

Moving to Gadsden
Husband's work at steel plant
Commissary
Food and Meals
Lunch
Clothes
Meal routine
Clothes making
Transportation
Television and Radio
First washing machine
Sewing machine
Sunday dinner
Going to Florida for vacation
Other recreation
Holidays
Schools
Integration of schools

May 6, 1921	Born in Lyle, TN
Spring 1924	Moved to New York (Catskill Mountain area)
1927	Moved to Dixon, TN
1928	Moved to Lyle, TN
1935	Moved to Dixon because school burned
Feb 29, 1936	Grandmother McCaslin died
1940	Graduated from Dixon High School
Oct 6, 1940	Married.
1942	Sandra was born
Oct 6, 1946	Married Robert B. Haynie
Oct 1947	Moved to Gadsden
1946	Lee was born
1947	Larry was born
1953	Richard was born
1968	Husband retired from steel plant
1971	Started working as sitter
1978	Started working as nurse's aid at nursing home
1994	Retired

Oral History Report

Mrs. Mildred Haynie
Gadsden, Alabama

Richard Haynie

HY500 SP/Alabama History

April 1, 1996

Even though this is my Mother's oral history, because it is also my own family history, I am writing it in the first person. The time period covered is approximately the late 1940s through the 1950s.

The newspaper articles used to describe the history of the steel plant were obtained from the Republic Steel vertical file folder in the Gadsden Public Library.

I appreciate the opportunity to salute my Mother and Father's work, and the family they made together.

As I was growing up in the Appalachian foothills of North East Alabama, I thought I lived in a fairly typical small Southern town. I did not know until recently that Gadsden was not typical, but unusual. One of the things that made it unusual, I found, was the steel plant where my Father had worked. Known at the time as Republic Steel, the plant made Gadsden the only place in the South besides Birmingham with a complete steel plant, where raw material became finished steel products.¹ Gadsden is also unusual in the South for its diversification of industry. Another large manufacturing facility in town is the Goodyear tire plant across the Coosa River in East Gadsden. Originally constructed in the late 1920's, I remember that it was at one time said to be the largest tire making plant in the world. There was also, in the 1940s and early 1950s, in the Gadsden suburb of Alabama City, the Dwight Textile Mill which employed about 2,000 workers. During the middle of this century, these industries turned Gadsden into a modern boom town to the extent that it was touted at the time "the fastest growing city in America."² Much of that growth was fueled by expansions at the steel plant in which my Father participated. Our family life was a part of that growth.

In March of 1996, I interviewed my Mother about those times when our family first moved to Gadsden. This paper documents that interview, as well as outlines the history of the locale and Republic Steel. It also documents my "discovery" of my Father in his workplace. While I was growing up, I knew Daddy was a mechanical engineer at Republic Steel, but I didn't know what he really did. It came as a surprise to me a few months ago when I found out we had originally come to Gadsden so that he could help build a mill.

My family came to Gadsden in 1947, five years before I was born, when my Father first got a job at Republic. We were living in Georgia at the time. As Mother told me, "Your Daddy read in the want ads about a mechanical engineer job at Republic Steel. So

¹ "Gadsden—Major Steel Producing City in South," The Gadsden Times.

² Elbert Watson, The History of Etowah County, Birmingham, Alabama: Roberts and Son, 1968.

he came over for an interview, and it was to build the equipment for the big diameter pipe mill. And it was supposed to last just about nine months, that's how long we were going to be in Gadsden, and we've been here ever since."

Through the history of Gadsden, one can see the evolution from the Old South to the New. The Old South is characterized by plantations, cotton, and steamboats, and the New South by mills, railroads, factories, and businessmen.³ Gadsden was in on the transformation. Prior to the founding of Gadsden, the location on the Coosa River had been the site of a town called Double Springs, which established a Post Office in 1833.⁴ The history of Gadsden can be traced to July 4, 1845, when the first steamboat on the upper Coosa River, appropriately named the *Coosa*, landed near the present Broad Street bridge. James Lafferty, captain of the boat, choose that site as a permanent steamboat landing.⁵ The next year, the town was plotted out by an engineer for the Coosa and Tennessee Railroad, who was in the vicinity to locate a road between Gadsden and Guntersville.⁶ The Gadsden Post Office was established in 1846.⁷ In the years after that, thirty eight other steamboats plied the waters of the upper Coosa, stopping at Gadsden as they carried the mail, cotton, and other farm products from Greensport, Alabama, to Rome, Georgia.⁸

