

Project: "Carbondale Remembered"

Date: June 1, 2006

Place: South Lakeshore Drive home of Mrs. Limpus

Interviewee: Alice Elizabeth Marberry Limpus

Interviewer: Dorothy (Dede) Lingle Ittner

Time: 10:00 AM CDT

DI: I am with Alice Elizabeth Marberry Limpus on S. Lakeshore Drive, just outside of Carbondale IL. The date is June 1, 2006. (This interview is part of the "Carbondale Remembered" oral history project for the Carbondale Preservation Commission.) The time is a bit after 10 AM CDT. Alice and I are going to talk today about her early childhood years- up probably to the point when she left Carbondale to become a teacher and a realtor in Western Springs, IL. At this point what I'm going to ask Alice to do for me is give me her full name, and when and where she was born.

AL: Alice Elizabeth Marberry Limpus. I was born in Carbondale IL on April Fools' Day, 1920.

DI: That's so cool. At one of the hospitals or at home?

AL: I was born at home and I almost died but Dr. Barrow, who was my mother's doctor, put me in an (oxygen)"tent". They did something and I lived. It was kind of a shock to Mama because she was 40 years old and here I came on April Fool's day.

DI: That's a wonderful story. We're going to stop for a moment and evaluate our volume. Then we'll get right at your early childhood years.

-Pause-

DI: We have a little bit to add to the story that Alice just told us. Alice, add to the story.

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AL: Well one thing, Papa said "What on earth are we going to name her?" He looked out the window and my sister (Mary) and Elizabeth Harris Lewis.

I have a picture of them when they were young playing out in the dirt road called Poplar Street-and anyway, he looked out there and said "Well, there's Elizabeth. Let's name her Alice Elizabeth".

DI: Oh, my word. That's neat. You had three (older) siblings? Were you the youngest?

AL: Yes, yes...

DI: Tell me the names of the other children.

AL: Robert was my oldest brother, and he - I should go get the (birthday) dates -

DI: That's all right; we'll get dates (later).

AL: He was very much older than I was, almost 20 years. And he left home, he didn't graduate from college or anything, he just went to high school in Carbondale. He did start the Dial (yearbook). I had the first issue, so I've taken it to the Carbondale Community High School.

DI: That's the Carbondale Community High School year book, isn't it? The Dial? He named it?

AL: He named it.

DI: That's really neat.

AL: He left home and he went to work. If you want to call (making) money successful (he is the most successful) member of the Marberry family.

DI: Well, that's a delightful (way to put it). Who else was in the family?

AL: The next one was my sister Mary and she was I think eight years older than I was. No, ten years older. Ten years older than I was. She took care of me. I have pictures of Mary just taking care of little Alice. (Later) my boyfriend would come over and we would sit on the front porch and she would come out about midnight with a cereal box in her hand. She said "Alice it's almost time for breakfast!" Oh, bless her heart.

DI: She took care of you.

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AL: (Nods) The third one was my brother Bill who is (was) a wonderful person- a botanist. (He) did work at the University and was very, very good.

(He) wanted the University to buy his farm because it got too much for him But they said they didn't have money. No, he wanted to give it to the University, but they didn't have enough money to take care of it, so it eventually- well- it now is with the park district. (Marberry Arboretum on East Pleasant Hill Road.

DI: It is a lovely place to walk. It is out on what we used to call Reservoir Road.

I'm trying to think of what they-

AL: Park Street-

DI: Yes, at the end of Park Street.

AL: The only reason, well, I hate to get into this, but the local garden clubs do a wonderful job of taking care of it and the little school next door takes care of picking up trash.

DI: I'm so glad you told us that because I didn't know that. That's news to me. It is a nice area. I've been out there walking. I recommend that to people. So that was your immediate family. Where did you live as a child?

AL: As child I lived at 509 S. Mill. Well, first of all, I was born on South Poplar St. across from the Lewis -uh- the Harris' House. The Harris house still stands. (Little white bungalow on the east side of the 700 block of South Poplar Street)

DI: Do you know the number on that one?

AL: No, I don't.

DI: I can check that. (You were) born on Poplar Street. (Is your home still standing?)

AL: (No. It's torn down now. Yes. I hate to be quoted as saying that's exactly it, (Harris home) but that's the only one that I can think of.

DI: (Where was) the next place that you lived?

AL: Then my parents moved to (509 W.) Mill St and there were not too many houses built there.

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DI: It was sort of the south edge of the town at that time, wasn't it? (The north side of the S.I.N.U. Campus).

AL: Yes, it was. I grew up at 509 West Mill. I remember the fun things about it. I got a bicycle and when I was real young and I used to ride my bicycle up and down (Mill) to Greasy Creek.

DI: Greasy Creek?

AL: Greasy Creek was at the foot of- close to where the new stop sign is when you're going under the underpass. Most of my life I just spent having fun. When I was a little girl I used to tear around in my mother's garden- dancing- (with) all my friends in her big garden.

DI: She had a garden?

AL: Oh yes, she had a wonderful garden and Papa used to sit under the tree- big old tree- I've got a picture of that somewhere- smoking his pipe. Mama would be working her head off in the kitchen.

DI: Do you have any memorabilia or have you kept anything from that garden- Mama's Garden?

