

**Oral Memoirs**  
**of**  
**Luticia Lee, Linda Maliczowski, and Cathy Dingle**

An Interview Conducted by

Dr. Scot French

October 30, 2013

History Harvest

Fall 2013

*University of Central Florida Public History Center*

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## **Interview Histories**

Interviewer	Dr. Scot French
Cameraperson	Andrew Orleman
Transcriber	Paul Snow

The recordings and transcripts of the interview were processed in the offices of the Public History Center, University of Central Florida, Sanford, Florida.

## **Project Detail**

Creative Sanford, Inc. is a non-profit organization created to manage *Celery Soup: Florida's Folk Life Play* community theater productions. The original idea for the Celery Soup project came from Jeanine Taylor, the owner of a folk-art gallery on First Street in Sanford, Florida. Their first production was *Touch and Go*, which took several years of planning. The play focused on how the people of Sanford overcame obstacles throughout their history. Some of these stories include the fall of Sanford's celery industry, the Freeze of 1894-1895, and the closing of Naval Air Station (NAS) Sanford in the 1960s. Richard Geer and Jules Corriere, partners from Community Performance International, were in charge of assessing oral histories, converting them into scenes for the play, and writing original songs. Director Geer also used an all-volunteer cast from the local community, many of which were not experienced actors.

During the process of producing the show, Creative Sanford decided to rehabilitate an historic building, the Princess Theater, which was located on 115 West First Street and owned by Stephen Tibstra. The Creative Sanford offices are housed in the Historic Sanford Welcome Center, located at 203 East First Street. As of December 2013, the Executive Board for Creative Sanford included President Brian Casey, Vice President Trish Thompson, Treasurer Linda Hollerbach, Secretary Dr. Annye Refoe, and Founder Jeanine Taylor. The Board of Directors consisted of Cheryl Deming, Juanita Roland, Wendy Wheaton, and Dr. Connie Lester, a professor of history at the University of Central Florida. Honorary Board Members included: Glenda Hood, former Florida Secretary of State and Mayor of Orlando; Valada Flewellyn, a local poet, author, and historian; and Jackie Jones, a local entertainer and arts advocate.

## **Legal Status**

Scholarly use of the recording and transcript of the interview with Trish Thompson is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on October 30, 2013.

## **Abstract**

An oral history interview conducted by Dr. Scot French. The interviewees were Luticia "Tish" Lee and her two daughters, Linda Maliczowski and Cathy Dingle. We discuss the Second World War, life in Sanford during this time, the rolling pin and its origins and significance, and

several other important topics.

## **Luticia Lee, Linda Maliczowski, and Cathy Dingle**

Oral History Memoir

Interviewed by Dr. Scot French

October 30, 2013

Sanford, Florida

0:00:00

### **Introduction**

**French** So to – to – what we usually do with the beginning of the interviews is introduce ourselves and I’m Scot [French]. This is October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. And, um, we are interviewing, uh, Luticia Lee. Do you go by “Tish?” “Tisch?”

**Lee** Tish.

**French** Tish?

**Lee** Tish.

**French** How do you spell that? “T-I-C-H” or “S-H”?

**Lee** S-H.

**Maliczowski** T-I-S-H.

**French** You know, on some of the things we had from Creative Sanford[, Inc]. It had “C,” and so I’m glad we asked.

**Dingle** Yes[?].

0:00:30

### **Lee's biographical information**

**French** Um, and so the first – let[sic] me do is to ask you: would you intro – you mind introducing yourself to us?

**All** [laugh]

**Lee** Well...

**Maliczowski** Just tell ‘em your name.

**Dingle** Tell ‘em your name.

**Lee** My name is Luticia Lee, and I was born in Sanford in, um, 1923. And my house was built in 1926. And at – growing up, I could walk everywhere. I could walk to school. And um, at that time, there were just three houses on the block. And then

in, um—I'm not sure when—but the Spencer house that was on the corner, it burned. It was the old house and it burned. So, until '46, there was just this house and the one my aunt and uncle built. And then in '46, Braley[?] Oaklem[?] built more houses. And um, so things really did change you know. You—you didn't have that many people here [laughs]. And, uh, you knew everybody. And now, I go to town and I don't know anybody.

All [laugh]

Lee It's changed so, but, um—and, I do have friends that I went to school with. And we try to go out once a week for dinner and we graduated together in '42 [laughs].

