

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

0064: Marshall University Oral History
Collection

Digitized Manuscript Collections

1994

Oral History Interview: Mary Carmichael

Mary Carmichael

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/oral_history

Recommended Citation

Marshall University Special Collections, OH64-511, Huntington, WV.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Manuscript Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in 0064: Marshall University Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Mary Carmichael, the undersigned, of Huntington,
County of _____, State of W.Va., grant, convey,
and transfer to the James E. Morrow Library Associates, a division of the Marshall
University Foundation, INC., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right,
title, interest, and literary property rights in and to my testimony recorded on
June 9, 1994, to be used for scholarly purposes, including study
and rights to reproduction.

- M.C. (initial) Open and usable immediately. (Send copy)
- ~~M.C.~~ (initial) Open and usable after my review. (See review release)
- _____ (initial) Closed for a period of _____ years.
- _____ (initial) Closed for my lifetime.
- _____ (initial) Closed for my lifetime unless special permission is gained from me or my assigns.

DATE: 6/9/94

Mary Carmichael
(Signature - Interviewee)
538 W. 10th Ave
(Address)
Huntington WV 25701
523-5362
(Phone)

DATE: 6/9/94

Christina Kasprzak
(Signature - Interviewer)
2950 Auburn Rd, Huntington WV
(Address)
429-4814
(Phone)



OWENS GLASS HISTORY PROJECT

TAPE #10

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: MARY CARMICHAEL

CONDUCTED BY: CHRISTIE KASPRZAK

DATE OF INTERVIEW: JUNE 9, 1994

Mary: Well, I started out in the corrugated department for cardboards, you know. (Mmm-hmm.) Where they made partitions to go in boxes uh, for different size bottles.

Christie: What year was that did you say?

Mary: In uh, 19 and 43. And uh,...

Christie: How old were you?

Mary: Uh, I was uh, twenty, 21 when I started out. And uh, I worked, I worked uh, by hand o-, on petitions. You had to make little uh, partitions, assemble them by hand, you know. (Mmm-hmm.) On a table when I first went there. Well, they come up to a machine, and after uh, after they got machines in, I went on a machine that made the partition, you know. And you had to put the machine up yourself, you know, whatever it was, for, if it was for aspirin bottle or fingernail polish bottle or uh, or any kind of medicine bottle or a whiskey bottle or a beer bottle or whatever it might be, you know. And uh, you worked with two people. O-, one fed the machine and on-, one took them off after they med-, after you made the partition to go in the carton, you know. (Mmm-hmm.) Uh, two people worked the machine, you know. And uh, each, each different order you had to set the machine up differently for, for that particular order. And uh, I liked, I liked to work at Owens. Uh, I always did like to work at Owens. And uh, I belonged to uh, a club that we had, and uh, I uh, participated in, in uh, I uh, wrote a uh, column for a while in a little paper that we put out. Each uh, week, you know. (Uh-huh.) And uh, I, you could tell about uh, somebody being on vacation or somebody uh, sick or somebody uh, moved up in a job or somebody uh, had a new baby or just, just anything that was news, you know, in my department.

Christie: Did you volunteer to do that or did they ask you to do that?

Mary: No, I volunteered to, to be a writer on my shift. (I see.) I worked uh, A, I worked A and B, and we just had two shifts. Uh, morning and evening, you know. (Mmm-hmm.) And uh, then after uh, now I didn't make the boxes. I didn't make the boxes. I just made the partition that went in the box. And there was people that in the carton assembly that made the boxes. And uh, then after 18 years, automation came in and took my job. And uh, I had to go to the selecting department where you work in glass. And uh, I took part in their uh, in their way of working. And uh, I belonged to their club that was called the Owenettes. And uh, I uh, baked cakes and took money for many, you know, for trips. We'd take trips on our days off. And uh, I uh, make uh, vegetable soup and take and sell. I'd make chili and take and sell. And, and uh, then after I worked uh, as, as a selector, the bottles come down on a machine, well, you used to work on a, on a laher. But it went from a laher to a machine. And you took the bottles off that uh, come down a

conveyor on the machine. And I worked that uh, 13 years, and then for two years I went as a inspector. And my last two years that I worked there, I worked as an inspector. And uh, there, there wasn't, uh, great deal that I can tell about it uh, I don't have, I don't have any old papers or anything 'cause this house is little and I don't have no place to store them. [laugh] And...

