

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Hubbard History Project

Hubbard Bicentennial History

O.H. 425

OLIVE GRACE RANDALL ULP

Interviewed by

Dorothy Bullock

on

October 29, 1975

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Hubbard History Program

INTERVIEWEE: OLIVE GRACE RANDALL ULP

INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Bullock

SUBJECT: Post Office, Stores, Banks, Methodist Church

DATE: October 29, 1975

B: This is an interview with Olive Grace Randall Ulp for the Youngstown State University Hubbard Bicentennial History by Dorothy Bullock, at 126 Clingan Street, Hubbard, Ohio, on October 29, 1975, at 10:00 a.m.

You came here when, 1908?

U: 1908. Claude and I were married and I came here to live. The first thing we did was join the Methodist church.

B: Where was it then?

U: Right where it is now. It was an old church. Then I was here in the years when we built this new church. I pledged, and then we refinanced, and of course I pledged again. Then I sang in the choir and I taught a Sunday school class. I've been a faithful member until now. That part of my stay in Hubbard is outstanding.

Then later I moved to a farm when we bought a farm in East Hubbard. We had a dairy farm; Claude shipped milk into Youngstown. He had a stroke after we lived out there about ten years. Then I had to carry mail on a rural route. At the time of the World War, they hadn't had any vacations so I worked all three routes. I was the first woman in Ohio to carry mail on a rural route.

B: I didn't know it was the first in Ohio?

U: It was. That was about 1920. That's a long time ago.

B: Yes.

U: I didn't get a permanent appointment; I was substitute carrier. Then we were paying for the farm and he had his stroke and he wasn't able to do anything. I made enough money on carrying that mail that I made the payment when spring came.

B: How did you carry the mail?

U: Horse and buggy.

B: That's what I figured.

U: Horse and buggy, and the wheels would feel pretty solid. I got stuck in snow drifts and had all sorts of happenings. People felt sorry for me.

B: I bet.

U: I would sing to the mile. I was so happy that I had that money, that I knew that I would meet that payment. Then, of course, we rented the farm and moved back into Hubbard on North Main to where we lived previously when we were first married. Then

after a long time we got the farm paid for and some money saved up and I bought a lot and built a house over on Church Street. It was then that I got the post office job. Two men were removed from the post office for inefficiency.

B: And you got it?

U: And I got it. I was there thirteen years. I was two years under Coolidge and one year under Hoover. Of course, we had the worst dump to have it in on North Main. I've got a picture.

B: What's there now, where the post office was?

U: I suppose maybe Reardon's. It was the first post office that I had in 1923. Then we had a fire.

B: Did mail get burned up in that fire?

U: No, we saved all of the mail. Charlie Blair and I got a citation from Washington for saving the mail. Charlie said, "But they didn't offer to pay for the dry cleaning." (Laughter) A tailor had this shop on the side. He brought in a lot boxes. We wondered if they were empty. Then he wanted to take out a lot of insurance because he left his iron on one night and set fire to it.

B: It happened that night, the fire?

U: Then the post office went in to where Anderson had the radio shop. It was empty and we got that. I think Frank Lockwood owned it. Anyhow, that is where we moved until this new building on Orchard Avenue. It was built by Stewart Hardware. I was about two years in this old building, and about eleven years in this new building.

B: I never knew that, where the post office was.

U: It was quite an experience.

B: then when you left there...

U: I was a Republican, and then it was political. Of course, Roosevelt was elected, but they let me finish out my whole term. I had only a few months in my term, but I had been official and carried the thing through and they let me stay my full term; so I was there from 1923 to 1936. I stayed there my full term and then John Doyle stepped in. He was a politician and he was a Democrat. I was a Republican.

B: When did the post office get built where it is now?

U: A long time after. Of course, I was there at the time it was dedicated. They always included me in all their ceremonies. I have a lot of pictures of that. I thought that you wanted early history.

B: I do.

U: Then at the time that I lived out on the farm...

B: Where was this farm?

U: South of Kansas Corners. Do you know where that is?

B: Yes. My dad lived out there for awhile, in the third house on the right on Kansas Corners. I don't know just when that was.

U: He lived to the north, I think, because there weren't any houses to the right.

B: You probably lived there before he did.

U: A long time. There was a house that burned out there. I think there were a couple of children in it.

B: Oh really? You were the only farm out there at the time?

U: Oh no! There were lots of farms. The back of our farm ran down to where Whitejail School was.

B: I know where that is.

U: It was on our farm. The back of that was where the Randall home was. Lloyd Nell finally bought that. So they lived on the back of the farm and we lived on the front of the farm. We faced the road that went from Kansas Corners, South. We shipped milk into town on the old streetcar. The old streetcar went through there.

