

1 **Interview of Grace Van Wert on her service as a school teacher in post-war Germany**
2 **from September 1946 to August 1947**

3
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: This is Elsie Hornbacher interviewing Grace Van Wert who lives at 3333
6 Morris River Drive, Apartment 704, Lansing, Michigan, 48910. Her
7 telephone number with the area code listed first is 517-482-3773. This is
8 August 6, 1984. Grace may be located at this telephone or at this address.
9 Um, this recording is being made for the Lansing Unit of the Women's
10 Overseas Service League.

11

12Grace Van Wert: I heard about the vacant, eh, I heard about jobs in Germany, uh, in the
13 summer of 1946 through a friend of mine in Ann Arbor. I was teaching
14 summer school in Lansing. I had Mexican children who were – whose f-,
15 parents worked in the fields. I went down to Ann Arbor. I had – did not
16 have time to get any, um, r-, recommendations, so the, uh, Mr. [Myring
17 1:15], Richard [Myring 1:16], who was hiring teachers, said that he was
18 interested in my application but would need some recommendations. So I
19 stepped outside. He called my superintendent, my principal, and princ-, and
20 some superintendents I'd had other places, and they immediately called
21 back, and I was hired that day.

22

23Elsie Hornbacher: My goodness [inaudible 1:35]. Uh, back in the days when I went, uh, I
24 think I started proceedings in March and, uh, knew by June.

25

26Grace Van Wert: Well this – of course this idea of hiring people was sort of a spur-of-the-
27 moment deal, so that they, uh, didn't have too much time to advertise ahead.
28 Uh, 110 teachers left New York on September 20th for Germany. We
29 were...

30

31Elsie Hornbacher: [2:06] Grace, uh, when you went, uh, did you know anyone else going?

32

33Grace Van Wert: Yeah, I knew th-, 2 people.

34

35Elsie Hornbacher: [2:13] From Michigan?

36

37Grace Van Wert: Yes, mm-hm.

38

39Elsie Hornbacher: Oh. [2:15] Then you did, uh, get together with [inaudible 2:17]?

40

41Grace Van Wert: And then, uh, in New York, we met several others.

42

43Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.

44

1 Grace Van Wert: And, uh, I think there were 13 of us from Michigan, so we got, we got to
2 know one another quite well in New York. We were held up 10 days in
3 New York before we sailed because, uh, we were supposed to go over on
4 the General Alexander, but the General Alexander had hit a mine on its way
5 back from Germany, so we were held up, uh, until we could get on the
6 General Richardson.
7

8 Elsie Hornbacher: [2:44] Another ship?
9

10 Grace Van Wert: Yes.
11

12 Elsie Hornbacher: [2:46] Was it a nice ship, Grace?
13

14 Grace Van Wert: Yes, mm-hm, it was. It was an army ship. You – we wore, uh, our, uh, Mae
15 West I-, the life preservers all the time. We were not even supposed to go
16 outside of our cabin without those life preservers with us every minute
17 because the boat was liable to make, uh, to hit a mine. The...
18

19 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, [inaudible 3:08]?
20

21 Grace Van Wert: ...they were not all of the water yet. Yes. We were always ready. We had
22 boat drill often on the ship so we knew just which boat we would go to from
23 the station w-, where we happened to be at – if we had – did hit a mine.
24

