

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with
Harold Jennings Ward

Conducted by Carole Petersen (Mrs. Don A.)
3504 Random Road SE
May 17, 1985
Transcribed by Sue Daugherty

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From this interview with Harold Jennings Ward we learn about the founding of the Sunshine Mission by his grandfather Frances K. "Daddy" Ward. Throughout this interview, which is touched with bits of humor, we learn about the charitable side of early Cedar Rapids and the loving relationship of this man.

Harold also has interesting recollections of the early topography and buildings about town where he has lived since 1913.

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CP: Hi, Harold. Can you give me your full name, when you were born, and where?

Ward: My full name is Harold Jennings Ward. I was born in . . . just outside of Cedar Rapids in 1911, July 16.

CP: Was that Shellsburg?

Ward: Shellsburg.

CP: I've heard of that town.

Harold, when did you move to Cedar Rapids?

Ward: When I was about two years old.

CP: So you've lived here since 1913 or did you go somewhere else?

Ward: Except for years in the army and college I have lived in Cedar Rapids.

CP: Where do you live now?

Ward: I live on 26th Street just south of Bever Avenue.

CP: Give us your address so when people **listen to** this hundreds of years from now they can look you up. (Laughter)

Ward: 410 26th Street SE.

CP: Who lives there with you?

Ward: My wife, Winnie, Winifred. Cathy and Cindy.

CP: How old is Cathy?

Ward: Cathy is 21. Cindy is 23.

CP: Cindy is somewhere else.

Ward: Cindy is now in Oklahoma City.

CP: Do you go down and see her often?

Ward: We've been down once in the last year.

CP: Don't go down in the summer, it's too hot there.

Ward: I have one other daughter who lives in Virginia.

CP: Where in Virginia?

Ward: She lives in Washington. Her name is Kay.

CP: You said "Washington." You don't mean Washington, D.C.

Ward: Yes, just outside of Washington, D.C.

CP: My son is going to go live there this summer. Talk to you about that later.

What do you do for a business, Harold?

Ward: I'm in the wholesale nut business. Vending of nuts and wholesale of edible nuts.

CP: That's why they call you the "nut man".

Ward: Johnson Nut Company.

CP: How did you get started in the Johnson Nut Company? Why isn't it called the Ward Nut Company?

Ward: Fate has a lot to do with our early years. I worked for what was known as the Johnson Nut Company when I was in High School and also when I . . . a couple of years at Coe before I went on to Iowa. I had one year of theology, my father being a Baptist minister, you were supposed to follow your father's profession. I attended the Garret Theological Seminary in Evanston. The good Lord and I decided not that it wasn't for me, but that I wasn't for the ministry.

I came back to Cedar Rapids and I bought out the Johnson Nut Company that I'd worked for.

CP: It was started by a man named Johnson.

Ward: It was originally started by a man by the name of Johnson.

CP: You have a grandfather named Frances Kittrich Ward, often known as Frances K. "Daddy" Ward. He was famous for having started the Sunshine Mission. Your dad also went to work with him and he was Frances H. Ward. Does that H stand for Harold? Were you named after him?

Ward: No. In fact, it was Frank Henry.

CP: How come it's listed as Frances sometimes?

Ward: I suppose because my grandfather's name was Frances. But actually it was Frank. Frank Henry Ward.

CP: Then Harold doesn't mean that you were named after your dad. But your name does have kind of a story behind it. What's your middle name?

Ward: Jennings.

CP: Tell me the story about that.

Ward: My father was a staunch Republican. The only Democrat that I ever remember him voting for as President for the Presidency was William Jennings Bryan. William Jennings Bryan was a great orator, the Silver-tongued orator, he was known as. A very, very great fundamental religious man. My dad admired him and he named me Jennings.

CP: So he named you really, not for his politics, but for his religion.

Ward: For his religion. (Laughter)

CP: Let's talk a little bit about your grandfather, Frances Kittrich Ward. He founded the Sunshine Mission. Before we talk about the

mission, let's get a little background on him. Where was he born?

Ward: He was born in Boston. He was what was then called "bound out". He was an orphan boy.

CP: What happened to his parents? Do you know?

Ward: He doesn't even know. He didn't know what happened to them. He was an orphan boy in Boston and he was "bound out". "Bound out" meant almost rented out to somebody. You worked for them and they supplied you with food and so forth. The old gentleman was harsh and hard on him so he left and came out as a young boy to Iowa, bummed his way actually, I suppose, on the railroad.

CP: When you say, "a young boy," how old would he have been?

Ward: Probably 16 - 18 years old. He found a home in Monticello. A farm lady, an elderly farm lady took him in. He found a very, very close friend in her. She meant a great deal to his future.

CP: Do you remember her name?

Ward: No, I don't. We don't have a record of that.

CP: Was she a farm lady?

Ward: Yes. In fact, I think he came to the farm door and she took him in because she had lost a little boy. It's a very sentimental story about how they got together and she treated him so nicely and he knew that there was somebody in the world that could care for him.

CP: Didn't he later find his brother or his brother find him?

Ward: Yes. Several years later they met. His brother was in the grain business, like the Quaker Oats, at that time. They did discover each other.

CP: How would he ever have found him if your grandfather didn't remember

his parents or know anyone?

Ward: I can't give you all the records of that but they did. He was in Illinois somewhere. He did find him.

CP: Did you ever meet him?

Ward: No. No.

CP: Now he would have been, was it George?

Ward: Yes.

CP: He didn't know anything about his parents either?

Ward: No. No they didn't know apparently anything about their mother and father.

CP: Isn't that really interesting to see how people took in other people. You don't know who they are or anything and yet you can do that.

Ward: They did know. . . my dad does know he was of English descent, and as you have seen in his picture, he was a little. . . very charming little old English gentleman.

CP: You will include an picture of him with this interview because he is a delight to see.

What was his first job, or I mean his early jobs? He was with the railroad. Can you tell us about that?

Ward: Yes. Out of Dubuque there was a railroad that went West out of Dubuque. As a young man, he peddled food on the train. He would go back and forth with the people and put some pecans on their lap and sell them. (Laughter)

CP: That's how you got started! (Laughter.)

Ward: And sell them some peanuts. There was a gentleman on that route who took such a liking for my grandfather and he asked him to

come to Cedar Rapids to the YMCA.

CP: Who was that gentleman, do you know?

Ward: No. I really don't. They brought him here. My grandad didn't think he was qualified for it. But they brought him here and of course, it was the greatest thing that could have happened to him and for Cedar Rapids, because later, then, out of the YMCA, the businessmen here asked him to organize the Mission.

CP: What was his job with the YMCA? Was he manager?

Ward: He was financial. . . raising funds.

CP: Where was the Y?

Ward: At the corner of First Avenue and First Street. The northwest corner.

CP: Now that would make it where there isn't anything now?

Ward: Right.

CP: The opposite corner was the Sunshine Mission.
When was he married?

Ward: Grandfather. . . I think I'm giving you this about right. . . it was probably in the [middle 1800's].

CP: I think there was an article about his golden anniversary in 1950 in the paper. [article probably refers to father's anniversary.]
Who did he marry?

Ward: It was a lady by the name, his same last name, her last name was Ward. They were not relatives, of course.

CP: That means something to me. I was a Petersen before I was married and I married a Petersen.

Ward: Where did your dad fit into this family, was he the first-born or was he an only child?

Ward: No, there were five boys and one girl. My father was, I think, the second boy.

CP: Now he goes into the Mission with your grandfather, none of the others or sister did.

Ward: No. My father was a Baptist minister. He had his college training and went into the Baptist ministry. My mother and father were very happy in one of their charges in Omaha. My mother said she had never spent more wonderful years than their home in Omaha. While there, my grandmother died and the Mission Board asked my dad to come here and serve as assistant to Granddad. So my mother was very, very sad to leave Omaha but they did and they came here and he served with Granddad until Granddad's death and then he served as superintendant.

CP: Your dad was a Baptist minister, was your granddad a Baptist minister?

Ward: No. He was not a minister really, an ordained minister at all.

CP: But he preached. Where did your dad get his training? Did he go to Garret like you did? Can you remember where that was?

Ward: Epworth Seminary.

CP: We just passed by there. That's a big building now. Your grandfather you mentioned, let's talk about the Mission a bit. The City Fathers decided that they wanted him to found a mission, called the Sunshine Mission. Was that a national organization?

Ward: There was a Mission Association, but they were not in any way affiliated. They were individual missions. Today we still have them in the big cities in New York and Chicago. Skid Row and those places.

CP: Are they called the Sunshine Missions?

Ward: No, they're called Missions.

CP: So this was the only Sunshine Mission.

Who were these businessmen? Do you know the names of any of them?

Ward: Robert Armstrong's father, Mr. Killian, Robert Sinclair (of the Sinclair Packing Company, which is now Wilson and Company). They were all influential men and the reason that they asked Grandad to form the Mission. . . that was back before there was any Federal, State, Local aid of any kind. . . not even the Salvation Army was in Cedar Rapids. All of the needy were taken care of through an organization such as the Sunshine Mission.

CP: Who did it before the Sunshine Mission?

