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CAITLIN BOYD, NORTHERN IRELAND

My interview was pertaining to my grandmother Margaret, who in 1956 moved from Northern Ireland to the United States. She moved here to be with her husband, after they got married in Ireland, and he had already had a home and job set up in the states. Just two years before her husband, John had been vacationing in Ireland and he met my grandmother. They later got engaged after he promised to make a life for them in the United States. Then in 1956, reluctantly, my grandmother came to the states under the promise that my grandfather said that if she was unhappy they would move back to Northern Ireland. Although she knew that the moment she was unhappy he could move back to her home country, she began to enjoy her American lifestyle. She had moved to the Southside of Chicago and was happy with her life. Even though she thought it was hard to leave her homeland and her family, her pain soon came at ease when she began to like living in the United States. When she came here she soon began to realize that the United States offered more opportunity for jobs. She said that in Ireland “work was hard and money was little.” In this country she saw that you got paid well for the work you did and hours were fair. She began to appreciate that this country is a good opportunity for anyone who is willing to work. She came to like how America was like a melting pot. When first coming here she was scared that her kids were not going to grow up with some Irish, like she did, but she was pleasantly surprised. She saw that her neighborhood was full of all ethnicities including Irish. Being here she has been able to make the best out of her life and experience meeting people from different walks of life. She has currently lived here for 55 years and she can now call the North side of Chicago her home. When I asked her if she would go

back she replied with "no." She said she would go back for a vacation, but not to live there because she has lived more than half of her life here and she would not want to live anywhere else. Today she is proud to say this is where she spent 55 years of her life and that she was able to raise all four of her children here.