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ABSTRACT

This document presents an oral history project in which 34 residents of Munice, Indiana were interviewed about their experiences and memories of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. The project was conducted by the members of an Honors United States History class at Munice Southside High School. The students designed the interview instrument, selected the people to be interviewed, and interviewed them using tape recorders. Written transcripts were then composed into a readable format. The document contains a 16-item bibliography and appendices (participant letter, release form, interview log sheet, and interview questionnaire). (DB)

MUNCIE REMEMBERS

THAT DAY OF INFAMY

by

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MUNCIE, INDIANA

1993

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PREFACE

World War Two was an exciting and apocalyptic event of twentieth century United States History. The participants who remember the attack on Pearl Harbor are now in their sixties and seventies. This oral history project is an attempt to preserve a small segment of that historical period as viewed through the eyes, experiences, and memories of those participants from Muncie, Indiana. Capturing the experiences and memories of those people on tape is essential because in a very short period of time, they will be forever gone from our midst. If historians do not document just a small portion of this unique generation's collective memory of World War Two, it will be forever lost. People of that generation vividly remember what they were doing when they first heard about the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor. The surprise attack has had a lasting impact upon the historical psyche of Americans in particular and upon America in general. That day of infamy, December 7, 1941, has left an indelible mark upon the lives of millions of Americans which composed that remarkable generation.

"Muncie Remembers That Day Of Infamy," is an oral history project by Dr. Carl R. Siler's Honors United States History class at Muncie Southside High School in Muncie, Indiana during the 1992-1993 school year. The project was partially funded by a grant from the Robert P. Bell Fund for Educational Grants of The Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Inc.

An oral history project utilizing local history is an exciting method of allowing students to "experience" history first hand thereby making history class a more valuable learning experience and places local history within the overall perspective of United States History. Oral history adds to the collective knowledge of local and national history because it documents citizen's participation in important events and aspects of World War Two.

The students designed the interview instrument, selected the people to be interviewed, and interviewed them using a tape recorder. Written transcripts were then composed from the tapes into a readable format. Copies of the finished book will be donated to local school and public libraries, Ball State University Library, Minnetrista Cultural Center Library, Indiana State Library, and the Library of Congress.

I wish to personally thank the members of the class for their involvement and dedication to this project: Heather Brant, Stacey Chambers, Gant Haverstick, Chad Huffman, Matt Lowe, Molly Mertz, Marla Miller, Joy Riley, and James Savage. Also, deserving a thank you are Mr. Jim Bailey for his audio-visual expertise, The Community Foundation of Muncie, Dr. Sam Abram and the Muncie Community Schools for the system's help, and most importantly the participants of that marvelous generation who successfully fought World War Two and helped this wonderful country retain the freedoms for future generations.

Hopefully other classes and students will undertake this type of project

because if the voices of past participants are not captured on tape, a vast and cumulative abundance of historical knowledge will be forever lost. History is the cumulative remembrances and experiences of millions of "common" Americans, and students of this generation need to understand that the collective nature of these human experiences is truly the essence of American History.

Dr. Carl R. Siler

June, 1993

INTERVIEWS

Donna Pittinger was age fourteen at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack and was living at home with her parents in Muncie, Indiana.

Let's see, it was, as well as I can remember, it was on a Sunday afternoon, and I was listening to the radio. Um, I'm not sure what program I was listening to. I'm sure it was probably music. I was fourteen years old and ah it came, it broke in to the program that I was listening to and the president came on and said that war had been declared on Japan and it frightened me. I can just remember, I think I probably got chills all over and or the first thing I thought about was probably that my father would have to go to war and ah I can remember, and I'm not sure that even, I had ah sister and two brothers and I'm not sure that any of them were in the room, but I, I think I probably ran to my parents to tell them and t. n I think I called friends to see if they've heard or, if they've listened to the radio and heard any of the news and ah, but anyway it was, to me it was a real scary time.

I don't know [about her feelings after hearing of the attack], it's just like I said before though, I had chills you know, and just, and to think Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor and I guess I really didn't realize how close Pearl Harbor was to our country. I knew it was close and I knew that I thought, what if it came over here to Indiana I suppose, and then again I was concerned of my parents and my father, that he might have to go to war himself.

That [how her parents reacted] I can't really tell you cause I don't remember. No, [about the war being a concern among friends] I don't think so. I, it was just, I really don't remember too many things before and we were in, we were at war with Germany, but, it didn't register until we knew that they had bombed Pearl Harbor.

Gee, I don't really, can't really tell you that either, [if it was a big concern to everyone] being fourteen years old. I just can't really remember that much about it, other than I'm sure that we, everybody, but that it was the topic of conversation, everybody was talking about it and of course as time went on then I had friends, school chums, who joined the service. A lot of things happened after that but, but I think of course everybody was scared to death.

Well, I mean, I was very bitter [towards the Japanese]. You know, you just hated them almost for what they did to our, to Pearl Harbor. I had a lot of dislike for them right away, I think. How could they do something like that?

[Before the attack] Oh, no, I never even thought about it [the war]. I mean no, I never even, I just didn't think about it. Even when we were at war with Germany it really wasn't that big of a concern because it seemed so far, far away that it would never, anything would get, a war wouldn't come that close to us, but no, I never thought much about it til, then after Pearl Harbor

and then the, the things we had to go through because of, and I'm not sure if that's some of the questions you are going to ask later or not but rations, we had, gas was rationed and we had to have food stamps, um shoot, we had to have stamps to buy shoes, to go buy a pair, you had to, they were rationed you know, but then again I don't remember a lot of sacrifices except for gas rationing and not being able to buy shoes.

It lasted several years too. We had friends who were in the service and who were killed and when I was in school some of them were seniors, juniors and seniors, that quit school to join the army or the air force or whatever and some of them came back with, but some did not come back, a lot of them. I had a personal friend that was killed in the air force. Um, it was tough, tough years.

There was nothing we had lived through before World War II, so that was a real big happening for us because, you know, World War I, which since then we've had several, you know, not world war, but wars constantly and so for us to have a whole world war, it was quite an experience.

See, I was the oldest in my family, but, but my two brothers were much younger, but then as time went on then they were in the Korean War. No, [my father didn't have to go to war] I think it was probably because he had four children. [Discussion of why her father didn't have to go.] I know but if my father was just thirty..., see I was fourteen, he was only 34, 35 years old, he

could have very well, I'm not sure what the break off age was then, maybe it was 36 or 37 and I think he was on the borderline, but we were glad that he didn't have to go.

[Did your parents discuss the war with you?] I think that was in a time too, at least in some of our families that children really weren't involved in adult conversations. I mean you know, we were old enough to probably understand a lot of things but parents didn't think we were. The discussion was never too much between parents and children. At least not in our family.

Yes, [it was a family ritual to listen to the radio] on Sunday evening we always listened to "One Man's Family." We would all sit around the radio and listen to "One Man's Family."

Eileen Clark was 23 at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. She has lived in Muncie all of her life and retired from being an elementary school teacher.

I heard the very first radio communication. It was on a Sunday afternoon, November or I mean December 7, 1941. My husband and I, it was the sixth month anniversary of our marriage, and my parents, my father and my mother and my husband and I were taking a ride and we were on 67 South at Tomlinson Cemetery and my mother and father were discussing the fact that they thought that's where they wanted to be buried and I said, "Hey, be still everybody. Listen to this." We heard the announcement, they broke in and says, "there has been a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. For those of you who don't know, you know, it's in Hawaii." And every--from then on--everything on the radio the rest of the day, we were terrified because of what it was and I was already upset because I knew my dad was ill, in fact he died within--he died about seven months later, but I was also frightened because my husband would probably have to go to the war.