Ward: It was just churches, really. Incidentally, the Mission was interdenominational. It was supported by all the denominations. My grandfather and my father's greatest friends. . .this is where ecumenism fits into my beliefs so much. There were people of the priesthood, Rabbis. . . Being interdenominational, its purpose was to serve the needy people. There was never any conflict of views of what the Mission was or what it was for. About 1926, the City gave my grandfather. . . I have his silver loving cup that they gave him as the City's Most Cherished Citizen. In that kind of work, when you're dealing with people like that (and we have people today doing great work), you feel worthwhile. He was. They were.

CP: When you talked about "there were people in need", we don't have railroads here in Cedar Rapids now. There used to be a railroad that came through here, because the railroads came through, you

got a lot of transients coming in. Were they just people who were just passing in the night or were they people who lived here that came to the Mission?

Ward: A lot of the men were traveling, let's say in the Depression years, the early 30's, a lot of men were traveling across the country who were. . . my grandfather always said that they were just retired or men out of work, which they were. A lot of men from all over the country, good men, traveled trying to find a job somewhere. So they would come through here and of course the Mission was the place to stay overnight. They got a meal, they had to take a bath, they had to go to service, Church service, because the Mission had a church service every night of the week. Sunday nights they broadcast their Mission service over a station called KCRG. When they would come through Cedar Rapids, of course, everyone, all of these men knew where the Mission was. It was a great experience because some were fine men, but some. . . one man they got in there one time would rather go to the police station than take a bath.

CP: I read about that, let's get back to that. Let's talk first about when this mission got started. You're talking about the 20's and 30's but it started long before that, when was that?

Ward: It started in the very early 1900's.

CP: 1895?

Ward: I believe that's right.

CP: When you talked about the people that came, you mentioned men. How about women and children, did they ever come?

Ward: Yes. The Mission was an organization that took care of everyone.

They had unwed gals. They would come to Cedar Rapids and have their baby. They stayed at the Mission and after the baby was born, if they wanted to keep the baby the Mission would assist them in getting started in a job or some way to keep the child and if they wanted to adopt it, they assisted them in adopting the child. Then, of course, families, destitute families, evicted from their homes, they would come to the Mission for help. Every kind of need was serviced in the Mission. Back to these men, the Mission was right down on, what would in Chicago be called Skid Row. First Street was what would be called Saloons. My father and grandfather, one after dinner drink was over-indulgence and one of the messages was. . .

CP: They did that or that was over-indulgence by others. Did they drink?

Ward: No, no. Their attitude was after dinner. . . in fact, my father used to preach. . . and I like a little humor in things and I can remember that we used to say that Dad would tell them about his preaching one night at the Mission and he was telling the men that you can't bury all your problems in alcoholic beverages. In fact, if you think you picked a lemon from the tree of life, there was no reason to come home juiced every night. (Laughter)

CP: That's not bad advice for now.

Ward: Dad had a fishworm on the pulpit and a glass of water and a glass of alcohol. This is the way the story goes. He dropped the fishworm in the glass of water and it just curled up. He dropped it in the alcohol and it died. Dad said, "Now what does that prove?" One of the old boys in the back of the room stood up and said,

"That proves if you drink you won't get worms." (Laughter)

Getting the message across was as difficult then as it is now.

CP: Talk a little bit about what happened when the people came. You said the thing about them going to jail. Did that mean people were arrested?

Ward: No. During the Depression they could go over there to sleep. They had a place for them to sleep. But they furnished them no meals or anything.

CP: I read an article about the Mission and it said when you came, I know you mentioned you had to bathe, it also mentioned you had to have your clothes fumigated. One man wasn't about to do that so he opted to go to jail.

Ward: True.

CP: They said that that mission was the cleanest place ever because they did require people to bathe and fumigate their clothes.

Ward: Yes, they did.

CP: You didn't get food and shelter until you went to church.

Ward: That's right.

CP: Where was the Sunshine Mission located?

Ward: On the corner of First Avenue and First Street, the southwest corner, which is now the Federal Building.

CP: It had quite a few homes, though, before that, didn't it?

Ward: Yes. It was in the Presbyterian Church on, I think, Fifth Street.

CP: I remember going to the Sunshine Mission when I was a little girl. It used to be where, in place of the Salvation Army, you would take used things. But it wasn't there, it was over

by the Roosevelt.

Ward: Right.

CP: That's where it was at the end?

Ward: Yes. The government bought out the lot, the block there where the Federal Building is now and they tore out all of the. . . that was one of the Urban Renewal original programs.

CP: That was a Post Office for awhile, right.

Ward: Right.

CP: You know you talked once when we were talking earlier about various businesses that were around the Sunshine Mission. When the Mission was located close by the river, next to it was the Gazette and you mentioned a man called Fred Faulkes, and also Turner Mortuary. Did they take a part in the Mission at all?

Ward: They were located. . . the Mission extended from First Street back between First and the River. Behind them there was room for about a 30 foot room, frontage, for the Gazette. The old Gazette building was down there. Mr. Faulkes that you spoke of was with the Gazette at the time. The Turner Mortuary was located downstairs below sidewalk level next to the Gazette, between the Gazette and the Mission.

CP: The Turner Mortuary that we know today?

Ward: Yes. Turner Mortuary that we know of today, it was originally John Turner, then his son Dave, then John Turner that we all know.

CP: You're talking about the first one.

Ward: I'm talking about old John Turner.

A man came into my grandfather's office one day and he said, "I have money to go to a hotel, but I have a peculiar snore and it is so loud that people in the hotel don't want me there. Do you have a place to put me?" Grandad put him down in a little room off of their men's dormitory. There was a brick or stone wall between the mission there and old John Turner's Mortuary. One morning old John Turner came in and he said, "Daddy, what have you got in your basement?" Grandad says, "Why, John?" "Well, I came into the Mortuary last night and I opened the door off the sidewalk, and I was going down to the Mortuary (which was below street level), I heard this terrible groaning. . .

CP: (Laughter) That might scare you a bit, walking into a Mortuary.

Ward: . . .Grandad says, "Well, John, tell me, did you go into the Mortuary last night?" He says, "Daddy, you'll never know."
(Laughter)

CP: You talk about people coming in getting help from the Mission, let's say they died. Did the Mortuary take them in? What happened when someone died and you didn't know who they were?

Ward: Yes, it was taken care of. The Mission, of course, you know about what they called the Lord's Ground over in Linwood Cemetery. My grandfather arranged for about a quarter of an acre of land in the rear of the cemetery.

CP: Where is Linwood Cemetery?

Ward: It's over on Sixth Street Southwest.

People that didn't have a place to be buried, my grandfather would bury them on what was called the Lord's Ground.

CP: How did he get the Lord's Ground?

Ward: They purchased it.

CP: The Mission did?

Ward: The Mission did. The Mission at that time, the YMCA, the YWCA, (there may have been one other) that were included in what they called "The Community Chest, which is today the United Way. People would give to that and that's where the financing of YMCA, the YWCA, and the Mission.

CP: That's how they got the money to buy the Lord's Ground.

Ward: Yes. In addition, I might say that I can remember walking with my grandfather, he had a Post Office box that he would get his mail every morning. I remember, as a little kid, walking with him up to the Post Office and he would meet these businessmen on the street and they would shake hands, "Good morning, Daddy." and leave a bill in his hand. Probably at that time it wasn't over five dollars or maybe a dollar. They knew at that time, they knew where it was going, what it was going to be used for, and there was a financial accounting of everything, every dollar went into the work.

CP: Are those books anywhere now that would give you an indication of how much they spent for what?

Ward: I have the original records of some of the board meetings of the Mission.

CP: So it was funded, one, through the Community Chest. It was also just by on the street contributions.

Ward: Right. And people were willing and ready to give because they had such faith. They knew that this was going into the work.

It wasn't 70 percent going into administration. It was going into the work.

CP: They didn't take that off of their taxes. You didn't have income tax yet, did you?

Ward: No.

CP: You didn't have to do that, you didn't have to. . . .

Ward: No, you sure didn't. You were asking about the Lord's Ground. They took one body off of a freight car. They never did locate the man's family or anything.

CP: We had an interruption. Let's come back to where we were.

Ward: I remember one character, a little Italian man that went around Cedar Rapids, known as "Jimmy the scissor grinder." I have, in fact I'm going to give to the Art Association, the old scissor grinder. It's a little thing that he pushed around the sidewalk and he rang a little bell and the ladies would come out and he would grind their scissors. He was a great patron of the Mission. He would go to every service in the evenings and "Jimmy the scissor grinder" was buried out there. There's a record, I have a record at home and Linwood Cemetery has a record of those who are buried there. I think there's still a few spots left.

CP: If there's still spots left, what if we have someone die now and you don't know who they are, you just find them on the street. Even though the Mission isn't here anymore, who would you apply to to have them buried out there?

Ward: It would be a city project. On that ground. I'm going to follow that through and see if there aren't some lots left and tell the authorities about it because I did read where they

did bury people. The city buried them, they're running out of land too, I think.

CP: Who would oversee that? Would it be the Y? It can't just be the city.

Ward: It's one of our city projects, it would have to be the city that would take care of them.