B: I didn't know it went out that far.

U: New Castle to Hubbard. I rode on that many a time.

B: When the milk was put on the streetcar did you go with it?

U: Oh no. It went in and they transferred it and sent it in to Youngstown.

B: On another streetcar?

U: Yes. On the Hubbard and Sharon line. We were out of New Castle. Those were the days.

B: I guess. Did they worry about keeping it cold in the summertime?

U: No, we cooled it thoroughly; we had a springhouse. It doesn't take long; it was shipped every morning. Of course, the man probably went up to the station and got it. Our place had to be inspected, the barn. It had to be just perfectly clean.

B: Were these state inspectors that came around?

U: Oh yes, sure.

B: By horse and buggy they came?

U: No, I don't know; they could have been driving a car. I was driving a car when I lived on the farm.

B: Were you?

U: I was driving a car when I carried mail. At times in the summer I would carry part of the route. In the winter it was all horse and buggy.

B: Then they had carriers for the city too?

U: Yes, I had two carriers.

B: You had two in the city?

U: Yes. No, I had three rural routes then. Then they combined them while I was still in the office and Goldie Schotten was carrying the one route. We combined the three routes and we just had two. They transferred her to Mineral Ridge, where she stayed until she retired.

B: Oh yes?

U: She was a very efficient person.

B: Did she move to Mineral Ridge?

U: Yes, she had to.

B: You have to move where your work is?

U: Yes.

B: Where the post office is now, what was there at that time, do you recall?

U: I just don't remember, but that was a nice spot there. Of course, it is a good spot for the post office.

B: Right.

U: That was built after my time.

B: Yes. Was Bessie Barnes's store there?

U: Oh yes, that was always there.

B: (Laughter) Forever.

U: It had a staggy roof there.

B: Even back then, huh?

U: Yes. There was Clingan Feed Store and Vernell Gray was a flourishing business.

B: I'll bet. Was that the same Clingans that the street would have been named after?

U: Ancestors. Cal Clingan owned that then. French was the one who came to our church.

B: Yes.

U: That's my generation. We had so little to do with in this old building. Of course, when they outfitted the new, when the inspector came in he said, "You swung from one extreme to the other. You've got everything now." I did; I had a typewriter, and an adding machine, all the bookkeeping things I needed, everything. Some we never used.

B: Really?

U: It was put up in the hardware attic, second floor, and later shipped back. They just outfitted that particular office; I don't know, maybe they thought we were a city office and just loaded us.

B: And you just didn't need it all?

U: A lot we didn't need. We had really good racks.

B: And you had plenty of them?

U: Oh yes. Everybody had a nice desk. I always kept plants on top of the safe. (referring to picture) This was the driveway where they brought the mail in. They

hauled it up from the station. This was the window and then this door opened up to the lobby of the office.

B: Did it become the hardware right after?

U: They owned that building. Stewart Hardware built it. As soon as the post office moved out then they took that in their own hands. I think some woman has an office in there now.

B: Were there grocery stores in Hubbard at the time?

U: Sure. On north Main, between Orchard and the corner, Jim Neil had a grocery store. Al McKelvery had gone by that time; he was there once. Then, of course, there was the A&P, Scott Moore had that.

B: On the other side of the street?

U: Yes. I think they had a store on the corner.

B: There was a five-and-ten there at one time.

U: That was on the other corner. That was the same corner that I was on in the old building. Stewarts were always there. Then there were Lisko's who had a nice store.

B: I remember Lisko's.

U: Across the street was a butcher shop, Weitz's Butcher Shop. I had to walk to the bank every day with the money.

B: Right where it is now, the Dollar Bank?

U: Right where it is now. Charlie White was mayor and he had an office which I passed. I would stop and pick up his money and take it to the bank and come back and drop off his bankbook. I sort of killed two birds with one stone.

B: Yes. But the groceries were sure different back then.

U: Then at the time of the Depression, while I was in that office on Orchard Avenue, men who had excellent jobs lined up to get groceries. They would line up past my window. I couldn't look up.

B: I'll bet.

U: I was sticking in there with \$100 a month to start with.

B: That was just about unbelievable when these other men were out on the line.

U: I knew they were thinking about that. Look at that woman in there. They were just getting a dole. They were going around the corner, but they would be lined up way back on Orchard Avenue.

B: Where were they getting their food?

U: In Jim Neil's store they were handing it out.

B: Did they have to have something to...

U: Yes, they had something. I don't remember that part of it because...

B: You were inside where it was safe.

U: I was keeping away; I didn't want to know the details.

