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Clara Effingham

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71526

OWENS GLASS HISTORY PROJECT

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: CLARA EFFINGHAM

CONDUCTED BY: JENNIFER STOCK

DATE OF INTERVIEW: JUNE 3, 1994

NOTE: Tape ends abruptly - bad tape.



ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA  
 400 Hal Greer Boulevard  
 Huntington, West Virginia 25755-2667  
 304/696-6799

ORAL HISTORY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MORROW ACCESSION NUMBER: # 526

ORAL HISTORY

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DATE: 6/3/94

Clara E. Effingham  
 (Signature - Interviewee)

137 - N. Queens Ct.  
 (Address)

Huntington, WV 25705

(304) 522-0762  
 (Phone)

DATE: 6/3/94

Jennifer (Scott)  
 (Signature - Interviewer)

412 10th St. #1 Hunt. WV 25701  
 (Address)

(304) 522-0143  
 (Phone)

Jennifer: When were you born?

Clara: 1919.

Jennifer: You're married. What's the highest level of education you have completed?

Clara: I finished high school and one year of business college.

Jennifer: Do you have other family at Owens?

Clara: At Owens?

Jennifer: Umm-hum. Or did you have other family members working; besides your husband?

Clara: Well he's my second husband, my first husband and his father worked there. He was employed and then my husband went into the service. He was up in age and he had to retire when he was 65. (uh-huh)

Jennifer: Have any children worked for Owens?

Clara: I didn't have any children, just step-children. (oh ok)

Jennifer: Did any of you step-children?

Clara: No, I had two teachers.

Jennifer: Ok, all right, I have to ask that stuff at the beginning. {laughter} Tell me what you did at the plant; tell me you job.

Clara: Uh, I worked in purchasing department. (uh-huh) And I worked there 40 years, and we ordered the raw materials and kept all the parts needed to run the plant and everything that was purchased in the plant, went through us. (uh-huh) And I first started as a secretary, then an invoice clerk, then I was buyer.

Jennifer: So you were an invoice clerk, then what?

Clara: A buyer.

Jennifer: A buyer. (oh) (Mmm-huh) How many people were hired in the department?

Clara: In this one? Six and...about, at full capacity, 11.

Jennifer: And did that stay constant throughout your career there?

Clara: No, it was cut down later, there was like uh, four in the office, and four out in the store room.

Jennifer: And when did you begin at the plant, what year did you begin at the plant?

Clara: 1944.

Jennifer: And uh, you retired in?

Clara: December 31, 1983.

Jennifer: How did you find out about the plant, why did you go to work there?

Clara: My...I was dating my husband and he worked there. And then when I finished school I tried to get on, but he was an hourly, union employee and I was in the office and they didn't allow it. (they didn't allow it) They didn't allow it...to be married, and one was in the lab and one in the office. (really)

Jennifer: How long did that go on?

Clara: Till the war. I worked two places til that changed during the war.

Jennifer: What was the other place?

Clara: It was Standard Ultramarine, which is now BASF. I was the only one there that was married, and they knew I was married when they hired me. Of course, we carpoled (uh-huh) and two of the other girls got married and we got two weeks vacation and laid off, (yeah) they let us go.

Jennifer: Just like that. (uh-huh) How did they justify that what did they say, why...why couldn't you...

Clara: Because they had a rule that uh, no married...

Jennifer: And they never explained that. They just said this is...

Clara: No married...no married women to work there. And then, no married women) no married women (period, wow) Uh-huh, so then it changed and then they called me to come back and I wouldn't go back there. (yeah, uh-huh) I had a job somewhere else, then I quit and went to service; with my husband. I went down in November and came back in the first part of January (umm-huh) and so they got in touch with me and wanted me to come to work at Owens. (I see, I see)

Jennifer: Were you nervous, I guess you knew all about it when you first went in, pretty much.

Clara: Yeah, fortunately I had met the boss I had worked for,

where I had worked for at another place. (yeah) Purchasing, he was the purchasing agent, and I knew him. (how exciting)

Jennifer: So was it mostly men, mostly women in your department. Who had the jobs?

Clara: Men, mostly. We had a purchase agent, an assistant, and then we had a clerk, and then we had three women. And out in the store room there was all women, I mean all men except one woman.

Jennifer: And all the buyers so basically all the...all the people responsible for the purchasing. Did they get higher salaries than the women? (certainly) When did things change...I think at some point during the end of your career? How did things begin to change, why do you think they changed?