CP: We talked about the Gazette and Turner's, quite unusual businesses to be right next to the Mission. Actually very handy businesses. We also talked about saloons and taverns. What was it like to have saloons and taverns here and also you told me once about a trip you took with your grandfather where, I think you snuck out. (Laughter)

Ward: Alcohol has been a big problem for many generations. Saloons were before the 18th amendment ruled out alcohol. They were along the First Street there. The Missions all over the country were very much taking care of alcoholics and people who had problems.

CP: They let them in when they were drunk? That wasn't a stipulation?

Ward: They generally didn't have that kind of a problem, but they were right in that section where those people were. When you mentioned about going to Chicago, my father one time, I knew that he wanted to go to Chicago to visit the Mission and I was a teenager and I wanted to go to Chicago for something, so I said one day, "Dad, let's go to Chicago to visit the Mission". So we did. The Mission was located on Clark Street right under the elevated, around the corner from

State Street. We went in, they were having their evening service and when my dad came in they invited him up to the pulpit to share in the program. I sat down in the back row. Whoever the minister was. . . the ministers from the various churches always have supplied the sermon . . . the minister that night was talking about right around the corner is a den of vice. He gave such a vivid description of it, I thought that maybe I'd better check this out! (Laughter) My father didn't know to his dying day, I slipped out the door, went around the corner and sure enough, there was the den of vice.

CP: You were a teenager.

Ward: I was a teenager. It was in the summertime and they had these beaded curtains down over the front of the building. I separated the curtains and looked in and sure enough, there was a big long bar and at the other end were gals dancing and they didn't have any more on than a swimming suit. If it had been today, they would have had. . . (Laughter)

I slipped in and I remember I sat down at the bar and had a Coca Cola.

CP: Was there a drinking age level?

Ward: They also sold Cokes. I got in there. My dad didn't know to his dying day. I got back to the Mission, sat down in time for my father to give the benediction. He didn't know that I had checked out that den of vice. (Laughter)

CP: He probably knows now.

We talked also about earlier transportation. There's a neat story about Doc.

- Ward: The old Mission horse. Back in the day of the horse and buggy, the city provided Grandad with a little carriage to go around and take care of the needy people. You brought me a picture there.
- CP: There was a picture there, they were delivering Thanksgiving baskets. Would that be Doc?
- Ward: Probably was. Doc was the old, retired fire horse. A big white horse. I remember him as a little kid. Grandad would get in the carriage and call on the needy. The problem was that Doc was a retired fire horse and whenever there was a fire, Doc was going to the fire. Grandad couldn't hold him.
- CP: They can't teach an old dog new tricks.
- Ward: At the top of the A Avenue viaduct, Doc went around the corner, they didn't make it. He tipped Grandad over, heading for the fire. He broke Grandad's leg. Back in those days, the femur joint, the ball and socket, they didn't replace them as they do today. So Grandad limped all of his life, he carried a little gold-headed cane.
- CP: Do you still have that cane?
- Ward: No, I wish I had. I don't know what happened to it. It was just a little gold-headed cane.
- CP: You have treasures of Grandfather which we'll talk about later. It's too bad you don't have that cane. What were the other forms of transportation, you mentioned the fire engines had horses. Were there no cars?
- Ward: There were street cars.
- CP: You couldn't go to a fire on a street car.
- Ward: No. In relation to street cars. B.D. Silliman, who so many

people know. B.D. is now over in the retirement home at Mercy Hospital.

CP: Hallmar?

Ward: Hallmar. B.D. was a great speaker. I heard him once speaking to his students, the students at Coe College, and he gave his early history in which he said, "I got on a street car to go out to Coe. I read an insurance sign up on the side of the car, and it said, 'Where will you be when you're 65?' I didn't even know where I was going to be when I got off of the street car!" Then he went on to tell about his life. He said, "I worked my way through college and I stayed in attics like our artists did. I stayed in the Armstrong attic, the Stewart attic, I only mention this because I want you to know I stayed in some of the best attics in town. (Laughter)

CP: What was his business when you talked about. . .

Ward: B.D. Silliman? He was an attorney. He represented the chain stores. He was a very fine attorney.

CP: Now he's not still alive today, or he is, you say.

Ward: He's alive. He and Bill Gray was his partner in the law firm.

CP: Did he know alot about the Mission?

Ward: He would have, when he could remember things.

CP: In the pictures of the Sunshine Mission, there's a huge electric sign that sits up on top of it, with a star, that says, "Jesus, the Light of the World." Tell us a story about that, there are alot of stories with it. Tell us some things about that sign.

Ward: It was a large sign, and it was lit with electric bulbs. As you mentioned a few moments ago about the railroads going through

Cedar Rapids, the Fourth Street tracks, there were half a dozen tracks, and it was the Northwestern. The railroads went through Cedar Rapids from the East coast to the West. A lady came in one morning to my grandfather's office and she said, "I was going through Cedar Rapids last night and I looked down First Avenue and I saw this big, beautiful sign, 'Jesus, the Light of the World', and I had to get off and check this city to see what kind of a town this was. She was impressed with that.

CP: Is she the lady that did something about getting money for the sign? Was the sign lit all the time?

Ward: The sign was there. No she was not the lady you and I discussed. It was a little old scrub lady that came in one morning to my grandfather and said, "Have you put God out of the house?" He said, "Why?" She said, "Well, your light's out." He said, "Well, we don't have the money to burn that light all night, it's lit til 10 o'clock in the evening." So she left, I think, a dollar. She said, "Well, maybe someday this will go towards keeping that light burning. Grandad was telling that story at a convention for what was called the Christian Endeavor, a youth program in the state. At the state convention, they told that story and before they adjourned, they came down and they said, "We're going to keep that light burning." So they financed the burning of that light and on Sunday nights, I mentioned about that radio program, I can recall it was always broadcast from the Sunshine Mission under the "Great Electric Light...Jesus, the Light of the World, which light is kept burning all night every night through the courtesy of the Christian Endeavor."

CP: What happened to that sign? Did they just dismantle it when they moved?

Ward: I suppose so.

CP: It didn't sit up on that second building.

Ward: No, it never went up on that building. Any of your senior Citizens that you talk to, any of them, remember the Sunshine Mission and the sign.

CP: You now belong to a Methodist church, we happen to go to the same one, St. Paul's. Did you read the article in the last church paper about the light on top of our church?

Ward: Yes.

CP: Can you tell about that? What's up on top of our church?

Ward: It's a cross, and our church was built in 1913. I was born in 1911, so I don't remember.

CP: When you moved here, they built it.

Ward: There's no plaque out in Shellsburg that I can find anywhere that notes that I was born there.

CP: We'll just have to put one there. (Laughter)

Ward: But that light that you were mentioning, they were talking about the fact it has been there all those years and the deterioration, it needs some work on it.

CP: And they're asking for donations.

In the 1920's and 1930's, a station called KWCR did broadcast the worship services. It wasn't just a Sunday thing at the Mission, they did it every night. Can you tell us anything about that. Someone said it had a unique sign-off. Tell me about those services.

Ward: It was not every night. It was only Sunday nights.

CP: The church met every night.

Ward: Yes, they had church services every night. They had Sunday School Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock in order not to conflict with the churches. They held their Sunday School at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoons and many, many young people. . .

CP: Did people come to that, not just the people of the Mission?

Ward: Yes, there was a great affiliation of recognition of the probably earliest organizations that kind of abolished the feeling of racial and color distinction. The Mission never recognized color or race.

CP: Did they have alot of blacks?

Ward: They had their share. Of course, the black population was not very large in Cedar Rapids at that time.

CP: But you had alot of people coming through.

Ward: Oh, yes. They were accepted. They just didn't recognize color or racial discrimination.

CP: We'll get back to the radio show later. When you mentioned the ministers of other churches, sometimes you think, "This was not a church, and this was not an ordained minister." How did the other ministers treat your grandfather?

Ward: As the highest. My grandfather and my father both during their time buried and married more people than all of the clergy of Cedar Rapids put together.

CP: How could your grandpa do that if he's not an ordained minister? That wasn't a requirement then?

Ward: I don't know about my grandfather, but my father did the weddings

and the funeral. My grandfather did funerals, now I can't say about weddings. I got a call from a lady a few weeks ago, after the Gazette ran this page on Neighbors and they wanted to talk about some of these things, so we did. The lady called me and said, "Your father married seven of nine of my family. I'd sure like to have a picture of the Mission and of him." What you've brought me from the library is going to supply these pictures for her.

CP: Our wonderful, new library has alot to offer.

We'll go down to look at more of those.

Let's get back to that radio show. Did you ever listen to any of those?

Ward: As a teenager, I was there almost every Sunday night and of course, New Year's Eve was what was called the "Watch Program." They had a service early in the evening, then they had a meal, then they would have another service at midnight.

CP: And you watched for the New Year to come. Had you been to one?

Ward: When I was a teenager, yes. Now, today, you go to somebody's house.

CP: You celebrate a little differently on New Year's Eve now.

Are there any New Year's Eve services in St. Paul's?

Ward: I don't know. I don't believe there are any in Cedar Rapids, there may be.

CP: Do you know what that sign-off was on the station?

Ward: I just told you about. . "Under the great electric sign, Jesus, the Light of the World."

CP: Oh, that was the one. Okay. I knew that they talked about that.

Ward: A fellow by the name of Harry Parr owned the station.

