

Museum of History and Holocaust Education
Tooken Richardson Cade Interview
Conducted by James Newberry
May 21st, 2015
Transcribed by Lauren Hohn

Full Transcript

Interviewer: All right, this is James Newberry, and I'm here with Tooken Cade on Thursday, May 21st, 2015 in the Social Sciences Building at Kennesaw State University. And, Miss Cade, do you agree to this interview?

Cade: Absolutely.

Interviewer: Wonderful. Well, we'll go ahead and get started at the very beginning. When and where were you born?

Cade: I was born in Detroit, Michigan, and I was...let's see...1924, June 21st.

Interviewer: All right, and what was your name at birth?

Cade: Delores Ann Moran.

Interviewer: Sort of rhymes.

Cade: M-O-R-A-N.

Interviewer: Wonderful. So, tell me, what were your parents' names?

Cade: My dad's name was Charles, my mother's name was Elsie.¹

Interviewer: And...they divorced in 1932?

Cade: Right.

Interviewer: Okay, so tell me about that divorce. Was that a big deal?

Cade: It was such a small deal. I didn't know they were divorced. My mother never told me. My dad never told me. And I found out when I was thirteen years old that daddy wouldn't come home.

Interviewer: How did that make you feel?

Cade: I cried, but after all, it would have been five years. I didn't cry very long. I had mama.

Interviewer: And tell me about your—your relationship with your mother.

Cade: Oh, my mother was my best friend. She was just so wonderful. I don't think she ever thought of anybody but me.

¹ (*Ancestry*).

 **Michigan, Marriage Records, 1867-1952**
MARRIAGE & DIVORCE
[View Image](#)

NAME: Charles V Moran
SPOUSE: Elsie K Kampf
BIRTH: [year - location](#)
BIRTH: [year - location](#)
MORE: [See all information...](#)

Interviewer: And how did she show that?

Cade: Well, she wanted me to go to a good school, and I was going to a—the local school, and one day she came home from work, and the lady that was sitting there...beside me, I was trying to teach her what to do to read. And, she said, “You’re not supposed to be teaching somebody. Somebody’s supposed to be teaching you.” And she said, “I know this wonderful, wonderful school, and the girls all have all these toys to play with and each other, and nobody’s ever lonesome, and we got a big bedroom, and there’ll be thirty beds up there, and there’ll be somebody in every one of them.” And she said, “Oh, that would be t—so nice for you to go there.” And I said, “I just wanna stay home.” [Laughs]. And—but she kept at me, and it was gentle, and I finally said, “Boy, I wish I could go there.” And she said, “Okay, we’re going.” [Chuckles]. And I went to the third grade. I went to St. Mary’s Academy in Windsor, Ontario.

Interviewer: Tell me about the trip to go to school—

Cade: Okay.

Interviewer: From Windsor to Detroit?

Cade: Okay. Well, the school had been right downtown for a long time, St. Mary’s Academy. It was the nuns of—oh, I can’t think of the name—anyway, the people from the United States wanted that property. They wanted to put a tunnel, and they wanted it to come up right there, and so they gave them a million dollars to move, they tore the school down, and meanwhile, they went out with their money and brought a—made a beautiful, beautiful...way out in...Well, in...way out.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And...so it was only one year old when I attended it, and I was in the third grade. I cried like a baby when they brought me and left me there, because I couldn’t—didn’t wanna say goodbye to my mama. And I think I cried myself to sleep, too, but when I woke up the next day, why, things started to get warm. People kept coming and coming and they were dropping off their children, and I got to play with all the toys and the books that were there, and we had to line up to go eat the meals, and we ate in a place called a refectory, but it was delicious, and they were very nice to us.

Interviewer: So what did the school look like, the building that you were in?

Cade: It was *huge*, absolutely huge. I’ve got a picture of it in my...stuff I brought. It was as big as this room, probably. And...we had boys, which I didn’t even know about for quite awhile, and they went to school for up to eighth grade. But we had girls that went all the way through college. The college sector was separate, and I don’t think it was probably very big. But we were...we were big. We just...and we didn’t mix.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm. What was your best subject there?

Cade: Oh...I don’t know, I guess the fact that I felt safe and was comfortable and there was always someone to play with.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm. And did you have a particular class that you were good at?

Cade: No, I was...the first—in the first, that place, the room was a good size, and there would be two desk classes: the third grader on one side, the fourth grader on the other, and we also had day students. They sent the busses out every day and just...brought others to school, but I—I’m guessing there would be no more than fifteen...to a grade. And, so I just did my work and passed the third grade, but then next year I passed the fourth grade. Now, when I got into the fifth and sixth grade, I was sitting on the left, and I was getting hundreds in everything, so at Christmastime, she moved me over to the other side, and I was automatically in the sixth grade. And I was still getting hundreds, so at the end of that year, I got on to the seventh grade, and I was thrilled because my mama had always said that “When you get out of grade school, then you’ll be big enough to take care of yourself a little bit during the day while I’m at work, and I won’t have to worry about you. So, you’ll be able to go to regular school.” So, I had the seventh grade the same way, good scholars, and then the eighth grade, and after the eighth grade, we got out on my birthday, which was June 21st, and I can remember the nurses—the nur—the nuns weighed me, I weighed a hundred pounds, and I was five foot four.

Interviewer: [*Chuckles*]

Cade: And when my mom came and got me that day, I never went back again as a student. I did go back to see Sister Rosalie [del Belermo?] because she was my favorite teacher, and she was the one that passed me from s—five to six. And she was not wrong because I could still keep up with everybody. So, then I went to Annunciation High School—

Interviewer: So you returned to your mother’s household.

Cade: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And tell me about that return—you were living there with your mother and eventually your aunt?

Cade: Yeah, my mother’s sister, and she had been together after my dad had left. And of course that was back then, and so that was when I said, “Now daddy can come home, and we can all be together.” And mama said, “He’s not coming home. We’re divorced.” Just like that. And I said, “Oh, mama, can’t you change it?” She said, “We don’t wanna change it. He doesn’t and I sure don’t.” She never said anything bad about him, and he never said anything bad about her.

Interviewer: So did you see him that time?

Cade: Well, he comes around once in a while. He would—maybe two or three times a year, and he was always bringing me presents, and he was—and he always had silver dollars, so we called him my “Silver Dollar Daddy.”

Interviewer: So, you went to Annunciation High School.

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: And how many years did you attend it?

Cade: That was freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm. And tell me a little bit about that high school.

Cade: It was a very good high school and we enjoyed going there, and it was three blocks away from our apartment, and...so I could walk to school, come home for lunch, and I learned—mama showed me how to open the can opener. My favorite food was Franco-American spaghetti.

[*They both laugh.*]

Cade: And...actually, we'd always have things for me to eat, and I would make...I was pretty independent by that time, because when I was in boarding school, I would come home one weekend a month, and she worked downtown and my Aunt [Mooel?], she worked downtown, so I would be in our apartment, and then I'd come down when I woke up and we'd go out to lunch, and then she'd give me money, and I'd go to the movies while she was working.

