

LILLIAN KIVELA

Lansing, Michigan Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Lillian Kivela

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted on 22 January, 1986, for the Women's Overseas Service League.

Signed, dated agreements of release and biographical information accompany the original cassette.

Transcribed by Patricia Siggers
Lansing, Michigan

29 July, 1988

LILLIAN KIVELA

2 Lansing Unit

NOTE: Lillian Kivela is being interviewed for her service
4 overseas, and she is a member of the Lansing Unit of the
 Women's Overseas Service League.

6 This is Elsie Hornbacher talking, and I live at
 2114 Meadowlane Drive, Lansing, MI 48906.

8 My telephone number is (517) 321-2453.

EH: Lillian, what is your address?

10 LK: 4644 Grand Woods Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917. Same
 area code (as yours) (517) 323-2422.

12 EH: Lillian, where did you serve overseas?

LK: England, mainly.

14 EH: What made you decide to go overseas?

LK: Oh, I don't know. Of course, I went into the Army first.
16 That was the first decision to make, and I was going
 because everybody was going into the Army. I thought,
18 well, it's my chance; I'll go too.

EH: Things were a little different back in that day and age,
20 weren't they?

LK: Oh, sure. I had two brothers in the service.

22 EH: Oh, you did have two brothers?

LK: Yes, and I joined also.

24 EH: How long had they gone before you went?

LK: They were in quite early. My one brother went in, I
26 think, in '40, and my other brother went in, in '41.

EH: And you went in--what year?

28 LK: In 1943.

EH: You were in the Army Nurse Corps? Then you said you
30 decided to go because you had two brothers, and it was
the trend of the day to go overseas--and to help in the
32 war effort. I think America was quite different back in
those days than it is now. We were much more patriotic.
34 Had you worked before you went into the--?

LK: I had graduated from nurses' training a year before, but
36 I had not worked except private duty occasionally. I
went to college, and was going to get a degree in nursing
38 education at that time. But I dropped that and went into
the service.

40 EH: Where were you inducted?

LK: At Schick General Hospital in Clinton, Iowa.

42 EH: Iowa. Were you born in Iowa?

LK: Yes, I was; but I grew up in South Dakota.

44 EH: Just ramble on and tell me about your beginning
experiences, and trace it through the war.

46 LK: At Schick General? Well, that was just a relatively new
general hospital because the nurses' quarters still were
48 not equipped with furniture. I remember arriving there
in the middle of the night when I first went into the
50 service. The night duty nurse took me over to a room
with two sheets. It was chilly, and I didn't know
52 whether to use my jacket for a pillow or a cover. It was
very miserable the rest of the night. After that, we
54 had--there were about ten or twelve of us--arrived there
about the same time. We did our basic training and all
56 that type of thing together.

EH: What was your housing like there?

58 LK: Barracks type. We had a room of our own with a bathroom
between two rooms.

60 EH: How many people in a room?

LK: Just one.

62 EH: Oh, you had a private room then, and a bathroom between
and a roommate on the other side. Did you have to wear a
64 uniform then?

66 LK: Well, actually, not all the time because they didn't have
uniforms for everybody. They did give us--actually when
I got there, they gave us the old World War I blue
68 uniforms. They're beautifully made. I've still got some
of them. Later, they went to the OD (or the olive drab
70 uniforms). But I have several pictures taken in those
old blues.

72 EH: How long were you in Iowa? And what was your basic
training like there?

74 LK: Oh, we had two weeks of marching and drilling and hiking,
and then we'd go to training films just like other
76 soldiers did. It was a two-week affair. We didn't
really go to--where they shoot the bullets over; we
78 didn't do that. I can't remember what they call that.
But then we worked on wards, and I think I worked on a
80 cardiovascular ward there--took blood pressures all day
long. There were a lot of rheumatic fever patients.
82 Then I think I went on night duty on the officers' ward.

EH: Who were these patients? Soldiers who had returned?

84 LK: No, they hadn't gone overseas yet. I think a lot of them
came from Fort Leonardwood and around that area, that had
86 gotten severe--had flu epidemic there that was terrible.
Then afterwards, they had a lot of rheumatic fever and

88 problems that followed that in that area down there in
 Missouri.

90 EH: You were there two weeks?

 LK: No, I was there longer, but our basic training lasted two
92 weeks. I was there from June until October.

 EH: 1943?