0:01:59 Cedar chest and rolling pin

Lee And that's when, um, my dad—Mom and Daddy gave me my cedar chest. And that's when, um, Mama crocheted me a bedspread, which I still have. And Daddy wanted to make something, and that's when—it was the beginning of the [World] War [II]. And they asked for scrap metal and that's when they took—were taking out—down their cannon. And Daddy had—was in the military and he helped take it down. And he got the, um, spoke from the wheel, and made my rolling pin, which is the only rolling pin I have used all these years. And I'm giving it to Cathy [Dingle],<sup>1</sup> 'cause she cooks, and she bakes cookies, and she rolls 'em.

All [laugh]

Dingle She<sup>2</sup> cooks as well, but I bake [laughs].

Maliczowski I get the, um...

Dingle Fireless...

Maliczowski Fireless cooker.

All [laugh]

Maliczowski I'm gonna do the crock pot thing.

All [laugh]

French Oh great. Great.

Lee So she gets the—and um...

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<sup>1</sup> Lee's daughter.

<sup>2</sup> Linda Maliczowski, Lee's daughter and Dingle's sister.

0:03:23

**Reflections on life**

**Lee** But I've had a wonderful life. I really have. Been right here. Still have friends that I've had all my life. I've lost a lot, but when you reach 90, you, um – you – it happens, you know? So – and if I get sad, I just sit down and count my blessings, 'cause I've got a lot of them.

I have three children, I have four grandchildren, I have four great-grandchildren, and I have wonderful in-laws. Everybody is good to me. And my husband took care of me. He's been gone 10 years, but I have somebody do the yard, I have a landscaper, I have, um, a cleaning service to do the house. So I just sit around and watch people work.

**All** [laugh]

**Lee** I don't work anymore [laughs].

**French** Well we're – we're putting you to work today, because you are our resident historian.

**All** [laugh]

0:04:26

**Sanford during World War II**

**French** And we're – we'd love to hear a little bit more about Sanford during World War II. Uh, you graduated from high school in '42?

**Lee** Yeah.

**French** And what are your memories of that period – of being in Sanford during the war?

**Lee** Well, now, I was working during the war. Um, I was a secretary at the ice plant. And um, and we, um – we iced the cars. That, you know – I didn't do it.

**Unidentified** [laughs]

**Lee** The people did. And, um, I kept the records. And, uh, they took all the stuff to troops and everything.

**French** These are railroad cars or – or shipping cars? What kind of cars were they?

**Lee** They were railroad cars. Railroad cars. It was the – on the tracks out on [Florida State Road] 46. And I think they still – they don't – I don't know if the ice plant's still there.

**Dingle** No.

**Maliczowski** It was for years, but, uh, I don't think it is anymore.

**Lee** And, um...

**French** And you were a secretary at the...

**Lee** Mmhmm.

**French** Ice plant?

**Lee** For a few years. It didn't really take.

**All** [laugh]

**Lee** I just did what I was told. And I—but, um, and it—it's Sanford during the war. We—we had the base<sup>3</sup> out here. And, uh, sometimes we dated the pilots, which was a lot of fun.

**All** [laugh]

**Lee** But, um, I don't know.

**0:06:25**

**Scrap metal drive and the American Legion cannon**

**French** Did you, um—were—were there local rallies or efforts to sort of rally the town's people? Uh, you mentioned that they decided to melt the cannon, because of the scrap metal drive. Do you remember much about the scrap metal drives, and other things?

**Lee** Honey, I got—I—I researched that, and there's the papers over there.

**French** Oh.

**Lee** And it—yeah. I wanted to know.

**French** And so are these, uh—okay. So these are some of the materials that you—you did all the research on this, you...

**Lee** Yes. I did.

**French** You went down to the museum?

**Lee** Yeah.

**French** And um...

**Lee** And see? It says, "County League [inaudible] scrap collection on per capita basis." And, um, I—it was very interesting. It really was. And, and, uh "Legion pole?" Oh, I can't read...

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<sup>3</sup> Naval Air Station (NAS) Sanford.

