

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW WITH Joseph Riley

155 Kyrie Street SE
Cedar Rapids
Conducted by Carolyn Wellso
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Mr. Riley was born in Cedar Rapids December 29, 1906. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. William F. Riley, themselves long time residents of the community. Mr. Riley himself has resided here all his life. His wife's name is Florene. He was educated at Polk School, Adams School, Jackson and Washington Senior High School.

Mr. Riley was long time business associate of Howard Hall. He began his business career with Iowa Manufacturing in 1929 and was active in several companies, retiring in 1973.

In the community, Mr. Riley was active at various times in the YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, CampFire Girls and the Red Cross.

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

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1--When were you born? Where?
- 1,22--How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- 1--What are your parents' names?
- 1--Where did you go to school?
- 1--Are you married or single?
- 13--Did you raise a family? How big?
- 7,19--What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

- 1. Transportation
 - 1,3-4,18-19--Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
 - Trolleys (the Interurban)
 - 4,9--Horses and First Automobiles
 - 4,19--Mud roads and the seedling mile
 - 7-8--Hunter Airport and the first planes
 - Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)

- 2. Communications
 - Newspapers
 - 10--Radios
 - Advertising
 - 1,10,11--Telephones

B. People in the Community

- 1. Amusements/Recreation --1-2,3,Baseball,11-13,23
 - 11--Motion Pictures
 - Cedar Rapids Parks
 - 13,23--Dances
 - 16,17--Carnival Week
 - Chautauqua
 - Community Theater
 - Little Gallery
 - Symphony Orchestra
 - 14--Circus
 - 11--Greene's Opera House
 - Amusement Parks (Alamo)
 - Camps
 - Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)
 - 15--Pool Halls
- 2. Famous Characters
 - Cherry Sisters
 - 4--Grant Wood
 - Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
 - 4--Marvin Cone

3. Lifestyle
 - 15--Life before air conditioning
 - 2--Winter Activities
 - Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
 - Clothing
 - Toys
 - 15--Saloons/Taverns
 - Farm Life
 4. Family Life
 - Household Help
 - Women's Roles
 - Childrens' Activities/Behavior
 - 9--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--17
 - 1,4,6--Cedar Rapids Schools
 - 23--Coe College
 - 17--Mount Mercy College
 - Cornell College
 2. Government--16
 - City Services
 - Streets/Roads
 - Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)
 3. Medical--23
 - Hospitals
 - Patient-Doctor Relationship
 - Broken Bones
 - Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
 - 18--House Calls
 - Home Delivery of Babies

4. Business and Economy
19-21, 24 --Local Factories (Douglas Starch Works, Quaker Oats, etc.)
9 --Local Brewing Companies
9-10 --Retail Businesses /Department Stores
--Professions
--Banking and Finance
--Restaurants (Greek Restaurants in 30's)
2, 3, 24 --Businesses that no longer exist (old groceries, drygoods, icehouses)
--Farmers Market
--Mills on Cedar River
9 --Buildings Erected
--Manual Labor/Types of Jobs
--Companies (Labor Unions, Strikes, Pay)

5. Attitudes/Values
--Children/Discipline
--Sex/Petting
--Charity
--Divorce
--Work
21 --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)
3 --Douglas Starch Works Explosion(1919)
21-22 --Bank Closings (1933)
--Lyman-Stark Building Collapse(1913)
--Public Library Murder(1921)
6 --1929 Flood
2. National Historic Events
--Womens' Suffrage
--World War I
--Roaring 20's
--Prohibition
--Great Depression

Interview With: Joseph Riley
Date of Interview: March 5, 1988
Interviewer: Carolyn Wellso
Transcriber: Hazel Storm

Riley: This is Joseph Wendal Riley. I live with my wife, Florene, at 155 Kyrie Street SE, which is part of the Sutherland Square Development, here in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I was born December 29, 1906, across the street from the present YMCA.

My parents were Mr. and Mrs. William Felk Riley. They lived in Cedar Rapids most of their life, both of them being born in the state of Iowa. Mother passed away in the year 1914, and my father passed away in the year of 1936. I had one brother who lived in Cedar Rapids his entire life and passed away in the year of 1983 at the age of eighty-two.

