired. < Laughter >
- PB: Well, that a lot of interesting things. The train stations: you spent a lot of time in train stations, but first of all, let's talk about the Inter-Urban stations because that was earlier. Were there several stations in Lansing, or how did the Inter-Urban system work?
- TS: There was an Inter-Urban station. Where it was, I can't recall. One went north to St. Johns, and one went to Owosso through East Lansing.
- PB: That was on tracks, though? The Inter-Urban ran on tracks?

- TS: On regular city tracks, and we didn't hit the third rail that propelled the Inter-Urban until we left the city limits, of course.
- PB: I see. So it was really a streetcar until it got to the city limits, and then it became a self-propelling --
- TS: It was bigger than a -- much bigger than a streetcar, and it was a typical Inter-Urban coach.
- PB: Like a train, then, as far as the cars were concerned? They were the size of a regular train car?
- TS: Maybe not quite as big, but along that line, rather than a regular city trolley.
- PB: But there was only one station in Lansing, as far as you know. When you went to Jackson on the Inter-Urban, how did you get there from your house?
- TS: My dad took me in his car up to -- that was on South Washington.
- PB: The Inter-Urban Station?
- TS: Very close to the old Arbaugh Store, and we got on it then and went on to Jackson. That was the easiest run.
- PB: Do you remember what it cost? It would have been 1922, when you went to Jackson to teach.
- TS: It was less than a dollar, because I borrowed a dollar. I hadn't cashed my paycheck, and I borrowed a dollar from an aunt that I met on the street to take the Inter-Urban, so it was less than a dollar. We used to think it was thirth-seven miles, or something. [to Jackson]
- PB: Let's talk about, then, the train stations. You spent a lot of time waiting in train stations, because my father traveled outside the state to do his work, and you stayed here with me so that I could be in school. What memories do you have of special things about the train stations?

- TS: They were always crowded. We had some big trains go through here. We had a train go through -- that Maple Leaf Limited left Chicago and went straight through Lansing to Toronto.
- PB: It was on Grand Trunk [Railway] ?
- TS: By Grand Trunk; and we had many long freights. Then these two -- we had pullman cars and we had dining cars and everything, on the train that we would take to Chicago. It [depot] was on South Washington, of course, and we had quite a wreck there once. The train hit the -- what do they call that station where they had the guard to lower and raise the --
- PB: Oh, the switch place?
- TS: More than that; it was up high.
- PB: You talked about raising the guardrail. Is that where the --
- TS: Not the guardrail. Where you stop and go, there's always a thing at a railroad track that prevents you from crossing it.
- PB: Yes, the guardrails that down down at the road?
- TS: They don't call those guardrails.
- PB: But it was at the road, and there was a man that was paid to be in that tower at the street, so that he could lower the guardrails when the train was going to go across the road. OK, and the train hit that [tower]?
- TS: The train hit that and apparently jumped the track and hit the station, so we had quite a wreck. We didn't have as many automobile wrecks as we have now, but we had many train wrecks, for freights. [freight trains] We had a lot of big freights go through. On the Michigan Central that we could take to Grand Rapids, that was a short run but it had a dining car; and the pullman [car] they took off at Grand Rapids, they put on the train to go to Chicago. We had easy access out of Lansing.
- PB: Were there any other buildings that you can remember that you wanted to mention that may not be around anymore, either in North Lansing, or in Lansing proper?

TS: We lost both of our hotels. We had a good hotel that was called the Downey Hotel. It was on the corner of South Washington, again, and Washtenaw. That's where J.W. Knapp bought the property and built a lovely building there. But that [hotel] burned during a lumbermen's convention. It never was rebuilt as a hotel. Then the other one [building] was the Bijou Theatre that was on the corner of Capitol and Michigan. That was burned severely and made place for the second hotel, the Olds Hotel. The Olds Hotel is still standing, but it is no longer used as a hotel.

PB: You became a part of Masonic work quite early, I think. Do you want to talk about when you joined, and what you joined, and how that came about?

TS: Lansing was a very good Masonic town. It was known in the Masonic circles as one of the best Masonic cities, and I joined the Eastern Star when I was a freshman at Michigan Aggies and I've been a member ever since. Naturally I'm a life member now and still enjoy it. Then I joined what they call the White Shrine, but in order to be a member of the White Shrine, you had to first be a member of Arbutus Chapter, Eastern Star.

PB: So you became a member of Arbutus Chapter? Was that the name of it when you joined the Eastern Star? Arbutus Chapter number --

TS: Forty-five, and about two years later I joined the Shrine. Most of my friends were in the Shrine. I couldn't do everything, so I chose the Shrine and was its presiding officer after five years of service.

