

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH: ROBERT DANIEL

CONDUCTED BY: LINDA BURDT

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

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- When were you born? Where?
- How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- What are your parents' names?
- Where did you go to school?
- Are you married or single?
- Did you raise a family? How big?
- What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

1. Transportation

- 15 --Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
- 23 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
 - Horses and First Automobiles
 - Mud roads and the seedling mile
- 22 --Hunter Airport and the first planes
- 24 --Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

2. Communications

- Newspapers
- 26 --Radios
 - Advertising
 - Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation

- Motion Pictures
- 24 --Cedar Rapids Parks
 - Dances
 - Carnival Week
 - Chautauqua
- 11 --Community Theater
- 10 --Little Gallery
 - Symphony Orchestra
 - Circus
 - Greene's Opera House
- 10 --Amusement Parks (Alamo)
 - Camps
 - Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)

2. Famous Characters

- Cherry Sisters
- 13 --Grant Wood
 - Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
- 14 --Marvin Cone

3. Lifestyle

- 24 --Life before air conditioning
- 26 --Winter Activities
 - Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
- 19 --Clothing
 - Toys
- 27 --Saloons/Taverns
 - Farm Life

4. Family Life

- 24 --Household Help
 - Women's Roles
- 26 --Childrens' Activities/Behavior
 - Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue Laws)

5. Ethnic/Minority Life

- Immigrants (Czech, Greek, German, etc.)
- Indians
- Segregation of Blacks
- Jobs Available

C. Organizations and Institutions in the Community

1. Education

- Cedar Rapids Schools
- 4 --Coe College
- 8 --Mount Mercy College
- 7 --Cornell College

2. Government

- 15 --City Services
- 15 --Streets/Roads
 - Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)

3. Medical

- Hospitals
- Patient-Doctor Relationship
- Broken Bones
- Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
- House Calls
- Home Delivery of Babies

4. Business and Economy

- Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
- Local Brewing Companies
- Retail Businesses /Department Stores
- Professions
- 16 --Banking and Finance
- 21,27 --Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
- Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
- 22 --Farmers Market
- Mills on Cedar River
- Buildings Erected
- 20 --Manual Labor/Types of Jobs
- Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)

5. Attitudes/Values

- Children/Discipline
- Sex/Petting
- Charity
- Divorce
- Work
- Working women, Voting Rights for Women
- Patriotism (World War I)

D. Historic Events in and Outside the Community

1. Catastrophic Events

- Clifton Hotel Fire (1903)
- Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
- Bank Closings (1933)
- Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
- Public Library Murder(1921)

2. National Historic Events

- 17 --Womens' Suffrage
- World War I
- 19 --Roaring 20's
- 17 --Prohibition
- Great Depression

Robert Daniel was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, in 1914, the son of Orville and Birdie Daniel. After graduating from Cedar Rapids' Washington High School, Mr. Daniel attended Coe College and the University of Iowa where he graduated from Law School in 1939. While practicing law in Cedar Rapids, he became interested in the arts and theatre in the community. His memories include his years at Coe College, the Little Gallery, the Community Theatre in the early '30's and his friendship with Grant Wood and Marvin Cone.

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LB: Today is Saturday, January 26, 1985. This is Linda Burdt with Robert Daniel. Mr. Daniel, when were you born?

Daniel: September 11, 1914.

LB: Where were you born?

Daniel: Norfolk, Nebraska.

LB: How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?

Daniel: I came here in 1930. That would be 55 years ago.

LB: What are your parents' names?

Daniel: Orville H. Daniel and Birdie S. Daniel.

LB: Where did you go to school?

Daniel: High school, I went to Cedar Rapids here. Do you want the college, etc.? Then my bachelor degree from Coe. Then law school at Iowa University and then some graduate work at Yale University.

LB: Are you married?

Daniel: No

LB: What has been your occupation during your adult years?

Daniel: I've been exclusively a lawyer.

LB: Since we started talking about education, I'd like to start with that topic area first. When I spoke with someone earlier who also went to Washington High School, he said that he was in a fraternity there. Were you in a fraternity?

