

## Ruth Janice Schillerstrom Hoglund

October, 26, 2020

This is Ruth Hoglund. The date is October 26th, 2020. And I've been asked by the archives at the Moorhead State Teachers College campus, MSUM, to talk a little bit about the campus school and what was going on in the Fargo-Moorhead area. This is Tape 2, Side Three. As I stated in the first tape, I've always said that I have the longest tenure on campus of anyone living or deceased. I started kindergarten in 1930, and I went through the college high school, graduating salutatorian, MSTC College, Gray Gown Usher as a junior. And I graduated with a music and science majors, and then went on and got a Master's in special education. I was born in Moorhead at home. Dr. G. L. Gosslee delivered me on May Eighth, 1925.

We lived in a small house, two-story house on the northeast corner of the cemetery that's across from Concordia College. The address was 713 Ninth Street South. The people that we rented the house from decided to build a new house around that location. So they were imploding it. As we were packing up and moving out, to 311 Sixth Street, that was a duplex. From there, we moved to 402 Eighth Street South, which was right across from the Fargo Public School, where my three brothers attended, and that this time that I was going to begin school. And our friends, the teachers, Mrs. Durboraw, kindergarten teacher, and Miss Rainey, the second-grade teacher, talked to my parents and said that they that I should go to the campus school. So that's when I entered the campus school.

We lived in the downstairs apartment of a house right across from the High School on Eighth Street. And that was the temporary move. From there we moved to 604 Eighth Street South, which was just two blocks south of where we were living. And that was a larger house, four bedrooms and two stories and everything. So it's very adequate for a family of six. We rented the home from the next-door neighbor, and the next-door neighbor was Judge Russell from Moorhead. And so our owner was just right next door, and they proved to be very good neighbors.

This home was just west of the campus. We were on Eighth Street and the campus school was on Eleventh Street. And so it was just right straight down the street. And there were the classrooms that I attended until I went to college. My brothers by this time were grown, one was married, one was in the army, and the other one was going to be married. So we had too big of a house for just the three of us. So we moved out and went to 702 Fourth Avenue South for several months until we could get into the house at 1424 Fourth Avenue South, where we lived until I graduated from college, and my parents then moved into an apartment.

All these homes were almost within walking distance. If it were bad weather then my mother would drive me to school, because my father slept during the day because he worked at night. So it was very convenient for us. If the weather were bad, those of us who lived near the school were allowed to pack a lunch. The other children that were in the school where this came by bus from Sabin and Glyndon and Barnesville, Georgetown and Kragnes. They of course, ate their lunch that they brought with them right at school, but those of us who lived in town and near the school could only bring our lunch if the weather were bad.

When we lived at 604 Eighth Street South, which was just a block north of the Concordia College campus, it was interesting to note that we had seven neighborhood grocery stores near our home. One on Seventh Avenue South, going east from the river. We had Conley's grocery store, and I believe they lived in a separate house next door to their grocery store. And then as we went east toward the campus of MS, we had the college grocery store, and next to that was the college cafe that the college students frequented when they had an extra ten cents or fifteen cents to spend. By the way, right across the street west from the campus, the gates of the campus school, on the north side of the avenue, was the home of the Litherlands, and the son of the Litherlands and his wife had the Dairy Queen downtown in Moorhead for 40 years.

And across, west from the campus gates, on the south side of the avenue, was the home of Dr. Thysell, and his wife was very, very kind to a lot of us younger kids because they always flooded the lot next to them so that we could go there and skate after school or on the weekend. And Mrs. Thysell even allowed some of us that knew her family, I knew Gloria, she was about my age, and so when we got cold, we could go in the back door, sit on the basement stairs and get warm. The Schramm family lived south of the MS College, and they had a girl, Enola, and then twin boys, Roy and Ray. And they all skated. They didn't have any facility to practice, so they practiced a lot at the Thysell rink when nobody else was there. And later in life, the Schramm twins were in the Ice Follies and they were known as Frick and Frack. And they had a very good performance.