Interviewer: What sort of work was she doing?

Cade: Mmm? She worked in a very fancy placed called Russek's.² Russek's was in New York, it was also in Chicago, and it was also in [Doubletree?] Detroit, which incidentally is no longer a big city, but it *was* a big city when I lived there. It was the fourth largest city in the United States. It had a beautiful girth—big store downtown called the J. L. Hudson Company, but it's not there anymore.³ And...and they would have a parade of Santa Clause, much like Macy's does, and...and so Auntie—my aunt liv—worked there and mama worked at Russek's, which was the next block. Okay?

Interviewer: Okay.

[*Both laugh.*]

Cade: And Aunt [Mooel?] never got married and she went to war when the war was on, because she said that somebody from our family should be represented. Her last name was Kampf—

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm

Cade: —and it was K-A-M-P-F—the German spelling, because my grandfather had been born in Germany and come over here when he twelve.

Interviewer: Okay. So, did your mother remarry?

Cade: My mother did remarry, and we married him on my fourteenth year, so I was out of grade school, and I had just finished my freshman year, and mama had known him for quite awhile, and he had been very nice to me, and...he had never married, and so...when he met her, he said, "I'd like a friend, but I don't want a wife."
[*Chuckles.*] And so they had gone out to dinner and...for several years, and when

² *Russek's*: A fur store founded in New York City at the turn of the century. The Detroit store expanded to include shoes and clothes of various material. (Wayne State University).

³ *J. L. Hudson Company*: The downtown Detroit store had the distinction of once being the tallest department store in the world ("Brimming with Style").

he was ready to come and get me from my grandma's house, in Princeton, Illinois, why she told him that she didn't wanna see him anymore when she came back. "Because," she said, "I just don't wanna just live like this, I'm thirty six years old, and I need to find somebody, and you don't want to, so..." [*She punctuates this with a little noise.*]. So, she got down, and two days later, he called her and said, "I'm coming down. We're getting married." [*Chuckles.*]

Interviewer: So she put the pressure on him?

Cade: And so—so we married grandpa, and his name was John Shirley.⁴ He was the nicest daddy I ever had.

Interviewer: Did you—did you feel like he was a father to you?

Cade: Oh, yes, he was—listen, he wanted to go on my honeymoon. [*Chuckles.*]

Interviewer: Oh, really?

Cade: Really. He just...he just, "She doesn't know anything about anything."

[*They both chuckle.*]

Interviewer: So he was protective?

Cade: But mama wouldn't let him go. [*Chuckles.*]

Interviewer: That's good. So, you were going to high school at—dur—when Pearl Harbor was attacked—⁵

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

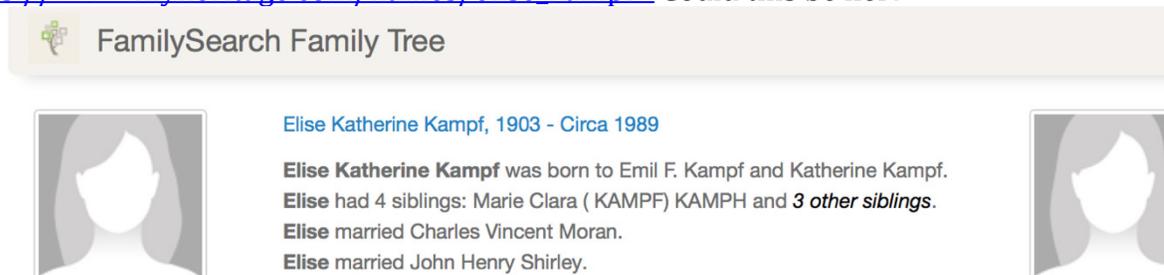
Interviewer: —By the Japanese.

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: And how did that sort of change your high school?

Cade: Well, it just absolutely scared me to death because the day it came over the radio, I was taking a nap and—curled up in my bed—and my parents had gone out for a walk, and I couldn't tell anybody. So as soon as they got home, why, I said, "We're at war!" And they couldn't believe it either, you know? And it didn't affect us at that time, but I was in my freshman year at the University of Detroit, and...that changed completely. Everybody went out—it was seventy-five percent

⁴ https://www.myheritage.com/names/elise_kampf# Could this be her?



FamilySearch Family Tree

Elise Katherine Kampf, 1903 - Circa 1989

Elise Katherine Kampf was born to Emil F. Kampf and Katherine Kampf. **Elise** had 4 siblings: Marie Clara (KAMPF) KAMPH and 3 other siblings. **Elise** married Charles Vincent Moran. **Elise** married John Henry Shirley.

⁵ *Pearl Harbor*: The site of the December 7th Japanese attack on a US Naval base, the catalyst for America's entry into the war in 1941.

boys, twenty-five percent girls, and all those boys wanted to go and save the world. And so...when I got to the end of that year in June, I went looking for a job.

Interviewer: And what did you find?

Cade: I found a job in a federal bank, and when I was—I worked in the ____ [plain card?] division, and I don't know what—to this day what—[plancor?] means, but it was—when people had a business, and they wanted to do something for the government, they would be...pro...the war, and how much money would it take. And my dad tried to explain it said, “In the carpet industry, we make nine by twelve rugs,” and he said, “That same machine, if it's been...if you train it right, why, it will make a blanket for a soldier, so,” he said, “Most of the carpet mills are making blankets, and we are financing the change so that they can do that for us.”

Interviewer: Were you still—

Cade: And I...am the one who wrote the check.

Interviewer: Ah.

Cade: And sometimes, it was like a hundred thousand dollars, and sometimes it was four hundred.

Interviewer: So how did that make you feel?

Cade: I thought I was part of the war effort.

Interviewer: So, were you still attending classes—

Cade: Mmm?

Interviewer: —At the University of Detroit?

Cade: Well, the school had changed, it was...it was empty. It was empty...wasn't fun anymore. And I really just felt like I wanted to do something too, but on the other hand, somebody had called the University of Detroit and asked for some nice girls to work in the USO, and I was one that was selected, and they called me and asked me to go over and have an interview and see if I qualified and then come to work.⁶

Interviewer: Well, let's go back to the federal bank. How long were you at the federal bank?

Cade: Probably just about a year. I was only making eighty dollars a month, so I was looking for a little better job.

Interviewer: And at that time, didn't you also participate in a theatre troupe?

Cade: Uh-huh.

⁶ *USO*: The United Service Organization, originally United Service Organizations for the National Defense (USOND), was formed in February 1941 and soon became its own organization “to raise funds, develop a program of services and serve as a liaison with the Federal government” (Cohen 355).

Interviewer: And how did you get involved in that?

Cade: Well, I was...I was the one that got the publicity. I was the chairman.

Interviewer: And what—who were the other members of the group, were they friends, were they—

Cade: they were just making a little, little plays. I don't know that we were very...successful. [*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: And where did you put on performances?

Cade: It was somewhere downtown, but I frankly don't remember where...and it wasn't a very big place, and it didn't last, but I was the chairman.

[*Both laugh*].

Interviewer: So, eventually, you said, there was a call made from the United Service Organizations, USO, to the federal bank?