**French** "Legion post will give up cannon in scrap drive." This is perfect. This is exactly what we were hoping...

**Lee** Yeah.

**French** To find. You've done the work for us. *[laughs]*

**All** *[laugh]*

**Lee** Well...

**French** Thank you.

**Lee** I wanted to know what was, you know – and this was the Legion Hut.<sup>4</sup>

**Maliczowski** And she had pictures made, and – and a frame made, and took the picture out to the Legion.

**Lee** And see...

**French** Oh, wonderful.

**Maliczowski** So they would know.

**Lee** And that's what...

**French** Is this also from the museum?

**Lee** Hm?

**French** Is this from the museum? Or is this a....

**Lee** Well, um...

**French** This photograph...

**Lee** Uh, they took a picture. You see, they didn't have a picture out at the new Legion Hut. And, um, I thought they should have one. So I went and – and got a picture. And – of the canon, and, um, now – but I couldn't ever find out who that man was.

**French** Mmhmm.

**Lee** I guess the ones that were there then were all gone. So I don't know who he was. But anyway, I had that, um, copied and I framed it and I took it out and I gave it to them, so they'd have a picture of the old Legion Hut.

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<sup>4</sup> American Legion Campbell-Lossing Post 53.

**French** That is wonderful.

**Lee** And they put it up.

**French** That is wonderful.

**Lee** So, anyway...

**French** This is great. And this — you — these pictures are from the museum? Is that where you found these?

**Lee** Yes. I found them...

**French** Great.

**Lee** From the paper.

**0:08:46 History of family rolling pin**

**French** Great. Wow. And this is, uh, a handwritten note?

**Lee** I had that and I can't read it now [*laughs*].

**French** Do you rem — what of the — you wrote this for yourself? Or...

**Lee** Yes. For me.

**French** And what was the — what was the event that led you to write that?

**Lee** Well, uh, I think there was something in, um — in the paper about, um...

**French** Do you want me to read it?

**Dingle** Want me to go look, Mama?

**Lee** You can read it maybe. It's about when Daddy decided to make, um...

**Dingle** Oh, oh this is when, um — deciding which precious keepsake you wanted...

**Lee** Oh.

**Dingle** To write about from your cedar chest.

**Lee** Oh.

**Dingle** And, um, how Granddaddy wanted you to have something that was from him. And how he went about getting the — the spoke and...

**Lee** Yeah.

**Dingle** Making the...

**Lee** Making my...

**Maliczowski** Your rolling pin.

**Dingle** Your rolling pin to go in your hope chest. That's why you wrote that up.

**French** And this was from the paper?

**Lee** I wrote it up to put in the cedar chest.

**French** Oh, to put in the cedar chest. So did you write this?

**Dingle** So that people would know what, you know – so that we would know where it came from. We would – we would have a history of why she had it and where it came from.

**French** Mmhmm.

**Lee** Because, um, I wanted them to know. See, Mama crocheted the bedspread and Daddy wanted to put something in it.

**Dingle** Mmhmm.

**Lee** So I wrote it...

**Maliczowski** Wrote it down for us.

**French** So, this is the rolling pin. Do you mind if I...

**Lee** Sure.

**Maliczowski** Go ahead.

**Lee** I just wrap it up. I haven't used it for a while. But she's going to use it to make Christmas cookies.

**Dingle** Yes. I will.

**Lee** You can tell it's been used.

**All** [laugh]

**Dingle** Lots of biscuits.

**Maliczowski** A lot. Yeah. Biscuit – biscuit [inaudible] and pies.

**Dingle** Biscuits and pies are mainly what it did.

**French** Mmhmm...

**Lee** Mainly it was Daddy's biscuits.

**Dingle** That's right.

0:10:56

**Lee's father**

**French** So when I read the story about this, we got to talking and – and, uh, thought about *Well, what made him think to make a rolling pin out of a spoke?* Because he worked at a paper factory, correct?

**All** Yes.

**French** So he would have been familiar with all the equipment that you could do this with, uh, milling? It's called "milling?"

**Lee** Yeah, but he was superintendent of the Crown Paper Company. That's when they – they printed they, uh, wrappers. That's when they wrapped fruit. It was individually wrapped for a long time. They don't do that anymore. They just pack it in boxes and ship it off. But, um, Daddy was there so – and he was in the [American] Legion, and when they went to send the cannon back, he went to help them dismantle it, and that's when he got the spoke, and, um, that's what he could do. He could make me a rolling pin, and that was in '42.

**Maliczowski** Because everybody needed a rolling pin.

**All** [laugh]

**Dingle** He was also a carpenter, so he had worked with wood in building this house. And if – if you look on the floor, you'll see there's designs in the wood. And...

