Walter Frautschi

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Mr. Frautschi, will you tell me who your father was?

My father was Emil J. Frautschi. He was born in Madison. He's been in these parts a long, long time. Actually he was born in a house on Franklin Street which, when he was born, was called Canal Street. At one time someone made a plan for the development of Madison and anticipated tying Lake Mendota and Lake Monona together by canals. Of course, this canal was never dug. Canal Street then became Franklin Street.

His parents: his father was Christian Frautschi, who came to this country, I can't be exactly precise about that as perhaps my brother Lowell might, but I think it was about 1865, just after the Civil War. He met his wife, my grandmother, who was Elizabeth Kunz Frautschi. Incidentally, the Kunz name was changed by other members of that family to Tensler, and Tensler is a well-known name in Madison. They were cousins of my grandmother.

Actually my grandmother was born in Fond du Lac County. Her parents had come with the family of a famous doctor, Dr. Sinn, who was Swiss, came to Chicago and then somehow or other got up in Fond du Lac County. There was a group that came from Glarus in Switzerland. My grandfather came from Gstaad, in Switzerland.

And did he come immediately to Madison? And what did he do here?

He stopped in Paris and worked there for some time as a cabinetmaker, and that's what he was. I think he worked for some time up in the neighborhood of Baraboo, as I recall, but eventually came back to Madison not too long after his arrival in this country and started a furniture and undertaking establishment on Webster Street, before he moved to King Street.0 You know, furniture stores and undertaking establishments commonly in this country are run by the same families because it involved the making of the caskets – particularly if the furniture store was started by a cabinetmaker.

In our family, as a matter of fact, my grandfather was a very skilled cabinetmaker. We still have chairs that he made scattered around. And I do remember the entire dining room set, the table, his bedroom, his bed and all that sort of thing that he made. But these chairs are beautiful. I have two of them myself and Lowell has others and cousins have others.

Were your grandparents still living? Did you know them?

Oh, yes. Yes.

And your father went into the furniture business then?

No. My father was the eldest of a fairly large family. He left high school his freshman year, went to Chicago and studied Morse code to go into the railroad business. My father was a remarkable person, I think. He came back to Madison and worked for the railroad for a while. Eventually he moved over to the Gisholt, or the "Johnson brothers," as he called them, who, of course, owned the Gisholt at that time. He being the eldest, of course, after my grandfather died – and I can't give you that date, but I must have been maybe nine years old and I was born in 1901...

Do you remember when your father was born? That date?

No, but he died in 1959 and he was eighty-seven years old. If you can subtract that rapidly that would tell you at least the approximate year.

I see. And do you remember the names of the others, your uncles and aunts, then?

Oh, I think so. Next to my father was Bertha. She worked in the furniture store for a long, long

time. Incidentally, my father, I suppose, always went to the furniture store at least once a day, but he had nothing to do with the operation. He, through an inheritance, had an interest there and so on. Irving Frautschi ran the furniture store. Arthur Frautschi was the undertaker, the mortician, as you would call it today. Lillian Frautschi married Dr. E. E. Baker, who was a Madison dentist. Alice Frautschi married... I think the man's name was Allen. He was a veterinarian and they lived in the South some place. Yes, they left Madison. And Edna, the youngest, married Walter Schmidt who, incidentally, was a brother of Dr. Erwin Schmidt, who was head surgeon at the University Hospital. You may remember him, if you've been around here that long.

There was another brother in the middle there who went off to the Spanish-American War and got into the Philippines and then came back to Chicago. Somehow or other he was kind of lost in the family history and didn't come back to Madison, so I can't tell you much about him. His name was Adolph. I don't think I've left anyone out.

That is a large family. And your mother's family? Her name?

Do you want to come back to my father? I do want to tell you a few things about him. My mother's name was Parman. She was born in Mazomanie. There are Parmans there still, in the Mazomanie region, and they would be cousins of mine. Mother was the youngest of that family. Came off a farm, but nonetheless was able to come to the University of Wisconsin. She finished the university in the class of 1895.

And that's where she met your father, I presume.

Well, the Evangelishe Gemeinschaft (or the Evangelical Association Church) had a great deal to do with our family. In fact, that's where, I'm sure, my grandfather met his wife, Elizabeth Kunz, and that's where I know that my mother and father met each other, was at the church.

The history of that church, incidentally, is rather interesting. We might speak of that. That church was on the triangle where... I don't know what's there just now. There's a building that during the war it was – or this was before the war – it was Montgomery Ward's store downtown. Later Jackson Clinic was near there. It's the triangle across the street from the Emporium and the corner of Pinckney Street and North Hamilton. North Hamilton and Pinckney Street.

And the whole family went there?

That's right.

I will ask you later on about some activities there.

My mother, of course, went to that church while she was going to the university.

Did you give me her first name?

Ida Parman. Then she became a Latin teacher. She taught Latin in Brodhead, Wisconsin.

Oh! After university?

After university, yes.

So how many years later were your parents married then?

I can't give you the year they were married.

But she taught for two or three years, I assume.

I would think so. Something like that.

And then you were the oldest child born?

That's right.

And what year?

1901.

And what other children followed?

Just one brother. There were just the two of us: Lowell, my brother, is three years younger. You know Lowell, don't you?

I know Lowell, yes. I somehow assumed there were others. And where were your parents living when you were born?

This is kind of interesting. The house in which I was born is within three blocks of where my father was born. It was 408 East Washington Avenue. The house is still there, but it's behind the stucco house which my father built. It's in the middle of the block, behind 408 East Washington Avenue now. It was a white house, which I remember very well. I was certainly old enough when the house was moved into the middle of the block and my father built a house in front of it.

That house is still there. It's a stucco house, a rather large house, as a matter of fact. I don't know what period you'd call it. Kind of a big house, a very nice place for that time. It's right next door to the Madison Steam Dye. In fact, the house and the present Steam Dye Works are just a narrow walkway apart. The little house is in the back.

And it's just a couple blocks from the Capitol Square.

That's right.

Was the water tower near there?

That's right. I remember the water tower very well.

I imagine you did. You must have been in sight of it a great deal.

I remember one huge crowd... and, of course, the farmers always came in and had the market there and tied their horses along that street. It made quite an impression on me at that time. Somebody got to the top of the tower. There was a platform down below and the principal of the act held a fork in his mouth and looked up to the top and this man dropped a rutabaga down and he caught it. He caught that on the end of the fork. As I say, that was an episode from when I was a boy that I can remember.

Well, were you born in the house?

