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SAFFELL:Mount Union College campus on January 10, 1979.
Miss Hendershot it would be interesting to know a little bit
about your early background. Perhaps you would tell us where
and when you were born REMINISCENCES for instance.

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OF

HELEN L. HENDERSHOT

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may seem people still live right there on that river bank.

And move every spring. But I think the flood control and
all the scientific Interview by
Dr. John E. Saffell
January 10, 1979
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HENDERSHOT: I think there's a love of the land they can't
leave.

SAFFELL: Then perhaps you'd give us your date of birth. If
that's not too personal.

HENDERSHOT: Oh my heavens no. I believe every person gets
a year older every year. And I was born on April 30, 1904.

I lived in Prepared by the Rodman Public Library And my
for the Oral History Project, Alliance, Ohio.
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Bellaire to Salsburg, then we left the river completely but

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SAFFELL: Would you happen to know your father's mother's name?

every summer when I'd go down south I'd get to the river as fast as I can and ride the river road down to Bellaire again.

HENDERSHOT: No, Hendershot.

SAFFELL: Has a real pull. Perhaps you'd tell us the name of your father. For geneaological records.

HENDERSHOT: Annie Viola Hendershot.

HENDERSHOT: My father was Edward Albert Hendershot.

SAFFELL: Now what about your mother's name?

SAFFELL: Would you happen to know the dates of his birth?

HENDERSHOT: Well my mother was Annie Lee Moore.

HENDERSHOT: He was born in 1876.

SAFFELL: Do you happen to know your mother's father's?

SAFFELL: And when did he die?

HENDERSHOT: And her father was Lorisazo Moore. Her mother

HENDERSHOT: He died in 1939.

was Julia Ann. And they lived on a hillside in a lovely brick

SAFFELL: And would you remember the name of your father's father?

HENDERSHOT: No, I never knew anybody in my fathers family excepting his mother. I knew of a step-father and I'm not even, and his name wasn't my father's name so I don't even know what his name was. But if my father was living today he would be classed as a migrant. He walked around with his mother, she gave organ lessons in the country. And they would come to a house and stay there for their board and room, they'd give everybody in the family organ lessons. And my father, I've heard him say when he was six or seven years old he went out and helped in the fields to get his food. Then when they would leave there after two or three days they would take a little piece of corn bread and a sack with him and walk to the next farm house.

SAFFELL: Would you happen to know your father's mother's name?

HENDERSHOT: Her name was Viola. Annie Viola.

SAFFELL: The Viola is the last name? to when your father's

HENDERSHOT: No, Hendershot.

SAFFELL: Hendershot.

HENDERSHOT: Annie Viola Hendershot.

SAFFELL: Now what about your mother's name?

HENDERSHOT: Well my mother was Annie Lee Moore.

SAFFELL: Do you happen to know your mother's father's?

HENDERSHOT: And her father was Lorenzo Moore. Her mother was Julia Ann. And they lived on a hillside in a lovely brick home. Her parents, being my great-grandparents, would be her grandparents. I often wondered how they ever got a load of bricks up that hillside, let alone build a big house. And it stood there until about three years ago and then they came along and took the bottom out from under it for strip mine coal.

SAFFELL: Now this would be in the Bellaire area?

HENDERSHOT: This was about twenty-five miles south of there. The post office would have probably been a place called Alledonia. It's in the Belmont County. Everybody down there lives in the county.

SAFFELL: Right, right. Now what would have been your mother's maiden name?

HENDERSHOT: Moore.

SAFFELL: Moore.

HENDERSHOT: Annie Lee Moore. I'll take a look in this and see

SAFFELL: Now do you have any idea as to when your father's people came to the United States?

HENDERSHOT: No. I think they came from Germany and I've heard him say once or twice that they came about three generations back. And his people and my mother's people together came from either Germany or England. I did find out one day that the name Hendershot was Vonheiderschardt. And the reason I found it out I read a story like an editorial in a paper one day and a man discovered oil on his land down in Texas and his name was Hendershot. And after he became well known as the oil man he changed it to Vonheiderschardt. So my father always said as soon as we strike oil we'll change our name.

SAFFELL: Well I think it's a good name just as it is.

HENDERSHOT: But my name is still Hendershot so we never struck oil.

SAFFELL: Do you have any idea as to where your people may have settled before they came to Ohio? Did they come direct from the old country?

HENDERSHOT: No, the first that I've ever been able to read about them they settled on a bank of a little creek and I always heard it called Captine.

SAFFELL: Will you spell that?

HENDERSHOT: Well I didn't know how to spell it either so one day I was browsing in the library and I came across a Belmont

County history book. Well I'll take a look in this and see if I can find.... and the stream turned out to be called Captina. And it was on the bank of that little stream that the Indians held their last stand. In southern Belmont County. I discovered that that day.

SAFFELL: That's very interesting.

HENDERSHOT: It was a deep stream of water because I've heard my Grandfather say many times, and I have a stereopticon slide of it, they'd go down over the hillside in the afternoon late, get in a boat and go out where the water was so deep it was green and whatever fish they caught that was their supper. It was on the Captina, all this happened. Those people in those days abbreviated everything, nick named them. If your name was Anna you were called Annie, no matter what you got a nick name so Captina turned out to be Captine to those people. And isn't it strange today on good farms today in Ohio the government has given them a plot of land and this can be made into a pond. And when we went out here south of Alliance not too many years ago with the Ohio Agriculture Extension People they told us the story of these lakes where a man can go out and catch his fish and go back and eat them that night; he doesn't have to go into town to buy it. And I thought, well history does repeat itself.

SAFFELL: Good point. Those dams some people say are much wiser than the larger dams that can actually perform....

HENDERSHOT: And their schools and churches, there was a

stream of water and a farm then a church and a school. And of course you know in those days a family boarded and kept a school teacher in order to have one.

