Interview with Marian Goza
March 22, 2004, Springfield, Illinois
Interviewer: Barbara Dickerman

Dickerman: [We are at 823] South 15th Street in Springfield, Illinois, on March 22nd, 2004. This is Barbara Dickerman interviewing Marian Goza. Good afternoon, Marian. And I understand that you are a Springfield native – which we really like to get the picture of Springfield a few decades back. So we'll start with asking you where you lived – where you were born and where you lived.

Goza: I was born here in Springfield, Illinois – at 1523 E. Carpenter. I was born at home. At that time, parents didn't have too many children in the hospital. And I weighed almost ten pounds when I was born. I was born on December the 25th of 1930. I was a Christmas baby.

Dickerman: And were you the first child? Or did you have other brothers and sisters, Marian?

Goza: I'm the second child. I had an older brother, John R. Ritchie; and he was seventeen years older than I.

Dickerman: And your name was Ritchie. That was your maiden name. Your parents' names?

Goza: My mother's name was Clara F. Ritchie, and my dad's name was John B, as in Beatty, Ritchie. And Ritchie is spelled R-I-T-C-H-I-E.

Dickerman: And then you said you lived on East Carpenter when you were – when you were a child? And we'd like to ask kind of about the atmosphere of that neighborhood, and the stores, the things you – the kids you played with, and – try to get the whole picture of your neighborhood as a kid.

Goza: I was born at 1523 E. Carpenter, but I only stayed there three years. When I was three or four years old, my parents bought a home at 1015 Patton Avenue, and that is where I lived until I was married.

Dickerman: Well that's interesting. I've heard about that neighborhood – who developed it. That came up in one of our interviews, up there on North Patton. I thought I'd heard more about that. Did you give the name of your mother and dad?

Goza: Yes, my dad's first name was John, and my mother's first name is Clara. I went to school at Enos Grade School, and I went to Springfield High School. And then after I finished high school, I walked to Springfield Junior College for one year. And then I transferred to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dickerman: We'll go back a little bit further, before we go into the rest of your education. What was your father's occupation? And what did your mother do when you were young?

Goza: My father was a night person, a night watchman at S.S. Kresge, which was located on the corner of 5th at Adams, which is now – I don't know what it is. Then if you can remember, S.S. Kresge became a K-Mart, until it was moved out of Springfield. My mother worked out – cleaning homes, and for a while – and then she worked for CILCO. She was a custodian at CILCO.

Dickerman: And as far – now there were just you and your brother, for the children. And then as far as kids you played with, friends when you were in grade school, and the atmosphere of the neighborhood – seems to me that Mason's was a grocery store out there.

Goza: Yes, Mason's was a grocery store. That was the main grocery store where we bought our groceries. And also over on the corner of Calhoun and MacArthur, there was a John Daly grocery store. And then cater-corner from that was Taylor's Market. And those are the stores that we bought our groceries with at that time. We did not have a car, so we had to either walk, or take the bus. I played with the neighborhood children. We all used to play house on the front porch, and jump rope, play jacks – things that students nowadays don't do any longer. But we had a good time. My mother worked days, and my father worked nights. And I walked to school. And I took my lunch sometimes, but most of the time, I came home to eat. My parents did not want to fix me a lunch, they wanted me to come home at noon and eat. I only lived about three long blocks from school. I went to Enos School, which is located at Bond and Calhoun on one side, and Elliot on the other side.

Dickerman: Do you have any memory of any teachers that you had there in grade school, or into high school?

Goza: I remember a couple of names. I remember a Mrs. Jones – Millicent Jones. I remember Mrs. McAfee. Those are probably the two most prominent teachers that I remember in grade school, because they were very, very stern with their students. I think one of the teachers taught English, and the other one taught math and biology.

Dickerman: And at Springfield High?

Goza; Well Springfield High School was a little bit different. There, I was able to become more – well, I had more programs to get involved in. I sang in the a cappella choir there, which I dearly loved; and that was directed under Mr. Benedict. We traveled a little bit, but most of the time we sang there at the school, and we really had a good time. I also became a member of one of the clubs in the school. I was a biology major, so when you're a biology major you don't really have a lot of time to get involved in a lot of extra-curricular activities, because you have to maintain your studies.