That's right. At that age people weren't born in hospitals.

I didn't think so either and I meant to ask that for sure.

Well, I doubt it. Maybe some were.

It was cleaner in the house. I don't think they trusted hospitals very much then, for one thing.

I don't remember anything about that. The hospitals we have today hadn't even been built.

I suppose there was a hospital.

Oh, yes. Madison General Hospital. Later, I can remember, it was the core. I don't know that any

of that still stands. Maybe it might be incorporated in the present building, but I doubt it. But it was the same site. Took the streetcar out to get there. Down Mills Street.

Well, your father was working in town at that time.

He left the Gisholt. Just how this happened I can't quite be sure, but he became the manager of the local telephone company. He started with the railroad, then he went to the Gisholt, and then from the Gisholt... there were two telephone companies in Madison at that time: the Dane County Telephone and the Wisconsin Bell. My father was instructed by the Milwaukee home office of Wisconsin Bell to buy out the competition, which he did; it's a good thing for the stockholders and the people of that time.

I can remember this. I suppose I must have been ten or eleven years old, something like that. There was a terrific storm – one of the worst blizzards in Madison history – along about that time. There were some pictures around some place, the ice on every line. Now, this was all overhead wires at that time, and there was a coating of ice as big around as a baseball on all of those wires. Of course, the weight of that plus, I suppose, the results of the storm, every pole was on the ground and service was completely obliterated. I'm sure it would have put them out of business anyway.

The fun thing that I like to remember and talk about with that telephone business was that my father brought home some of the unused telephones from the old Dane County Company. They were mag needle phones with a crank on the side. Lowell and I had them up in our attic in the new house by that time and we charged the neighborhood kids a penny apiece to come in and get shocked.

Oh, that must have been a thrill for them. And you were glad to get the pennies, I'm sure. Well, what do you remember about the house? Was it a fairly large one, you said?

Yes. That house was, for its time... I'm trying to think of the name of the architect. It was a well known Madison... Starck.

Oh. So it was a fairly new house then.

Oh! Brand new! My father built in front of the old house, which he moved into the back lot. I don't suppose that would be permitted today, with side yards.

So you lived in the house in the front?

Yes. And then my father rented the old house. We had renting tenants. That house is still there. I saw it the other day.

What about other houses in the neighborhood? Were they similar?

This wasn't what you might call the gold coast of Madison, or Mansion Hill, or anything of that sort. But yes, where the Madison Dye Works is now was vacant. There was a house on the corner and that was, as I recall – I remember the name of the family was Peterson – it was just a frame house. However, in the other direction, toward the Capitol, on the corner there was a very substantial house, a yellow brick. That's still there. I think it's a real estate office, converted of course.

So this was a residential area then rather than commercial like it is now.

Oh, yes. Yes. Definitely. There was no dye company. There were churches. St. John's Lutheran Church is still there. There's a restaurant there now called... what is that called?

Right in the church? The Monastery.

The Monastery, yes. That was the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

How far out did Washington go at that time?

Oh, it went way out. But, of course, it went over marsh. Much of that area was marsh. On Sundays we frequently took a hike or a walk. You'd have to walk on wooden sidewalks through the marsh. I suspect my father walked, when I was a baby, to the Gisholt. The Avenue was straight out. I don't remember the nature of the roads, except that I do recall in front of our house, in the 400 block, we didn't have curbs, but you would have boulders.

Did you have horses in those days?

We didn't. No. I think some people did. Sure, some.

I heard several people had a barn and kept a horse.

Yes, well, we didn't, but others did. [UW] President [Richard]Van Hise had a horse and rode all over campus with the horse.

So how did your father get around? Mostly shank's mare, I guess.

Absolutely. He didn't have an automobile. In fact, I think when I went to college I had the first car in the family. My father learned to drive much later in life.

That's an advantage of living close to the center of town: you can walk everywhere.

That's right.

I was wondering what sort of conveniences you had in this new home? Did you have a furnace?

It was a coal furnace. The thing I remember particularly was an enormous tank in the attic. That was the tank room where we collected rainwater. Some of the faucets in the house apparently must have delivered soft water for washing.

We used to have what we called a "cistern" in the basement. All walled off.

Yes. Well, this would be a cistern, except it was in the attic. Gravity, I suppose...

You didn't have hot water, though, I don't presume, in your tank. I think that was quite a bit later that hot water heaters came along.

I don't remember about that, to tell the truth.

You had a coal bin in the basement?

Yes.

And people came and delivered it.

That's right.

Did you have to shovel coal when you got a little older in your furnace?

I suppose I did. I don't seem to remember too much about that. I always worked summers and so on, later, when I could. That was the standard thing to do.

Do you remember – this is the sort of thing women are apt to remember more – about the cooking?

Well, my mother made bread. I can remember cranking the thing... it was a great big inverted dome type of thing with a crank on the top and I had to frequently wind that.

I was wondering if she had a big cook stove?

Yes, she did. I can visualize that. It had a reservoir on the side. It wasn't wood-burning, though. It must have been gas, I suppose. She had a fireless cooker, I remember, a fancy thing.

And do you remember how she did the laundry? Before the machine days?

She had the lines in the yard, I guess, a revolving sort of thing. In the later years, well, as late as see... we lived in that house until about, I guess, my junior year in college, so we were there quite a long time. I'm sure we had hot water by then, anyway, but I don't recall whether it was changed in the interim or not. I can remember the old house being moved into the center and leaving a great gaping hole where the previous basement had been. Then the new house was built on top of it.

Did you have friends when you were little in the neighborhood?

Both Lowell and I went eight years to grammar school at Brayton School, which now is a parking lot, right across the street, up at the top there. That would be the 200 block of East Washington Avenue. It's that parking lot next to Turner Hall. We had to go across the street. Yes, sure, we had friends. I don't know much about them now.

I was wondering if you played games on that vacant lot.

Oh, yes. Sure. We built leaf houses. That's one of the things I remember that I don't see done very much. You put up and made walls about that thick with leaves, then played. I can't remember that we had a roof on it.

It was sort of a little den. That's news to me, too.

I can give the names of some of these people, but I haven't any idea... There's one boy that I went all through school, [unclear], a pressman later. He died about four or five years ago. I was never really intimate with him. His brother actually was older and he was our press foreman.

What was their name?

Olson. The one at my age was Arthur Olson and then the older brother was Ted Olson. That was back in our letterpress days. We're a very different company now.

Do you remember others who were in your school, who went to Brayton with you?