SAFFELL: Well I'd be interested in some other recollections of your childhood period. You say you left Bellaire now when you were in the second grade.

HENDERSHOT: In the second grade.

SAFFELL: Maybe you could tell us something about your amusements as a child. How did people entertain themselves?

HENDERSHOT: Well we had a fence around our yard and anybody who wanted to was welcome to come in our yard and play but we weren't allowed to go out.

SAFFELL: Why was that?

HENDERSHOT: We were taught to stay at home where our mother looked after us there. That was the main thing we stayed in that yard. And we always had company. It may not seem a strange thing in a way but I have a picture of my mother's home and there were twenty-six people on the porch and in the yard on a Sunday evening. She said that was the average Sunday night gathering. Then they'd all walk up, about a mile and a half up the hill to church. And I've often thought of that yard of ours. I've seen my mother bring cookies and a glass of cold water out for the people that were there and maybe there would be 15 or 20 children playing in our yard. And some of their parents didn't know where they were but my mother knew where we were. And one of the biggest entertainments that we ever had was when the organ

grinder came along the street. He had a little monkey on a chain and he cranked his organ and his monkey brought us cups and sometimes we would have a few pennies to put in the monkey grinders, if we put a nickle in he'd stay and play for a long time. And the monkey would do all kinds of tricks on his hands. And on that same corner I stood and saw my first automobile too. It was an electric one.

SAFFELL: Interesting. Now we date back.

HENDERSHOT: Two old ladies came along in this car, probably weren't as old as I am now, and they were very careful going around the corner because Bellaire is very hilly. They had an awful time getting around that street. Then I thought that was just wonderful. Last summer when I was down there I had trouble getting around that street with my little Chevelle. It's still no wider than it was.

SAFFELL: Did those, did that electric car have trouble getting up the hills?

HENDERSHOT: Well you know it was strange. They always knew how to go. Most of the time you went down hill. You'd go up a short hill and take a horizontal right and then you could go down I guess again. Another chosen bit of recreation we had, boats were free. And every Sunday afternoon, late in the afternoon, my dad would take us down the street. After we moved from the flood area we were about two blocks from the river. And we'd get a boat. They were there by the dozens. Losen the chain and we'd get in that boat and row up the river or across the river. And if we were very flush

that week we might get a bag of popcorn someplace. But that was a lot of fun to ride.

SAFFELL: Well you say the boats were free, well who provided the boats I wonder.

HENDERSHOT: The city I suppose, I never thought about who.... because everything was volunteer. Now the fire department was a volunteer fire department. I can still see my father pulling on his coat and running down the street when they would ring a bell. Four or five men would get in front of that cart and hose and down the street they would go to where the fire was. They must of had, they had a lot of those stations, I know they had them in every ward. Perhaps more than one in a ward. Because they would, then after that came the horses, they had those big spotted horses you know that pulled the fire engines.

SAFFELL: Well I would be interested in some details about your early schooling about perhaps the differences between the sort of education that you received and the education that's available today.

HENDERSHOT: Well I can remember in my first grade that every morning when you went to school, we must have had to study some at home because the earlier you could read your reading lessons the better grade you got in the first grade. So it meant that we had to do a little bit at home didn't it? Then we moved, we came up to Alliance and I finished my second year of schooling here at South Lincoln School. And there was such a difference between the school there and

the one here because there's a different group of people. People here were employed and they had a lot more to live on than we ever had. And one of the things I noticed, down there in our schooling everybody helped everybody else all the time. And up here people just looked at you and said Hi and went straight on. It took me a long time to get used to that. But the people in the river area were just much more friendly, I think all the way around than they were in the city. And I think it's still that way.

SAFFELL: Would it be a result of there, people down there every so often being up against the problems of the flood.

HENDERSHOT: I think so. Because there were times when you had to fight to survive. I know the year that we moved from the flood land, my father kept a boat tied to the front porch banister. And he and another man would row up the river to the upper part of the city to get bread and come back down the street and toss it on the the porches or windows, in to the windows to people who were waiting for something to eat. And you never stopped to ask who anybody was. Well then when the flood went down everybody helped everybody else. They went along with shovels and shoveled out the mud and then this volunteer fire department came along and washed the mud off your rugs. And any furniture that was full of creepy crawly things you put out in the back yard soaked them with gasoline, stiked a match to them and told them good-bye. And then it was nothing to have somebody else say, well I've got two of this I'll let you use mine until you can get another one. But you just don't

do that today as much. I think we brought it on ourselves because too many people take advantage until you don't know whom to help and whom to befriend and whom to ignore.

SAFFELL: And you mentioned you went to South Lincoln would the physical plan have been what it is about....

HENDERSHOT: No it was just that middle section.

SAFFELL: Just the middle section.

HENDERSHOT: You can tell the difference in the color of the brick.

SAFFELL: Now who was the principal back there?

HENDERSHOT: Well that I don't remember. I just went there a few months because we came to Sebring, that's where they built the new enamel plant where my father was to work. And he rode back and forth on the street car each day. As soon as he found a house we moved to Sebring. It was very early spring.

SAFFELL: You mentioned the enamel works. What sort of things did they make?

HENDERSHOT: Well they made kitchen ware and what was known to them as indirect light. It was a light that had a big enamel shade and inside was a cone in which you screwed the light bulb. But mostly kitchen ware was what they made, pots and pans. And my father, the man who owned the plant in Bellaire taught my father to make the enamel.

SAFFELL: Now who ran this plant in Sebring?

HENDERSHOT: A man by the name of Thomas Strong.