Dickerman: I remember hearing about Mr. Benedict, yes. And then on to Springfield Junior College, as we called it then; and now it's Springfield College in Illinois. Do you remember the science teachers out there?

Goza: Not offhand. But I did take music. I've taken piano lessons from the time I was probably about ten years old until I graduated from high school. And I took music lessons under Sister Annunciata out at Springfield Junior College. And then I took also some voice lessons, and I appeared in a play at Springfield Junior College when I was a student there. And I don't really remember the name right now. But that was also a lot of fun.

Dickerman: We share the same teacher, cause I took from Sister Annunciata. And Sister Alfonse was the drama director. Does that ring a bell? They called them Mother in those days, instead of Sister, didn't they?

Goza: Yes, they did.

Dickerman: Well that – that's fun to hear those things. And we – and we both went to the same high school, and Springfield College. And then, I know that you had a career in the medical field. But we've gone to – you went to Lincoln College?

Goza: I then transferred to Jefferson City, Missouri after a year of Springfield Junior College. Jefferson City, Missouri is an all-black college at that time. And I needed to get into the atmosphere of being with African-Americans. I was raised on the northwest part of town, and we were just probably one or two of the African-Americans that lived in that vicinity. So basically, I was raised around all Caucasians. And we got along very well. We played together, we ate together; we just had a doggone good time. And I still have a lot of those friends. If anyone knows Margie Grieme, Margie Grieme and I graduated together from high school, from grade school. Mary Ann Diefenback, Mary McClintock – those are some of the names that I remember, and those are still some of the living youth – children that I grew up with. Occasionally I see them in the grocery

stores, and we talk to each other. We reminisce about old times. But we don't see each other too much, because we still live at opposite ends of Springfield. When I went to Lincoln University, I wanted to be a doctor. I wanted to be a gynecologist and obstetrician. My mother wanted me to be a nurse. But I had made up my mind I wasn't going to be a nurse, because at that time there were bedpans. And I was not going to empty a bedpan. We did not have the more mature, educated nurses who receive Masters degrees, and had teaching certificates – we didn't have that at that time. The only nursing school we had was St. John's Hospital. And medical technology, which I wanted to do, was a subject that was not well-rounded. Even when I went to Lincoln University, I could not get a degree in medical technology, so I majored in biology. The worst part of that is having to be in class all the time, in the various labs. You take chemistry, you take physics; and all the various biology courses also have a lab, so Monday, Wednesday and Fridays you were in classes, and Tuesdays and Thursdays you were in labs all day.

Dickerman: So, I know that you did become a medical technician. And you had to go on for other training after that—after you graduated from school?

Goza: I left Lincoln University in 1952 and came to Springfield, because I was married. And after you're married, and you have children, you have to get a job. I was told, when I went to Memorial Medical Center to apply for a nurse's aide job, I had too much education to be a nurse's aide, and for me to report to Dr. Grant C. Johnson in the laboratory, and maybe they could use me, because I had had three and a half years of college all together. I was very, very fortunate that they did hire me, because I had the biology degree on – on the back burner. And I was able to start working in the laboratory. They had a medical technology school there in the lab, and I became a student, along with Bonnie Kruger, who was from Petersburg. And for one year I studied medical technology. I had to go back to Springfield Junior College for a semester to pick up organic chemistry. And after I completed organic chemistry, I was able to take the registry for medical technology, which I did pass. And I became an M.T., ASCP – medical technology with American Society of Clinical Pathologist. And which I have continued to work at Memorial Medical Center for thirty-eight years as an M.T., ASCP. I work in all departments, take night call, take weekend call; and I'm used to working more or less by myself. Sangamon State came into existence in – I think around 1970, maybe? I was going to become a charter member of Sangamon State, but my mother had cancer. And I did not know how long she would live, so therefore I did not pursue that. But I did continue to work. That was the beginning of knowing that there is a medical technology degree. Sangamon State had set up a 3 and 1 course: three years of college, and one year of on-the-campus teaching. So when the students finished at Sangamon State, after having their 3 and 1 program, they received a medical technology degree.