AL: Yes, I have one of the entrances to her garden. It was a cast iron gate and I kept it. I found one of the gates and where I'm living now, I put that gate out in the garden in the memory of my mother. I planted iris that came from her garden thanks to somebody-one of the old timers in Carbondale. It is (from) the same iris.

DI: We're going to get some pictures of that, Alice, and we'll put them in your file with this interview, if that's OK. Would you like that? I think you have a picture of your home the house that was moved, aren't we?

AL: Yes.

DI: That'll be the one on the corner of S. Forest and W. Mill Street. This is a good point in this conversation to say that we are going to follow this up with something that I've never done before. We're going to do a driving tour with you as our guide. You can take us to some of these places. My husband Bill will

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take pictures of (some of the places you have referred to). We'll visit 1these places, even if there's nothing there now but a vacant lot-we'll get pictures. That makes me think. You were talking about Mill Street and spending time as a child enjoying it. Where did you go to school?

AL: I went to school at (S.I.N.U.) Allyn Training School. That was a new thing. Teachers were trained there to be elementary school teachers. I remember in the first grade Eddie Vogler and I were used kind of as guinea pigs. We were the ones that had to read. We read the fastest in the class. Eddie remembered everything and I couldn't remember what I'd read.

DI: You've given us a picture of that class and we'll make a copy of it and put it in your file. That was 1926-27 it says here. It's a wonderful picture. You left because your mother decided that you were going to be better off if you went to Lincoln Junior High? You went to Lincoln Junior High but you said to me earlier you didn't remember too much about it. That school is standing presently, but probably will soon not be. It's near the I.C. Railroad tracks. (Between E. College and E. Mill) Do you remember anything about the building or any of the teachers?

AL: No, I don't.

DI: Let me ask you a question. Just sort of for general information. At this point, when you were going to junior high, did they have a cafeteria or did you go home for lunch? (She shakes her head) That was a lost year- alright-I'm not going to push- I'm not going to push. I think the next thing (we will talk about is Carbondale Community High School on North Springer. It was new then.

AL: Yes.

DI: Tell me a little bit about High School.

AL: Well, I had a really good time through high school. OH! I forgot to tell you that when I was a little girl I played the piano all the time. I took lessons and just played the piano constantly and my mother-I have pictures of playing the piano.

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My mother had to be sure (I learned things like to) cross my feet at the ankles and put my hands in the right properly (before playing for) Mama's household arts class. When I got into high school I loved it!

DI: You were telling me about playing the piano- that you had to sit just so. Now did you like playing the piano?

AL: Oh yes! But to get rid of the piano thing- I played piano all the way through high school. My senior year I was in a national piano contest and got a second, which was very good. When I got married, he said, "there'll be only one musician in the family and that's me". So I've never played it since.

DI: Haven't you? People say it would come back to you. I wonder in school (what did you like besides music?

AL: Sports, sports. We had the best basketball team. Dutch Lutz was one of the best pole vaulters in the state. He got a number one. Community High School as the first at everything. I loved all the things connected with high school. I got out a report card the other day and looked at it and I made Cs.

DI: But you enjoyed high school?

AL: I loved it and we had a big bunch of kids that all ran around together.

DI: Do you still know and keep in touch with some of them?

AL: (Nods) We have- Eddie Volger- he was one of my best friends. When Eddie was (going to get) married he brought his wife back to Carbondale. He brought by his friends to check her out and see if we thought she was a good bride for him. We took her to lunch with him and everything went great. I told Eddie, "Well she's from New England and she really is a super girl. I think you should marry her. But she doesn't say SOFA right. When I got married, we both had daughters and when our daughters got married they were in each other's weddings. I'm trying to think. When our granddaughters got married our granddaughters were in each other's weddings.

DI: Isn't that special?

AL: So thru the century-three generations!

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DI: My goodness, that's neat. Can you remember any of the teachers? I know what you were interested in at CCHS. I'm pushing you for teachers because we just always ask that question. If anybody has a teacher they want to remember, we ask them.

AL: I'm so sorry but I'm the sort of the person who sort drifted through life just living for the day.

DI: Oh, you lived, that's wonderful. We want that too. Well, after high school, in the 1920's young ladies were beginning to go to college frequently and you went where- where did you go?

AL: SINU! (Southern Illinois Normal University or College)

DI: How many years?

AL: Three years.

DI: And then what?

AL: I quit.

DI: You quit? Alright...

AL: Then I had three children.

DI: You got married somewhere in there?

AL: '41

DI: (You) had three children. Children's names?

AL: Bonnie Jean

DI: I've got that.

AL: Robert William.

DI: Those are family names from way back.

AL: Scott Bryant. William Jennings Bryan was a relative back down the line.

DI: Since we're at that point, anything in particular (you want to share) about any of the children? Do you want to tell us a little about each one of the children? Bonnie Jean obviously is your only daughter.
Bonnie Jean, obviously, was your only daughter.

AL: Yes.

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DI: What'd she do later in life?

AL: Well, she got her masters in social work from Michigan and she's worked for 35 years for King County in social work.

DI: And Robert William? (Alice makes a face) Don't go that way? Scott Bryan then. Anything that we need to know about Scott?

AL: Well, Scott's life is very long and very exciting. He had had a very unhappy love affair, so when he was graduated from college - from SIU. He was so distraught about it- that when she quit him- he got on his bicycle and pedaled all the way to Guatemala. (South America)

DI: Oh! My goodness!