94 LK: Yes. Then I was transferred to O'Reilly General in
 Springfield, Missouri.

96 EH: Springfield, Missouri, now. OK, and what did you do at
 Springfield, Missouri?

98 LK: Well, I started working on a cardiovascular ward there.
 Then I moved to a surgical ward and went on night duty.
100 Very interesting. I noticed Dr. Meade, who died just
 recently, was at O'Reilly General. That surprised me.
102 Anyway, I was there until--November. Then my orders came
 to go overseas.

104 EH: Until November of 1943?

 LK: So I wasn't there very long; at O'Reilly General. Just a
106 couple of months, I think.

 EH: What about friendships, etc., during that period of time?
108 You probably didn't--?

LK: I don't have any continuing friendships from O'Reilly.

110 Of course, some of them at Schick General--when I'd been
there--eventually joined the same unit I went overseas
112 with, so I knew people from that time that continued on.
Well, we returned to Schick General, surprisingly enough,
114 and the 91st General was forming there. Actually, they
had been training when I was there before. The corpsmen
116 were training at Schick General for the 91st, so it had
been forming for some time. June 21st, I guess, was when
118 they started, so it was just about the time I went into
the service that the 91st started training. Then they
120 all came back to Schick General. They picked up their
nurses and doctors, and they arrived there.
122 From there, we went to our station where we went overseas
which would have been at Brunswick, New Jersey. We were
124 there in Brunswick for several weeks at that point until
they were waiting for a ship to take us overseas.
126 We got into New York two or three times, and I went down
to Philadelphia twice. So we got a little bit of sight-
128 seeing in there.

EK: You were able to entertain yourselves, rather than work
130 at that period of time. Were you afraid of going
overseas?

132 LK: No.

EH: No fear at all. Were you anxious to go?

134 LK: Well, sure. (Laughter) Sounded like a good idea at the
time. We went to overseas and finally got on the
136 Aquitania, which is a sister ship of the Lusitania.

EH: Is this a big ship or a little ship?

138 LK: It had eight thousand troops on it.

EH: That's a large one, isn't it?

140 LK: It was a large one, although they were crowded.
Normally, it wouldn't carry that many people. I would
142 say it was four times as many as they normally carry.

EH: But a big ship rides better than a small one, doesn't it?

144 LK: Well, that's a matter of opinion. (Laughter) It was
pretty rough. No, I didn't get seasick. I refused to.

146 EH: What kind of facilities did you have on the ship? Were
you down low or up above?

148 LK: I can't even remember what--we never stayed in the rooms.

EH: I see.

150 LK: We'd always go up on deck. That way, you didn't get sick
up there.

152 EH: How many were in your rooms in the cabin?

LK: We had a cabin for--would have been for one person, but
154 there were three bunks in it. So there were three times
as many in the room. We turned on the water--the fresh
156 water--an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening.

EH: Then you could take your showers?

LK: Yes, you had to do everything in that hour. They did
158 have salt water; but I tried to shower in that, and that
160 was pretty terrible. (Laughter)
Then we had two meals a day; two sittings. That's all
162 you had.

EH: You didn't have breakfast?

LK: No, just two meals.
164

EH: You mean, you got up in the morning? And how long did
166 you have to wait to eat?

LK: I don't know. They had four sittings. They had people
168 divided into what they called four sittings so whatever
sitting you were at, you went at that time. I have some
170 stuff at home that tells me about when it was, but I
didn't bring it.

EH: Was the food good?
172

LK: No. (Laughter)

174 EH: You had enough of it though, didn't you?

LK: It was pretty terrible. For breakfast, we were served
176 kidneys and liver and stuff you were not used to. And
the problem was, people would get sick; and they didn't
178 clean it up. They would just throw sawdust on the floor.

EH: Oo, you mean in the kitchen? And in the dining room?

180 LK: Yes, that's right. And if you weren't ill when you went
down there, you were--you almost got ill down there, but
182 I survived.

EH: How long was this trip?

184 LK: Ten days.

EH: Ten days at sea?

186 LK: Normally, it would be a--I think when I came back, it
took five days. But they zig-zagged. They said they
188 went down as far as the Azores because it was a long
troopship.

190 EH: Did you go across the sea--the Atlantic--blackened out? Or
did you have lights on your ship?

192 LK: Oh, they had it blackened out.

EH: They had it blackened out--right. See, I have never
194 experienced that.