I was scared because I had never lived through a war and I had heard the horrors of War World I and since my husband was a strong healthy man I thought, "he'll have to go to war." That's, the, the draft was already had been in process since 1940, but he had been exempt from the draft because, we, he kept, took care of his dad, and when his dad died they asked him if he would be married again or if he was planning to get married and he said "Yes,"

and the man said, "Well if you do not want your draft status changed, you get married right away," so we got married within a few days of when he told him that. He [my husband] was called [to war], but rejected because of a heart murmur.

Ah, I would say everybody was frightened [after hearing of the attack]. I went to church that night alone and that's [the war] all everybody talked about and the preacher talked about it and we had special prayer for the people who had been in, you know. We already knew, many reports kept coming in about how many people were, the people were being killed and how awful it was and it was a very somber mood.

Well I was furious at them [the Japanese]. I, I thought how sneaky because history shows that just a few days or weeks before some Japanese representatives had been here pretending to make friends with us.

Well, I think I've already explained that I was pretty sure that my husband would have to go to war. I was very frightened about it. I was frightened about all my friends that I, the kids I had gone to high school with. I knew that many of them would have to go. I didn't have any brothers, but I had cousins that I knew would be involved. I was already concerned because the war was already in Europe and I had friends who were already in the service and we were really expecting the war to be the Hitler war. The Japanese attack was a total surprise.

Rex Pittinger was twelve years old and lived at Cowan at the time.

Ok, well at the time I was twelve years old and I know we had the radio on. I was in the living room, I can remember that. I don't know what we were listening to or what else was on, but they broke in and said that Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. This was approximately one o'clock in the afternoon. We usually listened to music. I can't remember what kinds of other programs, always had the news, listened to the news, but we didn't have any T.V. then.

Well, I was kind of scared. Before I had not thought too much about it, but when they bombed Pearl Harbor, then you think "Are they going to hit mainland next and were we going to be invaded next?" It was really frightening to me to think my own home might be bombed. Oh, [parents] they were worried cause this was getting close to home and in our, what lifetime I'd had, was twelve years, course my mother and father, we had never had anything like that happen to our country. Well, they didn't really discuss it [what was going on] with me, they, I would hear them discussing it among themselves, you know.

Well, I can't say for Muncie because I didn't live there at that time, but in the community I was in, everybody was quite concerned. Like I said before, this had never hit home like at Pearl Harbor. War was in Europe and we never thought about it coming to the United States until they attacked Pearl Harbor.

Well, I don't know whether you could say hatred, but you sure, you sure didn't have any liking for them. To think that they were killing our people. It was very upsetting.

Well, course we were already going hardships as far as, gasoline was rationed, shoes were rationed, a lot of food items were rationed, but like I said, this with Japan really brought it closer to home than in Europe. Oh, I guess I was more scared after that happened than before. It was more of a reality. It was closer to home. Ah, you know, you were afraid maybe it was going to be your own home next.

Like I said, I was only twelve with Pearl Harbor so I had, I wasn't really concerned about having to go to the service right away. It was scary. [Father getting drafted] I was lucky there. My father didn't have to go. I don't know, I can't remember with my dad.

Willie Riley, working in the restaurant, Weaver's Lunch, was a nineteen year old woman who lived with her aunt and uncle in the apartment above the same restaurant where she was employed.

Well, I was working as a waitress in the restaurant over there by Ball Brothers, where I had worked since I first came to Muncie. I guess they heard it on the, at the factories, the men all came running in, you know, the restaurant talking about Pearl Harbor and how it had been bombed but I didn't have no idea even what Pearl Harbor was at that time.

It was kinda scary and...because I remember there was a lot of excitement and it seemed like everybody was excited about it so I thought it must be something pretty bad, cause I, that would be the first war that I had known of the United States being involved in. The boys, uh, you know, was a saying, the young men a saying that they thought that they would probably have to go and being involved in the war and leave their jobs and some left their families and uh, just a lot of discussion that day.

I didn't feel very good about it or the Japanese, course when your nineteen years old, I guess, at least I wasn't that familiar with Japan or the United States or their relationship or anything at that time but I guess I was, I thought it was terrible and everybody was talking about what they was gonna do to the Jap's and everything, you know. Well, I didn't think too much about it at the time because I thought the United States was the strongest

country in the world, you know, and I figured we'd take care of it which we did but there was uh, I had two brothers who had to go so I was concerned after they went, you know, for their safety, but they came back all right.

It was just a time of waiting and listening. I listened to Edward R. Morrow every night on the radio, he was a foreign war correspondent, to get the news and I was glad when it was over with. We also listened to President Roosevelt, he had his fire-side chats, you know, and every once in a while he would come on and tell us how everything was going. I can just hear him now, his voice, he was a powerful man. We all thought he was just a powerful man at that time.

Kathelene Rainey was a 22 year old, married housewife. She had two children and was expecting a third at the time.

Well, we were visiting my parents and my brother, Ora had heard it on his radio and came truckin' down to tell us the news. He was a World War I veteran and oh, was he upset. I don't believe I ever saw him so upset and course the reason, he was upset, he had a son who was just about the age who would have to go into the service. Ora had us turn on the radio and make sure he had heard it right, so Dad turned on the radio and made sure he had heard it right, so Dad turned it on and he couldn't believe it, and Jim, my husband just sorta stood there like he was stunned with his mouth open. We couldn't believe it...just couldn't believe it. It was just mindboggling to think a little country like Japan would attack the United States. I don't know it was just unreal, you just didn't believe...it was...well, you realize, we were already in a World War, with helping the people over in Europe and than to have Japan attack us. Well, Dad was upset and we stayed with him over there for quite awhile and then came on back home.

The Japanese were sorta sneakin' is what we figured, because I said, they were trying to make arrangements for scrap metal from the, from the government, then to take and bomb your ships right out from underneath the boys over there at Pearl Harbor, well, it was sorta two-faced. You see, they got the planes, they got the battleships, they got the whole works in just one fell

swoop. I think they thought they could win it by swooping down and doing it. You got cold feet and a big hunk in your stomach that felt like it would never go away. There was rumor after rumor all about em' trying to get at the west coast and about em' gonna bomb and this and that or another thing you didn't know what to believe, or what not to believe. We had no idea that Japan was gonna do anything...you see, there had been no war declared then the next day, after Pearl Harbor, uh, President Roosevelt announced that he declared war on Japan and I said, uh, people volunteered for the service and the whole deal. I mean they were just wild, they was ready to get...they was gonna get em' but you realize it took four long years to get the war over with.

We were all scared to death because we had family, young men, that was gonna have to be going and you realize they had to go on ships, well by the time they got done bombing that day there wasn't any fleet left.

Wilma J. Farr was a 25-year-old elementary school teacher at Roosevelt School in 1941. The day of the attack she was at her home on South Jefferson Street taking care of her ill father. The brother she mentions in the interview is Mr. Don Burton of Muncie.

My brother had gone to buy some groceries and supplies and came back home and motioned for me to come out into the kitchen because he didn't want our mother to know what had happened. He had been in a store and had heard the reports of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

It didn't seem real to me, it seemed as though it were something that was very far away and had very little to do with me but that was probably because I knew that my father was dying and my mind was on that and I didn't really realize what it was going to mean to our country.

Well that day I wasn't with anybody else all day, I was just at home. But later, the next day, I went back to teaching at Roosevelt, and it was very apparent there that something was terribly wrong. Everybody was, gathered in little groups in the hall, and when we had off moments we would look to the radio to see whether war had been declared yet. I didn't hear any of the children even say anything about [the attack]. Of course, they were elementary students, and I'm not sure it had been discussed very much at home. I began to be rather frightened [of the Japanese], and thought that probably they were thinking of doing some very evil things to the people of our

country.