Just a block west of our home at 604 Eighth Street South was a grocery store and it was run by the Andersons. We called it the Andy's grocery store. They lived on the premises also. That's one of the neighborhood grocery stores. But we did have a charge account because in those days sometimes you ran out of nickels and dimes to buy bread or milk, and you needed a place that you could charge it until the weekend when the check came in. So we had a charge account there and mother paid it up every week. And so I would go with her, and Mr. Anderson always gave me a candy bar when mother paid up the bill. No matter how small or large it was, I got a candy bar. It later turned into an insurance company office.

Then as we go east on Sixth Avenue South to Tenth Street and turn north on Fifth Avenue, on the corner was a grocery store and that was Mrs. Fitch's grocery store. She and her husband lived behind the store right on the premises there. And one block north on Tenth Street on Fourth Avenue was Nystrom's grocery store. And they had an apartment there also where they lived. And then just a half a block north of that was another grocery store. They called it Tenth Street grocery store. Then if you went west from Fourth Avenue and went down back to Eighth Street again, if you went north to Second Avenue, there was another grocery store and it was Christiansen's grocery store. And it was a rectangular building. They lived upstairs, and downstairs was the grocery store. And it was built so that they had windows and everything all the way around. So it wasn't more or less a basement, it was a semi-basement. When Trinity Lutheran purchased the property on that block for parking areas, in later years, the people would not sell that building. And I haven't been over there in the last couple of years, so I don't know if it's still there, but I think that an insurance company bought it and they just use that building for their office. And I don't think that Trinity Lutheran has been able to purchase it. That's one thing I will check on.

In Moorhead on Second Avenue South is what's known as the Church Avenue. If you go down by the river and you get to Fourth Street, on Fourth Street and Second Avenue, these churches were on the south side of the avenue. It was Grace Methodist Church, and my friends the Palmas went there to church and that's where my friend Elizabeth was married. Then you go a block to Fifth Street and there was the Presbyterian Church. And you go to the end of that block on Sixth Street where you have Bethesda Lutheran Church and that's where I went.

Then you go another block east and there was Trinity Lutheran Church and that was outside the Catholic Church. That was the largest church we had. Then you go another block to Eighth Street, and on the north side of the avenue in the corner was a small church. It has shingles all on the outside of that, and it's the Episcopal church. And it was designed by the architect, Gilbert. That is still standing. In fact, they just refurbished it a little bit so that it could still remain intact.

Then you go another block east, and there was the Catholic Church. When we were talking about the church, the Episcopal Church, Gilbert, the north side of Second Avenue. If we go to the south side, two blocks across from high school, not on the corner because there was a house there. But right next door to it was the Congregational Church. And N. W. Klooze was a pastor there for part of the time when we used to live next door. And one of my friends married his son, and she was from the college.

In Moorhead we had one theater. It was the Moorhead Theater on Center Avenue. But of course we frequented movie theaters in Fargo. And if you go over, the Fargo Theatre is the biggest and the prettiest theater that we have in the two cities. The Fargo Theatre is on Broadway, down by Fourth Avenue South. And they later installed an organ that was on a stage and it had an elevator, so it was like it was in the basement. And then when they had particular shows, or during Christmas when they had open house at noon and people could go to theatre and listen to Christmas music on the organ, they would lift it up with the elevator and have a guest organist play there.

Then we'll travel south. And next to the Fargo Theatre, or about a block, was the Isis theatre. And when I was learning how to read, I called it the Is Is Theatre. But I was soon corrected that it was not the Is Is Theatre, it was the Isis Theatre. And then the next one going down on the east side was the Roxy Theater. And that's the theater that my two friends who are sisters and I used to go on Friday night because they had Ellery Queen movies and we liked the mystery shows. So we would go there and then after about ten minutes of the show, we had to tell each other who we thought was the murderer. It was something to look forward every week and then we'd go and have a cherry Coke at the drug store across the street. So that was pretty much fun for us.

The next theatre was the Grand Theater. They had a Grand Cafe also. But the Grand Theater. And that was later kind of put on stilts. I don't know the reason for it, but I guess probably because of parking so they could park underneath it too. We had the State Theatre and that was across from the Metropole Hotel. And that had a balcony also. And on that same avenue was the Princess Theater. And that showed mostly cowboys, cowboy movies and things. So my parents never allowed me to attend any movies there. But my brothers got to go once in a while. And then the last theater was lay down on Front Street that was called the Park Theater. So we had a lot of movies to go to and kids from the country would come to town on Saturday and they

would go to a movie. And they'd always end up at the Metropole Hotel. And that's where their parents or older brother or sister would pick them up to take them home.