25 Elsie Hornbacher: [3:23] Was the ocean rough?
26

27 Grace Van Wert: Part the time it was, but most of it – the trip over was nice.
28

29 Elsie Hornbacher: [3:28] You didn't get seasick?
30

31 Grace Van Wert: Uh, not going over. I did coming back because I was on a smaller ship
32 coming back...
33

34 Elsie Hornbacher: [3:34] Oh, the...
35

36 Grace Van Wert: ...and the sear was rough.
37

38 Elsie Hornbacher: ...Richardson was big enough that...
39

40 Grace Van Wert: Yes.
41

42 Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh...
43

44 Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: ...you avoided seasickness?
3
4Grace Van Wert: Yes.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: And I found the same thing to be true going over to, uh, uh, Europe in a
7 smaller ship. I was – I didn't throw up, but, uh, I was, uh, kind of...
8
9Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.
10
11Elsie Hornbacher: ...you know...
12
13Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: ...under the weather.
16
17Grace Van Wert: We, uh, landed in, uh, Bremerhaven where we stayed all night the first
18 night, and then the next day, we took a train to Frankfurt, Germany. The –
19 we rode in a train that had slat seats, so it was quite an uncomfortable ride
20 all the way. Our, uh, first meeting was at Frankfurt. Uh, then we went to,
21 uh, Bremerhaven, uh, no, um, oh... We went to Bad Nauheim where we had
22 our – a week of meetings, and we received our assignments, and then after
23 that, we took a trip on the, um, Rhine River in Hitler's private yacht, which
24 the army had confiscated. There were many 1-room schools that first year,
25 and they asked for people to volunteer to take the 1-room schools as there,
26 there were, uh, not enough American families in the – in Germany yet to
27 have more than 1 teacher at many of the locations. I, uh, volunteered to take
28 a r-, a 1-room school. I was at the – connected with the Fritzlar Air Base,
29 and the school was, uh, located at Bad, uh, Wildungen because Fritzlar was
30 b-, badly bombed.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: [5:22] What's the big city near th-, that place?
33
34Grace Van Wert: Um, Bad Wildungen is 100 miles north of Frankfurt and 25 miles south of
35 Kassel.
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: [5:32] Kassel, in that area, the northern Germany wasn't it?
38
39Grace Van Wert: In the foothills of the Harz Mountains. It was a lovely place, beautiful
40 place. But...
41
42Elsie Hornbacher: [5:40] Uh, what is the province, German province? Do you know it?
43
44Grace Van Wert: Hesse.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Hesse. [5:44] Oh, you were in Hesse?
3
4Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
7
8Grace Van Wert: The, uh, Town of Bad Wildungen had 6,000, uh, permanent residents before
9 the war. After the war, there were around 12,000 there, which included, uh,
10 people from other places that [inaudible 6:02] badly bombed and
11 Americans. It was a health resort town. There were 12 fairly large hotels
12 and, uh, 18 small hotels at that time. I stayed at a hotel, which was the
13 Army, uh, Officers Club.
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: I understand German teacin-, teachers even today can go to a health resort
16 for a week because they need, uh, rest and recuperation [chuckle] from their
17 work.
18
19Grace Van Wert: [chuckle] I often wondered if the people really got much help. It was
20 supposed – the water at the – at this, um, health resort was supposed to be
21 good for kidney problems.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
24
25Grace Van Wert: Uh, I – a aide who worked with me teaching, uh, German to my children,
26 uh, his father was a doctor in Berlin. He had died during the bombing of
27 Berlin. And she was left with nothing and had to get out and make her own
28 way any way she could. She, uh, I asked her one time if she, uh, her father
29 thought that, uh, the, uh, water at the health resorts helped the patients, and
30 she said well, not, uh, really, but she – he thought the rest did them a lot of
31 good.
32
33Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]
34
35Grace Van Wert: When school first started, on the first day, I had 4 children, but I got more
36 later. They gradually came in, and before the year was over, I had children
37 in all grades from 1 through 7, so it was just like a country school.
38
39Elsie Hornbacher: [7:45] Was it, um, uh, were these children, uh, children of, uh, enlisted men
40 or, uh, officers or both?
41
42Grace Van Wert: They were both, enlisted and officers' children.
43
44Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.