After the Civil War, Gadsden also developed an iron industry. Though not as prominent an iron producer as some other Northeast Alabama localities such as Anniston, iron operations included the Gadsden Furnace Company and the Gadsden Iron Company. Then, at the turn of the century, the city became the site for a steel mill.

³ Harvey Jackson, Rivers of History, The University of Alabama Press: Tuscaloosa, 1995, p. 112.

⁴ Virginia Foscue, Place Names in Alabama, The University of Alabama Press: Tuscaloosa, 1994, p.61.

⁵ Elbert Watson, "Gadsden from Teepees to Steamboats", The Alabama Review, October, 1958, p. 243.

⁶ Ibid, p. 249.

⁷ Foscue, Place Names, p61.

⁸ Mattie Crow, History of St. Clair County (Alabama), published by the author, 1973, p.142.

In 1902, W.P. Lay, the founder of the Alabama Power Company, brought the industrialists George and E.T. Schuler to Gadsden. The Schuler brothers had moved to Birmingham in 1898 and established a rod and wire mill at Ensley, after selling a similar plant in Kansas. But because the water was bad in Ensley, the Schulers looked for another location. When George Schuler got off the train from Birmingham in October 1902, he told Gadsden reporters that he and his brother would build a 200-ton blast furnace, four small open hearth furnaces and a blooming mill at an Alabama City site near Gadsden. Though the main attraction for the site was the water available from Big Wills Creek, the labor situation was much better around here than in Birmingham, according to E.T. Schuler. So, the Schulers built their steel plant, calling it the Alabama Steel and Wire Company. The first steel was made in 1904, but then they were forced to reorganize in 1906. The company shut down in the Panic of 1907, and remained idle until 1909. At that time, with \$150,000 in community funds to get it going, the plant reorganized under the name, the Southern Iron and Steel Company. Then in 1913, Gulf States Steel bought the plant, making many improvements, and operating it until 1937. That year, Republic Steel bought the plant from Gulf States.⁹ By 1938, Republic had installed a bolt and nut division, expanded its sheet mill and enlarged the plate mill by adding a heating furnace. By 1939, it had added two new open hearth furnaces for a total of eight. By 1943, a need for additional water to supplement its supply from Big Wills Creek brought construction of a new pumping station on the Coosa River. The year 1948 was important in the expansion of the Gadsden plant, according to the President of the Republic Steel, who in an address to Gadsden business in 1955 said, "In that year the large diameter pipe mill was constructed . . . which are used for the cross-country transmission of oil and gas."¹⁰ This was the mill my Father designed. When it was built, it was only the second such mill in the nation.¹¹

⁹ "Gadsden—Major Steel City," Times.

¹⁰ "Republic President Talks on Expansion," The Gadsden Times, February 16, 1955.

¹¹ "Gadsden Pipe Mill Marks Milestone," The Gadsden Times, December 8, 1946.

The mill turned out pipe in 30 foot lengths and in three diameters of 24, 26, and 30 inches. Usually two lengths were welded together at the plant and shipped as a 60-foot section. At the beginning of the process, special heats of steel strong enough to withstand high gas pressures were made into "skelp" or flat plates of steel. They were then formed into a cylinder, originally by a pyramid roll system, and later by hydraulic forming presses. The seam was welded inside and out using an electric weld process. The pipe was then shaped into a perfect cylinder by hydraulically expanding it inside a mold.¹²

The mill was apparently well designed. It produced a lot of pipe. By 1956, it had made its millionth piece of pipe for the cross-country transmission of natural gas.¹³ By 1965, about enough pipe was made to span the continent four times.¹⁴

