

Mrs. John Schultz
(PAULINE)

Transcription

Taped 1976 by Katherine Trimble
and Carol Adams

Int: You moved out here when you were four years old?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes.

Int: Did you go to school here?

Mrs. Schultz: M'huh, (Yes)

Int: Where was the school located?

Mrs. Schultz: 95th and Cicero. On the northeast corner. Across the street was a cow pasture and big deep ditches on both sides. Kids used to fall into the ditches a get wet. Then that would give us an excuse to go home.

Int: What was your maiden name?

Mrs. Schultz: Prang.

Int: Where did you live?

Mrs. Schultz: Just a minute and I'll show you if I can find the picture. It was where the public library is? My father moved that house down there. (Raymond and James Sts.)

Int: Were you related to the Prang who was a minister here?

Mrs. Schultz: Oh no. They were from Iowa, I think. In fact we used to bump horns whenever we got together, I couldn't stand the man. He was such an overbearing guy.

Int: I was told he was the only man in Oak Lawn who was always on time. That man was never late.

Mrs. Schultz: My father must have moved that house down there about 1900, I guess. I could tell you where every room in that house was and it was later used as a library. (1946 to 1955).

Int: Was it always at the Raymond and James St. location?

Mrs. Schultz: My father bought the house right after we came down from Minnesota. It was an abandoned building that stood in the block where the trailer park is now. (Raymond Ave. across the street and north of the library.) It stood in that block where Mr. Anderson had a home. It was an old house and my father bought it and moved down to this place here (pointing to the picture).

Int: Did your father farm?

Mrs. Schultz: He farmed down where Christ Community Hospital is.

Int: Wasn't there the Jorn farm in that area?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes. My mother's maiden name was Jorn. My mother and John Jorn were cousins.

Int: Your farm was next to Jorn's?

Mrs. Schultz: It was just beyond. I don't know how many acres they had right there at the corner of 95th and Cicero. Then there were 10 acres that belonged to some Hollander. I'm not real sure about this now. Then there were 40 acres just this side of the hospital that my father farmed. The 40 acres that the hospital is on belonged to my mother's sister.

Int: Wasn't there a family called Molenstra that lived along there?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes. Oh, I knew a lot of the Hollanders around here. They'd farm ten acres here and ten acres there, never more than 15. They were stricktly truck farmers. They never raised corn or oats or anything like that. They just raised vegetables.

Int: You then moved away?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes, we moved to Tinley Park. I was about 12 when we moved away from here.

Int: Do you remember the exact dates?

Mrs. Schultz: Good Lord, no. I'm 83 years old. I lived in Tinley Park about three years and then I came back to live with my sister. They had a market and grocery store down there where that travel agency is at 95th and Cook. (Southeast corner) There was a porch across the front where you had to go up four steps on either end.

Int: Were you related to the Kruegers?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes, my sister was married to a Krueger. The building is still standing. It's a good old building. They let it down four feet so it would be flush with the street, Max Mouny (Sp.?) did that. I used to have some pictures of that but I burned so much of the junk I had around.

Int: Then you moved back to Oak Lawn after you moved to Tinley Park?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes and I lived here with my sister because they had the market and the grocery and the post office and she was 42 at the time and got sick with scarlet fever and in those days they threw you in the pest house and she was there for six weeks so I had to come and help my brother-in-law and take care of my nephew and help in the store when I wasn't busy doing something else. And I stayed with them for eight years, then I worked in Chicago for a couple of years and then I got married.

Int: Did you move back here when you were married?

Mrs. Schultz: Not here in this house but in that building at 95th and Cook where they tore it down just recently to make the parking lot for the village hall. There was a tavern underneath and an eight room apartment upstairs. That's where I lived when I was first married.

Int: There was a bank building nearby did they tear that down too?