Well, there was a boy named Gordon Rowdell. I think he must be around. He lived around the corner. I mentioned that Peterson family. They had a boy. But I don't know what happened to these people.

Do you remember any of your teachers at Brayton?

Oh, sure, I think probably all of them. In fourth grade was a Miss... let's see, was the name Moseley? I think so. No. Harper, Miss Harper.

Blanche Harper. Is that right?

I can't tell you the first name.

I think somebody else mentioned her to me.

Okay. I think she was an aunt of Sam Harper's, possibly. The principal of the school was Renette Jones. Her assistant – there were two teaching eighth grade – was a Miss [Anna C.] Pierce, and the seventh grade was a Miss [Zilla E.] Wiswall.

Well, you had a good time there?

Oh, I think so.

Remember what kind of games you might have played outside?

Softball, baseball.

Marbles?

Sure, we played marbles, yes. Lots of marbles. In summer – not necessarily at school – we played the conventional things of... what did we call it? "Run, my good, chief, run," or something like that.

Yes, "Run, sheep, run." That's what we called it.

Sheep or chief?

Sheep.

I think we said "chief." I don't know why.

It sounds more Indian. Ever play "Washington pope?" That was one of our favorites.

No. There was a sedentary game we played quite a lot. Sometimes we'd go up on the Lutheran Church to play – that's when we were much younger. You'd go to school, I think it was, and you'd advance grades on the steps by guessing which hand had a marble. Up and back down. I liked to read when I was a boy. I did it constantly. All kinds of books. That was my mother's influence, I think. She liked to read too.

You probably had a swing and things like that. Was there a playground? You could go over to the playground at the school.

Yes.

Did you go to the lakes?

It depends upon the age that you're talking about. In grade school not very much. Once in a while I think we'd take a boat ride on Sunday or something. I think there was more activity on the lakes then possibly than now, of a commercial side.

Was that beach at the foot of the hill then, by the water works?

Where they're making the apartments? Well, no. I don't recall. Yes, at the foot of Franklin Street, on Lake Mendota, there was the Tracy Boathouse. It was a commercial outfit. And then up the street – and these were friends of ours, too, of Lowell's and mine, the Bernard boys – the Bernard Boat Line. The father was a very famous boat builder. Built rowboats, particularly. In a style which was very well known, even outside of Madison, I think. It was fun to go to his shop and see these boats being built. They also had a commercial... well, not a steamer, a launch. I think we called them "launches" in those days.

Yes. That went around the lake on regular trips.

As a matter of fact, mail was delivered by boat in those days, in part of that period. Many

summers I worked, and then Lowell did, too, at Camp Indianola, which was a boys' camp on the other side of the lake. It's part of the property that the state has now purchased. Eventually there will be a big park there, I guess.

Camp Waconda?

YMCA. Grade school. That's a long time ago.

That's true. Just to stay in sequence here: you did go eight grades there.

Yes.

I wondered about summers. Did your family take trips anywhere?

My father was a hard-working person. Several years – I can't say it was every year – but several years during those grade-school times he rented a cottage at Mendota Beach. They would walk up to the Old Middleton Road and there was a Middleton-Madison bus at that time. He would go to work, or he'd get up at five o'clock in the morning, go fishing. Whether there were more fish in those days than today I don't know. But it seemed every day he'd bring in a pail full of fish. Of course, I went with him.

You were at the cottage most of the summer, then?

No. Two weeks. Just two weeks.

Yes. It was pretty customary for people, I understand, to use the lakes in that way.

One summer I do recall – I had forgotten about that – we went to Lake Mills and stayed in a cottage on Rock Lake for two weeks.

How did you get there?

By a train, I think. My father, I think, must have stayed there then. He certainly didn't commute from Lake Mills in those days.

No. Did your mother have any help in the house? Or did she do all her own work?

Well, yes, off and on. Yes, she did. Not live-in help, but a cleaning lady at that time. This is kind of interesting. Just a couple weeks ago I had a telephone call and then a letter from a woman who said – and this comes back to the church – a friend, or I don't know whether it was this lady herself. Anyway somebody that lives out on Mifflin Street is interested in the history of that church. Her friend's ancestors were the first preachers, the German preacher, that came to this German church where our family went.

What was his name? Do you remember?

Reiner. I think this woman is in Green Bay, as I recall. This was just recently. At any rate, that woman's maiden name was Bossert. She said that she assumed this friend's family must have been quite poor. I don't know where she got that. As a matter of fact, I think that was true, because it was Mrs. Bossert who was my mother's maid or cleaning lady, I guess you would call it.

Do you remember your parents entertaining? Did they have parties or dinners?

I think Sunday dinners, primarily. Sunday noon dinners. A lot of that... there were friends they had met at the church. Again, it depends upon what period you're talking about. Later on my mother and father, in their later years, had some wonderful friends primarily associated with the

university. That's when they moved out to the west side of town and built a house. I think that was my junior year in college; that would have been about 1923.

I think that's interesting that Sunday would be the time that they would make arrangements to invite people – to come after church, I presume, right?

How long have you been in Madison?

Since 1941.

So some of these names and things... you didn't know Professor Kiekhofer? Wild Bill Kiekhofer? His father was the bishop of our church. Every time he came to Madison he stayed with us.

I was wondering if you played any games at home when you were young?

When we were very young, I remember the carpet in our living room – which was a good-sized living room – I think was a Wilton carpet. Mother used to talk about it. It had a pattern which made it look like a marble ring. I know Lowell and I would play marbles on that carpet.

Did your parents play with you? Card games?

No, no. That was kind of verboten.

Especially on Sundays, I guess.

Well, it wasn't all that strict. As a matter of fact, Mother was in some ways rather broad-minded. There was never any liquor in our house, nor smoking, or anything of that sort. Even card games were looked at a little out of the corner, at least in those early years.

Well, you went fishing with your father. I was wondering if there were other activities you did with him.

Walks. Sunday walks, primarily. Oh, I think we played the normal kind of things out around. I can't remember what they were. We had wagons and coasters. I guess in this recent thing that they did for our family it was mentioned that we iced the street in the winter and had bobsleds.

Right down East Washington?

East Washington Avenue. You couldn't do that today, of course.

No. But that would have been fun.

There was some talk about it being dangerous. I think sometimes we set up sentinels and so on. Pinckney Street was the famous place, but then East Washington Avenue was used even by students. You know what a bob is? A sled in the front and a sled in the back and a long, long board. As many as fifteen people would get on. The great prize was to sit on the end of the board. It bounced.

No, I didn't realize that. That was a sort of a temporary structure then, was it?