**Lee** And there's my – my, uh, [inaudible]...

**Dingle** Back in the corner. So he was...

**Lee** That Daddy had built for me, when I was – yeah.

**French** Oh.

**Lee** When I was four or five.

**Dingle** So he was always thinking of things to do with wood and something else to make and something to do, so I think that just came naturally to...

**French** Mmhmm.

**Dingle** To do that.

Lee To do the rolling pin.

Dingle Something for her.

Lee It would go in a cedar chest.

All [laugh]

Dingle It would fit.

Maliczowski It would fit.

**0:12:40 History of the American Legion cannon**

French So, do you know the story of the cannon? What was the history of this cannon? Was this someth – it was brought back from World War I?

Lee Well, yeah. When they built the Legion Hut. Um, I don't know where they got the cannon. But, um, they wanted a cannon from the First World War. So, I don't know where they got it. Now they got a cannon out at the other – the other Legion Hut. And I don't know where they got it. I think they just feel that, you know, it's history. They had cannons.

Unidentified Mmhmm.

Lee It's an old one. It's got wooden spokes I think. I haven't gotten out of the car to examine it, but I've driven by.

**0:13:39 Memories of the home front and the end of World War II**

French Uh, so, um, what other – do you have other memories of the home front during the war or the end of the war? There's[sic] certain moments of that period...

Lee Oh, I remember end of the war. Oh, there was a parade down on First Street, and I remember being [laughs] in the car. And we was[sic] driving, and my cousins were with me, and everybody was screaming and hollering. And Mama remembered the end of the First World War. And how, um, things were downtown then.

Maliczowski Now during this time, didn't Grandma and Aunt Marty still – didn't they run the grocery store at that time, during the war? Were they running it? [inaudible].

Lee They came in 1910.

Maliczowski No, but did they still have the store in the '40s?

Lee Yes.

**Maliczowski** Okay. Well, tell them about them having the store and one of the reasons—like, during the war they didn't have this much[sic] problem with food, because they had a grocery store?

**Lee** Yeah, but they also had rationing, you know.

**Maliczowski** Mmhmm.

**Lee** They rationed, uh, meat. They rationed sugar, and, um—and I do remember that.

**Maliczowski** They rationed shoes. And tell them what happened with you. She has very tiny feet.

**Lee** Oh, yeah. Shoes were rationed. Isn't that funny? They rationed shoes [*laughs*]. Oh dear.

**Maliczowski** But she had such a hard time finding shoes that everybody—whenever she would find it they would give her their shoe coupon—what were they, uh...

**Lee** Shoe coupon.

**Maliczowski** Shoe coupon, so that she could buy the shoes, because she would—she loved shoes.

**All** [*laugh*]

**Lee** Yeah.

**Dingle** It was hard for her to find them in her size so if they found a pair that would fit her they...

**Maliczowski** They would have to use somebody else's coupon to buy her a pair of shoes.

**French** That's great. That's great. Did you know soldiers who had—from Sanford— young men of your age?

**Lee** Yes. Yeah. I remember one of the boys in my class, who was killed. He was Fred Dyson[sp]. I remember that. I don't remember. I don't remember a lot of them going to war.

**0:15:37 Sailors and the Naval Air Station (NAS) Sanford**

**French** And the base being nearby—what was—you mentioned the pilots, uh...

**Lee** Yeah.

**French** Was there—was[sic] there other kinds of connections to the base, besides the kind of social connections?

**Lee** Well, um, several of my friends worked out there. And, um, I know Margie married, er, one of the pilots. And, um, a lot of them, you know – I met some of them through friends that worked there. But, um, we didn't – I mean, they weren't there that long, you know. You just see 'em and I know one time we went to New Smyrna [Beach] with a group, uh, a whole – I mean, it was usually in a group. So...

**0:16:58**                    **How Sanford change after the war**

**French** You mentioned that after the war, how much Sanford changed. You mentioned I think one of – all the building...

**Lee** Oh, yeah.

**French** Construction in this area.

**Lee** Construction started. Houses were built.

**French** And so this little town you grew up in became – started to grow and grow [laughs].

**Lee** Yeah. And it's still growing.

**All** [laugh]

**Maliczowski** Sanford was lucky, because it was both on the river and it had the railroad.

**Lee** Yes.

**Maliczowski** So that's one of the reasons it was able to flourish like it did. And, um, there's a big hotel downtown – well, now it's not the hotel anymore, it's, um, is the New Tribe's Mission headquarters – world headquarters. It used to be the Mayfair Hotel. And people would come and stay for the winter, and that sort of thing. So it – ya know, it drew a lot of people and brought them here to spend their money in Sanford while they were getting away from the cold.