We lived in the near northeast side of Cedar Rapids, my father working for the Chicago Rock Island Railroad. In those days before telephones they had what they called "callboys" who would ride their bicycles or walk or whatever the case may be to go to notify the crew of what time they were to report to work.

The first public school I attended was Polk School located on B Avenue and 15th Street. I later attended Adams School located on Fifth Street and Seventh Avenue, and I went through those schools to the eighth grade when we were sent to Jackson School for the ninth grade because Washington High School was crowded and had no facilities to handle the ninth grade.

One of the favorite activities that we youngsters saw to was the old swimming beach located on the island where the present Court House is, and the bathhouse was located exactly where

the Linn County Jail is now. We'd go down a staircase, down probably one hundred steps to the river, and we'd seem to enjoy the old Cedar River. That was quite a popular spot. Many times there would be four or five hundred people in the river there at the same time. Since long ago torn down, it was one of the memorable spots I remember in my earlier life in Cedar Rapids.

During the early years of Cedar Rapids, I found some part-time jobs and one of them, as I recall, was helping deliver groceries for Armstrong and Mole. Their store was located at Second Avenue and Fifth Street. The delivery man would have a pair of ponies and a wagon with a cover on it, and I was his helper. And one of the things that I recall in my memory was the days we would deliver groceries to Frank Waple's home. It was located at 331 Forest Drive SE, and why, I'll never recall, but I place in my mind an elevator in that home. And when I drive by yet today I think of us delivering groceries and the driver pointing out to me that we were delivering groceries to a home that had an elevator in it, many, many years ago.

Some of the other activities back in the early days of Cedar Rapids was--we had quite a few severe winters. It seems like they're far more mild now, but we had snow; and we didn't have the necessary equipment to remove the snow. It wasn't necessary to remove it anyway, because most of the heavier equipment for hauling coal and supplies was mounted on sleds, and they needed the snow to maintain easy going. We would find a friendly driver with his horses and hook onto the rear of the sled and be pulled along. It was quite dangerous but we got by, and I don't recall any accidents at that time.

We also used to do quite a bit of ice skating on the Cedar River above the dam about where the Northwestern bridge is located now. At Hubbard's Ice and Chadima's Ice and the railroad would be cutting ice, which normally would be about two feet thick, and we'd be skating along and as they removed the ice, there'd be an open spot in the river. Somehow or another we all seemed to have a challenge that we'd like to see how close we could come to the water without slipping in, and occasionally one of us would do that. And there was always a ladder nearby. Then they'd throw out the wooden ladder, and you'd just pull yourself in and get pretty cold, and you'd hike home or maybe get over to the Hubbard Ice, and maybe they might let you come in the office and get warm. But we did a lot of ice skating, and we'd skate as far north as Manhattan where the present marina is now located.

I can recall the terrific explosion that happened on a bright, sunny afternoon at the Douglas Starch Works located on the west side of the river at Eighth and Tenth Avenue. It was quite a sight, quite a disastrous fire, and many men were killed during that explosion. That later emerged into Penick & Ford and has been in operation many years since.

At the age of eleven I recall the trains, the soldiers being loaded and going to training camps throughout the United States. We'd go down to the depot, the present Northwestern Depot, located at Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street, and the Milwaukee Depot located at Fourth Street and First Avenue. During the early part of the 1916, 1917, 1918 era, I recall

many, many, many passenger trains. It seemed there was a constant stream of trains going or coming from Chicago or Milwaukee or Minneapolis or going to San Francisco and different [places]--it was a busy railroad town. In fact, the Rock Island had a tremendous repair shop located north up by Cedar Lake, which has since been demolished and used for other purposes. Where the present transportation center is now located, the old Interurban passenger depot used to be located, and its cars would run across the Fourth Avenue bridge going west and turning south and going to Iowa City. The other Interurban would go up to Fifth Avenue and turn and go north to about 18th Street and find its way to Mount Vernon through some of the hills and valleys that separate Cedar Rapids from Mount Vernon. It ran for many, many years, and it was the only means of transportation, getting back and forth. The present highway system wasn't constructed at that time, and automobiles were just beginning to come in. And if you recall, maybe not, but between here and Davenport was a continuous mud road; and if you ventured out to go to Mount Vernon (if you were fortunate to have a car) and it got a little cloudy or rained a little bit, you'd just sit there in Cedar County or some of the other counties and wait until it cleared up or they were able to drag the road with obsolete, old equipment that was used at that time compared with the modern equipment we have today.