I did not have a degree at that time. I only had biology as my major. But each one of the departments that I worked in, we had to teach anywhere from six to twelve students. I felt that I should return to school and get my degree. My mother had died, and I thought it would be nice for me to thank my parents for mortgaging their home for me to get an education. My father was still living. So I returned to school at Sangamon State at that time. It was on a quarter system. Then the next year it was on a semester system. So in two years, I was able to pick up my last year, my senior year [and] I received a biology degree at Sangamon State. But later on, Sangamon State became University of Illinois, and I was able to get a degree from the University of Illinois.

Dickerman: Well now that is interesting. I suppose even before you had your degree you were almost teaching the students that were at the hospital, in that – that years of technology experience. I bet you were a teacher?

Goza: I was a teacher from the very first day that I came there. Oh, the first department[s] that I worked in, in the hospital, were EKG – electro-cardiograms – and BMR, that's basal metabolism. But they don't have those anymore. They do have EKGs, but we do not do basal metabolisms anymore. That is a course that was taken over by respiratory therapy. Then I was transferred from there into microbiology. Well, I had had some microbiology, so I was able to do that very well without any problems. I had a course of that in college. But then we went into chemistry. I had had chemistry in college, so it wasn't difficult. My main problem with working in the hospital is that [at that] time we had to make up all of our own solutions. Every solution had to be made by hand. I had never made solutions before, but the men who worked in chemistry were very, very tolerant with my absence of chemistry – making up chemicals; and they were very patient with me, and taught me how to make up reagents. As we became more – we had more people, more patients in the hospital, time did not allow us to make up solutions. We had to start purchasing solutions that were prepared. The workload became much greater. We had the burn unit, and then we had the kidney dialysis unit. And then later on we had open heart. But we always had a blood bank. And I was taught blood banking through Henrietta Knepler, and she and I ran the blood bank for many, many years at Memorial Medical Center. And we ran the blood bank where we had to take donors. You know at one time Springfield had certain organizations who had their own blood bank clubs. And the workers would come to Memorial Medical Center, and to St. John's also, and give us a pint of blood. So we had a very hard time keeping blood on the shelf. I mean all the different types, because there was always somebody needing blood. (*phone rings – break in recording*) As I continue: it was very interesting. I really began to enjoy the work. At that time Memorial Medical Center only had a general wing, and also they had beds in the halls, with the little curtains around them.

The people were very ill, and the hospital had a very, very cold atmosphere. As years went on, I was able to see the A Wing added, the B Wing added, the C Wing added, cardiac surgery, dialysis, burn unit; and the cafeteria was updated. If you can remember: the brewery used to be on Rutledge – Reisch's Brewery. That is now SIU Medical School. So I've seen quite a change with that area. I've watched the ramp that is to the north of Memorial being built. As I worked in the Department of Chemistry, I used to chitchat through the windows with all the workmen as they built that great parking ramp. Then we turned the hospital around. We were no longer on 1st Street when SIU became prominent; and our address was 808 Rutledge. So it's been quite a change. And for some reason, now it's back on 1st Street. So the hospital has gone through a great change. We are now affiliated with the Heritage Manor. I think that is our facility, indirectly. At some point we send patients there for rehabilitation. We also have a dialysis unit on the corner of Calhoun. We have a burn unit on one of the floors. I don't know which one it's on now. It used to be on third floor when I was there. We have an extensive psychiatric ward at Memorial. We have surgery. We just about – well we do all kinds of surgery at Memorial. We're almost like a Barnes Hospital. And that is a very nice thing that you can go to Memorial, see the doctors there, and then you can also be referred to SIU Medical School if the doctors that you are affiliated with want to have you have a little bit better study of your condition. The atmosphere at Memorial has always been very, very pleasant. If you spend thirty-eight years there, that becomes your first home. Your home is no longer your first home; it's your second home.

Dickerman: Now some people that I've talked to on this same project have talked about some discrimination in the hospital. It doesn't sound as if you have felt any on your job, Marian, over the years.