196 LK: Oh, yes. You didn't have any lights, but they would let
us up on deck at night. You felt your way around deck.
It was kind of interesting. One night we decided--they
198 had a lounge. It was almost impossible to get a seat in
the lounge, so one day we sat and saved this table all
200 day long so we would have a place to sit at night. It
wasn't worth it. (Laughter) We took turns holding this
202 table down so we'd have a place to sit that night.

EH: Were the officers and the enlisted men separated on these
204 ships?

LK: Yes.

206 EH: Were you with the officers or the enlisted men?

LK: I was with the officers. Out of those eight thousand
208 troops, there were only two hundred and twenty women on
board so it was kind of interesting.

210 EH: Could you play Bridge all day or something like that?

LK: I remember playing cards occasionally in the lounge, but
212 we stayed out on deck because it was a lot more pleasant
out there.

214 EH: You went over during what month?

LK: March. It was rough.

216 EH: It was cold out on deck, wasn't it then?

218 LK: Oh, yes; we wore our coats and our gear. You had to wear
your gas masks, and you had to wear this--and all this
stuff. You had to keep it handy.

220 EH: Did you have any communications, radio communications as
to what was going on? In 1943, I'm trying to think of
222 where the action was at that time.

224 LK: I don't know; I think they'd had action in North Africa,
but they hadn't gone into Europe yet.

226 EH: I see. The Germans were marching into Holland at that
time, do you think?

228 LK: Well, I think they already had.
But it was a very interesting trip, and we met young men.
Once a day they made everybody go up on deck to a drill.
230 You had to run around a certain place. They had a path
that you had to follow to get to your lifeboat. From
232 what I understand, they had two thousand lifeboats for
eight thousand people; so if they had have gone down, it
234 would have been pretty sad. But we didn't have any
trouble.

236 EH: Two thousand for eight thousand; that's only four to a
lifeboat. That isn't many, is it?

- 238 LK: No, two thousand lifeboats--enough for two thousand
people.
- 240 EH: Oh, I see what you mean. I didn't think there would be
two thousand--that's a lot--
- 242 LK: No, there were just enough lifeboats for two thousand.
But on our lifeboat, we used to have fun standing out
244 there on deck. We had a Navy beach battalion; a few of
them were in our lifeboat. Rather odd; this beach
246 battalion came into our unit--to our hospital later for
some training after they had landed on D day. They came
248 back for some more training, and I saw this young man
again that had been in our lifeboat assignment on deck.
250 It was quite a trip. There's no two ways about it.
Then arriving at Greenock, in Scotland,--
- 252 EH: What's the name of that place, spell it.
G-r-e-n-o-c-h?
- 254 LK: I think that's right. It's right outside Glasgow, I
guess. It's way out on the end, and most of the ships
256 that came in landed there because that's as far as they
could come in. It was quite interesting when we first
258 saw land. That was kind of exciting. A couple of
spitfires came out and flew around the ship, and it was
260 kind of exciting. For spitfires--

EH: What's a spitfire? I'm not sure.

262 LK: It was the English fighter plane.

264 So then we went on, and they took us from the ship onto
the--: Going back a little bit, it was interesting
loading that ship at New York. We all wound in there;

266 (Laughter) went in the side door, or the side of the
pier; marched in there. We all had to carry our own
268 luggage. We were loaded. (Laughter)

EH: You had to carry your own luggage?

270 LK: Oh, yes. Then we watched. I remember seeing them load
lockers. Our lockers were put on separately;

272 footlockers. We saw some dropping in the water. We were
hoping it wasn't ours. (Laughter)

274 EH: Actually, some of the footlockers were lost?

LK: Oh, yes. They dropped right down into the water when
276 they were loading them.

EH: In the footlockers, were they Army issue clothes in there
278 or your own personal clothes?

LK: Mostly our personal things we took over; although, some
280 were issue also. We had been issued our striped uniforms
and capes. What we had on were--I think we wore slacks

282 and our heavy overcoat-type thing and all that when we
 were going on. We were pretty packed, let me tell you.

284 EH: Doesn't sound like too pleasant of a trip.

 LK: Well, it wasn't too bad. We were young. (Laughter)

286 EH: I know. You can experience those things and enjoy them,
 then. Hardships are a challenge.

288 LK: We were all doing the same thing, so that makes a big
 difference. Anyway, we got over there. Then from
290 Greenock, we went on the train to Llandudno, Wales. This
 is a resort town in Wales, and it had little hotels right
292 along the beach. That's what we were billeted in. These
 English people just told them--they were told they had to
294 put up these people. I don't know; they had some rough
 times, too, I'm pretty sure. I gained about ten pounds
296 almost rapidly there because we were told we had to eat
 everything we had on our plate. Everything was starchy.
298 There was a real change of diet. We wouldn't get any
 fresh things, and it was a real starchy food.