Mrs. Schultz: We lived at 5310 (W. 95th St.) and the bank was at 5314 or 16. And the building that now has Krause's Gaslight Lounge was the post office. The post was once located where the news agency is now across from the Cook Avenue School then they moved to the northwest corner of 95th St. and Tulley. Then they moved to where they are today (4870 W. 95th St.). I lived in the apartment at 95th and Cook until my son was 10 months old. Then we moved down by Anderson's in a two flat. There was a real estate office on the first floor and we lived on the second floor. I lived there for 17 years.

Int: What did your husband do for a living?

Mrs. Schultz: He was a banker. Before that he was in the building materials business and coal. He was one of the original starters of Oak Lawn Bank.

Int: Did you know Edna Leppin? Her phone number was 0001, the first phone in Oak Lawn.

Mrs. Schultz: Yes and my husband's business was the second phone, his was number 2, and our apartment was 48. All those buildings on 53rd Avenue were 15,14, 12 and 10 all the little numbers.

Int: Well you've been in Oak Lawn for so many years that you have grown up with the town.

Mrs. Schultz: Oak Lawn didn't move and didn't grow one single bit until the Catholic Church came out. They started out with a little wooden church at 95th and Minnick and I bet that wasn't there for three years before they had outgrown it and then they started St. Gerald's and they have been adding to it ever since. I don't know if they do anymore but every year they seemed to be adding to it. I remember the first priest

Mrs. Schultz: they had over there, Father Geraghty. He and my husband were buddy-buddies. He used to say to my husband, "I guess I'll go home and see my hundred wives." (Laughter)

Int: Did I understand that Father Geraghty helped to get the first bus to run on 95th St.

Mrs. Schultz: Yes it was he and, I can't remember his name now...and I remember that first funny little bus, you had to walk up three steps to get on it. The bus was only about seven or eight feet long. And look what it is now. It's the only transportation we've got really. Of course when I was a young girl we had good transportation on the trains. But now we got nothing.

Int: Wasn't there at one time a mink farm in this area?

Mrs. Schultz: That was at 97th and Tulley and the man's name was Studd. Mr. and Mrs. Studd. It was on the northeast corner of 97th and Tulley. His wife's sister was married to a Schultz but they lived in the same block and farther down the street. But they weren't related to us.

Int: Did you belong to Trinity Lutheran Church?

Mrs. Schultz: Yes, I've gone there all my life. I went there from the time I was little girl so high.

Int: Did you go when the church was up on 95th st.?

Mrs. Schultz: Did I ever that's where I went. There was a little school house in the back where we had to go to Saturday school to take catechism and it was all in German, if you don't mind. I couldn't read German now if I was paid for it. Oh, the fun we had in that old school house.

The school was the original church over 150 years old. Because the church over on Brandt is 50 years old.

Mrs. Schultz: We were all farmers. The is property here south side of 95th St. from Cook Avenue to Cicero was all farms.

Int: Who farmed this area?

Mrs. Schultz: Henry Lang and on the other side of Cicero was Phillips no it was Charles Beebe, that was mrs. Phillips maiden name. Then Jorn's were across the street and the area from the school to the tracks also belonged to the Lang's. They had a little wheat growing in there and sometimes some oats during the summer to keep the weeds down. We used to have to walk from where the library is now to the school at 95th and Cicero and in the winter time it was cold. The snow we used to have. On 95th Street there big deep ditches on both sides and they would get level with snow. A we kids would throw ourselves in there and make our images and come home so wet that you didn't know whether it was safe to go in or not. Was the Cook Avenue school built in 1910?

Int: No it was 1905.

Mrs. Schultz: It was just two rooms and Mr. and Mrs. Covington taught, she had one room and he had the other room. They were the first two teachers. Then they built two more rooms on the back and then they built four rooms on the second floor. You know the foundation on that building is 20 inches thick. It is made of stone. Why did they condemn it?

Int: They claimed it isn't safe and that it would cost more to rehabilitate it than to knock it down and build something else.

Mrs. Schultz: With a foundation like that it must be safe.

Int: I think it is the wooden interior.

Int: How long have you lived in this house?