Oh, no, no. I think some of them were pretty fancy.

If you nailed them together at least, yes.

You asked about the lake. It's funny, I can remember more about... later Lowell and I owned boats and things of that sort, but that's high school time. I think we were on skates, I do remember, but that's more than I can remember about the summers.

I imagine you did a fair amount of sledding too, with the hills around.

Yes. That's right.

Well, now we'll get you into beyond grade school. There was one thing I did want to ask about your youngest days: if you remember how you celebrated Christmas, for instance, and maybe the Fourth of July.

I think that Christmas was surely with the family. I think I said I was probably nine or ten years old when my grandfather died. I remember the day, but I can't remember the year. We did have Christmas where they lived. They lived above the furniture store on King Street, in the second block. That's now part of one of the state office buildings, on King Street. Of course, we also had Christmas trees. I think one of my mother's sisters from Mazomanie frequently spent Christmas with us. It was a family affair. We had candles, I know.

Did you go to church ritually?

I think so. Oh, sure.

Did you open presents Christmas eve or Christmas morning?

I think Christmas morning, yes. I think we went through the Santa Claus routine, believed in Santa Claus.

Sure. What about Thanksgiving? Was that also at your grandparents?

I can't be specific about the other holidays as such. My father liked to go out. Sunday dinners weren't always at home, now that I think back. There were two or three well-known restaurants in Madison where we went for Sunday dinner. One was the Simon House. You know where that was? And another was a place called Cronin's, which was in the basement of where the Tenney Building is now, in the building that stood there before. There was a very fine restaurant. Once in a while we'd go to Stijen's. You've probably heard of that, too. That was a famous steak house, behind where the Park Hotel is now, right in the same block.

That must have been quite a treat. I haven't heard of other people who went out for restaurant meals so much.

Later my father got into the coal business – I guess I hadn't mentioned that – after his telephone experience. Three Madison businessmen came to him and asked him if he wouldn't join them in buying a bankrupt coal company, which he did. Then Dad became the manager of that. Eventually that's what his eventual business was.

What was the name of it?

Madison Fuel Company. Then later, I think partly through the nudging of Lowell and me, he went into the oil business, along with it. That's much later. Dad was a good businessman. Eventually he bought out the other three businessmen. That was Mr. Ellis, John Lavella's father-in-law. There are other Ellises. I had lunch this noon with Bob Ellis.

He's on the list of people I might interview eventually.

Well, his father, Emerson Ellis, was a lawyer in town. The other two men were [Theodore] Wiedenbeck and [Charles] Dobelin. They were partners in a wholesale heavy industry tools business.

Did you know any of the Wiedenbeck children?

Oh, sure.

They went to Brayton School, I believe.

No, I don't think so. I think they must have gone to Lincoln School.

Maybe so. But then would have gone to high school.

I knew where they lived, on Gorham Street. In fact, I used to walk over there. I played the cornet in the early days. The elder Mr. Wiedenbeck... young Ted, who you might have known, ran for mayor awhile ago, this young Wiedenbeck. I think he died. The father gave me cornet lessons.

I see. Yes, I knew they were musical. Well, this probably didn't impress you, but do you remember the kind of clothes that you wore to grade school? Do you remember pictures? I suppose it was the little knee pants.

Yes, there were knee pants and black stockings, I guess.

Yes, that sounds pretty typical. Well, now you've gone on to high school. That was where?

Well, that's the present vocational school. That was the only public high school in Madison, except for Wisconsin High School, which was part of the university system.

Oh! Was that there then?

Out at the university, yes. It's on the mall, Henry Mall.

Yes, I know! But I didn't know it was there when you were going to high school.

Oh, sure, because my wife went there.

But this was called Madison High, wasn't it?

Madison High School, yes. It wasn't Central High. It later became Central High, when there was an East High and then a West High. But it was just Madison High School.

And you were able to walk over there?

That's right.

I did forget to ask you if you remembered about the Capitol burning?

Well, no. You see, I would have been one or two years old then.

Wasn't it 1905?

I thought it was 1903, but I'm not sure. It could have been 1905 [February 1904]. Maybe it is. I *vaguely recall*, but maybe I was told this: one of my uncles running by – my father, of course, had gone to work – and knocking on a window and telling my mother – this was the 400 block – that the Capitol was burning. But then I heard the story so many, many times. One of our closest friends was Dick Marshall. Did you know Dick? He died this last year. He liked to tell the story. And then my former business partner and the president of this company [Democrat Printing Company], Oscar D. Brandenburg, he frequently would tell the story, too. The Brandenburgs lived up on Langdon Street.

Well, I was thinking, as you went to high school, you must have been watching this rebuilding – or even grade school. It took many, many years to rebuild, I understand.

Well, I can remember the old fence around the Capitol Square. I think they moved those pillars

to the Mendota Hospital.

Oh, really! Do you remember some of your teachers at high school?

Oh, quite well. I suppose a woman that had... the person who had as much influence upon me as anyone other than my own family was Leta Wilson. She was a Latin teacher. Very, very demanding, but I still think I owe her a lot.

Learned how to study and produce. You liked books, you said. Wasn't there a Latin club?

I don't recall that. Not there. Not in my years anyway. See, I graduated from high school in 1920.

Oh. No, I guess this was earlier.

I was there from 1916 to 1920.

Did you take a regular college preparatory course?

Yes. I don't know that you could select. We did have some older boys in high school at that time, I remember, who really wanted to learn. Came back from the first war, so they were a few years older. I missed the first war and I missed the second war.

I guess you were lucky.

I was either too old or too young. Just missed.

That's good planning, I would say. What sort of sports were there in high school when you were there?

Well, there was football and basketball and track. I wasn't as such much of an athlete. Lowell played football. In fact, I think they had a state championship team. Mother was always very upset about Lowell. He played center and his nose was always in the mud. It was a total scab during the season.

Where did they play football games? I would assume it would be Breese Stevens Field, if it was there then.

I'm not sure of that. I don't know, to tell the truth. I can't remember. The only thing I ever engaged in was track. I did some cross country running and high jumping, I guess.

And you played in the band?

Yes. Orchestra and the band. No, the high school didn't have a band. I played in the band in the university.

Did they have auditorium programs when you were in school?

Yes.

Was this every day? Did you meet in the auditorium?

Oh, I don't think it was every day, but every once in a while.

What did you do in summers when you were in high school?

Well, we worked, both Lowell and I. Actually I think we were extremely well paid, but it was kind of fun work, too. The YMCA in those days was a hang-out during the winter and then summers you usually went to the YMCA camp for a while. But then we also worked at Camp

Indianola as counselors.