Clara: Well, I used to have to go out under the machines and see if all the chemicals were there and take oil inventory, and see that the gasoline was in, the air and everything that you needed to know. The other girl that took my job, she didn't do anything (huh, huh) and they finally only had about three people in the whole department

Jennifer: They cut it down that far? Who were they able to do that...how were they able...?

Clara: Computers.

Jennifer: Computers. When did they first start using computers in the plant...in you department?

Clara: Uh, I would say it was sometime in the 70's, because they sent us to IBM for one day to learn to use the computers. {laughter} (did they really, direct to IBM?) (oh my goodness, for one day) One day. And then they cut down til they had like one supervisor to take care of two or three different departments and maybe two in there, and they didn't need the salesmen come in. Then the vendors had to carry the inventory in their stock; then we have it, (oh I see) in the store room. We would just call them and they would bring it right direct to you, but you use to have to take inventory and it would take...(i can't imagine) all the...{laughter}

Jennifer: Did you have to go all over the plant or did you stay mostly in your office, did you travel... or did you have to go a lot around?

Clara: Well, when we first started, we had to do all the typing and pay all the bills for the day. We would...we were located was off of 9th Avenue (uh-huh) and so we had another entrance we didn't go through the plant but (I see) we would have to go to the accounting department everyday and take our work over there, that we finished so they could take it to Toledo to pay the bills. And

then, of course, we had to type all the purchase orders, we had to type all the inventory and there would be copies, and then they got so they to put it on the computers. (right) And then accounting took over paying invoice. (the accounting department) they'd get out of purchasing.

Jennifer: So they segmented it.

Clara: Yeah, when I started working there you typed all your purchase orders and you had 8 copies and you distributed them and then you paid the bills and took them to the accounting, when you finished with them, and you had to take inventory of the restaurant every month, you had to have that finished and all the food and the items in there every month. (yeah)

Jennifer: So did they have like trained CPA's then at the end doing accounting work?

Clara: Yeah, supervisors.

Jennifer: How long did it take you to feel comfortable at with what you were doing? Uh, Uh, if I were to enter a situation like that it would seem over my head for a while, {laugh} I mean, did it take you a while or was it...did it come quickly to you.

Clara: Well, where I had worked before, I worked in an office where they sold pipe and fitting [inaudible]... so I... it started like that, buying and purchasing. And then when I got laid off, because of the weather conditions, and no business, I was hired to work in the purchasing department at Standard Ultra Marine and then when we...he let, and he let all three of us girls go because we were married, I got the job over at Caroline & Lumber, (over where) Caroline & Lumber, its out of business now, and I worked in the purchasing in that, you know. Buying the lumber and siding, and the roofing and all, and we'd just meet salesmen that comes in and if you went over into another department you wouldn't get to see or get the broad vision of what happens. The vendors coming in and how you know whats, approximately when they're coming back and then call...and you get to call and talk to people all over the United States and order what you want.

Jennifer: So you were having a ball.

Clara: Yeah, yeah {laughter} I just kinda fell into that and uh....

Jennifer: Owens, was it the largest operation that you've worked at...you've talked about, that was bigger by far, or then the other places? (yeah) It was more of something you wanted....

Clara: Well, I'd say that Thornsburg's maybe ahead it kept people. And then (ahh) and then BASF which is Standard Ultra Marine they

had several hundred, and then Caroline & Lumber had 200. Well they had different plants, (yeah) well they had so much in the...

Jennifer: So you were doing that for all the plants?

Clara: Yeah.

Jennifer: So what was BASF before?

Clara: Standard Ultra Marine.

Jennifer: Standard Ultra Marine.

Clara: (Ultra Marine, yeah-huh) So when I went to Owens I knew what a bolt and screw and the fitting and all that was...you see. {laughter} (sure, sure)

Jennifer: Why did you keep wanting to work after you were married?

Clara: Well we didn't have any children and uh, when we got married we were living in a furnished apartment and then we got a little bit of money, then we moved to a home. Then the war, and when I went to work my boss at work kept saying, buy a house, buy a house, so we bought a house, where his family use to live and we lived there several years and then we got all this property down here and built this house. (so you built this house) Yeah. (it looks lovely, it's an incredible thing to have the opportunity) One thing you can come in that front door and come in every room without going through another room. (that's important) {laughter} One lady my neighbor said all you got is halls {laughter} I said yeah, but I don't have to come in the back door and go through the kitchen and go though...or come in the front door and don't go through it. (yeah)

Jennifer: I think it is really well laid out, you know, it's spacious. You don't have hallways to take up room (yeah)

Clara: We had an opportunity to buy these lots over here, but my husband had a heart attack and he died on the job at Owens. Ike's wife and I went to school together and, of course, we both worked in the same department, in machine repair, and then we started dating (oh really) and we'll be married 20 years in August.