Daniel: No, I wasn't aware that they had them. That must have been prior to my time.

LB: It probably was a few years ago. When you went to Coe, what did you study there?

Daniel: Just general liberal arts--business, French, economics, English, of course, psychology, accounting.

LB: Did you have a major?

Daniel: Business.

LB: I go to Coe right now and I read a little about their history. Do you remember having a "flunk day"?

Daniel: Oh, yes, very well. That was always one of the beautiful days in the spring that was selected for that.

LB: What did you do?

Daniel: Oh, picnics, and things of that sort. I remember, we went to Stone City once. That's when the famous Grant Wood Art Colony was there. They had their ice wagons on the hill at that time. It was in the '30's during the Depression.

LB: Do you remember how "flunk day" got started?

Daniel: No, it was going when I started at Coe in 1932.

LB: Were there fraternities and sororities there?

Daniel: Oh, yes, there were fraternities and sororities both at Coe at that time.

LB: Did you join one?

Daniel: Yes, Beta Theta Pi. It was a local. It wasn't a national one.

LB: Beta Theta Pi is a national one now.

Daniel: No, well, I mixed up. It's Phi Beta, Chi Beta Phi. I'll get it straight. Chi Beta Phi--it was local. I think that it has become a national out there now. Some national took it over.

LB: What was Greek life like then?

Daniel: It was interesting. We had a house. I know our fraternity, I think it was 1322 First Avenue. It has since been torn down. It was right across from the Eastside Maidrite, there. Quite a number of our members lived in it. I didn't because my home was in Cedar Rapids, but quite a number did. The meals were served there and we had our meetings at the house. I suppose we had 40 or 50 members, something like that.

LB: What kind of sponsored activities?

Daniel: Oh, we had some athletic events that we played and engaged in--volleyball and also had social functions and our meetings and study groups, too, that tried to help the younger ones--freshman and the like, coming up to make their grades.

LB: Were there a lot of students involved in the Greek system?

Daniel: Oh, I would say about half of those attending Coe at that time were in fraternities or sororities.

LB: How did the Depression affect college students?

Daniel: Quite dramatically, I would say. I still run into people who stayed out a year or two. They would take a job for awhile and then come back and have a year or two of college. Then they'd maybe work another year or two. So their college life was spread out over a greater period of time than the four years that was actually involved. Of course, the entertainment was quite restricted. No one had cars. The entertainment was maybe a 15 or 20 cent sandwich and a glass of beer. The clothing allowances were very limited and very few of the young men had suits. A lot of them wore sweaters almost exclusively. A great many of them worked for board and room jobs at that time, too. I don't think that is as prevalent now as it was then. I think that Bishop's Cafeteria put more people through Coe than any other organization because they could get their board there at that cafeteria carrying trays.

LB: Did Coe also have a cafeteria?

Daniel: No. The only dormitory at the time that I was there was the girls' dormitory--Voorhees Hall and, of course, they had meals there, but there wasn't a men's dormitory or accommodations for men, so that's why they lived around at fraternities and some of them had their meals there.

LB: If you didn't live in a fraternity house, did most of the students that were from out of town take apartments right around Coe?

Daniel: They had rooms of different kinds, yes, and that was the common thing to do. There were quite a number that were rooming houses around the Coe area.

LB: Can you remember what tuition was then?

Daniel: I think it probably was a semester would be about \$150, something like that.

LB: Do you remember any kind of organizations that were prevalent there or any that you might have been involved in?

Daniel: Oh, they had, of course, their work with the publications. They had their musical groups--band and orchestra, choir, acappella choir, I think they called it. They had organizations for literature and French. They had a French organization, I remember, plus they had their student administrative organizations--student council. I don't know what they called it. It was a kind of student-governing body.

LB: How different is Coe today than it was in the 1930's?

Daniel: Well, of course, at that time we did have mandatory military, too. Everyone had to take two years of military and some elective. That was another organization they had. Some elected to go on and take a full four years. I'm sure that has all been discontinued now out there. They don't have fraternity houses or sorority rooms now, do they? I don't

believe--or sorority houses? They did at that time, but that was brought about because they didn't have dormitories. There were not cars. I think more people worked to get through school, and, as I said before, they were an older group because a lot of them were out for a year, or two, or three working during the Depression so that they could come back to school.