**French** So, um, you stayed. People have come and people have gone. And you've been here, uh, and – why did you stay?

**Lee** This is my home and I want to stay right here.

**0:18:12**                    **Family heirlooms and anecdotes**

**French** Uh, you're surrounded by, uh, a lot of the artifacts of your life. All the great, um...

**Lee** Yeah.

**French** Pieces of furniture and art and...

**Lee** Yeah. Uh huh. And Aunt Marty's pitcher and bowl when she came in 1910. My grandfather was a doctor in Mount Olive, North Carolina. And when he died, um—he had made a—he bought a small hotel, and he made into a—that's where he could take patients, and it was like a small hospital. And Aunt Marty worked for him.

But then he died and, um, uh, Uncle [James] came down and he was—he's the one that started the grocery store, and his friend from here was up there. and he told my Uncle James he would sell him half of the grocery store, and give his son the other half, and—if he would come down. So they all decided to come in 1910.

Now Mama, and Aunt Ruth, and Grandma stayed up there 'til they got the house built on Laurel Avenue. It burned down later. And, um, that's when they came and Mama went to grammar school to the high school. And then they built the new—what was—we went to junior high. And it was the high school, and that's where Mama graduated in 1913. And so Uncle James had started the grocery store—I mean, he was half-owner. But then his son didn't like it, and he sold his half [laughs]. So it was [inaudible] and it was all during the war.

**French** And do you have memories of the store?

**Lee** Huh?

**French** Do you have memories or picture of the store? Do you have any photographs of the store?

**Lee** Ya know, it—it's down—the building is still there, and it's where *The [Sanford] Herald* is, right on the corner of Palmetto [Avenue] and First Street. And back then, the city didn't decorate like they do[sic] now. And every, um, owner of the store would. And I remember Daddy putting—tying the Christmas tree to the lamp post [laughs] and—and decorating it for Aunt Marty. So, because Uncle James died recently, Aunt Marty ran the grocery store, so...

**0:21:02** **How Lee got involved with Creative Sanford**

**French** Well, some of these stories—well, the one story that—that the Creative San—well, first I wanted to ask you a little bit about how you, um, came to be interviewed for the Creative Sanford play? Do you know the...

**Maliczowski** Well, I have a friend who was involved in Creative Sanford during both of the productions they've made so far, and I went to school with her sister, and so she knew me, and she knew Mama, and she knew that she must have some kind of story that she can tell. And so she said, "We need to interview Luticia."

**Lee** They came and interviewed me.

**Maliczowski** And yeah. So they came and started talking to her and that was the...

**Lee** [inaudible]

**Maliczowski** Particular story that they decided to go with.

**French** So they didn't know when they came about the rolling pin. They just...

**Maliczowski** No. They just knew that she had things.

**All** [laugh]

**Maliczowski** And stories and that she had been here her whole life. That she – that she was born here and grew up here. And that's why they wanted to know her view of – I mean, they asked her lots of questions about lots of things, and this was one of the things they felt that they could incorporate into the play.

**French** Were you surprised that they chose to tell that story?

**Lee** Yes. I was. [laughs] And it was just real neat. And they did it really good[sic].

**Unidentified** Yes.

**Lee** And – and they – they told 'em how Daddy did the rolling pin, you know. So we were given front row seats.

**Maliczowski** Yeah. In the original, uh – the first play<sup>5</sup> one of mom's best friends had a story in it. So they – they got so many stories that they couldn't put them all in the first play. So they put 'em in – they made a second play.<sup>6</sup> And they're going to have a third one,<sup>7</sup> I think.

**Lee** Yeah.

**French** They said they were doing – still doing interviews for...

**Lee** I think they're doing something now.

**Maliczowski** Yeah. They – they're getting ready to.

**French** And, um, so the other – I had a third [inaudible] just one other [inaudible] that I forgot in my notes here. Um, um, well, let me ask my – my colleagues here. Other questions that you would like to ask?