SAFFELL: Oh, Strong Enamel. Mr. Strong just didn't

HENDERSHOT: It was Stong Enamel. And Dad, I think Dad didn't even have a step-father after he was just a youngster, because he had gone to school about, I suppose altogether maybe three and a half or four years. My mother didn't even have that much schooling. It was too muddy in the spring to go and it was too cold in the winter and in the fall they had to help with the crops. So they averaged, I heard her say, they averaged about three to four months of school a year. And she got about the third grade. But how, they really picked up everything that went along. And they really enjoyed radio and television when it came into existence. And Mr. Strong was a well educated man. I don't know where he had gotten his education but he was really wonderful to my dad. When I went away to college they would send me money and give me things too that, because they had only one grown daughter and they were just wonderful people. He was the kind of man that stood at the door on payday and gave every man his pay in cash and wished him a happy week-end you know.

SAFFELL: Well, is that plant still in existence?

HENDERSHOT: Well it's still down there but it's used for something else. After Mr. Strong left Sebring it went into the hands of someone who made an aluminum plant out of it. But he had a pretty hard job in Sebring. Sebring had been founded by five, I think five Sebring brothers and their father.... And they just weren't about to let anybody else

in the industrial world. And Mr. Strong just didn't sit with them. He was an elder in the church and he taught a class. Some of them didn't even know there was a church in existence. They just lived different kind of lives completely. And, after he stayed there for quite a long while and then he liked a little place, so he sold his plant and went down to West Lafayette and bought a small plant that made hospital ware. And my father, then they made it like they do cooking today, they made it from scratch. And that was the year he decided that he was going back to the farm, when Mr. Strong sold out. The man who came in there in his place didn't fire anybody but they cut everybody's wages. You could work there and stay home. Well he went

SAFFELL: That would take care of it.

HENDERSHOT: And you couldn't live on the wages because he was a money making man, Mr. Strong was a humanitarian.

SAFFELL: Now about when did Strong leave then?

HENDERSHOT: Well Strong left there in about 1925, I think. And then we were on the farm one year and it was too much for us and not enough to hire so we went back to town. And then my father took a job as superintendent in a milling department in a milling plant, Canton Stamping over in Canton, Ohio. And there it was like today the pressures were just terrific. And Mr. Strong's son-in-law who knew my dad's abilities called him one night on the phone and said, "Ed if you'll come down to West Lafayette and straighten out our problems I'll give you a years salary no matter how

long it takes you." And it took him about three months. And Frank gave him his year's salary and he said, "now I want you to be doing this kind of thing, I don't want you back in one of these shops where they're on top of you all the time." And he'd been home about two weeks and he got the same kind of invitation from Charleston, West Virginia. And it took him about six or seven months down there to get their problem straightened out. And they gave him a year's pay. And then a friend said to him why don't you go up to Cleveland and apply for a position with the Farrell Corporation. "Oh" Dad said, "I've never lived in a big city, I couldn't do that." Well he said you wouldn't have to live there. You could work there and stay home. Well he went up there on a Monday morning for an interview and at 4:00 that afternoon they gave him an expense account and started him on the road. And he worked for them until he died. And all he did, but he had a territory from Pittsburgh south of Charleston and west to the Mississippi. Wherever there was a problem why he would be sent. I don't know if you know anything about enamel or not but the biggest problem with it is when the enamel is ready to burn, if it's not like it ought to be when it's burned it just looks like you've sifted pepper on it. They call it fish scales, I don't know why. And it was his job to go in and find out what was causing the fish scales. Then it was, it was interesting but if he'd had some more chemistry he could have done a lot, he could have done it more easily, I think. And through his efforts, and because he had to work at night and people

were gone, I worked in there too. I think the only thing I never did in an enamel plant was fire the furnace.

SAFFELL: Well I can see your father was a great problem solver. I can understand so well now why you're able to cut through so many difficult problems, Miss Hendershot.

HENDERSHOT: I can't cut through like he did. I still had to

SAFFELL: That makes it all, makes it all clear. it was a requirement.

HENDERSHOT: All this work in the shop has just paid off a thousand fold because when I went finally back to school later on in my life and had to do student teaching after I had already taught two years in grade school, the head of the sociology department, I had to teach under him. And I had made a D in sociology at Denison because I didn't have the library time, I had to work. And he said do you want me to come in or stay out? I said I want you in there because I don't know the answers. But I had, that was the only class I could get. And the first two days were introductory days. And it was on Industrial Relations With Women in the shop. And after the third day I got a call to the office and I thought well this is good-bye. And he wanted to know if I would make him a bibliography where I got my materials. He couldn't believe, anybody, he had never worked he'd never done anything but be in school. And he just couldn't believe....

SAFFELL: Anybody knew anything else.

HENDERSHOT: That there was anything else to learn. ol 3

SAFFELL: Now where was this? That you.... parents hadn't gone

or anything. One of my teachers decided that I should be a

HENDERSHOT: This happened when I was, I did my senior year at Hiram College.

SAFFELL: You were teaching in a near by school there.

HENDERSHOT: Well I have done two years of teaching cause I didn't have the money to go my two years after my junior year, and then my senior year I went back but I still had to take student teaching because I hadn't had it and it was a requirement.

SAFFELL: Well let's see we've talked about your elementary schooling this little experience at least that you had at South Lincoln, then where did you get the rest of your....

HENDERSHOT: In Sebring.

SAFFELL: In Sebring.

HENDERSHOT: We lived in Sebring then until I was a junior in college.

SAFFELL: Oh I see. Then you went to which high school?

HENDERSHOT: Well I went to Sebring High School and my grade school is the Lincoln Apartments now down in Sebring. I don't know how they made them into apartments but, we had all our high school, I had three years on the second floor of that building.

SAFFELL: Then what, you did mention Hiram. Was all your work at Hiram?

HENDERSHOT: No. As I said when I was in high school I hardly knew what a college was 'cause my parents hadn't gone or anything. One of my teachers decided that I should be a

teacher. And she just never stopped until I was registered at Denison University. And the reason that I went there I got the best scholarship of the places that she had suggested. And I would have liked to have gone to Hiram, it was our church school and my dad would have liked it too but it would have cost me a lot more a year so I went to Denison instead. Then at the end of my junior year which was when the Depression really hit and there wasn't a penny outside of grocery and clothing. And you know that was the year that we hit the farm. So I took the teachers examination and got a certificate to teach just to see what it was like. I didn't know what I was going to teach. And then I taught two years in grade school and got \$900.00 a year.