LB: Did you ever have a job while you were at school?

Daniel: Oh, yes, I had several jobs--always in the summer. I think that everyone had jobs at that time. I worked in factories, filing stations, waited tables--all kinds of jobs. When I was at Coe, I was the editor of the newspaper, too, and they paid something for that. I forget what it was, but they did pay something for it.

LB: Can you recall the name of the school newspaper then?

Daniel: Oh, yes, it was the Cosmos.

LB: That's what it still is today. You mentioned that you worked in some factories. Which factories did you work in?

Daniel: Oh, I worked for International Harvester in East Moline a couple of years, I guess was my factory experience, on the assembly line.

LB: Was Cornell Coe's arch-rival when you went to school there?

Daniel: Oh, yes, it was always considered the primary rival for Coe.

LB: Were there pep rallies and stuff like that?

Daniel: Yes, that always brought out--the rivalry brought out the most intense pep rivalries before a football game or something of an encounter of that kind.

LB: What would you do to kind of "psych" up the team?

Daniel: They'd have big bonfires. They had their cheerleaders and the bands. It was very festive. They always had, of course if it were homecoming at that time, they always had a homecoming parade and dances.

LB: What was your association or connection with Cornell College or did you have friends or relatives who went there?

Daniel: Not so many, no, I didn't. Most of mine were limited to Coe at that time. In fact, I couldn't--I suppose I knew some Cornell students, but I just can't recall what they would be now.

LB: Can you recall anything about what Cornell College was like?

Daniel: Oh, it was a beautiful school, very nice. It was about the same size as Coe, I suppose, and had a magnificent campus and enjoyed a very good reputation scholastically.

LB: Did they have a similar curriculum to what they have today where you concentrate on a subject for three weeks at a time?

Daniel: No, that's all been since. At that time, as far as I know, both schools were just on what we call a semester system, starting in September and ending the first semester in January. Then they go into a second semester and end up the end of

May. I think that they were both that way.

LB: Can you remember anything about Mt. Mercy College?

Daniel: Oh, yes, I'm one of their trustees now. At that time, in the early '30's of course, I think it was just a two-year girls' high school, was the limit of it. Then they subsequently branched into a four-year high school and then they got into a kind of junior college arrangement, all for girls, of course. Then a four-year college for girls, and then they finally became co-educational where they are now.

LB: In its beginning as a college, was it primarily a nursing education school?

Daniel: I think yes, they did that mostly, that type that was limited to the women students. They went for more the type of things that women were employed in at that time, which was nursing and occupations of that kind.

LB: Did you attend law school right after you graduated from Coe?

Daniel: Yes, I did, I just went right from Coe down to Iowa City.

LB: What interested you in the legal profession?

Daniel: I think I was interested in business and office-type practice, not the trial end of it...more the business and office type.

LB: You mentioned something about doing some graduate work at Yale. Did you do that right after?

Daniel: Right after, yes, I graduated from Iowa in law in 1939 and

then went on to Yale that fall and took mostly tax work there. I had a Dean at Iowa Law School, Dean Rutledge, who subsequently went on to the United States Supreme Court. He was the one who engineered my going to Yale and taking graduate work.

LB: What was school like there?

Daniel: It was different. It was, of course, they had a more Eastern student body. Iowa University, at that time, was really mostly limited almost exclusively to Iowa residents. I don't recall many at all out-of-the-state residents at that time, but Yale had a broader appeal, apparently, from gathering students. Most of them were coming from the Northeast states, I assume.

LB: Did you return to Cedar Rapids right after you graduated?

Daniel: Yes, I came back and started in this office that I'm in now, right out of Yale.

LB: What made you return to Cedar Rapids?

Daniel: It was my home and I enjoyed it and liked the life style here. They seemed to have all the advantages, yet a smaller community than you would find in the East or some of the larger cities.

LB: Was there anything that you particularly liked or disliked about the East?