PB: How old were you then?

TS: I was about thirty.

PB: You were thirty when you became the presiding officer of the White Shrine. Did you hold any other offices?

TS: I held the offices of the Star, but they were appointive offices. They weren't elected. The Shrine were elective offices and took us five years to make the steps.

PB: When was the Masonic Temple built that was on [south] Capitol Avenue?

- TS: That was built immediately in front of the old Temple so that we might use the old Temple for our meetings while the new Temple was being built.
- PB: Where was the old Temple? Where did it face?
- TS: Faced Capitol and was in the two hundred block of South Capitol.
- PB: You say it was in back? or was next to it?
- TS: The old Temple was back, and there was room to build the new Temple in front of it. That was what they chose to do, so that we might use the old Temple as was, until the new Temple was ready. They held the first meeting in the new Temple in 1929, I believe. No, that isn't right.
- PB: It doesn't matter. They can check the dates. But you were active then in the old Temple before the new Temple was built.
- TS: Very active, and when the new Temple was built, we were allowed in it to have our meetings before it was really adequate. They didn't have the seating capacity, for example. They had folding chairs, and we had our meeting in there.
- PB: Did you go into Masonic work because your father and mother were active also?
- TS: Well, they were active. They were active and my father was a Knight Templar, and my mother Isabelle was Past Matron of the Eastern Star. It was pretty nice for me, because she installed me as presiding officer of the White Shrine. I have somewhere a certificate of my great uncle, who was also a Master Mason, and oh, that was 'way back.
- PB: That's amazing. Talking about buildings, one of the things I remember hearing you talk about was the Union Building at -- was it then MAC yet, when the Union Building was being built?
- TS: State. It was Michigan State then.
- PB: It was Michigan State College. When was that when the Union Building was built? Had you been out of college long?

TS: Oh, I was out of college and married. We all pledged - every class pledged - a brick to our Union, and we paid that. We weren't supposed to pay it until we got our first paycheck, but some of us were afraid we wouldn't get it, so we pledged it before we graduated. Then after we graduated, that building was built as a shell, and I was then active in alumni work. Betty Palm was the first President of the Michigan State Alumnae Union -- as it was called then -- and I was her Vice-President, so when her year ended, I was the President. I was the second President of the Alumnae League.

PB: What was the name of the first President?

TS: Betty Palm. P-a-l-m.

PB: Then you were the second President: Betty Sanford, because you were called Betty a lot then. You were Sanford [not Haite] by that time?

TS: Yes, I was Sanford.

PB: And it was called the MSC Alumnae Union/League. So was the building built by that time, when the Alumnae League was formed?

TS: Yes. I don't know when that building was built. It was a very big building, and it was built [first as a] shell. The outside looked perfectly lovely, but the inside was just empty rooms, empty spaces. I inherited the job of buying the furniture and -- raising the money to buy it first, and then buying the furniture for the Women's Lounge.

< Tape 2, Side 2 >

TS: [During] my year in raising all this money and spending it for the furniture, we had lots of funny experiences. After the room was dedicated I had a telephone call, and they said, "You know, we forgot one thing?" I said, "What could that be, for goodness sake?" They said, "We forgot a piano." I said, "Well, I'm not sure that the Union Building management would like a piano in every room, but I'll ask about

it." The next day the manager of the Union called me, and said, "What in Heaven's name will I do with these pianos? I've got four of them - upright pianos in beautiful shape, lovely cabinets; but what can I do with them?" I said, "well, I would advise you to call the churches and the schools to see if they could use them, because apparently the person that gave them to us has no more use for them, and if we aren't allowed --" He said, "Well, one is all I can handle." I said, "Well, you do the picking then. Choose the one you want and see what you can do with the rest, and let me know." He didn't have any trouble finding a place for those pianos.

PB: Now would you like to tell me a little about Waverly Park?

TS: That was Lansing's chief place for amusement. It had roller coasters and ferris wheels, and lots of concessions.

PB: Where was it? You were talking [to me] about a trestle

TS: In order to get to this Waverly Park, we had to go over a very high trestle. It was the biggest thing in Lansing -- the highest thing, and we got a lot of thrill out of that.

PB: Did you drive over the trestle?

TS: In a trolley.

PB: So you took the trolley from where you lived, and could take the trolley right to Waverly Park? How many times did you go to Waverly Park?