SAFFELL: Where was this where you taught?

HENDERSHOT: I taught over at Mahoning County. It was funny down at Denison one Saturday morning I was waiting at a breakfast table and I said where is everybody going? Well they're going over to Newark to take teachers exams, scared to death. And they were seniors and I said well I think I'll just go along to see what they are like, I'll take them next year. Well you know, there was a little tiny bit of fine print and it said there are fifteen examinations in this envelope. If you take all fifteen and fail one you will return next month and repeat the examinations. If you omit one examination and fail any come back next month and take the one you omitted and the one you failed. Well I sat there and looked at that and I thought it was a gimmick for a minute. So thinking well of myself I took everything but spelling. And by the

middle of the week, I got a card, a congratulatory card from the state department on successful completion of those fourteen examinations. Never heard a word from these seniors. Then came the next month and they said well are you going back too and I said, oh yes. And they said well join the rest of us, none of us got through either. And they all had taken all fifteen and they had studied for three months for those exams. They were everything that you would teach from kindergarten through the eighth grade. And I really pulled myself together for four kinds of horses and two kinds of cows and agriculture and you know that kind of thing. But any rate I went back and I was all set to spell 100 words when I was handed a sixth graders test paper and given ten minutes to grade it and make all the corrections necessary on a 100 word spelling test. So I passed that. The next week I got another letter of congratulations and my certificate to teach in the elementary schools in Ohio. Then when I went home in May or June and found that I couldn't go back the next year I started looking for a school. Well you'll have to take the examinations, and this is Mahoning county near our farm. And I said, well I already had. They said well, get us a copy of your grades. So I got a copy of my grades. Well give us fifty cents and you can have a Mahoning County certificate. My home was in Licking County. So I taught two years in Mahoning County then, then I, Dad had taken this job in Canton and we were over there and Mr. Walshford told me one day, he said, you know you ought to go back and get that year of schooling. He was a minister

there. So he got me two jobs over at Hiram College. I hated to change schools but I loved every minute of Hiram. I have friends from there, I'd hate to think I would have lived without the rest of my life.

SAFFELL: Do I understand that you had two years of each school?

HENDERSHOT: Well I had three years at Denison and one at....

SAFFELL: Three at Denison and one at....

HENDERSHOT: One at Hiram. And isn't that a coincidence, we got a new President at Hiram, he came the year after I left but he came in the springtime and stayed with us. And he said he would never stay on a campus more than ten years. He said by that time even the Freshmen know what you're going to say before you say it when you're the President. So at the end of ten years he resigned and took a position at Denison. So when I would go back to homecoming I go to both places most every year.

SAFFELL: That's amazing.

HENDERSHOT: And here's, that he would hit the same schools you know.

SAFFELL: Do you notice much difference between tones of life between Denison and Hiram?

HENDERSHOT: The only thing that was different was that there was I believe a little more closeness.

SAFFELL: Closeness.

HENDERSHOT: Of people, of, friendship wise. And yet there

wasn't too much either. I've always like people and you make friends if you want to a lot of the time. And I had a lot of friends at Denison. Last year, two years ago it was, I guess '27 would have been my graduating year there, and they gave us a whole week-end as guests of the University. We went in there Friday night and we had the dormitory to ourselves. Had our 50th reunion there and we just had a good time. And this next spring now will be my 50 years out of Hiram so they're already planning on what they're going to do. But there are friends at both places and I like both schools very much. It would be a toss up today I don't know which one I would choose.

SAFFELL: Well then after you graduated from Hiram what happened?

HENDERSHOT: Well that was the year there was no positions. And there was 55 of us graduated over there and five of us got schools. I had just been everywhere looking for schools. And on Wednesday evening before school started a friend of mine and her parents from down in Beloit were up here in Mount Union in a flower show. And they were friends of the Vaughans and the Stantons. And they asked Mary Vaughan in the course of the evening what she was going to teach the next year. You knew Mary I think. Well she said it's a toss up. She said, I'd like to teach Science but I'm teaching Latin and as of today she said there is neither a Science or a Language major on the schedule on Daddy's desk. And he says which ever one comes along I'll have to take the other. And my friend said, well I have a good schools

friend who is a language major and who is hunting a job. And she had been my high school English teacher, she wasn't much older than I. She did grade school in six years and high school in two and a half and went to Wellesley in a little over two years. She taught just because they asked her to, she didn't want to. And she told Mr. Stanton and he said, well if she's good enough to be your friend I guess she's good enough to teach for us. So I went in on Friday for an appointment and the secretary said to me if you're here about a position I wouldn't stay if I were you. She picked up the steno, she said there are 51 applications on this and we don't have a vacancy. And I said well I was told to stop here this morning so I had better wait for Mr. Stanton. He was coming in from Cleveland on the train. About that time Mr. Vaughan came across the hall and wanted to know if I were by any chance Miss Hendershot. And I said yes. He said well you come over and talk to me until Mr. Stanton comes in. So I went to the principal's office and went in and sat down, talked a little while, gave me my schedule, my text book, my grade book, took me down and showed me my room and by the time Mr. Stanton had arrived, and why I had a little paper bag with me I don't know. But I put all these things in it, I went in and had an interview with Mr. Stanton and you'd never guess what he said. I'll let you know in the morning at 10:00 if we can use you and I think we can.

SAFFELL: He had to check with Vaughan to be sure.

HENDERSHOT: I found out that day who handled the public schools

in Alliance and it wasn't the superintendent either. Monday morning I went to work at Alliance High School. I would have been afraid to apply for a job here 'cause I had never been in a big school, and I didn't want to be in a big school. I ended up there.