Goza: I never felt discrimination. I really don't know what discrimination is, because I usually get along with all people. However, I have heard the same thing. But I think this may be with patient relation. I only was a medical technologist. My duty was to go to the floors in the morning, pick up blood specimens, and other body specimens, from the patients; return to the laboratory, and perform testing on these specimens. So you see, I did not have what you call a direct contact, day-by-day, with the same patients, because I never knew which floor I would be sent to each day. Sometimes I'd be sent to the nursery. Sometimes I'd be sent to the burn unit. It just varied as to what type of patients were available to be stuck. Also, I became one of the people who had the ability to pick up blood from persons who had small veins. So if you happened to be a person who had been stuck for a blood specimen from a technician who could not obtain the specimen, it was my job to go back to the floor and pick up all the UTOs. UTO means unable to be obtained.

Dickerman: So, I'd like to go back now to when you were in college. It looks as if you must have met your husband, Bob Goza, when you were in Missouri; cause I knew he was from Missouri.

Goza: Well you must remember, I was not used to an African-American setting. And at the time I went to Lincoln University it was all African-Americans. I had come from a Caucasian neighborhood, and all-Caucasian schools. So this was a different practice for me. The campus was beautiful. I had never seen as many African-Americans before. And it was a pleasure to know that there were this race on the continent. I met Robert; he was a blind date to a dance. I had pledged to one of the sororities, and there was a dance that I would like to go to. I had met quite a few of the students on the campus, both male and female, so mostly everyone knew me. I was one of the new girls on campus. And I had asked one of my friends that I knew to try to find me a gentleman just to go to the dance with me. And that's how I met Robert.

Dickerman: So you actually got married when you lived there, in Missouri? It sounds as if you did. Or did you get married in Springfield?

Goza: I was married in Jefferson City, Missouri at the Methodist Church.

Dickerman: And I didn't ask about the church you attended here in Springfield when you were growing up. Is it the same one you attend now?

Goza; I am a member of Union Baptist Church from birth. My mother was on the mother's board, and my father was a deacon. And I was a very active youth in the church; worked in all the youth groups, sang; did everything that I could with the youth. After I was married, my two older – I have four children; I have Cheryl, who is now almost fifty; Michael is forty-eight; Roger is almost forty; and Jeannette is probably thirty-six. My two older children, Michael and Cheryl, became members of Union Baptist Church. My two younger children became members of St. Paul AME Church. Roger was in the Boy Scout troop at St. Paul, and he wanted to join the troop at St. Paul. So he joined the church of St. Paul also. As a result, I changed my membership from Union Baptist to St. Paul. I don't believe in children going to a church, and belonging to a church without having a parent there to assist them in the education of that particular church. My husband Robert is still a member of Union Baptist Church.

Dickerman: Now I'm thinking of all the things you did at Memorial Medical Center professionally; and I think I know that during that time, not only were you raising four children, but you were very active in the Girl Scout movement. Maybe that was when your – well your oldest was a girl. Tell me about that.

Goza: Cheryl, being the oldest child – when she reached George Washington Middle School, I guess she was in the – that was when middle school was sixth, seventh and eighth, I think. I became active in the PTA first, because that was a connection between my daughter, or my children, and the school and the teachers. And I became active in the PTA; became president of the PTA, and served in other capacities at the PTA. I also wanted my daughter to have more community involvement. And Girl Scouts seemed to be a very good way to start, so we joined the Girl Scouts; sold Girl Scout cookies, went camping. And I have been a leader or assistant leader of three troops. When the boys came along, Robert also did the same thing with the boys. Michael joined the Boy Scouts, and he is an Eagle Scout. My son Roger joined the Scouts, and he is also an Eagle Scout. My two girls have reached the first class scouting. And we still are active in Scout, because Jeannette, who is the youngest child, is a scout leader with her son, William.

Dickerman: When you came back to Springfield, have you lived in this house all through these years of your marriage pretty much – on 15th Street?