CP: Did it dissolve or did it become KCRG?

Ward: I think it was the original KCRG.

CP: You talked so much about your grandfather, how about your grandmother, what did she do in the Mission?

Ward: She was as dear a lady as he was. Her name was Esther.

CP: Her name was Esther Ward Ward.

Ward: No. Incidentally, I didn't clarify that. My original grandmother whom I never knew, died. That's when my father came to the Mission to assist with the work. My grandfather, a few years later, married. She was a Swedish lady. She was the grandmother that I knew.

CP: That was not the one whose first maiden name was Ward.

Ward: Right. Her name was Duncan.

CP: What did this grandma do at the Mission?

Ward: She was the matron. The second floor of the Mission was where they brought in the families that needed a place to stay or if a gal that needed some help. The third floor was for, actually rented out really to business girls who were working in Cedar Rapids. My grandmother was the matron of the women's department.

CP: When people came to stay, how long could they stay? Was there a limit?

Ward: No. No real limit, but it was a temporary thing until they were adjusted where they were going. Then they also had the day nursery. The day nursery took care of the children of the working women. I think we have a picture of that. I think they paid 10 cents a day, per child.

CP: We kind of have some preschools now. There's one at St. Paul's that helps people who. . .

Ward: Yes. That have picked up that work that was originally all taken care of by the Mission.

CP: Who (Cough) . . .

You say there was no social security, no A&C, do people look just to the government now for support?

Ward: I think we have what we call (Is it called Social Welfare Bureau in Cedar Rapids?) It used to be called Social Welfare Bureau.

CP: But isn't it government money?

Ward: Yes, I believe it's county.

CP: Have you ever been back to Chicago to see if that mission is still there?

Ward: No. I never have.

CP: Have you ever been back to see if the thing around the corner from the mission is still there?

Ward: No. But I can remember when I was in school, in the Theological Seminary in Evanston. That was back in the day when our religious beliefs before ecumenicism. We were divided into, I would say, what's called fundamentalism and maybe liberalism. Back in those days, the fundamentalists. . . I was back in school out in Evanston and I was walking down the street in Chicago one day and a young fellow handed me a religious tract. I said, "I'm in school up in Theological Seminary up in Evanston at Northwestern." He said, "You're on the way to Hell." (Laughter) Now he may have been right. At that time I wished I had a little money in my pocket, there were some things I would like to do. Now my wife

and I get into Chicago once in awhile and I've got a little money in my pocket, but I can't remember what it was I wanted to do. (Laughter)

CP: Go check out that mission.

Grandma helped grandpa. Now we talked about your grandfather's religious schooling. He actually did not go to any school, but your dad did. Where did you say? Epworth?

Ward: Epworth.

CP: And he actually was ordained, then.

Ward: Yes.

CP: Do you know what church he was ordained in?

Ward: The Baptist.

CP: But I mean what particular church?

END OF SIDE ONE - BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO - TAPE #63-A

CP: Did your dad go preach in churches after he was ordained?

Ward: Yes. I don't know exactly where they all were, but Shellsburg was one of them, that's where I was born.

CP: Do you have brothers and sisters? How many?

Ward: Yes, I have four sisters. I had one brother and then we have an adopted sister that my folks adopted from the Mission. Her mother gave birth and my folks took in as a baby.

CP: Are you number one?

Ward: No. I'm number three.

CP: Where are your brothers and sisters now?

Ward: My brother is deceased. I have two sisters in Cedar Rapids and. .

CP: They are. . .

Ward: Mrs Hauskins, Dorothy Hauskins and Margorie Comp. Then, how many

did I tell you I had? (Laughter)

CP: I don't know! You count them up!

Ward: My adopted sister is in San Diego and we will be visiting her this summer. It turned out a very fine thing because the folks raised her and she is just one of us, we don't know any difference.

CP: How much younger is she than you?

Ward: She's about 17 years younger.

CP: So you really remember her as a tiny baby.

Ward: Oh, yes. She was a tiny baby when she came to our house.

CP: What is her name?

Ward: Anderson. Mrs. Anderson.

CP: What was her maiden name? Obviously Ward.

Ward: Yes.

CP: Where did you live while your dad was working at the Mission or while your grandfather was at the Mission? Did you live at the Mission?

Ward: No. We lived on 30th Street, right behind Bever Park. The house is still there, an old house that we. . .

CP: Do you remember the address?

Ward: Three something 30th Street SE.

CP: Three something. . .we'll have to go check that out. (Laughter)
We talked also about Depression times. We were at that. How did Depression times hit the Mission? Did people not have the money to give? Did the Community Chest go down? What happened to the Mission during the Depression?

Ward: It was probably greatest years of service for the Mission be-

people needed help. Just as, if I'm reading correctly, the farm people are needing help, but it's going to be through the government or something on the government scale. Back in those days there wasn't any such thing and the Mission was the place to go. Through the Community Chest, the funds. . . The Cedar Rapids people have really always taken care of their people. They've always done it.

CP: And the Community Chest didn't just fall apart when the Depression came?

Ward: Oh, no. The Community Chest continued and you know the funds that we raise now and. . . I mean, that we give very heavily. . . Our community gives heavily. I don't know whether everyone really knows all of the various activities that come through their contributions because a lot of needy people are taken care of.

CP: You have just four back when the Mission was there. How about the volunteer donations, when they would meet grandpa and slip him a ten dollar bill. Was there money there then? Didn't the Depression hit the whole community?

Ward: Oh, yes. It probably lightened up the giving.

CP: Did people come and stay longer? They weren't able to get jobs. What happened at the Mission?

Ward: It was a limited basis because they could take care of them about so long and then readjust and how they readjusted I wouldn't know from there on what. . . how they did take care of. . .

CP: What do you suppose was the limit of how many people they could handle? To stay all night.

Ward: I don't know. Maybe a hundred, hundred and fifty people.

CP: Did you ever eat there?

Ward: Oh, yes.

CP: What was your favorite meal?

Ward: (Laughter) My grandmother's baked beans.

CP: What was your least favorite meal?

Ward: Spinach. (Laughter)

CP: Isn't that true today. (Laughter)

Ward: I'm just like little what's-his-name in the paper.

CP: I don't know.

Ward: I read him every day. In fact, we discontinued him for awhile.

Then they had so many complaints I see they've put him back in.

CP: Dennis the Menace?

Ward: Dennis the Menace. In fact, I . . .

CP: He doesn't like spinach?

Ward: In fact, I was about ready to write a letter to Joe Hladky and tell that when they took Dennis out that when I go to look at the paper anymore I go to the obituaries to check up on myself and then I go to Dennis the Menace because all of the bad news that's in the paper, little Dennis is always a . . .

CP: Always a cheerful note. I think I do the same thing.

Now when we talked earlier about the Depression, you told me a neat story about MNB and the Post Office. I want to hear that again.

Ward: The Merchant's National Bank?

CP: And the Post Office, during the Depression, remember?

Ward: Oh, yes.

CP: Not where the Post Office and MNB are, though. We don't know that.

Ward: I was working at the Johnson Nut Company which was then, they had a retail store on Second Avenue where the . . . just above the tracks. 411 Second Avenue.

CP: What's there now?

Ward: Papa Juan's. That's where it was when I bought the business. I remember the people rushing down two blocks away down at the bank, the Merchants Bank. They were going in the front door and Mr. Coquilette, the then President, stood on a box platform they had in the middle of the bank there. He said, he would announce, "We opened this morning at 9. You can get your money. We will close at 3 and we will open again tomorrow morning at 9 and you can get your money."

CP: This would have been 29. . . 1929?

Ward: Yes. Right at the time of the bank failures all over the country. The fact is, the Merchants Bank was never going to go under. They were taking the money. The people would draw their money out of the bank, go over to the Post Office, which is the old Witwer Building now, and put it in government bonds. They took the currency over there. The currency was going out of the back door of the old Post Office back to the Merchants National Bank.

CP: To be deposited as government bonds.

Ward: They were never going to run out of money.

CP: That's a clever way to do it. I wonder if they do that with banks today. We've lost a few this year.

In 1950 there was an article in the paper about your grandmother and grandfather had their 50th wedding anniversary and it was the

55th year anniversary of the Sunshine Mission. Did you go to that? They had the ceremony at the Mission.

Ward: Yes.

CP: What was it like? Do you remember it?

Ward: Not too well. They were honoring the years of service of the Mission. Both my grandfather and father and my grandmother and it was a very fine presentation. I would like to mention, though, that you brought me a date of my grandfather's death. "Local Mission Founder Dies", you have this marked "June 5, 1933."

CP: That's the date of the paper. They said he died Monday morning. I don't know whether that was the next day's. . . we'll have to go look that up at the Library. He died Monday morning at 4:30 in the morning.

Ward: I was there.

CP: You were at his house?

Ward: I was there the evening he died. I was staying overnight with him because Grandad had what today what we call today we say hardening of the arteries. Grandad had hardening of the arteries. He thought it was a shortness of breath. Back then medication we didn't know what was causing all of these problems. He would go to the front door to get a breath of air. When it was actually lack of oxygen in the blood. That evening in the night he suffered and we called old Dr. Harry Jones. He came to the house and I was there when he gave Grandad a shot. He relieved him.