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: Looking for young women?

Cade: Mmm.

Interviewer: Okay, and you were chosen?

Cade: Not the work, no I got my job out of the paper I saw, answered an ad, and—but they knew where I was from, that I was a freshman at college and just wanted to help.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm. So tell me about starting work with the USO.

Cade: Well, we came—we came on Saturday, and my girlfriend from the UOD went with me, and we both got...assigned to work on Saturday from six to twelve, or maybe it was seven to eleven, I don't remember, but anyway, we were coming there, and she was given the second floor and I got the sub-basement. You're smiling and I'm smiling, too. [*Chuckles*]. But it was fun down there because that was a big play room, and it had all kinds of things to play like ping-pong and, you know, when you're shooting the ball. [*She makes a gesture with her hands*]

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And...and we had music down there and we also had a cameraman, and he was a volunteer and he took cameras, and he took pictures of servicemen, and we mailed them out for them, so they would always have to fill out a form, and that was my job to get that information. And that's where I was the night that my young man came bouncing in, and he was...in the Navy, and he had come in with his buddy to see where he could find just some little things to play with, and...they had cots and they had places you could take a shower, they had...hot...meal open in the cafeteria twenty-four hours a day. You could always walk in there and there was always somebody there to feed you. And...so they were just looking, they had never been to a USO before, and they were midshipmen, and they were both cute, and...but I got the one, and I asked him if he'd like to have his picture taken, and...he said, "Not particularly," and he said, "What would I do with the

picture?” I said, “You’d send it to your mother or possibly your girlfriend.” And he said, “Well they know how I look. They don’t need another one.” But he said, “I’d like to have a picture if you’ll be in it.” And...I said, “I’m not in the pictures, I just help get them out.” And he said, “Well, go ask him.” So I did. And he said, “Sure,” he said, “I’ll take your picture,” and...he said, “Tell them it’s okay.” And so when I told my friend, he found his friend, and you’ve seen the picture. I’m in the middle, and he’s got one on both--other side and Richard’s on the other. He told me later that he knew the minute he saw me he was gonna marry me. And...three weeks later, he proposed.

Interviewer: So, that evening after you took the picture, what did he—didn’t he wanna take you to see his parents?

Cade: Oh, yes, he offered to take me home, and I said I wasn’t allowed to leave with a serviceman. They were very serious about that, that was not a place to do that, but he knew my address because I gave it to him for the picture, and...and he said, “Can I have your telephone number?” He said, “I wanna meet your parents.” And...so I said, “Well, that’s okay.” So I gave him my phone number, and I took a taxi home, and the telephone rang on Sunday morning, and it was him, and he said, “Can I come out and see your—meet your family?” And I said, “Just a minute,” and I said, “Mama, that boy I told you about just called...and he said he’d like to come out.” She said, “Tell him to come for Sunday dinner, two o’clock.” And...he did, and he made a big hit with my parents.

Interviewer: Well, tell me about that dinner. Why was—why did he impress them?

Cade: Well, I think she thought he was away from home and a home-cooked meal was gonna feel real good.

Interviewer: Right. So...tell me about how your relationship progressed. Did he...did he ask you to...marry him...pretty soon?

Cade: Well, three weeks later, but first of all, he was...they were having a party out at the base and he invited me to that, and so it meant going downtown in Detroit and catching a bus and taking it all the way South of Rome—excuse me, Rome, where am I?

Interviewer: [*Chuckles*].

Cade: Let’s see...anyway, he was at the base, and we went out to the base, and we danced and we danced and we danced, and...I had been—I wore a brand new dress, and it was purple, and it was real pretty and soft, but it wrinkled. It was made out of rayon, because...that was all that was available, and I was very embarrassed that I...kind of wanted to be...frontwards with him.⁷ And...and he kept telling me I look just fine, I look just fine, and...when it was time to leave, why, he took me to the bus—and I *knew* from looking at him in the face that he was trying to decide whether he should kiss me or not, ’cause we hadn’t had a kiss yet. And so I leaned over and kissed him on the cheek, and he went, “Ahhh...” [*She imitates a sigh*].

⁷ *Rayon*: A silk substitute made of cellulose (*Encyclopædia Britannica*).

[Cade, the Interviewer, and other people in the room laugh].

Cade: And then I got on the bus.

[Cade and the interviewer laugh].

Cade: So, he proposed in three weeks because, it turned out, he had been transferred to Chicago, a big naval base there with one of the big ones...and he said, "I've got to go," and he said, "I just can't help it," and he said, "I was just sick about it. I didn't wanna marry y—I *do* wanna marry you, but I didn't wanna ask you so quick. But," he said, "If you will be engaged to me, I have to complete my...job, whatever, and"—he said—"I can't get married until then." And he said, "I don't have enough money to buy you a ring because," he said, "Money—what money I've got is home in a bank, and my mother can't get to it." And he said, "I don't wanna ask her for—to loan." And he said, so he said, "I just—I'm so scared somebody's going to take you away from me," so he said, "I bought you this." And he showed me [*She jingles her bracelet*] my bracelet.

Interviewer: Wanna hold it up?

Cade: Yeah, it's... [*She holds up her wrist to show off her bracelet. It's silver, made of little ringlets and a long plate*] It says 'Tooken,' and as he says, "If somebody asks you out, just put out your hand and say, 'I'm tooken.'"

[*Laughter*].

Cade: And then he started writing me letters, of course, he was in Chicago, and I was in Detroit, and we were engaged. [*Chuckles*]. And, so, he was...he'd say, "Dear Tooken One," and so I'd sign it "Dear Tooken," and back and forth and back and forth. And he started calling me Tooken, introducing me as Tooken, and pretty soon Tooken took over and Deloris got moved along.

Interviewer: [*Chuckles*]. So what was it about—how—how did he come up with that name? Obviously, it's like you're his taken one—

Cade: Well, there was a—there was a thing—a little pin, and I've still got it, and it says a cute little boy, and he's holding something, and it says "Taken," and it's a heart.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And he had bought me one, and I wore it on my jacket. And...he liked that so much, and he said, "I thought 'Taken' sounded a little harsh, so"—he said—"I made it my own name." Tooken.

Interviewer: Ah. So you were writing letters back and forth, and what was it about his personality that you liked?

Cade: Why, he was so much fun. He was just so happy and so nice, and he *loved* Coca-Colas.⁸ [*Chuckles*]. And even if he got a hot fudge sundae, he always had to have a Coke to wash it down.

⁸ *Coca-Cola*: A soft drink created in 1886 by Dr. John S. Pemberton, a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia ("The Chronicle of Coca-Cola: Birth of a Refreshing Idea").

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And he was—he was just—I just can't tell you. He was so thoughtful. He was so kind. And he kept that. It wasn't just before we got married. For the rest of my life, he loved me and he told me he loved me and he chased me around and he was...he was great.

Interviewer: So let's talk a little more about the USO.

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: You said you had started working there, and they had sort of rules about how the—p—the people who were working there could interact with the servicemen.

Cade: Well, we were just—to be very entertaining, but not f—fresh, you know?