Jennifer: So when you got married to Mr. Effingham, had it changes any about the...the married women working, I think that it was after the war?

Clara: Yeah, oh yeah. (and there wasn't any...) No, that was out in the 19..40's, 44. (yeah, yeah)

Jennifer: Why do you think attitudes changed during the war? Why do you think people loosened up?



Clara: Well, more women was available, and they needed them. Of course women were doing mens jobs. (yeah, during the war?) Of course now they can't discriminate like that. (yeah, now it's the law)

Jennifer: I just can't imagine that. Hum, did you ever feel funny about, you know, about your choice working full time, did you ever question yourself about your decisions to keep working, were they a problem?

Clara: No, not really. It was just something I grew up with, you know, you...felt like you had to work and then after you get use to it you don't want to do anything else.

Jennifer: No, absolutely, it's lonely to be a homemaker, you know in a lot of cases, you had a really big family there from what I understand, the whole community.

Clara: I tell you, I had the opportunity to take a years pay and quit, December 31st of 83', or I could have gone ahead and worked and if I had I would have got about an 8 to 10 percent raise in January, but they only offered that one time, in 83'. I got a years salary in my pension and I had five or six weeks vacation pay. And my husband didn't say a word to me whether to quit or not to quit, what ever the decision was it was up to me. So I had one hour to decide and I went out after...I had a certain time, (ok) but it was lunch time and I went up to his department and I said, what do you think I ought to do, and he said, "Well, if you will, I will," and he retired before I did! {laughter} He went right on over to personnel and he was out of there the 23rd of December, (yeah, and you were the following) Yeah, and for a long time we went to work, (yeah) every time we'd go down, (yeah) go down toward the plant, not knowingly, (yeah) just go cause it was a habit. (yeah, yeah) After 40 some years. (yeah, yeah that's incredible, yeah its a tradition) It was hard.

Jennifer: Retiring? (yeah) What do it go, I mean, what was it like?

Clara: Well, I just couldn't get use to it, and I was missing people, (yeah) and I got pretty upset, miss talking to people. Finally, why we just got out and met some friends and started going places and...and know I say of well if I can't do it today I do it tomorrow, no hurry. (yeah)

Jennifer: And that's something you've got to get use to, you know people say all their life, (right) oh I wish I had that luxury, you have to get use to it I think.

Clara: Yeah, well you see we were working all the time, and the only time you would be out was in the evenings, you didn't get to go out to the clubs in the day and you didn't get to go here in the

day, you know. (yeah, yeah) And so that's the people we missed out being with. (yeah) So Finally, we got around to that, now we don't have time to do anything. (yeah, yeah, it seems like that)

Jennifer: He told me how active your association is or retirement. (yeah, yeah) And you club house, and special olympics.

Clara: Now, I worked at Carolina Lumber when they built that club house.

Jennifer: Oh yeah. Did the...Owens build their club house?

Clara: It was built in 1940.

Jennifer: How much money did they spend on that?

Clara: Well, I don't know then, I wasn't working there.

Jennifer: Well, I was just wondering, I haven't seen it.

Clara: I was on the Board of the Credit Union, I was secretary there for many years. And then they bought the club house when it was up for sale.

Jennifer: Real cheap too, apparently, (well) that's what he said. But you differ? He said it has a auditorium and everything.

Clara: Yeah, it has a kitchen and an auditorium, and...now the credit union is taking over more of it. (humm) All of it used to be for activities for the plant. (hmm)

Jennifer: Have you been back to the plant since...?

Clara: Well they called me back to work, (oh yeah) for about three months, the assistant purchasing agent was having surgery, and then so they...the fellow there didn't know all the vendors or anything. He wanted me to come back and I went down and I said, I've been off too long now. I said, I don't want to get up and get dressed in the morning and have to have a schedule, {laughter} and I said, besides all the vendors I've dealt with and all the salesmen, they don't come in anymore. And I said, all the vendors they probably retired, (yeah) {laughter} that I knew or gone out of business. (more likely)

Jennifer: And when did they call you back?