CP: What do you think it was?

Ward: I don't know what it would have been but it did relieve him. Grandad then, sat in his chair, big, beautiful comfortable chair

living room chair. He leaned back and he looked up at my grandmother and he said, "I'm going, Esther. Take care of yourself."

CP: That's sad.

Ward: And he leaned his head back and he said, "Dear Jesus." And he died.

CP: That was hard.

Ward: I was quite impressed. I saw this happen and it's never left. You know, those sort of experiences in your life have an effect on. . .

CP: Was it just you and grandma and the Doctor there?

Ward: And then I said to Dr. Jones afterwards, I said, "Doctor, would that shot that you gave him have reacted in either way possibly? Maybe relieve the situation and maybe the other way?" And he said, "Yes."

CP: Bless his heart. Doctors made housecalls then.

Ward: Oh, yes.

CP: Where would he have come from? Was he a neighbor?

Ward: He lived not too far away. That was at 1415 Washington Avenue and so he would have lived somewhere in Southeast Cedar Rapids.

CP: We went down and looked at that house this morning, didn't we?

Ward: Yes.

CP: We're going to have to take a picture of that. That's really a lovely house. It has leaded glass windows.

Ward: It once was.

CP: Do you know who lives there now?

Ward: No. I don't know who. Mr. Elsenbast owns the house, but I don't know who lives there. I might tell you again that little story,

lived a judge. Grandad, as I told you, was a little English gentleman with a white mustache that you've seen, and a real grin. The judge was renting out his. . . on the back of his lot he had a kind of a large garage and he was renting it out to some fellows. He didn't know until they were arrested for bootlegging out of his garage.

CP: What happened to those guys, do you know?

Ward: No I don't. (Laughter)

CP: What happened to the judge?

You should go down someday and just knock on that door and say can I go in?

Ward: I've thought of it.

CP: Why not just do that? I'll go with you. I'd like to see that. They had the funeral two days later after his death and they had it in the afternoon at the Mission. Did you go to the funeral?

Ward: Remember the Mission had then moved up to Second Street across from the, well, it's where the Brenton Bank is now.

CP: It'd be where the parking lot is, isn't it?

Ward: Yes. That's where they held the service. The attendance, there were so many people that came to his funeral, they blocked off from A Avenue to First Avenue. They blocked the street off and people, after they'd overflowed the Mission, they stood in the streets. They had a broadcast service.

CP: They broadcast the service out into the streets.

Ward: To the people out there. Remember, the Mission was not only a Cedar Rapids institution, the whole state of Iowa, anywhere you go in the State of Iowa, you will find (and out of the state),

you will find people that had been helped through the Mission. They, all of those came that were anywhere around, came from little towns.

CP: How about the people at the Mission, how did they respond to that, they were there at that time.

Ward: It was, of course, a sad day, but they had accepted the fact that he had done a great work. My father was continuing and he did a great work.

CP: Who would be the minister that would have handled that service?

Ward: I think we had this down, and I forgot. I know it was one of the local ministers. A number of the ministers. . .

CP: Would you have chose? Who would have selected what minister would have done the service?

Ward: My grandmother, I suppose. I recall they had a number of ministers from the churches locally take a part in it because he was. . .

CP: Now did they ever go to a church building itself for religious meetings or did their church life just revolve around work there at the Mission?

Ward: My father, he was a Baptist, he would attend what was called Calvary Baptist Church.

CP: Where is that?

Ward: Well, I don't know, where it is, it's somewhere on the West side, but it used to be on about Sixth Street West, somewhere there.

CP: Did your grandmother go to that church?

Ward: Oh, yes.

CP: So they'd go there on Sunday morning, then come back and have another service?

Ward: I suppose, yes.

CP: Have you ever been out to, or have you been out recently to the Linwood Cemetery? Is your grandfather buried in the Lord's Ground?

Ward: No, he had a lot out there and at the time my father died, we thought that he had a sizable lot of his own. We were going to bury my mother and father on his lot but we found out it was filled up with people we didn't even know. Grandad had buried them on his. . .

CP: You didn't know til you needed it.

Ward: We didn't know til we. . .

CP: Is there a marker out there?

Ward: Oh, yes. Then we did want to bury my grandfather and mother near. So we went to the Cemetery and they said well, they had no intention. . .it's right out in front, just north of the house there on the cemetery lot. They said they weren't intending to open anymore lots closer to the house but for Daddy Ward we'll open a lot. So he's right out there on the front with my grandfather. (Laughter)

CP: When you say "Daddy Ward", your grandfather had already been buried there, you mean your dad.

Ward: Right. They were both by the people as Daddy Ward. My dad was also called Daddy Ward.

CP: Nobody's ever figured out why. Somebody just tagged him with that.

Ward: Right. Somewhere.

CP: They are buried close to each other.

Ward: Yes.

CP: When the Mission started under your dad after your grandfather's

death, what life like for him and what did your mother do?

Because you were older, did you take a part in the Mission work?

Ward: No, not really. In fact, one of the Board members came to me while I was in Coe and he said the Board will expect you to follow through in your father's work. I had to tell him then that you know we aren't all built alike. Every doctor's son doesn't become a doctor. I'm not cut out for this kind of work. And I knew it.

CP: You had already been to seminary.

Ward: I'd been to seminary and as I said, the good Lord and I decided that I wasn't for the ministry. I had the greatest faith, but you know you don't always follow in your parent's footsteps.

CP: Harold, I've known you for a long time. You are a minister, you just don't have it as your occupation. You are one of the most religious, caring people I've ever known. I'd say you were a minister, it's just not your paid job.

Ward: My ministry is in, on the lighter side, I love to do things like. . . Several years ago someone told Sister Lawrence at Mercy that I would make a good Santa Claus. I went down and I was then for about 12 years their Santa Claus for the old folks at Hallmar. Then the young medics and their families and they had two parties every Christmas. As you already know, I have a feeling about life that I like to see the lighter things in life and I believe the good Lord created us with a balancing mechanism which are our emotions and our ability to laugh and cry. I've always enjoyed humor, so as Santa, I would go in and dance with Sister Lawrence or I used a lot of humor and when I handed out

the presents to the little kids, I would kid their mother and father in some way. That went on for several years, that I really did enjoy very much. Sister Lawrence, of course, is a great lady. As I said, my feeling about ecumenism today is that we're closely related to. . .

CP: She sent you a beautiful card once. A beautiful letter with a picture attached to it of you in a Santa suit. It was lovely. In attending church when I was a little person, church was quite formal, it's relaxed now, you can applaud in church like we did in St. Paul's last Sunday for the children. . . Do you remember that time in church when we had the bat at St. Paul's flying around? Could you tell that story? Because if you don't, I will. But you'll do it better. Talk about humor in church.

Ward: Some things you can't resist. It happened we had a bat, and it was causing a lot of confusion.

CP: You've got to explain it was on a Sunday service. The minister was preaching and this bat is cruising around the church and divebombing. What did you do?

Ward: Well, the young folks in the choir were all getting a big kick out of it and the girls, as you know, you probably sing, they were afraid the bat would get in their hair. Our minister just mentioned the fact that it was going to be few moments before he could continue with his sermon and I just couldn't help, I just stood and said, "Well, Reverend, go right ahead with your sermon. That bat ain't going to get in my hair." (Laughter) Of course, you know I don't have any hair.

CP: The minister had a hard time that day. Do you remember when he said he could reuse his sermon because none of us heard it the first time. Nobody paid attention to his sermon that Sunday. It was probably a good one. I remember your humor, you often stand up in church or, you're never a disruption but you do, you put humor even in the church service. We'll miss you at St. Paul's when you're not there.

Ward: I can tell you one thing that coming out of the old Mission where they did testimonials. People would give their testimony and old "Jimmy the scissor-grinder," he'd say "Amen!" Do you ever remember when people would say "Amen!"

CP: You hear about it but I honestly don't remember.

Ward: When our minister makes a point, that I agree with, there are just many times I just have a problem to resist saying "Amen!"

CP: You just have to bite your tongue.

Let's talk a little bit about you. We've talked an awfully lot about your grandfather and your dad. What are the memories you have as a little boy with your dad and grandfather. It's not, you know, what you did at the Mission or the religious work, what did you do on a typical day. What were some of the fun things? You baked cookies with grandmother. What did you do with your grandad?

Ward: You said let's talk about you. We already have, so let's go on from there. (Laughter)

One of the things with my grandad when I was in school, particularly in Coe. I think that maybe the night he died, I had been in school. My grandad, I have inherited my sense of

humor from Grandad.

CP: He doesn't look like a. . . He looks very stern.

Ward: Does he?

CP: Yes.

Ward: Well, he . .

CP: He wasn't?

Ward: I enjoyed so much . . . I belonged to a fraternity and I'd come over and tell Grandad the stories about what went on in the fraternity.

CP: Did you tell him the whole story?

Ward: Most of it. (Laughter)

He got such a big kick out of reliving. . . we all. . . don't you? Don't you live the life of your kids and don't you like to hear about their experiences?

CP: There's probably a few that I don't want to hear about. (Laughter)

Ward: And quite a few that you don't hear about.

CP: I hope so.