Interviewer: Right.

Cade: And they had every Saturday night, there were lots of clubs downtown, and the building for the USO was in the—in the business district, and it was a great, big building, and so that, as I said, I was in the sub-basement, but my friend, Casey was up in the second floor.⁹ Well that was where all the dancing and things went on, but I got to be with the dancers as well, because I stayed to help with the photographer, but they would all move down.

Interviewer: And what kind of things did you—there was a wonderful picture of you handing things out.

Cade: Well, that was Christmas, and they had collected tons and tons and tons of gifts, and then we passed them out. And they took our picture, and there was a big USO there, so it was a kind of...used a lot.

Interviewer: Did the USO, like, *rent* the building?

Cade: I don't know whether they owned it or rented it. I really don't—I think they probably owned it.

Interviewer: So, did you always work as a photographer's assistant, or did you change jobs for the USO?

Cade: Oh, no, I...that's not what I did with the others. I was a typist in the—in the bank, and then I worked at the Henkel Flour Mill, and whenever anybody asked me what I did there, I said, "I was the model for the ninety-eight pound sacks."

[*The Interviewer and Cade chuckle*].

Interviewer: But at the USO, were you paid a good salary?

Cade: Well, I had a—I was making more like thirty-five dollars a week, and that was a...big jump over the bank. And...but Mama didn't charge me to live at home, you know, lots of times, kids go off to work and pay to stay with Mama, but I was Mama's little girl, and...so I had nice clothes and a bank account, and I could go to Chicago. My last job was working for a friend of my father's who was in the

⁹ *Casey*: This is an estimate of the correct spelling of this woman's name.

carpet business, and they didn't have any business, so all I was doing was filing and answering the phone, and...just keeping the thing alive. And we had a big party, and...I got to meet all of our customers, and they all talked to me when they called, trying to get some more carpet and not being able to get it because it wasn't in. And every month we would get a certain amount, and the—the best customers would always get the good stuff.

Interviewer: Okay, let's see, so you were dealing with the shortages?

Cade: Mmm.

Interviewer: During the war?

Cade: Yes.

Interviewer: And you said you had a dress made of rayon?

Cade: There—yes.

Interviewer: So, what other sort of shortages were you dealing with?

Cade: Well, I don't really...much know. I just now that purple dress wrinkled. [Chuckles]. And that was only thing I had like that, but you know, we couldn't get nylons or anything like that, and of course you...with shoes you had a little thing out of your book, and...and sometimes they were as good as they used to be. But I—I worked in the business district with the last company, with the carpet company, and so I was only about five blocks from the train station, and on Friday afternoon, I could walk from there to the...to the...and get on the train, and in five hours I was in Chicago, and of course...they were...an hour behind us, so when I would get there it would be ten o'clock, and he'd meet me at the train station, and the good luck was he had a *lovely* sister named Eve, who lived there. She was a cosmetologist, and she was a nice lady, and she let me have a bedroom every time I came, and so I could get over there, spend all day Saturday and all day Sunday, and Sunday I'd take a sleeper home and go right to work.

Interviewer: So was he training in Chicago?

Cade: He was—I don't know what he was doing there. I really don't know, but they had him for at least two months, and during that time, I think I got there about every other month—every other month—every...because I was earning money and it wasn't expensive to ride the train, and...of course I didn't have any cost when I got there, and lots of things in Chicago are...available, lots of museums and lots of...all just...places. [Chuckles].

Interviewer: So, what would y'all do on these weekends?

Cade: That's what—we didn't eat expensive, we'd go to the movies, we'd...just be together.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: Mmm-hmm. And the next place he went was Asbury Park, so he'd gotten away from me, but—so we were still every day back and forth, back and forth.

Interviewer: Where is Asbury Park?

Cade: It's in...near Atlantic City.

Interviewer: Okay.

Cade: Yeah. And...while he was there, they had a hurricane. [*Chuckles*]. And it was really bad. But anyway, then after that, that was when he was ultimately sent to...after...to Cornell, and that was to get his ensignship.

Interviewer: Okay, so did you visit him in...Ithaca?

Cade: Oh, yes, and they had a wonderful hotel and they had a big window and you'd sit there in their lobby and watch all the kids going up the hill, up the hill, up there, because it was always *up* the hill in Ithaca.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm. And that's where you married?

Cade: And we—and the reason we got married there was because we weren't sure how much time vacation time he was gonna get after he got through with his grades, and so we...we didn't dare take a chance, so I—instead of having a nice, long dress, I had a nice...beige suit, and a cute little hat instead of a wedding veil, and...we just had a good time and...went to the movies and were together. But when we were getting married, I got my blood taken, and then we had to get the license, and he—he had his there, well mine was sent to Ithaca because...they thought that was gonna solve it, but...the blood broke down in the plane, in other words, the bag, it was in a test tube, I guess...it was not usable, and they called me up and said, "If you don't get up here right *now* and have your blood taken *here*, then you can't marry on that date."¹⁰ So, I jumped on the train and got there and the people in the hotel helped me and got me a place to take a...my test and got me there and everything. Everybody was so nice, I mean they ooh! [*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: Describe your wedding. Was it small—small or large?

Cade: [*Giggles*]. Well, his parents came and my parents came—that was my step-father—and...that was it. [*Chuckles*]. And...and of course everyone else—were people that my husband knew, but that weren't gonna be...they were all scattering because whatever time they got before they had to report it depended on where they were going, and we were going to Norfolk, and that was a three-day run, so we didn't have much time, so the girl that was the girlfriend of his man...what do you call the male?

Interviewer: Best man?

Cade: Yeah. And—the best man. The best man had a best girl. [*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: And she was the maid of honor?

Cade: And she was my maid of honor, and I don't to this day know who she was.

[*Laughter*].

¹⁰ *Blood*: Before marriage, couples were required to take blood tests to check for communicable diseases and hereditary diseases (Buckles, Guldi, and Price).

Cade: And I didn't have a b—bouquet. I had a...corsage. And...and then we went back to the hotel, and my dad had gotten a most beautiful—it was a...well, it wasn't really a breakfast, but it was a kind of a...and we had a cake and we had everything, and...it was for all of us that had been there. [*Chuckles*]. All six of us.

Interviewer: And then you had to take the train—

Cade: And then we had to take the train, and my dad wanted to go with us because he didn't think I should go on that honeymoon by myself [*Chuckles*] and my mother wouldn't let him. But my father-in-law and his wife, they went to Ithaca to see us married, but then afterwards, they went to see Niagara Falls.

Interviewer: Oh. They sort of built in a little d—like an extra sight-seeing tour.

Cade: Exactly.

Interviewer: So when you got to Norfolk, was he—going to ship out from there?