Clara: Uh...uh, it was eight, no two years ago.

Jennifer: Two years ago.

Clara: Yeah, and uh, so I said, well the computers changed, and he said, the only thing we got is the fax machine, can she do that,

and I said no, I'm too lazy. {laughter} (no I don't have to), That's right. (Well that made you feel a little bit good)

Jennifer: So you dealt...dealt with not only the workers of the plant, you dealt with the whole population of sales people too, every day. Were they pitching to you, or were they telling you what they wanted to sale you or were you just dealing with you in terms of transactions?

Clara: Well, they didn't until I became the buyer and then they would talk to me and I bought several different, you know, commonties. Of course there were certain vendors that you...like raw materials, and all you have to just order them from certain people, but like the gloves, the people who come in with work gloves, they'd come with rags to sale and cartons, for the plant and different things like that. And I had certain vendors that I could tell. (yeah, yeah)

Jennifer: That's how you can do it, I imagine you could establish some relations. (yeah) So in the buying department..so you said something just came, you hadn't any choice, raw materials and...so what kind of things were you in charge of buying. Can you sum that up loosely or every thing but, {laughter} so if you didn't buy it.

Clara: Well, I course talked to most all of them uh, I bought the gloves, and the uh, supplies for the restrooms, janitors supplies, and the wipers, and shoes, (shoes?) uh-huh they use to have to have uh, safety shoes, and safety supplies, and things like that.

Jennifer: So everything came through you?

Clara: No.

Jennifer: No, (no) just this kind of stuff?

Clara: Well, yeah I would just uh...the others would purchase and they didn't see all of the; most of the vendors, and if he couldn't the assistant would. (yeah-huh, yeah ok)

Jennifer: Was their an increase in pay, when you went out to...?

Clara: yeah.

Jennifer: Well, I'd like to talk about uh, do you know of the Opal Mann suit. Are you aware of the Opal Mann suit?

Clara: Opal Mann? Humm.

Jennifer: She brought a sexual discrimination suit against the company. {laughter} Do you know her?

Clara: Yeah, I do.

Jennifer: With was successful, with resulted in a lot of new regulations concerning seniority practices, hiring practices. I know that for a long time, most of the women, the shift women, the hourly women, were concentrated in the selecting department, is that correct? {cough} And they eventually began to get better jobs, uh, what kind of discrimination...did you see discrimination against women at any point, I mean, I'm not phrasing this very well, I mean what kind of difference did you see in the treatment, maybe?

Clara: Well, when I first started, it was the proper thing was for the man to have the jobs. (and the big jobs) Yeah, and uh. then they had two unions; of course, I didn't belong to either one of them, because they didn't have the union in the offices. (right) And it seemed to me like that maybe the ones that got the jobs, that they sorta pushed them a little north and the shouldn't.

Jennifer: They were watching them closer?

Clara: Well, yeah and the women, I think was jealous. (yeah) There was alot of that going on.

Jennifer: You mean other women jealous of the...

Clara: Of the women who got the...(oh, I see) of the one went on salary. (yeah, yeah) But, I don't know much about what went on in the union. (yeah)

Jennifer: Do you think...do you think the women got alot of pressure from other men when they started getting the other... better positions? Do you think they got pressured from the male co-workers, more than the uh...?

Clara: I wasn't out in the plant enough. (yeah) I came in the side door, I didn't go in the plant... it got to where I didn't have to go into the accounting or anywhere unless I wanted to, to the restroom or somewhere. So I more or less got out of that. (yeah) Now the only difficulty I had was when we had the strike.

Jennifer: The 1969 strike, (yeah) ok.

Clara: My husband (oh that's right) my husband worked there. (right) He was off of work, 60 some days and he got 15 dollars, so I was the breadwinner then. But I was up at the hotel Prichard, with the offices there, (they moved you there during the...?) Yeah, I had to get all the machines and telephones, and everything and set up. (and set up in the Prichard Hotel, amazing) And then we'd draw all our records up there, and we'd kept functioning there. And so finally it got down to the point were there were only five of us working. Three girls and two men, besides the purchase manager. And we worked and took care of the...ordered and sent food into the plant and the mail, and everything because they

locked up in there. And then they got so they were going to...they let one of us off one week and the two would work and then they would rotate. (yeah) Every third week I would be off, I got off one week all the time we was there. Then they were going to cut...now all these others people wasn't working that was out side the plant, their salary just the same as I did, but I had to work. (yeah) And then it sorta pea'd me when it April 1st came, because they said they were going to cut all salary people off, you know. (huh) And I'd been working hard all but one week (yeah, yes) so I...(hard) said we'll just go to Florida. {laughter} So I stopped by to tell my boss that I took my uh, white coat to the cleaners and we were going to Florida, and he said if I were you I wouldn't go. So then I had to work that whole weekend moving back in. (oh, gosh)

Jennifer: So they were gonna lay you off, is what you are saying?