Ward: I remember Mr. Silliman that we talked about, he said that when he got to Coe he had to work his way through college, he said, "I worked in a drugstore. A gal coming in, she said 'You got Lifebuoy?' and I said, 'Yea, but I don't get off til six.'" He said he got fired. (Laughter)

CP: Did you used to take walks with your grandfather. I don't want you read the poems now, but you have a book of writings your grandad did for you. Did you ever take walks and just talk about things.

Ward: Yes.

CP: How did you get to know your grandpa so well?

Ward: Pretty much that way. They lived right there on Washington Avenue, they lived right across that park, I don't remember what you call it, the triangle there.

CP: Where all the beautiful flowers are.

Ward: The Rose Garden. We'd walk. But particularly I can remember walking downtown. We'd go to the Post Office and places. But I have a lot of close, close relationships with my grandfather down in his little office down at the Mission, too. I'd sit in there and we'd chat. You get something out of those things. A lot of young people today, even, I'm proud of a lot of our young folks that still listen to their seniors. You get something out of the past. You know that if you have a future, you also have a past.

CP: Did you ever go fishing with your grandad?

Ward: No. No. Grandad didn't fish.

CP: Was he a baseball player?

Ward: No. He was not into athletics. When I knew him, of course. He was an older man when I first was around him.

CP: He really was someone you just enjoyed chatting with.

Ward: Yes.

CP: Do you chat with your children?

Ward: I do.

CP: Are you going to write a book like your grandad did?

Ward: No, I'm going to make a recording. I want to tell them some things and I'm going to put it on a recording.

CP: So they can replay it if they don't remember it.

Ward: Someday, yes.

CP: What are some childhood memories you have away from your family? What were the things you did? I mean, if your father said, "You can go out and play." What would you do?

Ward: You know, Bob Armstrong tells a little story about one morning in our class, Sunday school class. The teacher asked somebody to read this Psalm. Robert says, "I'll quote the Psalm." He quoted, I think it was the first Psalm, he gave the whole Psalm. Someone will be interviewing Bob. Incidentally, there is one you're going to enjoy. Bob has such a tremendous memory of the past. He has such a past, too.

CP: And you do, too.

Ward: He also told about when he was little, how he happened to learn the Psalm. He said, "When I was little, my father made us learn Bible verses." He said, "Before we could go out and play, we had to learn so many verses. I know I was in a hurry to get out and play and so I really learned them." He said, "I learned this one real fast!" Well, I was the same. My folks wanted me to learn Bible verses. But, I've always said I was kind of the outlaw of the family. My sisters were very fundamental in their beliefs.

CP: And still are?

Ward: And still are. I'm fundamental to the point that I'm still sold on ecumenism. I believe that the world is a greater place because we don't say, "If you don't believe as I do, you're going to Hell." So all of my life I enjoyed my life, my younger years.

CP: And I think you always will.

Ward: (Laughter)

CP: You're that kind of person.

CP: Once you memorized those Bible verses, what did you do when you went outside, though? What did you enjoy doing for play?

Ward: I used to like to play ball, just like any other kid. But I've got to tell you another thing while I was Scout age, I went out to Boy Scout camp. . .

CP: You were in Scouts?

Ward: Oh, yes. I think I got to be a second-class Scout and that's where I've been all my life. (Laughter)

CP: Never became an Eagle.

Ward: I remember going out to Scout camp and the minister came out and he said, "How many of you guys want to go to heaven?" Everybody but my little chum Billy raised their hand. He said, "Billy, don't you want to go to heaven when you die?" He says, "Oh, yeah, then, but I thought you were getting up a group to go now!" (Laughter)

CP: Who is this Billy who? Do you remember his last name?

Ward: No.

They were just as interested then, at that age, in what's going on right now. You weren't thinking about. . .

CP: You know, that is true with kids, you have to grow to a certain age before you think about the future.

Ward: And that's the wonderful thing about life.

I gave my wife a little plaque for our anniversary. A lady printed up her favorite poem, or hymn, "Just for Today".

CP: Do you have that memorized?

Ward: No.

CP: What school did you go to? You talked about having gone to school.

Ward: Well, I went to the old Dairydale school, that was out on Mt. Vernon

Avenue. That's long gone. That's across from the 35th Street there.

CP: Was that on Mt. Vernon Road? Across from what's Vernon Village?

Ward: No, it's across from the supermarket out there.

CP: Eagles.

Ward: Eagles.

CP: I remember that. . . a white building?

Ward: No. That was a red brick building. We lived on 30th Street over behind Bever Park and we hiked to school across what were fields then. All of that open field country. We'd hike across the fields to school over to old Dairydale school.

CP: What did you for lunch?

Ward: We carried our lunch. We'd open up to see what we had.

CP: Did you pack your own or did your mother pack them?

Ward: Mom packed them all.

CP: What was in a lunch, a typical lunch?

Ward: Peanut butter sandwich.

CP: An apple?

Ward: An apple.

CP: Just the same as you get today?

Ward: Just the same as you get today.

CP: What was your favorite subject in school? When you were a little kid in grade school.

Ward: English.

CP: What was the one you disliked?

Ward: I don't know. I wasn't too good at math. But English I took a Linn County Championship English course and I skipped a grade in

out of the school out there because at that time we had one school room for like the sixth and seventh grade. Then from there we went down to McKinley, I think. . . Oh, yeah, eighth, maybe, and went down to McKinley in the ninth. Then old Washington High, 10, 11, and 12. Well I skipped one grade in my last year out at the school because there were Linn County examinations given to see whether you were ready to go on. When they would recite at school, you'd go out in front and sit, you could hear the grade ahead of you, you could hear them recite. From hearing that grade, listening to that grade, I asked the teacher if I could take the Linn County exam and I did. It's the only class I ever skipped. (Laughter)

CP: Do you remember any kids in your school with you that are here today with names we'd know? Do you remember your teacher's names?

Ward: Yes. Art Swartzentruber everyone knows. We were in school together out at Dairydale and we went down to Washington High and McKinley High. We celebrated our 50th high school anniversary.

CP: Now what's the date set at?

Ward: 1931... '32.

CP: Now that couldn't be 50 years. Oh, you graduated in '32.

Ward: Yeah.

CP: So in '82 you had your 50th reunion.

Ward: I mean in 1982 we had it.

CP: I didn't think you were that old. (Laughter)

Ward: At one of our meetings out at Art Swartzentruber's, we had a real committee set up and we were discussing. . . someone said,

"Did we have a class song?" No one came up with a class song. One of the fellows said, "Well, this is our 50th, how about 'Nearer My God to Thee'?" (Laughter)

CP: You're closer than you were in the first place.

Who besides Art Swartzentruber, you don't mention any girls.

What girls were in your class?

How about at Washington?

Ward: Well, from Washington, I won't try to enumerate, but all of the a lot of the local folks were in school at that time. Then, of course, I went from there to Coe. Had a couple years at Coe, then swung over to Iowa.

CP: What did you take at Coe? Any things you want to tell us about your years at. . .

Ward: Liberal arts, pretty much, and then I did major at debate and Bill Whipple, whom you know, Bill was a great debater and we had a team we would go to other colleges around the state and debate. Bill Whipple was one of us.

CP: Debate's really grown in Cedar Rapids. You certainly gave it a hand, didn't you, with your own accomplishments.

Ward: Well, I don't know, but it is a great thing for students.

CP: After your college years, you went into the Army, obviously, because it was that time, in 1943 to 45. You were an Army radio service correspondent. Is that you were?

Ward: I was in the Infantry when I went overseas. Then at the end of the war, I was assigned to the Army radio as a correspondent, with a, you have this little tape recorder that you carry around in your hand. We had what was called a wire recorder at that

time, and it was a big thing that you had to have a jeep and you had to have a generator and a man to run the generator and my job was to interview personalities who were entertaining us over there or men who were going to the Pacific from there.

CP: We just celebrated the anniversary of V E Day.

Ward: And the recording was sent up to, you'd put so many on a wire and they were sent to Paris and put on a record and sent to the man's home state for broadcast called "Home Town Program", Army radio service.

CP: Did the celebration in the last weeks or so, anniversary of V E Day, did it bring back a lot of memories that you haven't thought about for years?

Ward: Oh yes, I'm sure. . .

CP: Any particular one?

Ward: I'm sure it did with a lot of fellows. Yes, I was keeping maps at the time, when I wasn't on the front lines, I was in the battalion headquarters. I was in a desolate behind a hill and our only time we were fired at was with heavy artillery. We got some of that but I wasn't up on the front lines and they'd bring the men back and I kept maps. I remember putting up that day, we already defeated Germans and Italy, I remember putting up on the map, "Two down and one to go." We had them on the go, you know.

CP: When you came back from the war, what was it like when you came back to your home town? How did people receive you?

Ward: This is what's hard to understand about when our veterans from the Viet Nam. . . we didn't, apparently receive them like we did World

War II. But everybody was in World War II, whether they were overseas or whether they were working here to supply the weapons to fight the war with. Everyone was involved in World War II. Yes, we came back to. . . we came into Boston by ship and every ship that came back loaded with men got a real reception. It was a great period in our history. The problem is that we didn't know we were going to have to continue on with all the conflicts.

CP: Did you come back after the war was over or was your stint in the service done before V E Day? Where were you on V E Day?