Cade: Absolutely. He knew he was going to work to study damage control, but he was going to be there for awhile. And originally he didn't want me to go 'cause he said, "That place just is crawling with the navy," and he said, "I don't think it's a safe place for a pretty girl." But...he said, "We'll go down together and see how it is." So, when we took the train out of New York, it was a train, but when we got to the service point, then it was a boat, and then it was a train again, and...cause we had passed—I don't know which—what water, what water we were on—but when we got in—we got in downtown Norfolk, and it was...he looked at me [*gasp*] "All those people!" But we went up to the big hotel and at the big hotel, there was a navy desk and an army desk, and when people came in, you went there to find out where to find a room. And they picked us up for the night and then told us the following day to come back and they would get us a permanent place, so we did and...they sent us out to sea this one lovely area in the Norfolk area, and it was just...just a pretty, pretty, pretty place, and ensigns and their wives were just living all up and down the streets because they had gone door to door, asking people, did they have any extra room for the navy? And...we got to live with Mr. Doc Reverend and Mrs. White, and they were First Presbyterian, which we were, and...we could have their...well, it used to be the maid's place, and it was a nice room right over the garage and had its *own bathroom*, and we were the only ones that I know that got—had that. [*Chuckles*]. That was a good—and it was fifteen dollars a week.

Interviewer: How long did you live there?

Cade: About three months. And...the minister had a piano down at the foot of the stairway, which we had to go down when we came out of the room, and...he would play "Willow Titwillow, Titwillow" and sing.¹¹

¹¹ *Willow Titwillow, Titwillow*: Lyrics from the comic opera *The Mikado* by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. In the context of the musical, the popular song is about unrequited love ("The Mikado: Libretto of the Japanese Comic Opera in Two Acts").

Interviewer: Mmm.

Cade: And he didn't have a very good voice. He was—but he was so cute and nice. He was so nice. And I kept in touch with her until he died.

Interviewer: Wow. So at this time, you were also sort of creating a scrapbook?

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: Of you and your husband's relationship and marriage—

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: —And some of the places you stayed during that period?

Cade: Mmm.

Interviewer: And...tell me a little bit—little bit about that?

Cade: Well...we had a place down the street about a block and a half...that had a restaurant in it, and I can't remember the name of it, but I've got it written down somewhere, you could go there and eat for a dollar. And it was one meat, three vegetables, drink, and desert. Can't beat that. And we could go to the NLB, which the Norway—Norwegian...

Interviewer: [*Chuckles*]

Cade: [*She slaps her hands on her lap*] Shoot! [*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: Norfolk?

Cade: Anyway, yeah. Anyway, we could go the club, the officer's club and we could get steak for about a dollar or lobster. And...delicious. So, we kind of slip it up.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Cade: We kind of spilt. There were—there were values in both ways. But he would go out on the *USS Wyoming* every day, and they called it “Yo-Yo” because it went out every day and it came in everyday, so the anchor was always going up and down, so it was Yo-Yo. And that was where he was learning damage control. When he had completed the damage control—and I think it took us about three months—and during that time, Roosevelt had died, and that was a very sad occasion, and everything shut down even there, so that...that was not a day when we went to the club. [*Chuckles*]. And...but anyway...then he got thirty days leave because after the leave, he was going to be going overseas. So...we went to his family, and of course, I had only met them twice. He took me once down when he first got engaged to me, and then of course I'd seen them at the wedding. But...we went out to their house. It was a cute little house, and it was in Witt, Illinois, which was right next to Nokomis, Illinois. And...so we went there and spent a week with them, had a good visit, and then we went up to Michigan and we had a good time over there, and came up to say goodbye to everybody, and then it was getting to be time, so we went to Chicago, and we got on the train. The train took three days and three nights. When we got to Omaha, there was another ensign and his wife on the train, and he said, “Where're you gonna stay when you get to...San Francisco?” And we said, “We don't know, we'll just go

the desk in the...airport, or the train station,” and...he said, “No,” he says, “You need to stay at the Fairmont. You need to send them a telegram. And so we did, and when we got to Omaha, we got [?] thing from them, and we were—had an appointment, so we stayed at the nicest hotel in town, and I think I showed it to you, wasn’t it six dollars a night?”

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: Ah-ha. And...

Interviewer: And that’s in Omaha?

Cade: No—no, that’s in San Francisco.

Interviewer: Okay, so you’re at the Fairmont in San Francisco?

Cade: Yeah, and that was six dollars. We didn’t—we didn’t stay in a hotel in...in Omaha.

Interviewer: You were just passing through?

Cade: Yeah. We—we learned, and as much as I was pregnant and couldn’t wait for food, that we needed to get off at the stations and buy some food. So that’s what we did each time we get to a big town, we would get off, ’cause they’d stay half an hour or an hour. And...so that kept me happy.

Interviewer: [*Chuckles*].

Cade: And...I don’t think we said I was pregnant, did we?

Interviewer: No, not yet.

[*Chuckles*].

Cade: Well, that was part of it. And—heck, we were gonna wait until after...the war was over, but...it didn’t work that way. They didn’t have anything good to stop it from happening.¹²

[*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: So you stayed at the Fairmont in San Francisco?

Cade: Uh-huh. And, well we—

Interviewer: For six dollars?

Cade: Right. Right, and what was nice was the President of the United States, and that was Harry...

Interviewer: Truman.

Cade: Truman. And...he was—he had three floors in the building. And I think I showed you a piece of newspaper that they made and put out every day underneath the door. And, of course, we weren’t in it—but we still got the paper. And I thought that was very special because not everybody got to see those papers. And...

¹² *Anything good*: contraception.

Interviewer: Did you catch sight of him?

Cade: Mmm?

Interviewer: Did you see President Truman?

Cade: Mmm?

Interviewer: Did you see President Truman?

Cade: No, I didn't see him, but I sure saw a lot of other people. And there were people from all—all countries—they were trying to get the United Nations started, and that was the sole business they had...And he was working with lots and lots of strangers. And he was a brand new president because he'd only been—what?—six weeks in? Something like that.

Interviewer: Hmm. So how long did you stay at that hotel in San Francisco?

Cade: Yes, one night. Because when he reported in at the navy office, they transferred us to Seattle. So we had to come home and pack what little we had unpacked, and get down to the station and get on a train that took us...took us all day, straight North, to Seattle. And there we stayed...in a little dump of a place overnight, and then next day we found a nice hotel and moved, and...and that was also like five or six dollars a night.

Interviewer: So you were pregnant at this time...

Cade: Mmm.

Interviewer: Was it hard, moving all over the place?

Cade: I didn't have any problems with that, not with any of them. I never got sick, and...hmmm...No, I just...I'm gonna tell you something, can you cross it out?

Interviewer: Hmm.

Cade: Well, when I went to the doctor for the baby, he said I was very healthy and-and would I like to make some money? And my mother said, "Of course she would." And—'cause my mother was the one who took me to the doctor—and he said, "Well," he said, "the...urine of women who are having their first baby in this kind of health is very valuable, and they'll pay a dollar a gallon for it. I said, "I don't wanna do that." [*Chuckles*]. And my mother said, "Yes, she does."

[*Interviewer chuckles*].

Cade: So, he said, "It's very nice." He said, "Every Friday, a truck will come up to your house, and they will put a plain box on the back. It will have four one gallon jars."

Interviewer: Well, what did they use it for?

Cade: They made pills out of it for men!¹³ [*Snickers*].