TS: We went quite often but didn't stay long unless -- The year I was a senior at Michigan (State) [Agricultural College] which would be 1922, we took a trolley ride: We took the trolley off the trolley --

PB: Off the tracks?

TS: Oh, what's that thing up above?

PB: The electric connector?

TS: Yes. Of the trolley and laid it on the ground at Michigan 'State', and loaded it with women, and the men pushed it to Pine Lake, to -- we went to Pine Lake, that time.

PB: They didn't push you all the way to Waverly Park in one, did they?

TS: They sure did.

PB: From Michigan 'State' ?

TS: From Michigan 'State', and when we got there, there wasn't one thing open; no dance floor, which we went to do; nothing. None of the concessions were open till noon, and we didn't have a cent of money, of course. Nobody in the whole car had any money, so I finally called my fiancé and he came and took me back and a carful of the girls back to 'State', but we had a very miserable -- We finally got somebody to play the piano, and we did a little dancing.

PB: So there was a dance hall at Waverly Park then?

TS: They had a big dance hall.

PB: Kind of rambunctious for a morning jaunt, wasn't it?

TS: Well, it was a Bolshevik Holiday < Laugh > from Michigan 'State'.

PB: Was that one of the kind of getaway times at Michigan 'State', Bolshevik --

TS: Bolshevik Holiday, they called it, and they took the trolley off the streetcar and filled it with women, and pushed it. It was downhill 'most all the way. It helped them a lot.

PB: Waverly Park was out on Waverly Road, not too far from the Grand River?

TS: It was on the Grand River, because we went canoeing. I can't remember how we got there. The time we went we took the trolley off the car.

PB: But you had to use the tracks, and pushed it on the tracks, so there were tracks that went into Waverly Park.

TS: I'm trying to think now where Waverly comes in.

PB: Is there anything else that happened at Waverly Park that you remember?

TS: No, we were very happy to be back home. < Laughter >

PB: But you were saying earlier that you'd go maybe --

TS: Yes, We'd go for an afternoon; Saturday afternoon, quite often.

PB: With your family? Was it a family place, or did you go with friends?

TS: I went with Doc.

PB: OK, so this was during college time. Did younger people go, or with their families?

TS: Oh yes, lots of families. There were lots of rides and things that involved families, and they took advantage of that, of course.

PB: Do you have any idea of when it stopped being Waverly Park?

TS: Dates fail me, always.

PB: That's OK. I just wondered whether it was just before the Second World War, or something like that.

TS: No, it was after that.

PB: So Waverly Park was in existence and entertaining people during the Second World War?

TS: I think it was.

PB: You don't remember when you first knew about Waverly Park?

TS: It was considered part of Lansing, and as I say, it was our chief amusement place. We had other beautiful parks; Potter Park, and Ferris Park, and those, but they were for baseball or something like that. Potter Park had our city zoo. It got to be a beautiful place now.

PB: Do you remember when it started to be a zoo?

TS: That was [there?] when I first came to Lansing. The zoo was there, but they've enlarged it, of course, and beautified it. Now most of the animals that the zoo contains are seen from inside rather than the outside, because we had some accidents with children.

PB: Do you remember any other crazy times that happened between you and school people? I don't think you've mentioned about the kinds of singing programs that were put on when you were in high school. There was a picture of you in a Gypsy costume, with other members of the cast, I think. What was that?

TS: That was our stunt day. That was in 1917, and we would graduate [be promoted ?] the next month, in June. We had a J-Hop, and we had a Junior Exhibition. Now at this exhibition our English teacher, Mary Derby, wrote a play called "The Moon Maid". We put that on, and I was in it.

PB: Was it a musical, or just a play?

TS: Well, both. The lead parts were not musical.

PB: So the story line went on, and then maybe there was music in the middle and around. So what part did you play in "The Moon Maid"?

TS: I was the minister's wife.

PB: That sounds interesting. < Laughter > Now I'm the minister's wife!

TS: It's far different than it was then, I'm sure, but we had lots of practices. I also belonged to the Glee Club and the Madrigal Singers. We used to get the people that the University of Michigan hired for their Spring Festival, if we needed a baritone or an alto or a soprano. We furnished most of them, but I was in the chorus, and we used to get some very wonderful singers.

PB: Was this in high school?

TS: Yes.

PB: So you'd get soloists from the University of Michigan May Festival. Well, maybe we've done plenty for today, and there's always the possibility that we can put another tape in the tape machine and think of some other things in another time.