I, uh..., most of the time was thinking about my brother who was of the age where he could have been called into service, and I knew that it would be very difficult for my mother right at that time, losing my father, and she wouldn't have him to depend upon. That was the main thing that I was thinking about.

Hurley Goodall was a fourteen-year-old student at McKinley Junior High School who lived in the Avondale neighborhood. He was getting ready for church at the time of the attack.

Well, it was Sunday morning, and I got up and was getting ready to go to church, I think I was fourteen years old at the time. Of course, the way we communicated then was radio. There wasn't any television, it was on the radio, early Sunday morning that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor, and really at that time, as a fourteen year old, I didn't really realize the significance of what was happening.

Well, as a fourteen year old, you know, it was kind of exciting ,and you really didn't understand the seriousness of it, because at that time, my oldest brother was sixteen and it didn't immediately affect us. It wasn't until the next day that I understood some of the significance , and I was a student at McKinley Junior High School, and that day, President Roosevelt addressed the country, and they played it on the P.A. system in the school. And, I think at that I time I really began to understand the magnitude of what it all meant.

Uh.., my father passed away, and my mother, you know, I don't think she was nearly as much aware as we were, you know, as young men. I had two brothers and we knew that if it would last very long, we would probably end up going. As I got a little older, into high school, we had to start making some of those decisions, because you could go into the service when you were sixteen

then. And a lot of young people in my class left Central High School, in their junior year and joined the service, and I stayed until 1945 and graduated, and uh.. I joined the army when I graduated from Central High School.

Well, I think there was a lot of seriousness, you know, because right away, you know, they started the draft, and I also recall when they picked those first numbers, they also broadcast that over the radio at McKinley School, and the first number that President Roosevelt drew out of the fishbowl, you could hear a lady in the audience scream and apparently fainted because that was her son's draft number. I don't remember the whole student body being that immersed in the attack. I think, though, that the boys were more interested than the girls. I think that they could see themselves going off to fight two or three years down the road. And, uh.., you know, those are the kinds of things, you know, that stick out in your mind, you know. Of course, you know, as things went on, and shortages occurred, and you couldn't buy automobile tires, gasoline, you had to have stamps to get gasoline, you had to have stamps to get sugar, you had to have stamps to get meat. And, uh.. it all became obvious, you know, that it was serious, and there was a lot of sacrifice that had to be made. And then the news every day was coming back, you know, of men who had been lost. That really impacted on the community, that it was for real.

The news seemed to spread really fast, you know, every radio station that you turned on would have that on, and they would actually have tapes of the Japanese planes coming in at Pearl Harbor, and the gunfire and all, of

course you had to use your imagination in those days to kind of imagine what was taking place but I think that is one of the things that young people have probably lost today, and that is their ability to imagine something, because then, when they broadcast the Bearcat basketball games, you just had to visualize, you know, the play and all. And then Jack Armstrong and Green Shadow and those programs, you know, would come on the radio, and we would just sit there and all we could do was hear. We had to visualize in our own mind what they were like, and what it would mean, but you used your imagination a lot more in those days. But everybody sort of had their own opinion as to what [the war] was like. I think it was kind of glamorized in the earlier days, but there were some pretty tough and dark days there, after the Japanese got into the war. It became apparent we were fighting the Germans on the Atlantic side, and the Japanese on the Pacific side.

Well, you know, because of it being a Sunday morning when it happened, the thing that I remember most going to church , that they had prayers for the country. Like I say, I was fourteen, and it probably didn't impact on me as much as it would have if I were an adult.

I think that our media did a pretty good job of brainwashing us into hating the Japanese people. Hateful names were used to help, you know, make you want to kill them. There were definitely attempts made to dehumanize the Japanese, by the media primarily.

Well, President Roosevelt had assured the country, that we would not

get into the war, so I really didn't think about it until after the attack. I don't think anyone, you know, at that time, thought that we would be attacked. The country was pretty much isolationist, but after that attack, everything changed.

As a fourteen year old, I didn't realize how important it was to my life. At no point did I ever consider the thought of the United States losing, I am sure it was the same for the Japanese people and the German people. I guess that's what kept me going during the war.

Cleo Savage was 31 years old at the time of the attack. When she heard about the events of the day, she was traveling to Cincinnati with her husband and some friends.

Well, my husband and I, and two friends were on the way to Cincinnati to visit some ill friends, and we heard about this on the car radio. I didn't think so much about it, but my husband and this other man were really shocked. They really thought that it would really turn out to be something big, you know.

I didn't think too much about it myself, I just listened to what the rest of the people were saying about it. Later on, I took in all the information about [the affects of the attack]. It just didn't seem like it was really happening, you know, it seemed like it was just so far away.

There were a few Japanese people scattered around, you know, working in this area, and everything. And I know a lot of people though they should be sent home, or to camps, or somewhere. They just felt that they shouldn't be around here. [These people] felt that those people were the ones who did what they did to Pearl Harbor, so they should be run out [of the United States]. Nobody considered the Japanese people that lived here as Americans at all. I was really very hostile toward the Japanese. Every time I looked at one of them, I just wanted to say, 'Go home where you belong.'

Well, I always felt that as time went on we eventually would have to

get into the war. Before the attack, the war seemed to be something that was just happening somewhere else. It didn't really concern me that much. But after the attack I became a lot more concerned about how much damage they had done. I felt like we had to do something to get our revenge.

I really wasn't too concerned about my husband or my sons getting involved in the war, since our sons were only eleven and three years old at the time. My husband was in his thirties, but because of our sons, he wasn't likely to be called.

Bernice Kelso was a housewife and had a daughter living at home at the time of the attack.

I was probably at home, 1929 East 13th Street. Well, it was really terrible. You can't really imagine what it was like unless you were there, because really, it was a terrible thing to hear it. I felt a little down. I think a lot of people were feeling down because it was such a surprise attack, they were sort of shocked at the idea. Well, I really don't feel bad toward anyone, but I feel bad now that the Japanese are coming back and buying all of our property. I didn't like the idea [the attack], but I'm not really one to hate anyone. I just feel bad that it happened and lives were lost. Well, I just don't like fighting anyway, you know like wars and so forth, but I think we should have fought to defend ourselves, really. You can't just sit by and let people walk all over you.

Albert Finley was in his thirties at the time of the attack.

Well, it was a Sunday afternoon and we were at the church at an all day meeting, in the auditorium, when it was announced - someone brought the word to the church about the attack at Pearl Harbor.

I was, of course, surprised at the attack, but the initial information we had was not enough to be so alarming and it was later as the events were revealed that we realized the extent of the devastation.

I think it was a time of collecting ourselves and trying to get an understanding of the whole meaning and the potential it had for shaping future events. It was so sudden that I think we were more or less stunned and weren't able to really assess the thing.

It wasn't very complimentary, because it was a sneak attack and we were definitely set up against them by the fact that they had done this and probably there was a lot of animosity shown against the Japanese.

I thought that the U.S. Army and Navy would be able to handle anything that was set out before them, and they did in the long run. It was a little bit slow in recovering, but we eventually recouped.

Kathleen Cunningham was in her twenties and married at the time of the attack.

Well, it was on a Sunday, and Bennie [husband] happened to be working that day, and we heard it on the radio, and it was pretty shocking.

I just couldn't grasp it. I had never lived through-never remembered-World War I, I was too little. I didn't know what to expect or who of our family would be going, I just had a lot of concern.