Clara: Moving all the machines and everything out of the hotel. (my goodness) But uh, I ...that's the only problem I had, they did talk about the union. (for the management) Um-huh. But if the girl behind me was off sick, I worked here job or I'd had to go somewhere or something. If I'd be off she'd work mine, and if they would have had that union we could get all these other peoples work.

Jennifer: Do you think it would have hurt you or it would have tampered your work process.

Clara: I thought it would.

Jennifer: Yeah, and you were fairly content with your pay and with you benefits and such.

Clara: Yeah.

Jennifer: Yeah, and there is a much smaller number, of course.

Clara: That's right. And they would all start...(yeah) and name their self seniority and (yeah) on with this ones job and on with that ones job. (yeah, yeah)

Jennifer: Do you think the union would have encouraged that kinda of situation?

Clara: I hate to say it, but (yeah) but he was the union president. {laughter} I wouldn't let him know it. (yeah, yeah)

Jennifer: That's what you think, that's interesting.

Clara: I'd rather not go to the meeting. (yeah)

Jennifer: Were you in a union meeting?

Clara: No, I got accused of it. (I bet you did)

Jennifer: Did it affect you marriage, did it...

Clara: I wasn't married to him when the strike was over. (1969)  
In 69', I married him in 1974. (oh i'm sorry)

Jennifer: Well, in subsequent years, I mean you seem to have a different take on unions then he does, is that fun, do you debate these...these issues together, the two of you?

Clara: No, I have no part, I belong to the Owens retirees. I'm a salary person so I can't vote. (yeah, well I know, I...) So...

Jennifer: Thinking about it just theoretically, you know.

Clara: But the union helped the men and they helped my husband, first husband and got him some rights that he should have probably had insurance and health rights and all... (important stuff)  
And my dad worked for railroad until they were unionized, he never had a day off. (yeah) He work at Peach Creek.

Jennifer: Peach Creek, which Peach Creek. {laughter}

Clara: Peach Creek, West Virginia

Jennifer: In Cabell County or...?

Clara: No, up in near Logan County.

Jennifer: I didn't know you were talking about our Peach Creek.  
{laughter}

Clara: Yeah, he worked in the yards up there. (yeah thats great, interesting) He could not work inside the city, he had to go to Kenova or Russell or Charleston, Peach Creek or Logan.

Jennifer: So they sent him all around?

Clara: Yeah-huh. So he finally go in up at Charleston and worked at Institute all the time.

Jennifer: What was his position? What did he do? Engineer?

Clara: No, conductor.

Jennifer: Conductor? No wonder he [inaudible]...(yeah)  
Interesting. Did your mother work?

Clara: She did after the war, but when my husband went to service she joined...volunteered for the Red Cross, and then she...

Jennifer: She volunteered for what?

Clara: The Red Cross, and worked at the hospital as a nurse and then she went to school to become a license practical nurse. She helped form the organization in Charleston, she talks about it, she 91 years old and maybe won't say a word, when we go down to see her in the Presbyterian Manor now. And I was the only child, and we don't have anyone else in the family, all her family is dead and I'm the only one left. And she still talks about that, and tells the nurses, when they take care of her, that's not the way to do it. And sh runs the organization of the nurses and they have meeting, still every month. (yeah, oh I see what your saying, sure)

Jennifer: That was very important work to her.

Clara: Had the television on and they'd say something, and she'd say that will be alright up here at Charleston. Fussing again about that bill. {laughter} (yeah, that's incredible that's a good story.) So she worked for Dr. Espaceda, which was an eye specialist here, he just retired this year, she worked for him 25 years, special duty nurse, private duty. Usually a cataract operation would be seven days. (seven days) Yeah, sand bags on the side of them, and then on the third day they were allowed to ...be helped to go to the bathroom and then they would get certain things, and then the seventh day they could go home. (wow) And I had the cataract surgery and I... the doctor, at 6:30 I had to be there the doctor came, he said it is 7:30 now we want to start, and at 8:30 I was home.