Daddy was a self taught mechanical engineer. He didn't have a college degree, although he had taken some classes. He had an good understanding of physical mechanics, and could apply that understanding. I remember Uncle Harry, Mother's brother who worked for 'Texas Instruments' machining department, telling me that he and Daddy would get into conversations about the properties of this or that kind of steel; he implied it was a jargon that showed their related occupations. The way that we (his immediate family) now look at Robert Haynie is as an inventor of machinery. He worked for various companies inventing things. One aspect of that arrangement was that the company Daddy worked for actually owned the machine design. As Mother said, "He had to sign an agreement with Republic Steel that anything he invented would be their property." I remember Mother mentioning this several times over the years; I think it galled her a little that Daddy signed away ownership to his work. She later said that they had a lawyer bring the papers for him to sign.

¹² "Pipe Mill Started In 1948" The Gadsden Times, November 14, 1965.

¹³ "Gadsden Mill Milestone, Times, December 6, 1946.

¹⁴ "Mill Started in 1948," Times, November 14, 1965.

Daddy's good understanding of machinery paid off. The nine months we were originally supposed to be in Gadsden, came and went. The pipe mill was built. Then, as Mother says, "After the pipe mill he started working on things all over—he did engineering for departments all over the plant . . . he did mechanical engineering of equipment. He did drawings and designed equipment." My brother, Larry, who knew Daddy in his workplace probably better than any of us at home, said that when there was a problem at the steel plant where the workmen had to call the engineers, they would call Daddy first. Because he had owned and managed machine shops, he could talk the machine operator's language, as well as fix their problem.

Daddy really liked his work. As Mother said, "He liked mechanical engineering. . . that was his job, and it was his hobby at home, he had a drawing table (at home)." When we moved to a house with enough room, he put a drawing table there. "His mind was still doing engineering."

In addition to the pipe mill, Daddy designed a number of other machines. One machine he invented for Republic ran inside pipe and welded it together. In the 1960s, he designed a tree debarker for Machine Products, a company with whom he sometimes contracted. I have a picture of that huge machine on the back of two semitrailers being sent to Canada. He also invented machines at home. As Mother said, "Your Daddy didn't have much patience cutting grass. So he took the old baby buggy, and he fixed a motor on it, and tore everything off but the frame, and he had some blades made, and a long electric cord, and that was an electric lawn mower. . . back in '48. And a city bus made runs in front of our house. And he was out cutting grass one day, and the city bus stopped. And they all sat there and watched him cut grass."

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in Clarksville, Tennessee, while her brothers and sisters were school teachers, shop keepers, and Postmasters. Though Mother lived the first six years of her life in New York, they moved back to Tennessee where she lived until 1945, when she moved to Atlanta to work in her cousin's donut shop.

Krispy Kreme Donuts was a family business for both Mother and Daddy. In Atlanta, it was started back in the 1930's by Mother's cousin, Tony Phillips, and his wife, Statia, who was my Father's sister. Uncle Tony got the franchise from the founder of Krispy Kreme, who was from Clarksville. I remember him saying that when they first started, people said they couldn't sell donuts in the South. Uncles and Aunts on both sides of the family spent their working careers at the donut shop. It was at there in the mid-1940s where my Mother and Father met. As Mother tells it, "I was working in the doughnut shop, and Daddy was too. but that was just between jobs for him." I remember someone telling me once that just after Daddy had met Mother, he said something like, "That's the girl I'm going to marry." They were married in 1945. Mother had a child by a previous marriage, my sister Sandra, born in 1942. They moved out of Atlanta to get Mother away from her sister and sister-in-laws, who, in the family dynamics, tugged her back and forth. They first moved to North Carolina where Daddy managed a machine shop that they made long-bed trucks out of short-bed ones. They lived in Franklin, North Carolina, the latter part of 1945, and up into 1947. My sister, Lee, was born in 1946; my brother, Larry, or Butch, as we call him, was born in 1947.