B: Do you remember those men, whether they ever came back to be rich again?

U: Some of them got their jobs back and some of them had good jobs. There they were in the lines getting a dole.

B: Probably all of them had families too.

U: Yes, they probably did. I couldn't look up at them.

B: I wouldn't have been able to either. Was the school there at this time?

U: Oh yes. The school has always been there. That's on the other side of the street though.

B: Yes.

U: Ernie Price had built a nice home right beside it. They lived in back of me on North Main when their children were born.

B: Did they?

U: She and I have been close friends all these years. We are yet.

B: Are you really?

U: Yes.

B: Then they built this home after their kinds were...

U: The little girl was born in the back of me on Walnut Street, the first house. I lived on the corner. There is a men's shop on the corner. In back of that was Ernie Price's home. They had Ruth then. Then they built this new house and I think Chalmers was born after they got over there.

B: That's quite a stately looking house, even now. You lived where the men's hair shop is when you had the post office across the street?

U: No. That was before I went out to the farm. That's many years before. I'm back up here on my property. I paid for the farm and I got enough money to get a lot big enough to build a house. It's a start. Somebody built a home and Charlie White got the money for them outside of a bank. We were good friends and I was lugging his money and I thought well, he'll get the money when I'm ready to build. I told him, "I've got a thousand dollars and my lot is paid for, now I'm ready to start a house." He couldn't get it; he didn't get it. I went into the bank and Gene Gray was where Eat's Shoe shop is now; Gene Gray is a prince. I told him my story and he said, "I'm so happy to loan you money."

B: What was he?

U: A banker. Charlie White said, "With Claude in his condition you will never get a house paid for." He was dragging his foot. Twenty-two years out of our thirty years of marriage he was crippled. He dragged along pretty good. Bob Randall, my nephew, will have a birthday in January and he'll be the age that Claude was when he died. Bob said now he thinks Claude was an older man. Gene Gray said, "I'm so happy to loan you money." That was before I got the post office manager's job.

B: You just had the farm?

U: I had the farm paid for and a thousand dollars saved. Of course, I always had a house full of boarders, always. I packed the lunches for the streetcar men and everything I could do to make money and I got it. He said it was all right and he okayed it.

Then I moved in the fall and In February I went into the post office. I never missed a payment.

B: I'll bet. That was a good loan he gave out to you. Who built your house then?

U: Dick Huff.

B: Do you remember how long it took to build it?

U: It didn't take so long. He had a couple of brothers that worked with him. They were good carpenters. The Huffs built the ones on the other side of the street too. I guess the Huffs built that corner house.

B: There were probably a lot of houses going up at this particular time. Did you have to enlarge your mail routes or did the carriers just get more to cover at a time?

U: I didn't do anything enlarging the mail routes; I was only a substitute. They all had vacations and one carrier got sick and was sick all winter long. Then by the time I got into the post office they were down to two. When they got to the place where they wanted somebody in the post office they thought about me. I'll tell you who was the committee then to make the selection: Elmer Eister, he was one, Andy Mayers, he was in the bank, and the superintendent of the schools, Robinson. The Congressman appointed that committee to select someone to run the post office. I'll tell you who the men were that were removed; Dennison and Farley.

B: What did they do then, just find another job somewhere else?

U: They were out and disgraced.

B: I would think.

U: Farley didn't have to do time. He had to pay back money on it to his dying day. Dennison didn't take anything; Farley didn't either, but he used money that wasn't authorized. You can't spend a nickel if it isn't authorized. Dennison's books were covered with grease; he would take them home at night and probably fry eggs on it and eat them.

B: (Laughter)

U: There were a lot of things that we never did figure out and the inspectors came and checked it over for me to take over and one said to the other, "All we can do is start here with a clean slate." They never figured it out. He never took a penny for himself; he was an honest, good man. Everybody knew it.

B: Are there any of those families left around here?

U: Dennison's girls, Arthur's girls. Arthur was his son and the father of those girls, Carol and Phyllis. Those were his grandchildren.

B: How did they find out that these men were in trouble?

U: They weren't getting reports and he wasn't getting things through. Of course, in Farley's case he just wasn't... You just have to balance every night. I never went home that I didn't balance. In the clerks, nobody else went home either. They had to balance. I saw Charlie Blair ride miles out in the country to collect \$10 that he had made a mistake with a woman. But he did it so that his drawer would check out.

B: So things didn't start checking out so well?

U: If they didn't we didn't balance, and nobody went home.

B: Who was president of Hubbard Bank at that time? Was Any Mayers President?

U: Andy Mayers.

B: Yes.

