

**INTERVIEW OF MARY WARE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

PAUL SNYDER: The date is September 15th, 2021. My name is Paul Snyder, archivist for the Northville Historical Society. I'm conducting an oral history interview of Mrs. Mary Ware, who has requested that I refer to her as Mary or Aunt Mary, which I'm flattered to do so. Thank you. The intent of this interview is to add Aunt Mary's experiences to the body of history that's shaped this area of the state. Mary Ware has been a pillar of the Northville community for many decades serving on many civic communities, operating successful businesses, and supporting efforts to grow Northville into the vital city it is today.

Aunt Mary, I understand yesterday you received recognition from the mayor of Northville as the senior citizen of the year.

MARY WARE: Yes, I did. What a surprise.

PAUL SNYDER: Congratulations. How did that make you feel?

MARY WARE: Shocked at first, but very flattered. I think it's a great honor. I have enjoyed every year here.

PAUL SNYDER: Well, congratulations. That's wonderful. Now, have you lived in Northville all your life?

MARY WARE: No. I was born two blocks away from the Eastern Market in downtown Detroit. I lived there -- I was five years old when we moved from there to the west side of Detroit. And then from the west side of Detroit, I moved back to the east side of Detroit in 1939. When I graduated from high school.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: And then in 1953, I came to Northville and I married Donald.

PAUL SNYDER: Wonderful.

MARY WARE: I've always lived in Michigan.

PAUL SNYDER: Always in Michigan?

MARY WARE: Always in Michigan.

PAUL SNYDER: Before moving to Northville and marrying Donald, did you have a career or what kind of --

MARY WARE: Oh, yes. I graduated from high school and I went to work for Midwest Abrasive Company. One of the highlights of working there -- you don't remember baseball, but Elden Auker was the pitcher for the Detroit Tigers. He was one of our salesmen. We had the pleasure of working with him.

I left there and went to work at Chrysler during the war for the export division. Then I met a friend who worked for the county. I liked their working hours better than I liked mine. I was just telling Jake this morning over breakfast that they worked 35 hours a week and we had to work 40. We had to work a half day on Saturday. I had to take two street cars to get to work. I thought, that's terrible. So he suggested that I ask for a job at the county, so I did. I worked for the county after that. I worked in juvenile court and then for the road commission, from the road commission for the training school out here in Northville from 1944, '45. I retired from the road commission.

PAUL SNYDER: Retired from the road commission. Now, when you worked for Chrysler, you said that was during the war?

MARY WARE: I think it was because I worked in export. It must have been. Wasn't the war in the '40s?

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah, yes. I was just wondering if you were a Rosie the Riveter.

MARY WARE: No, no, never did that. I was in the office. I was a switchboard operator.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, okay. All right.

MARY WARE: No Rosie the Riveter.

PAUL SNYDER: No Rosie the Riveter. You owned and operated several businesses throughout your time in Northville it looks like. You started with the Little People's Shop. I would be interested in knowing what you did. What was the Little People's Shop?

MARY WARE: A children's shop, a clothes shop for little children. I don't think I could get away with calling it the Little People's Shop today. It was not for dwarves or anything like that. It was just for young children from infants or birth to 6X, which are preschool. At 6X then there is a school age. I only carried small. That's why it was Little People. I just sold clothes, everyday clothes, jackets, sweaters, socks, no shoes.

PAUL SNYDER: No?

MARY WARE: Just only until size 6X. I was on the side of the theatre, little shop on the side of the theatre.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay. All right. You operated that until sometime in the '60s, wasn't it?

MARY WARE: Yeah, just for a few years. Because by that time, Donald had retired and I wasn't going to be working while he was retired. By that time, we had the apartment, so we were working there.

CHRISTINA: Tell them about how you started the shower -- the gift registry there.

MARY WARE: Well, at that time when I knew a lot of the young women and there were five – four or five women pregnant at that time. They were, of course, giving showers and I had gifts for babies, newborns. So when a woman would come in and she would say, I'm going to so-and-so's shower, I would say, oh, she already has that. Would you like to buy this? So I had to kind of sort of -- these people would come in and say -- so I distributed -- the car seat, not the car seat, but those plastic seats that they put -- you put them in a chair. They just came out then. They were quite expensive at that time. If I had said \$10 today, it's nothing. It's a cup of coffee. Back then \$10 was a good shower gift. So I would say, I would buy one at a time. So if two or three women come in and are going to the same shower, I would suggest they buy that little seat. That's how I did it. Christina remembers me telling her about that. Those little ones are all grown into their thirties and forties now.

One of the ladies showed me a gift that she had bought for her granddaughter. She's still using it.

PAUL SNYDER: Really?

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, my gosh.

MARY WARE: I didn't buy big stuff, just little infant things.

PAUL SNYDER: Is that the business that you feel you spent the most time on?