Christie: Well, that's all right. Um,...

Mary: It's been a long time since I worked there because...

Christie: When did you retire?

Mary: I retired uh, January the 31st, 1977-, 1978. ('78.) 1978.

Christie: Um, when you mentioned that your job was lost because of automation, did that happen to a lot of people?

Mary: Oh, oh, yeah, it happened to a lot of people. Uh, uh, the younger, we belonged to a union, and the, the younger people had uh, had to move out and leave the, the jobs in the corrugated department for the older people that had seniority over me, you know. And uh, that made me have to go to a different department.

Christie: So did everyone move or did some people have to get laid off?

Mary: No, (inaudible) no, no one got laid off at that time, you know. But as time went on, the plant got lower and lower. They was 2,100 and some when I worked there at first, you know. And it got down to when the plant closed, there was just 600. (Right.) And uh, it used to really, really, really be a good place to work and lots of people, but it just kept getting faster and faster and faster. Got the same production that you did with a lotta people, but you know, how they cut it down this day and time. (Mmm-hmm.) And uh,...

Christie: Did you ever get laid off in any of the times that you worked there?

Mary: I never was laid off in my 35 years that I worked there. I never was laid off.

Christie: Did you ever go on strike when you were in the union?

Mary: Yes, we went on strike one time, one time when, I was on strike 51 days one time.

Christie: Do you remember what that was for?

Mary: Uh, for a raise. And for uh, insurance and for uh, different things, you know. Better working conditions and uh,...

Christie: Were there poor working conditions that you wanted changed or do you remember?

Mary: Well, I really don't, don't remember back that, back that far. [laugh] Really uh, but uh, I, I did like a union because uh, you uh, wasn't uh, you wasn't uh, kicked about with a union like you would be if you didn't have a union. But uh, people that, well, were trying to break the union this day and time because uh, they're, they try to go too far with it, I think. Really. But uh...

Christie: With the benefits? (Pardon?) They try to go too far with the benefits?

Mary: Uh, they, I mean, the union as a whole now through everybody's job. Not just Owens-Illinois but everywhere. Just like the coal miners was out forever. But they finally went back. (Yeah.) But I guess they got what they wanted or they wouldn't have went back.

Christie: Well, were you active in the union?

Mary: Oh ye-, (Did you go to meetings and all?) Oh yes, we had meetings, yes, we had meetings.

Christie: And you wer-, you went to most of those?

Mary: I went to those meetings. Sure I did. (Keep on top of what was going on?) To keep in touch of wha-, what was, going on. To...

Christie: You work-, did you work shifts the whole time you were there?

Mary: Yes, yes, when I went to the, when I went to the selecting department, when automation put me outta the corrugated department, and I went to the selecting department, I worked uh, there was A, B, C and D. And I got on C shift. And I worked C, C shift the whole 17 years that I was there until retired. Uh, my husband worked there, and he, he worked in the selecting department uh, too. But he...(Selecting?) Selecting. (Selecting.) And he was a inspector. And uh, uh, I got to work with him until he passed away. He passed away uh, in 1977. He's been dead, it'll be 17 years this coming October the 12th. And uh, I didn't have no children. And uh...

Christie: How did you feel about working in the same department as your husband?

Mary: Oh, I loved it. I loved it because when we had days off, we could go places, you know, and we loved ball games and we'd go to Cincinnati and see the Reds play. And...

Christie: How did your um, working on shifts affect your being home 'cause you were home at different...(Uh-huh.)...strange

hours...(We...)...weren't you?

Mary: Yes, I, I prepared his meals and left and, and uh, wrote him notes and called him on the telephone and things like that when, when we, when I worked in the, the corrugated department. I worked two shifts, and he worked three, you know. It was uh, it was hard at that time. But the last 15 years was real good.

Christie: And that's because you had a more steady schedule or did it just...? Why was it better?

Mary: Well, because I worked with him and uh, we could have our meals together...(Oh I see.)...and go places together. (Right.) And do, do the work and, and everything. And I my own work. I didn't have no hired girl or nothing.