Jennifer: See it is amazing what they can do. Yeah, I had my wisdom teeth taken out not long ago. It was like an half an hour I woke up and I was delirious it.

Clara: I had dental and I had implants and I just got them yesterday, took...started September the 17. (yeah) And I my permanent teeth yesterday, (ohh, do they feel good, do they feel ok) Yeah, I didn't have a pain, (wow, not one?) and they made a video of it. (that's great) It's a new technique, I got to watch some video yesterday, it took about 3 1/2 hours for the surgery, then it took a healing period, then it went on another...almost nine months, then they put in permanent yesterday.

Jennifer: Wow, what was watching that video like?

Clara: Well, it...went, I seen my mouth; it didn't look like. {laughter} (really) And I said it looked like something on Discovery, {laughter} and it showed where he split my gums and made them apart and then where he took the drill and drilled the hole, and it showed the holes in there, and then it went off. (yeah) I heard this morning when I went it had come back on, (oh yeah) and that after we left when it went blank one of the other patients

were watching it. (oh yeah) And everybody comes it and looks at you (yeah) you know, and sees what your doing. (yeah) I had an audience, I think I had six and nine one time and about six another. (oh my goodness, that's alot of people interested in your mouth) {laughter} Yeah, but she wanted to know if I wanted to see the rest of it this morning, and I said I told her no. (it's not worth taking the trip for) {laughter} Well, I'll get it because the dentist married my niece. (gosh, in the family) {laughter} Yeah.

Jennifer: Well, gosh lets see.

Clara: I worked for my boss 25 years before he retired.

Jennifer: Oh, for...what did you call him, the purchasing agent. (Yeah) Your purchasing agent was boss of the whole department. Twenty-five years?

Clara: Twenty-five years, he had to retire because he was 65. (had to, probably didn't want to) No, he didn't.

Jennifer: And you had a pretty good relation ship. (oh yeah) Is the person you knew, before you came to work...no, no, no.

Clara: No, I meet him before at one of the places I worked, and I said who is that fellow in the bluish coat? They said oh that's the purchase agent. Well I said he come in here and looked all around the inventory and all and he said got more than that inventory down there than Owens Illinois in there. And then when I went for the interview for my job, that's what the man thought. (oh my goodness) {laughter} He was the same age as my father, and he was like a father to me and his wife is still living. She is in the Manor about four rooms from my mother and doesn't know anybody but Ike and I.

Jennifer: There it goes there it is, you know, Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that's interesting, that must have been very comforting, yeah you know, to have that kind of close relationship with your boss.

Clara: And I got to go to, Lakeland Flordia, to the Ohio plant, and they had a new way of feeding the raw materials into the feeders into the mixings the materials. And I got to go to Alden, which had... which was the biggest plant, and to the molds shop where they make all the molds. (where they make, make the molds) And machine repair at Godfrey and then they had a molds shop there and I got to see that.

Jennifer: How do they do that, how do they make those molds, say I like for those Avon bottles, you know, how do they construct those, do you have any idea?



Clara: They cut it, they have blanks and some way they make the design on them and then they put two pieces together and glass sheet down in there...and I don't know, {laughter} how they get them, but I...

Jennifer: And it works over and over. (yeah, yeah) Do you have a collection, have you...

Clara: Avon?

Jennifer: Just pieces of glass work, where...

Clara: Yeah, I have a rolling pin that was made in 1935 there. (a rolling pin) a glass rolling pin (out of glass) and I used it. (does it work real well) oh yeah, if anything would happen to it, it would ruin my life. {laughter} (never bake a cake again huh) Pies, yeah. (you can't buy a good rolling pin anymore) {laughter} There's a piece of glass over there in the window, but it was made to put some kind of fabric softener in or something in and I have some wine glasses and uh, well the wine glasses weren't made here, they were all made in Toledo. (huh, same company) The Avon I have a whole box of that, collectors. There is just so much. (yeah)

Jennifer: Is this fish...

Clara: The fish, yeah, that's Blenko. Oh yeah, Blenko would come down and they would buy selenium or something and make their glass red or a certain color from us. And there were a few independent glass makers around, that would come. Also Pilgrim Glass would buy some, some raw materials (yeah) just maybe they just needed them, you didn't want a whole car load, (yeah, right) then they would just buy so much. Or we had furnace blocks and they had an accident where they would come and get them.