¹³Pills Out of It: Placenta in pregnant women and horses produces HCG, a hormone used in weight-loss pills. The FDA has since ruled these pills dangerous ("HCG Diet Products Are Illegal").

Interviewer: Oh my goodness!

Cade: We had something when we were pregnant—only the first time—pregnant women and pregnant horses.

[*Laughter*].

Cade: And...they didn't—they would come and they would leave the bottles, Mama would go down and get it and put it in the bathroom, and I would tinkle in it every day—every day. And...at the end of the period, every Friday—the bottles kept coming—I got a check for sixty bucks.

Interviewer: *Wow*. So it was worth the money?

Cade: Now, you can decide whether you want to keep that up.

[*Laughter*].

Interviewer: So, let's go back to Seattle. And...

Cade: It was a fun place to be. And...and we had a good time. And I happened to have an aunt who was living there, which was a miracle, and she was Minnie Moran—get the name?—on my father's side.

Interviewer: Mmm.

Cade: And that uncle was dead, but oh my gosh, she was nice. And she came down and stayed with me every day at that place, after my husband left. She was nice not to bother us while we were together, except the one night where we took her out to dinner. But the minute he was gone, she was my company, because I had to wait until I could get a train back home that had a lower berth for me, because I couldn't climb up, and...Minnie was waiting to let me know when I could go. And when it finally came through, why then I...I think it was five days later—after—'cause he left on the sixth, and I think it was the twelfth

Interviewer: So, where there special—sort of—privileges for servicemen as they moved around and—

Cade: Yeah.

Interviewer: —Stayed at hotels?

Cade: Oh, yeah. Absolutely. We came first. Now...you know, once I got home, I was just Taken.

[*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: So your husband was on the *Anderson*?

Cade: The *US Anderson*. DD-411.¹⁴ It was kind of famous because it had been in several wars and had taken beatings and beatings and beatings, but they always put it back together.

¹⁴ *Anderson*: The USS *Anderson* (DD-411) was a *Sims* class destroyer named after Rear Admiral Edwin A. Anderson and commissioned from 1939 to its sinking in 1946 ("USS *Anderson* (DD-411), 1939-1946").

Interviewer: And where was he posted in the Pacific?

Cade: They were in the Northern area of the Pacific Ocean.

Interviewer: In the Aleutian Islands?

Cade: Yes. And of course, that means very close to...Japan.

Interviewer: Right. And...

Cade: And when he got there, he got on the ship, and they were cruising, keeping moving, and...there was nothing particularly exciting. They were watching. And when those bombs came down, why they were one of the first ships into the area.¹⁵ And...they went into the Honshu Islands and...were there a week—I don't know why they did that—and he never told me.¹⁶ He never told me. He didn't want to talk about the war when he got home. And...but they were there for a week, and I've got all kinds of pictures of the Japanese, and I've got all kinds of paper money, and I got a flag. We haven't gotten to a flag, it's...

Interviewer: So...his ship, the *Anderson*, was used later at the...Bikini Atoll.¹⁷

Cade: It was—it was very important because they wanted to drop another bomb to see just exactly what would happen and how long it lasted and everything else. And it's...not anything I understand, though I clipped it out of the paper, and the *Anderson* was one of the ships they put there, and the only one that completely disappeared.

[*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: Today, it's on the bottom of the ocean.

Cade: Probably.

Interviewer: Near those islands where they set off—

Cade: Yeah.

Interviewer: —One of the bombs—

Cade: Right.

Interviewer: —As a test? Okay, so when did your husband return?

Cade: He...after the ship moved away from Japan, they went on down to...the Hawaiian Isles, and...they went to Peal and picked up a lot of sailors that had enough hours

¹⁵ *Those bombs*: The atom bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

¹⁶ Honshu Islands: The *Anderson* was posted near occupied Honshu between the war's end and November 1945, after which the *Anderson* arrived at its final destination of Bikini Atoll ("A Tin Can Sailor[']s Destroyer History: USS Anderson [DD-411]").

¹⁷ Bikini Atoll: After the end of the war, the United States performed sixty-seven nuclear tests on Bikini Atoll, part of the Marshall archipelago, between 1946 and 1958, and like with the A-Bomb, these nuclear weapon tests damaged the area and harmed the health of the locals ("Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site").

in to get out.¹⁸ And so they chugged in to San Diego in November, right around Thanksgiving day, because he sent me a telegram and said, *Have come home on my mother's birthday*, you know, that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And, so that I knew that he was in the United States, and when he was allowed to, he called me, and he said, "I've tried to get emergency leave"—because the baby was due on the 25th of December—and he said, "I'm trying to get out, but"—he said—"we're going right back out to Japan and we're gonna bring out the load and all," and he said, "Maybe then." And I said, "But that's after the baby's born." And he said, "Yes, I"—but he said—"I've done everything I can. And," he said, "I'll send you a telegram when the boat leaves, because"—he said—"You cry every time I say goodbye." And he said, "I just can't stand it." So, I got the telegram, and I'm sitting on the sofa, and I start to cry, and my dad said, "What's the matter?" And I said, "I got a telegram." And he said, "Well, you haven't opened it." And I said—I said, "I know," I said, "But I know what it says, it says he's gone." And...and he said, "Well, just open it." So I opened it, and it said, *Have thirty day leave. Will be there on December the 5th*. And he had gone to the Captain's wife, and *she* got him his thirty day leave. And...so then I really cried. And he said, "Now what's the matter?"—my dad [*Chuckles*—and I said, "Well, he hasn't seen me like this. He said when he left, I was still in my regular clothes." And I said, "Now look at me, I'm a blimp!"

[*Interviewer chuckles*].

Cade: And I said, "I don't want him to see me like this." And he says, "Oh, honey, he's not gonna see you—he's just gonna eat you up." And...so anyway...I went to bed that night, and the next day I woke up and there was a little spot of blood on my bed. And my mother took me to the hospital, and I had Pat at three o'clock that afternoon.¹⁹ So, Pat was one day old when his father got home, and I had my figure back.

[*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: That's a wonderful story. And he was there for thirty days, then?

Cade: Mmm? Yeah, and when—and when we counted up his points, that baby made the difference between staying in the navy and getting out.

Interviewer: So he got out?

Cade: Mmm-hmm. And he had to go back to...to Chicago and...get out. Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: So how were those first...months after the war?

Cade: Well, we had a brand new baby, so it certainly eased it up for us, as far as we were concerned. We didn't have—couldn't find a place to live, and so we went out towards...Kalamazoo and areas away and we got to a little place called

¹⁸ *Pearl*: Pearl Harbor

¹⁹ *Pat*: Patrick.

Willow Run, which is where they made *a lot* of the airplanes that were used.²⁰ And they had barracks up there, and we got a twenty dollar appointment to go in there and rent that. And that was really...well, if we hadn't been on our honeymoon, it wouldn't have been feasible, but we thought it was wonderful. We bought furniture for it and we had three bedrooms and one big room, and...a...we had a full...oh, the...this...I'm hunting for a word...the *stove* out in the middle was one you had to put wood in. And...my husband rigged it up with the hot water tank—which wasn't a hot water tank because it had to go through the...other, the...what's the word? I'm losing it.