MARY WARE: Because it was mine sort of. Then, of course, after that -- of course we had the house where the Little Italy restaurant was. We didn't run the restaurant. We just -- it was within the house.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: Although I went there and snuck in and worked once in a while.

PAUL SNYDER: Did you?

MARY WARE: Yes. Making pasta like I still do. Now Christina does it. I'm passing it on to her.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay. She's going to be the heir apparent. She is going to learn how to do all that stuff?

MARY WARE: Yeah. She's taking an interest in it, so I'm encouraging every part of it.

PAUL SNYDER: That's good to hear. Traditions are great to pass on. Can you tell me what other -- I know that you had work -- I think you were connected to Genitti's Hole-in-the-Wall restaurant.

MARY WARE: No, I would not say that I worked there. I will take responsibility for bringing -- John started. John was my nephew. There's a picture up there. That was -- that's Christina's dad.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: He started coming to Northville when he was six years old and I got married. As a child he would come and visit. Then they would say hello and then they would run around town. He was very familiar with Northville. He didn't come to Northville to live or anything like that he was an adult, out of the service, and then eventually he started Genitti's. It was a grocery store.

PAUL SNYDER: Really?

MARY WARE: He bought it as a grocery store.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: And it evolved into a restaurant. Gradually. He started out with luncheons. Vowed that they would not do dinners. But they gradually worked its way into dinners until they ended up doing dinners and giving up the lunch.

Christina, what year did he come? He has been here 50 years.

CHRISTINA: Like '73.

MARY WARE: 50 years.

CHRISTINA: '71.

MARY WARE: He has been in business, but it started out as a grocery store and then changed it to Genitti's as it evolved.

PAUL SNYDER: You have been involved in a lot of different civic activities. I know you served on several committees. You were involved with the opera and you did -- I know you were fundraising for the Northville Historic Society when they were getting Mill Race ready to go.

MARY WARE: We did various things as they would come along. The one that we did for the -- for the Mill Race was we did a spaghetti dinner. That just came up because they wanted a donation. I'll give you a donation, let's do a dinner. We'll make more money. We ended up doing a dinner and doubled the money. That's how it started.

We started the auctions at the Garden Club because the women would bring in their flowers or plants in the spring. They always had plants and they still do it. They do still have an auction. Then they trade plants from the different people. That was kind of fun.

PAUL SNYDER: I have read in several of the articles that were about you in *The Northville Record* that you were mentioned that you served on several different committees.

MARY WARE: We did as they came up, you know. Antonia was involved with the auxiliary

down there, the Veterans. So we did a few things with her. We made bows for the cemetery. We got involved with the -- as they came up, we got involved with them. Some years we did it. Some years we didn't. It was fun.

PAUL SNYDER: What kind of changes in Northville have you noticed over the years, and which seemed the most significant?

MARY WARE: It's not a small town anymore. When we first started, we had a dime store. We had Brad's. We had a shoe store. We had a hardware store. We had everything on Main Street. You didn't have to go out of town. It was all here. Guernsey was here in town. Cloverdale was here in town. You can get your shoes -- you had everything right here.

We even had a bus that would take you to -- into town. You don't have anything now. You have to have a car. There is no transportation whatsoever to get you out of town. That's one thing that I think is important. Kids don't even know what it is to get on a bus or train or whatever. I think that was important. I thought it was.

When Guernsey moved from town out there at the ice cream parlor, we thought who in the world is going to go out there to get ice cream? So then they -- what do they do, they get a restaurant. Who is going to go out there to get food? Look at them now. Now they have got a white cow.

CHRISTINA: Tell him how you feel about the white cows.

MARY WARE: They should be painted brown. Guernsey cows are brown. Now they no longer -- according to the article in the -- in *The 'Ville*.

PAUL SNYDER: *The 'Ville*?

MARY WARE: They now get a lot of their milk from Holstein cows. Well, Holstein cows are black. How do I know? I was born and raised in the city. I don't know the cows. But I have read about it. And I knew. Now they should paint one brown and one black, right? But not white. There is no such thing as a white cow. But nobody asked me.

PAUL SNYDER: You should tell them anyway.

MARY WARE: That was kind of interesting. It's no longer a small town. You can't buy a needle and thread in town because we're surrounded -- do you realize that in any direction on your hand you can name a shopping center? Anywhere. So why -- if you want to go to this one, you go here. If you want to go here, you go to Plymouth. Here you go to Livonia. Here you go to South -- I go to Plymouth to the Dollar Store.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah.

MARY WARE: So, you know, we're no longer a little town. I will not be alive to see what happens to the racetrack. That's going to be a kettle of worms, a big one.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. That development --

MARY WARE: I mean, I have been here, what, since '53, and I remember even back then they talked about what's going to happen to the racetrack.