Ward: On V E Day, I was in St. Nazaire, France. We were a division of men surrounding the German submarine bases that Patton had bypassed. He was in a hurry to get across France and he put a division of men around there. Incidentally, the reason that I happened to be there, we crossed the channel, well we went to England in November of '44. That was late in the war, we ended in '45. We went to England in '44 during the Battle of the Bulge. We were going to the Battle of the Bulge. When we crossed the channel from England to France, Cherbourg, France, just seven miles off Cherbourg, one of our troop ships was sunk and we lost 700 and some men on that ship, so we were considered a crippled outfit. Instead of going to the Bulge, we were sent down to surround this submarine base at St. Nazaire and Lorient and we relieved a division of men who went up to the Battle of the Bulge and just got the heck shot out of them. So, in one way, our men's lives saved some of the rest of us.

CP: How did you hear about V E Day?

Ward: We had radio communications all the time. In fact, we probably

listened a great deal of the time to the radio. So everything was coming over.

CP: How did it feel when you heard that?

Ward: It was a great thing. I remember the day before, even, just the day before it's announcement, though, there were probably a thousand planes flying from over Cherbourg over to one of the coast cities they bombed. Just the day before the end of the war that our planes mutilated. . .

CP: Were there people around, I mean people in the country, not people in the service, or were you isolated? In other words, could you walk out and see people who lived there?

Ward: Oh, yes. We visited. . . I remember visiting with . . .

CP: What was it like to see them on that day? What was their reaction?

Ward: We were in France, of course, I remember the people were. . . oh, when we left, we went in to Cherbourg and St. Nazaire, which were occupied by the Germans, we went in by jeeps and the French people

CP: You mean currently occupied, they were there, the Germans were still there.

Ward: Yes, the end of the war, when it ended. All the French people threw flowers into the jeeps.

CP: Weren't you kind of afraid to go in there, for fear maybe they hadn't heard the news or maybe hadn't accepted it?

Ward: (Laughter) No.

CP: Let's talk about that. A lot of people, at the end of the war, some people were killed because the Germans didn't want to end it. Particularly. . . .

Ward: We went in and that was great day.

CP: How long did it take you to get home?

Ward: Then I told you after the war, then, I didn't come home. I didn't get to come home right away and I was assigned to the . . . as a correspondent with the Army radio service. That's when I went . . . well, after the war we went from France, from northern France, to Marseilles, France, where troops were being shipped out to the Pacific and our job down there, my job down there, was to interview troops that were going to the Pacific. Then I went from there over to . . . I was sent over to Vienna with my wire recorder to do work over there. That's where I was shipped home from.

CP: What was it like, I mean, here these fellows had been saying, "Hooray, the War's over in Europe!", and then they turn around and say, "Oh! But you get to go to the Pacific!"

Ward: (Laughter) Well . . .

CP: Did they all go? I mean, did they really need all the European troops? What did they say. . .

Ward: No. In fact, the truth is, most of them never got to the Pacific because it ended over there before they got there. When they left France, they were heading . . . some of them were just headed back through the states. But some were going around the Cape and going right to there. But one way to ruin an interview was to ask the fellow "Now you've fought a war, how do you feel about going over to the Pacific?" They gave you in real terms what they felt about it. (Laughter)

CP: We won't put those down here. . . (Laughter)

There is a picture of you that I saw and it's not a war picture but it certainly brings back memories of the war, because it has Presi-

dent Eisenhower in it, who, of course, was very prominent in the war. There you standing up there with him and he's got his arm looped through yours. Tell us the story of that picture. Do you have it with you right now?

Ward: Yeah, I got it here. It was in 1958, the WMT had what they called the National Corn Picking Contests for a few years. In 1958, another fellow and I, Bob Jones, the Chamber of Commerce assigned us to Chairman that program for WMT. So we sent out invitations to the Republicans and the Democrats to send the top men they would send. This is in 1958, the election was going to be two years later. Ike was not going to run, but Jack Kennedy was, so we got a response from the Republicans, Ike would come. A few days later, we got a response that Jack Kennedy would come and they did. And we had this Corn Picking Contest out north of Marion. That's the picture you're looking at. As we walked along, I was at the reception line when they turned him over to me, and as we walked along watching the corn picking contest, right where you're looking at it, we were both looking down at the ground, kind of laughing. I had just said to him, "Mr. President, we're really old chums, I saluted you one time from a side track in southern France."

CP: Did he remember that? (Laughter)

Ward: He came back with a little story of his own and that's where you see him holding my arm there, he took hold of my arm, there, he took hold of my arm and he came back and he told this little story of his own.

CP: What was his story? Do you remember it?

Ward: Yes. In fact, the Chicago Tribune said that he told this story

out to a group of Republicans out in Iowa, he didn't tell it to a group of Republicans, he told me.

CP: He told one Republican.

Ward: (Laughter)

CP: Or are you going to declare which party you are.

Ward: Well, at that time, it was 1958, and we weren't very successful in launching and the Russians were ahead of us. He told a little story, he said, "You know how the countdown goes." (In his quick staccato voice, as you may recall) He said, "The countdown goes '10. . . 9. . . 8. . . 7. . . 6. . . 5. . . 4. . . 3. . . 2. . . 1. . . Nuts!"

CP: (Laughter) Boy, you get nuts into everything, don't you!

Ward: We went from there into a little mobile trailer home that they had prepared for him to sit in before he made his speech that afternoon. We were in there about a half-hour.

CP: Tell how you got in there. The security was just something else. Before you go on with your story, how about you getting into that trailer?

Ward: The Secret Service men as they do, I suppose everywhere the President goes. They were out here for about a week in preparation. Mamie came out too, you know. Mamie, they had a coffee for her at the Roosevelt, my wife got to go to that. Anyway. . .

CP: You were taking him back to the trailer. . .

Ward: The Secret Service Men were out there and I was to escort him to the trailer door, then I was to step aside and he and whoever members of the White House staff were with him were going in. When I got to the door, where you see that picture, you see he's holding on to my

arm when we got to the door of the mobile home, I looked back over and there was this Secret Service man, John Campion was his name, we had become well acquainted during that week previous. I looked back at him and he just shook his head, "Go on in." You know, how are you going to pull away, how do you handle a situation? So we did go in, and we sat down, and right over my shoulder there, you see Senator Hickenlooper. There was Senator Hickenlooper and the President's secretary, Jim Hagarty, and we sat down in the mobile trailer home and all we did was swap little stories for a half hour. It was a beautiful day, just like today, the sun was out and everyone was having a great time. There were 50,000 farmers out there. Jack Kennedy had made his speech that morning.

CP: Tell us about Jack Kennedy. What was he like?

Ward: Well, Jack Kennedy, the Secret Service men had told us that Jack Kennedy could come back into what they call the restricted area anytime he wanted, he was a United States Senator. He was going to run for President two years later. So, in the afternoon, he did, before the President made his speech, he came up and came into the restricted area. Ike said something to him like, "What are you doing out here today, Jack?" He said, "I made a speech out here this morning, Mr. President." He said, "What do you know about farming, Jack?" He said, "Just about as much as you do, Mr. President." (Laughter) They were all good-humored, everybody was having a great time.

CP: That is a neat picture to have.

Ward: Those things are experiences in your life that you cherish.

CP: And it's nice that you have photographs.

CP: Have you had any memories of the Mission today? I mean, it's been gone, it closed in 1967. Or the two other people took over after your dad left the Mission. I will tell you that there was an article, was it February? In Neighbors Magazine about you and not only just your company but your life. As a result of that, this one woman called and wanted to get a picture. Do you have any other things that come up about the Mission?

Ward: About when it went out of existence?

CP: I mean today. Do you run across things, do you meet people, do you have people contact you for any reason?

Ward: Particularly among our, I keep referring to Senior Citizens, I'll say our citizens of my age, I'm a little like the lady in the Reader's Digest, I get a little confused on some things once in awhile, she said of the President, "If he's anything like me at the age of 73, he must go in the Oval Office occasionally,

END OF SIDE TWO----TAPE 1

CP: We were talking about memories of the Mission today. We ran into the end of the tape. Tell me about things that happen today when you run into people or run into things about the Mission,

Ward: I don't regret that the Mission is not in existence. Except in one way. You see, everything has become so governmentalized, everything is taken care of by either our Federal, State or local government financially. What this has eliminated is a personal, the Mission had those Mission services every night and actually, hundreds of people sometimes on Sunday night would be there at the service. There was a personal touch.

CP: People who would have been in other churches earlier in the day.

Ward: Yes, there was a personal touch. As I say, progress, as they call it. . . Now of course, Salvation Army has taken over a great deal of the needy. Our church relationships. . . our church people take care of a lot of needs of the community. When I say I don't reflect on that, you asked about whether you see people, yes, I always among senior or elder people, I'm running into people that say "I knew your grandfather." "I knew your father." They will reflect on something on that. As I was telling you a moment ago, I think it was cut out, that I don't remember some things, I'm a little like the lady of the latest Reader's Digest who said of the President, "If he's anything like me at the age of 73, he must go into the Oval Office occasionally and say, 'Now what did I come in here for?'" (laughter)

CP: When you meet these people that say, "I knew your grandad." or "I knew your father." Do you say, "Tell me about them." Do you learn new things? Do they tell you some things that you didn't know or you didn't remember?