U: Bob Dell worked for him. Dorothy Abernathy came to work for me in this old post office out of high school. She stayed there until I quit and I got her transferred to Warren to a money order window. Of course, she went on and stayed in the service and retired on a good pension.

B: Right.

U: I gave her her start.

B: I didn't know she worked for you.

U: Yes, She was a good girl. Boy, she was efficient. I had her transferred up to Warren and the postmaster was a good friend of mine, that's how I got it done. He said, "Boy why didn't you teach her to write?"

B: She couldn't stay in Hubbard.

U: She could, but she wasn't going to work for John Boyle. She could have stayed but there was no such good luck. I guess I told you all about my church. I don't know whether you knew this or not...When we financed this church, when we made pledges, we pledged \$500. That was like \$5000 today. Al Wise had saved up \$500 for a car. Wise was not supposed to pledge that, but he had his saved. Of course, we paid ours.

B: He gave up his new car?

U: He never owned a car until his dying day.

B: He gave it to the church.

U: Yes.

B: Isn't that something.

U: Reverend Norman Parr told that at my sister-in-law's funeral.

Then of course, the time came up when we had to refinance and then we pledged again. I think we only pledged \$250. That \$500 was an awful lot. But that's the way we did it.

I'm kind of riding along on my laurels as far as the church is concerned. They wouldn't have had that good church if it hadn't have been for someone like me.

B: That's exactly right. We need a few like that right now.

U: I'll bet you don't get them these days. Bessie Price, Oh how she worked there. We just all worked so hard. At that time a thousand dollars from a bazaar was an awfully big thing. I headed up one bazaar that we made a thousand dollars at.

B: It sounds impossible when you thin of what things were worth back then.

U: That's what we did.

B: What did it cost to build a house back then? Price's house, what do you suppose that would have cost then?

U: I don't suppose it cost them more than \$10,000. I just can't tell you how much the price of ours was. It wasn't \$10,000, I know that. It was probably about \$7,000.

B: That's hard to think back and imagine.

U: Then we didn't have a garage, but Claude had that built. He finally got so that he worked over in Masury in a filling station and a big building collapsed and everyone hauled the brick away. He got somebody to haul the brick over and built that garage. He was thrifty.

B: I guess. You both were apparently. What churches were around beside the Methodist church?

U: Of course, right across from us was the Lutheran and it was very prosperous. They had that bell ringing all of the time. It was as prosperous as the Methodist church was. Of course, now it is up on the hill (Hall Avenue). All of the Christians and all have burned a mortgage just recently and they have celebrated an anniversary I think. They were all hardworking people too.

B: Was that old Presbyterian church...

U: Yes, that was in existence. They didn't have the new one until years and years after.

B: Which church is the oldest in Hubbard do you suppose? Is it the Methodist?

U: I don't know. I lived in the days when they had revival meetings out at the old East Church.

B: Really? How did they come to that, horse and buddy, or drove cars?

U: We had cars in those days. We never had a Ford, Claude and I. We had something else, but our friends had Fords; they were in that class. We started out with a secondhand from Deforest Machinery, EMF; it isn't made now. They always laughed at us at 6:00 every morning. We had that car when he had his stroke. Then after, it didn't have a starter and I had to crank it and finally we bought a new car with a starter so he could drive. It had a gearshift built up.

B: That was quite a thing I'll bet.

U: That was the first new car we ever had.

Now you're a Bell, and that old Bell house on Youngstown Road to me was just fantastic, that beautiful, old brick. Why anybody would be so dumb to go and build a wooden house and live in it...That was my idea in those days. It was a lovely home.

B: It was. That's where I lived the first three months of my life, in the brick house.

U: I wonder what it is like now?

B: People still live there.

U: And it's as straight as a die. Years and years ago when they built that, now who would be the one that built that wooden house, your grandfather?

B: My grandfather, right.

U: We just thought he was so dumb to go and build a wooden house and live in it when he could live in that beautiful brick.

B: (Laughter) Isn't that funny. I wonder why he ever did build that. I never really questioned anybody about it.

U: They were grand people, the salt of the earth.

B: I loved to go out there on the farm; we used to have such good times. Of course, my aunt and uncle, my Uncle Harold Bell lived in that brick house for a while.

Naomi Taylor's house, it must have been here...

U: The Taylor's lived in it: it was nice then. It was really nice.

B: It was probably quite a home.

U: Mrs. Taylor, the mother, she was one of the women that helped build this church. She was a worker.

I was president of my class one year, and that was really something. We had a party and everybody wore a formal.

B: Really?

U: Yes. Milly Taylor was one of the good Methodist women though.

B: I didn't realize that they had been in that church that long.