PAUL SNYDER: Did they?

MARY WARE: We used to walk -- because I lived right here, we used to just walk down at night, stand by the track and watch the horses go around. You can't do that now. Everything is, what are they called, pari-mutuel. You go inside and sit at a table and pick the horse you want to win.

PAUL SNYDER: You can't just go watch anymore.

MARY WARE: That's all gone.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah.

MARY WARE: But that's going to be a big, big move.

PAUL SNYDER: That is. It will be a lot of impact with that move.

MARY WARE: Right.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. I understand you have been involved with the 4th of July parade from time to time.

MARY WARE: Yes. Dr. Demray, I am -- what am I?

CHRISTINA: Betsy Floss.

MARY WARE: I'm Betsy Floss. Are you familiar with Dr. Demray?

PAUL SNYDER: I am.

MARY WARE: You know he has all the Volkswagens and they're all -- so I'm in one of the Volkswagens.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: I'm Betsy Floss and then I have the flag and you've seen pictures of it, haven't you?

PAUL SNYDER: Yes, I have.

MARY WARE: So we do that every year. But it's fun. It's fun.

PAUL SNYDER: It sounds like it.

MARY WARE: I had air conditioning this year.

PAUL SNYDER: Did you?

MARY WARE: They put air conditioning in. I don't know how they did it, but I had air conditioning and then fans so that I don't get warm. It was hot. Last year was the hottest.

PAUL SNYDER: Great. That's great. Let me think. How about on a broader scale, not just in Northville or Michigan, but the changes you have seen over time. Anything in particular that's --

MARY WARE: No. But what scares me now is what is going on when -- I'll go back. Regrets. I don't remember personally, but I remember my parents and everybody talking about the influenza. We lost a brother and a sister at that time. A brother that died and he was a -- less than two years old. My mother was pregnant when he died. And then when my sister died, my mother was pregnant again and she died. So my brother was named John after the boy that died and I was named Mary after the girl that died.

By the time my brother John -- there was the hospital and I think it's now called -- what is it, medical center or something? It was originally called Women's Hospital. Then it was Hutzel Hospital. I think now it's Detroit Medical. They're all combined into one.

PAUL SNYDER: Detroit Medical Center.

MARY WARE: All in the same area. The house was quarantined, not the people, but the house. I can remember them saying that my father had to go live with his sister so that he could go back and forth to work because if he came into the house, he couldn't go back out which is now what we're doing now. These kids are running around.

You and I -- I have had my vaccine. Have you had yours?

PAUL SNYDER: Yes, I have.

MARY WARE: Have you had yours? They have had theirs. The house is quarantined. Who is going to be serious about it, two people walking around with them, two people walking around without.

Jake and I had breakfast this morning at the Early Bird. They have always been very clean. But during -- they had to clean it some more. I noticed right across from where we were having our breakfast, the young man came right over and did it all over again. He didn't have to. He is not obligated now. They still have masks on. He still came by and cleaned that table off like they did before. But how many people are doing that?

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah.

MARY WARE: So we don't know. I don't think it's over yet.

PAUL SNYDER: No.

MARY WARE: In my mind, maybe the worst is not yet to come, but there is more to come. People just aren't being careful enough. Of course look at how much more people go out to eat than they did before. So it will make a difference.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. I noticed in reading some of the pieces in *The Northville Record* that you did a lot of entertaining of newspaper people. I understand you may have met Erma Bombeck, the writer.

MARY WARE: I don't remember any of the details of the writer. What was the woman that wrote for the *Free Press*? She was out here in Northville a couple times.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, gosh. I don't know her name off the top of my head. I know you had a lot of -- I had read a lot of articles where they were praising your Italian dinners.

MARY WARE: The Italian dinners.

PAUL SNYDER: They wanted your -- I heard Erma Bombeck was brought out for that reason.

MARY WARE: Yeah. Another one they did was a very -- was a friend of ours, Frank Angelo. He was the managing editor of the Free Press at the time. John Arnett was one of the writers. John Arnett just loved Italian food. So when he didn't come out, I would send in pasta and stuff, which I still do today. I make pasta for the lasagne. Christina can tell you, and Jake, the lasagne. They don't have any right now, but we have to make some in the next few days so they have a supply in our freezer. I still do. I still make it.

PAUL SNYDER: You still do?

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow. That's amazing.

MARY WARE: Something to do.

PAUL SNYDER: It doesn't sound like you have trouble finding something to do.

MARY WARE: Well, you have got to have something. You have got to have something.

PAUL SNYDER: I agree.

MARY WARE: As long as they like it, you know, why not? It's so easy.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah.

MARY WARE: Put the machine to use.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah?

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Are there any other – I know that Northville has gone through a huge amount of change. And it has kind of grown in its stature from a community that was more of a rural community to one now it's sought after. A lot of people love the schools. People come out here. It's turned into a relatively rich community.