During the ninth grade at Jackson School one of our teachers at that time, art teacher, was Grant Wood; and if we'd only saved a few of those scraps of papers that we thought were

meaningless and useless, that would be quite a remembrance for us today.

During our following years at Washington High School, located where the American Legion Building is today, it was quite an experience. The school was small and had no... at that time had no facilities for studying. And we found a friend over at First Presbyterian Church by the name of Mr. Garthoff, and many of us would go over during--when we were supposed to be studying at home or at the nearby drugstore across the street--we'd end up playing basketball at First Pres. And I became quite interested in attending First Pres., and I just lately turned over quite a bit of printed material that I accumulated during the years of growing up in the city of Cedar Rapids, and I was noticing some of them. William Shirer, the author, attended First Pres. at the same time, and we had many interesting days there, but I think our schoolwork suffered for the basketball.

As many of you know, during the time I attended Washington High School, the school became quite noticed for their physical ability to play football and track and other sports, and basketball. And it turned out many championship teams, and many notable pupils later in life became quite prominent throughout the country, as many of you know. The gymnasium in the old Washington High School was about 30 feet wide and about 60 feet long. There were no provisions made for spectators and very little protection made at either end of the building, so if you were playing basketball, the wall came up pretty fast to you.

During that period of Washington High School, it's unbelievable, but they had a small military program going on there, similar to the R.O.T.C. at the universities. In fact, they had fraternities and sororities at Washington High School. I did not participate in any of them, but they were on a much smaller scale than the present ones at the universities. I'd like to add that during my schooling in Cedar Rapids, Grant Vocational High School, located where the present Board of Education is on Second Avenue and Third Street West, was a complete school for industrial arts, and we attended from Adams School. We would walk over to Grant for certain manual training instructions or printing and so forth, and as I mentioned previously, we walked. There were no school buses, and it was quite a ways over there from Adams School, but we didn't seem to mind. I guess we would run along and joke or tease the girls or do something, but we found ways to get over and back, and I don't recall any real hardship.

After the roaring Twenties at Washington, we entered a period along 1927, 1928, and 1929. As I recall, in 1929 we had terrific high water, and the Cedar River ran over its banks. Ellis Park was flooded. Manhattan Beach was flooded. In fact, we had high water on First Street West. We had it in downtown Cedar Rapids. It's probably before the dike system we have now was built, probably one of the worst floods we've ever had. I don't recall in my lifetime--it may have been before the 1900 period--but I do not recall any such flood since 1929 to the present time.

I started to work for Iowa Manufacturing in the later part of the 1929 era and continued working until I retired in 1973. But some of the experiences that I talk about is one of the first early airplane rides that we took. The company owned a plane, and it was stored at Hunter's Airport, which was located on C Street SW where the present Midland Forge and Miehle-Goss-Dexter plants are presently located, and it had a rock runway. They put out a few torches at night if we came back at night, and they had a real low fence at the north end of the field. But we took off. My first flight was in the year of 1931, and we had some mechanical trouble with some of our equipment located at Breckinridge, Minnesota. And Guy Frazee, the vice president of Iowa Manufacturing, and myself and Dan Hunter took off for Breckinridge; and there were very few charts in those days, and maps that he used showed railroad tracks and rivers and so forth and the navigation equipment of today was unknown. But we arrived without incident, and Guy Frazee, one of the founders with Howard Hall--Mr. Frazee returned with Mr. Hunter and came driving up later with Mrs. Frazee and another couple to check and see how we were doing at Breckinridge. [Mr. Frazee] was killed on the highway, and at the early age of thirty-one. It was quite a loss to the company, and I remember today he was an early friend of mine.

The Hunter Airport continued in use for many years, and we later moved our equipment and built a hangar at the present airport, which primarily served Amana after we merged with Raytheon.

Iowa Manufacturing was one of the few companies at that time back in 1926, 1927, 1928, and 1930 that believed in aviation and, in fact, we had a plane constantly from that time. We had one serious accident where Mr. Al Fish, the pilot, and my very close friend, George Thompson, had an accident coming home from York, Pennsylvania, due to mechanical trouble of the plane, but not the pilot's fault.