TS: I'm sure I've told all I know. < Laughter >

PB: Well, we'll find out, but thank you again for a wonderful time. I hope you enjoyed it, and I know people will be glad to have this access to the memories that you've shared. Thank You.

< End of Interview >

Thelma Elizabeth (Haite) Sanford b. August 11, 1899 in Springport, MI d. January 1, 1994 in East Lansing, MI.

Daughter of Arthur Chester Haite b. October 14, 1869 d. November 27, 1948
and

Dora Belle (Geiger) Haite b. December 20, 1868 d. April 17, 1909
Thelma married Leonard Holbrook Sanford September 20, 1924 in Lansing.
Leonard Holbrook Sanford b. February 21, 1899 d. December 17, 1982
Son of Thomas Matilla Sanford M.D. b. January 2, 1865 d. January 30, 1949
and
Leila E. (Daniells) Sanford b. September 15, 1875 d. April 18, 1924

Interview conducted by daughter Patricia Louise (Sanford) Brown, who can be contacted through the Albion College Alumni Office. (Member, Michigan Oral History Association)

INDEX

- 308th Battalion Tank Corps 19
 Acheson/Atchison, Dorothea 15
 Ackerman, Grace 11
 Affeldt's Grocery 8
 Ambulance 3, 12, 13
 American Red Cross 26
 Ammerman, Mrs. 18
 Ann Arbor 12, 13
 Arbaugh's Department Store 15, 48
 Armistice 19, 20,

 Barnhart, Helen 12,
 Bingham Street School 4
 Bolshevik Holiday 54
 Breakey, Judith (Jenison) 16, 17
 Breisch Mill 5
 Bristol, Nina 18
 Buck, M.J. & B.M. 13, 14, 24, 25

 California 36, 37, 38
 Capitol Building 16, 24, 46, 47
 Cowle's Hedge 24, 25, 40
 Crilly, Mae 11
 Cummings, E.P. 17

 Daniells, Lyman I. 30
 Daniells, Sarah M. (Brooks) 30
 Deer Park 10
 Derby, Nina - Mary 17, 55
 Department of Insurance, State of MI 31,
 32, 35
 Detroit 14
 Dewitt 25, 33, 34
 Downtown Lansing 33
 Dunham Hardware 5
 Durant Park 25
 Durant, William C. 25

 Earthquake 36, 37, 38
 Eastern Star, Arbutus Chapter #45 50, 51
 Erie Canal 22
 Estes Furniture 14, 22
 Estes-Leadley 23
 Estes, Floyd 22

 Fires 15, 16, 24, 49, 50
 First Presbyterian Church 23, 24
 First World War 16, 20, 21, 25, 26
 Fisher Body Company 25
 Franklin Avenue School 27

 Friant, Stuart 31
 Friedland Junkyard 41
 Funerals 2, 3, 7, 13, 14

 Gardner, Shorty 18
 Garner, Dr. 23
 Gauss Baking Co. 7, 8
 Gladmer Theatre 24, 25, 41
 Glee Club 19, 56
 Governor's Reception 46
 Grand Rapids 14, 31, 32, 36, 44, 49
 Grand Trunk Railroad 14, 21, 49
 Groesbeck, A.J. 30, 31

 Haite, Arthur Chester 1, 56
 Haite, Charity (Kenyon) 46
 Haite, Dora (Geiger) 1, 7, 12, 13, 56
 Haite, Isabelle Lucille (McHenry) 4, 10, 23
 Haite Family Bible 22
 Haite & Jarvis 14, 22
 Haite & Joy 5, 6, 13, 22
 Hamilton, Isabelle 11
 Hartshorn, Mabel 11
 Hearse 3, 6, 7
 Houses - Simmons, Sanford, Ghinelli 33
 Houston, Dr. 27
 Hunt, Beatrice B. 11

 Insurance Department, State of MI 31,
 32, 35
 Inter- Urban System 21, 22, 47, 48

 J.W. Knapp 15, 50
 Jackson 21, 48
 Jackson Public Schools 29
 Jarvis, Elmer 14, 22, 23
 Jarvis-Estes 23
 Joy, William 5

 Kantlener's Jewelry 5
 Kellogg Center 42
 Kenyon, Thomas 46

 Laine/Lane, Frances Sly 37
 Langton, Hazel 25
 Lansing Community College 16
 Lansing High School 9, 15, 16, 41, 42, 55
 Glee Club 19, 56
 Madrigal Singers 56
 Lansing High School Teachers
 Ammerman, Mrs. 18