Mrs. Schultz: Twenty five years. Two days before Christmas twenty-five years ago. I've been a widow for thirty years. That's a long time to be alone. I could live with my son and daughter-in-law, but I prefer to be alone.

Int: Did you go to grammar school or high school when you were in Tinley Park?

Mrs. Schultz: I was confirmed in Tinley Park and then I came back here to live with my sister. My mother and father didn't believe in education. Once you were confirmed you were through school. You had to work and my sisters did too. My mother would come on Saturday and collect my pay.

Int: How old were you when you were confirmed?

Mrs. Schultz: 14. But in addition to grade school you had to go to Saturday school from the time you were 10 until you were confirmed. There wasn't a high school here until the '50's. Jack went to Calumet. He's 52 years old now. I have three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He's 14 months old now and is just learning to walk. They live in Richton Park. They live in a townhouse out there. I wouldn't live in one of those things or a condominium.

Int: You knew the Gaddis's?

Mrs. Schultz: Oh yes I knew all the Gaddis's. I knew the parents of the Gaddis's, too. They've been here a long time, 1893, I think Lucille Gaddis said they lived north in the village where they rented and bought property south (of the tracks) and they had boys that helped build the house. They built the basement first and it took them a couple of years to put the building up. How long has Mrs. Gaddis been a widow?

Int: She has been a widow about ten years. She sold their house and lives in one of those apartments about 102nd and Washington and goes to Garden Methodist church. Is your husband's family related to the Brandt's?

Mrs. Schultz: No.

Int: Was he related to the Hilgendorf's.

Mrs. Schultz: The Brandt's and the Hilgendorf's are related. Mrs. Brandt was a Hilgendorf. William Brandt and son was the business, William was Al Brandt's father. Al's brother is Otto and there was a girl Augusta Schmalen. Everybody thought the Schultz's were related to them but they weren't. The old building that faced on 95th St. was originally the Hilgendorf's and the library started in their old barn. Behrend's bought it from Hilgendorf's after he got to the point he couldn't take care of it himself. And it was August Behrend that donated the barn for the library. He had Bright's Disease and he couldn't work too hard. He did a little puttering around the yard for about 15 years before he died. Old man Brandt built five of those garage houses and Hilgendorf lived in one of them. Herman Hilgendorf lived in one of those houses along the alley.

Int: Do you happen to know what the oldest house in Oak Lawn might be?

Mrs. Schultz: There's a house at 94th and Minnick (53rd Ct.) that was built with lumber bought at the Columbian Exposition in 1893. It was on the Southwest corner.

Int: You knew Dr. Schussler didn't you?

Mrs. Schultz: Indeed I did, he brought my son into the world, he was the only doctor around here for years and years.

Int: Wasn't he related to Dr. Hopkins?

Mrs. Schultz: Grandma Hopkins was Bertha Schussler. Dr. Schussler's father and Mrs. Hopkins were sisters and brothers. The first Dr. Schussler lived in Orland Park and never did live in Oak Lawn, in those days it was just Orland today it's Orland Park. The Schussler house is a beautiful place. The entrance to that is so pretty. (5400 W. 96th St.)

Int: Mrs. Tucker told me that an architect had bought the old Congregational church on 54th Ave. and was putting in a copper staircase.

Mrs. Schultz: The Hollanders bought it from the Congregational Church and it was used later as a parsonage for the Hollanders after they built their church at 94th and 54th.

Int: There were some homes in Oak Lawn that were only summer homes. I had a neighbor over on Minnick, who had an apartment in Hyde Park, who used to use my phone in the summer because she didn't have one.

Mrs. Schultz: Why anyone would want a summer home out here I don't know.

Int: Well, there was the lake?

Mrs. Schultz: But that was never fit for swimming. Buddy Phillips drowned in that lake. (Oak Lawn Lake, 96th and East Shore Drive.) I can remember people that lived around the lake complaining that boys would go in in their birthday dress or jump in with their overalls on and swim out of them.

#####