Daniel: Oh, I liked the East very much. I liked the cities and their advantages with art and music and things of that type, which are obviously in those Eastern cities--New York and Boston and

Washington, but on the other hand, you can have access to all those things here in Cedar Rapids as well, I feel.

LB: The next subject area that I'd like to move onto would be amusements and recreation. Can you tell me what you remember about the Alamo Amusement Park?

Daniel: No, that must be before my time. I remember an amusement park out at--Cedar Park we called it--out on First Avenue, just between Cedar Rapids and Marion. I don't recall that other one.

LB: What was this Cedar Park like?

Daniel: Oh, it had a roller coaster and it had little train rides, side shows of sorts you know that you could throw things at and win a prize, or something. Of course, they also had, in conjunction with it, an outdoor dancing pavilion, which was very popular in the summer.

LB: Did you go there often? Did students?

Daniel: Oh, yes, it was very popular with the Coe students.

LB: How often was this open? Was it a seasonal thing?

Daniel: Yes, it wasn't heated or anything. I suppose it would open about the middle of May and close about the middle of September.

LB: Do you remember anything about the Little Gallery?

Daniel: Oh, yes. That was quite the first step of art in Cedar Rapids. It was sponsored by a local group interested in art. I remember Mary Lackerstein, Hazel Brown, and, of course, Grant Wood and

Marvin Cone and their friends were very active in it. They were older than I was, but I remember them well. There were people in town like Jessie and Lulu Averill who were very active in it--and John Reed, the president of National Oats.

LB: What was it like?

Daniel: Well, it was very small, but they just took a great interest in it and in painting and the like. They had quite a group, during the Depression, going here. That's the same group that was subsequently at Stone City with Grant Wood. They were just interested in the arts. They promoted their little gallery and they promoted the Community Theatre--I think that same group was responsible for the start of that...and just kind of led the way in all those things.

LB: Do you go to any productions at the Community Theatre?

Daniel: Oh, yes, I went to them in the early '30's. They had many fine ones. They were, at one time, in the Little Theatre in the YMCA, I remember that. They had a little room with a stage in it. Before that, it was before my time, but they also at 5 Turner Alley where Grant Wood's studio was, they had a little theatre with kind of a stage area in it.

LB: Can you remember any particular production that you thought was remarkably good or bad that kind of stands out in your mind?

Daniel: Oh, I remember such things as the Barrett's of Wimpole Street. I just don't recall some of the other names, but they were very well done.

LB: Did you know any of the actors?

Daniel: Oh, yes. Some of the actors are still around town--Catsie Cooper, John Carey--there were quite a group of them that were in those plays. I think John Vavra was in some of them.

LB: Did any of those actors go on to become professional actors or was it mostly a community based?

Daniel: Yes. One of my contemporaries, Bob Downing I guess, was in high school with me. After high school, he went to New York and subsequently became production manager for Lunt and Fontaine on all their New York productions. He's since deceased, but he was very active in the New York theatre, and he participated in these Community Theatre plays. Another one was a contemporary of mine in high school, Don DeFore. He's still living in Hollywood. He was in several TV productions and movies out there.

LB: What went on during carnival week?

Daniel: They just had all kinds of celebrations and a carnival, like Chautauqua or something like that, or a circus coming to town, was always the occasion to have a party or so forth--take a group to it and take it in. Then compare stories later with the others about what they had seen or done at the particular program. It was a kind of fair type of thing.

LB: What kind of programs were they?

Daniel: At the carnival week? Well, Chautauqua had (I remember that better), they had all kinds of things. It was kind of the

predecessor of vaudeville. They'd have bands, music, dancing, political speeches, plays--you name it, they would get a variety. It changed about every day during the week that it was in the particular location.

LB: Where did this all go on at?

Daniel: Usually the circuses or anything, they seemed to move around. They would just get a vacant area for parking or something and put up their tent or whatever their paraphernalia was for the circus. They didn't have indoor circuses or affairs at that time. I guess they didn't have facilities for them.

LB: Was this kind of like a moving organization?