Christie: Well, that's great. Well, um, did you spend some of your free time with the other girls on your shift?

Mary: Oh sure.

Christie: Were, were they all, were they all women on your shift?

Mary: Uh-huh. They, they was all women uh, that worked in the selecting that took the bottles off, you know. (Okay.) And uh, but uh, now uh, they was me and there was laher tenants that took our cartons of ware off and stacked it on our trailer, you know. We didn't have to do that.

Christie: I see. So you did spend some of your free time though with, with your shift? Other ladies on your shift?

Mary: Yes, uh, we had, we had uh, we had uh, we had 30 minutes for uh, lunch and uh, we had a card that we'd ring for our time. And we all went at different times and we had a cafeteria and we would go to the cafeteria or we could take our lunch. But uh, I was glad to take my lunch because uh, by the time you went to the cafeteer and the line in front of you, uh, you didn't have much time to eat. I'll tell you. And I liked to take my lunch and just go in the lounge and sit down and eat and go to the restroom and...

Christie: Was there a certain lounge for...(Oh yeah.)...your department?

Mary: The-, they was a lounge for the ladies that go have their...See we had a 10-minute break for coffee in the morning. And we had uh, a 30-minute break for lunch and we had a 20-minute break for in the evening so we could go to the restroom, you know. But uh, you know, they were lenient uh, if you had to go to the restroom uh, for something, you know, uh, they would get a girl to relieve you long enough to go, you know. But they didn't want you to go back there and stay no 20 minutes or 30. They just expect you

to go back there and go to the restroom if you had to go or something. And get back out there.

Christie: Did they keep close track of your time or...?

Mary: Oh sure. They kept track of our time because uh, they wanted us to work. (laugh) That's what they hired us for. And I hired in at 58 cents an hour. (Wow.) That's right. Fifty-eight, 58 cents an hour.

Christie: And that wa-, but that was in the corrugated or in the...?

Mary: That was in the corrugated department and I hired in in 1943. May the 20th.

Christie: Now when you uh, were promoted to be an inspector, was that a big change?

Mary: Oh yeah. That was a, that was a big difference in the pay, you know, like two dollars on the hour. Uh, like where I was making five-something an hour, I'd make seven-something an hour on, in selecting, I mean, on inspecting. And uh, the men made more than the women 'til it got equal rights. And after it got equal rights, why um, women make about as much as the men. (In all the departments?) No, not in all the departments. It's [inaudible] depended on where you worked. The men worked in the hot end. They was the ones that uh, made the bottles, you know. And they wor-, they worked with the heat, you know. Real hot and they, they had to be relieved uh, every 15 minutes because it's so hot you couldn't stand it. And they had uh, uh, oh I guess you'd call it uh, bars that they held them bottles with. You couldn't hold them with your hands. And when they'd come from the hot end out to us, they was cool enough we could handle them, see. Because they come down that long conveyor. (Mmm-hmm.) You understand what I'm talking about? (Yeah. I've seen it just.) Oh have you? (I went in the plant once before it closed...) Oh did you? (So I got a quick look at the process.) Oh did you? (Even though I didn't know that much about it.) Uh-huh.

Christie: So the-, there were all men in that department? There weren't any women in, at the hot end?

Mary: Not that, they never was a woman worked in the hot end, I don't think. I don't think they was.

Christie: In corrugated department, there were both men and women? Is that right?

Mary: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Christie: And then the selecting was all...

Mary: The men, the men, the men uh, uh, [inaudible]... the cardboard that made the, the uh, carton. And then it went to the carton assembly. And uh, the men and women in the carton assembly made it and sent it down a chute to us to put uh, they put the partition in the box up there. And then when it came down to us, we put ware in the petition. (Okay.) But uh, it's like uh, our last uh, excuse me. I'll show you. Uh, it's like our last uh, dinner. We always had dinners, you know. At our last uh, dinner, they gave us uh, in December when the plant was closing...(Mmm-hmm.)...they, they gave us a whiskey bottle for a souvenir. Course, now I'll tell you, [inaudible] ...sizes of whiskey bottles. (Oh how nice.) It's in different sizes, the whiskey bottles. Even made them up to a half gallon. Not, not made in that pattern, but in different patterns, you know. (Mmm-hmm. That's beautiful.) Uh, uh, some of them uh, put colored uh, water in it, you know. But I, I never have put nothing colored in mine 'cause I was afraid it might [inaudible].