U: Yes. Ladies Aid, Claude's mother was active in the Ladies Aid. She was such a nice lady. When I lived out on the farm, on the Hudson farm, I had them out for dinner one day. Maude was along and Maude spoiled the dickens. Somehow or another she got under the table and her mother was so embarrassed. She was just shocked that Maude got under the table. I would have been too. But Maude was having the time of her life.

B: Was Dr. Bond the only doctor in Hubbard a long time ago?

U: No, there was Dr. Button and Dr. MacMurray.

B: Where were they located, right downtown?

U: Right downtown, on West liberty. Then Paul Williams came later.

B: Where Shaunburg's Shoe Store was, wasn't there a doctor in there somewhere?

U: I think Williams was upstairs. He's dead now too.

B: That must have been about the first shoe store around.

U: Yes, it was. It was there a long time.

B: Then wasn't there a grocery store right in there too?

U: Tom Young had a good grocery store there.

B: Maybe we'll collect enough pictures from people that we can put the whole city of Hubbard back together again? (Laughter)

U: That era of the post office, those are probably ones that they have (pictures). I've got a lot more of them but they're too personal.

B: Those are excellent. I never knew that that post office was located on Orchard Avenue.

U: A lot of people say, "I don't remember you when you were in the post office."
Well, I don't remember them either.

I just think about the deal of people and money. Now that banker was glad to deal with somebody that was going to pay for a home. Charlie White said, "With Claude in his condition you're never going to pay for a home." I had that farm paid for. I had money and the lot paid for. I was sure I could do it.

B: Were loans quite common then?

U: Yes. They were not as common as they are now, but that is what a loan company was for. It was a savings and loan bank.

B: That has just since disappeared completely.

U: I think so. He died and there just wasn't anybody to fall off. He married a Duer.

B: I forgot about the Duer family.

U: Cindy and Rhetta Duer. His wife was Cindy Gray. They lived down on Moore Street. They had a nice house back in there. Of course, I don't know who's down there now in that house. It was a nice house.

B: Back behind where Kelly's funeral home is?

U: Yes, on the right-hand side going out.

B: Did we have a funeral home when you first came to Hubbard?

U: Oh, John Anderson was here. Let me tell you what they used to do at a funeral. I wonder if anybody else will tell this. There was a day that the foreign people had a bank marching with their funeral. When I got this new car, Ray Mathews sold it to me, and Ray Mathews married an Anderson girl, so of course John Anderson knew that I had bought it from him. They hired my car, paid five dollars for every funeral that I drove in, and I drove in many. I would go down, fill up with the crowd, and we had to drive so slow that the bank could march beside us.

B: I never heard of that.

U: Those were the days.

B: You marched to the cemetery?

U: They marched. I drove the family. Many a dollar I picked up then. I was always out ready to do anything. He of course thought about me, because that car was bought

from his son-in-law. He hired my car. They had a hearse that could drive slow, but how do you think with a gear shift car you could drive slow?

B: You went down to the old North Cemetery?

U: No, the Catholic Cemetery. They would come from Kelleys up to this Catholic Cemetery. You had a long, good, old drag.

B: And up the hill too, trying to go slow.

U: It wasn't too much uphill. We didn't go up that hill, we turned into the Catholic Cemetery.

B: Do you remember who the superintendent of schools was at this time?

U: Yes, he was on the committee, Robinson. I don't know his first name. A.E. Robinson, whatever that was. They built a house on Bentley.

B: Can you think of anything else exciting?

U: I chattered all morning and I wasn't going to talk at all.

B: This is how they're going to get an interesting booklet put together, by the things that I never would have remembered or the things that we didn't even know existed. How things have changed.

U: I think about this church because I was apart of getting it going good. Some people say things about Andy Mayer that I don't believe, because I think he was just perfect. He was the one who got this thing going. I was financial secretary for years and years through Andy Mayers; he just thought I could do it. Even when I got in the post office he called me up to clerk two sales that he had that he knew would be accurate if I took them. One was Nelson Meismers and I can't think of who the other one was.

B: You took care of them?

U: Sure. But isn't that something? Andy Mayers thought everybody should be for the church.

B: Who was the minister at that time when they were building the church?

U: Caven.

B: Was he? It was probably a big undertaking.

U: yes, but when people are young they don't think anything of it.

B: That's right.

U: Bess Price and the women who would work in that kitchen, we would go home with our legs so swollen and our feet... You would think you would never walk again, but you did.

B: And you went back to do it again next year.

U: Sure.

B: When did the very first post office open in Hubbard?

U: I don't know a thing about it. I don't know a thing before I got in.

END OF INTERVIEW