

Interviewee: Ralph Klinge

Date of Interview:

Birth in Wilmette; early life over grocery/meat market where Treasure Island is now; fire led to demolition; purchased ~~3-story building next to~~ Ridgeview Restaurant. Father native of Gross Point; Grandmother Elizabeth Hoffman, mother, Anna Rau, native of Wilmette.

Story of parents' courtship.

Location of early settlers.

His marriage 1937, year in Rogers Park, then Evanston, then built home in 800 block of 17th. Still his home.

Many families lived "over the stores".

Arrangement of flats above stores

His house had luxury of indoor plumbing since it was East of Ridge also gas lighting before electricity; store finally had 2 telephones--one incoming, one outgoing for phone orders.

Notes taverns on route including "Sharp Corner" with several

Death of father puts mother, her sister and sister's husband in charge of the business

Among his chores, delivering orders in Model T truck, in 6th grade as he learned to drive Model T, different from models with gears.

Not part of Gross Point Band

Education at St. Joe's, how they taught in both English and German with 45-55 students in each room; he began at 4; always "shrimp".

Story of Fr. Netstraeter and New Trier; other enterprises.

Went to DePaul Academy; story of transportation to there.

Social life of young people included "St. Joe's Young Peoples' Club"

Movie in Gross Point was in the optometrist's building next to Ridgeview

Bleser twins climbed St. Joe's Towers and everybody shook up

Baseball in Village Green

Describes Corpus Christi processions at St. Joe's and in Chicago

Explains workings of grocery stores: wholesalers, but local sources like Lutch for celery that was white, Nanzigg for cucumbers, competition.

After crash, had 75,000 in outstanding bills-due from charge customers

Became active in Village affairs; remembers paving began in 50's

Home remedies

Transportation routes

Worked in store after DePaul, then Telephone Co until depth of depression led to ultimate lay-off, then to Wards in 1932. Went to IIT nights then business law at DePaul U, then accounting at NU.

Was with Wards 43 years; story of Sewell Avery having financed all time payment accounts himself, retiring with 365 million dollars.

Horses still being used in 40's; makeshift running water at Bleser's, story of Prohibition on Ridge

St. Joe's bought the blue-chairs from outdoor activities at Century of progress and used them in the temporary church/auditorium

Interviewee: Ralph Klinge--page 2

Recollections WWII
Beginnings of Curling Rink
Events of Curling Center-to-Atrium and Howard School-to-park
Events of post-war building and development and Edens
Loutsch farm to Centennial
How special assessments led to loss of individual properties

final installment:

~~1951 contested election
serves 3 terms as 2-term limit came in
How Village Board operated
Getting Old Glenview Road in spite of plan commission; Hunter Road
paved; fighting isolation of new areas; water works; fight against
closing North Shore Line. Bahai nursing home; sale of
Mallincrodt land for housing; landfill
Opinion on heat of public opinion
Recreation growth and operation of Recreation Board
Schools used at night
Here story of early Recreation Department under one-man named
Hap Gathercoal in 1923
Getting golf course
School approvals
Closing of schools
Senior Commission
Historical Society with Eileen Ramm in Highcrest
Beginnings of Gates Manor w/Senior Commission
Beginnings of Shoreline Place; inside story of approval process
Beginnings of Jans Golf Course
Advice to new Board Members relating advice given to him~~