One of the early experiences in aviation--I took a trip to Puerto Rica and some parts of South America in the year of 1940. And the only transportation available at that time other than ships was--what they call Pan Am had--what they call the "China Clipper." It was a hydroplane; it landed on water and took off on water, and we boarded from the top of the deck. You'd go down steps to the compartments they had, three different compartments, and if one sprung a leak or minor leak, the other two were dry and so forth; and, fortunately, we did not experience any of that trouble. But what would happen, we'd land at Port Au Prince or wherever it may be, and the boys--the natives--would swim out, and we'd throw out lines like they do in a present boat today, and the boys would pull us in. Then we would refuel and take off again. It was quite an experience. When you talk about the China Clipper today to my grandchildren, they think I'm talking about some kind of tool used in the local barber shop. I might mention that we took off from Miami, Florida, but enroute from Cedar Rapids to Chicago versus Miami. I flew the entire trip on what they call the DC3, which they built thousands of and which was probably one of the safest aircraft that was ever in the sky.

Many changes have appeared in Cedar Rapids' business district. As I recall, as a youngster there was a church at Third Avenue and Third Street across from present Montrose Hotel. We had a church at Fourth Avenue and Sixth Street, and there were many old-time churches located in the downtown district. In fact, the first Saint Paul's Methodist Church I knew was where the present YMCA is and so there's no reason you couldn't find a church downtown very conveniently. There were the freight houses where the railroads would unload their box-cars 'cause the trucks hadn't appeared on the scene yet, and they'd deliver them by teams and so forth, and wagons. There were around local industries, but where the Higley Building is now I can recall a drugstore there and the Paramount Theatre across the street; and the Iowa seemed to have a race who could be built first and open to the public, which was quite an undertaking in Cedar Rapids. The old faucet machine shop was on Third Avenue back about where Cartwright Furniture Store is or was, and many changes downtown. Where Armstrong's is was the John Beck Sports Store and Max Ferberman's Furniture Store. Where Merchants National Bank is used to be Kimball's Men's Clothing, which was a fine store; and across the street was Omeara's Men's Furnishings. And just many, many changes in our lifetime. The Roosevelt Hotel is located where Turner's Mortuary was, I believe; and you look back and see the old YMCA on First Avenue and First Street where it's now a park. And the Masonic offices are located where Cedar River Towers is, and the Gazette was located right on the river. It seemed like that

occasionally they'd get high water and have many problems, but the complete Cedar Rapids has been practically rebuilt. When you look at the skyways connecting the stores today, we wonder how we used to get by, because it was quite chilly during the winter, and do our shopping downtown. There were very few, if I recall any, supermarkets. The first recollection I have is Piggly Wiggly had a store on First Avenue between 15th and 16th Street, but the public wasn't quite ready to wait on themselves and go through a checkout counter, and it didn't last very long.

I recall the first conception or whatever it may be with radio. Harry Paar had--as I recall--the first transmitting radio located on Second Avenue and 14th Street across from the present Commonwealth Apartment, and we would built the sets and somehow or another we discovered we could do it and receive and get pretty good reception for a long time. Televisions were unknown at that particular era.

I would like to mention the old telephone system. The gas lights that we had on our home at... we bought a cloth mantle and put it on, and we burned it and then it was ready to be used. We had gas lights in the early days; we weren't quite fortunate yet to have electricity. There were some available, but our homes were not wired where we lived at that time. The telephone systems I do recall very clearly, and we had a different telephone numbering system. We didn't have thousands of phones like we have today. We had a telephone central office located on Second Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues where the Killian Parking ramp is now located. We would dial--not

dial--correct myself on that one, lift the receiver and keep clanging it until the operator answered. Then we'd give her a number, blue 824 or red or whatever the colors may be and altogether different. I had a dial system, and once in awhile we'd get upset if the operator was busy. We would have no way of knowing that. We would just assume that she was failing to do her job properly.