Our family moved to Gadsden from Waynesboro, Georgia where Daddy had started working for a company that made pre-fabricated houses. They had not been in Georgia very long before he saw the ad in the paper for the Republic Steel job. After he was hired, they sold everything out in Georgia, except the children's beds and personal items, like my sister's tricycle. "We brought the children's beds with us, so they would have good mattress and good beds to sleep on. I'll tell you . . . three important things, we thought: good shoes, good mattress, and balanced diet." Mother and Daddy shipped

their goods by freight, and, as they didn't own a car at that time, took the bus to Gadsden.

In the interview, Mother said, "When I got to Gadsden, I thought I had arrived at the jumping off place. We arrived on Sunday night, right at dark to a furnished apartment."

But it wasn't long before they were at home. While Daddy worked on designing the pipe mill, Mother was a housewife. The apartment they lived in was "a privately owned furnished apartment, (one of) three apartments in the house," located within a couple of stone throws to the entrance of the steel plant. For the kids, they bought the materials and fenced in the yard. "And we did have a garden. . . well, I got out there—your dad didn't know anything about gardening, and I didn't know a whole lot, but I cleaned it off and had it plowed. Got it planted, set out the tomatoes . . . we had corn, and beans, and your dad like big butter beans, and I didn't have any seed, but I had some butterbeans in the house that I had bought in a pack, and I dug up down side the fence and planted those butter beans and they all come up and climbed up the fence. and we had a whole lot of beans. And green beans, and okra, and squash. It was a good garden." Mother did most of the work in it. Though, "in the summertime when it was so dry, your Dad would go out and sit in a chair with a hose pipe and water the tomatoes and all."

The vegetable garden was a supplement to their grocery shopping at the Republic Steel commissary. Mother said, "We got our groceries at the commissary . . . because I could call them, and they would deliver, and that made it easier with small children. . . I could call them on the phone and order groceries. . . I'd tell them exactly what I wanted and they would deliver it. . . we bought clothing out there, but I did not order clothing over the telephone. . . they had everything. . . it was a huge store. . . things were not necessary cheaper there, but it was convenient. Sometimes, I would go to town to Jitney Jungle. Oh, they had good meats. I would go there and buy a rump roast for Sunday dinner, have it on Sunday. I would cook every day and have to have a desert every day

because your Daddy wanted pies, cakes, and stuff. But his Mother told him not to depart from his raising and eat candied yams every once in a while for dessert."

Providing good food for her family was one of Mother's priorities. This can be seen in her answer to a question on how a typical day went. Mother's initial response was, "Take things as they come." The rest of her response centered on food. She said, "Every morning, breakfast was fixed and everybody ate breakfast. Bacon, scrambled eggs, and I'd make biscuit. I'd have sausage some mornings, vary it. But everybody ate breakfast every morning. And then everybody come to the table and eat lunch. And everybody came and eat supper at a certain time, too, to try to keep everybody on a schedule. Always at our house. . . everybody ate together. When we final moved to a house that had a dining room, we ate in the dining room most of the time because all of the children had better table manners eating in the dining room than eating in the kitchen . . . I would fix hen and dressing, I would fix fried chicken, we'd always have a meat and vegetables . . . These were every day meals. The every day meals were just as good as the Sunday meals. I cooked a full meal every day, and every day your Dad came home for lunch. He'd rather come home and eat a peanut butter sandwich than go to the cafeteria and eat what they had. He'd come home and eat a sandwich. It wasn't always a peanut butter sandwich. And then dessert, and then he'd go back to work." I can remember him coming home for lunch, picking him up, seeing him walk out the plant entrance. I remember eating lunches of banana and peanut butter sandwiches, or toasted cheese sandwiches, or pineapple sandwiches, Spam, bologna. Daddy would eat potted meat sandwiches, but I wouldn't. (I think I wouldn't eat it because I had read the label. I guess I didn't read the bologna package.) I remember us eating angel food cake together, though he liked it then much than I. For some reason, I associate that dessert with him.