1
2 Grace Van Wert: Also I had 1 family whose parents were connected with the Red Cross.
3
4 Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
5
6 Grace Van Wert: They were fine children. I had no problems with any of them. It was just an
7 ideal classroom. We a-, were quite limited at the beginning in books and
8 other materials. I had taken art materials and paper and pencil and a lot of
9 things that I knew I would need, and if I didn't get them right away, I would
10 be prepared with a little. And, uh, we gradually got more things. Eh, of
11 course, all the books were new but – and the children scrounged around and
12 got some things, too, that they brought in from as they visited, um, other
13 areas.
14
15 Elsie Hornbacher: [8:42] Then you had to set up a whole new school, didn't you, Grace?
16
17 Grace Van Wert: Yes.
18
19 Elsie Hornbacher: [8:46] And you were a part in making the school weren't you?
20
21 Grace Van Wert: That's right. It was the first year we had this.
22
23 Elsie Hornbacher: [8:50] [Inaudible 8:50] the first school?
24
25 Grace Van Wert: The first year we had the schools over there.
26
27 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
28
29 Grace Van Wert: And, as I say, there were 110 of us that started the schools, and I think we
30 had, um, 41 schools at the beginning, 41 locations. So you see there weren't
31 many teachers in any one place.
32
33 Elsie Hornbacher: I see. [9:07] W-, how many were there in this, uh, school you were in, just
34 1?
35
36 Grace Van Wert: Just myself.
37
38 Elsie Hornbacher: [9:11] Oh, you were there alone?
39
40 Grace Van Wert: I was all alone. And when I was, uh, we were given our assignments, I
41 asked, uh, Mr. M-, [Myron 9:18] or Mr. Virgil Walker, who had con-, had,
42 um, control of all the schools, where Bad Wildungen was o-, located, and he
43 said I don't know, but they want a school, and you'll have to look on the
44 map and then go down to the railway station and find out how to get there.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
3
4Grace Van Wert: Which I did.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] [9:38] Oh, you were really – you weren't taken care of at all?
7
8Grace Van Wert: Oh, no. We were...
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
11
12Grace Van Wert: ...we were just – it was just – we just had to s-, sort of look for ourselves.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: [Inaudible 9:47].
15
16Grace Van Wert: However, when I was, uh, got on the train to go – before I got on the train to
17 go, word was sent to the headquarters, the Fritzlar Air Base, so someone met
18 me with a Jeep at the, uh, railway station...
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
21
22Grace Van Wert: ...in, uh, Fritzlar and drove me over to Bad Wildungen and made
23 arrangements for – had made arrangements for me to stay at the hotel.
24
25Elsie Hornbacher: [10:09] Oh, you stayed at the hotel?
26
27Grace Van Wert: Yes, the Officers Club.
28
29Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, d-, and that's where I stayed in Naples too. [10:14] Uh, did you eat at
30 the Officers Club?
31
32Grace Van Wert: Yes. Mm-hm.
33
34Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [10:17] And you had a room?
35
36Grace Van Wert: Twenty-five cents a meal.
37
38Elsie Hornbacher: [10:19] Twenty-five cents a meal back in 1946?
39
40Grace Van Wert: Wonderful food for 25 cents a meal.
41
42Elsie Hornbacher: [10:22] And I suppose you had music at night, didn't you?
43
44Grace Van Wert: Yeah. Oh, yes.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: [10:25] The or-, uh, German orchestra [inaudible 10:27].
3
4Grace Van Wert: German orchestra.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
7
8Grace Van Wert: And the best bread I ever ate, that German bread.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [Inaudible 10:34].
11
12Grace Van Wert: Um, we had our headquarters, um, were or was at, uh, Frankfurt, but later on
13 in the year, it was changed to, um, Bad-, uh, to Heidelberg, so that gave us a
14 chance several times during the year to go down to Heidelberg for meetings,
15 and Heidelberg, of course, is a very interesting place. Our – we taught the
16 same things we teach here, except I had to teach, of course, all the music
17 and art and, um, other – and regular subjects. The children were very good
18 about helping one another, so that the older children could help the little
19 ones just like a country school over here many years ago. During, um,
20 vacations, we were lucky enough to be able to take trips different places.
21 Christmastime I went to Italy and, uh, Switzerland.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: [11:36] Who did you go with, Grace? Friends of yours?
24
25Grace Van Wert: Yes, I went with other teachers who were...
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
28
29Grace Van Wert: ...they were friends of mine.
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: [11:42] Did you have, uh, an opportunity to meet with teachers in the other,
32 uh, towns?
33
34Grace Van Wert: Yes, we did. We used to visit one another in the towns...
35
36Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
37
38Grace Van Wert: ...different towns, and that way we could s-, visit the towns...
39
40Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
41
42Grace Van Wert: ...and then sometimes we would change rooms. Uh, someone would come
43 up and take my room, and I would go to some other place and take the