I mentioned previously the Paramount and Iowa Theaters seemed to have a race to see who could get into operation first. I neglected to mention the Green's Opera House located on Second Street between First and A Avenues, and the Majestic Theater located on Third Street between First Avenue and A Avenue. These were two beautiful structures. I was only in Green's Opera House when it was in operation, and I went only once or twice. I don't recall what performance, but there were many great shows came to Cedar Rapids during that period. But Majestic Theater was the early movies, which I attended many times. They had three levels of seating, and the top level was very economical so we had a separate entrance on A Avenue where we had a small fee to gain admittance. The black and white movies were all silent, as you know, at that time, and they did not come in. Later the sound came in at the... The first one I heard was Al Jolson at the Strand Theater that was located on Third Avenue. The building is still there, but it's not being used, I don't believe, at the present time for a movie theater.

I'd like to give you my impression of our park system, which I think is tremendous. Bever Park, Ellis Park, Riverside

Park, Daniels Park--all of them have been well maintained, well used, and the city of Cedar Rapids should be real proud of them. As I recall, when I first started Iowa Manufacturing, Jimmy Bell--who was an Iowa distributor for us--and a bunch of us would enter the softball league at Ellis Park. He was always the pitcher, and quite capable, and I ended up always being the catcher. Art Gossard, who was our sales manager for years and years and years, was the manager. And the first year we entered, we did not win a game. So during the winter season we decided we should get a new manager and fire Art Gossard without pay. We had a new manager the second year, and after the second season we discovered it wasn't the manager's fault because we hadn't won any games either. It was the players' fault. So we continued on and on, and Iowa Manufacturing sponsored teams at Ellis for many, many, many years at maybe Riverside or different places. But we used the parks and hope the present generation continues to do as we did back then. At Iowa Manufacturing we had a softball team that entered what was the M & J Baseball League. One year they selected me to be the president, and it consisted of teams from Link-Belt-Speeder, Killian's, the light company, Iowa Manufacturing, and Cedar Rapids Engineering. It was quite a lively league, and it was hard ball. In fact, we hired many of the chaps to play ball during the summer and work for us, and many of them continued on and worked 25, 30 years or more. Many of them have retired like myself, but it did bring in many fine, young students attending the colleges or Coe College. They'd be home for the summer, and

many of the local citizens worked or played ball for Iowa Manufacturing during that era at Daniels Park. It went on for many years and finally faded away, and I am just hoping that someday it can be revived.

It's great to be a part of the city that takes care and is so well received like the YMCA, the YWCA, the American Red Cross, the Camp Fire Girls, the Boy Scouts. I was connected with many of them, so I'm quite pleased to look back and see if they continue on with greater emphasis on achievements than ever before, and it's just great to be a part of it.

My grandchildren today ask, "Grandpa, what did you do for recreation? Did you have dance halls and other facilities?" And we had... yes, we had Dreamland--located on Fourth Avenue and Second Street. It was quite a popular spot--and I probably will be in hot water over this--but I don't believe we had the problems at Dreamland as many have today. The dress code was different, very little drinking. We had prohibition during some of that time, and at my age, attending those dances, I thought it was well received and we were well behaved. Later Danceland came on the scene at Third Street and A Avenue, and it was quite a dance pavilion that went on for many, many years. And I think it was well received. Later after the auditorium closed down on First Street between First Avenue and A Avenue where the old power plant used to be, they had dances there for many, many years--the auditorium. In fact, they had boxing going on there, and just the other day I noticed where Johnny Frayer passed away. He promoted the boxing there for years and years and years and was quite a nice spot.

It was a great time when Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey combined circus or other circus would come to Cedar Rapids. They would come in in the early morning--four o'clock, and they would have maybe 50, 100, or 150 railroad cars. They would unload, haul the tents to either Mound Farm district or over where the present Link-Belt facilities are on Sixth Street Southwest and set up and have a parade at eleven o'clock in the morning or ten o'clock, and back for a show in the afternoon and a show in the evening. Then tear the tents all down and load the animals on the cars and move to another city. It's a miracle the way they were able to do that for years and years and years and before they had the present indoor facilities.

I was bless with an era, I would say, that I watched two great hospitals in Cedar Rapids grow from small, 100-bed facilities or less with antique equipment and antique buildings. Both of them have progressed, worked together, and it's a great community when you think that we had a hospital with the Protestant faith and one with the Catholic faith joined together, hand in hand, and have a capital fund drive two different times go over the top in millions of dollars, which is quite a credit to the people of Cedar Rapids to know that there was no feeling of religion. It was a combined effort, and I was blessed to be a part of that great drive back in those early days of the hospitals. It's a credit to the state of Iowa to see great hospitals taking care of the needs of Eastern Iowa.