SAFFELL: Mr. Vaughan was a pretty effective administrator wasn't he?

HENDERSHOT: Yes he was. You know he was so little and yet everybody was petrified of him.

SAFFELL: How did he do that?

HENDERSHOT: Well I don't know. I think it was his mannerism as much as anything else because he walked down to me one day the first week of school and he said, Miss Hendershot, and here he had a General Math book in his hand. And he said what do you know about this book? I looked at it and I said it has a red cover. And he said what would you do with the inside of it? I said absolutely nothing, thank you for stopping by. And he went back down and told somebody boy Miss Hendershot is really a curt person isn't she? But he never asked me anymore to teach General Math. You just had to let him know that you thought too and he respected you for it. He never held any grudges. 'Cause I know one year I had 175 people in the balcony for a study hall in the auditorium. And he walked in there very calmly and said I'll have to make a little change in this study hall. I said, you will? He said yes I have 30 people I need to put in here two days a week. I looked at him and I said 175 and

30 that will make 205 people, and who will be my assistant? Well there wouldn't be any assistant. And I said well Mr. Vaughan where are these 30 people the other three days? Well they were in one of the science classes and that man would like to have those two days free. And I said no thank you. You tell the man I have no empty seats for sale. I'm sorry. And he just turned red as a beet and he said I think I understand. And walked away. He never came back again. And somebody told me I was going to get into trouble for saying that to him. So I think people were afraid of him to an extent. But I've never been afraid of people.

SAFFELL: He appreciated it if you'd only stand up for your rights a little.

HENDERSHOT: That's right. I think you have to do that. I think you need to be reasonable about it....

SAFFELL: Well Miss Hendershot I'd be interested in some more details on your tenure as the President of the Alliance Education Association. What were some of the issues that were exciting people then?

HENDERSHOT: Well the first thing that we worked on was equal pay, for men and women. I gave a little talk over at Barber-ton one day and the principal of the high school said to me, do you think anything else besides equal pay. And I said, yes, now because we're getting equal pay in Alliance. The year I started teaching I had 54 children in third, fourth and fifth grade. They fired my furnace on Monday and I had to keep it going, it was a big round thing in the back of the

room. I had to do the playground for the first five grades at noon time. I coached the high school girls basketball team because I had a minor in physical ed. And they told me had I been a man I could of had \$950 but since I was only a woman I got \$900. And then at the end of the first year I got a raise of \$25; the men got a raise of \$50. And almost the same kind of thing was going on here because Mr. Stanton called me in and he said he'd like to give me a raise but he didn't have the money but he wanted to say thank you someway so he gave me a raise of \$25. The man down the hall went in and he got a raise of \$75 from the same pocket book. And there's some things you don't forget.

SAFFELL: And so it was during your tenure that you were able to....

HENDERSHOT: And so then we started a salary index too. We'd been working on that. And that was one of the things that the Board of Education would not go along with. If one hears a teacher, she's a marvelous teacher but she won't come in here for less than \$1700 or \$1800. We've got to have her. And then here, they'll say you were there teaching, been there 10 years and you were getting \$1500. So we got rid of that rule of policy and it wasn't easy either. But we had to keep after the people for memberships too. And I know that some of our people just couldn't, a man would say well I belong to the National Association and my wife belongs to the State, we only need one magazine. And we would say something to them like this, well supposing you become ill, how many insurances do you expect to collect?

Well that's sort of a something to think about too. And then at that time we had in Ohio what we called Leadership Training courses for officers of associations. And we met in August for a week. We had about 250 teachers come in on Sunday and finish up at noon Wednesday and then we just reversed the programs and we'd have the same speakers Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday. We'd have them go home and then another 250 would come in and stay until Saturday. And we worked on the responsibilities of a President and a Secretary and a Treasurer and a salary committee. And you got to set your pitch with the Board of Education and the people in power the things that we wanted and the things that they wanted. I remember one night Lucille Pettis and I were over in Canton and putting mail in the post office for the superintendent or the editor of the Repository, and they came back there and put our letters in the Board of Education men mail boxes so that everybody was equal. They soon found out that whatever we did we treated everybody the same. And that was one of the things that we tried hard to do. And when they wanted me to make a decision I said no, I have an executive committee. And that executive committee would come to a meeting at 10:00 at night if I called them. And we'd formulate a statement, take it to the Board of Education and they soon found out that we were together and we were not being unreasonable about things. And it helped a whole lot I think.

SAFFELL: In general wouldn't it be true that during your tenure the teachers gained a greater share of participation

in the decision making process?

HENDERSHOT: Yes. We would have, the year before I was President they had a teachers' spring banquet. I think they said they had 45 people there. Well at that time we must have had around 200, more than 200 teachers. So I appointed a committee of 50 people where every building included. And I know one teacher said to another one evening what are you going to wear to the banquet? She said I'm not going. Well she said your name's on the list you're one of the hostesses. And they never told me they wouldn't be there, and they were there. But I had a person from every building in the receiving line. So they couldn't come in and say there's nobody here that I know. But we had, to me in life graciousness and graditude are just too important. And we had never practiced either one. Either faculty or students, or teachers we were just taken for granted. And I know when Dr. Hammond came, I had never done anything to the new superintendent I didn't know what to do. But I happened to be in a meeting in this leadership thing when the NEA President was present. And I had seen her perform in the United Nations, I knew she knew what to do. When I called her I said well ten minutes of your time and I told her we had to do something for our new superintendent. She said get your paper and pencil out she said write it down 1,2,3,4,5 what to do. Told us how to invite people, whom to invite for instance we had the Board members and the new superintendent to dinner. Then my representative assembly went out to their homes and got their wives because we

didn't have the money to have them all. And they joined them in the receiving line over at the Woman's Club. And everybody thought it was a beautiful party. Well about six of us worked hours and hours and hours getting that ready but everybody had a good time. And from then on we didn't have very much trouble getting people to join in what we were doing.