Was the Y on West Washington, as it is now?

Yes. That was quite a hang-out, in those days, for high school activities.

Do you remember going to parties and having some fun with girls and other boys?

Oh, sure. I can't be specific as to freshmen year versus senior year precisely. But certainly we dated, as I said, and I went to the movies. I also worked at the Fuller Opera House, which was fun and initiated my taste in the theater, as a stage-hand, moving scenery and things of that sort.

Did you meet some famous actors and actresses there?

Well, I saw them, at least. George Arliss and Mrs. Fiske in a play by Mary Roberts Rinehart. I can't remember who the star was.

Where were there movie theaters?

Well, the Grand was across the street from the Civic Center. It was toward the Capitol about one or two...

On State Street?

Yes. The Grand Theater. Then the Strand was there, and the Orpheum was on Monona Avenue. The Fuller Opera House was where Baron's store was, or is.

Yes. I remember seeing Ethel Barrymore there. I guess it wasn't called an opera house. It was called...

The Fuller.

No, it had another name, which I can sometimes remember, but not right now. I wondered if you had a high school group in your church that did some things.

No, not that I recall.

I thought perhaps you had skating parties or sleigh rides or that sort of thing.

Well, there were lots of things going on that we did on our own, with our high school groups. I think both Lowell and I were pretty active in high school. Well, I mean, we were on debating teams. Lowell was much more athletic than I was, but the same thing: debates and mat dances. We called them "mat dances."

Matinee dances? Were you aware of people coming from different parts of the city? Were there different ethnic groups that kept together in high school?

I don't think that I thought much about that at that time. Certainly they came from all over the town. I do suppose that you knew that some people who came from the east side came from what you might say a "working class" family, as opposed to many of the people from the west side, who might have had faculty parents and that sort of thing. A great many of the latter went to Wisconsin High School. That was an excellent school!

Oh. I didn't realize it was that earlier. Wasn't there an Italian group?

Yes, yes, from the Bush. It was called the "Bush."

Yes. And they probably weren't necessarily your friends. I think there's bound to be a little class

structure, even in high school.

Well, yes, although I don't know. I can't be specific about anyone there, but I don't think that we consciously... there were a few blacks but not many. I don't think we thought much about it, to tell the truth.

It sounds like you had a pretty good time.

Oh, I think so.

Did you say you had a car when you were in high school?

Yes.

You had to get over to Camp Indianola, I guess.

That's right. I think my father would borrow my uncle's car once in a while. Did I have a car when I was in high school? Or was it freshman year of college? I think it was even a little later before I had a car. There was a Ford sports car. It was practically feet straight out. And that was about a third-hand car, too.

I presume that the camp might have had a bus that picked up pupils.

No. They had a boat. All these kids... there were about one hundred and fifty or two hundred of them. They would come from Chicago. Orson Welles was one of them. At least ninety percent of the rest – not that this makes any difference – were Jewish. I had the littlest kids of all to take care of – six years old, some of them. He [Orson Welles] was attending camp and spent the summer there pretty much. Of course, you got there ahead of time to put up the tents and to work round about.

And they stayed for a couple of weeks at a time?

More than that. All summer. It was a private camp. I don't remember what it cost the families. After the boys did leave, then, of course, there was the clean-up assignment.

So it was an all-summer job for you, with pretty much the same group.

That's right. And for that time very well paid. I think in high school I got five hundred dollars a summer, which at that time was a lot.

Well, it sounds like it was a lot of work taking care of the younger children.

But it was fun, too. You were outdoors.

Well, I suppose you would have some time weekends to yourself.

Every once in a while, sure. Lowell and I each had a small boat by that time, with a single-cylinder engine in the front. We called it *Putt-Putt*. Weekends when we had a day off we'd go home and something of that sort, across the lake. But the camp had a boat or a launch that would hold, I suppose, thirty or forty people. All the groceries and things were brought that way. There was a truck out there, but the roads, of course, were impossible. Most of the provisions and what-not, and certainly all the kids, came to the camp by launch, back and forth.

And mail was delivered that way.

Well, many of the cottages had a mailbox on the end of the pier and there was a mail boat at that time.

Your speaking about groceries reminded me that I wanted to ask you about some of the stores around the Square when you were back in your youngest days that you remember.

Well, I think one of the best known stores in Madison in my very early years was Oppel's Fancy Grocery. Wells Oppel – they lived around the corner from us – was a good friend of mine. You know, I saw his sister at the Elvehjem just the Sunday before last. She came and spoke to me. I'm not sure I would have recognized her. I can't think what her married name is.

And she lives in Madison?

She lives in Madison. She would have been older. But Wells was just my age. Then across the street from that was another grocery, Nelson's. Then a block down – it's vacant now – right across from the Simon House was a butcher shop called Soelch's.

So there were food stores around, more than there are now.

Oh, yes. But off on Main Street.

And I suppose that they delivered groceries in those days.

Yes, I think so. But also every once in a while – I don't know if it was every day or a certain day of the week – a wagon came along outside with fresh vegetables and eggs and what-not. What was the name of that fellow? His son is one of Madison's famous piano players now. He changed his name. He goes by the name of Blake, Jerry Blake. Have you ever heard him?

My daughter took lessons from him.

Well, it was his parents who had this wagon. Then, of course, the ice man always came, too, for the icebox.

I imagine you got sent to the store.

That's right. That's why I remember these places. And right next to that Nelson's across the street was one of Madison's most famous stores, Andrew Mayers. You must, if you're doing this kind of research, have heard about Andrew Mayers. That was everything. Even the smell of the place was... a pharmacy, open bins of grain, and harness, and barrels of this and barrels of that. Not so much food, although I'm sure there was block cheese under a big glass dome.

Oh. That was the original department store.

Well, kind of a hardware store and farmers' place. But also he had his concoctions for all kinds of diseases and things. You've probably heard of Professor Leath, C. K. Leath.

I don't think I have.

Well, he was a very famous geologist at the university and one of the top professors. His wife was Andrew Mayer's daughter.

Oh, that will be very interesting to have recorded here. Well, so you had gone to high school and graduated with your group. And then you went right on to the university from there?

Yes.

There was no choice about your going?

No. I think I looked at some pictures – this was just my own idea, nothing ever came of it, of course, and I don't think I even discussed it much – of West Point, thinking I might go to a

military school. I don't know why, but that didn't happen. I went on to the university.

And what course did you take there?

English.