Ward: I told you we were in the nut business, I've retired but semi-related and my daughter's kind of taking care over it now. We have people come in and they will say, they'll bring up the subject, and they're from Belle Plaine or Blairstown or somewhere, little town that had been related to the Mission in some way. Somewhere one of their families had been helped by the Mission. It's always pleasant. I told Jim Coquillette, my banker, at the bank, incidentally, Bett Baker said we're looking for a cashier. I said, "You just hired one." He said, "That's the one we're looking for." (Laughter)

CP: You mean now? (Laughter)

Ward: No. I just threw that in. I told Jim Coquillette one time, I said, (I always supply my banker with a little financial statement), "On the end of this, Jim, I feel that I've got a lot more than this financial statement." Because your heritage is of great value to you because, as you mentioned, these people that you meet, they'll say, "Are you related to the folks at the Mission?" So it'd be unpleasant, really, to move out of your community because of those close affiliations.

CP: How true. I was raised here, too, so I know what you mean. When you move away, you lose a lot of those childhood memories because you don't see the same places, you don't run into people who were there when you were. There's a real merit to living in the same place. Some people think, "Oh, you've got to get out of the city."

Ward: And there may be some merit to that, too. I wouldn't want to change communities to live in. I certainly wouldn't want to go to one of the retired areas.

CP: You're too young!

Ward: (Laughter)

CP: You have a very special book with you today. It's poems that your grandfather. . . poems written by other people that were important to your grandfather he wanted to pass on to you. There are also a lot of personal quips about it. Before we go through it, I see you brought your pictures, too. Is there anything you want to tell about those pictures?

Ward: No, I just filed them in here because of your records you gave me

from the Library. They're pictures of my father. This is some that I wanted to give to the lady that called for them.

CP: By the way, what was her name? Do you remember?

Ward: Not right off, but I've got it at home, I've got to call her and tell her they're ready. I guess she wants them because they're going to have a family reunion and she wants to show her children. You were talking about the book of poems. My grandfather wrote, it's in a little folder, University Loose Leaf Notebook back in 1930. He did a hunt and poke system of typing, but he typed all of these little things and I won't go through them all but it's very nice to have because it gives you such a close affinity and personal relationship, I feel like he's almost alive. You know how those things are, don't you, we all do. At the beginning at the first page, it has, "May the best of the season be yours, to Mr. Harold Ward, from your grandfather and grandmother. March 28, 1931. Our prayers shall always be with you and that you will be used of God, in the Salvation of many precious souls for Jesus. God bless you." He went on into this thing, and then there's a page in here that has a . . . through the index. It shows that on page 11 and page 31, it says, "Harold, my dear grandson" and on that, I'll just . . . this one at the bottom of the page, it says, "Harold has been a great help to me in the years I have been in Mission work when the testing times came." Isaiah 41. "Fear thou not, for I am with thee, Be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee, I will help thee, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness, for I the Lord thy God will hold the right hand saying unto thee, 'Fear not, I will help thee.'"

Those little personal notes from. . . that mean something to you,

CP: I have never known this man, yet with talking with you, I feel like I kind of know him. Go through the index and it's interesting that he would index personal notes. Tell us some of the categories of how he developed this notebook.

Ward: It's made up of poems, some of which are "author unknown", one in the front is "Life is what we Make it". My grandfather had my. . . I guess I had his philosophy of life. Most of us do. I believe life is what we make it. I feel so much like, well, that a sense of humor in this age when we are so serious, and everything that we read and hear on radio and TV, there's so many tragedies. It seems like many of the writers are just sitting around writing up, thinking of some tragedy to write up. I believe that there's another side and that is to see life on the lighter side. Unless you see life on the lighter side, you may have to go to the psychiatrist or the psychologist to straighten yourself out because things are so serious. I went to my psychologist and he said, "You aren't asserting yourself enough around home." I went home, and I said to my wife, "Tomorrow morning I am going to get up and I want bacon and eggs and I want the bacon fried crisp and I want the eggs basted a little hard. Tomorrow I'm going to do some other things and tomorrow night I'm going out and who do you think's going to lay out my black tie and shirt?" She said, "Turner's East."

(Laughter)

CP: I think she caught your humor.

Ward: Yes, she does. She has a great sense of humor.

CP: What are some of the things in the Table of Contents. I'd like

to have you end with one. What are some of the categories that he has in the book for you?

Ward: I don't know that they really mean anything to you here, but it starts out with "A Diamond in the Rough." With Grandad and Dad both, every man had something to restore. There was something to build, no matter how far down he'd gone. A lot of alcoholics have proven this. Harold Hughes is a man that I have the greatest admiration for. He conquered alcoholism. My grandfather and father believed this could be done with anybody. This one was called, "A Diamond in the Rough." Then there are articles on the Rescue Mission. A Good Thought for Christmas. Blessings at Each Meal. (We never ate dinner or breakfast without the blessing. Whenever we sat down at the table, we had the blessing.) There's a part on Charity. Consecration. Fraternity. Then there's this one down here, "Harold, my dear grandson, page 11 and 21." And that's one that was. . . I particularly feel about, "Jesus, the Carpenter."

CP: Would you like to end with one, Harold?

Ward: Here's this little one in the front, here, if you want this quickly:

Life is What We Make It

Let's oftener talk of nobler deeds,
And rarer of the bad ones.
And sing about our happy days,
And not about the sad ones.

We were not made to fret and sigh,
And when grief sleeps, to wake it.
Bright happiness is standing by,
This life is what we make it.

Let's find the sunny side of man,
Or be believers in it.
A light, there is, in every soul,
That makes the pains to win them.

Oh, there is a slumbering good in all,
And we, perchance, may wake it,
Our hands contain the magic wand.
This life is what we make it.

Then here's to those whose loving hearts
Shed life and joy about them.
Thanks be to them for countless joys
We ne'er had known without them.

Oh, this should be a happy world
To all who may partake it.
The fault's our own if it is not,
This life is what we make it.

Now, there's nothing really religious about the tone of that,
but it's a philosophy of life. This is my father and grand-
father's philosophy and it's my philosophy and I believe it.

INTERVIEW TOPICS
CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

1,26 --When were you born? Where?

1 --How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?

3 --What are your parents' names?

2,25,38,42,44,45 --Where did you go to school?

1 --Are you married or single?

1,2 --Did you raise a family? How big?

1 --What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

1. Transportation

4,5,20 --Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)

18,19 --Trolleys (the Interurban)

18 --Horses and First Automobiles

--Mud roads and the seedling mile

--Hunter Airport and the first planes

--Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

2. Communications

12,29,53 --Newspapers

9,21,23,24,46 --Radios

--Advertising

--Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation

--Motion Pictures

--Cedar Rapids Parks

--Dances

--Carnival Week

--Chautauqua

--Community Theater

--Little Gallery

--Symphony Orchestra

--Circus

--Greene's Opera House

--Amusement Parks (Alamo)

42 --Camps

14,6 --Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)

2. Famous Characters

--Cherry Sisters

--Grant Wood

--Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)

--Marvin Cone

50-52 --President Eisenhower

50,52 --Jack Kennedy

3. Lifestyle
 - Life before air conditioning
 - Winter Activities
 - 23 --Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
 - Clothing
 - Toys
 - 10,16--Saloons/Taverns
 - Farm Life
4. Family Life 40
 - Household Help
 - Women's Roles
 - 42 --Childrens' Activities/Behavior
 - 37 --Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue Laws)
5. Ethnic/Minority Life--22
 - Immigrants (Czech, Greek, German, etc.)
 - Indians
 - Segregation of Blacks
 - Jobs Available
- C. Organizations and Institutions in the Community
 1. Education
 - 44--Cedar Rapids Schools
 - 45--Coe College
 - Mount Mercy College
 - Cornell College
 2. Government --12,25
 - City Services
 - Streets/Roads
 - Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)
 3. Medical
 - Hospitals
 - Patient-Doctor Relationship
 - Broken Bones
 - Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
 - 32--House Calls
 - Home Delivery of Babies
 4. Sunshine Mission --3,6-25,38,53
 - "Community Chest"(United Way)--14,28

4. Business and Economy
 - Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
 - Local Brewing Companies
 - Retail Businesses /Department Stores
 - Professions
 - Banking and Finance
 - Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
 - 30,43--Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
 - Farmers Market
 - Mills on Cedar River
 - Buildings Erected
 - Manual Labor/Types of Jobs
 - Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)
 - 12--Turner's Mortuary
5. Attitudes/Values
 - Children/Discipline
 - Sex/Petting
 - Charity
 - Divorce
 - Work
 - Working women, Voting Rights for Women
 - Patriotism (World War I)
 - 4--orphans
 - "Lord's Ground" at Linwood Cemetery
- D. Historic Events in and Outside the Community
 1. Catastrophic Events
 - Clifton Hotel Fire (1903)
 - Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
 - 30 --Bank Closings (1933)
 - Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
 - Public Library Murder(1921)
 2. National Historic Events
 - Womens' Suffrage
 - World War I
 - Roaring 20's
 - Prohibition
 - 9,11,27--Great Depression
 - 45, 46-49--World War II