MARY WARE: Oh, yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: From its initial beginnings.

MARY WARE: From the houses that they're building. The little houses are all going. When you see a little house, you think, well, tomorrow it's going to be gone. They're building the big ones, you know. I wonder how long these people that live in the big houses are going to want to live in those big houses. They have these grandeur ideas and don't realize when their electric bill comes and their water bill comes how long they're going live in those big houses and we're going see For Sale signs on them.

Some of them are beautiful homes, but they don't belong in town. They belong on a half an acre somewhere or an acre. People are willing to live in town. They're going to have them.

I moved in -- since 1953, I have moved seven times. I have moved across the driveway each time in a red wagon and a wheelbarrow. I'm in the same house as I was in in 1953. This house was moved here.

PAUL SNYDER: Was it?

MARY WARE: This is a house that was moved here.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: From where CVS is.

PAUL SNYDER: And this is the one you have been in the whole time? Wow. Not a lot of people can say that. I certainly can't.

MARY WARE: Same house on a different spot, but in the same house. We have pictures if you would like to see them. Christina can find them on the phone. Show you the before and after.

PAUL SNYDER: Wonderful.

MARY WARE: Yeah.

CHRISTINA: Tell them about Kroger and all the land and how they moved the house here.

MARY WARE: The house was where -- we -- Kroger was the original where CVS is now. Well, Kroger was there first, but back on the parking lot, where the parking -- that's where the building was originally. Then didn't it go to Arbor Drugs?

CHRISTINA: Mm-hmm.

MARY WARE: No. Chatham's. Didn't it do go to Chatham's?

JAKE: Before us.

MARY WARE: Kroger sold to Chatham's. Chatham's sold to Arbor Drugs. Then Arbor Drugs went to CVS. CVS used to be in the back on the parking lot.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: You know, smaller store, then they tore that one down and they moved up to the front. So now the store is in the front, the parking lot is in the back. This house was where CVS now is in the front. Then we had our garden and stuff in the back.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: Then moved it down here. Then this was an apartment and then it -- we made it our master bedroom. And four -- three years ago. Three years ago, I remade this back into an apartment for me.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow. That's interesting. I read recently where you -- this was a couple years back. It was the article that was written about you. It spoke of you sometimes going to Novi to work at a bakery.

MARY WARE: 25 years.

PAUL SNYDER: Did you?

MARY WARE: Did you know Pastry Palace?

PAUL SNYDER: I know of it, yes.

MARY WARE: Well, that's where I worked.

PAUL SNYDER: Did you?

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: That's a wonderful store.

MARY WARE: It was on Novi Road and Grand River for several years. Then Jim moved to -- well, I think it's Novi. Is that Novi? No, it's Wixom.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, it's Wixom.

MARY WARE: Twelve Mile and Beck. We moved out there. I worked there for 25 years. He sold it. It will be a little over almost two years. He moved down to Florida so we lost our job because the new people brought in their own family. Jim's sister was

one of the designers and his mother would come in now and again. But now the new lady has her family. I don't know. I'm looking for a job.

PAUL SNYDER: Are you?

MARY WARE: I'll cut a couple years off my age.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, my goodness.

MARY WARE: Yes, it was fun. I still do. I still make cupcakes.

PAUL SNYDER: Do you?

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay. It seems you have got a baking background, you have got the Italian cooking background. I know a lot of people like to cook food, but they usually either want one or the other, I'm a baker or I'm a cook. It seems like you have conquered both worlds there.

MARY WARE: I like the cooking part. I have been cooking all my life. My mother started me cooking with her as soon as I could reach – the top of my chin could reach the top of the table and I could see the top. That's when I started cooking. I like the cooking part. But I'm very restricted. I don't go in for all of this fancy American cooking. I'm strictly the Italian and I don't go for all that other stuff.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay. So you are basically -- yeah.

MARY WARE: I do -- I did. As a matter of fact, when I was to marry Don, we didn't have -- like we had broiled steaks and broil on your grill and stuff, we never had any of that. The Italian idea of steak was what you call like a Salisbury steak and that kind of stuff, just all Italian. My mother worried because I was marrying an American, I don't know how to cook American. She goes, what are you going to cook for him? Whatever I would cook, he would eat. I would say what would you like, a hamburger is fine. He never cared.

Now I have reverted back to the Italian because people that I know would rather have -- and Christina is going to follow through because she likes to make pasta. I don't know how long that's going to last. But for now, maybe we'll show -- we'll show Jake how to do it too.

PAUL SNYDER: There you go.