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<sup>5</sup> *Touch and Go.*

<sup>6</sup> *Made – Not Bought.*

<sup>7</sup> *Remade – Not Bought.*

0:23:19

**Lee's daughters, Linda Maliczowski and Cathy Dingle**

**French** No? So we, uh, are also interested in this as a family story. So I'll just step off the couch here for a minute and just have – if I could ask the two of you to join your mom. And we'll just talk about it as a – this is a family. Oh, wow.

**Dingle** Just if you wanted to see some...

**French** Fantastic.

**Maliczowski** Here, Cath. you sit in the middle and you get to hold the rolling pin.

**Dingle** It's my rolling pin.

**French** So if you wouldn't mind introducing yourselves.

**Maliczowski** I'm Linda Maliczowski. I'm the middle child [*laughs*].

**Dingle** I'm Cathy Dingle. I'm the oldest. Our brother's not here. He's the baby.

**French** And so you, um, were you part of the – the original interview. I know if you were, because you had the connection to your friend.

**Maliczowski** Right. And I live here.

**French** And you live here.

**Maliczowski** In Sanford.

**French** And so, um, for you, um, this is a – a family heirloom. And, um, as you told the story, it – you – your memory of this is not just in a hope chest, but, as, uh something your mom used and...

**Maliczowski** Oh yeah. Yeah. I mean we grew up with her doing that and eventually she told us all about it. But I mean, when someone would say, "Go get the rolling pin," you knew what to get [*laughs*] and that was it. We had one rolling pin.

**Dingle** And I really remember mostly biscuits. And pies.

**Maliczowski** Biscuits and pies, because I learned how to do pies.

**Dingle** Yes. And I learned to make a lot of biscuits with it so...

**French** So for you, the memories attached to it are family memories? Not, not World War II, American Legion, home front, sacrifice.

**Dingle** No. It's Mama baking with it. Using it.

**Maliczowski** She also made donuts.

**Dingle** Donuts. That's right.

**Maliczowski** We had to roll them out and cut them with the little donut thing.

**Dingle** Cut them and fry them. Yes.

**French** Well, one of the things that that makes me think about is that people cooked like that all the time, and now it's more rare[sic]. And you have a choice, whether you want to do that. It's not part of our everyday lives to have a rolling pin but you still, uh—I'm sorry, but who's getting the rolling pin?

**Maliczowski** Cathy.

**Dingle** Yeah.

**French** You still cook and you...

**Maliczowski** Oh, yes.

**0:25:10** **Cooking and its connection to family memories**

**French** So does that make you feel connected in some way through the, you know—through the [inaudible]?

**Dingle** Yes, because, you know, I remember Mama using it and I remember it, you know, in this house. And I remember it in our other house, and my granddaughters will help me use it. So, in fact, one asked me last week, she says, "Are we going to get to make Christmas cookies and use a rolling pin?" I said, "Yes. We are."

**All** [laugh]

**Dingle** So they're—they're used to that.

**French** And, um, do you—do you also have things like recipes and cookbooks, and things like that, that are...

**Dingle** Oh, yes.

**French** We have a student in our class who's studying cookbooks. It's actually a historical subject and an interesting one.

**Dingle** Oh [laughs].

**Maliczowski** There's so many.

**Dingle** Oh, so many. Yes.

0:26:11

**Closing remarks**

**French** So, uh, one of the things we've been thinking about in our class is the connection between personal stories and personal history. And then there's the community history – Sanford. And then there's national and world history. And I think that's what's unique about this object is that it connects all of them, you know?

**Maliczowski** Yeah. Mmhmm.

**French** So we really thank you so much for sharing that story with us, and sharing your time with us. The only – the other thing is if, if it would be okay with you for us to take still photographs of some of these objects, uh, for inclusion in the exhibit.

**Maliczowski** Sure.

**French** That would be wonderful. Thank you.

**Dingle** No problem.

**French** Do you – do you want anything else that we should talk about on the – the...

**Orleman** No. the recording – I think we're...

**Dingle** We're good?

**Orleman** Yeah.

**French** Okay. Very good. Thank you so...

0:26:55

**RECORDING CUTS OFF**

0:26:55

**History of the fireless cooker**

**French** One quick question, because we were talking about this before was the, um...

**Maliczowski** Fireless cooker.

**Dingle** Fireless cooker.

**French** Fireless cooker, which is over there. But could you just tell us the story of the fireless...

**Lee** My – my son, um – he, um, went online [*clears throat*] to find out more about it [*clears throat*]. And he said that in one of the – years ago, presidents had one in his[sic] house, but I don't remember.