1 room, and then that way we could have a place to stay and could visit the
2 place [inaudible 12:05].
3
4Elsie Hornbacher: [12:04] Oh, you didn't have the resort hotels open to you yet at that time,
5 did you?
6
7Grace Van Wert: Oh, uh, well of course, you n-, have no idea how, uh, poor people were
8 there, and, um, we – they did have hotels that the army had taken over and
9 so that we could get in to those. But, uh, Germany, of course, was very,
10 very – people were very poor, and they were lim-, very limited in supplies,
11 food supplies and so forth right after the war.
12
13Elsie Hornbacher: [12:34] Uh, they were hungry yet weren't they?
14
15Grace Van Wert: Oh, yes. Mm-hm.
16
17Elsie Hornbacher: [12:36] Were they warm?
18
19Grace Van Wert: Well a lot of places didn't have heat. I was warm. I was always warm. But
20 a lot of the Germans weren't.
21
22Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
23
24Grace Van Wert: The, uh, I – a German lady who took of my room at the hotel had very, very
25 little. I used to get soap at the PX, and she was so pleased when I would
26 give her a cake of soap because her s-, her ration for – of soap was a small
27 bar about the size of the larger bar that you find in hotels. I took German
28 lessons from a college professor, and he wanted his pay in cigarettes
29 because he could go out into the country and buy food from farmers while
30 he couldn't get it in the stores. He used – he smoked some of the cigarettes,
31 but he take some of them out to buy food.
32
33Elsie Hornbacher: [13:26] D-, did you have PX privileges then?
34
35Grace Van Wert: Yes. But we were rationed on certain things.
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
38
39Grace Van Wert: We could get 1, uh, carton of cigarettes a month, a week.
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: [13:35] A week?
42
43Grace Van Wert: And, uh, if we lived in the h-, h-, hotel as I did, we were not allowed any
44 coffee.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: [13:45] You mean you couldn't drink it in the hotel?
3
4Grace Van Wert: You could drink it, but you were not allowed to buy any coffee at the PX.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see.
7
8Grace Van Wert: That was limited.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11
12Grace Van Wert: Many things were limited at that time.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
15
16Grace Van Wert: The first year after the war [inaudible 13:56].
17
18Elsie Hornbacher: [13:57] Let's see, you went over what month? Uh, September, August?
19
20Grace Van Wert: Uh, September...
21
22Elsie Hornbacher: [14:00] Of, uh...
23
24Grace Van Wert: ...1946.
25
26Elsie Hornbacher: ...1946, and the war ended...
27
28Grace Van Wert: Ended in '45.
29
30Elsie Hornbacher: ...in '45, just a year before?
31
32Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.
33
34Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Austerity was still...
35
36Grace Van Wert: Oh, yes, and when we landed...
37
38Elsie Hornbacher: ...[inaudible 14:12].
39
40Grace Van Wert: ...in Frankfurt, it – the town had been bombed so badly, and you s-, could
41 still smell, uh...
42
43Elsie Hornbacher: [14:22] Bodies?
44

1 Grace Van Wert: ...bodies.
2

3 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Frankfurt. Mm-hm.
4

5 Grace Van Wert: On, uh, at, uh, spring vacation, we took a trip down in to the Bavarian Alps.
6 We pl-, stayed, uh, at Garmisch part of the time and at other areas through
7 there.
8