MARY WARE: He has to cook. I know he likes -- I know they like lasagne. But I do have one friend and I just found out yesterday that she does not like pasta. And I gave her some thinking that, you know, that maybe she -- everybody -- so I gave her a whole thing of it for a dinner several weeks ago and she never commented and I didn't say anything and I had occasion yesterday to be with her and I don't know why, my big mouth, I said, did you like -- did you eat the pasta? Did you like it? She said, um, sort of. She actually admitted that she didn't like the pasta. She'll never get any more, of course. Are you laughing because you can guess who it was?

CHRISTINA: Was it Kathryn?

MARY WARE: Yes.

CHRISTINA: Oh, my gosh.

MARY WARE: She actually admitted it. But that's okay. There are too many people that do like it, so I'm not going to be worried about it.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. Personally I love lasagne.

MARY WARE: You do?

PAUL SNYDER: Yes.

CHRISTINA: All right. Paul, you're on the list.

MARY WARE: Okay. You're on the list. Where do you live?

PAUL SNYDER: Maybe she prefers cupcakes.

MARY WARE: Where do you live?

PAUL SNYDER: I live in Wolverine Lake which is just north of Walled Lake.

MARY WARE: That's not too hard for you to come and get it.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, no. I work right here at Mill Race.

MARY WARE: You work at Mill Race with the gals?

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah, with the gals.

MARY WARE: So you see the Stockhausens?

PAUL SNYDER: All the time. I saw Bill yesterday.

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. Yeah, I'm the archivist there. I take care of the important papers --

MARY WARE: Well, then are you part of the group that come there and works on Tuesday with --

PAUL SNYDER: The Stone Gang? I'm there when they're there.

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. I don't do that work.

MARY WARE: They come, what, on Tuesday, I believe?

PAUL SNYDER: Yep.

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: We have donuts on Tuesdays, so they come on Tuesdays.

MARY WARE: That's when they come, on Tuesday.

CHRISTINA: They wouldn't miss it.

PAUL SNYDER: Great group of guys.

MARY WARE: There were two trees planted at Mill Race. They have probably died since.

PAUL SNYDER: Were they --

MARY WARE: I don't know --

PAUL SNYDER: Were they planted in memory?

MARY WARE: Don --

PAUL SNYDER: Okay. I can look up and find out if they're still --

MARY WARE: I don't know.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay. I'll find out.

MARY WARE: We did that one dinner at the Mill Race, spaghetti dinner to raise money. Did you know Beth Lapham.

PAUL SNYDER: No.

MARY WARE: Charles' mom?

PAUL SNYDER: No, I didn't.

MARY WARE: No. Well, she was going to do a fundraiser. And she asked for donations and that was one of the first Italian dinners that we did. I said, I'll give you a donation, but if you want to do a bridge party, we can raise more money. She was in charge of the one for the Mill Race. They didn't have anything there then.

PAUL SNYDER: No?

MARY WARE: Now it's a pleasure to do it over there now.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah. Well, there's some --

MARY WARE: Our garden club meets over there.

PAUL SNYDER: They do. They just met this week.

MARY WARE: Right.

PAUL SNYDER: As a matter of fact, I saw the article that they did, a wonderful picture of you in an article about showed you cooking -- rolling pasta out.

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: -- in *The Northville Record*. It was for the -- I think it was 1974 --

MARY WARE: Probably.

PAUL SNYDER: -- to raise money.

MARY WARE: That's the best way to raise money. They won't give you \$5 for somebody. If they're going to eat for 5 bucks, they'll give you 10. That's a good way to do it.

PAUL SNYDER: It is. All right. Any other memories you would care to share at this point?

MARY WARE: When you say 100, it scares me. But come January, of course, as I tell everybody -- close your ears Christina. I have an Italian father. From the time we were little, you had your 10th birthday on the 7th of January and on the 8th of January, you were 11 years old. So I was 100, I'm 100 years old since January 8th.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: I'm blessed because I'm completely healthy. But I did fall and that's why I'm using a walker because I still have pain in my leg and hopefully we'll get back to normal again.

PAUL SNYDER: I understand you need -- recently had a -- what was it, a knee?

MARY WARE: My right knee replaced. What's wrong, the left one is as old as the right one.

PAUL SNYDER: It's a hold out.

MARY WARE: I'm fortunately very disgustingly healthy and I appreciate it.

PAUL SNYDER: There is nothing disgusting about it. It's wonderful.

MARY WARE: Yeah. I don't want to -- Christina is doing a beautiful job of keeping me in line. She doesn't even trust me to do my medicine. Where is it? She's got it fixed for me so that I can get it in the morning and do it at night.

CHRISTINA: What did you used to do? Tell him about the Town Halls, the Northville Town Halls.

MARY WARE: That was the one we used to have uptown.

CHRISTINA: With Maria von Trapp.

MARY WARE: Oh, she was from -- she was one of our speakers.

PAUL SNYDER: Really?