You were a reader, you said.

My freshman teacher was Helen White. You know the name? The library.

She was very inspiring, I guess.

Oh, she was great! I should say so. Always wore a purple dress and...

Somewhat dramatic, I suppose.

I wrote my thesis under [James F.] "Sunny" Pyre. "Sunny," of course, was a nickname. He wrote several books and he was a man's man. He sponsored the Hare's Foot group. I think he might have been on the athletic board too, although I'm not sure.

Did you live at home?

Yes, except for one semester. One semester I stayed in a fraternity just for the experience.

I see. You joined a fraternity?

Yes.

I presume you studied hard but had a good time at the same time.

Yes, I think I did reasonably well. I didn't achieve... my wife was a junior Phi Bet. I came close, put it that way.

When did you meet your wife?

Well, that's a long story. Not exactly a long story. I was one of the editors of the [*Daily*] *Cardinal*. My wife won a scholarship to France and we put her picture on the front page. She was of the same class, but I had never seen her or known about her. But having run her picture, we came together just in the library. I spoke to her and said that this was my senior year and that I understood she had a scholarship and was going to be in France. I said "I'm going to be in France next year," which I was, and I said "Maybe I'll see you over there." That was the last that I knew of her in this country. We did get together in France in 1924 and had fun going to shows and doing this and doing that.

What were you doing in France?

Well, I got kind of interested about that time... you know, sometimes somebody really ought to check into a woman by the name of Quayle, Miss Quayle. I'm going to ask Bill Soules. You know Bill, I suppose. He must know something about this. In fact, I think I did ask him about Conrad Hoffman.

Conrad Hoffman had an operation in Geneva, sponsoring what I suppose you would really call a peace movement thing. In spite of the fact that I wanted to go to West Point, I guess by that time I was much more liberal than maybe I am today. Anyway, I wanted to go to this conference. It was held at a place called Schloss Elmo in Austria. Students from all over the country went to this conference. That was one of the reasons why I wanted to go.

I had a friend, Kersey Kenzie, who I had traveled to California with in 1922. By that time I had a Model T Ford and four of us drove to California. The old Lincoln Highway. Kersey was a

great guy. He just died last year, too. The two of us were going to go.

At that time there was a thing called "student third class." It literally was the steerage of the big ships. It didn't cost all that much, although relative to other things I suppose it did. At any rate, courtesy of my family – it was just wonderful of them – they permitted me to go to Europe. Kersey and I did all of Europe that summer of 1924.

Was this sort of a graduation present?

Yes, I suppose you might say that was it. Then Kersey came home, but I stayed on and went back to Paris and went to the [unclear] part time. Did this and did that, toured around a little bit more, and again saw Dorothy.

Did you both speak French?

Dorothy does. I don't claim to. Sometimes if she can't remember the word I'll tell her what the word is.

I wondered how you got along in Paris.

I lived with a French family for a short time and I did go to the lessons for some time. I had had a fairly deep Latin background, so that made up for it a little bit. Anyway, I want to make this clear. Dorothy. and I were married in France, but not in 1924. We came home and I started work for this company, which then was the Democrat Printing Company – Madison's morning newspaper once upon a time. Not that that had anything to do with it. She was hard to get. Actually, she went off to China. She was in Shanghai in 1926. In 1927 I said "I don't know what you're worried about." Too many relatives in Barneveld. Her father was a banker in Barneveld.

What was her last name?

Jones. And so was her mother's name. Strictly Welsh. Every farmer in the neighborhood... I mean, if you were going to get married and so on. Well, anyway, I think it is kind of interesting. I said "Well, if you go to France, let's go to France and get married." To make a long story short, she got a job with the Canadian Pacific [Railroad], taking a group of gals on the tour, the conventional grand tour. I cooked up an idea of selling some advertising to Madison merchants – this hadn't been done before – that I would mail from Paris with a French stamp on it, which would give it a little extra kick, and one thing and another. That seemed to work out, although there were some adventures about that – getting the right postage and overweight and a few other things. However, that all worked out and so we were married. At that time, Chester Lloyd Jones, you wouldn't have known him, was the commercial attaché of Paris. That was of assistance. And then she was there ahead of me and posted the bans and got an attorney established and so on.

And then you came back and set up a household here in Madison?

Yes.

You were working for the printing company.

That's right.

Where did you live?

We started out in an apartment about a block below the stadium. We were there less than a year, or about a year. There were a lot of our friends that were in that apartment. In fact, it was called "the incubator." At least that was our name for it. My father had moved out to the west side

while I was still in the university. Of course, this would have been four or five years later. Then he built a house on the corner of Lincoln and Vilas Avenue, so the house that they had had on West Lawn Avenue was available. That house was torn down now. It was right in back of what used to be Fauerbach's store. There's a white house there. We put a fence around it and painted the door black and fixed it up. That's where Dorothy and I lived until 1932, when we built a house out here in Fuller's Woods.

Do you remember the stock market crash?

Oh, sure. Very much.

Made a difference, I suppose.

I don't think Madison was hurt the way many other places were. I certainly remember the Depression, because actually we were sometimes operating only three days a week in our printing company. However, this was completely different from what we do today. I don't know how far you're going with all this, but this company is not what it was back in those days – by a long shot. At that time there was no more paper. That had been a part of it that sold to the *State Journal*, and the press was sold somewhere else, the big newspaper press. Other things, I guess, were just given away or destroyed.

The company just became strictly a commercial printing company. This is where I was involved as a salesman and that sort of thing. In addition to that, we were state contractors. At that time and during the Depression, I suspect that kept us going pretty much. We did all of the legislative printing and practically everything for all the various departments, different classes, although there was a bidding every other year.

So your business was not as hard hit as it might have been.

That's right. It gave it a certain stability.

Did your brother go into the furniture company?

Yes. I never worked for the established family business at all. After Dad died, Lowell and I sold the fuel company. We sold it to Shell, as a matter of fact.

You've watched the city grow from around 1900...

I do remember – I can't remember which class, maybe it was about sixth grade – the figure sticks in my mind that we learned that Madison's population was 23,000. Today I suppose we're... the published figure says 165,000 or something like that. But I am sure it's over 200,000, certainly if you include, as you should, Maple Bluff and Monona.

It's almost a megalopolis.

Exactly.

But do you remember back to the streetcars and, as you said, the wooden sidewalks?