AL: (Remember) the big earthquake - I've forgotten the year- that killed 25, 000 people down there? (Feb. 4, 1976, see article included in file)

DI: I'll get the year for you, I can figure that out.

AL: Fortunately he was down there and he spoke fluent Spanish and he was able to help a lot of people.

DI: Oh my!

AL: He rescued three little Mayan Indian girls and put them up with a family. I was worried sick so, I called the state department and talked to -- and I hadn't heard from him and I knew about the earthquake and called the state department. I got (through to) Paul Simon. Paul Simon, some way or other, went down there. No, he didn't go, he sent (or contacted) somebody down there (to find Scott). This guy sees this tent and finds out about this family and Scott. (The guy said) "Call your Mom" and that's how I found out that he wasn't dead.

DI: Isn't that a wonderful story?

AL: Paul Simon was wonderful person.

DI: He cared about people didn't he?

AL: He's still down there. (Scott) has never returned. He has three- I have three Mayan Indian grandchildren.

DI: Isn't that something?

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AL: They're now in high school in Xela.

DI: Have they ever been up here to visit?

AL: They have never been here. I've been down there every year since 1972.

DI: I know you've been there.

AL: And I went to - this isn't recording is it?

DI: Yes, but this is fine.

AL: I went to the state department to try to get them all - I've got a good picture of them where I took them in to the state department to get their Social Security cards, but they have just been- just plain scared to leave -

DI: Yes?

AL: One time the little 5 year old girl- the bandits came in and raided their house. Scott started getting mad and the littlest girl started crying and said, "Papa, Papa, no!" The bandits took his gun a shot it through their legs.

DI: Oh, goodness. Well, that's not a good situation, but his story is a wonderful story. That's marvelous. I'm glad you shared that with us. Well, along in your life, after the children were grown up, you and your husband split and you started a whole new life.

AL: Yes- and an old one now. (Smiling)

DI: Tell us about suddenly realizing you were on your own and- by golly- you were going to do something. How did you get involved then in teaching and realty? You'd been in realty here but when you were on your own- what year was that? Do you remember?

AL: 1968.

DI: In '68...

AL: I lost my mother, my older brother and my husband in '68.

DI: But you also finished your degree. At the University of Illinois?

AL: No, I got it down here.

DI: You did finish it up here? Great! Then what did you do?

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AL: Well then I went to Chicago, well I think...

DI: No, I know you told me but I want you to (record it).

AL: I got a job teaching.

DI: Who got you the job?

AD: Oh, Dr. Lee.

DI: Murray Lee, at SIU Special Education Department at SIU? I knew him.

AL: He got me a teaching job in Western Springs.

DI: Elementary?

AL: Fourth grade and I liked teaching very much. I loved the kids and it was really fun, but they didn't pay me enough money- six thousand dollars a year. I had to quit that. I thought well, I'll go back into real estate since I've been in it (before). I went to one of the local realtors and - I weighed 98 pounds - and my friend Amy Reese said, "You look liked a plucked chicken."

DI: I'm going to remind Imy when I talk to her- to see if she said that.

AL: Well, anyway I asked him if I could sell. I already had my license - my real estate license - if I could sell real estate. The man said "Well first of all I have to give you a personality test." So I said, "Well sure, I'll be glad to do that." I took the test and he looked at me and said, "I don't think you have the personality to sell real estate. I started bawling and squalling. He said "Oh, all right, there's something about you I think is pretty good. I guess so. so." Anyway, I had a very successful real estate career for twelve years.

DI: Now- let's let you crow a little bit more about yourself, because you really did have a successful career. You received some very high recognition for your salesmanship early on.

AL: Well, actually, they made me the office manager.

DI: After a year or so?

AL: (Nods) What he liked about me was I could interview people and get good people to sell real estate. Some of the people that I got way back then are

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still friends of mine. Ruth Burson in Downers Grove, Illinois, is a personal friend and is still selling real estate.

DI: Isn't that wonderful.

AL: A lot of them have died, too.

DI: Well, we're getting to that stage in life, aren't we Alice. We lose a few that way. How much time was it and what brought you back to Carbondale?

AL: Oh, that's home. I love Carbondale. I missed having a dog. So I came back to my roots and I got myself a dog and I moved into - oh, Ernie hadn't been able to pay off his mortgage, so I paid it off and got my house back.

DI: You got the (same) house back, after all those year, terrific.

AL: Yeah! (Smiles)

DI: Terrific.

-Pause-

DI: We paused here for a minute to discuss that that house is now Rebecca Whittington's- 930 W. Walnut. It's a Sears' home that Clyde Brooks had built for Faye Brooks. Then it was in Alice's possession for some years and we're going to talk about that in a separate portion of tape. But I wanted you to know that because we probably will have pictures of that and we will go by that definitely when we're out driving. I asked you about coming back here. You got a dog- you got the house back- then what?

AL: Well, I came back in 1980 and I lived in the big house for ten years, at least I think I did, yeah, and then I moved to 1019 Briarwood. Wasn't that John Wright's house, or something?

DI: Well I think it was, but I'm not sure about that. What was the address on it?

AL: 1019 Briarwood.

DI: That's right, we want to go by there too, because it's neat to just see the various places (you lived). OK, and now you're out - and we're not being real specific - but is it South Lake Shore Drive?