Goza: No. You know when you leave school and you have children, you have to live with your parents until you have money enough to move away from your parents. So I think Robert and I stayed with my mother for probably about eighteen months, and then we moved out – at 1705 E. Stuart into a three-room apartment upstairs. And then we had another child. So then it was time to look for a larger home. My brother was in real estate, so he was able to locate a home at 1224 E. Monroe; and we lived there for probably about seven years. That house has been torn down, and a beautiful new home now sits on the grounds at 1224 E. Monroe. We have lived here at 823 S. 15th Street for approximately forty-some years. We needed two separate bedrooms. We can't raise children – four children, two boys and two girls – in one bedroom. So it was very, very important that we found a home large enough to accommodate six adults – if we lived that long – and also three bedrooms. And we have lived in this house for almost fifty years.

Dickerman: Have you seen changes in this neighborhood – for good, or for ill? Or what about that?

Goza: When we first came to 823 S. 15th Street – this is a Catholic neighborhood. Sacred Heart Grade School sits on the corner of 12th at Lawrence. And my children all went to Sacred Heart Grade School. We believe in good education for the children. Robert worked days; I worked days and nights. So it was very, very important that our children had parental guidance, and a place to go after school. There were two ladies who lived in the neighborhood – widowed ladies, a Mrs. Thompson and a Mrs. Smith. Michael and Cheryl, the two older children, went to Mrs. Thompson's

house after school. Roger and Jeannette, the two younger children, went to Mrs. Smith's home after school. So I didn't have to worry about parental guidance, because they were their grandmothers, and sometimes they were their mothers. The neighborhood, being Catholic, was very, very quiet, and a very, very nice neighborhood. When Sacred Heart School closed, because of the lack of students; and then the church sort of dwindled down also – the Catholic people started –([*phone rings – brief pause*) The Catholic people started moving out of the neighborhood. And when the Catholic people moved out of the neighborhood, the new neighbors were not as cordial, were not as neat, as we were used to. The property began to become dilapidated. The lawns were not kept. And there was such a different atmosphere in the whole neighborhood. This neighborhood is a nice neighborhood. We've never had any problem – although I have had two break-ins in the home, but they didn't really take anything of importance, because there was never anything here to take of any importance. We don't keep money in the house. We don't keep jewelry in the house. So it was sort of disappointing, I'm sure, to the persons who thought they might find something here. But we have never had any problems here ourselves. We have lived here in this block, and we've had, fortunately, very good neighbors. And have had very good neighbors in this block. The church that is located on the corner of 14th at Lawrence is now in the old Heartland Credit Union that belonged to the Catholic Church; that's its foundation. And a church is now there. That church has bought up property to the north and to the south of my home. So in the 800 block, on the west side of the street, there are only three houses, where there used to be almost ten houses. So the land is a little barren. The church was going to build a new church. And that was seven years ago when they started buying up the property, and they wanted to buy up the entire block. And the three homeowners refused to sell their properties. The church has not started to build a church as yet. There has been no stakes in the ground that they're going to build anyway soon. So we have no idea what is going to happen to the land that belongs to the church. There are sometimes a little bit of confusion in the neighborhood. But I would think that, really, 15th Street is not a bad street to live on. We have seen policemen in the neighborhood, but we have not been directly affected by anything.

Dickerman: What is the name of that church that's thinking of moving in. Maybe you don't know it.

Goza: I think the name is something similar to the Lawrence Avenue Christian Church.

Dickerman: Now let's see, Marian. I'm thinking about other things. You had the scouting activity, the church activity, and PTA, and a full-time job; and going back to Sangamon State – you must have, at that time, had your four

children still around the house. Were – are there other social clubs, or things that you have been connected with?