We lived in Yorktown, so, of course, everybody talked about it. I just don't remember things right then, but I do so well remember the next day listening to the radio when the president declared-congress declared war. Well, anyway, I knew it was history in the making. And I also remember so well when the Japs surrendered, and this neighbor boy, who might have been upper elementary, he ran up and down the street yelling, "The war is over, the war is over!", so we got in the car and picked up our neighbor lady and their children and we drove to Muncie. We will never ever forget, everybody was out, cars honking their horns, the sidewalks were full, and people were just overjoyed. It was truly, truly something.

Well, I was guilty like everyone else. Anybody that looked like they [Japanese] looked, well, I didn't want anything to do with them. I also felt that they [government] mistreated the citizens on the west coast, who were law-abiding citizens, because they were Japanese.

It was all hard. Bennie's brother and my brother both ended up going over to Europe, and my brother was in the infantry, and his brother was a tank driver with General Patton. My brother was in the infantry, the 99th. It was awfully, awfully hard. My brother was in the Battle of the Bulge. That happened over Christmas, and I remember that Christmas day. It was such a terrible, sad day. We didn't know what was happening, and the wounded were freezing to death. It was so bitter cold over there.

Howard Pyle was 19 at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. He had just recently been married on November 29, 1941. Howard was in the army for two years during World War II. He was captured in the "Battle of the Bulge" and was a prisoner for 73 days. Mr. Pyle is now 71 and retired from General Motors in 1982.

Well, I was at work. We went to work. We was working six hour shifts, seven days a week. I worked at the old Illinois Glass Company. I had just went to work at twelve o'clock and at one-thirty, at about, approximately one-thirty, someone came in and said the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor. I never heard of Pearl Harbor. I didn't , you know, it didn't really sink in but the next few days it did and it was a very scary time. Very scary.

Well, not that day they wasn't [talking about it at work], but the next day they were. The next two or three weeks, well the next, from then on they was talking about it, but that day, it was new, see, and back then you didn't have television. You had radio, you know, so the only way you could get the news, but when the papers came out the next day then everybody knew about it and then they turned the radio , you know, listened to the radio all the time and there was a lot of talk about it then, but then, well from then on, you know till the war was over actually.

Well I was mad. I was really mad at the Japs. After a few days, after finding out the details, you know, all about it, then everyone was really mad

at the Japs and ready to go over there and clean them out.

Well, like I said, the work, I didn't get off until six o'clock that night so I really don't know about that day [when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor], but the next day it was all on the radio and the papers. The papers were full of headlines and radio. All the radio stations, which you didn't have no television, the radio stations announced it, you know. There was rumors, rumors that they might land in California, so we didn't know, you know. Just didn't know what to expect.

Oh man, I was ready, like I say, I was ready to go right over there and clean 'em out. And everyone was the same way. They's, and ah, a lot of people I knew had lost, was at, all was at Pearl Harbor a lot of the time. Had soldiers and sailors at Pearl Harbor when it a happened and they didn't know, they didn't find out for probably a week, you know, that they were still alive or killed and a few of 'em from Muncie was killed. I can't remember how many now, but there was a few that was killed I think at Pearl Harbor.

Oh, I wanted tah, like I say, I wanted tah, I wanted tah go, uh, I, I would if I wouldn't of been, I would have went right on right then if I hadn't been married. I was just newly married, you know, and ah, then they wanted me, they wanted me, they wanted to try to get me a draft deferment and I said no. I said, "If my number comes up, I want to go," and I wanted to go to the service. I really felt like I, I wanted to go and I finally did.

I never heard, you know, you were back young, you were back young like

that and I never heard, I never heard too much of Pearl Harbor. In fact, I didn't even know where it was at and they said they bombed Pearl Harbor. I didn't even have no idea where Pearl Harbor was at and when they came in and said the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor, well ,I knew it was in the south Pacific somewhere, but I didn't know it was in Hawaii.

It was a scary time. My dad died when I was real young so I didn't really know him. My mother she was pretty concerned about us going. I had a brother that went into the service, too. He was a little younger than I was, but he went in, in fact, I think he went before I did 'cause he wasn't married.

Harry Metzger was an eighteen year-old high school graduate in December 1941. He joined the submarine service in December, 1942.

I remember very vividly because I was at a CYO dance... a weekly Sunday CYO dance at one of the schools in Evansville. And I had just graduated from high school the year before. But I really hadn't weaned myself away from my old friends, the high school crowd. At any rate, I was at this dance, and the word came out that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. And I don't think that there was anybody there that really knew where Pearl Harbor was. Uh, it of course scared us, but I don't think that we really knew the implications of it at that point.

It was a very heavy topic of conversation, as far as where I was going to go with my life. I was eighteen years old at the time. I was very aware of the meaning of war. I don't think that the impact of what was going to take place had struck me at that point. I just didn't comprehend what was going on then. But just in a matter of a few days, it started taking a more serious aspect, and it wasn't long before the other guys my age were thinking about joining the service.

Right at that point, I was caught up in too many other things to really understand. I was aware that we had Japanese envoys in Washington, but I really didn't follow those things as closely as I do now. I was always aware of the possibility of war, but I knew that President Roosevelt would do what was

best for the country. I think I had a feeling of antagonism against the Japanese, like somebody picking on your kid brother. I thought "nobody can get away with something like that." Things happened pretty quickly in those days. I actually didn't go into the service until December, 1942, a year later. You just thought about your friends and family in the military. And everybody knew that we were in for a long, drawn out affair.

I don't really remember that I had formed an opinion of the Japanese as a people. At that time in my life, everything beyond New York and California, it was just sixty million miles away, and I just had too many things on my mind. I think that the mood changed at many different levels. [Those who were directly or indirectly related to the war] became a great source of concern. Some young people were beating down the doors to join the military, for the adventure... but once they got into it, they realized that war indeed was a horrible thing. People thought 'Am I going to come back with an arm missing, or part of my face missing?', that was one of the reasons why I joined the submarine service. I felt that in that case, my chances of coming back whole were much better. [Our national] feeling of invincibility was kind of taking a beating. I had no consideration of joining the service ahead of the attack, it just didn't fit into my plans. I was rather unsettled at that time in my life, but I didn't want to be drafted-so I joined the Navy. We kept track of things by gathering around the radio together as a family. [The attack] upset my mother and father, though my father kept himself aloof, and hid his

feelings about it. There was not only a concern for our family unit, but also for the nation. It was a one-in-a-lifetime experience for everyone. In those times, I think that morality took a beating, and that perhaps we never have come back from that. It was a tumultuous time.

Mildred Thompson was about nine years old and living at home during the time of the attack.

When I first heard about the attack I was only about nine. I don't really remember much about it. I know I was at home all day and inside for most of it. It was a weekend, I think it was Sunday and we had just got home from church. I didn't hear about it on the radio or nothing but Fordie, my daddy, told me about it later on. I was probably doing some girlie thing, playing with dolls with Reba maybe when daddy told me. I remember him coming into the room with us girls. I think he had already told the boys about it they seemed to pretty much know what was going on and he said, "Girls, the Japanese have attacked Pearl Harbor." Which really didn't mean much. I mean I had heard about the attack from my daddy but I had never heard of Pearl Harbor. I really didn't even know who the Japanese were either. Just that they were from some other country. When I first heard about the attack, I felt kinda sad. I mean I figured that maybe some people had died. I was a bit scared too. We was probably going to war with the Japanese and that thought scared me. As far as the mood of the town, we lived near the edge of town anyway, almost in the country and like I said, we was inside most the day as far as I remember so I don't know much about any mood. Like I said I didn't know much about the Japanese before the attack but after I didn't really like them too well. I had felt bad about the war before but now with the attack on us it became a whole lot scarier for me.