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AL: Yes, right. It is South Lake Shore.

DI: We're not being real specific about where, for obvious reasons.

AL: Yes, that's good.

DI: This sets the general location and that's OK. This seems like a big jump, but you said to me that you've always belonged to the same church and that the family has always been active in the very same church. Sorry, but on our form it goes from occupations to religious experiences.

AL: That's okay!

DI: Which church?

AL: I was a big member- I mean my parents were big members of the First Christian Church. My Father, William Marberry, wrote the first 100 year history of the Christian Church and it was published. He named it "The Days of Our Years"

DI: that church is located where?

AL: Corner of Monroe and University-

DI: I want to get that down.

AL: I don't remember when they tore it down.

DI: But how they've rebuilt is beautiful, too. Do you have a few relics from the old church, because I think it's good for people to know where those things are.

AL: Oh yes, yes, I do. I saw the big stone steps that they were just hauling off and I didn't know what they were doing with the steps - the steps up to the church- the old church. So I got them. It was a big job to move one, but I got one and brought over to - no I didn't put in- Briarwood. Yes, I did!

DI: You had it (there).

AL: I put it in 1019 Briarwood and when I built a new house out here on Lakeshore Drive, I had the big "first step to heaven" moved in my garden.

DI: Tell us again what you're calling it. It's the first . . .

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AL: My "first step to heaven!"

DI: Excellent, that's a wonderful story! While we're talking about wonderful stories and you do enjoy the stories behind things, which leads us to things that you've enjoyed in the community. And you said, "well I loved the meals on wheels" - delivering meals- which was people oriented.

AL: Yes! (Smiles and nods)

DI: Doesn't surprise me a bit. But one of the things that you told me about was when the Humane Society was first established. And you said about your love for dogs and when you came back to Carbondale, you missed having a dog, you had a dog. Well, tell us about the Humane Society and Alice. What did Alice do when the puppies would be picked up or the dogs would be picked up?

AL: Well, I was active in the Humane Society when it first was form. My good friend Jean Sternberg was also active. They would use me to go with them to pick up strays. I would see that pitiful stray and think I would be taking it to the Humane Society and they would "zap it". So I couldn't stand it, I just turned them out.

DI: You turned them loose, huh?

AL: (Nods) Then I used to belong to the - what's the name of that political thing? League of Women Voters.

DI: League of Women Voters, right.

AL: Didn't even have a party I liked back then, but I do now, but I'm not going to tell it.

DI: OK, that's up to you. Well, let's talk about two groups that you and I share membership in, because both of them have women who I think were far ahead of time like you are, and really have lived live fully. One is the Antique Club. I'm a new member of the Antique Club. I see a cross section of wonderful women in

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that group. When did you join the Antique Club? Way back, right? Probably- the 70s? 80s?

AL: Probably 80's.

DI: 80's- when you came back, that would be right. What do you enjoy about the Antique Club- if you were telling somebody about it and you wanted them to know that it was an interesting place to go once a month - most months- what do you enjoy?

AL: Well, I would say I really like to be informed on what antiques are and what do people collect- people all have different ideas about what they think are antiques. I enjoy learning something.

DI: That's exactly what I would have thought Alice would have said. Ah, there's another group that you and I both belong to that was founded- and we weren't there, even though we're older. The Women's Club of Carbondale was founded in 1896 and we weren't there. Some of our family members have been in for years and years. That's another interesting group. It is "Town and Gown." I bet you know what "Town and Gown" refers to, don't you?

AL: Yes, the townspeople and the university people.

DI: What do you enjoy about Women's Club?

AL: I enjoy the camaraderie of women's club. You've got so many interesting people that you don't get to see very often. Then I enjoy the programs that we have. They're usually informative on various subjects. I just like woman's club. And then they always have dessert and that's fun, and we do pride ourselves (on our cooking) don't we?

DI: Those are wonderful things to be involved in. Like I said, I think it shows that you were always an independent woman, full of life and enjoying life. I can say that and you (begin) smiling at me, but you know I mean it. (Laughter) The next thing that I wanted very briefly to touch on was political involvement. You've already covered that because you

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said you were a member of the League of Women Voters; but at that point you didn't have a political preference. Now you're not happy, but you have a political preference. Is that fair to say?

AL: Not exactly

DI: OK! You say it.

AL: Well, I have a- I don't vote one side. I go back and forth- sort of balanced.

DI: That doesn't surprise me either. But I know, from being around you that you do keep up on things.

AL: Yes!

DI: I want to talk a little bit about two more subjects before we finish up here. One is highlights of your childhood and you've touched on that. The other(subject) I think we've already probably covered (somewhat) with highlights of your adulthood. Let's talk (more) about childhood for a minute because the "moving" of the house that you lived was a big thing in your life. I want to get it right. (Was that the home) that was at 509 West Mill?

AL: Well (moving to that one was big) but the other one was 800 South Forest.

DI: OK, let's talk about these. That's the one we haven't talked about. 800 South Forest, let's talk a little bit about it.

AL: Oh, yes.

DI: Is that house still standing?

AL: No it isn't there any more! The University also bought that one. (It was actually the one that was physically "moved" by the University after they bought it.)

DI: I know the relationship with Billy, your brother, was good with the University but they did take a lot of property and your family did lose a lot! 800 South Forest. Tell me about the house- since it's not there, where is it?