Here I am sitting in an air-conditioned room, and the outside temperature above 90° and look back, and we got by. We

suffered. We had many uncomfortable nights, but I can remember the first home air conditioning that we were able to buy. It was on the market. It was the year of 1942. It was made by Worthington Manufacturing Company, and we used water (chilled water) and blew it over some coils and so forth, and the local merchants had some air conditioning before that. I think Craemer's Department Store was the first one I can recall. They had a well, and they would drill to the subsurface and find 55° water. They may go down eight, nine hundred feet. I do not recall how many feet, but they got 55° water and pumped it into coils and had a circulating fan behind to blow through duct work. And it was quite ample, and it went on for many years.

Downtown Cedar Rapids during the early part of 1920 or 1930 had three or four very clean pool halls. One of them, as I recall, was Carlson's on Second Avenue and Rainey and Sellers, and the Allison Hotel had a pool hall. And at that time children were not permitted under eighteen to play pool, because I assume that most of them were associated with a tavern or a saloon as they were called in those days. We had plenty of them in Cedar Rapids. I recall one, why I do not know; but on First Avenue and First Street West on the corner, on the northwest corner, was a saloon and it had swinging doors during the summertime. I happened to be going by for some reason, and here was a bar of 50 to 75 feet long, a man standing up drinking, and so forth. I don't recall it being a very pleasant sight for a boy ten or twelve years of age.

In the early forties I began to travel considerably for Iowa Manufacturing, and friends throughout the country would ask about the farm life in Iowa, and it is a great state. It produces enough to feed the country almost, but anyhow, I was never on a farm and know very little about a farm; so people think I'm joking with them when I tell them I never have been on a farm in my life, which is the case.

I'd just like to take a few minutes on our city government. In my early age it seemed to be almost Czech-dominated. We had Vondracek or we had Zika. In fact, Louis Zika was a commissioner of streets during a terrific storm we had one winter. The streetcars plowed the tracks so they could continue moving during the heavy snowstorm during the night, and then the next morning it rained and it froze. We were unable to clean the streets for four or five, six or eight days, and the cars would bump along and break a spring and so forth. And unfortunately, next year Louis Zika was defeated the first time at city government for many, many years. And as we appear on 16th Avenue West, the Czech names used to appear on the windows, and they did quite a bit of writing. But Cedar Rapids has been a melting pot. We have many nationalities here, and they've all worked together. I do not ever recall having any problems with either race or color or religion in Cedar Rapids.

When I first started working at Iowa Manufacturing, the lower level of the present office building was rented out or owned--I do not recall--by Keith Vawter who ran the Red Path Chautauqua System, which was a cultural type fair. They'd go

out and put on shows in small cities under the tent and operate maybe one or two nights or according to the city. It might be there a week or two, but they finally moved out, and that's the last I recall. Whether any of the Chautauqua Systems are going yet today, I cannot say.

I'd just like to mention Coe College and Mount Mercy College, being located in the area of my employment. I watched Mount Mercy grow. It was an all-girl school. Two years, and now it's a four year credit, co-ed. It's great to see the progress made at Mount Mercy. Coe College has done a tremendous job. They've maintained the scholastic standards. They have not bet, and it's great to see the turnout of students at Saint Luke's into the business world. As far as the whole state of Iowa, we have many four-year schools. In the later years here, that Kirkwood Community College has developed in Cedar Rapids, it's filled a need of a lot of people that were unable to attend the state universities or colleges. When you stop to think that the local [people] or [people in] the six or seven county area can attend nights or days or Saturdays, and they can take up farming or they can take up welding or [become] beauticians and all the different classifications. It goes on and on and on. I'm just proud to be a part of this area.