Esther Smith was around the age of twelve and living at home with her parents during the time of the attack.

The time when I heard about the attack it was the day after when the attack happened. On the day when it happened it was a church day and I was only 12 at the time but Bobby was about 14 and he said on Sunday he knew somethin' was wrong. Our radio? I don't know. I know we had one and I remember listenin' to it sometimes but not on that day. I don't know why we didn't listen to it. That seems kinda strange thinkin' about it. Anyhow it was the next day, a Monday and I remember mamma not let'n us go to school and Bobby was all happy 'cause he didn't much like school but I was kinda sad 'cause school was where all my friends was. Then right after we got up mamma told us 'bout the attack. I knew a little 'bout the Japanese from school. I remember that nobody much liked 'em. Anyhow Bobby kept say'n after that, how he told me somethin' was goin' on and that he knew all along and then after school let out Bobby and a bunch of his friends played like they were attack'n Pearl Harbor and such.

I guess the news really didn't effect me to much. All I knew 'bout war was that we'd been fight'n one and all I knew 'bout the Japanese was that nobody liked them just like I said before. Daddy was to old to go back to war again and Bobby was to young. There may have been a few neighbors in it but I don't remember for sure. He was in the big war, World War I. I didn't notice

no change but then I wasn't look'n for one. Now, I could tell things were a bit odd but I didn't think much of it. Mamma seemed real sad. Maybe she knew someone over there or maybe there was a relative in the war. I don't know for sure.

Like I said, I didn't know much about them except for that no one liked 'em much at all. I didn't like 'em much either just 'cause no one else did I suppose. After the attack I didn't like 'em at all. I don't like 'em cause they went and sneak attacked us. Bobby and me didn't know nobody in the war and like I said we didn't really know what was goin' on over there or anything so I guess I just wanted everybody else back with their families. God knows they deserved it.

Elizabeth Spears was thirteen and lived near Royerton with her parents during the time of the attack.

When they first attacked I think I was listening to the radio but I ain't sure. I was at home I know that. I'm sorry but its been a long time.

I think I probably felt pretty upset but I don't really remember. I do remember a lot of people being upset and I think that evening momma invited some people over and I think they were real upset.

I don't remember but I'd have to say that I probably hated them. I mean probably everybody did back then when they attacked it. Right?

I didn't want our men in it. They sent them to all over the world and just expected them to fight. If there's one thing I wanted it was the men back home.

Dorothy Hartley was a teenager listening to the radio during the time of the attack.

It's been a long time and I'm not sure what I remember and what I've heard about it. I remember that I was scared like a dickens when I first heard about the attack. I was even more scared though I think when we started fighting the Nazis too. The Japanese were scarier than the Nazis. Now I think I was at home maybe listening to the radio. I did that a lot back then. There weren't no T.V.'s you know so I listened to the radio a lot. When I first heard about it I was pretty surprised. I had known that there was tension between us and Japan but I didn't know it would be so bad as for them to attack us. The Japanese weren't the big threat to me. I thought more about the Nazis being the big guys. When the Japanese first attacked I was about ready to cry. I didn't have any family out there but I knew that a lot of peoples families had died. I didn't know much about what actually happened just that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. They weren't saying much more over the radio. I didn't even know that Pearl Harbor was in Hawaii until after the attack. I just wanted to lay down and shut out all the things I had heard about the attack.

My feelings about the attack were that it was wrong that the Japanese did it. A sneak attack was wrong everybody knew that. Nobody should do something like that. Some people thought it was inhuman. I didn't know why the Japanese did it and I didn't care. I just knew that we should get back at

them for what they did to us. Nobody should be able to do that to the United States. At least that's how I felt about it then. I was scared for a while when I first heard about it. I thought maybe they wouldn't stop at Pearl Harbor and would just keep on coming into America. I guess that was pretty stupid but at the time I didn't know any better. After a while I didn't feel scared no more but I felt sad for all the women who's husbands had died and were hurt. Then I just wanted to cry. I didn't want to here anymore about the attack and I wanted to forget what I had learned about from the radio already. After that I got angry. I wanted us to go over there and destroy the Japanese and I guess that's what we eventually did. We should have done it right off. It would have saved lives.

I don't know how the mood of the town changed. All I know is how I felt. This may be queer but I felt hurt and betrayed like the Japanese had attacked me with Pearl Harbor. I think that's why I was so angry after it happened. When you attack the United States and hurt it you hurt it's people, too.

I hated the Japanese after it happened. They shouldn't of sneak attacked us. If they wanted war, if they wanted to fight then they should of attacked us head on not sneak around like they did. If there was one people I hated then it was the Japanese. I still don't know how one people can be so hateful to another country. Especially a country like the United States.

I felt that we should of been in there attacking from the moment they attacked us. I wanted them dead and hurt. All of them. At the time I didn't care who got hurt as long as we got back at them.

Jim Bailey, a youngster of nine years, remembers his activities and surroundings on the day Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Well, I was downtown at a movie at the old Wysor Grand Theater, and um, they flashed it on the screen. It said that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I was about seven years - no, I was about nine years old then. It really didn't mean that much to me, uh, I know people in the audience you heard some mumbling from the adults, but you know at that age it just didn't have much impact on me.

I recall going home on the bus, uh, that's when you know people took bus transportation. I think it cost a nickel to ride from downtown out to where I lived, out in Avondale. Um, there were people talking about it on the bus, I didn't see, you know, that much difference. Had I been older at your age Stacey, then it probably would've meant a lot more to me.

Well, I didn't think much one way or the other (attitude toward Japanese), but of course immediately after that, then this country started a big, uh, well we'll just say a propaganda attack against the Japanese. All the Hollywood movies, uh, portrayed the Japanese as dirty, despicable, slant-eyed creatures you know, and they referred to them as "Japs" as a racial slur. We were kinda somewhat brainwashed I guess. Of course it was a terrible thing that they did.

My personal involvement? Oh, none because I was too young to be

affected. See, we were already in war with the Germans and that was just kinda the straw that broke the camel's back. I guess when they started at...of course the after effects we saw more rationing. My parents had a grocery store and people had to bring in coupons and little tokens to get meat and to get certain food items such as sugar. You couldn't get sugar then and, uh, you know meat was rather scarce cause a lot of it we sent over seas to our armed forces so from that standpoint later, uh, you know I saw some things.

Gasoline rationing, uh, people got four gallons a week, I believe it was, because so much of our refined petroleum products were going into the war effort. Um, we got eight gallons a week because we owned a business and we delivered groceries to people. At that time you'd call up the local grocery on Saturday, you'd give 'em a long list of items you wanted. We'd put 'em in a peach basket and we'd deliver it to the house and take it in and set it on the kitchen table and unload it for 'em. Of course that's a thing of the past.

Rebert Moulton, a retired school teacher, was in her early twenties in 1941.

Howard and I were married at the time and we had heard it on the radio while reading the morning paper. Well, we were very stunned! "Stunned" would be a good word, we were almost speechless. Well, I guess it became a state of slight anger I'd say. We also wondered how it would affect each family member. As for the Japanese? I don't know, let me think. I couldn't believe it. It was an unbelievable feeling. One of almost hatred. Of course we were surprised and wondered how it would affect Howard and his brothers, who were all of age to go. We made plans for changes in lifestyle for when he would be gone. It might be added that we had a fairly new car, but sold it for an older one since Howard would be leaving. Also that Howard didn't go since he was rejected, due to physical defects.

Larry McKee, a Muncie educator, remembers the day of the Pearl Harbor bombing.

Well, I remember it very distinctly. My mother and father were going to Winchester and we were on Highway 32 and my sister and I were in the backseat and I can remember my folks being very excited when they announced over the radio, that Japan had just bombed Pearl Harbor.