Yes. With the marsh. You see, at the Yahara River I'm sure the canal or the river had been dug but for some reason or other the marsh wasn't filled in. Milt Findorff told me one time when they put the big chimneys up for the gas company they couldn't probe deep enough to find the bottom. I do know that that marsh which started... well, like Tenney Park here, see, Tenney Park was all filled in, too. Pretty much. And the marsh went that way and then went up west pretty much and came out into Lake Monona about where the Elks' Club is now, or even a little further

down.

And out around Lake Wingra, I understand, it was all marsh at one time.

Yes.

Although the zoo has been there quite a while.

The other thing that Lowell and I both did was that we were in Boy Scouts. Speaking of Lake Wingra, one of the fun things of even grade school days was that on the other side of where the Arboretum is now, it was called Gay's Woods. A family by the name of Gay owned it and we would camp out overnight and have our Boy Scout activities there.

Well, you've seen the Square change a good deal, too. But the legislature keeps going on and the university keeps the city very stable.

From an economic standpoint, yes. I think Madison is a salaried-man's town, by and large, except for Oscar Mayer. Really no great large employers.

You must remember when Maple Bluff was developed and Shorewood and Nakoma.

Actually it was called Lakewood before Maple Bluff.

Like the school.

That's right. The first development was right here from Burrows Park on up to the bluff. That was a real estate development. The Johnsons did that.

What era was that?

I think that must have been around 1912, 1913, 1914. I remember they had a prize for anybody who would draw like an architect's drawing of the plat there – the lot you would like and what kind of a house you would build and so on. I think I was in grade school then and participated. I got five dollars for it, for the drawing I did. I do know that those sales were handled out of the Gisholt offices. A liquid land company.

And eventually you bought a place out there.

Well, we were in Fuller's Woods, actually, which is part of the village. Do you know where Fuller's Woods is?

Pretty close by.

Yes, but you have to come out on Sherman Avenue and then go back in. That's kind of a private enclave there.

The Yosts lived back in there, didn't they?

The senior Yosts are still there. Wait a minute. Yes, that's right. Except that he's in the hospital, not in the hospital but in a...

Well, the automobile must have made a difference, if they were able to come this far out and still work in town.

It did. I'm sure it did. A lot of travel in those days was by streetcar, though. Another thing we did – particularly, again, on Sundays, in the summer time – was to take the streetcar ride. They were open streetcars, had benches crosswise and a running board on each side. It went from the cemetery, Forest Hill Cemetery, out to Schenk's Corners.

That was a pretty good ride.

Cross-town.

And probably cost about five cents.

I suppose. I don't remember. I imagine so, a nickel or something like that.

I remember when I came to Madison the buses were five cents and taxis were ten.

Well, then, I don't suppose we paid more than a nickel.

Do you remember the Chautauqua?

Vaguely. My recollection of that is through my mother. Her family from Mazomanie, I think, must have been rather academically minded and so on. Her family, an older sister particularly who was pretty good at art, would come to the Chautauqua. That's Olin Park now. In fact, for a long time I remember that was called "Assembly Grounds." It's now Olin Park.

Do you remember shooting off firecrackers on the Fourth of July?

Yes.

I wondered if you remembered any particular kinds you liked.

Well, I think the big thing was bombs of some sort. You wanted to get high, up on the second floor of that house on East Washington Avenue, and then you'd throw as hard as you could. The contact would make a noise and probably louder because it was that much higher.

Did you put them under cans?

Yes, I guess we did that, too.

I remember my brother doing that. And something called lady fingers. I don't remember what they were. My husband can remember some of those little incidentals.

He came from Canada, didn't he?

No, no. He's from Milwaukee.

Oh, is he? Is that right?

I wondered if back at university did you go through a hazing process?

I think the year I entered school out there was the last year that you had to wear green caps, beanies. Also they had the class rush. I certainly do remember that. There are two stories that I can tell you about that. In the first place, in the rush I broke my collarbone. What do you call it when it's just a split?

Green stick.

Green stick fracture. I remember it for that reason. The sophomores had flooded the freshman side with a fire hose, which they got from the Old Red Gym and pulled across the street. You were caked with mud from the top of your head down to your toes. Then to stop all that...

What did they do? Did they grab you and pull you down, or what, when you call it a rush?

Oh, no. There were huge sacks lined up in the middle of what is now the lower campus. Of course, the library wasn't there, but the [Wisconsin] Historical [Society] Library was. These

huge sacks. I suppose they were filled with hay or something. There must have been about ten of them. You can see pictures of this. I've seen it in old books, yearbooks, or something or other. They were lined up in a row. Then at a signal both classes came forward to get these sacks and you were supposed to pull them back to your own side. Just like "Pump, pump, pull," or something like that, I guess. Anyway, they flooded our side and we were full of mud. To stop that, we ran over and broke the glass in the fire thing and got hatchets and chopped up the hose.

Well, the rest of that story is late in my junior year I had been elected president of the class, the oncoming senior class. The reason I mention that is because I wasn't alone in this. The president, a fellow named Rush, of the then-senior class, who were the guilty ones as far as planning it, he and I were called into Dean [Scott] Goodnight's office. He was dean of men. We were told that the city of Madison, who apparently owned all this fire equipment, had still a bill of, oh, I don't remember what it was – let's say three hundred and forty dollars or something like that – against the University of Wisconsin for destroyed fire hoses.

The dean said that before anybody could graduate, this class of 1923 or 1924, that bill would have to be paid. Can you imagine anybody today doing that to students! Boy! We did pay it, though. We raised some funds. In fact, I guess we had some class funds.

Who was the president of the university when you were there?

Birge. But the year, 1924, I think, or was it 1925, the next year, Glenn Frank came. But our year it was Birge, Edward A. Birge.

Well, do you remember Homecoming celebrations? Those were on lower campus, too, weren't they?

Yes. Big bonfires. I think it was at one homecoming when Pat Powers, the policeman, killed a student. I think they collected all kinds of crates and things of that sort. This, again, was on the lower campus, in that same area, same spot. Barber poles and things of that sort. Powers tried to stop this. He was an Irishman who had that beat down there. I'm not sure this was Homecoming, but I don't know why else we would have had a bonfire.

Was he a university policeman?

No, no. He was a city policeman. I don't know that we had a university police at that time. I don't remember that there was. Anyway, he pulled his gun and this boy was running away from the fire and he killed him.

My gosh! That must have been quite a scandal!

Oh, it was! All the off-beat type of things that we kind of complain about nowadays and the troubles of the 1960s were not entirely original. I think students, even from medieval days, have been always kind of roughnecks.

I suppose. Did you ski down that... was it the Kiekhofer Woods they call it?