We had a little get-together last evening for some of my grandchildren, and they said, "Grandpa, what's one of the highlights when you were a young child in Cedar Rapids?" And I recall that one of the things I remember is: We were out looking and roaming around playing ball or catch and so forth,

but the Dr. Remmald lived at Eighth Street and Fifth Avenue SE where the Colonial Bakery is now and had a fine, big beautiful home there and had some cherry trees in the rear of the house there that was not enclosed by a fence. The sidewalk was pretty close to the cherry trees, and it'd entice us to maybe try a few. Since everybody else had gone by and the cherries were out of our reach, one of our boys, who since passed away, climbed the tree and got up into the tree and dropped them down, cherries to us, and some one of them slipped and fell and broke his arm. Here's three or four boys about ten, eleven, twelve years of age panicked and didn't know what to do or where to go. So we decided that we might just as well go in and tell the doctor what had happened, and he invited us in and probably gave us a pretty good lecture 'cause I know in the later years we did not climb any cherry trees. He took our chap and took him to the hospital and fixed his arm. During that period--it's hard to believe--but the doctors locally made house calls. They would have their old automobiles or--I do not recall any of the buggy days--that the doctors making visits, but they did sometimes. House calls would be two or three dollars, and it shows that we've had a little inflation since then.

After telling the Remmald story at the dining room table last evening, they said, "Grandpa, tell us more." So I bowed to their wishes and continued on. I told them about my experience in 1922 when I took the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railroad to Iowa City to see a football game, and one of the star performers of that time was Reggie Crains. He carried the number 77, and

that stood out in my memory the rest of my life. But it was a means of communication between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, and if you were fortunate to have a car, again it was a dirt road and if you got caught in the rain down there, you were really in trouble. I recall later that very thing happened and the railroad, the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railroad, had some empty flat cars in Iowa City; and they made provisions with some of the people to drive their cars onto the flat cars, and they brought them to Cedar Rapids by the means of the now called Crandic Railroad.

After continuing our dinner table conversation, they continually ask me, "What made Cedar Rapids grow at that particular time, that you started with Iowa Manufacturing?" I started telling them that during the war, naturally, we had to produce many aircraft guns and other things that were needed. In early 1941, a chap from Freuhauf Trailer by the name of Fred Mueller came into Iowa Steel with... I was connected with also... and wanted some help manufacturing 35-ton tank retrieval frames for a tank disabled on the battlefield. They would run out with this trailer and winch it and bring it in and repair it and get it back in action. He invited us to Detroit, and Howard Hall and myself went to Detroit to meet the Freuhauf Trailer Company people. Roy Freuhauf was quite active. In fact, he bought some property on Highway West when they first came out here, and we persuaded them to expand their facilities in Cedar Rapids, which they were looking for. We bought the old Hall Manufacturing Company--no connection with Howard Hall--and set up a company by

the name of Iowa Engineering Company, which I was an officer of. We persuaded Freuhauf to move all their machine tools out here, which they did, And Freuhauf operated here for many years until freight rates and other convenient happenings in the east made it prohibitive to transport the material back and forth. They moved to Avon Lake where they have a new, modern facility--and you can see why.

Howard Hall was quite active in helping Speeder Company move from Fairfield, Iowa, here. Walter Wronk and Troy Deel and Baker and the boys all came along, and it grew. In fact, the local utility company, Sud Dows, I understand, even gave him the property where they're located on Sixth Street West to induce him to move to Cedar Rapids. And Sud Dows and S. E. Coquillette and Howard Hall were quite active in working for the city, and I give them a lot of credit for all the efforts. In fact, there was a survey team from Chicago out looking for a new facility for a Square D Company, and Bob Caldwell of the Chamber of Commerce, calls Howard and said, "Can I bring this group out?" And he said, "Sure." That's one of the advantages of local ownership at that time, 'cause Howard could say yes or no and that was it, but

END OF SIDE ONE - BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO

. . . nearby and Mr. Fred McGin and his son and some of the other Square D officials were enjoying a Saturday night get-together, and he mentioned that he had a brother-in-law by the name of George Downing who was looking for facilities, so they

invited Mr. Downing out later. Mr. McGin was there on that particular evening also and mentioned to George, he says, "Have you found the facilities where you are gonna locate your new corrugated box factory?" And he said, "No." And Fritz McGin, I recall, said, "Yes, I know where it's gonna be. It's gonna be in Cedar Rapids." And he did build the plant, the Downing Box Company, and that's the reason I have to be in Cedar Rapids.