Well, I suppose I wasn't old enough to really, remember except I became very excited because I could tell that my parents were very upset by it and, uh, I think that's why it made a lasting impression on me. Uh, let's see. That was in December. The seventh of 1946, was it? If my memory is right. Let's see I would've been upper elementary, I guess.

Well, I can't speak for the Muncie community, but I know in my community of people I knew, they were all very angry toward Japan and thought that they were, uh, sneaks and you know, they were just pretty rotten people to have...They were at the time negotiating for peace I think and, uh, under the guise of doing something worthwhile when they sprung the attack and most of the people didn't have very good feelings about Japan at the time or on through the war for that matter.

I suppose I adopted the attitude (toward the Japanese) of my family at the time. I probably was angry toward them also.

Well, I thought my stepfather might get drafted because they talked

about that a lot and uh, my whole family was kind of upset. I can still remember when he became thirty-five and was no longer eligible and I kind of felt relieved about that.

Janice Kramer was seventeen years old when she heard about the attack.

Well, I was, working at the drive-in as a carhop and I think one of my customers either had the radio on or else they told me. I can't remember that part. Well, uh, we were, uh, we got a little upset and this one girl I worked with, Betty my friend, her, uh, brother was in the service, the Army, and she started cryin' and, uh, the girl got pretty upset because of the people they talked about was gonna have to go to war with Germany at the time. And I think a lot of them was already in the Military, in the Army. Well, people were kind of I suppose you could say shocked. They didn't know what the future was for them. Well, I don't know what my attitude was. I thought, I just thought they was a little barbaric. We were kind of scared for them.

Jack Cole Sr., a retiree, remembers Pearl Harbor's bombing from the point of view of a fourteen year old.

I was sitting in a movie and it flashed on the screen that Pearl Harbor had just been bombed. It said that all U.S. Military personnel was to report to their camps immediately.

I didn't like it very well, but there wasn't anything I could do about it. I knew that Germany was going to come into it before long since the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

There was a lot of talk about it. Just like me, there were a lot of adults that were still in the dark and down in the dumps about it, but there was nothing we could do to prevent it.

The Japanese themselves, I didn't feel very good about them. At the time though there were a lot of Japanese in America that had nothing to do with it. When I found out later what they had done I started to feel really bad about them. The only ones I knew - I didn't know hardly any - I just left alone.

I lived with my brothers, half of them were old enough to go and I didn't feel very good about that. After the attack I knew it wouldn't be very long until they'd be off fighting. It was kind of a down hardening story.

The war was over in 1945, a few years later in the middle of my adolescence.

Shirley McKibben, a high school secretary, remembers Pearl Harbor as a small child.

Well, I was a small child of about three or four at that particular time. I can remember my mother and family talking and me sitting back and just being fearful. That was the thing - fearful!

I was fearful. I can remember sitting in the living room thinking my father was going to be killed. He was over there and not getting any message from him, we didn't get a letter or anything and finally, one day, he called on the phone and I just cried. I couldn't talk at all, I just cried.

I don't really know (about the community's mood) because being a small child I just know how my inner family reacted.

I didn't like them (the Japanese)... because I thought my father was going to be killed. I just thought they were barbaric and that kind of a thing. Through a child's eyes, I was afraid of them.

I remember it seemed like my dad was gone forever, those two years he was gone. I had an uncle that was in Germany, who was my father's brother, and with both of them gone it was like they were never coming home. Finally, my father was stationed in the Philippines and my uncle was in Germany behind enemy lines. Then after they got home, of course, you heard war stories of how they did things over there and how they were trapped and that sort of thing. My dad didn't really see the front lines, he was in the

Philippines, but my uncle was in Germany and trips were about thirty-seven days and they were held up in fox holes and stuff like that. I just remember the stories they told after they came back. I remember my uncle saying he had to shoot a small boy because he was up in a barn and the enemy was there. He had to come in and shoot an eight or ten year old boy. He never got over doing it, but it was something he had to do. Children were involved in the war, the same as the adults.

I was afraid they were gonna come over here and bomb our house and kill us. As a child - I was about seven when Dad came home - when I heard a siren or anything I thought they were gonna come over and bomb my family.

Oscar F. Kramer, 33 years old at the time of the attack, remembers hearing about Pearl Harbor on the way to visit some relatives.

We had left from our home and gone down to Shelbyville to visit with an uncle and an aunt down there, Francis and I, my wife. And, we had our dinner, I'm sure it was right after dinner. They came over the news with the announcement that Pearl Harbor had been attacked by the Japanese. That was uh, I'm not sure of the time of the hour of the day, but I'm sure it was right after we had our noon meal. Well, it gives you chills up your back. It's something you couldn't hardly believe, but it did happen and right away you feel like, the world's not coming to an end, but you never know what would happen if the atomic bomb would be dropped, but we didn't know about the atomic bomb then yet we didn't know we even had one. But you didn't know what might happen. I don't know if I'd know anything about the community's mood because I wasn't acquainted with anyone else other than the people that were there: my aunt and uncle and my aunt's brother. While we was there that was the only people. We all stayed together until we come home and we was listening over the radio as we came home. I was amazed and couldn't believe it. My attitude, uh, I don't know I had mixed emotions about it. Not knowing why they did it, I don't know. They knew why they did it, they had some reason I suppose. I don't believe my family's attitude changed very much. We were dedicated American citizens, I don't think that would have

changed at all. I didn't know anything about the war before hand, uh, that Japan would do anything like this. It was a surprise attack. I think nearly everybody didn't know it was going to happen. When they called me up and asked me how I felt about serving my government, they was kind of surprised that I just said, "I guess they wouldn't have called me if they didn't need me." So I went.

Ethel Thomas, a twenty year-old Muncie resident, remembers that fateful day.

Well, I was working at American Lawn Mower Company in Muncie and my boss, Raymond Marshall, came and told us there'd been an attack. And, they had radios on and they let us go home, to our apartments. I was twenty and single and they let us go to our apartments, and we were real sad the rest of the day. No one was the same. Oh, it was terrible and yes I did, I had real bad feelings toward the Japanese people at the time. I felt terrible about it. I had terrible feelings. Well, it was just a complete turn around. Actually, everybody was so sad and couldn't too many people talk about it right then of course. I'm not sure then how the older people felt. I was twenty and, of course, I was just like any other twenty year old I was feeling my own way, but I imagine some of the older people, like my mother and father, was feeling, of course, upset. And all the Muncie people, now, that I was around they were just sad and upset. Well, I think we all had some pretty bad feelings about the Japs at the time. Uh, I tell you cause I had brothers in the service and it made it really bad. I had a brother in the Navy and one in the Air Force. Well, I don't remember just exactly what I was feeling or how I was feeling about that age. I really don't know but I went to work at the Durham plant here in Muncie and, I was making and inspecting shell casings (shells, the cases). I was doing that after everybody heard about that.

Lloyd Kramer, age 17 when the attack occurred, remembers being a paper boy and was sent out to deliver a special edition of the newspaper about the attack.

