

## **Vienna in the 1960's and Meeting Maud Robinson**

FL: Vienna, at that time—I'm sure people have told you many times—trees on Maple Avenue, beautiful, overhanging trees. Single lane going through Vienna. One thing I bet no one has said: open ditches outside of town. The reason I can remember those open ditches—we were coming home from work one day in a snowstorm and a couple of soldiers had slid over in the ditch. We got out and stopped the car. All of us got out and hoisted the car out of the ditch. That was kind of a common occurrence. The ditches were open, so...It was such a beautiful area. Years ago, also, the Safeway, I think, when it first moved in, the Safeway was across the street from Magruders. Then it moved down where Walgreens is now. Later, of course, they built the Giant. The Giant field out there had the prettiest holly tree you'd ever want to see. You remember the holly tree, Mike? It was a huge tree with berries all over it. They of course had to cut it down to make the parking lot.

Great big house outside of Vienna. Great, old house. A bunch of families lived in a house. That was an old Civil War house, I'm sure.

We moved to Church Street in 1963.

CG: This house?

FL: This house. The houses that are across the street were not there. The house that was on the corner—Miss Taylow had a house, a big, white house. They just actually moved that house down to where (TR) Cook's is. I wish I had some pictures of that house going down. They put it on rollers and got it down to Cook's house. How in the world he got it by building inspections, I don't know. Everybody asked me that. I went, 'I only live here.'

MC: I heard it was a big event.

FL: Yep, it was, yeah. The trees on Church Street, the trees were overhanging Church Street. Beautiful trees. One day, I got a knock at the door. It was Maud Robinson. I didn't know Maud. She said, 'Mr. Lancaster, do you realize they're having a meeting tonight at the Town Hall? The power company is proposing that they cut the trees down on Church Street to make room for the power lines.' 'What?' She said, 'Yeah, they didn't post it.' Maud still remembers this. I'll always remember the first meeting with Maud.

Anyway, we went to the meeting, and I couldn't believe some of the comments. Some of the people who lived on Church Street said, 'Hey, that'll save us from picking up leaves.' All of us spoke up and said, 'These are beautiful trees, being cut down! Why?' So they turned it down, they had enough protest. So that was my first meeting with Maud.