Interviewer: I don't know.

Cade: Anyway, we couldn't have hot water if we didn't have the hot f...stove going. So he rigged a...one of those...heaters underneath it—

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: —And so we got hot water.

Interviewer: Oh.

Cade: And we got the tube bar and we had groceries and we cooked on that

Interviewer: How long did you live there?

Cade: We lived down there three months until we found an apartment.

[*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: And you found an apartment?

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: Near Kalamazoo?

Cade: Right across the street from my mother.

Interviewer: Ah, so back in...

Cade: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Detroit?

Cade: Back in Detroit.

Interviewer: And you had three more children?

Cade: Well, I had...yes, I did have three more children because I didn't have one, but I had a miscarriage at the end of...well, when Pat was getting to be two, I got pregnant again. And...when I was about three months along, I lost it. It was a boy. And then...he told me to wait a year before I tried again, and a year later, I went back and I was coming, so I had...one down and one that was—not born—and then the other one came, and then...they just kept coming every two years.

²⁰ *Willow Run*: Mainly known for its B-24 Liberators, Willow Run was constructed in 1941 and became the site for mass production of fighter planes for the war effort (“Yankee Air Museum Holding Open House as Willow Run Construction Set to Begin”).

Cade: And I could have had twelve. My father had eleven brothers, and...*eleven brothers*—

Interviewer: *Twelve brothers*—?

Cade: Yeah.

Interviewer: *Twelve boys*? In one family?

Cade: And the night that I met Rich, when he came bouncing in, he said, “You got any brothers or sisters?” And I said, “No.” I said, “I’m an only child, but my father had eleven brothers.” He said, “*E-lev-en?*”

Interviewer: *Wow*.

Cade: He was thrilled.

Cade: Anyway...

Interviewer: So you had four sons?

Cade: Four sons.

Interviewer: And your husband took a job as a sales manager with a carpet company?

Cade: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: Eventually?

Cade: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And where did that take you? You lived in several different cities.

Cade: Well, actually...most of it was in Michigan, but we did move to Kansas City for five years.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And I *love* it out there. It was just so much fun. We didn’t live in Missouri—Kansas City, Missouri—we lived in Prairie Village, which was right over the state line. You never live near...it was just so close, and it didn’t seem like it should go that way. In other words, if you go into Michi—or ...

Interviewer: Missouri.

Cade: Missouri. [*Chuckles*]. Thank you. If you went into Missouri you’d have to pay and you had it delivered, you’d have to pay taxes on it.

Interviewer: Ah.

Cade: They do now, but they don’t—didn’t then. And...it was a—we were a dry country in Kansas, but they had...liquor in the other, so you could go and buy anything you wanted.

Interviewer: And then bring it back into Kansas?

Cade: Uh-huh.

Interviewer: And you did that?

Cade: Uh-huh. They didn’t care if you drink it, you just couldn’t buy it. [*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: I see.

Cade: But we didn't like it anyway, so we...Rich didn't drink, and I didn't drink, either.

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: And, so diet coke always served us.

Interviewer: So how did you end up in Georgia?

Cade: Hmm?

Interviewer: How did you end up in Georgia?

Cade: Oh, well he worked for a company out in Chattanooga, and he was the national sales management of that one, and they sold it to some other company, and at that point in time, my husband said, "They're gonna pick our heads free, and then they'll let us go." And so he and the man who was in charge of making the carpet decided to go in business for themselves, and so they went to business school themselves. And they were looking in Dalton, which was where all carpet, and we decided we didn't wanna live over there because you couldn't get away from carpet. And so we looked in Rome, and we loved Rome, and there was a carpet place there that was running out of business and having a hard time, and they bought that carpet company and got it going.

Interviewer: How did you feel about moving to the *South*, the Deep South?

Cade: Well, we didn't do it for five years. For five years I lived in Grosse Pointe, which was the nice part of Detroit, and...I lived there and he lived in Chattanooga, 'cause he would come down here *every Monday morning* and come home *every Friday afternoon*, so we only had weekends, and...we were trying to get the kids through school in Grosse Pointe because it was such a good school and a good place to be. And so we kept going, and then we had trouble with—we had a beautiful house down there, but it had been built before the sewers had been put in, so it was on one of those...what do you call those underneath ground when you flush, it goes...

Interviewer: Septic tank?

Cade: Septic tank. Yeah, and...and we didn't even know we were on a septic tank until we started having trouble and then we found out that we should be on the sewers, so we got a man and his name was Coloia.²¹ He was this plumber, and he said he could put us on sewers for three hundred dollars, so we gave him the three hundred dollars, and he went out to dig up the whole front yard and make a nice mess. And then on Tuesday, after my husband was gone down to Chattanooga, why, he came in and he said, "Don't flush until Saturday because I can't make it work." [*Chuckles*]. And I said, "I have four children." [*Chuckles*]. He said, "You can't flush." And I said, "Well, just a minute," and I went and got the telephone and I called Dalton, and I got his partner, and his partner said, "He can't come to the phone. He's got a very important call." And I said, "Well he's sure

²¹ *Coloia*: This is a rough estimate of the spelling for the name Cade pronounced *cul-loi-ah*.

never here when I need him,” and I slammed it. [*She pretends to slam a phone onto the cradle*]. And it rang immediately.

Cade: And it was Rich, and he says, “What’s the matter?” And I said, “Here, talk to Mr. Coloia,” and I handed it to Mr. Coloia. And they talked, and he kept saying, “Yeah, mmm-hmm. Okay. Mmm-hmm-hmm. Well I haven’t tried that. Mmm-hmm-mmm-hmm-mmm-hmm.”

Cade: So he handed it to me, said, “Here, he wants to talk to you.” And he said, “I’m just so sorry, Tooken,” he said, “This is my fault.” He said, “We’ve been trying to take care of Clint and make sure he gets through school and everything, but”—he said, “We just can’t do this.” But he said, “We just can’t do this. It’s not fair to you. It’s not fair to me. And it *certainly* isn’t fair to the kids.” So he said, “We’ll talk about it Saturday.” So when he got home, when we were sitting at breakfast, he said, “Oh, by the way, we’re moving. The house is going up for sale, and we are moving, and Clint’s gonna have to have his senior year...in Rome.”

Interviewer: How did you feel about that?

Cade: I was thrilled. [*Chuckles*]. I felt sorry that my son, Clint, who is number two—Pat was number one—he was so smart. He was so smart. And I knew that he could take care of himself anyplace, but I wanted him to have the opportunity to be the boss and everything. And he was gonna be the president of class and he didn’t get to go. So, anyway, when we told him, he was heartbroken, and he said, “Well, I just—I just don’t wanna be not with you, but I just don’t wanna go away from this school.” And I said, “As soon as this house gets sold, we’re moving.” And...so, he went across the street to his buddy’s house and talked to his mother and came back and he said, “I can stay with them.” [*Chuckles*]. And I said, “No, you can’t.” I said, “I’m the mama. And I am so jealous of you being with them that I will not let you. You’re coming with us.” And...he did, and we enrolled him in Darlington School, which was the finest school in...and his brothers did the same, too, so we had three in Darlington. And...Darlington looked at his straight A average and said, “Oh, but we don’t know how you got that, and we do it different. Would you mind repeating this grade, and would you do this and would you do that?” And he would come home and slam his books on the table when he—and he sat down, and I said, “I’m pulling you out. We’re putting you out in the city schools.” And...we went back to Darlington, and they never give you your money back, but they did that time.