AL: Well, the house was a "Craftsman's" style cottage. As I remember it was built

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by Henry Lutz. He was a real craftsman. It was a wonderful house. But they needed it for more parking for the University so I didn't really object to it at the time. They hauled it off and I thought, oh goody, they're going to put it some place (else). I didn't pay much attention to it after that. I went to Chicago, you know, and had my career. I came back to Carbondale and I started to think- whatever happened to the old house. I found out where it was. It had been taken over and put off of McLafferty Road- where they had stored the remnants of Old Main- and put up there. Then they used it to raise the Saluki dogs there (I think). I thought, oh good- well it's being used. Now in the past few years I've been up there and of course all of it's been changed with all of the new construction and every thing. The old house, which was really a beauty, is crumbling. Every time I go up there and look at it I feel terrible because it was such a beautiful example of the 1950's.

AL: It's off of McLafferty Road. I don't know. (It's on Wildlife Road)

DI: I'm going to put that down and then we'll go there. You'll take us.

AL: OK! I can't wait.

DI: Well, like I said, all we've got to do is get Marsha (Sinnott) lined up.

AL: Yeah, I want to take you to 509 West Mill and that one.

DI: We'll go to that one and see what we can see about- if anything's left of the garden at all. In this childhood highlight section, I usually I ask people what you remember that went on in Carbondale- that your family enjoyed doing in Carbondale. There was church- I imagine there were church things...

AL: Mama belonged to a Household Arts Club and Mary belonged to everything.

DI: Household Arts Club, that's a new one to me. I'm going to put that down. Do you as a child, now we're talking clear through high school, have memories of what downtown Carbondale was like? Any hangouts that you went to?

AL: In downtown Carbondale there was the Hub. Everybody hung out at the Hub Cafe. There was Entsminger's...

DI: I have to interject here for the tape. The Hub was on the corner of Main Street,

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which is now Route 13 going west- Main Street at Illinois Avenue. Where Entsminger's was located?

AL: Across the street, just a couple of buildings north of Main on N. Illinois.

DI: What did you do at Entsminger's?

AL: We "jellied" around.

DI: What's that mean? I've heard that word used before.

AL: Oh, we just jellied around. A lot of kids went in there and got together and gossiped- like "did you hear that he's dating her?" (We hung out).

-PHONE RINGS-

DI: We were talking about being down town and jelling around and other places downtown (to do things) as a teenager.

AL: I can't remember a lot of them.

DI: But you remember going to the movies? I can remember where two theaters were. There was one called the Rodgers on Monroe and there was the Varsity Theater (on South Illinois). Did you go with friends?

AL: All I know is that I was really a movie fan. I used to go to movies all the time because they didn't cost as much as they do nowadays.

DI: Yes, that's true!

AL: I went to "Pulp Fiction" not too long ago because it won an Oscar and I walked out of it three times. Got my money back three times.

DI: Got your money back three times. Well that's one I'll remember NOT to to go. OK, there's one other thing, that I think is kind of fun, or two other things, that are kind of fun to talk about. Did the family have any customs or traditions in the holiday celebrations?

AL: Oh, yes!

DI: Anything that you want to talk about?

AL: Oh, yes...Papa. Well first of all- this was when I lived at 509 West Mill and a

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family was really a family. We had a big round table and most of the time we'd have one of Papa's sisters there. Aunt Bea or Aunt Ada - they were both spinsters. What Papa would do every night - we had this dog Jack who fox terrier and who lived for 16 years. Every night Papa would put Jack up on the table like this hold him and tell a "Jack Story". One night he told a "Jack Story" about how Mary had gotten a box of candy from a boyfriend or something. He held Jack up and said, "Do you know what Jack did? He ate all of Mary's candy and there he stood at the head of the stairway." He said "hairway" instead of stairway-that was really funny to us kids. Another time Papa told one about Jack and said, "You know we cleaned up the yard today. I put sticks in piles all around the yard and I lit a little twig and put in Jack's mouth and he went around and lighted every single one of those piles."

DI: In other words, he made up a good story, sometimes, Huh? Oh that's wonderful. We're going to reminiscence a bit about Christmas now that we've gotten the "Jack Stories" taken care of.

AL: Well, when we were older, we used to have a Christmas - all of our family was there. My brother Robert, he was the oldest, he would always make martinis. My sister Mary would drink ONE martini, and then she'd say, "Ah, those Christmas tree lights are so hot!"

DI: Oh, my! (Laughing)

AL: Well, we had a real- I grew up in a wonderful family.

DI: Yes! Did you have Christmas stockings? A Christmas tree?

AL: A Christmas trees, oh but that's a good point. My brother Bill would not stand for an artificial tree, so every Christmas tree we had, while I was a little girl, is still growing in the back of where our house was at 509 West Mill.

DI: You're kidding. Are we going to get to see that?

AL: Yes. I want to take you.

DI: I wonder if all those trees are still there. That's a marvelous thing. I'm going to put that down. Trees planted so that they could grow at 509. I'm getting so that I

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know that address. That's Fun! Birthdays? How did you celebrate birthdays? Or do you remember how you celebrated birthdays.

AL: I don't remember.

DI: I had a favorite kind of cake, mine was angel food, so I just ask that question (in case of personal favors. You've already told us about your talents. Your talents were music, piano-piano-piano!

AL: I don't consider that a talent since I didn't keep it up.