MARY WARE: Yeah. We used to have the -- down at the theatre we were -- I think we were one of the -- oldest running Town Hall that we -- that we had. It was quite successful. Quite successful. She was good. Of course we went to Maine and saw her village that they had there.

We had a lot of nice speakers. That we had. Marian Zayti. You know the name Zayti? She is a related to the Zaytis from the theatre, Jay and all. Marian was having -- was working for the school system here. She was having what is now Rebecca's, was Cloverdale at the time. She was sitting there at the counter having her ice cream and I think it was Vincent Price came in and she was sitting there with him talking. She got so excited. She said, I have to go because I'm working on my lunch hour. He said, don't worry, I'll send you an excuse. So he wrote her and excused her because she's having her ice cream with me, Vincent Price. That was the nice -- that was a nice series. We were one of the oldest ones to have it going.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: Another thing that we had here at the theatre, some of the things that were things. We had Overture to Opera. David DiChiera who just recently passed away, that redid the opera here, he started into Broadway Capitol. That was Danny Thomas's -- that's where Danny Thomas had his shows all the time.

As a matter of fact, when they declared Pearl Harbor, that's where I was, at the Broadway Capitol watching Danny Thomas. That show, they turned the lights on and told us what happened, closed the theatre down and we all went home. It was a Sunday night. Wasn't it a Sunday night?

PAUL SNYDER: I think it was.

CHRISTINA: We can check that.

MARY WARE: They turned all the lights on and said Pearl Harbor had just been attacked and we all left. I think he was the one on stage. He was with the Senate Sweet Shop on Michigan Avenue. That was his hangout. That's where he would -- because he was originally here. We had his daughter Marlo Thomas. She was one of our speakers for our Town Hall. A lot of well-known ones that we had. We were one of the longest running ones in Town Hall. That's a thing of the past now. Why would they want to go see -- you see them on TV. Town Halls are all gone now. They were quite popular there for a while.

PAUL SNYDER: That had to be terrifying when they turned on the lights and told you about Pearl Harbor.

MARY WARE: Because there was the movie. Back then you -- we saw all the big names, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, little Sammy Davis, Junior. They would come to the Fox and the Michigan Theatre in downtown Detroit and they were smart because if you went in, you got to see -- you would see the movie. And then you would see the stage play. Well, they caught on. People wouldn't leave so here you were. So what they would do is, you would see the movie. You would see the stage play. Then they turn the lights on and empty the theatre. In the meantime, they would sell the tickets to the new group and you would be waiting outside and they would count, of course, and then soon as the lights went off, and then they refill the theatre.

I saw Frank Sinatra at least three times. The last time that we saw him, he was at the Adams Theatre. My cousin and I were the last, not the last two, but the second to last two when they closed off the line. That's the only way you would get to see. Otherwise half of the people would stay in and see the second show. So that was how they eliminated, made you get out of the theatre.

PAUL SNYDER: That's amazing.

MARY WARE: I don't know what they do today. You don't have that many stage plays today. Even at the Fox anymore. Although they did do for a while there the Fox Theatre they had them, but I don't think they do anymore.

PAUL SNYDER: I think at the Fox every now and then they will have. I'm trying to remember oh, no, it was the Fisher where "Hamilton" was. Fisher still does plays.

MARY WARE: At the Fisher. But then they only have the one play that night and it's over. When they had the theatres in Detroit, they were open in the afternoon for matinees and for evenings. They would do two and three shows a night.

PAUL SNYDER: That's amazing. When the opera came to Northville, you were involved with that?

MARY WARE: Overture to Opera it was called. We had the one evening at the theatre in town. Reva Shave was charge of it. It was very, very well received. David DiChiera did that. I worked at the opera for -- in the gift thing downtown. It's Broadway Capitol.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, okay. Wow. You have done a lot of different things.

MARY WARE: But they broke -- I worked on Sunday. I wouldn't go down at night. I worked the Sunday matinee. Then I would stay and see the act, the rest because we could go in because the gift shop was closed while the opera -- we were open two hours before and then we were open during intermission and then one hour after. I always went on Sunday because I didn't want to be downtown at night. Believe it or not, they broke into my car twice in broad daylight.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, you're kidding.

MARY WARE: What is there to steal? Nothing.

PAUL SNYDER: They didn't know until they broke in.

MARY WARE: They broke the window and left it, but they had nothing to steal. There was no phone or no radio or anything. It was just somebody wanted -- today they would have shot it. Then I think they might have used a stone or whatever. Today they probably would just shoot it. That's what they do is lucky. Never went down at night. Always went in the matinee. Christina was in the opera -- she was in *La Boheme*.

CHRISTINA: Yes, *La Boheme*.

MARY WARE: That and *Turandot*.

CHRISTINA: I want you to tell him -- I think he would find it interesting before we wrap up about when you first came to Northville with your -- with your aunt.

