

Wilmette Historical Museum
Oral History

Abstract

Interviewee: Nila (Eleanor) Bauer
Interviewer: Kathy Hussey-Arntson
Date of Interview: Dec. 2, 2009
General Topics: Bauer family, West Wilmette in the 1920s & 1930s

Minutes into
CD

Topics Discussed

- 0 to 5 min. 9th of 10 children; born [1926] at 718 Laramie (which used to be numbered 526 Laramie). Family lived there 77 years. Went to St. Joe's school; then to Milwaukee to become a nun Taught at rural schools in Iowa and Wisc.; came home in 1970 to care for mother & sister Ida; taught at St. Joes till 1977
- 5 to 10 min. Laramie Ave. area p1930s] - Only other houses - Lindenberg; dirt roads but paved sidewalks
Father was Edward, son of Joe who was son of Adam Bauer.
- 10 to 15 min. Grandfather Bauer built and lived at 1013 [1310] Wilmette (close to Library)
Bauer tavern on Ridge
Father Edward took care of furnaces and gardens; other Bauers were builders
- 15 to 20 min. Gangolf (brother of Joe) Bauer's house (big, blue) on Old Glenview Road is still standing [currently #2125].
Parents lived in Chicago when first married; moved a number of times.
They rented small truck farm on Laramie which they eventually bought
- 20 to 25 min. 1929 Kuten Bros. Oil tank explosion - deliberate
Dog loved killing rats at incinerator which [Herman] Zibble took care of
- 25 to 30 min. Didn't own a car; took vegetables to Maxwell St. with a neighbor.
Family grew fruit, vegetables and flowers; had chickens
Father took care of Kenilworth people's gardens; had fruit stand in the summer
- 30 to 35 min. New houses built after WWII; sold farm land
Walked to school at St. Joe's; didn't meet anyone till crossed Locust
- 35 to 40 min. Meiers Tavern and a lot of empty land in West Wilmette [Glenayre] train station, pumping station; Laramie did not go thru; Lake was paved east of Thalmann's store
Thalmann's store and White's store on Ridge, then National Tea Co. on Lake in 1930s; Ice cream shop at SW corner of Lake and Ridge; also Milnikel's bakery

(Nila Bauer Oral History abstract, page 2)

- 40 to 45 min. Also a grocery store where Zier's is today and a funeral parlor
further south, past Schiller
Wasn't in the village much – a 1 hour walk from farm
Babysat kids at Skokie and Lake
- 45 to 50 min. Hugh Downs lived in area
Hammonds farm was a neighbor
No plumbing till late 1930s; no electricity for a long time; had a
party line phone.
Played on pipes when plumbing was installed
Bought the farm from the Kaisers of Chicago
- 50 to 55 min. Walked to Teatro del Lago
CCC camp boys came to visit often
- 55 to 60 min. Train [North Shore Line – Skokie Valley] conductor was a boarder
for awhile
- 60 to 65 min. Practice golf courses in area – where Chalet is and where Loyola is
Frog Hollow north of Lake; prairie area along Highland Ave.
Indians buried at St. Joe's

End of interview

Note: [] items are corrections or additions to the oral history.

1/21/10 drs