SAFFELL: Was it during your tenure that you worked out a system to welcome the new teachers?

HENDERSHOT: That's right. The year that I came here to teach everybody, we had a cafeteria at the YWCA then, everyday at noon I walked down Arch Street to eat in that cafeteria by myself. I went in, there were about a dozen teachers sitting over at another table and I sat over here alone and never once did they ever ask me to eat with them. I didn't have the time to get a room here unfortunately I lived only in Canton so I went home. I did my traveling by streetcar until I found a place to live. And I received them, I recognized them in the high school. But one day there were two people there of caliber, Mabel Hartzell and Grace Shaffer. Mabel was History department head and Grace Shaffer was the music supervisor. Mabel came over and she said young lady I think I see you in our halls don't I? And I said yes you do, I see you. And she said well come and eat lunch with us today. And I did. And Grace lived in a home here in town where there was one empty room, they wanted a third roomer. And she took me out after school and I took that room and we had our breakfast there and our

dinner there. And we talked about these things. Well nobody ever had done it. So we had the association here then called the Association for Childhood Education. It was an elementary teachers national organization. And I asked them to help, because at that time you were getting more elementary change over than secondary. And we had a breakfast then for those people. And I sat down and wrote a letter to each one, I got their names from the superintendent's office and wrote each one a letter. And not very long ago one of them, a teacher here said she remembered how I met her at the train the first day she came to town. Well then the next year we portioned that out to the executive committee and representative assembly. And I'd write a note, the first letter, and then I would give them this persons name and I would give a copy of the letter to that person and pretty soon I didn't have to write any letters. And then insurance companies took over the financing of that breakfast. We gave each one a red carnation when they came to town, at our first meal. And I think maybe now even the, it's not the insurance, maybe the citizens there's some one in town sponsors that breakfast or luncheon whatever it is. And here a teacher would land in Alliance she didn't know where her building was and we'd take them out, and we didn't have a car sometimes I'd even have to go by taxi but most of the time I can get a teacher with a car to do it. We'd go visit the building and incidentally when I took them up I got to see the building too. And it was a pleasant thing to do, people had a good time doing it and they felt a responsibility to

help that new teacher. You have to be awake when you're dealing with people because they're easily hurt.

SAFFELL: Very, very true. Let's see during your tenure did you have any participation in the selection of the new superintendent? Were you involved in personnel decisions on the administrative level?

HENDERSHOT: Well, I don't know who made that suggestion, but someone made a suggestion that teachers be consulted when superintendents were hired. Because they might know the people too. So it was decided at the Board of Education meeting, I never missed a Board meeting, I sat in the back of the room and crocheted pot holders. One day the President said I wonder what Madame Defarge is doing back there tonight. So anyhow they voted to have this committee of teachers working with the Board of Education, and I can see why they feared it. They were afraid they would come up with a name and we would say no. And that wouldn't be for good. So they were very fair about it, all these dossiers that come, I've forgotten what they called them then, but they were half pages of single typed things. Some of those things were an inch thick. Came up here from Ohio State, insured mail, they went to the Clerk of the Board, the Board of Education read them then they were brought to me. And incidentally the president demanded that I be chairman of the teacher's section of that committee. So I chose Dwight Stanley and Lena Troutwine, that was the two people that worked with me on that. We read all those thing, all those biographies separately and then we discussed them. And one

night we were called to a meeting at 5:00 and the Board of Education and the teachers group selected the same five people in the same order and not at all for the same reasons.

SAFFELL: Amazing. And that was when what superintendent was chosen?

HENDERSHOT: Dr. Hammond.

SAFFELL: That's when Dr. Hammond was chosen.

HENDERSHOT: And when they decided to let Mr. Schafer go, he decided not to go. And for 48 hours on every _____ we had two superintendents on our payroll. He didn't have to leave until the 31st of July and he didn't. And Dr. Hammond and I set up the program for the Alliance Education Association by telephone and by luncheon meetings in Salem. So we were ready to go the first day of August.

SAFFELL: But in the meantime Mr. Schafer had stayed on in the office.

HENDERSHOT: He stayed on until the 31st day of July because that's when he had to leave, that was when his contract expired. And he wasn't going to leave until then.

SAFFELL: Now what were some of the reasons why he had to go I wonder?

HENDERSHOT: Well I think Mr. Schafer was a fine person a good person but I think he was just not big enough for the job here. And anytime, I can look back and see now, anytime he ever hired anyone he was very careful to hire someone who couldn't surpass him in performance. And there came a

time when his performance wasn't great enough for the problems that were arising here.

SAFFELL: What ever happened to him?

HENDERSHOT: Well the last I knew of him he was selling books. I think he's still living. Although there's no reason why I shouldn't know because he had Warren Davis here as principal of the high school. And Warren Davis is one of the best administrators this town ever saw. I think there came a day when Mr. Davis was ready to use his own wings. And the sad part of it was Russell Schafer's aunt got married and became my mother's sister-in-law.

SAFFELL: Amazing. I compliment you for keeping that straight.

HENDERSHOT: And they would say to my mother and my sister, what's Helen say about Russell? Mom says well she didn't say anything about him. They say well we hear he's having trouble here in school up there, and Mom says well he may be I don't know. And one woman said to my mother in town, I didn't know you and Helen and your other daughter didn't get along very well together. And Mom always said I don't know what you're talking about. Well she said you stand here and say you don't know a thing about the school situation here in Alliance when it's so bad right now. It always, sounds worse than it is sometimes because a little bit of trouble looms brightly in people's eyes. And Mom says you know when Helen comes home she leaves school at school. And she says we just never discuss it. That way they didn't have to fib

and they didn't say anything. But he always spoke to me, we never, the only time he ever asked me to do anything for him was one of the PTA tournament night to take _____ back to their building because they felt that he was too dictatorial and they couldn't go to him with a problem and get any satisfaction, that was the reason. And the next morning he was standing by my door when I went to school over at Stanton and he said you were at the same place I was last night and he said I knew this was going to come someday he said, I wonder if there's anything that this association can do in my behalf. I feel that this is the week to do it. And I said well Mr. Schafer I know you're having problems but I said we have problems too. And I said the same Board that hires you hires us. I said, you recommend us to them, I don't know who recommends you to them. But I said we work for the self same Board of Education and I don't feel that I should devil in with their affairs. And I just said no more about it. And he said I understand. And then he went on his way. But there are some things you have to learn to solve some way without getting into them. I don't know some times you can't either. You get into a lot of trouble.