DI: Well, I do.

AL: But when I married my husband he said -did I tell you?

DI: Yes, he said there would be one musician in the family and it wasn't you.
(Shaking head)

AL: He was the band conductor at Carbondale Community High School.

DI: Well, you were a pianist when you were in High school. So some day you're going to sit down and it's going to all come back.

You're going to be like Grandma Moses, you going to be wonder in your mature years. Any hobbies or interests other than those that you just enjoy in your life?

AL: I live for the day.

DI: Yes, but I know you do plan ahead and you do things so it's the nicest kind of living for each day. We've got something we want to share because I want Alice to share this. It's from- what is it? It's Sanskrit isn't it? Wonderful first line. Share that last paragraph with us. I think it's wonderful.

AL: Live for today. For this life, the very life of life. For yesterday is already a memory and tomorrow is only a vision, but today, while lived, makes every yesterday a memory of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. That will therefore be the day.

DI: I really love that. You know, I'm going to stop for today. We've had enough haven't we? We've shared enough?

AL: I'm getting hoarse.

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DI: We're BOTH getting hoarse , but that is a beautiful note to stop on and I got a promise from you that we will pick you up and go touring these houses as soon as we can get Marcia (to come along) We'll call you and whenever you can go- we'll do it! (Side B is done on June 15th).

AL: Oh listen, I can do it anytime.

DI: I'm kind of free too right now. So we'll promise ourselves that (we'll go). I'm going to this off.

AL: I keep hoping that you will pull some strings and do something to get that awful stuff off of Mama's garden (pillars).

DI: That would be nice if we could do that. I thank you very much.

AL: You're welcome.

DI: We'll be back together soon.

AL: Well I've enjoyed it, but I think I've talked too much.

DI: No, you've done a wonderful job-just right. I'm going to stop now.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

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Alice Elizabeth Marberry Limpus

TAPE 1, SIDE B:

DI: Today is Thursday June 15, 2006. The time is 10:30 CDT. This is side B of an earlier Carbondale Remember tape with Alice Marberry Limpus. I'm Dede Lingle Ittner, Carbondale Preservation Commissioner. This morning Alice and I will be accompanied by my fellow Preservation Commissioner Marcia Sinnott. We'll do a tour of three sites in Carbondale that are significant to the Marberry family. Three of the sites are on the Southern Illinois University Campus. One is the site of Alice's mother's garden of yesteryear. This is the first time we have recorded such a tour. Pictures will be included in this file of the places visited and now our tour. We're going to start- what's the address where we are right now?

AL: 509 West Mill.

DI: We are facing brick pillars and wrought iron gates that were ?

AL: The (entrance to the) garden of (my mother) Mrs. William L. Marberry, Her name was Beulah.

DI: But she was Mama to you, right?

AL: She was my Mama and I had two brothers and a sister.

DI: We're standing surrounded by evergreen trees- very huge ones. What are they?

AL: Well, my brother Bill Marberry- who was really- he wanted to be natural all the time. He said, we're not going to have any fake Christmas trees. We're going to

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have real Christmas trees. So we had them and every year he planted one. The garden kind of got taken over by Christmas trees.

DI: The garden got taken over by Christmas trees. (smiling)

AL: This is what I wanted to show you . . .

DI: We have some (ugly profanity) graffiti that is removable and we'll take a picture and see if we can talk to a few people (about getting this removed!).

Now the pillars are lovely. Why are they not in your yard?

(Alice had repeatedly told me about the situation for about a year. I had promised I'd try and help get it cleaned off.)

AL: I didn't think- well my parents- I didn't have anything to do with it, my parents didn't think to take (along) anything like that. They were very eager for the University to grow so they didn't give them (SIU) any problems at all.

DI: We are actually right on the - what would you call this - I don't know what the road is here. It's the access road off of Mill. It's one back and it's got a name- it'll be Lincoln or Douglas.

AL: I don't really know. All I remember is about Mill Street was. It used to be a dirt street and I was the only one in town (out here) that had a bicycle and I would ride my bicycle clear down to Greasy Creek.

DI: Clear down to Greasy Creek? (It) was at the end of Mill down where the (Illinois/University) interchange is now. In that area, right? Marcia tells me that it is Lincoln, right? It's now Lincoln. Just across the grass median then is Mill Street. SIU took all of these when they were getting ready to build.

AL: Pulliam Hall!

DI: Pulliam Hall which will always be University School for those of us who went there, I guess.

AL: (Nodding) Oh, that's right.

DI: This is neat, turn around- turn around here and take a look back the other way with me Alice. All of these firs were in your living room at one time or another at Christmas time, right?

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AL: (Nodding) All the Cedars.

DI: Cedars, pardon me. Dr. Marberry would be ashamed of me.

AL: You can see that they kindof you know (nearly) the same size.

DI: Where they six foot trees? Five foot trees?

AL: Oh, I don't remember.

DI: But they weren't (huge) at the time.

AL: Oh, no! No!

DI: And this would have been started about what year?

AL: Oh, I have no idea.

DI: Well, are the talking the 1930's and 40's.

AL: Yes, you're even talking the 20's.

DI: Excellent!

AL: Because in 1920 I was born and they moved over here when I was about a year or two years old.

DI: (I understand)

AL: They (have been growing a long time). I tried to remember when, but that would have to be looked up. I don't remember.

