

OH 131-33
Interviewee-Evelyn Swant
Interviewed by-Gladys Peterson
Subject-The Depression
October 15, 1985

Side A

- 000-023 This is an interview with Evelyn Swant. She was Missoula City-County Librarian. She was born in 1910 in Missoula. Lived on East Spruce St. Went to Central School. Finished at Missoula County High School in 1926.
- 024-054 Her father and mother arrived in Missoula in 1909. Her father was a carpenter and cabinet-maker and died in 1932. Had his own shop on Woody St. Was born in Germany, moved with his parents to Charles City, Iowa. ES's mother was born in Wisconsin. Moved from Iowa to Missoula. One of ES's brothers worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad and was injured in a train wreck January, 1930, on the Wallace route. Talks about other brothers and sisters.
- 055-079 ES began university in 1926. U of M offered a library degree at that time.
- 080-085 Talks about bootlegging.
- 086-127 Graduated from the university in 1931. Six other students in the library program graduated with her. Talks more about the program. Getrude Buckhaus(sp), Lucille Speare(sp), Miss Kraus(sp) were teachers and librarians in the program. All the graduates of the program were women. She was a student part-time employee at the public library and received 25 cents/hour. The university library paid 40 cents/hour.
- 128-141 Prohibition.
- 142-230 The Crash of '29 didn't seem to immediately affect the students. Most were working their way through school. After graduation, she began working at the public library and received a starting salary of \$80/month. Elizabeth Powell was head librarian. Alberta Stone - children's librarian. Lester Liser(sp) - reference librarian. The Carnegie Library on Pattee Street between E. Pine and E. Broadway. Description of library and practices.
- 231-261 Talks about funding for the library. Payment of wages. Never during the Depression did she ever go without a check because of lack of funds.
- 262-350 WPA helpers at the library. Use of library can be

judged by the economic conditions. In hard times, more people using the library. Saw some transients in the library. Talks about what books were more in demand during the Depression. Zane Grey. Alcott books. Twain's books.

351-403 CCC at Nine Mile. Didn't have any direct contact with the Writer's Project of the WPA. Mr. Coleman(sp).

END OF SIDE

Side B

000-035 Remembers some of the downtown businesses. Peterson's Drugstore. Western Bank. First National Bank. Mercantile. Donahue's at corner of Main and Higgins. Fires took out the hotel and First National Bank building.

036-050 People made the best of the tough times. Just getting by.

051-094 Impact of television on library use in the post war era. ES was head librarian from 1947 to 1970. Talks about the recognition of need and planning for new library. Friends of the Library got organized when there was the promotion for the new library.

095-118 ES says that the Depression didn't really affect her life. Her mother owned some rental property from which she received some income.

119-163 Talks about the new library more.

END OF INTERVIEW