When asked what she liked about Gadsden at the time, Mother said the sense of community she felt, like from the neighborhood schools. "After (living) several years (in

Gadsden), we moved over to Walnut Park, and we didn't stay there long. And we moved to Hill Avenue, because it was getting time for Sandra to start school, and there was Oak Park grammar school, which was a good school, and located at the end of Hill Avenue down there, close to the steel plant. So we moved there, so that's where she started school. She had to carry her lunch, they didn't have cafeterias then. And what she wanted in her lunch—and I couldn't let her take it—was a white Karo syrup sandwich. If anybody would've seen that sandwich they would have thought that poor child, all she's got's two slices of bread stuck together." The sense of community Mother liked was present when the postman delivered the mail twice a day. As it was toward the end of his route, he would stop at our house and drink a cup of coffee in the winter or a glass of tea in the summer. Mother said she worried about us kids getting into his mail bag and mixing up what was in there. She remembers that the mail men would take the bus to their routes.

Later on we moved to Walnut Street—corner of 9th and Walnut—where we lived for about three years. I was born while we were living at this house. "While were living on Walnut Street. .you know, 9th is close to downtown. On further toward town there was a man, I don't his last name, but he had a horse, and the kids would go down there and he'd put them on the horse and let them ride it. And he had chickens and everything, downtown practically."

I asked Mother questions about transportation, household appliances, holidays, vacations, and the like. She said that we got a car in 1950. "It was a '48 Nash. . .We had had one years before in North Carolina, and I learned to drive in the Smokies. I didn't go very fast with all those curves. And I'd get so many cars behind me, your Dad would make me pull over and let all the traffic get by." Mother said that car was a Buick, " a good car, a pretty car" "That's where I learned to drive, so when we got this car, I had to learn and get it all back again. And your Daddy would sit on the front

steps of a night. . . late in the afternoon, and I'd drive around the block. . . and I finally got my license and I was nervous. And every time I'd take the kids to town--this was before you were born--they'd find a policeman to wave at while I was trying to park or something. . . that'd make it that much worse. We had that '48 Nash for several years." Back in North Carolina Mother had a learner's permit, but didn't get a license till she got to Gadsden. When I asked her about other cars, Mother said, "While we still had the Nash, your Daddy bought a Pontiac Catalina . . . a family car. I believe it had four doors, I'm not sure. . . it was green and white. . . a '55 I believe. It had an automatic transmission for my benefit. We still had the Nash. Daddy drove it back and forth to work, but then he sold it . . . for thirty five dollars! It was still a good car but he sold it for thirty five dollars." Mother's exasperation with Daddy for selling that car is still very apparent. In fact, most of the irritation that I can remember her having with him was over cars. "

In answering about when we got our first television, she said "Oh shoot, about 1950. Mother Haynie, your grandmother, came over. She came at regular periods of time. . . So all of our neighbors had TV's of course. And Mother Haynie she just told your daddy to go buy these kids a TV, and he did. . . We had good TV shows back then. Good clean fun. . . and they all (the kids), this was before you were born, they thought the TV was supposed to stay on all the time. They'd go out to play and I'd turn it off, and one of them would come running in the house, turn the TV on, and they'd take off, go out again. They thought it was supposed to be on."

Weekend recreation included picnics on Sundays. "When we lived in Gadsden, we would go to Birmingham to the park down there, because Gadsden didn't have a park or anything. On Saturday afternoon. . . One Sunday we went down there Daddy said we're going to the zoo. . . got down there, and asked a policeman. Birmingham didn't have a zoo, couldn't find one anyplace. The next weekend Sunday we went to Atlanta, to a zoo. . . they had one over there. . . We'd go to Guntersville every once in a while. And I'd

fix a picnic lunch and we'd go out riding on Sunday, and stop by the side of the road someplace and eat the picnic lunch. . . and such stuff as that."

As for holidays, "every 4th of July there was a freezer of fresh peach ice cream. And we'd have bar-bq or hamburger or something like that, but we would always have the fresh peach ice cream. Mother Haynie told me how to do the peaches. She said get them when they're dead ripe. and mash them up with a potato masher, and put sugar in them, and let them dissolve a good while before you put them in the ice cream, and that made good peach ice cream."

Every thanksgiving I would make the fruit cake for Christmas because it would take all day to make the old fashion fruit cake. (Then) y'all got to watching TV and everybody eating turkey and everything on Thanksgiving Day, so I had to start fixing Thanksgiving dinner."