MARY WARE: I thought she was talking to you.

PAUL SNYDER: No.

CHRISTINA: About the sanatorium.

PAUL SNYDER: Your visit to your aunt?

MARY WARE: Oh, wow. Does that ever go back.

CHRISTINA: When you first came to Northville.

MARY WARE: There is a picture in the phone --

CHRISTINA: I'll get it.

MARY WARE: -- of Grandma and Grandpa and -- Grandpa John and me and Great Grandma and Grandpa taken on the grounds. My father had a sister. I had an Aunt Mary. I'm Aunt Mary, but I had an Aunt Mary. She was -- had tuberculosis. We couldn't say tuberculosis. I can hardly say it now, let alone when I was five years old. So it was known as TB. She was out here at Maybury. We would come out and could visit -- well, we couldn't go in. Our parents could go in. We would play outside. And we would come out. We would come out in an old Packard.

That was when you could get three and a half people in the front seat. I was the half person that sat in my dad's lap. Then in the backseat you could get four people -- four and a half. So the four aunts and uncles would sit in the back and my brother would sit on somebody's lap. We would come out here.

It was like going out of town because we would drive in, we would be gone all day. By the time you drove out, we'd stay and we would go back. She was out here I would guess maybe two or three years. Then she was released to go home. They built a room onto the back of the house with windows because it was

fresh air. I remember that with windows and screens all around all four sides of, three sides of the room for -- she didn't live very long after she came home.

As I tell them now, it looks so different because there was no vegetation. There were no trees. What you see now, all trees. Then I didn't know, I would say I was five or six years old at the time.

Where was Northville? I knew nothing about Northville, nothing outside of Detroit. When I met Don, he lived in Northville, I came out here with him. It was all strange country to me. When we were married, I never thought about it. I was working and never thought anything about it. I knew Maybury was there. I didn't associate that with our family, but my brother did. We came out here and he said, "Mary, this was where Aunt Mary was." I said, "John, you are crazy, this was another town." "I'm telling you, this is where we came." He was right.

By that time, it was what, 25 years later, the trees had grown. You could see the railroad track. Now you can't see the railroad track. Back then you just watched the train go by. If you measure it today from 60 years ago, I didn't recognize it at all. He recognized Six Mile and Northville Road when he came out.

Maybury, Maybury is still there. I don't go out there. I don't know how long. Are the buildings still there? I don't even know.

PAUL SNYDER: I don't know.

MARY WARE: Are the buildings still there, Christina?

CHRISTINA: No.

MARY WARE: I don't think so.

PAUL SNYDER: They came down.

MARY WARE: They ride out there and they bike and everything. They have trails, but I don't remember.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah.

MARY WARE: That was one of the pictures there. We were about that age when we went out there.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow, that's interesting. I have just got one last question, only if you want to give it up, the recipe for your lasagne.

MARY WARE: There's no recipe.

PAUL SNYDER: No recipe?

MARY WARE: No.

PAUL SNYDER: You just --

MARY WARE: I can tell you what you -- no, you will come out here -- show him the pot, Christina. Where is the pan?

CHRISTINA: The dough thing?

MARY WARE: The aluminum pan.

CHRISTINA: Oh, I don't have one. I don't have one. Over here.

MARY WARE: This is what you will get. How many in your family?

PAUL SNYDER: Just my wife and I.

MARY WARE: Then this is fine.

CHRISTINA: You need at least two.

MARY WARE: This is the pan that you will get.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: What you will do -- would you like lasagne, too?

VIDEOGRAPHER: Yes, please.

MARY WARE: You live in Northville?

VIDEOGRAPHER: Novi.

MARY WARE: You can come and get it.

PAUL SNYDER: She works in the library.

MARY WARE: I will take it to Mill Race. I will see that you get it. This is what you will get. What you do is, you put this on a -- cookie sheet and you bake it about 45 minutes to an hour. It will be done.

PAUL SNYDER: Wonderful.

MARY WARE: Then you just eat it. Make a salad and it's your dinner.

PAUL SNYDER: Wonderful.

MARY WARE: I have to tell you what goes in it. Portions I don't know.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: But you have to have sauce, regular sauce, then you have to have three kinds of cheese. You like cheese?

PAUL SNYDER: I love cheese.

MARY WARE: Okay. You have ricotta cheese, mozzarella cheese, and parmesan cheese.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: And then that's -- that's what will be in between. It's a layer of pasta, your sauce, your three cheeses. You repeat it four times, three or four times.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

MARY WARE: That's what you will get.

CHRISTINA: The dough is all about a feeling.

PAUL SNYDER: Really? It's a texture?

MARY WARE: Yeah.

CHRISTINA: Tell him about the dough. How do you know when the dough is done?

MARY WARE: I don't know.

CHRISTINA: There is no recipe.

MARY WARE: There is no recipe.