In Moorhead, we had [unclear] ...Main Avenue and about 11<sup>th</sup> Street, we had a large brick building and that was called the Gambles-Skogmo building.

We had a large Gamble's Store in Fargo that had a lot of their materials there. And as we go towards the river, west, we have different car companies. On Center Avenue we had Kiefer-Chevrolet. We had W.W. Wallwork Ford. We had Harris Implement Shop, Peterson Car Company. And on the corner of Eighth Street and Center Avenue was the Comstock Hotel. And in the basement of the Comstock Hotel was KVOX, a radio station. KVOX. And Manny Marget was manager of that. And later when it got so that he didn't go down there, and he knew he was going to retire, they had a set-up at his home, so he and his wife Fanny would have an hour-long program every morning that we could listen to. And he always said, "Good morning. This is Manny and Fanny with Mike in between." In other words, the microphone.

They had opportunities in the stations for young people to perform. And it was interesting because some of the children that sang songs on the Saturday morning program, they needed somebody to play for them. So I was in college at this time and I could do that and help them out a little bit. They had a buffet, noon, luncheon, or dinner, I should say, and it was fifty cents, which was quite a bit of money for college kids. But they finally had up a little bit because we had these football players from the local colleges, NDSU and MS and Concordia, come down there and pile their plates so high with food that they must have eaten about couple of dollars' worth of food. So they had the meat on a special table so that if you wanted to have a nice piece of beef or hamburger or something, then you paid ten cents extra. But this was a good place to eat.

Another place on Center Avenue was the Bluebird Cafe. And this was more family, but excellent food. And they had hot beef, hot pork and hot turkey sandwiches for twenty-five cents. And then for ten cents, you could get a piece of pie. So if my mom and dad and I went out for lunch on Sunday after church, that's where we would usually go. Another good place to eat was Gopher Grill, which was farther down on Center Avenue that was owned by Kossicks. And Kossicks had a liquor store on the corner of Fourth Street and Center Avenue, and this was in the middle of the block. And Mrs. Kossick was an organist, and she had an organ put in the center of the middle of the restaurant, and she would often play between probably six and eight o'clock or something like that in the evening. So if you wanted to have some nice music while you're eating, you'd go at that time.

The food was very good, and of course Elsie Kossick was well known and appreciated. We had the Wold Drug, WO L D Drugstore there that had everything that you might need. Then we had Eddie's Coffee Shop and that was really a good place to get your coffee and rolls and things. I have to tell you that my brother liked a certain roll at the bakery which was next door. So he'd go there and buy the roll that he enjoyed, come back to Eddie's Coffee Shop and order his hot chocolate to drink with his roll. And they didn't usually allow you to bring your own food, but they understood my brother, so they allowed it.

Then there were the Vold Dress Shop, and that's V O L D. And that was, we didn't frequent that as much as we did Waterman's. Waterman's was the department store and the prices weren't quite so high there, but they had good quality clothes. And I remember that when I graduated from high school, I bought, my parents bought me a dress for high school. And it was a yellow princess-style dress with spectator pumps. And then when we got done buying that my mom said, "Well, now what about Baccalaureate?" And I didn't even think about asking for a dress for Baccalaureate because I knew how much money we had and I knew what I really dared to ask for. So I was very surprised. So I got a white jersey dress with flowers on it. And mom said spectator pumps wouldn't look so good with that, so we got a pair of white high-heel shoes.

There was a grocery store around the corner from Center Avenue and a bank. And then of course, the theater and the couple of liquor stores. And down by the river we had Martinson's Jewelry, and Peterson's for eyeglasses and eyewear and things. On Fourth Street, by the river, we had the Aquarium, which was a liquor store. And the Aquarium was owned by Humpy Seign. And they called him Humpy Seign because he did have a little bit of a problem with his shoulders. So that was his nickname, Humpy Seign. And there was a lady nurse that had twins and she was not married, so Humpy Seign and his wife adapted the twin girls and they lived on Fourth Avenue, not too far from where my parents and I lived.