**Dingle** But they – tell him where this one came from.

**Lee** This one came from, um, Miss Bessie.

- Dingle** Yup
- Lee** And it – well, I already told you.
- Maliczowski** Yeah, but they want to video it. They want to...
- All** [laugh]
- Lee** [laughs] I'm at it again. [clears throat] Well, in 1910, when my aunt came down, when she roomed in Miss Bessy' house[?]. Her mother – [clears throat] excuse me. Her mother had a boarding house, and she did not cook on a Sunday, so she had the fireless cooker – that one. And, um, she would put the – the – it's all there. Every piece. And the stones that had the thing to hook and put them in her fire. She had a wood stove. When they got hot, she'd put them in the fireless cooker. And then she would get her food hot on – in the pans, put them in, and close it up, and it would cook all night. And when she came home from church on Sunday, she'd open it up and she could serve it, but she didn't have to cook. So that's what – and my husband was fascinated with it. I said, "What do we do with it?" He says[sic], "I don't care what we do with it. It's a chest." So it's been in the living room in the old house. I told you we were in the French house years ago.
- French** Yes.
- Lee** And that's where we raised the kids. And Mama was – was still here and my aunts. And, um, [clears throat] so, um – where was I?
- Dingle** You had it in the old house and then you brought it here.
- Lee** Yeah. I had it in the living room over there, and then I brought it here. So the fireless cooker's always been in the living room. It's been a piece to show people.
- Dingle** But we never used it.
- Lee** No. never used it.
- Maliczowski** I plan on using it someday. Tell them about, um, how they used to use them during the war.
- Lee** Oh, well, yeah. When Jimmy [Lee] researched it, he said they were used during the First World War – fireless cookers – mainly in tanks, so they could put the food in the cooker, and then they could go where they were going. And they would have the food.
- Maliczowski** Mmhmm.
- Lee** So, uh...

**Maliczowski** We don't know where they got this one, but we're glad they did.

**All** [laugh]

**Maliczowski** So...

**Lee** So, but that's – and they had – had – in fact, I used to get the [inaudible] magazine. And somebody had put theirs in, only it was just a one, but they made one, and they made two, and ours is a three.

**French** Great.

**Lee** Three – whatever.

**Dingle** Three pans [laughs].

**Maliczowski** Three pots.

**Dingle** Three pots.

**Lee** Yes. Three pots

**0:30:30** **The French house**

**French** And you mentioned the French house. Where – what was the address of the French house?

**Dingle** 113 West Fifteenth Street.

**French** Is it still there?

**Dingle** It is. If you go up Oak Avenue – if you're going up Oak, then you have to go around...

**Maliczowski** You would run into the house.

**Dingle** You would run into the house if you went straight up, but – yeah.

**Maliczowski** My husband and I bought the house from Mom and Dad. And we lived there for quite a few years. We sold it when my son was about 13.

**French** Oh, okay.

**Maliczowski** And, it...

**Lee** Just a minute.

**Maliczowski** Yeah. Do you have the thing from when we sold it?

**French** So this is one of the – the – the same French as French Ave[nue] and...

**Maliczowski** Yeah. French Avenue was his brother.

**French** Oh, okay.

**Maliczowski** There was an A. J., um, Seth and A.J. French. And, um, the man who owned our house was the mayor. I think he was the second mayor.

**Dingle** I think so.

**Maliczowski** Mom might remember, but he was one of the first mayors of Sanford.

**French** Oh, okay. Great. But this was the house that was built by...

**Maliczowski** Right. And my grandmother was living here.

**French** I see.

**Maliczowski** And then when Mom and Dad – when they first got married, we lived over in Orlando and we moved over here when we were seven and eight years old. And they found – that house was available so they bought that house. And we were there – the whole family – from when they bought it and then when I sold it, we were there for over 50 years.

**French** Great. Wow. So, uh, this is great. I think, Andrew [Orleman], we can, uh – we'll wrap up the...

**Maliczowski** Oh, she's got the, um – yeah. This isn't what I was thinking but this is – it was on the Sanford our of home so...

**French** Oh, okay. I went two years ago. I didn't – okay.

**Lee** That's what it looks like now.

**French** Okay.

**Lee** But it looked like that [inaudible].

**Maliczowski** Well Mom and Dad, when we were growing up it was [inaudible]...

*End of Interview*