These and other plant expansions were performed by Howard and his people at no cost whatsoever. They'd give us a blank check, you might say, to build the Square D building or the Downing Box or the Miehle-Goss-Dexter, who we were quite active in bringing to Cedar Rapids. And all this expansion and so forth happened during that era.

Howard Hall was instrumental in the purchase of Amana Refrigeration. He formed a group, was able to raise enough money to buy it from the Amana Society, and he watched it grow. I give him great credit for being a strong citizen. He used his time freely to help Cedar Rapids grow, and it's been great being with him. During this great plant expansion in Cedar Rapids, we had many women working in the factory. I see no reason we should even get in a debate on the ERA cause I think it's a must. Some jobs they even do better than men, and I'll give no opposition whatsoever to the subject.

One of my granddaughters said, "Grandpa, tell me about the bank closing in the early thirties," and I said, "I recall very plainly 'cause I had \$300 in the Merchants National Bank, and I became alarmed a couple of days before. I guess I was one of

the panic-stricken people, which there were thousands of, but I go to the Merchants Bank and they give me my \$300." My aunt, who also lived in Cedar Rapids, was doing business with American Trust and Savings Bank and was not quite so fortunate. She had lost her husband a few years before and was living alone, and it was quite a hardship on her to endure without any money for a period of time, finally ending up getting a small percentage of her original investment. So I've seen the city go through... and two banks survived and the rest of them closed and new ones have appeared on the scene. At the present time we have branch banking, which we did not have back in the early thirties.

On this tape we're now approaching the era of 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and I would like to add that I think the community leaders in this city have much to be thankful for and much credit should be given to them. I will not name any of them 'cause there are so many, and I feel if I missed one it would just be terrible. I'd like to thank all of the people of Cedar Rapids for making my life--the 78 years I've spent in Cedar Rapids--the most enjoyable, the happiest time. We enjoyed the holidays, and thank God our health is such. We do get away for the winter months. We have a condominium in North Palm Beach, Florida. Florene and I get away for five or six months, but we're always happy to return back to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, my birthplace and homeplace, and hope to continue to enjoy the health and the strength that God has provided me.

This is being taped in the latter part of August of 1984, and I hope that the present health may continue for many more years and enjoy the beauty of Cedar Rapids, and thank you all.

After reviewing this tape, I find that I have made a few slight errors, and I'd like to correct them at the present time, and we'll call this tape number three.

The ball played at Daniels Park I mentioned was softball; it was not softball, it was hardball, and it continued for many, many years. I'd like to add that the population of Cedar Rapids at the time of my birth was 23,000 people. I'd like to also add that the Manhattan dance pavilion was up the river where the marina is now and was quite a popular dance [spot]. It operated only during the summer season and had many great name bands appearing there at that time.

The other correction I'd like to add is I mentioned Kimball's Store being where the Merchants National Bank is. It was the Kimball Building, but the furnishing store was operated by M. M. Thompson, and it was a fine men's store. I'd also like to add that I heard a word when I was talking about Coe College. I mentioned Saint Luke's Hospital. I'd like to correct that, and mention it. Coe College has done a terrific job maintaining the scholastic standards on the one hundred and some years they've been in existence. I'd like to also add that the statement I made about the two hospitals, why we're so fortunate to have the facilities, is due to being the nearness of Iowa City where there are great hospitals. And, in fact, in the national magazines today they rate Iowa City as one of the top ten in the country. So we're quite fortunate, and many come to Cedar Rapids to practice. I'd say we have one of the greatest communities staffed with well-qualified physicians.

I neglected to mention one of the downtown grocery stores was located on Second Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets. It was F.W. Damour, D-a-m-o-u-r, I think, or some such similar name as that; but it was a great store. They had a great butcher shop, and it occupied many square feet and was almost like a modern supermarket of today.

For the generation to appear on the scene in the near future, I'd like to mention Collins Radio. They've done a tremendous job, and it dates back a number of years. We were quite close to Art Collins and the developing of their facilities and so forth, and I'd like to pay tribute to some of the boys that I knew--John Dayhoff, John Nyquist, and Morgan Craft--even though they were an entirely different business climate than we were, we enjoyed their company and their friendship. I hope future generations look back and see what a great job they did for the city of Cedar Rapids.

END OF TRANSCRIPT