Also on Fourth Street there, that be north as you go around the corner toward the river, toward the North Bridge, there was a gas station and it was called the Andy Gompf Station, G O M P F. Andy Gompf Station. As you went toward the river, there was a small gas station, just enough for about one person in the office, so that if you wanted to get your car filled up with gas before you go to North Dakota. But if there were a different cost one place or the other, then you could stop there and fill your car with gas. And on that corner was a brick building called the Rathskeller. And a lot of people did their drinking in that Rathskeller. And I don't know for a fact, but in later years I heard that there was a kind of an underground, a place where you could go from the Rathskeller to the big white square house behind it. And that was known as a house of ill repute.

We also had the Central Lumber Company, and we had the Main Avenue, we had the Dairy Queen that I talked about earlier, and Melberg Printing Company. My brother worked there. And next to that was Howard's ice cream store. He had anything you'd want, fudge, carameled apples, sandwiches, and just anything you wanted, it seems as though he had it. And a friend of mine that I still visit with weekly today, worked there when she was going to MS, in order to pay for her room and board. And so she got a lot of merchandise for nothing or a little bit of something anyway. A library was also on that avenue, and across the street was the post office.

Behind the post office going left was Wright Funeral Home. We also had the Luxury Ice Cream store on Fourth Street. And on third Thursday night, at about nine o'clock between the first and second showing of a movie, there was a drawing behind the Moorhead Theatre. And if you had a coupon from the Luxury Ice Cream store, they would draw one of them out of the pail. And whoever's number matched got \$15. So if we had ice cream during the week, we kept our numbers and the boys would go down to see if we'd win. We never did win.

I can't believe that when we bought ice cream, if we bought a pint, we could win enough for all four of us kids out of that pint. And now in having my family and growing up, and even today, some kids can eat a pint themselves. But my mom used to make chocolate fudge, and put on the ice cream, so that kind of augmented that a little bit. But it was very, very good. If we could afford it, we'd get a quart of ice cream. Besides Wold Women's Wear and Waterman's in Moorhead, in Fargo we had the S & L Company, we had Herbst Department Store, we had deLendrecie's, we had Moody's, we had J. C. Penney. So there were a lot of shopping stores there for choices.

We had skating rinks, different places than Moorhead as well as an ice skating rink at Island Park in Fargo. And there was a swimming pool for the public at Island Park in Fargo also. We had the Valley Tourist Cabins on First Avenue North that my friend's mother owned and she sold the property to Coca-Cola Company. And one time they had a parade and Coca-Cola Company had a truck. And they had it decorated like a six pack of Coca-Cola bottles, and the Coca-Cola bottles were six girls from MSTC. We knew the people that owned the Coca Cola Company, or I should say, my future husband's mother did. And he asked me to get some girls from the college to wear formals and [cuts out].

In Moorhead on the north side there. And then we had the Fairmont Creamery Company. And on WDAY, they had a radio program at noon called the Fairmont Old Timers. They had about six members to their little group. The main fellow that played the violin and sang, lived by the Sheyenne River in North Fargo, between West Fargo and Harwood. And then we also had a yodeler, and her name, her radio name, was Linda Lu and she was an MSTC student. So she paid for her tuition and things by singing and yodeling on the noon program at KVOX or I think it was WDAY at that time.

Another radio program at that time locally was a little girl that sang, "Come on and buy, buy, buy with Patsy Lou at the Herbst Department Store." And then it went on with some other words that I don't remember. But that was quite a come on for Herbst Department Store too. They had basement level, main level and top level, so they had everything from soup to nuts there, including the restaurant on the bottom floor, department store and for nature on the top store. On First Avenue North, west of the Fairmont Creamery, was Daily Park. And we would go there with picnics often. And they had a building next door. That building was a brick building and it was used for meetings for the people that were in the war and things. It turned into a beautiful restaurant because it had windows on the north side looking over the river.

On Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street in Moorhead, there was quite a hill going down from Fourth Street down to Third and Second, and then up, I think on Second Street down to the river. And there was a place that you could rent a boat called Dommers. This big hill was very popular spot in the wintertime because you could go down the road and slide with your sled. And I remember some of us didn't have sleds for a while. And so we took boxes and cut them up and slid down on a box, after it was cut up, you know. And then we had a lot of fun doing that.

There were homes down there. And in the spring of the year, if we had a lot of moisture, these homes were flooded. And it was interesting and sad, actually, because these homes then, when the water retreated, the people moved back into them as soon as they could, as soon as they dried

out well enough, so that they could move back in. And year after year they did this. Finally they dismantled all the homes and nobody could live down there anymore.

At one time on Eighth Street South between about 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Interstate 94, we had a shopping area and my husband at one time had a men's store in that shopping center. That didn't work too well. The one in Fargo that we had at Northport did very well. So the one in Moorhead was just a few years. But there were other stores in that shopping center, including a grocery store, and a hardware store, and different things like that. And now, and also they had a restaurant too. But now the Marriott Hotel is there, plus a restaurant separate from the hotel.

Moorhead Technical College came into being and is a very popular place. And they offer a good education for students who are interested to take to your course. My sons, two of my sons went over there and took up carpentry and they both had their own business. In fact, one of them still has this business today and he will be 71 tomorrow. So we offered a good education in all areas, and I had many of my friends attend Moorhead Technical School.

In Fargo, at the north end of Broadway, we had Trollwood Park, and they used to have plays there every summer. One summer they gave *The Wizard of Oz* as their play, and they'd go with a yellow brick road in and on the grounds. The water didn't soon prove a problem, but later proved a problem. So they made arrangements with Moorhead to move Trollwood out to 52nd Avenue South, right by the river. And they have a lovely stage and buildings and seating areas and parking areas. So that's where they have been having their plays now. But of course, with COVID being present, at this time, these events are not scheduled because they don't want to, they want social distancing and things like that. We have over 224,000 deaths in the United States from COVID. We have election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump in just a week, November third. So we're in living in a very bad time. In fact, I was in the hospital January first of this year and except going to the doctor or the hospital or the dentist and maybe to the bank once or twice, I have not been either of my yard during these almost ten months. I with my age of 95 and underlying conditions, I don't take any chances.

I still live in the home on Elm Street North. Alone, and my youngest son checks on me every day in the morning and also calls me at night. So without his help, I think I probably would have been in a facility. But actually the facilities are having their difficulty with COVID-19 too, so I guess I'm very fortunate to be living here.

I taught school 30 years and now I have been, this is my 34th year of retirement. So I have been a very fortunate individual. And if I could, I would share with you my working with the blind in the public school situation where we had a resource program. But I think they might have it on separate tapes in the archives, so that could be enjoyable. At least I think it would be to listen to. If I think of anything else, I'll add it, otherwise, I'm going to send this over to MS Archives to Trista so that she can glean from what I have to say, for her Archives. Maybe there isn't anything that she wants to save, but I hope that I have enlightened a little bit, but I will say this. I had the best education that I could possibly have. And I feel very fortunate because the supervising teachers of the campus school were excellent, student teachers really worked hard to do a good job to teach us, and it was just wonderful experience. And for anybody that's been listening to

this, thank you very much. I did the best I can with what I can remember after 95 years. Thank you.

It's always interesting to add postscripts to anything that you write or talk about. And I talked earlier about the Fairmont Creamery and how they had a program at noon for 15 minutes called the Fairmont Old Timers. And I just thought about the fellow that was the head of it. His name was Lars Birkliid. He sang and he played the guitar. And he had two or three others that were playing with him. And one of them was the student teacher that I had and Social Studies in high school, and who turned out to be the department head of Special Education at the University of Minnesota. And his name was Maynard C. Reynolds. And he was one of the people in the Fairmount Old Timers trying to make a little extra money so that he could attend Moorhead State Teachers College. And the girl that was the singer on that program was a yodeler. And people would listen to the program to hear her because she did such a good job. And she too attended MSTC about the time I was there. Her name was Linda Lu on the program, but in real life it was Dorothy Venard. And she was a student and trying to earn some money to pay her way through Moorhead State Teachers College also. It's funny how you get your connections here.