Jennifer: So they were friendly, (uh-huh) towards helping out. (uh-huh) The craft trade—that's a good thing. (yeah) So speaking management, I know there a several different...many different managers and different styles of management, how much did you feel the changes in the management style was your job affect very much, very little by different plant managers coming in and out. Can you remember any big changes that occurred in the management?

Clara: Well some was more liberal than others, (uh-huh) but other than that uh, just well they cut down alot on social activities and buying and things like that, I didn't...the only thing I had to do with the manager.

Jennifer: Cutting down on the social activities, you mean out side the community stuff?

Clara: Uh, uh, for the employees.

Clara: Trucking.

Jennifer: Trucking, or shipping.

Clara: Well we had a trucking operation and they closed it down; where they would come in and get the glass and take it to the vendor and then that fell through after so many years. And they built a, I was there when they built the warehouses down there 10th Ave, West 5th street, down there. Then they built the Pavilion, now they built that since I left, at the park. Any furniture, any changes in there we would go pick them out and it would go through our department. The plant manager would say whether he wanted it or make some drapes we would get somebody to come and measure the drapes and they would pick out; and same, we took care of the club house too, because it was belonged to us.

Jennifer: And the gun club?

Clara: Rod and gun club, that was a separate organization. (oh, was it) Where people joined and paid dues. (oh) But now the plant... (and thats...) the personal department was in care of that, and they more-the-less took care of that. But if anything they bought had to go through that. The buffalo and the fish, {laughter} and the birds.

Jennifer: The birds?

Clara: Oh yeah, we had birds, wild...wild, geese for the pond, we bought those. (and the fish) We had a pen for them and we had the ponds stocked.

Jennifer: When do you buy a buffalo? What do you do?

Clara: You can buy one a year at I believe it is North Dakota.

Jennifer: You are limited by the government to one a year?

Clara: Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

Jennifer: Do you have to be like a...can you be a private individual or do you have to be like an organization?

Clara: I don't know about that. But uh...

Jennifer: What does it taste like? {laughter}

Clara: I liked it, (did ya) we'd have buffalo burgers and just sorta like a...(a big cow) or deer...deer meat and beef. (kinda gamey meat) But they had it doctored up so (yeah) that, barbeque and all them things.

Jennifer: I'd imagine that not many people knew how to cook a

buffalo. {laughter}

Clara: Well the members would cut it out and they would stay all day and all night and all the next. (yeah, sure)

Jennifer: Did they have a pit or something?

Clara: Uh-huh

Jennifer: That would be so fascinating, that is wonderful.

Clara: Well lets see what else we had there, umm we had all kinds of tables up and shelter and stone barbeque pit. We use to have golf outings and uh, bowling, and all that you know. (lots of sports) Most of it just fell through where people got older (yeah) the plant got less money (less people) yeah less people. The time that I was worked there, it was about 1850 people.

Jennifer: Still pretty good, still good number of people. (uh-huh) How many people were there when you left?

Clara: I'd say about 1,000 to 1,200.

Jennifer: Did you do the payroll too?

Clara: No. (hmmm) Do you have a some of the names there that you are suppose to see, I can tell you what department they worked for.

Jennifer: I have uh...we have a number of lists and they are crazy right now. I might want to call you at a later point and get some information, (now the girl...) or you can tell me where it is.

Clara: Lois Morris worked...Lois Morris she lives in Barboursville, she worked in purchasing for a while then she went over into accounting and payroll.

Jennifer: Did that happen a lot? Did people stay in purchasing or in your department, or I mean, and how did you make bids, if you wanted to change into another department?

Clara: No, if somebody wanted to maybe a job opening came open you could go and be interview for it.

Jennifer: Apply for it.

Clara: Yeah, apply for it. Well I had a chance to go be the plant managers secretary twice and I turned it down. (did you?) Because it was in the middle of the plant, and I was use to people coming in and out and being free and I felt like that I would be right in there and I'd come right in that door and that's all I'd see is people there, you know, I didn't think it would be worth it. (yeah) I was in a position where the people would come and go.

Jennifer: Yes, Yes, and you enjoyed that?

Clara: Uh-huh, meet people and salesmen. In fact, one of them came in, a contractor, and his name was Dawski. (Dawski) and so I went to the memory school and they ask me to think of something associated with

TAPE BAD - END OF INTERVIEW