9 Elsie Hornbacher: [14:45] Garmisch Partenkirchen?
10

11 Grace Van Wert: Yes.
12

13 Elsie Hornbacher: [14:47] That's a ski resort, isn't it?
14

15 Grace Van Wert: Yes.
16

17 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
18

19 Grace Van Wert: In the summer before I came home, I went to England. Also visited, um,
20 France, Paris, and we'd c-, been to Paris another – one weekend earlier.
21 Also went to Brussels and Holland. [Inaudible 15:11]
22

23 Elsie Hornbacher: [15:12] Well what about the German people? Did you have any contact with
24 them [inaudible 15:15]?
25

26 Grace Van Wert: Uh, I did, yes. I'd had – I was – and visited one of the teachers at the high
27 school quite a few times and, and, um, the first time I visited him, he, uh,
28 wanted – said he would meet me at the hotel and we would go out to his
29 place, and of course, he didn't have any car or any way to get there. But he
30 came down to pick me up, and, uh, we walked out to his place, which was 3
31 miles.
32

33 Elsie Hornbacher: And that's common for the Germans.
34

35 Grace Van Wert: Yes.
36

37 Elsie Hornbacher: They think nothing of walking...
38

39 Grace Van Wert: No.
40

41 Elsie Hornbacher: ...6 miles.
42

43 Grace Van Wert: And then he walked back with me, so he had – he walked 12 miles.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Ha-ha, quite a distance.
2
3Grace Van Wert: Yes, mm-hm.
4
5Elsie Hornbacher: [15:50] This is a German teacher?
6
7Grace Van Wert: Yes.
8
9Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
10
11Grace Van Wert: He taught, um, the English language for one thing.
12
13Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
14
15Grace Van Wert: And, uh, they – he taught, uh, Shakespeare materials, and he want-, he
16 needed books, so when I came home, I bought a set of, uh, paperback books,
17 uh, which included several Shakespearean plays that he was interested in
18 teaching the children, so I sent those back to him.
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [16:23] Um, was fraternization frowned upon at that time?
21
22Grace Van Wert: No, I don't think so.
23
24Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
25
26Grace Van Wert: We didn't do a lot, but, uh...
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: [16:32] It was totally up to you, wasn't it?
29
30Grace Van Wert: It was up to you, yes.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
33
34Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm. [Inaudible 16:35] I found the Germans that I talked with and met
35 friendly.
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: [16:41] Did you, uh, talk about the war at all with him?
38
39Grace Van Wert: I don't think I ever did. No.
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: [16:46] You d-, you, uh...
42
43Grace Van Wert: I don't remember that I did.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh. [16:48] Do you don't know whether he had any, uh, bitter – he
2 mustn't have had, uh...
3
4Grace Van Wert: I think...
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: ...any bitter feelings toward Amer-, the United States?
7
8Grace Van Wert: I s-, I suppose some of them did.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11
12Grace Van Wert: I don't know how they could help it and we could help it either...
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: [17:00] Did you avoid the...
15
16Grace Van Wert: ...but we did.
17
18Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
19
20Grace Van Wert: Uh, different ones did tell me about families of – or members of families
21 who were killed...
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
24
25Grace Van Wert: ...during the war.
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: [17:10] By the American forces? Mm-hm.
28
29Grace Van Wert: Yes. Mm-hm.
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [17:15] You, you didn't hear any stories of hardships particularly
32 from them? They didn't open up to this degree did, did they?
33
34Grace Van Wert: No. We – they didn't talk too much. No.
35
36Elsie Hornbacher: Every German I talked to denied the fact that they knew about Dachau and,
37 uh, Auschwitz and, uh, the, uh...
38
39Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: ...places of that nature.
42
43Grace Van Wert: Oh, yes. Mm-hm.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: [17:35] You didn't get to Dachau?
2
3Grace Van Wert: I – no, we – I didn't, eh, I don't think we went into that too much, and of
4 course, you were there later.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Yes.
7
8Grace Van Wert: So that might made a, make a difference in [socialism 17:43] after the war.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: It wasn't a day, it wasn't a day I wanted to remember at all.
11
12Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm. No.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: I came home and was sick to my stomach and couldn't even eat.
15
16Grace Van Wert: Hm. I imagine.
17
18Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
19
20Grace Van Wert: No, the people, people were poor. There's no question about it. They were
21 poor when I was there.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [18:00] They had shoes though, didn't they?
24
25Grace Van Wert: Yes, mm-hm.
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [18:03] And, uh...
28
29Grace Van Wert: They had clothing.
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: ...clothing...
32
33Grace Van Wert: And they had, and they...
34
35Elsie Hornbacher: ...it was ragged, but they had clothing?
36
37Grace Van Wert: They had things, yes, but they didn't have a lot.
38
39Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [18:12] Tell us about the town that, uh, and, uh.
40
41Grace Van Wert: The older part of the town in which I lived, Bad Wildungen, had, um,
42 [coughing] many buildings around the old city square that were built back in
43 11 and 1200s. The church I attended was built in 1260 I believe it was. The
44 pulpit was at, uh, at the top of a small flight of steps. I usually spent quite a