Christie: So the dinner in December was for everyone, not just people who were still working?

Mary: Oh yes, oh yes. It was for the whole plant. It was for the whole plant. (laugh) Excuse me. (Mmm-hmm.)

Christie: Do you remember what, what made you decide to start working there?

Mary: Do I remember what?

Christie: Why you started working there in the first place?

Mary: Well, I was working at the Pilgrim Laundry, and I wasn't making very much money. And uh, there was a war going on, of course. And it was hard to change jobs. And uh, I knew Bob Buscort and Thelma Buscort, they was man and wife. And uh, Thelma, his wife, worked with me, and I went to uh, Owens and put in a, a _____ to be interviewed and believe it or not, I got called. And when I got called, instead of being sent to the selecting where I'd a liked to been sent in the first place, I was sent to the corrugated department. And uh, of course, I made the same amount of money, you know. But uh, I, I made uh, uh, bonus when I worked in the corrugated department. And every hour's bonus that you made that was the same as being paid a hour that you worked for your eight hours, you know. (Uh-huh.) And boy, I really went for that bonus. I, I worked hard. And you was paid every two weeks and sometimes, I'd have as high as 50 hours of bonus, you know. And you get 50, 50 hours of pay on bonus, you know. (That's great. Wow.) I, I really liked that.

Christie: That was only in the corrugated department?

Mary: Uh, no they did it in the selecting too, but uh, they had

done away with uh, the bonus when I went to selecting. Uh,...

Christie: Was that one of the cutbacks they had?

Mary: That, that was uh, they did away with it, you know. But you had to work just as hard just the same anyway. 'Cause uh, 'cause you couldn't, you couldn't let them bottles uh, pile up on you because uh, they would, it would ruin them, you know. And uh, they'd have to be sent back for a r-, a re-, uh, a re-, uh, burn and everything. And be made over. And they didn't, they didn't want that. That was for sure.

Christie: So you had to stand all the time that you were working?

Mary: Oh yes. I had to stand on concrete all the time.

Christie: Was that hard on your...legs and feet?

Mary: That was hard on my feet. You better believe. I always had to wear real, real, real, real expensive sporting shoes. Now some of them would come out there uh, in good looking little old sandals and things to make them look uh, neat, you know. But I was one that couldn't do it on account of my feet. And uh, when I went, when I was hired in, I had to wear a uniform, and they were blue, buttoned up and down the front and had a white collar on them. And uh, they issued you so many. And I'd come in and I'd wash my uniform every shift I got off of. I'd wash my uniform, and every shift I went on, I'd go out with a, a brand, clean, ironed uniform. But the dust in the corrugated department just covered you up and they had a hose on a, on a post that uh, you could take and it had electric, you know, and you could take that hose and blow the most of that there um, uh, dust off of you, you know. (I see.) But uh, in the summer time when you perspired, it didn't blow off very good. (laugh)

Christie: So it was a real dirty kind of job too sometimes?

Mary: Yes, it was. It was real dirty, and you sure did have to take a bath and clean up when you got home. Course, you didn't want to wear your uniform when you got home anyway. You wanted to go into your regular clothes.

Christie: Do you still have problems with your feet because of that?

Mary: Oh yes, I, I have problems and uh, I had to buy expensive shoes and uh, I, I go to the foot doctor quite often. It's been about two months since I went. And my heel hurts and he gave me a cortisone shot in it, and boy it really helped it. I haven't had to go back, it's been a little bit over two months now. (Hmm.)

Christie: What about your back? You said that that was bothering you. Does that have to do with years of standing up?

Mary: I, I, I don't know uh, I worked hard and I didn't, I had uh, a vertebrae that was outta place and Dr. _____ operated on me and fixed that vertebrae back and everything and uh, that was after I uh, after I retired though. After I retired from Owens-Illinois. And uh, I've had trouble with my back every since. They say, they say it's mostly arthritis now, and I go to Polly Cunningham, Dr. Polly Cunningham up at 20th Street. Uh, I go Monday. And she's got me on uh, medicine for my back, and uh, it uh, makes uh, I take menthol for it, and it makes places on me, you know. (Oh. I see red spots on your arm.) It ma-, if you hit it just the least little old, just the least little old thing will make a place on it. (Huh.)