About other holidays, Mother said, "We always had fresh coconut cake for Christmas, and a Christmas tree. I remember wonderful Christmases." As do I.

In the mid to late 1950's, we went to Florida every summer. "We stayed . . in an apartment right down on the beach so you wouldn't have to go back and forth. And you were about three and a half the first time you went. . . and we got to the apartment, and you jumped out and went running down to the water. . . because we had had neighborhood swimming pools and all of y'all had learned to swim. . so you run down to the water, and jumped back out of it, and run back up there and said, "Somebody done spilt the salt in it." It seemed like we would go every summer, and stay a week. And we stayed at the same place. Mr. and Mrs. Mac's, and I can't even remember their whole name now, but it was at the White Sands and we would have an apartment."

Mother didn't care for the beach, she freely admits. "But Daddy was raised down in Brunswick, Georgia, and he loved the beach and the sand. And you all did too. And Mrs. Mac would have special things for y'all to do. . something to dig clams. She

catered to families and she would have watermelon cutting for everybody, things like that."

When I asked Mother if she had any help with her housework, she said, "I was doing all my own work back then, my housework, with no help . . . ironing and everything. Daddy's shirts I sent to the laundry because he wore dress shirts and ties back then. He didn't like them but he wore them. Of course, his pants were dry cleaned back then because they didn't have the wash and wear stuff. I did a lot of ironing with the kids and me, too. It took a good bit of ironing."

When asked about washing clothes, Mother had a story about Daddy and the first washing machine. "I scrubbed clothes, this was in the late '40s, I'd scrub the clothes on a board, and after I got them in bed for a night, that's when I'd wash all the dirty clothes. and hang them out. So I went to Tennessee. . . while I was gone, your Dad had to . . . wash clothes, but he took them to the washette. So when I got home, he said, I'm going to go buy a washing machine. So I was expecting a ringer type washer. And he went to Sears, and the automatic just cost \$20 more, so he bought an automatic. Best thing he ever bought. That was when they had to be bolted to the floor . . . and when they brought it in the house, they set it down in the kitchen, we had a big kitchen then, that night daddy was looking at it. He plugged it up, and turned it on, and that thing started jumping all over the floor because it wasn't bolted. And he had a time getting out of the way of that washer."

We had a treadle sewing machine that I remember playing on a child. Mother said, "Went downtown and bought it, paid \$40 for it, back when I started sewing. It was a Singer treadle machine, and I kept and used it till the '60s. Then I bought the Singer electric."

"I made clothes. . . I made the girls and boys clothes, too . . . I would (make pants and shirts) not for your Dad, but for the kids. . . I'd make a regular shirt. I'd double-seam the shirts just like manufacturers did. But I would have to get the button holes made

because I never could make button holes. And I still got this thing that I ordered back in the late '40s, and I used it, I ordered it from either Richardson's or Davidsons in Atlanta, and its a snap maker. .that's what I used instead of . . . buttons, unless it was something dress up. And it was just like the gripper snaps that come on the bought clothes. And I still have the mechanism. I'd make children's pants and dresses. I started sewing when I was 13 years old, I started making my own clothes. My grandmother taught me how to sew. And if I didn't do it just right to suit her, I had to rip it out and do it over. And every seam had to be basted." When I asked her where she got her fabrics, she said, "Duncans had beautiful dress material, real nice, and I would go down there and buy the materials. And Mother Haynie would bring me materials . . . Sandra's and Lee's best dresses she brought me taffeta material, and I made them their dresses, their Easter dresses, I couldn't afford to buy ready-made (clothes) for them. . .at that time, I made everything."