1 bit of time on Saturdays, if I wasn't out of town, um, just walking around
2 the streets in the old part of town, watching the people, and going in and out
3 of the stores. There wasn't much in the stores, but it was fun to, uh, see the
4 people and, uh, see the few handmade things that they had to sell.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Grace, you mentioned, um, the, um, church. [19:14] Uh, what denomination
7 was it?
8
9Grace Van Wert: I think it – I, eh, I think it, um, was undenominational...
10
11Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
12
13Grace Van Wert: ...because I went to the, uh, service for Americans, which was, uh,
14 conducted by, uh, our Chaplin.
15
16Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see.
17
18Grace Van Wert: But some of the Germans also came to the church at that time.
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Oh, I see.
21
22Grace Van Wert: Mm-hm.
23
24Elsie Hornbacher: [19:37] Either were welcome?
25
26Grace Van Wert: Yes.
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: [19:38] The services were in English though, weren't they?
29
30Grace Van Wert: Yes.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
33
34Grace Van Wert: They were in e-, English and...
35
36Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [19:41] And, uh, nondenominational?
37
38Grace Van Wert: ...and anyone was – everyone was welcome.
39
40Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
41
42Grace Van Wert: One day when I went by one store window, I saw a painting of the, um, old
43 town square. I knew at one that I wanted, uh, that painting, so I went into
44 the store. The man who had painted it said it was his original, and he didn't

1 want to sell it, but he would make me 3, uh, a copy of it for 3 pounds of
2 coffee. I didn't know at that time where I could get coffee as I couldn't buy
3 it myself at the PX. However, when I went back to the hotel, one of the, uh,
4 Red Cross girls told me that her mother was sending her some coffee and
5 that, uh, she would, uh, write and have her send more, so that I would, uh,
6 have some coffee, uh, to buy the picture. This was in the summer. I went
7 on a trip to England, and when I came back I went down – took the 3
8 pounds of coffee and went down to the store to get my picture thinking it
9 would be ready. It wasn't, uh, finished, but, um, the man who painted it, a
10 s-, um, was so anxious to get the coffee that he let me have his original. Uh,
11 I couldn't, uh, have waited for the other to be finished as we were leaving
12 soon for the United States. So I was very glad to get the original.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: [21:12] Grace, how long did you stay in Germany [inaudible 21:14]?
15
16Grace Van Wert: I was there 1 year. I had a leave of absence from the Lansing schools, so I
17 returned at the end of a year.
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: [21:21] Uh, you thought about going to Japan, but, uh...?
20
21Grace Van Wert: Yes. And then I decided not to, and I often wish I had.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: I see. Well thank you, Grace.
24
25
26/lo