Christie: So you said you were working there during the war. Um, do you remember about the war...and how that affected you?

Mary: Yes, uh, what I started to tell you. Uh, you couldn't hardly leave one job and go to another one. And when I left the um, when I left the, the Pilgrim Laundry, I told them that I was a going to a job that uh, would support the, the war, you know. Support the war.

Christie: What ways was Owens supporting the war?

Mary: Uh, well, we sent food over in, in things, in, in our containers, you know. (Right.) And uh, uh, they just wasn't as many people to, they wasn't no men; they was all, all in the service just about. They was hard, hard to get somebody to, to work a job, you know. (Mmm-hmm.)

Christie: So they were hiring a lot more women at the time?

Mary: Mmm-hmm. Mmm-hmm.

Christie: Were they hiring women in jobs that were usually done by men?

Mary: No, no, no, no then, but they, they did before, before the plant closed they did. But they didn't then.

Christie: Were they also hiring um, more blacks then too...the war?

Mary: No, they, they never did hire very many black people because they had, I'll tell you why. They had so many people and they kept laying off and laying off and laying off, from 2100 to finally got down to 600. But the-, they didn't hire. They laid off. And if they got uh, to where they had to have uh, somebody to do a job, they called back the oldest person that was laid off, see. (Your seniority?) Seniority. (I see.) Mmm-hmm.

the women, not the men, just the women. And uh, we have a luncheon every fourth Thursday in the month. And we try to go to some place different every time. Now last time we went to uh, uh, Red Lobster, and this time we're, this coming fourth Thursday in the month, we're going to uh, uh, the mall to uh, at restaurant up there, that good restaurant up there. What's the name of that there, that good restaurant up there? Austin...

Austin: Yes.

Mary: What's the name of that there restaurant we're going to uh, uh, up at the mall uh,...

Austin: Well, I didn't know you was going.

Mary: Well, you know...

Austin: Morrison's.

Mary: Morrison's, Morrison's,...(Oh okay.) Morrison's.

Austin: That's the only one up there.

Mary: No, they have fast food places up there now.

Austin: Well, those were not really restaurants.

Mary: And, and they well, that's where...

Austin: Am I right or wrong?

Mary: And uh, that's where we're going this, this time. And uh, we go to Milton sometimes. We usually try to keep in the city, you know. Where we can give the city our business. Uh, just for, you know, patriotic of it. (Mmm-hmm.)

Christie: So your sister worked there and your husband worked there. (Uh-huh.) Did you have other family, anyone else work there?

Mary: Well, my sister-in-law and her husband worked there. My husband's sister worked there and her husband worked there uh, but uh, my sister-in-law, when she had to be laid off due to automation, she quit. She wouldn't go to the selecting and work in the glass after she worked in cardboard all them years. She just quit. Her husband, her husband had got a better job as a truck driver and uh, she didn't have to work, you know. It wasn't like somebody that had to work.

Christie: Now when you were in the union, was the union all women, too?

Mary: O-, o-, over the men and the women both. (It...okay, I

thought they had separate unions.) Uh, they might have had separate unions uh, at first but uh, there at the last, why it was equal rights and it was all the same.

Christie: And um, what about the supervisors that you had? How did you, did you get along with them? Were they, were they men? All the supervisors?

Mary: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Uh-huh, uh-huh. Uh, I always liked my supervisors, and I always liked my bosses. Uh, see there was a supervisor over the boss, and I always liked my bosses. And uh, I never had, I never had no trouble. I never had, I never had no trouble in my 35 years that I worked there. I never had no run-ins or anything. Because uh, I went there to make a living and I made a living there, and uh, I didn't fuss and carry on with them and everything. They was good to me, and I was good to them. I worked my days all. I, I never did uh, work a lotta doubles 'cause I was just the type of person that uh, I worked at home and I worked there and everything. And I, I worked 14 hours a lotta times, but I never did work very many doubles. [inaudible] Some of them worked triples. (Yeah. It'd be hard to get anything else done, you know, your hea-, taking care of your health.) That's right. (And your life.) And gee whiz, work uh, work hard like I did for that there bonus, why you couldn't do it.