Interviewer: Hmm.

Cade: And—and they said, “We’ve done a terrible job. We’re so smart. We think we know everything, and we don’t know everything. And there’re lots of wonderful schools around here. And you’ve been—have been at one.” So, he graduated from East Rome High School, and of course he was on the top, and happy as a lark.

Interviewer: Well, tell me about volunteering at the...Floyd Medical Center.

Cade: Oh, okay. Well, I have to come back and tell you he was Phi Beta Kappa when he was in college, and I called up Darlington and talked to them.

Interviewer: Good.

Cade: And he said, “I knew when we let him go that we were losing him.” But...and he came and wrapped his arms around me while I was peeling potatoes one day, and he said, “You know mom. You were right.” He said, “If you hadn’t made me come with you, this would never have been home.”

Interviewer: Mmm.

Cade: He said, “It was the right thing to do.” And of course now that Detroit’s fallen out—down on the hill, he says, “I’m sure glad we moved!”

Interviewer: Mmm-hmm.

Cade: Okay, now.

Interviewer: And when did you start volunteering at the Floyd Medical Center?

Cade: Oh, well, somebody told me that they were gonna have a new thing built. They had always had Red Cross Ladies, but they had never had a local...

Interviewer: Volunteer?

Cade: Mmm-hmm. And...so, and this happened at a party in the little neighborhood that they were all in, and the CEO of...FMC was there, and somebody went up to him and said, “How come you don’t have volunteers, you know?” And he said, “I don’t know.” He says, “I’ve got the Red Cross.” He says, “Yeah, but that’s a different matter. They can’t do anything other than nice work, but volunteers can earn money.” And he says, “Well,” he says, “Let’s have one.” He says, “I’ll get the nurse and we’ll figure it out.” And said everybody that was in the party could bring two friends to this party that was being held in the backyard of somebody’s house, and I was one of the two that was invited by a friend. And I went there and this lady was standing up there and she looked so wonderful. She was all dressed up in her nurse costume and she...she had had surgery on her neck and she croaked. But even when she croaked, you were just glad to see her. And...and she said anybody who wanted to join could come up and sign this book and leave five dollars and we’ll have a thing and we’ll get it ready going so that we can get started. Took her about three months, and then she called everybody up and she said, “Can you come in for work this week? What day are you gonna leave?” And you picked out whether you wanted to work in the morning or in the afternoon and whether Monday through Friday. And I picked Tuesday afternoons. And, so I came for Tuesday afternoon and just fell in love with the hospital. She took us out the very first time, and she had a big cart and it was full of coca-colas and all kinds of drinks and suits—not food, but like fruit things—and we rolled up and down the corridor and went in and asked if they’d like something to drink. And it was not only for the person who was in bed, but the person who might be visiting.

Interviewer: And how long did you work there as a volunteer before you became the director?

Cade: I worked for ten years, and then she retired, and when she retired, I was gonna quit because she quit because her husband had worked for GE and was going on to...on his sabbatical or whatever, and she said, “All right, we’re gonna play and have a good time,” and she said, “I can’t have time to work.” And she said, “But I told them you were the only one that knew what I was doing, and this is not a thing you can look in the book for and see what you’re gonna do, you just have to know.” And I’d been following her around for ten years, and she said—so she said, “If you go out...when he offers you the job, you take it.” [*Chuckles*].

Interviewer: Well, tell me about your husband, Mr. Richardson, passing away.

Cade: Oh, well. That was three years to when I had my job, and the funny thing about that was, when they offered me the job and I went home and told him, I thought sure he was gonna say no, ’cause he liked me to go with him on his trips. And so, anyway, he was going around selling, he liked me, and he said, “Take it.” I said, “You’re kidding.” And he said, “No,” he said, “You’ve been doing it for ten years.” He said, “Now they’re going to pay you.” And he said, “I think you outta try it.” And I said, “Well, I don’t even know I can follow her. She was *wonderful*.” And he said, “You take it.” And I said, “Well, if I take it, I’m gonna take it for a year ’cause I’m not going to go and spoil it up—you know—go out and make ’em have to change again.” So, he said, “Well, I want you to do it.” And he was so cute, he started doing the dishes, and I—’cause I was always the one that cleaned up the kitchen. And when he says, “No, you’re working now.” So I made supper and he cleaned it up and that was nice. And when he got sick, why, he got sick real fast. He’d had a brain tumor, and they gave him three months to live. And when the doctor said he had three months to live, I just burst into tears and went running down to the CE’s office—the CEO’s office. And I said, “He’s dying. He’s dying.” And he said, “Oh, I’m so sorry.” I said, “I don’t know what I’m gonna do.” I said, “I can’t take care of him, I can’t take care of my job, and I can’t do anything.” And he says—and he’s rubbing my back—and he says, “Do you think you could listen to me a bit? I think I’ve got a really good idea.” And I said, “What is your idea?” He said, “You take care of him, and I’ll take care of your job.” And he did. And the day after he died, why, the ambulance was out there full of food, all kinds of things. They just were...and they had sent all kinds of things for him to sleep in on the lawn, and they had given me all this stuff, and they came and got it and cleaned it up...and that was the CEO.

Interviewer: Well, you have shared your story through the...American Rosie the Riveter—

Cade: Mmm-hmm.

Interviewer: —Association, and why do you think it’s important to share your—your memories of World War Two?

Cade: [*Chuckles*]. Well, you know, I didn’t—I wasn’t even interested in that, but somebody had found out my name and told Jane Tucker, and Jane Tucker called me, and she said, “Would you come and tell us how you got your name?” “Oh,” I said, “I’d love to, ’cause”—I said—“Ah, that makes Rich live with me.” And so she said, “Well, the fact of the matter is we’re having the meeting where *you*

live.” And that was on Maple Wood...and so, she said, “Everybody’s coming and telling their stories, so you tell yours, too.” And so all the people that you’re dealing with had been coming—had come there, and so I told my story, and everybody was photographed when they were doing—except he kind of got me from the back, and it was more hair than me.

Cade: But I didn’t consider that I was in the movie, but I was, and they put—my name was in it, and...every time we did that, she said, “I can’t take—put your story in unless you join us.” And she says, “It’s only ten dollars.” And she says, “It’s not every week or every month or every year.” It’s just one time you have to put in ten dollars. And she said, “And if you don’t want to do it, I’ll put the money in, because I want the story.” [*Chuckles*]. So I said, “I think I can afford it.”

Interviewer: Well, thank you Ms. Cade for talking to me, and we’ll end there.

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