Goza: As soon as I received my degree from Sangamon State – well I shouldn't say that; I think it was before that – when I first – when I became a medical technologist, I became active in the IMTA, which is Illinois Medical Technology Association. I became active in the ASMT, which is the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. And served as officers in both of those organizations. We went out of town for meetings; we had several conventions. We had one at the Leland Hotel; and we had one later out at Sangamon State, where the sister organization is located in Jacksonville, with the Jacksonville Hospital there, Decatur, Rushville, Taylorville. During that time we all had medical technology clubs, and we all came together every so often to speak about the new trends in medical technology. We had speakers. We had an excellent time. That sort of fits into what the doctors do now when they go to conferences, to keep abreast of the new medical trends. And it was very nice to be able to get acquainted with all these people. We had some of our medical technology friends coming into us from Chicago. And when you live in Chicago, there are so many of the larger hospitals than we ever had in Springfield, Jacksonville, Taylorville and Lincoln. We really thought that we were first-class. They would come and bring their speakers; bring any information that they thought pertinent that would make us aware of any changes. And we greatly appreciated that. So along with the community work, and along with the hospital organizations, I also belonged to a sorority. I'm a member of St. Paul AME Church, of which I am a trustee. With the sorority that I belong to, I have served in several capacities as president, secretary, treasurer, and just plain old member. I'm a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, which is the first black sorority, established in 1906 on the campus of Howard University.

Dickerman: I know that your daughter, Jeannette – have they followed on in that same sorority – your children?

Goza: You don't tell your children what to do. When they go to college, what you want them to do – it's your money, coming out of your pocket; and you want them to get an education. So you don't dictate sororities and fraternities. Fortunately, my oldest daughter, Cheryl, is also an Alpha Kappa Alpha woman. My youngest daughter, Jeannette, is Delta Sigma Theta sorority. My two sons are Phi Beta Sigmas – fraternities. Dad: he's just there; he was a pledgee of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Dickerman: Thank you. And I was thinking: Was your family politically active in any way, over the years? Or you, yourself? I know that Bob Goza's been active in NAACP.

Goza: To my knowledge, neither my mother nor my father were active politically. Politics didn't come into existence, as far as I was concerned, until after I had met Robert, and we had moved to Springfield. You must remember, my husband, Robert, is from Kansas City, Missouri, which is a large, flourishing city. I had been there quite a few times, and I had never been in a city that large, since I had lived in little Springfield. So it was a fast town compared to slow Springfield. Robert had had some political aspirations. I mean he was interested in politics in Kansas City. So when he came to Springfield, naturally, he became interested in politics here. Became a member of the NAACP, in which he is a life member of the NAACP. I am also a life member of the NAACP. And my main concern was to assist Robert with anything he would like for me to do in the NAACP organization. For approximately ten to fifteen years, we traveled each year to the conferences – to the national conference. We drove there, and we had a beautiful time. And we took off from our jobs in the summer, and we'd plan it so that we could be off together; because you know when you work at the hospital, you can't always get the time off when you wanted to. Robert worked for the state of Illinois, in public health, vocational rehabilitation; and he ended up working in mental health when he retired. So we usually would take off two weeks in July, and travel to the NAACP national conventions, and we have been all over the United States just about, except up into the Dakotas. We haven't been up that far. But the rest of the states we have traveled through. My son, Roger, was a precinct committeeman. And I think that kind of spurred his sister Jeannette to become active in politics. That was a different job for me, because I found myself calling people and asking them to vote for him, and receiving calls about conditions in his precinct. He also was supposed to obtain jobs for some of the residents. And he only kept the job—or kept that position for the two-year period.

Dickerman: Do you have any recall, or thoughts, about the time we went into the whole consent decree on school desegregation? I don't know what – where your children were at that time; or if that affected your family, how it did.

Goza: That did not affect my family. We had always been in desegregated schools. Here in Springfield, we had not run into any problems, racially. I cannot remember having to have to go to school for a racial problem for my children, because my children knew not to get into trouble.

Dickerman: Thank you. We're going to go back about when [you] went back to Springfield College.

Goza: When I was a student in medical technology, after I had passed my registry examination – or during that time – I was only making a hundred dollars a month stipend. And that hundred dollars went to take care of

babysitting. After I graduated, and became a medical technologist, my beginning salary was three hundred and fifty dollars a month. So when I left there, after thirty-eight years, I really felt as though I was a rich lady, because I was making quite a bit of money.

Dickerman: Then you might tell also, Marian – you've retired from the hospital, and then you – that wasn't the end of your working days, by any means.

Goza: I retired in 1992, and started working for the Alice Campbell Temporary Services, doing odd jobs until I was hired on at the Illinois Funeral Directors Association. And I stayed there for about seven years – very interesting job, and a pleasure to work there. And I always said my first job was taking care of the living, and then I end up assisting the dead.