Christie: Did you find it, did you find that you didn't really have a lotta free time?

Mary: Oh you never did have no free time, honey. (Yeah.) Never did have no free time. You was always on that break 10 minutes, 30 minutes and 20 minutes. And that's all the breaks you got in 8 hours.

Christie: And what time did you get home in the afternoon?

Mary: Three o'clock if I went to work at seven. I always went to work at seven in the morning and got home at three, got off at three, you know. (Mmm-hmm.) And uh, then uh, when you went to work at three, you got off at eleven and come in at eleven o'clock in the night, you know. But when you worked the, when you worked three shifts, uh, you went to work at uh, seven in the morning and off at three at night. And then you went to work at eleven, eleven of the evening, of a day and off at, went to work at three in the evening and off at eleven at night and then you went to work at eleven at night and off at seven in the morning.

Christie: So they would work around the clock?

Mary: That was around the clock, you worked around the clock.

Christie: Wow. Huh. I can't imagine putting in that many hours in one day. But you have never done that? (No. No.) No, that....So

what did you, what did you do in your evenings when you got home?

Mary: I cooked and washed and ironed and mopped and run the sweeper and or did what have you. (Yeah.) I always done, done my work.

Christie: Did you ever go out with um, with any ladies at the plant? Out for some evenings with them or anything that...[inaudible]

Mary: Well, I did after my husband died, but I, I, I wasn't too bad to go out with them or anything, you know. And my husband not go. Uh, I've had uh, when I worked in the corrugated department, I've had uh, my shift of women, like there'd be uh, 12 or 15 or 20 or something like that, at my house, but I didn't live here. I've just lived here 40-some years. 41 or 2 years. I was first to own this here house. Uh, I bought it brand new, you know. And the reason I bought it was that my husband worked three shifts and I worked two and we didn't go together and I can't drive. I never did learn to drive, and he could drive. And uh, maybe he could pick me up or take me to work according to how our, how, how it was, you know. And then sometimes I would have to walk or get a bus or a cab or somebody to bring me home or something and uh, see here it's so close to Owens-Illinois I could walk home. (Mmm-hmm.) I could, I could walk to and from, to and from work myself, you know. (Right.)

Christie: Well, you're only how far away? Less than a mile, right?

Mary: How far do I live from Owens-Illinois? (Mmm-hmm.) Well, I'm on 10th Avenue and it's your other avenue right over. It's 9th Avenue. And Owens-Illinois is built and comes right down by 9th Avenue. (Yeah.) Up at 5th Street. Up at 5th Street, Owens, the front is up at 5th Street. (Right.) And uh,

Christie: So maybe about five blocks.

Mary: No, I didn't have to walk but about three blocks. (Hmm.) About three blocks is all I had to walk.

Christie: So you had all these ladies over to your house from your shift?

Mary: Oh I-, I'd have like uh, cake and ice cream or something like that or, or maybe I'd uh, fix uh, a covered dish, I mean, have a covered dish and let them each one bring something or [inaudible].... I never did do that after I moved here because this house is always too small to do that. I did that when I lived in rented houses. I lived at 809 6th Street...[inaudible]...big house, you know. And uh, it had a upstairs and a downstairs and I had a big dining room and a big kitchen.

Christie: So a lot of the ladies were pretty close?

Mary: Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh. Especially in the corrugated. (Why is that?) Well, there wasn't as many people worked in the corrugated as they was in the selecting. (Oh.) A lot of people worked in the selecting. And there wasn't, wasn't that many worked in the corrugated. (Mmm-hmm.) It was like a family in the corrugated department.

Christie: But there was, there was men and women in the corrugated, but just the women would ge-, come to the social events?

Mary: Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh. I never did have the men.

Christie: Do you have any particular friends that you still keep in touch with that you had then? I know you said you still go at one-, once a month.

Mary: Yeah. I know all those that go once a month.

Christie: Were they in the selecting department with you?

