

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH Lois McBroom

CONDUCTED BY Theresa Riley

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Lois McBroom was born in Cedar Rapids in 1913. Her parents were Robert B. and Ella George McBroom. Lois tells us about some of the learning experiences she had while attending school and Coe College and about various educators of those times. She also provides a glimpse at women's roles in those years.

Interview With: Lois McBroom
Date of Interview: January 14, 1985
Interviewer: Theresa Riley
Transcriber: Hazel Storm

TR: Miss McBroom is going to share with us some of her early remembrances of life in Cedar Rapids. What was life like when you were a little girl, Miss McBroom?

McBroom: It was very simple pleasures, mostly with our family. There were two of us in our family. My father was a railway mail clerk on the Chicago-Northwestern, although he was a civil service employee. My mother stayed home, as most mothers did in those days. My sister was just two years older than I, and we had a great deal of fun as a family. We were great table sitters, talking and enjoying one another. We'd get up early in the morning and go on bird hikes out to Bever Park. We played jacks and we jumped rope and we played hide and seek, and we really... in our day people didn't think of things for us to do, because we had so many things we enjoyed doing.

I was born in 1913 here in Cedar Rapids. I was born at home; my sister was born at Mercy Hospital. So, I've obviously lived here all of my life.

My father's name was Robert B. McBroom, and my mother's name was Ella George McBroom. We went to Jackson Elementary and Johnson one year, and then we went to McKinley Junior High School. Miss Prescott was the principal. My mother used to say that she could tell us to stand up straight and we paid no attention, but Miss Prescott's posture was perfect and we would come home and just stand straighter because of her. She