Dickerman: And then – now you're taking care of some other living, in grandchildren that are quite part of your life, that I see around town.

Goza: I have three grandchildren at this time. My oldest is Alexander Goza, who is a son of Michael. I have Marian Smith, who is the daughter of Cheryl Goza Smith. And Marian was named after me by her father. And I have William Ferguson, who is the son of Jeannette. Jeannette is the aspiring politician, I guess. She is on the Capital Auditorium Board, the SMEAA Board. She's very active in politics. She tutors children. She will take on any job that you ask her to. She's very vocal; she's very dedicated to giving good service. We have tried to train all of our children, when they are asked to assist with a job, or to help anyone, to step forth. Michael is very active on his job, with the Public Health Department. Michael is in Human Resources. And Cheryl is a librarian at the State Library. We insist that our children work. And each of our children has worked since they have been fifteen years old.

Dickerman: And I do know that your daughter Cheryl Goza Smith has carried on the NAACP tradition.

Goza: I think we all have. We know that wherever daddy needs us, we will be there to help him. So we're all involved in the NAACP.

Dickerman: Thank you, Marian. We're going to talk a little bit about the neighborhood on North Patton Street.

Goza: When I was a kid growing up, MacArthur Boulevard was the boundary line for the west part of town. The other side of MacArthur Boulevard was not developed until much later in life. They used to have Soap Box Derbies on the hill in Douglas Park, and that was a big thrill. That was just like going to the fair. And I don't know if you know what a Soap Box Derby is, or not; but I think it is a car that has been built with the

assistance of Dad or Grandpa or Uncle; and the little boys – young men – would get in these little derbies and coast down the hill. And the winner would get a prize. And so we would all gather on the hill between Calhoun and Jefferson, on MacArthur Boulevard for the Soap Box Derby. Then we had the State Fair. As far as anything else of importance: We did not have McDonalds; we did not have Hardees; we did not have – but we had ice cream parlors. We had the Sangamon Dairy, and we had Producers Dairy. And – but we didn't have all of the luxuries that you have now. We had a downtown also. We all went downtown to purchase our clothes and our shoes. We had a Myers Brothers for a long time. We had a Herndons for a long time. We had a Rolands at one time, but it is no longer there. We used to have a Woolworth and a Grants, and a S.S. Kresge; and we had Walgreens. Well I'm sure you know what happened to Walgreens. It is now just a building for any other thing except a drugstore downtown. We had the Security Federal and Savings building downtown, which I don't know if it is a savings and loan anymore, or if it has become a bank. I don't remember. We did have movies downtown. We had movie theaters downtown. We didn't have to go north, south, east or west in order to get to a movie. We had a lot of movie theaters downtown. And that was how we enjoyed our childhood. We had the State, and the Strand, and the Orpheum, and the Roxy, and the Lincoln, and the Tivoli. And after church on Sundays, we went to the movies. We didn't have x-rated movies either. We had a lot of musicals, a lot of cowboy shoot-em-ups, Roy Rogers – fun-type, family-type things, that many of the children don't have now. And I think, at that time – during those days, there were a lot of us who did not have cars. Only the richer persons had cars. And cars were not expensive. When my husband and I got married, we only paid like five hundred dollars for our first car. You can't even begin to buy a car now for five hundred dollars. And I did not learn to drive until I was twenty-five years old, because my parents didn't have a car. We had to walk, or take the bus. And my father walked to work each day; walked back home to S.S. Kresge from Patton Avenue. We rode buses. The buses were very, very inexpensive, and they were not decorative buses; they did not kneel; they did not kneel because you had arthritis. You just stepped up on the bus and put a little token in the bus, which probably wasn't more than a quarter at that time – a special little token with the S in it. And maybe you bought ten of them for a dollar. It was very, very inexpensive. So you can see: Things have really changed. We had neighborhood grocery stores. We didn't have the filling stations we have now. And we didn't have the buildings scattered around in the neighborhoods like we do now. Jefferson Street – West Jefferson Street was – was not – it was –

[END OF INTERVIEW]