SAFFELL: Do you still have confidence in the Education Associations? I was reading the other day in one of the magazines that the NEA had become just another pressure group.

HENDERSHOT: People say to me boy I'll tell you I'm going to get out of the NEA. And I said, you are? Yeah I'm about through with this and through with that. And I said where are

you going to go with your grievances? Well they didn't know. And just like when we were having difficulties here, and we didn't know what to do I could get on the telephone and call the OEA and reverse the charges anytime of the day that I wanted to and I got help.

SAFFELL: Was that in the days of Bliss?

HENDERSHOT: Well Bliss was the state executive and I don't know whether he left and O'Keefe came in before I was out of office or not, I don't remember. But Thomas O'Keefe was the executive too. But they was always ready, and Ed Hume was another one who was always ready to help.

SAFFELL: Who would be some other Presidents of the Alliance Education Association, whom you would single out for special effectiveness?

HENDERSHOT: Well I think every person in a position of leadership may have a lot of failure but I think every person has some one thing that they can do too. And I think Joe Quinlan was a good President and I think Lucille Pettis did a good job as President and of course I think the best President we ever had was Bob Dowling. Bob would have been an NEA President had he not become a victim of Multiple Sclerosis. And I found Bob, I took him to a leadership one day, leadership conference. And on the way home Bill Hunter was my Vice President and Bill said, "Helen who in the world is going to take over this association next year?" Cause he said I won't take it on a bet. Cause he said, I don't have the time and he was a principal and he had a lot of work to do.

And I said well he doesn't know it but he's asleep on the back seat. Bob tells that every place that he goes. And he was the President too, he surely had done.... They call him Mr. OEA. He's a very fine educator.

SAFFELL: And he's still living.

HENDERSHOT: Yes, I don't know how. If he gets out without his walker he falls; he has to ride to school now. But I said he'll be a better teacher in a wheel chair than most of us have been on our feet.

SAFFELL: Oh, he's still teaching?

HENDERSHOT: Yes, he's over at Stanton. He doesn't drive very much, once in a while. But another teacher comes right by his house and he rides up with her every day. His mother died last year and he cooks, his brother and nephews and nieces just worship him and they all help him a lot. But he has outfitted boys and girls, I think he has seven adopted children, that he has supported along. We've had a lot of good Presidents.

SAFFELL: Well I'd be interested in a little detail on your church work Miss Hendershot. You've been extremely active.

HENDERSHOT: Well I said had I known when I was a youngster what I know now I would have gone into church work full time probably. But if I had then I wouldn't be free now to do it either. And I said in school one day when we were writing papers on vocations, I said you'll change your minds a dozen times now but I said put down what you think you'd like to be. Do a little dreaming. I said for instance, and this

was two years before I retired, I said I thought only I wanted to be a nurse or a full time worker in the church or a teacher. And I had a couple of adjusted classes and this one little boy looked up and said, "Miss Hendershot, don't you think it's about time you're making up your mind." And then we don't have an Associate Minister now and there are just so many things to do all the time. We need help with. And when you've been in a church a long time, see I joined this church in 1930. We came here to live I was here the year before that. Then I did the work in the children's division or I did youth work until I had a sick spell and wasn't allowed out at night and I had to quit that so then I went in to working with the children in the younger elementary. And I did practically almost 40 years in that. And now then, I was trying to find a way to get out one day and the Minister said, did you ever think of phasing out of that division? And I said, I've been trying for two weeks to write a letter of resignation to you but I was afraid that you'd think I was quitting because we have a new preacher. And he said well I didn't say anything about quitting. He said we need a resource center and he said I think you could set it up. Well it's been an awful drag but we've moved around and we've tried to rearrange rooms. It's still a mess and I've been at it a year and a half. But I just get up and go down to the church every day and if I want to do something else I can and otherwise I can stay there. Now its just like today I could do things for the secretary, I don't type, so I do all the other things. And lots of times we fix lunch and

eat down there. But there are so many things to do in a church. And it's fun when you don't punch a time card and you don't get a pay check.

SAFFELL: I'm sure. Now you've had some pretty important assignments within the church I think. Haven't you been on, weren't you the first, do you call them elders in your church?

HENDERSHOT: Yes. Clarence Steffy came to me one day and he was Chairman of the Board of Elders and he said, I have the privilege, the personal privilege of inviting you to be the first woman Elder in the Alliance First Christian Church. And I said well that's something else. And after we talked along he said well now Helen, he said you have a chance to make it or break it for the women. I said, I'll buy that Clarence if you'll tell me who's been making it and breaking it for the men. Clarence turned around and he says I told you what she'd be like. We must have four or five women Elders now. And I have a committee assignment and our statement, Christian Education Commission. And I like that too, it's interesting.

SAFFELL: Now what would be the year when you became the first woman Elder in the Christian Church here?

HENDERSHOT: I don't know. How long has Clarence been gone?

SAFFELL: It's like what, three or four years. Not so long before that.

HENDERSHOT: No I suppose maybe five or six years.

SAFFELL: Something like that.

HENDERSHOT: Gladys Moseley was the second one. And I said, I don't say this to brag, but I said Gladys was selected as a Woman of the Year you know in Alliance. And she was the second person to become an Elder. She's an Elder Emeritus now because she's in her 80's.