300 EH: Did you get any meat?

 LK: Oh, yes; they had meat. Of course, that was the powdered
302 milk - powdered egg days. (Laughter) Never saw any fresh
 milk, all the time you were over there.

- 304 EH: I know. That's the one thing I wanted when I came back
from Tokyo, was a glass of milk!
- 306 LK: Right. The powdered milk wasn't as good as what they
have now.
- 308 EH: I know; we had the mechanical cow in Tokyo, and it was
acceptable. We called it the mechanical cow where they
310 reconstituted the milk but it was nothing like the real
McCoy.
- 312 LK: We tried not to drink milk over there because we were
afraid of TB, I guess. Some of their cows were not
314 properly tested, or something. We were told not to drink
English milk.
- 316 EH: Yes. Back in those days, undulant fever was a problem.
Now, you're in Wales. Have you begun working?
- 318 LK: No, we were just there. They had us marching a little
every day. I think I had a flu, and I went to a hospital
320 for a few days, too.
- EH: What was your housing like there in Wales?
- 322 LK: In Wales? Well, it was a hotel--cold. (Laughter) No
heat.
- 324 EH: This is March--April?

LK: Yes. They didn't have any heat in the hotels. There
326 were several in the rooms. We were quite doubled up. We
had quite a few sleeping--you know; if you had a double
328 bed, they would sleep two of you in it. I don't
remember. There weren't too many in there; about ten of
330 us in one hotel--I guess about ten or eleven.
Then we had to march clear down--it was about a mile to
332 where the mess hall was.

EH: Oo, you had to walk a mile to eat?

334 LK: Yes, I had to walk about a mile to eat.

EH: Twice a day?

336 LK: No. Three times, there. (Laughter)

EH: Oh, three times there. Well, you had three meals; and
338 would that be six miles a day or three miles?

LK: I suppose it would if you went back to the room. Then we
340 did the marching. We were there Easter, I remember.
That was fascinating. They had an Easter service up on
342 this hill in Llangollen, and it was very interesting.
They had the Sunrise Service up there on this big hill.
344 I think Lewis Carroll must have had something to do with
that area because they had a monument with the rabbit by
346 a pond, so apparently Lewis Carroll spent some time in
this area; I have forgotten.

348 EH: Who is Lewis Carroll?

LK: He wrote Alice in Wonderland.

350 EH: Oh, yes.

LK: It was a very interesting place--Welsh; and there's all
352 those odd names.

Now, I guess while we were doing this, the colonel was
354 dicking for where we were going to go. He chose
Oxford, I guess.

356 EH: Oxford?

LK: Well, it was in a suburb of Oxford. Headington was the
358 name of the little suburb. He chose this hospital; it
was a brick hospital with steam heat (believe it or not).
360 It was an American hospital in Britain. It had been
built with American money during the battle of Britain,
362 so they let the Americans use it. It was a hospital with
quonsets--they had quonset huts and brick buildings; and
364 with the two, it was a thousand bed hospital.

Later, when we went to tents, we must have added at least
366 five hundred patients; so we got up to fifteen hundred,
with personnel to take care of all of them. According to
368 something I've heard recently, this was the biggest
hospital in the European theater that we were in. Of
370 course, the colonel made it pretty much of a showplace.

372 An awful lot of people used to come there. They were
always having visitors; generals and what-not. We were
always cleaning, I'll tell you.

374 D day was the 6th. Our hospital was open before that, of
course. Our patients would be boys that were--well, I
376 know we had some paratroopers--one that had his hand
broken because it had gotten in the way of a propeller;
378 accidents that had occurred in the normal run of things.
On D day, we got our first patient load, which was around
380 three hundred patients. The interesting thing about some
of those early cases were they had rifle wounds, not very
382 large wounds. Later, as they went on in to inland, they
had shrapnel--which the wounds were much nastier.

384 For awhile, we were very busy. We would work about ten
hours a day. We didn't get our hours off that we had
386 normally gotten, but in time we did, when things simmered
down and they had the surgeries caught up and the
388 hospital was full.

