

Wilmette Historical Museum
Oral History 108 – Abstract

Interviewee: Rosemary Egan
Interviewer: Judith McBrien
Date of Interview: April 26, 2022
General Topics: Wide-ranging discussion of Egan’s experiences in Wilmette c. 1970’s-present day. Broad range of topics include schools, neighborhoods, services, etc.

Min into Interview: **0 TO 4**
Topics discussed: Overview of Egan’s background, residences in Illinois and elsewhere, length of time living in Wilmette, difference residences in the Village, reasons for choosing to settle in Wilmette

Min into Interview: **4 to 10**
Topics discussed: Experiences raising a child in Wilmette, including opportunities for sports, schools (Central School in particular), Park District, ease of transportation around the community for children, friendliness and community spirit of neighborhood. Egan discusses her experiences as a working parent.

Min into Interview: **10 to 15**
Topics discussed: Discussion of Central School and services to Special Education community in light of Egan’s work teaching Special Education at Northeastern Illinois University. Discusses some of the most interesting experiences she has had in Wilmette, emphasizing the welcoming nature of her neighborhood, including neighborhood parties, Village parades and events (e.g. July 4th) and experience as a Cub Scout den mother.

Min into Interview: **15 to 20**
Topics discussed: Village life during the pandemic, including friendliness of local restaurant (Napolita) and information offered by the Village during the pandemic. Discussion of ways in which the Village can improve, overall, with emphasis on the Park District, especially plans for Gilson Park. This section includes more in-depth discussion of holidays in Wilmette, emphasis on July 4th.

Min into Interview: **20 to 25/26**
Topics discussed: This segment focuses on changes Egan has seen in Wilmette over the last 45 years. Mentions of less income diversity, children, peoples’ jobs, and related items. Also mentions some low income housing, facilities for individuals with special needs, and senior housing. Also discusses some very good things about Wilmette, including many things about the park district as well as the library and the Wilmette police.

Min into Interview:

Topics discussed:

20 to 29/30

This segment gives a general characterization of Wilmette. Includes mention of some old downtown Wilmette businesses, including Lyman Sargent's, Schultz and Odhner's. Mentions diversity in ages of neighbors. Discusses racial diversity.

Min into Interview:

Topics discussed:

30 to 34

Discussion of experiences of being a working parent in Wilmette. Discussion of resources for seniors in Wilmette and surrounding communities.

End of Interview.

5/25/2022 hl