SAFFELL: Now what year did you receive the recognition.

HENDERSHOT: Well it would have to have been 1970. Is that right?

SAFFELL: Well we can check that out.

HENDERSHOT: No it was, it wasn't 1970 either. 1970 is the year I retired. It must have been 1973.

SAFFELL: Well I'm sure they had plenty of things to put on the recognition sheet. Plenty of things to justify this....

HENDERSHOT: That was a night and a half I'll tell you. Audrey Freeman asked me if I wouldn't sit, for some reason they got an extra ticket to the dinner, wouldn't I go. And I said I always go cause the Chamber was awful good to me when I was Association President. And I've always tried to go to their things. Not just because of that but you've got to work together. And finally I went with them and then he let me drive. Any other time he always picked me up but he let me drive that night. And I almost had the flu that night and I tell you if it hadn't been for them I probably would have stayed home or tried anyhow. And then when we went inside the door that night Mary Laughlin you know used to work down at the bank was standing there, she laughed and spoke after that happened I thought my land that Carnation Festival

and I said to this Anna Mabel she must have been looking for some big shot that she found she looks so pleased. And they nearly doubled up. And then I went in to the table and sat down opposite Harriet Miller, she was Chairman of the Committee that year, I said you're Harriet Miller and she said yes. And I thought now what did I say wrong, she has such a funny look on her face. And I said well I'm Helen Hendershot and she said yes, I know. Then after it was all over with she said I have some mail for you in my purse. And she said I just took her words, she didn't know what to say or how she was going to introduce herself to me, but I took care of that. But I told them that night, I said anything you get, to me anything a person gets like that, most of the time and in my case it was completely true, I owed it to my parents. It was not to me that the honor was given but it was to them.

SAFFELL: Well I'm sure you made good use of the opportunities that they provided.

HENDERSHOT: Yes, it was a real surprise. Things like that to me turn out to be a challenge. If people say you do this and do that then you've got to get busy and see that you do it.

HENDERSHOT: And now we're having a really great experience

SAFFELL: Well that was a fine combination I'm sure but you've gone on and have continued to make a lot of contributions in the years since.

HENDERSHOT: I think probably, all at once, a couple of days after that happened I thought my land that Carnation Festival

parade. And I'm just not going to ride in that parade. But I did. And I said I just never dreamed what the city looked like. They said there were over 20,000 people on the streets that night and I know the lady from the Chambaer that rode with me said we're going to have to speak to people tonight. And I said I think it's very rude if we don't recognize their recognition of us. And I said why don't you take that side of the street and I'll take this side of the street. Pretty soon she'd say Helen, somebody over here is calling you. She hadn't been here very long. And I said well the next day I really had a sore neck, just from turning from one side. I never dreamed that there was as many people that I could think of by name as I went along that parade that night. I said it's really a treat to see the city. I said they were the ones that were on parade. It was a real interesting experience.

SAFFELL: I'm sure it couldn't have come to a more deserving person.

HENDERSHOT: Well I don't know about that but it's....

SAFFELL: Many of these comments that you've made have revealed your own depth of interest.

HENDERSHOT: And now we're having a really great experience in the church work. They've divided our country into what they call areas and each area contains so many regions, and our states are regions. And ours over here goes from the Maritime area of Ontario down to Virginia and as far west as Ohio and a little bit of Indiana. And we call it an

Edu-u-care event. There are three of them. The first one was held over in a place, in Pennsylvania right near Hershey. It's where they have a lot of horse races but I've forgotten the name of the place now. All I want to say is Branville but that's not right. Maybe it was Branberry. Well we move in there in a motel on Thursday night or Friday morning and stayed until the next week. And our leaders are all from the National offices of the Church of the Brethern and our own church, we're doing the two together. Then last year we had it in New Roschelle Park in New Jersey and this year it's going to be in Columbus, Ohio, and Ohio will be the host to it. And it's on the new curriculum and the writers of curriculum are there and you have classes of no more than 20 or 25 people. And you sleep and you eat and you study and you work all in the same motel. There's no time wasted running around from place to place. Then we come back and go out do what we call mimi edu-u-cares in our own areas. Those of us from Ohio have had to do, I suppose I've done six or seven of those this last year in the state. And they're just an afternoon and evening affair but we bring back to them whatever they want out of what we got. But to work with those Canadians and the Church of the Brethern has really been interesting.

SAFFELL: That would be a fascinating experience.

HENDERSHOT: When they asked me to do this work they were shy a person to do it and I said well I'd take it until they got somebody half my age. Now I'm scared they will.

SAFFELL: Well I'm sure the person half the age wouldn't be able to do the fine job that you're doing Miss Hendershot.

HENDERSHOT: It gets too demanding. Physically you can't keep up with it.

SAFFELL: Well we're just about to the end of the tape Miss Hendershot is there anything that we've neglected to bring in here that you'd like to say for the future?

HENDERSHOT: Well I believe that living here now and working in the area, it just seems like it pulls all the rest of it together somehow. Probably one of the greatest joys is to go down town and be able to speak to people and to call them by name, and pick up the telephone and they know you before you know them. Without the churches and the schools we wouldn't have much left would we?

SAFFELL: Right.

HENDERSHOT: The home is important.

SAFFELL: The people in the community are awfully fortunate to have had you I'm sure.

HENDERSHOT: Well I'm fortunate that our paths brought us to Alliance too, for I've enjoyed every bit of it here. We moved here, eight of us, I'm the oldest and I'm the only one left. And if I weren't busy I suppose I would have become ill.

SAFFELL: Well I hope you have many many more years for this dedicated service.

HENDERSHOT: Well it's been pleasant to be here with you

this afternoon.

SAFFELL: Awfully nice to talk to you.

HENDERSHOT: Thank you.

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