DI: But (it is) wonderful. This is a beautiful little area of trees. We're standing facing south, facing University School. Will you please tell me, if we where (we are) standing was (your) yard? The house was in front of us? Or the Garden was in front of us?

AL: The house faced the street (north) and the garden was in back (south) of it.

DI: OK, and we have some pictures of your mother's garden so anyone listening to this or studying from this, can see pictures, right?

AL: Right.

DI: She was quite a gardener?

AL: (Nodding) Well, I think my brother got it from her.

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DI: Before you start down the hill here- and folks this really is a hill- we want to call attention to the west, we have a perfectly beautiful tree. Now you tell me what that tree is.

AL: That's a golden rain tree and I was so glad they didn't tear it out when they put the road in.

DI: Who planted that one?

AL: My mother. It could have been my brother. I don't really know.

DI: That's all right- okay.

AL: But it's a family tree and we used to like to look at it.

DI: It's really beautiful.

AL: I now have a golden rain tree in my yard.

DI: You have one in your yard (out on Lakeshore Drive)?

AL: Yes.

DI: We'll get a picture of that.

Pause while we drive to the main entrance of campus on S. Normal Avenue

DI: Let's walk on down (toward that tall tree) .There's so much traffic going by. I'll bend down with you and we'll talk about what we've got here. First of all, we're under a tree near (what is now the) medical building now. We miss the (old Wheeler) Library. There's a plaque on this large stone what is this large stone?

AL: The large stone is one of the steps from Old Main. When it was burned down (the step was saved). And it's in memory of this historic dawn redwood planted in 1950 by William Marberry.

DI: The dates on it are 1913 to 1984. He passed away and this is done in tribute to him?

AL: (Nodding) And I'll tell you about it.

DI: Yes, tell me about it.

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AL: Dr. Morris, who was very popular president here at SIU, was very innovative in the kind of plant that he (wanted) planted all over the University, like a magnolia tree, very different trees all over. Bill was a very good friend of his. And so China, you know the China (the country) The Chinese got in touch with Dr. Morris, to tell Dr. Morris that they had an extinct tree that they has just been able to bring it back. I don't know how they did it. But for thousands of years it has been thought extinct. The Botanical Gardens of St. Louis had (been sent) some of the seedlings. They said would SIU like to have one of the seedlings. And so, of course, Dr. Morris said yes, and he immediately called Billy. He said "Bill I want to get a truck and some people to help you and go up to the Botanical Gardens and get this tree." Well, they went up there and the tree was about 3 feet tall. That was in 1950. Now this date is 2006, so that makes a (fifty-six year) old Dawn Redwood. Fortunately it has given off seedlings and now the Dawn Redwood is all over southern Illinois. And I'm right out here with these nice ladies looking at it and I'm very concerned that it is not being taken care of.

DI: Tell us what we need to do to this tree.

AL: You've got to get that down.

DI: Alright the (thick) vines growing up it should be removed. That's not healthy. Take a look at the limbs. Don't we have some limbs maybe that need to be pruned?

AL: Well, I think somebody that knows more about this sort of thing needs to look at it, but obviously, I'm very disturbed that this tree is not being taken care of.

DI: And I'm going to put (that) on this tape for the record in case I can (get a chance to use this to talk to Dr. Wendler or anyone else. This tree, Marcia mentioned, looks like a bald cypress. It could easily be dismissed as just another bald cypress. But it isn't.

AL: No! (Shakes head emphatically)

DI: So when we know the story behind this tree, it merits getting us over here to do something about it.

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AL: And I forgot to tell that you that this plaque - Dr. Dougherty- that used to be here- he saw to it that when Bill died this memorial was placed out here in his memory.

DI: That's wonderful and he's still living isn't here?

AL: Yes, he is.

DI: You know, I believe you showed me a clipping that he felt that something that Billy had planted that was still here was much nicer than just going out and planting a new tree (as a memorial).

AL: Absolutely

DI: I tell you what I will do. I will include that entire clipping in your file with this recording.

AL: Good.

DI: Whoever accesses this (tape) should realize that there will be pictures of the tree and there will be a clipping explaining this dedication.

AL: Good!

DI: Lovely. What else?

AL: Well there's a tree out here (on campus) that was dedicated to Winston Churchill, but I've never been able to find it.

DI: Is it in this area?

AL: I think so. But I'm not sure. Someone told me and they tried to tell me where it was but- (shaking head)

DI: You told me that story before and I have some feelers out. People are looking for that tree. So maybe before you and I forget about it all together . . .

AL: (REMEMBER!) It's over by McLeod Theater.

DI: All right! We'll (Bill and I) will pursue it in that area. Now we'll go on to the next place.

-Pause as we drive down Chautauqua and out McLafferty to Wildlife Road-

DI: We're standing in front of what is now Wildlife Drive- number 2140, but this house was moved from . . . Alice, where was it moved from?

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AL: 800 South Forest (corner of W. Mill and S. Forest)

DI: We have a pictures which will be in this file. The house needs a coat of paint terribly, but other than that I want Alice to tell us if there is much change here on the front. Alice-

AL: This is (actually) the back door.

DI: This is the back door, but we're looking at it as if it were the front door. You built on to the back, you built this addition?

AL: No, just an addition on top of it.