No. Muir Knoll, you mean. Yes, there was a big ski jump there. There were some Norwegian... a Norwegian fraternity, as a matter of fact, lived on State Street, next to the Co-Op. That frame house is where these boys lived. They were wonderful skiers. No, I never went off that, although both Lowell and I did quite a lot of skiing. I liked it very much. I skied in Switzerland, but I didn't jump.

Did you get out around Picnic Point and out Willow Drive?

Sure.

You used to walk out that way?

That's right. And then Lowell had that little boat, the *Putt-Putt*, and we frequently stopped there and picnicked or something.

Did you continue to work summers when you were in the university?

Well, that one year, 1922, I went to California with the three others. Two of them then stayed out there and finished their schooling at Berkeley, and the other boy and I came back here. Well, we did other things too. I can't remember just what. That certainly wasn't all summer, but it took most of the summer that year.

You used your English degree in the printing business?

If you know that mural out in front... did you see the mural? Jim Watrous did that.

I wondered if he might have. It looked like his work.

The title, *Printing is the Inseparable Companion of Achievement*, that's the only thing that I had to do with it. I gave Jim that. He spent a summer doing that. I don't know that an English background... but it's as good as anything, I think, except maybe...

I just wondered what you planned to do with it.

I was very, very much interested in my schooling days in the theater. I thought I was going to maybe write or produce or something of that sort. That's another reason I went to Europe. I visited all the stages I could, the Vienna stages. That was before there were many turnaround turntable stages nor the up and down things.

Had you been in quite a few plays and were you in Hare's Foot?

I was the business manager of Hare's Foot and advance man and advertising man and that sort of thing. And I was on the [*Daily*] *Cardinal*, along with Porter Butts, who was a classmate. Yes, I was in some plays, too.

But more from the production side is what you were interested in.

That's right. But I took a course or two in theater. What was her name, who gave a course in... Gertrude Johnson. It was in Bascom Hall, I remember, practically up under the dome. Kind of a funny place.

Bascom Hall, Main Hall, had had its dome burned.

That's right. I remember that fire. That's when I was in high school. In fact, I ran all the way from the high school out there to see that fire.

That must have been pretty exciting.

The were going to replace that dome. The parts for it, I think, came from someplace else. At any rate, it was right behind Bascom Hall, where the Commerce Building is now. It stood there just gathering rust and so on for years and years and years.

You mean the actual dome?

That's right.

Oh. I thought it was wooden and it had all burned.

I think it did, but where this came from, and I think it was some other dome... you'll have to ask the university historian what that was. It was metal, I'm sure, and there was a lot of it, but the dome never was built.

Well, it hasn't been missed too much, it seems to me. The classes you went to were primarily in South Hall and North Hall and around there?

South Hall and Bascom Hall and what I think is still a biology building. Wild Bill Kiekhofer gave his economics lectures there. And Music Hall. Carl Russell Fish in history.

And the administration building was down there across Park Street for awhile.

That's right. On the corner.

And didn't I hear that the president had his house right about where the [Memorial] Union is now?

That's right.

I don't know when that was built, but it must have been torn down.

Well, he didn't live there in the 1920s, when I was in school. But the house, before the Union was built, the Van Hise house, was used... well, I think the *Cardinal* offices were there and then the Memorial Union campaign fund headquarters was there in my time.

Well, it looked a little different, although Science Hall and the Old Red Gym were there.

I had an uncle, my mother's brother, who was a graduate of the class of 1885. He was the clerk of the works for that Science Hall. There's something remarkable about that. I can't remember just what it was, whether it was free-standing, self-supporting or something like that. The architect and the man who really was the supervisor, I think, was Professor [Allan] Conover. My uncle Albert, who graduated from the engineering school and, I think, letters and science, too – I think he took two degrees – after that he got a job and went out to Seattle and got either malaria or typhoid or something and died. You've give me a lot of recollections, too. It's been kind of fun.

Well, it's kind of fun to go back to your childhood.

Think about things that you hadn't thought of.

To see what you remember.

I would have remembered much more, I think, five or ten years ago. But you know, see, I'm eighty-two, having been born in 1901, and things begin to escape you a little bit.

Well, I'm not so sure. I think sort of springing this on you, you don't have time to think about it too much. But perhaps now in the next few days you will remember lots of other things you hadn't thought about. But Madison is a pretty good place to live, I imagine, having spent your life here.

I should say so. I don't think there's any better place, really. Madison is a lovely, beautiful, wonderful place, if you're fortunate enough to have a business and a situation where you can afford to stay here. I think a great many university students want to stay here, but then they can't. Of course, you can't absorb 40,000 students every year. Well, it wouldn't be 40,000 in one year,

but...

No, but a lot of them stay, dentists and lawyers, and find there isn't a place for everybody. But the situation with the lakes and the academic community...

At the same time, as you pointed out, it has changed a great, great deal. My father was an active member of a club that was called the "40,000 Club," when I was in grade school and along in those years. This was sort of a Chamber of Commerce thing. The idea was to push Madison's population to get to 40,000.

Oh. Hadn't quite reached it then.

No. I said I recalled it was 23,000 somewhere along in my grade school years.

Do you remember if Prohibition affected the city very much?

Well, no. We all heard of what went on down in the so-called Bush. This was during my college years. I can't say that in the group that I was with, I was certainly wasn't what might be called an activity boy, so liquor was never a serious problem, except maybe on football weekends. In fact, I think I wrote an editorial that got some notoriety called *The Annual Drunk* – fraternity lives and so on. It didn't seem to affect me, or I wasn't that aware of it except, as I say, on occasions.

Well, during the 1920s there was quite a lot of, I suppose, rah-rah stuff, with the raccoon coats and the flasks, the bathtub gin.

There certainly was bathtub gin and there was moonshine, I think it was called, or bootleg. There was some of it, sure.

I heard of regulations earlier that no liquor was allowed within a mile of the campus or something anyway, supposedly. They were pretty strict.

And there was what was called "near beer," 3.2, I think it was.

I remember that vaguely myself, hearing about it. Well, I certainly appreciate your telling me all these recollections. One thing I thought you might remember was the beginning of radio. Remember having a crystal set in your house?

I was just going to say – and, again, I can't think what the year was, maybe you'll know – when I was working at Camp Indianola and, as I said, I had the tiniest kids. In my tent I had gotten a copy of *Popular Mechanics*. As a project I got a tin can and a piece of crystal and some ear phones. I think it might have been a kit I sent for. Anyway, the idea was to put this all together on a board, which I did. The boys helped, or tried to help.