When they'd come to our hospital, they usually came from
390 first aid or station hospitals where they did not attempt
to treat the wounds. They would slap a bandage on and
392 then put a cast on it; so when they would arrive at our
hospital, the cast would be very bloody. Then they would
394 take them up to surgery and do the first repair work.

We had some excellent surgeons in our unit. I worked on
396 an orthopedic ward, and we had many severe bone injuries.

I remember one case that appeared to have a gas gangrene
398 type thing that started bubbling, and boy, did they take
him up in a hurry! That's the only one I saw. They used
400 to have so much trouble with gas gangrene in World War I.
Of course, at this time, penicillin was being used. We
402 had quite a bit of penicillin, and they used it on a lot
of patients. I remember penicillin in those days was a
404 bright yellow and smelled to high heaven. It really was
a nasty smelling stuff. They got it so it was more
406 refined later on. Penicillin you get nowadays is
different. But it did work, and we didn't have too many
408 infections. I remember some Russians visiting our ward
once to see how come we didn't have very many infections.
410 They came and visited the ward.

I stayed on the orthopedic ward almost the full time I
412 was over there with an occasional shift to another place,
but not too often. You took your turn on night duty.
414 Off hours were kind of fun. We had a good time over in
England. Oxford had a nice theatre, and we went to plays
416 every so often. I saw some famous actors and actresses
there. Vivian Leigh was in one play I saw. John
418 Gielgud, who became famous later over here in the U.S.; I
saw him in Hamlet over there. We got into London several
420 times. It wasn't a very long run on the train to London
from Oxford. It was a short run.

422 EH: What do you mean by short?

LK: I guess an hour, maybe.

424 EH: That would be short.

LK: Wasn't bad. We had good times in London. When we were
426 in Wales, an officer had made arrangements and ordered a
lot of bikes; so we all bought an English bike, or many
428 of us did. Then we'd bike around town. I had a great
bike. It was a nice little bike. I wish I'd thought to
430 bring it home. Some people did ship them home, but I
never did. I just sold it over there. Maybe that was
432 just as well because we were able to get them, and maybe
they couldn't. A lot of people used bikes over there.
434 They did a lot of their transportation on bicycles.

EH: I imagine there was a shortage of gasoline and supplies
436 in general?

LK: Oh, yes. They were severely rationed.

438 EH: How did the English treat you?

LK: Nice. Welsh, I didn't get too acquainted with. We
440 weren't there that long. They were nice.

EH: Were they glad to have you there?

442 LK: I don't know. I guess so. They had to put up with a
lot, I think, from Americans. I met one couple--I went
444 to a town outside of Oxford. My cousin had been
stationed there, and he gave me their name. I went to
446 visit their home. It was a town called Chipping Norton.
Then they came in to Oxford once, and I took them out to
448 the hospital to eat. I met them downtown.
We had this couple--interesting--they had two children
450 that had been evacuated from London. That's what they
did with a lot of their children. They moved them to the
452 outskirts so they wouldn't be hurt or injured in London,
and they had two children from London there. I thought
454 that was kind of interesting.

EH: Did you see much bombing in London?

456 LK: Oh, I saw results of it. I wasn't there--

EH: During the blackout?

458 LK: Oh, it was blackout all the time we were there, but you'd
see bombed areas. Yes, St. Paul's Cathedral--it was flat
460 all the way around it. You can't see why St. Paul's was
still there. It was amazing! Here's this cathedral
462 right in all this rubble. I guess one bomb did land in
St. Paul's. Then some man managed to detonate it--what
464 do you call it?

EH: De-detonate it.

466 LK: Anyway, dismantle it.

468 We went to Madam Tussard's. We usually stayed at the Red
Cross Hotel. That was easiest; quite easy. We could eat
there.

470 EH: Did you have to pay?

472 LK: Oh, yes. Not much. They had an officers' mess at
Grovenor Square and it was at the hotel. I think it was
Grovenor Hotel. Huge room; and it was just filled with
474 tables of people eating. It was very interesting to eat
there.

476 As we were there for a long time, we would ride our bikes
for miles when we'd get off work. We had good times. It
478 wasn't bad. England wasn't a bad place to be during the
war, especially where we were. We worked, like you did:
480 One thing about it, of course--all our patients were
young men, so it was not depressing really. Sometimes it
482 was, of course.

EH: They had a good sense of humor, in spite of their
484 difficulties.