DI: You built an addition on the top. OK, let's walk and talk here, if we can do that. We won't try to chew gum, too. (Everyone chuckles)

AL: It's a (1950's) craftsman's cottage.

DI: A craftsman's cottage? Who built it?

AL: I think, I'm not real sure, but I think Harry Lutz- a carpenter named Lutz built it.

DI: Now were the windows the same as they (are now)?

AL: All the windows are the same.

DI: But you didn't have the air conditioner, did you?

AL: No!

DI: We're walking by an air conditioner -for who ever transcribes this- you'll lose us for a minute because it is noisy. Let's get out of here!

AL: See that bedroom up there. When my daughter was in high school her boyfriend . . . (still very noisy and HOT)

DI: Come over in the shade here and wait a minute. I want you to say that on tape. That's a wonderful story.

AL: I don't dare say who it was.

DI: It's okay to not say WHO it was that we're going to talk about - not who it was, but what happened on what is now facing west. The west side house, the second story there's a pair of windows and your daughter had that room?

AL: Yes.

DI: What happened?

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AL: Well, one night we heard some commotion going on and I went upstairs to look. Her boyfriend had parked right out here in front of the second story window and was climbing up with a ladder. I don't know what he intended to do.

DI: Oh, my goodness. Well, just so they weren't climbing down to elope or something. Oh this is wonderful. Are we walking around to the side of the house?

AL: Yes. This had my classroom/study on a big porch.

DI: Let's stand here in the shade and talk about it.

AL: OK, it had a big porch. The outside of the house walked right out up to the porch and it was brick all the way around. And it was a beautiful porch. You know they used to build those with brick up all around and of course that couldn't be moved.

DI: No, but are the windows the same though?

AL: The windows are the same.

DI: There are three windows on each side of the door.

AL: All the windows (are here) so far.

DI: That is so excellent. Just wave at them. (interruption to talk to someone)

DI: We identified ourselves as an oral history project, Marcia, and it seemed to work. Now they've got wildlife things (store in) there. This is interesting because we're standing in (the yard) and there're huge bottles of (preserved) fish on her front step here. Oh, my, let's walk on around and see. So they put this (house) down on this concrete block foundation. Do you remember what kind of foundation it had (on Forest)? What would they have build on in those days? Brick or concrete block foundations?

AL: I don't remember. I can't even remember if we had a basement.

DI: Well, I was going to ask you that. That was my next question.

AL: (Smiling) I don't remember.

DI: Let's mosey (walk) on around. It might not be a happy reunion to see what's in there now. What's this little house out here?

AL: I don't know. It wasn't there (on Forest).

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DI: It wasn't there? You didn't have a playhouse there?

AL: No!

DI: We're speaking of a little house that looks like it's probably kind of child's playhouse.

AL: It (the family's house) did have a family room though, and that's what the three windows were- the family room.

DI: The last three windows on the back of the house?

AL: No- But our kitchen cabinets, that was during the time when- oh, who was that young man who used to do all the decorating around town, he was so good, you know who I mean?

DI: Yes, (I'm not sure of a name).

AL: Yeah, anyway he painted the kitchen cabinets all purple. They were beautiful. I don't know what color they are now.

DI: Or if they're even in there.

AL: I thought this house was such a strong house that it should have been taken care of- to be used for something.

-pause-

DI: The lawn man, the nice gentleman cutting grass out there, said that he thinks it needs a coat of paint, too. That (probably) won't get it done. But at least he acknowledges it.

AL: And then when we needed some more bedrooms, forget it, so then we put this whole top section on.

DI: You put the top section on.

AL: See the house was designed like that.

DI: What was in the back, now we're talking about the south, set of three windows. What was inside there? If this was your family room, now what was back there.

AL: I think that was our bedroom.

DI: That was the bedroom. OK. What was upstairs?

AL: Bedrooms.

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DI: Do you remember how many?

AL: No, that's where one of my daughters' bedrooms was and that's why we needed to add some more for the boys.

DI: Did you have a bathroom upstairs?

AL: Oh, yes. Two bathrooms.

DI: Oh my, that really was a wonderful house. (In) so many of them of this vintage, I'm being told that there was one bathroom for everyone.

AL: It was a great house, ask anyone.

DI: It was a big house, wasn't it?

AL: Yes, and it was so strong- it was moved to this location.

DI: Yes, we'll have a picture in there of it coming down, well we don't know whether it was coming down Mill at that time. Or whether it was on Oakland, but it was coming down the street. Excellent! Thank you.

AL: You're welcome.

DI: I'm so glad you brought us, this is neat. I think we'll conclude with that and get in the car. It's 11:35 and we're going to conclude the car tour for us today and for follow up we need to look into taking care of the Dawn Redwood tree and we also **have some graffiti that really does need to be taken care of. The only thing that makes us** really content about the home that was moved from South Forest is the fact that it is still exists. It's badly in need of a coat of paint but it is still standing and for that we are grateful. This concludes my tour with Alice Limpus accompanied by Marcia Sinnott.

EDITOR'S NOTES: Then SIU Chancellor, Dr. Ralph Wendler was contacted and was cooperative in restoring the lovely gate/pillars. The Dawn Redwood was also trimmed. The Blenheim Oak was located and pictures in this file document the location and history of the tree. Bill Marberry attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and had met Sir

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Winston when the gentleman was on campus. The tree was send as a “goodwill gift” to SIU.

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