I don't remember exactly what I was doing when I first heard about the Pearl Harbor attack. I do remember there was extra newspapers came out with extra headlines on 'em. There was a special edition of newspapers came out about the Japanese attacking Pearl Harbor. And I believe I was carrying newspapers at the time and I had to go up to the printing office up there at the paper office and get the papers they published to take out and deliver to the city. Handouts would sell them, the extra editions of the newspapers. I thought, personally I thought, it was stupid. I thought the United States was the best country in the world and we had the best Air Force and Navy and Army. And I thought a little country to me was just Japan. I thought how on earth did Japan expect to survive attacks against the United States. And I thought, we'll just go over and blow them off the face of the earth. That was my personal tactic and that's what my intention was we should do that. Well, I bet most of 'em was really surprised that they would pull a trick like that, bombing Pearl Harbor. They put everything out of commission there because the Navy had been there. I think everyone was raised up in arms and everybody wanted to just join the forces to go back and get even with them. That's what most of them did. They joined the forces to do their part for the

country. Well my attitude was I just hated 'em I guess. I did remember talkin' about the airplanes when you had these suicide bombers. They come in on the Kamikaze, I believe that's what it was. People was so dedicated to the country they would get in an airplane and head straight for the target. And they'd know they're gonna get killed, that there was no way to get out of it. I thought that was really... that it took a lot of dedication to their country to commit themselves to die for their country like that. In the Kamikaze bombers once they had their target, they couldn't turn back they had to go in and finish their jobs. They would never turn back. That was part of their belief, in their own belief I guess that was serving their country and they would be rewarded for it.

Treva Riggin, owner of Riggin's Dairy, was in her mid-twenties at the time of the attack. She was married and had four children.

I remember the very chair I was sitting in when I heard about Pearl Harbor. We had been to church that morning and a neighbor-a friend of ours from our church-came out and told us about Pearl Harbor. At the very time, I realized because we had two boys, my husband would probably not have to go right away. But I knew that it would greatly affect the Riggin family, which it did, and many of the employees who worked at the dairy at the time.

Many of the people who have been interviewed in this program that we're doing, some felt-I think we all felt that it was impossible to attack Pearl Harbor because we felt it was securely fortified. And as I remember the shock of the sneak attack, and the blame that was put on the person who might have-should have known about an attack coming, its the afterthought, you know, why did they let it happen, why did it happen, how could such a thing happen, I remember that feeling very distinctly as how could they attack a place such as Pearl Harbor when it was so well fortified.

Living out in the country, I wasn't in Muncie a great deal. My husband ran some milk routes in Muncie, so I'm sure he knows more about it, but at that time, I wasn't teaching, I was at home raising four children, so I wasn't around people as much as if I had not been a housewife and stayed home, but it still was a period of shock.

I think that my, at the time, we couldn't help but be influenced by the terrible loss of ships such as the Arizona and the ships out there where so many people were lost. That was a very strong feeling, but to feel animosity, I think, I can't remember my feelings at that time because of the great change. I even have a grandson who is dating, and friends with, a Japanese girl whose uncle was selling ice cream or some kind of product on the street near to where the bombing occurred, and I think because our feelings have changed so greatly, I think it is ironic that the very people we were at war with have become so influential in the world.

I knew Carl [husband] wouldn't have to go [to war] because of the age of our boys, but two of Carl's brothers had to go and one of them was stationed out in Nevada and he was very good in trap shooting. He was teaching the people to shoot and he almost was sent on a Jimmy Dolittle ship, but luckily, he didn't have to go and I remember the sadness. I haven't seen my husband cry very often except for the day his brother threatened to go to war. He sat out on the steps and cried and the younger brother, Jim, was shipped to the Philippines later on with several of the employees, which was the reason some of us daughters-in-law had to work, and go into the factories because of the shortage of men.

Bessie Huffman heard about the attack after she got home from church.

This attack happened on a Sunday morning and we went to church, just the same as usual and that's how I heard about the attack, through word of mouth. That's all everybody was talking about, was how this was going to affect all of the young people in the country. I was a junior in high school and several of the boys in my class right away enlisted and went away. Needless to say, people didn't feel very kindly towards the Japanese. Pulling a sneak attack like that didn't give those boys, and it had killed several that were on the ship that was sunk, time to defend themselves. Everybody was very depressed and concerned about the things that had happened that day. I was very young, but I still understood that the Japanese had made a very bad move. Everyone was talking about the attack and they were in a gloomy and depressed mood. It seemed like there was a heavy, dark cloud hanging over the city.

Jeannie O'Dell was about ten years old at the time and whose life was drastically changed after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

During that time, we did not have television, all we had was the radio. We listened to the radio all the time. It was just an ordinary day and then all at once the President came on and said that Pearl Harbor had just been bombed. We had been attacked by Japan in Pearl Harbor. Everybody was devastated and in shock over it and about every five minutes they would come back on and tell us about it. I was only ten years old at the time so it was just an ordinary day to me and from then on, it just seemed like my whole life was changed. It was President Roosevelt that told us about it. He came on the air with it and they talked about some of the ships that were out in the harbor, just out there supposedly just manning the area and that the whole place had been bombed and so it went into a full-fledged war. I guess I know more about when it ended because everybody's emotions and everything changed. During that time, there was a depression. We had a very big depression in which very few people were working. When it got into a full-fledged war, it meant a lot of people got back to work because they had to have a lot of nylon for parachutes for all the men and they needed rubber for tires for the planes, all of the battleships and everything. It put a lot of people back to work and so things got better. The war did not end until '45 and it was President Truman that told us that the war had ended. Everybody was so excited. At that time

I was about thirteen and a half. That's the main part that I really remember. During the time of the war, like I said, there was a lot of rationing. We couldn't get rubber, we couldn't get a lot of different materials. Shoes were rationed, you could only get two pair of shoes a year. I was so glad when it was over. I feel like it did take a depression time and it took the war to get us through it, to bring us back out of it and into the recession time and things were a lot better after that. I did have an uncle that was over in Iwo Jima, Japan and he almost got killed and it's something that he never forgot and it's something he wouldn't talk about when he came home, either. You couldn't get very many of them to even talk about it. That's just the way things were.

Duane Huffman was about 20 years old at the time.

I was 20 years old at the time. I was at home and my brother had been in the service about six months from being drafted and the draft was to last, uh, the service was to last for a year but, six months later, when, uh, Pearl Harbor was attacked, they were all notified that they would be in for the duration, however long it took to defeat the Japanese or whatever. Now we were all saddened to hear that. Of course, there was no television coverage, all we could hear is what was on the radio. I was employed at an automobile parts plant. When the news came on the radio, though, I believe I was off work, as far as that's concerned. I was sitting at home and we were all very saddened and everything to hear the, hear that terrible news.

Nearly 50 years ago, it's kind of hard to remember exactly what our feelings were, but I just remember that it seemed like it was dark and cloudy and that didn't help our spirits any. My brother and I were always close and, of course, my parents, too, were always, we were always a close family and that increased the sadness to know what, to wonder what would become of it all. The news came in very slowly and sketchy at first. Didn't know what to make of it all. Of course, it [the attack] was on everybody's lips, you know, they talked about it. It was later on when rationing began to go into effect and everything, but at that particular time, I don't really recall any specific events or conversations with anyone.

Well, of course, when we heard that it was a sneak attack, they had no, or very little warning. Our thoughts, as far as the Japanese were concerned, at least my thoughts, I suppose, was that they were just dirty to pull an attack like that without any warning, without any kind of formal declaration of war and that violated wartime, anytime anybody was attacked they were to have a formal, um, declaration, which they didn't do. They just simply were going to attack and take over. They were just going to take over the United States, thought they could whip us by taking over Pearl Harbor. I guess that's where most of our defense was concentrated, probably, pretty much, at that time and they thought that if they could whip Pearl Harbor, whip us at Pearl Harbor that they would eventually just take over the country, that was their purpose. So I thought that the Japanese just wasn't any good. We were really surprised, you know, that a small country like that was trying to take on the United States.