Daniel: Yes, it would move around from one town or city to the next.

LB: Was there any kind of base for it? Can you recall?

Daniel: I don't recall, no.

LB: In what capacity did you know Grant Wood?

Daniel: Just as a friend. I was much younger than Grant Wood, but I did meet him as I was at both Washington High School and Coe. He was very active, and even though later he moved to Iowa City, he still had most of his Cedar Rapids friends and associates, like Marvin Cone and the like, so he spent a great deal of time here. You would see him periodically and visit with him.

LB: How did you first get to know him?

Daniel: I just don't recall. He was always in this group that was with the theatre and the Little Art Gallery and the like. He was always participating in that and, as you went to these functions, these shows or whatever they were doing, he was invariably there. You'd get to visiting with him.

LB: It sounds as though you enjoyed the arts and the theatre.

Daniel: Oh, yes, that's always been one of my principal interests by far.

LB: How did you get interested? Did your family get you interested in that?

Daniel: Oh, I don't know how it was. You just start reading a particular thing and enjoying it. The first thing you know, why you move into it in a broader way and just follow it through. I still follow it through today.

LB: How did you know Marvin Cone?

Daniel: Well, he was in this same group, although he was as fortunate there--he taught at Coe. He was teaching French and art. I think both; I got acquainted with him and his wife, Winifred, and then became very well acquainted with him in subsequent years. Of course, he lived much longer than Grant Wood. He lived up until fifteen years ago or something like that.

LB: Did you have him for a professor at Coe?

Daniel: No, I didn't, but I became very well acquainted with him

through his interest in art and music and the like.

LB: The next area that I would like to talk about would be government. What kind of services did the city provide?

Daniel: Oh, I think they provided about everything they do now. They had a very efficient city government. It always has been and, as far as I know, very honest. Mostly people of Czech descent seemed to be in the city offices--the Police Department and the like, but that's understandable because most of the people in Cedar Rapids were of Czech descent.

LB: What were the early streets and roads like?

Daniel: They were brick, a lot of them--wooden brick was used downtown in Cedar Rapids extensively. It wasn't too satisfactory because, as water and ice got under it, the wooden blocks would float and they had an awful time handling them. They took them all out and substituted regular brick. They, of course, had streetcar tracks which were a nuisance as you drove because your car would get in the tracks and then swirl as you would try to get out of them.

LB: Were there traffic signs?

Daniel: Most of the stop signs were right in the center of the street downtown, so you would have to cut inside of them. They abandoned that after awhile, I suppose, when too many people collided with them and stuck them on the corners. They didn't have nearly as many stop signs and, of course, Fourth Avenue had the flagmen. They didn't have any railroad

stopping items at all. They had a little house where a flagman sat. He would stay in there, and, when trains were coming, he would go out and flag the traffic down.

LB: How did he know when they were going to come?

Daniel: I don't know. I suppose he knew the schedules somewhat. He had a busy job because I imagine there were about six tracks across First, Second or Third Avenue, where they now just have one.

LB: What can you remember about the banks closing?

Daniel: Well, they were very common. Most of the banks in Cedar Rapids (I haven't got the exact figures, but I suppose there were eight or nine of them.), and I think that we ended up with two at that time that survived. I know the one bank, they tried to encourage youngsters in high school to invest their pennies in a bank or savings account. They'd come once a week and put in two or three cents or a nickel. Of course, the bank that the Board of Education selected was one of those that went broke, so those young people learned at an early date that banks can go broke and their money is gone. Of course, they didn't have deposit insurance at that time, so when a bank went under, it was gone.

LB: Can you recall what people's reactions were when the banks started to close?

Daniel: It was just kind of one of desperation because--and futility. They lost jobs; they lost their savings--whatever it was.

There was nothing to fall back on, other than moving in with a relative or trying to take some different job that might help somewhat.

LB: What can you recall about women's suffrage?

Daniel: I remember, faintly, that when it was voted in and I think it was about 1920, if I have the date right--but I was very young and I remember that they thought it would cure a lot of the ills of government and clean up government because of women's influence. That seemed to be the main thrust of the argument at that time, rather than that they just basically had the right to vote. I don't know whether it has proven to be that successful or not.