Dr. Maude Wenck was a music teacher at the campus school, but she also taught classes on the college level. And one time there were about two or three of us who were invited to her apartment above the bank building on Center Avenue in Moorhead, for an evening of visiting and listening to some records that she had recently purchased and she thought we might like to listen to. And as we were visiting, one of the girls said, "Dr. Wenck, I noticed when I was going to hang my coat up, there was no room in your two closets. You have dresses that you can't even put your fingers through, you have so many of them. How come?" And I thought that was kind of brazen of her to ask Dr. Wenck that, but she didn't mind. She said, "Well, as you know, girls," she said, "I'm a large lady." And she said, "You people have to look at me day after day after day." And she said, "I feel the best thing I could do would be to have different dresses so that you didn't have to look at the same thing every day." And I thought that was pretty wonderful of her to think of us and that manner.

In the same token, we had an English teacher, Ethel Tainter. And she wore, she was tall and thin. And she wore shirtwaist dresses. She had a green shirtwaist dress, a blue, and also kind of a rust dress. They were all the same style. And then if there happened to be a tea or something in the school, then she'd wear her black shirtwaist dress. So I know she had at least four different ones. Speaking of Ethel Tainter later, many years later, when she was retired too and I was working with the blind at the Fargo Public School, a friend, a mutual friend, came from California. Her name was Florence Henderson. She had gone to school in Fargo and just so happened to have known my mother-in-law, Cora Hoglund. She was Cora Hoag at the time. So that I had gotten to know Florence down at the university when I was taking classes, and she was a guest lecturer.

Anyway, Margaret Newton, the music teacher from Moorhead High School, was having a tea for Florence when she came. And she asked her, "Who do you know here that you'd like to have come and have --?" I guess we had a luncheon. And she said "Ruth Hoglund." So I was there. And another person besides a couple more was Ethel Tainter. So here was Ethel Tainter and I hadn't seen her for years. She had on a lovely silk dress. It was buttoned down the front and a wide skirt. It was navy blue and white dots. It was a lovely dress and not inexpensive. And why



do I know that? Because in my closet at home, I have the very same dress. Only mine was a light blue with white polka dots, and I had recently purchased it. So I knew how much it cost. When I saw her in it I thought, "Uh oh." Later on, I went home and I had it dry-cleaned and sent it to the place where the Y girls would pick up some clothes for being interviewed for jobs and things like that. So I gave it to them.

Today is October 28th, 2020. We are in the midst of a coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic. And this noon on the television, they announced that we had reached the number 227,000 deaths in the United States. What a year this has been. I have been out of my yard probably five or six times since January first when I entered the hospital for a seizure. And otherwise, I have not been out of my yard. This summer. I have been sitting out, having coffee and things like that by my front steps, but other than that, I have not been anywhere.

Now to finally tie up loose strings here. Moorhead State Teachers College has meant a lot in my life. And as age 95, I'm Ruth Janice Elizabeth Schillerstrom Hoglund. I was married to Philip Hoglund and we have three boys, one who has passed away. We have Tom, Allen passed away, and Stanley, 15 grandchildren and many, many great-grandchildren, even a couple of great-great-grandchildren.

I started campus school in kindergarten in 1930 in one of the houses, cottages on the north side of Weld Hall because the campus school wasn't quite ready, but by first grade I was able to attend. And I attended campus school from kindergarten to grade 12, graduating as the salutatorian. In the year 1943, I went across campus for four years and received a degree in a Bachelor of Science, where I majored in music and minored in science and history.

In the 11th grade, I was a Gray Gown Usher, which was quite an honor at that time. And then later in 1965, I received my Master of Science in Special Education at Moorhead, MSU. I also attended classes on campus, so I know that I had more than my Master's degree from this wonderful, wonderful school. I did, however, receive a lot of credits in order to be certified to teach the blind. So I have units from San Francisco State College, University of Minnesota a couple of summers, and then of course I picked up courses at NDSU and Concordia. In 1975, I was one of the first 25 people to receive the Moorhead State Alumni Award, and I was very proud of that. The next year I received Fargo Teacher of the Year and North Dakota Teacher of the Year. And in 1977, YWCA Woman of the Year in Education. Wow. Thank you.