Well, of course, the natural reaction was to fight back. I don't remember, I suppose the United States officially declared war on the Japanese. It was the thing to do. There was no alternative. They left us no alternative other than to fight back, just like when any two people get into it. Of course, there was, it was sometime after that when we began to decide what we were gonna have to do as far as rationing and turning, uh, ordinary plants into defense plants, they called them, making parts and things for defense machinery. The plant where I worked was very quickly turned into a defense

plant. We quit making automobile parts, in fact, there were no automobiles, the manufacture of automobiles began almost, ended almost at that time, or shortly after that.

Nada Stautamoyer was eighteen at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. She had just graduated from Central High School. She was to be married in August of the following year. Because of the attack on Pearl Harbor, she and her fiance had to get married in February. Her husband later enlisted in the service and became a pilot.

Well, it was a Sunday and heard it on the radio. I suppose like everybody else since that was the only means of communication, particularly at that time. So, heard it on the radio... was shocked like everybody else. However, we knew the war had been going on for three years or there abouts and we just hoped we would never get in it, the war in Europe. But it was a shock that the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, so just shock was the tone. So, then was glued to the radio.

Shock #1. Fear. Wondering what was going to happen in the future. I guess one of my first thoughts was that this being December and I had just graduated in June, planned to be married the next year in August and I knew that would change because everybody was going to be drafted and probably long gone before then. Those are basically reactions I guess.

I don't know that I was aware of the mood of Muncie. Of course everybody talked about. It was on the radio and the president came on and everybody just stayed glued to the radio to see what was going to happen. And President Roosevelt came on and then saying that it was a day that would live

in infamy, etc., etc., and that we were at war. It's just a very frightening feeling.

Well, the ones that did the attack you resented that, but we didn't really ... I don't remember any Japanese people that I knew. I don't remember any citizens here. But, I felt really bad about the ones that were interned in camps when they rounded up all the people of Japanese origin and turned them in internment camps. I felt badly about that. Some of them were United States citizens.

Well, it was like two wars because the war in Europe had been going on with Hitler, all that, and the bombing of London, and the Blitz. All those kinds of things. The British wanted us to help them and in some ways we kind of thought we should. But with Pearl Harbor, that was different because that was the Japanese. That opened up an whole entire different area. So, it was a surprise attack and it was a surprise that they did attack as far as we were concerned.

Lucy Bookout was eighteen in 1941. She had just moved from the rural area of Muncie to the urban area. She was working as a waitress at a cafe.

Oh, I was on a date with my first husband. And we heard about it on the radio. And it was a scary day. Everybody in the city of Muncie I think was just like "kkk!" You know? We were just paralyzed ... more or less. And that's what I was doing, you know? We were at a place that's no longer there on South Walnut Street. There was a place called the Gem Cafe many years ago and then there was a place called the Orange Cafe and we went from one to the other. And just distant with other people because it was just a traumatic experience because we were scared, you know? and we didn't know what to do because this is the first time anything had happened to the American country, you know? and it was real tragic. We were frightened. Then, we talked about enlisting in the army, but he didn't enlist in the army he chose to go to the C.B.'s, Navy, and that's what he did.

I was dumbfounded and numb more or less. You're frightened and don't know what to do next but you have to go ahead and work. And I went ahead and worked. And my kids' father we sit around and talked that evening and we were trying to figure out along with other people most everybody you talked to said we'll be there we're going into the

service and he was one of the same feeling, you know? But he wanted to get married first, so we did. We got married. And he enlisted in the C.B.'s. Everybody was scared. I think that is the best emotion to say about it, scared ... wanting to do something, not knowing what to do. We listened to the radio all day long for news and President Roosevelt was president at that time, wasn't he? Yes he was! And he would come on there every so often and tell us how it was progressing and he wanted to know how much damage and the extent of the attack. Just like you would want to know about any other tragedy that occurred. You'd want to know what happened.

I didn't know whether to like them, but I was angry. What were your attitudes towards them? I was angry at them because I didn't think this is what they should have done. It was a sneak attack at the time. Of course later in many, many later years you discovered that some people over there knew about it, knew it was coming and refused to tell the American people, but it happened that way and there's not anything you could do about it so you just accepted it. But at the same time you were a little bit angry at them, frightened of them. It was a situation where you didn't know what to do. But you didn't reach out your arms and hug them at that time. I felt so sorry for them though when they put them in concentration camps, no not concentration camps, but refugee camps, they did in the United States. Concentration

camps is some other deal, you know? But I wasn't working with anybody that was Japanese, but I guess I was afraid of them because I thought this was a cruel thing to do to the American people.

I had no feelings about it [involvement in war after attack] because I think it [attack] would had caught so many American people unaware. I was not aware that anything was going on. And my feelings after ... I was scared to have my husband go to war or my brother. I had a brother in Germany and we lost a lot of friends during the war in Germany and I was scared that I would lose more and there were many, many times after the day of the attack. And when my kids' father went over there, oh my!, that was a terrible time because I went months and months on end without hearing from him. He was stationed in the South Pacific with the C.B.'s. They built airstrips. It was frightening. I couldn't hear from him and I was scared. I had no children at the time and we hadn't been married very long and it was tragic, it was a very tragic time.

Sarah Caten was twenty-eight years old at the time of the attack. She had just gotten married to Jerry Lawton Caten in June. They lived at 1416 East Gilbert Street. Mrs. Caten was a housewife and Mr. Caten worked at a tomato cannery.

I guess I heard it on the radio.

We were upset about it. [The attack]

I guess everybody was worried about it. [Mood of Muncie]

I don't know. Well we thought it was terrible, but then things happen and will as long as the world stands. [Feelings about Japanese]

Well we had to go and try to get it over with.

Irene Tenpenny was thirty-one at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. She was married to Bob Tenpenny and worked as a salad maker at the Delaware Hotel. She lived on East Fifth Street.

Well, I don't really know what I was doing, but I sure did hate to hear it, you know? Of course that sort of thing upsets people pretty bad.

It's an emotional time of course and a sad time as far as that goes and it sure does upset people and put them in the mood to get a'thinking and stuff like that.

I have no idea of Muncie. [Mood of Muncie]

Stinkers! Oh shoot! [Feelings about Japanese]

Well, my Lord. Everybody's concerned about the wars. Who knows you might have relatives in them and get killed and all that sort of thing. So, it's a strange time I guess the wars going on and everything.

APPENDICES

Dear Participant,

Southside High School Honors United States History class is doing an oral history project focusing upon the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Your participation is essential for the student's successful conclusion of this project. The students will interview you, and the tape will be transferred into a written form. From this written record, the class will compile and publish a book about the experiences and memories of Muncie citizens on this important day in history. Copies of the book will be given to local schools as well as local, state, and national libraries.

This project will provide the students with a unique opportunity to experience United States History as well as meeting interesting people like yourself that have experienced historical events. Your interview will also make an important and vital contribution to our country's collective memory of an interesting, exciting, informative, and vitally important historical event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carl R. Siler

Teacher, Honors United States History Class

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

SOUTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

I hereby release all rights, titles, or interests in and to all or any part of my tape recorded memoirs to Southside High School, and declare that they may be used without any restriction whatsoever and may be copyrighted and published by said Muncie Southside High School.

Place: Muncie, Indiana _____

(Interviewee)

Date: _____ _____

(Interviewer)

INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

NAME	DATE	RELEASE FORM
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: MUNCIE REMEMBERS THAT DAY OF INFAMY

1. Describe and elaborate how you first heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor, and what you were doing when you first heard about it. (Please be as specific as possible)

2. Describe your feelings and emotions when you first heard about the attack.

3. How did the mood of the Muncie community change that day as people learned about the attack?

4. What were your attitudes towards the Japanese when you heard about the attack?

5. What were your feelings or concerns about involvement in the war before and after the day of the attack?

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