

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH IRENE PICKARD

CONDUCTED BY

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Irene Ann Schenken Pickard was born 11-21 1900 to Fred and Dora Beilenberg Schenken. Before she was married, Mrs. Pickard taught school in Kenwood Park and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. During the Depression, she worked for the Director of Relief where her duties were to visit families and assess their need for assistance. During this interview, Mrs. Pickard also talks about life in Keystone, Iowa, where she was born and raised. Keystone is a community developed primarily of German immigrants.

INTERVIEW TOPICS
CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1--When were you born? Where?
- 2--How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- 2--What are your parents' names?
- 4--Where did you go to school?
- 5-6 --Are you married or single?
- 5,50 --Did you raise a family? How big?
- 4,5,25,29,31--What has been your occupation (career) during your adult
33,35-36 years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

1. Transportation

- 6,7,11,17, 18,22,26-27, --Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa
48-49 City on Crandic)
- 25,47 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
- 17 --Horses and First Automobiles
- 17,19,48 --Mud roads and the seedling mile
- Hunter Airport and the first planes
- Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

2. Communications-21

- 22--Newspapers
- Radios
- Advertising
- 41--Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation

- 24,43-44--Motion Pictures
- 46 --Cedar Rapids Parks
- 15,45-46--Dances
- Carnival Week
- Chautauqua
- Community Theater
- Little Gallery
- Symphony Orchestra
- Circus
- 25,41-42,43 --Greene's Opera House
- Amusement Parks (Alamo)
- Camps
- Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)
- 14-15--Stage shows at Keystone, Iowa
- 2. Famous Characters
- 55 --Cherry Sisters
- 54-55--Grant Wood
- Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
- Marvin Cone
- 18-19--Dwight Eisenhower
- 42--Pavlova
- 42--George Burns and Gracie Allen
- 42--John Berrymore