LB: Did you remember your mother or maybe any older sisters or any female relatives getting involved in any type of movement?

Daniel: Oh, they were very outspoken and active in favor of it, and most of the men were, too, basically. I think they felt that it was grossly unfair and a prehistoric restriction that had to be eliminated.

LB: Did Prohibition affect you?

Daniel: Oh, I remember it very well, yes. During the twenties, I remember the main ones that sold alcoholic beverages. You would arrange through a bellhop in a hotel--would know where to go to get it. I think some of the pharmacies were one of the principal sources of alcoholic beverages because they did handle alcohol. Right here in Cedar Rapids, we had a modified

form of speakeasies which were operated out of people's homes where they sold homebrew and their homemade wine.

LB: How did people react to Prohibition? Was it anger or resentment, or it really didn't affect them because they could still obtain alcohol?

Daniel: I think a lot of the people that initially wanted it thought it was a good idea, but a great many people became very capable in finding ways to buy alcohol and take it to a party. It never was very enthusiastically received because people found many ways to violate it.

LB: Were very many of these people who violated it ever prosecuted or did anything ever happen to them?

Daniel: Oh, not the ones that did the buying. I think the ones that were selling it would get caught for making homebrew or wine and selling it and the like of that. They would have quite a lineup in the Federal Courts, sentencing them to a prison sentence for their violation. Yes, that was quite common. In fact, I think that I went to Federal Court once and remembered Sid Milner, a Cedar Rapids attorney, just pleading probably thirty people guilty in an hour there, while the judge sat up there and sentenced them to some sort of sentence.

LB: What were these sentences like?

Saniel: As I recall, they were quite modest because at that time, I think the courts and everyone was getting fed up with the system. They felt that it just wasn't working as it was

supposed to to work.

LB: What can you recall of the Roaring Twenties?

Daniel: Oh, you remember the Model T car. I remember that I had a 1926 model. You remember all the funny-looking cars. I guess you'd call them that now with running boards and so forth. You remember ladies' skirts going up, up and away. From about 1918, they were down to shoe level and, inside of six or seven years, they were way up. Of course, during that time, too, the women's styles on hair dramatically changed. Hats were thrown out for most parts, except for little pillbox ones. The big ones were gone, anyway.

LB: Why do you think--what do you account for the drastic change?

Daniel: I think a lot of it was a mixture of the war being over, Prohibition adding its factor into it, and I think women were feeling that women wanted to get out of the home more and into other occupations and enjoy a greater degree of independence. Of course, there was, except for the agriculture land, there was great prosperity in the country. Everyone was kind of drunk with new-found wealth, stocks and the like.

LB: You mentioned that your father worked for International Harvester.

Daniel: Yes.

LB: What did he do for them?

Daniel: He was a branch manager at the truck branch here in Cedar Rapids.

LB: Was your father's job a factor in your move from Nebraska to Cedar Rapids?

Daniel: Yes, he was transferred here and that's why I came to Cedar Rapids when I was younger.

LB: Can you remember anything about the business then?

Daniel: Not too much, no, but I think the farm equipment business was pretty dominant in Iowa at that time, along with trucks and cars getting on the highways and the opening up of the paved roads in Iowa and all. It was quite a change on that-- many changes, like development of the motel. Early versions of that were starting.

LB: You had indicated that you had some memories of manual labor in the different kinds of jobs. Did you or someone close to you have first-hand experience?

Daniel: I don't quite understand. Do you mean working in a factory or something?

LB: Sure.

Daniel: Oh, yes, I worked on an assembly line. As I say, for International in Rock Island or East Moline, and you would assemble a combine or have one particular job to assemble as the machines went by.

LB: What were the working conditions like?

Daniel: Oh, it was awfully hot. Of course, when I worked there it was in the summer and they didn't have, what I call, comfortable

working facilities. It was extremely hot. They didn't have cafeterias or lounge areas or anything like that. It was a pretty monotonous, bleak-type of work existence.

LB: How long were your work days?