Mary: Yes. About everyone of them, I think, I don't think there is any from the corrugated that goes, that I go with. Uh, now to that retirement dinner, luncheon, I don't think there's any, any from the corrugated. Only Rebecca Ray that worked there 45 years that we still uh, we're still good friends and go out once a week and eat. Anything you can think of.

Christie: [laugh] Well, um, how 'bout your retirement? Um, when you retired...

Mary: When I retired, they had at the clubhouse, see, they had a clubhouse up here. Owens-Illinois had a clubhouse. And uh, they'd cook a big meal and invited the whole shift, men and women. To uh, go to my retirement club party and I got to take my family. And uh, it had like uh, bacon and gravy and mashed potatoes and green beans and cole slaw and rolls and what have you. They always had you a good dinner, but they got to when they didn't do that, you know, on the _____. Uh, before the plant closed. (Oh yeah.) But that's when I retired back in '78.

Christie: So um, do you still get benefits from the retirement?

Mary: Oh yeah. I get, I get...[inaudible]...I get uh, a pension for my retirement. (And also medical benefits?) And medical benefits. I have \$100,000 insurance that at the end of the year, you know, you can turn in where you went to the doctor and everything. They paid for your medicine. Now last year, I had uh, \$2700 worth of medicine. (Wow.) And uh, I turned it in and got uh, back uh, \$1800 and some dollars. [inaudible]

Christie: Well, that sounds good. What about your husband? Even though he passed away, what happens to his pension? Do you get some of that?

Mary: No, no, no, no, no, no....[inaudible]

Christie: Did he retire?

Mary: No, he didn't retire. He died working. (He died before he...?) (Did he die at work?) No. He almost. (inaudible) He uh, he uh, [inaudible]. He had cancer and it...[inaudible]...it just spread all over him. And uh,he...found out that he had it in August. And he died in uh, in October.

Christie: How'd he feel about work? Did he like working at Owens?

Mary: Oh, he loved it. I loved it. I got along with people. I loved working at Owens. They told me at the last they didn't like to work at Owens because it was automation and this, that and the other. Hard to do, but they was no corrugated. It's finally done away with. There wasn't no corrugated department when the plant shut down. (Right. I had heard that.) They did away with it and had cartons shipped in from other plants.

Christie: So the people that were there recently just weren't enjoying the work as much.

Mary: No, uh-huh. Uh-huh. That's what I've heard. (Hmm.) It just wasn't enjoyable like it once was.

Christie: Yeah. I think, from what I heard, they cut back a lot of the social activities.

Mary: Uh-huh, they did. They did. They did. They didn't even give me my, a dinner when they retired or anything, on the lahr. (Mmm-hmm.)

Christie: Didn't they have sports teams? In the early years?

Mary: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. (Did you or your husband play?) My husband played uh, golf and he also played uh, uh, baseball. But uh, me, I bowled. (Did you?) I used to bowl. (and you also wrote the newspaper) Yeah, and I wrote a column for the newspaper.

Christie: Well, that's just about all the questions I have. Um, at the beginning, I forgot to ask you um, when you were born.

Mary: I was born in uh, January the firs-, January the 12th, 19 and 20. (1920?) 1920. (Were you born here in Huntington?) No, I was born in Wayne County. (In Wayne County? When did you move to Huntington?) Uh, I left uh, when I graduated from high school in uh, 1941 and I worked at Pilgrim Laundry uh, when I, when I got

the, when I left uh, Wayne County. I worked at Pilgrim Laundry before I got the job at Owens. And then after I got the job at ens, I, I...[inaudible]

Christie: Okay, well, that's all. Unless there's anything else you wanted to tell me that I've forgotten to ask.

Mary: Well, I, I don't know of much I can, much I can tell you. I told you about everything that, that I participated in. And I worked and got paid.

Christie: All the ladies that go out every Thursday, they were all hourly workers right in your department?

Mary: Wha-, oh yeah. (inaudible) No uh, we don't uh, we don't take the office people. It's hourly paid people that go to our parties. Office people don't go to our parties. (Kind of separated?)

Christie: Okay, well, that's all. I'm so glad you had time to sit and talk to me.

Christie: Interview was conducted June 9th, 1994 with Mrs. Mary Carmichael.

END OF INTERVIEW