LK: Yes--they were all there, and some of them were kind of
486 glad to be--

EH: Back home?! (Laughter)

488 LK: I wanted to tell you; some of the visitors we had at this
place were very interesting. Queen Elizabeth came. This
490 was King George's wife, you know. She came to a tea, and
we all shook hands with her.

492 EH: Oh, wonderful!

LK: You don't shake hands with a queen very often. In fact,
494 they don't normally shake hands, but she did. Pretty
limp hand but she was very nice; a very nice lady, and
496 she visited the hospital.

Oh, I think Joe Louis came through the hospital.
498 Frances Bolton, who was a congresswoman: She was
instrumental in having the nurses made regular officers.
500 Originally, they weren't. They were just--not real
officers, but she put through a bill that made them
502 officers in the Army. She would visit the hospital.
There were others, so it was quite an interesting place
504 to be. Let's see. Can I think of anything else that
happened in England that's of interest?

506 EH: From D day till VE day was, roughly, almost a year,
wasn't it? But not quite.

508 LK: I don't remember when it was. Isn't that awful? After
VE day, our hospital closed down, and they moved us to
510 another hospital. We were supposed to go to the China-
Burma-India theater.

512 EH: Oh, C-B-I.

514 LK: Yes, but then of course, VJ day occurred while we were
sitting there. So in order to move people home on point
systems, they moved our unit over to Liege, Belgium, to
516 the hospital that was called--it was The Citadel. I
don't remember which hospital we took over at that time.
518 I was in Liege from October--about six weeks. I wasn't
in Liege too long. That was an interesting place. I
520 went on one ambulance trip to Paris to take another nurse
to the hospital. I went along with her to go to the
522 hospital, and spent a few days in Paris then. After
that, when I came back from Paris, my orders came to go
524 home. So that's what happened.

EH: When you came back to the States, Lil, did you have any
526 particular adjustment?

528 LK: I'll tell you; we landed in Boston. We got on the train,
I think that night (spent a day there), went to Des
Moines, Iowa, and I was home in three days. It was a
530 terrible adjustment. I think some of the awfulest times
I spent in my life was after I came back from the
532 service. We came back from all that activity--all the
somebody around all the time--to nothing. Nothing!

534 EH: Where were you living then?

LK: I was in South Dakota. My mother was in Brookings, so I
536 stayed there a few months; then decided I was going out
to California to look around. So I did: I went out to
538 California and visited my cousins, and I considered going
to UCLA to school. The lines were so long with the
540 veterans, to just get a smidgen of information, that I
didn't go there. (I think I'm pretty close to winding up
542 this, am I not? I'm back after the war.) (Laughter)
Except it was interesting; going to school with all the
544 veterans. When I returned, I came to Michigan State, of
course.
546 There were a lot of good days in there, and I still have
friends that I made. Our unit still has reunions, and
548 we've had them different parts of the country. Our
colonel--he's in his 80's now--has attended every
550 reunion. He says this one in June will be his last one.
He's an interesting man. He put out a book; he published
552 a book privately and called it Oxford Angels. Reading
it, he was in a different place than I was. (Laughter)
554 Of course, he was with dukes and all the different big-
wigs, and that's what his book talks about. It's still
556 interesting to have because it has pictures, and it does
tell some things that you didn't know was going on when
558 you were over there in the unit. So it's an interesting
book, and I'm glad I have it.

560 EH: Then you went to Michigan State, and you finished your
degree there?

562 LK: Yes. I didn't want to go back to South Dakota. I
decided I just didn't want to go back to South Dakota.

564 EH: What drew you to Michigan?

LK: I had a cousin that was living here, and you could get
566 into Michigan State if you had a place to live. That's
all they required. Everything was full; dormitory
568 housing was very short, and my cousin lived in an
apartment not too far from East Lansing. In fact, when I
570 came here she had me all ready to go to school. She had
done all my paperwork for me. All I had to do was walk
572 here and look silly and walk in, and I was in school. I
went seven terms (I had gone a year at South Dakota
574 State), and I finished my degree. I chose microbiology
(bacteriology, then) because they didn't have any nursing
576 program at that time. If they had have, I probably would
have continued with that.

578 EH: Thank you, Lil. That was Lillian Kivela recording for
the Lansing Unit of the Womens' Overseas Service League,
580 the 22nd of January, 1986. Thank you.

Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

582 Lansing, Michigan