Daniel: I just don't recall now, although I know you'd go early in the morning and come home about four or five at night. You worked five days a week.

LB: This was during the summer. Where did you live in East Moline? Did you live on your own then?

Daniel: I had a room, yes.

LB: Was there any particular restaurant that you frequented?

Daniel: In Cedar Rapids?

LB: In Cedar Rapids.

Daniel: Oh, they've changed. Of course, Bishop's was always popular. The Roosevelt had nice dining room area. Of course, from the college days, we had our Maidrite, our hamburger places and the Kozy Inn. It's now back on First Avenue. There was one in Marion. I can't recall the name--we used to enjoy going to. Most of them, I think, have pretty well gone now that we had.

LB: Is the Maidrite still in the same place today?

Daniel: Yes.

LB: How has it changed? Have you been in there?

Daniel: Oh, yes, of course, now they have TV and they have all these game machines. I don't know what you call them, but people stand around playing. Other than that, it's about the same.

LB: Did you mostly go there to eat or to drink?

Daniel: Oh, no, just go for entertainment in the evening, that was the only time. I didn't go for a regular meal or anything. It was just a place to go for entertainment.

LB: Can you describe the Farmer's Market?

Daniel: Yes, that used to be, of course, at the end of the F Avenue bridge on the west side. It was just along the river bank there. The people would come and set up their little stalls. They would always wrap things in a newspaper. You would have to park two or three blocks away and come in and walk around and buy whatever you wanted. It's greatly improved now, of course. It's down at the Roundhouse there. It's a beautiful layout.

LB: Have you ever been to Hunter Airport?

Daniel: Oh, yes. I remember when I was in Coe and the United Airlines used to send some flights in here at that time. The Ford three engine, three prop, I remember I went with a roommate from law school once out there and we met his girlfriend coming in from, I think, Sioux Falls, South Dakota--she lived. The plane came in at Hunter Airport. It wasn't considered large enough for

the larger planes. That arrangement didn't last too long.

LB: Do you remember how many runways they had?

Daniel: I think just one, as I recall.

LB: Were the planes primarily for service or for fun?

Daniel: Oh, I think there were very few that came in here. Cedar Rapids voters in the early thirties voted down the airport. They were very short sighted and Hunter Airport was not owned or controlled by the city at all. It was just by Dan Hunter. So he was apparently able to get United Airlines in here for awhile, but, because it wasn't large enough, I think they switched and went to Iowa City. Iowa City, for quite a spell after that, was the principal commercial airport here. I think that continued until Cedar Rapids voters reversed themselves. About the time of World War II, voters approved the installation of that airport where it is now.

LB: When was your first airplane ride?

Daniel: I guess my first airplane ride...I was in the Army Air Corp they called it, and it was in the Army in 1942, I guess-- about June or thereabouts.

LB: Can you remember what the trollies were like?

Daniel: Oh, yes. We used to catch them and one went down Bever Avenue and then into Third Avenue, down to Washington High School. I used to take the trolley quite often. If you were going to a park on the west side, you'd take a trolley

over to Ellis Park if you were swimming, going on a picnic or something of that nature.

LB: Was Ellis Park similar to what it is today?

Daniel: Yes, they didn't have the swimming pool there. The pool was the river. It was just carved out. The pavilion is still there where the pool was. They just roped out a section in the river and filled in some sand, I suppose, and that was the pool.

LB: Speaking of the river, can you remember of any floods on the Cedar River?

Daniel: Oh, yes. There were several floods in that time. I don't recall the years, but we've had high water on several occasions.

LB: How much damage?

Daniel: Well, it flooded all the basements and, I suppose, did extensive damage.

LB: What was life like before air conditioning?

Daniel: It wasn't too bad, although it was hard to work in an office because the papers would stick to you and everyone had to have a fan or two blowing at you. The windows were wide open so the dust and soot would come in. It was inconvenient. Some nights in the summer, it was almost impossible to sleep because it was just so intensely hot.

LB: Did the heat ever cause businesses to close?