Mother Haynie was the matriarch of the Haynie family. I remember her as a very dignified and proper woman, with a personal authority that rang throughout the Haynie family until she went to a nursing home at the age of 86. (She died at 94.) For instance, Mother remembers living in Atlanta in the 1940s, and having to go to lunch with the other females of the family. Once a month, Mother Haynie would meet all her daughters and daughters-in-law for lunch together at the S & W Cafeteria. She had a strong personality, and her ability to keep things organized and working was her talent. Mother Haynie was born Inez Tumlin in Attalla, Alabama, the daughter of a Methodist circuit rider. Her early life is sketchy to me, but I remember her saying that, as a child, t some point she lived in Piedmont, and would catch a ride on the train to shop down in Talladega. She married in about 1902, and as far as I know, lived in Georgia the rest of her life. My Grandfather was a policeman who died in a motorcycle accident in 1929, so Mother Haynie had to raise five kids by herself (my Father, the oldest, had already left home). Mother Haynie taught music for a while after her husband died, and later was a

clerk for the first Governor Talmage. Later still, she worked for the Red Cross. I remember that when she visited, she always busy with her handiwork. The image of her in my mind is of her sitting on our couch with her crochet bag beside her, working the stitches of some afghan. She also made beautiful braided rugs, needle work, decorated bottles, and the like. A lot of it, too.

Mother Haynie's strong personality is seen in a couple of anecdotes. One is how she got her driver's license. "She had worked for the first governor Talmage. So when she got her car she went to the younger Talmage, he was governor, and she went to his office, (and while she) waited, he sent out and got her a driver's license. . . it was about 1950. . . several years before you were born." In another example, Mother said that Aunt Nita was embarrassed when Mother Haynie, observing someone doing their needlepoint "wrong", took it out of their hands to show them the correct method. It is, I think, typical of Mother Haynie's ability, her agency.

Her son, Robert—my father—also had that ability to see how things can be done. He used that talent to, among other things, design industrial equipment.. That was what Republic paid him for. He did it well. The mill that he designed, after producing huge amounts of pipe for Republic Steel, was sold to a company in New Bombay, India. At some point, it was disassembled and shipped to India to produce pipe for them. Daddy, who worked at Republic until 1968, died in 1974 after a 20 year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

I am proud of him for his talent. I am proud of Mother, too, for her talents, which can be seen in this paper.

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Gift and Release Agreement:

We Mildred W. Haynie and Richard Haynie
(Interviewee, print) (Interviewer, print)

do hereby give and grant to Jacksonville State University, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at 427 Reynolds St., Gadsden, Alabama on the date(s) of 1996 for the oral history collection being compiled by the Jacksonville State University Library.

Mildred W. Haynie
(Interviewee's signature)

Address 427 Reynolds St
Gadsden, AL 35901

Date May 28 - 96

Phone (205) 547-7329

Richard Haynie
(Interviewer's signature)

Address POBX 4129
Anniston, AL 36204

Date 28 May 96

Phone (205) 238-1651

Interviewee Background Information

Name: Mildred W. Haynie

Address: 427 Reynolds St, Decatur, Al, 38901

Phone Number(s): 1-205-547-7329

Approximate age or date of birth: Age 75 - Birth date 5-6-21

Mother's name: Ethel Lee McCallin

Father's name: Loyal Earl White

Places lived and when: Born in Tennessee - lived in New York (Catskill Mts) Pennsylvania + Ohio until I was six years old. Returned to Tennessee.

Education: thru 12th Grade - Graduated from High School in 1940

Religion: Church of Christ

Business, political and social memberships (past and present):
Registered Republican

Present occupation: Retired

Former occupation(s): Nursing Assistant from 1978 - 1994

Special skills: Caring for sick & elderly

Major Accomplishments: Raising a family of 4 children

Local events in which you have participated: _____

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: _____

National events in which you have participated: _____

International events in which you have participated: _____

Natural born U.S. citizen? Yes/No

Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____

Country from which you emigrated: _____

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession: _____

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

This is the checklist I will use when your assignment comes in. If any of the following are missing your grade will be lowered before I begin reading the paper. Be warned

1. A copy of the tape.
2. A copy of the historical chronology (typed).
3. A copy of the interviewee chronology (typed).
4. A copy of your prepared questions (typed).
5. A copy of your interviewee information sheet.
6. A copy of the tape release form, signed and dated.
7. A copy of the tape table of contents (typed).
8. A copy of the paper.

Your close attention to these details will result in a higher grade.