- Bristol, Nina 18
 Cummings, E.P. 17
 Derby, Nina 17
 Gardner, Shorty 18
 LeFurge, Charles 17
 Jenison, 17
 McCormick, Nellie 18
 Shaftsberger, Ed. 18
 Lansing, MI 1, 8, 15, 21, 24, 40, 55
 Lansing, MI Home Addresses 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 32, 35, 36, 44, 45
 Lansing, MI Businesses
 Arbaugh's 15, 48
 Banks 15
 Buck Furniture 25
 Dancer & Brogan 15
 Estes-Leadley 23
 Friedland's Junkyard 41
 Gauss Baking Company 7, 8
 J.W. Knapp 15, 50
 Lansing Dry Goods 15
 Mills 15
 Penney's 15
 Prudden Building 15, 16
 Sprowls 15
 Style Shop 15
 W.T. Grant 15
 Lansing, MI Hotels
 Downey 50
 Olds 24, 50
 Wentworth 3, 16
 Lansing, MI Theatres
 Bijou 24, 50
 Colonial 24
 Gladmer 24, 25, 41
 Michigan 24
 Plaza 24
 State 24
 Lansing Public Schools 27, 28
 Lansing State Journal 13,
 Lansing Women's Club House 41
 LeFurge, Charles 17

 M.J. & B.M. Buck 13, 14, 24, 25
 McCormick, Nellie 18
 Madrigal Singers 56
 Masonic Temple 50, 51
 (see also Eastern Star and White Shrine)
 Medical Technology 29
 Michigan Agricultural College, & MSC, MSU
 15, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 42, 47, 51, 52, 53, 54

 Michigan Central Railroad 21, 22, 49
 Michigan State Alumnae Union/League 52
 Michigan's (Pioneer) Sugar Factory 45
 Mount Hope Cemetery (Lansing) 1

 New York Central Railroad 22
 North Lansing 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 22, 23, 44
 North Lansing Businesses
 A.A. Wilbur 5
 A.P. Walker Grocery 8
 Affeldt's Grocery 8
 Breisch Mill 5
 Dunham Hardware 5
 Estes Furniture 14, 23
 Haite & Jarvis 13, 14,
 Jarvis-Estes 23
 Joy & Haite 5, 6, 13, 22
 Rourke & Price 5
 Scheid, Sam 5
 Stabler's Men's Shop 5
 Thoman Mill 5
 W.O. Kantlener Jewelry 5
 North Lansing Presbyterian Church 23

 Palm, Betty 52
 Parades 14, 15
 Parks 55
 Pere Marquette Railroad 14, 21, 22
 Pine Lake 53
 Preferred Insurance Company 31
 Presbyterian Churches - see First Pr. and
 North Lansing Pr. Churches
 Prudden Auditorium 41
 Prudden Building 15, 16
 Prudden, W.K. 41

 Railroads and trains 14, 47, 48, 49
 Rationing 20, 21
 Robinson Carrier Chemical Company 45
 Rourke & Price 5

 Saginaw Hill 41
 Sanford, Charlotte (Kellogg) 30
 Sanford, Holbrook 30
 Sanford, Leila E. (Daniells) 30, 33, 56
 Sanford, Leonard Holbrook "Doc" 19, 22, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 56
 Sanford, Thelma (Haite) "Betty" 1, 52, 56
 Sanford, Thomas M., M.D. 23, 30, 33, 34, 35, 56
 Scheid, Sam 5
 Second World War 36, 41, 55

St. Lawrence Hospital 23
Schools 4
Shafer, Mary 11
Shaftsberger, Ed. 18
Shrine - see White Shrine
Smith, Gideon 47
Sparrow Hospital 29, 30
Springport, MI 1, 2, 3, 6, 7
Springport, MI Businesses 2
Springport Signal 3
Stabler's Men's Shop 5
Streetcars/trolleys 8, 17, 21, 40, 42
Sugar Factory Hill 45

Theatres - see Lansing MI Theatres
Thoman Mill 5
Tussing Building 33, 34

Verbiest, Marce (C.M.) 31, 32

Wagner, C. Mae 11
Walker, A.P. Grocery 8
Walnut Street School 4, 9, 10, 11, 12,
15,
Walnut School Teachers
Ackerman, Grace 11
Crilly, Mae 11
Hamilton, Isabelle 11
Hartshorn, Mabel 11
Hunt, Beatrice 11
Shafer, Mary 11
Waverly Park 53, 54, 55
Wentworth Hotel 3, 16
Wharton Center 42
White Shrine #11 50, 51
Wilbur, A.A. 5

Yaekley, [sic] Lyda 27