Daniel: Yes, it did. The first ones that got air conditioning, as I recall, were the theaters and then the eating places. Restaurants and the like found that they had to have it, or they just didn't have any customers during that hot weather. Eventually, the department stores and the other stores got it and finally it crept into office buildings and homes.

LB: Was household help common?

Daniel: I would say so. Not common, necessarily, but I knew at that time probably thirty families in town that had live-in help or chauffeurs or both.

LB: Did your family have any kind of help?

Daniel: No. They didn't, and I didn't. It was limited to, what I would consider, the wealthiest families in town. Others had some cleaning ladies, perhaps, or things like that like they do now or people to do the laundry, but not live-in help, which now, of course, has become completely extinct. I don't think I know anyone that has live in help.

LB: Were the people who provided household help of a certain kind of background?

Daniel: Well, a lot of them were very fine Czech ladies, very fine. They'd live in, and they just became a member of the family, and the people liked them and enjoyed them a great deal. They just took care of them like they were a member of the family.

LB: What sort of things did the younger children--or when you were in high school--do for entertainment during the winter?

Daniel: Oh, we had sleds and we had skiing...our social functions and school functions. We didn't have a TV, of course. We did have radio, but the theaters were popular--vaudeville. Those things were pretty well killed--vaudeville was, when TV started.

LB: Did you listen to radio shows?

Daniel: Oh, yes, many times. You just looked forward to the Jack Benney or some of the old favorites, you know--Fibber McGee and I don't know, there were about a half dozen of them, so everyone knew when they were coming on and would just make it a point to be at the radio for them.

LB: Were they a weekly-type thing?

Daniel: Yes, weekly.

LB: Where did you go skiing and sledding at?

Daniel: Oh, the Country Club had a toboggan place and there were some in Ellis Park I know we went to...was a good spot--wherever there was a hill.

LB: What were the skiis like? Similar to skiis of today?

Daniel: No, they weren't as elaborate. They were more like the cross-country skiis today, I guess--thinner. It wasn't as common. There just weren't many and noone at that time went out of town or anything for skiing like they do now.

LB: Do you have any memories of an especially popular tavern or saloon in Cedar Rapids?

Daniel: Oh, as I say, I don't think it would be a tavern, but Kozy Inn was very popular for the Coe students, anyway. I don't know whether it's still there or not, as you go out towards Center Point Road or Oakland Drive, they used to call it the "Blatz Parkway". Maybe it's still there. I don't know. I guess after Prohibition, they sold beer, and I think they had a pinball machine or two in there. In the hot summer nights, the A&W rootbeer stand was a popular place where you could get some popcorn and an A&W mug of rootbeer.

LB: Where was that A&W at?

Daniel: Oh, they had many of them. They had one of them right at the entrance of Marion. I think out here at First Avenue and Tenth Street there was one and I recall one on the west side. They were extremely popular places. That was one of the first drive-in facilities. You'd drive in and they would put a little tray on your car.

LB: Was the Kozy Inn that you went to when you were at Coe in the same place where it is today?

Daniel: Same place, yes. It's a different type of operation now. It was more of a kind of neighborhood-gathering place, I guess you would call it. It wasn't as elaborate as it is now.

END OF SIDE ONE: BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO

LB: A final question that I would like to ask is--for the most part how would you compare or what do you find the most striking difference between when you were growing up here in Cedar Rapids and Cedar Rapids as it is today?

Daniel: I think there have been many, many improvements made in everything--the streets, the cultural advantages, the conveniences for the people, the stores. They talk about the "good old days", but really there have been so many, many improvements made for the betterment that I will take the modern days, very definitely.

LB: Is there any one thing that you particularly miss about the "olden days"?

Daniel: Oh, I suppose, it wasn't as hectic in a way. We enjoyed more homemade or modest things. Our demands weren't so great. Sometimes you wish it would slow down so you could appreciate things of that nature more. There wasn't the outdoor--or eating away from home. That was a rare treat, so I think people enjoyed their homes a great deal more than they do now. The car and other things have really changed our entertainment habits and our ability to get around. The home isn't as dominant as it once was.

LB: Thank you for your time.