PAUL SNYDER: You just know?

CHRISTINA: It's by her hands.

MARY WARE: You just know. You start out with two cups of flour and two or three eggs, then you can tell. Have you ever made pie dough?

PAUL SNYDER: I have.

MARY WARE: Then it would be similar to pie dough.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: You would have to roll it and so on. Christina has pictures on my phone and on hers. If she would like to, she can show you because she has made it. And then you do your pasta, the same way you use the same dough and you roll it out. You know what the pasta machine looks like, don't you?

PAUL SNYDER: I have seen them on TV. I have never seen one in person.

MARY WARE: You have never seen one?

PAUL SNYDER: No.

MARY WARE: Christina, you are younger than I am. Show him the one in the bottom drawer.
This is the best kitchen ever. You don't even have to move. It's way in the back. You don't even have to move. I put the machine here.

CHRISTINA: This is it.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, wow. Okay. You just roll your pasta out.

MARY WARE: Mm-hmm.

PAUL SNYDER: Wow.

CHRISTINA: Mm-hmm.

PAUL SNYDER: Very neat.

MARY WARE: My original machine came from it. Show him the cutter, Christina, that you want.

CHRISTINA: Where is it?

MARY WARE: Underneath the small spoons. Gently.

CHRISTINA: This is what, 200 years?

MARY WARE: Would you like to venture how old that is? It was my grandmother's.

PAUL SNYDER: It was your grandmother's?

MARY WARE: It was a gondola.

PAUL SNYDER: Oh, my gosh. It is.

MARY WARE: It was my grandmother's.

PAUL SNYDER: And you cut the pasta with that?

MARY WARE: Every now and again it gets clean, but most of the time this will go to Christina. She will -- she's using it now. But this is what you use to cut your raviolis or your whatever.

PAUL SNYDER: Okay.

MARY WARE: It's a gondola.

PAUL SNYDER: That's wonderful.

MARY WARE: Yeah.

PAUL SNYDER: Have you ever been to Italy?

MARY WARE: Have I what?

PAUL SNYDER: Have you ever been to Italy?

MARY WARE: Oh, yes. I have been very, very fortunate. Don and I went three times. Then I was fortunate enough to go with John, my nephew, with all of Christina's a family. We all went.

PAUL SNYDER: That's wonderful. It's a beautiful place.

MARY WARE: I would not want to go there now. You asked me about changes. Over there versus here, nothing is the same. Each time that we went, you could see the different changes. We've lost our halo. When we went there the first time, they -- you are an American they practically, oh, oh, you know. Today, even when we went the last time -- how old, Christina, you were what, six? Seven?

CHRISTINA: Probably ten.

MARY WARE: You were ten?

CHRISTINA: Too young to be in Italy.

MARY WARE: It was even then it -- even when she -- when we went with the family, you could tell the difference. I would hate to think what it is today. Big, big changes.

PAUL SNYDER: I'll bet.

MARY WARE: But this is what you will have. Unfortunately, I have to wait and find out what this leg -- tomorrow I will know. I have a doctor's appointment tomorrow.

PAUL SNYDER: Good. Good. I hope the best for you with that.

MARY WARE: Thank you. Hopefully so.

PAUL SNYDER: Because I want my, you know --

CHRISTINA: Selfishly you got to get the lasagne.

PAUL SNYDER: I know you hold honesty to a premium. Can I have a little red wine with that? I mean is it -- I usually drink red wine with pasta.

MARY WARE: Absolutely.

CHRISTINA: You have to.

MARY WARE: Absolutely.

PAUL SNYDER: Good.

MARY WARE: Yep.

PAUL SNYDER: Well, it's been a pleasure speaking with you.

MARY WARE: Thank you. Likewise.

PAUL SNYDER: I hope we get a chance to do it again sometime.

MARY WARE: Hopefully God allows me to celebrate my 100th. If he doesn't, I appreciate the years that he has given me.

PAUL SNYDER: I'll be asking him too for you.

MARY WARE: 99 percent of them have been perfect. A few little ones in between, but we try to, you know, go get over them and move on.

PAUL SNYDER: Absolutely.

MARY WARE: Sometimes we do a good job and sometimes we don't.

PAUL SNYDER: Yeah.

MARY WARE: We're blessed with Christina and her family and her friends. Whatever she's shared them. I'm real lucky that everybody is younger than I am. Who is older than me, God? I'm lucky that they even want me around. I mean, come on, let's face it, what do we have in common?

PAUL SNYDER: You've lived the life.

MARY WARE: Laughed with them and them.

PAUL SNYDER: There you go.

MARY WARE: Be glad they're around.

PAUL SNYDER: Of course.

MARY WARE: So --

PAUL SNYDER: Well, wonderful. Okay. I'm going to shut off the recording now.

(Interview concluded.)