

Leonora Thalmann Frake (1907-1990)

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Transcription by Karen Miller.

Track 1

BM: This is May 10 [year unidentified]. My name is Briggs Masselli. I am going to be interviewing Mrs. Frake on Techny Rd. in Northbrook. Mrs. Frake would you give me your whole name and tell me where you were born, where you grew up, and where you live now?

LF: My name is Leonora Caroline Frake.

BM: And what was your Maiden Name?

LF: My name's maiden name...was Leonora Thalmann

BM: And where were you born?

LF: I was born on Lake Ave. At that time it was called Gross Point

BM: [indistinct] And where do you live now?

LF: I live at 1665 Techny Rd. in Northbrook

BM: I want your maiden name now.

LF: My maiden name was Leonora Caroline Thalmann. I was born June 18, 1907.

BM: And you still maintain a home?

LF: and I have a home at 2820 Orchard Lane, Wilmette.

BM: Mrs. Frake, tell me about your Grandfather Thalmann.

LF: My Grandfather Thalmann was born in Trier, Germany in 1842, and migrated to the United States in 1847. My grandmother, Caroline Thalmann, came over from Westphalen, Germany as a young teenager.

BM: Do you remember what her maiden name was?

LF: Her maiden name was Willman.

BM: How do you spell that?

LF: W-I-L-L-M-A-N. Or it could be another ~~W~~ on the end. [indistinct] She married my grandfather at St. Joseph Church in Wilmette.

BM: Oh, I see. And what year was that?

LF: [indistinct]

BM: But they were married at St. Joe~~s~~.

LF: Um hum. And they had lived in Chicago. And he was a carpenter. And he was in construction. And they had two children that died then. There were four, and died as infants. And Katherine Schmit, she was born in Chicago and so was Joseph Thalmann his oldest son. And they remained in Chicago until the Chicago Fire.

BM: But he was living and working in Chicago?

LF: And when the fires came so near their home they had to leave and they pushed a buggy and wheelbarrow with their possessions and buried what they wanted to salvage, and they came to their parentsqhome and they lived on Hibbard Road, which was called at that time Thalmann road.

BM: Um hum

Track 2

LF: Then my grandfather, Joseph Thalmann, built the house where the [indistinct] and the Thalmanns reside now.

BM: What~~s~~ the number of that house? Was it 22 something Lake? Well we can look it up.

LF: Then he built this four room house, and then as the family grew he put the addition on in the back.

BM: You said originally it was just the four room house?

LF: Yeah, just four rooms, because they had only two children. And then they had Joseph, they had Katherine, they had Susan. Oh, Susan was the oldest girl. She was older than my aunt, Katherine. And she was found dead at the age of

about 13 in a ditch of water that was near Washington St. and Illinois Rd. between Harvard and Illinois Rd. She went to get the cows. And she never returned, and they wondered why she never came back. And here they found her lying face down in a ditch of water. And they said she had drowned. She had evidently jumped the ditch, and at that time they didn't have coroners as they do nowadays to investigate. So they just put on the death certificate, "Death Due to Drowning." And that was my grandparents' oldest daughter and they relied on her so much to help with the younger children. And um... she was buried up at St. Joseph Cemetery. And then they had another girl, by the name of Anna, who died of diphtheria, and she's buried at St. Joseph Cemetery. And then they had a... , then my grandparents had, Susie was the oldest, then Joe, and Katherine, and Anna, and then there was John and then there was my father, and William Thalmann, and then Rose [Isler? ], and then there was Mick, and he died as a young boy, and then they had two children that died as infants. So I know how many my father had in his family.

BM: And what was your father's full name?

LF: My father's name was Bernard Thalmann.

BM: Now you said that they built the house on Lake St. after they came up after the fire. There are two questions I want to ask. Do you know where they lived in Chicago?

LF: No I don't.

BM: OK. Now when they built the house on Lake St., do you know, did they buy that property, or was it in the family?

LF: No they bought that property. My grandfather owned three quarters of a mile of property on Lake Avenue from Hunter Road all the way to Romona Road. So that is, my grandfather gave each child some... he gave my Uncle Joe a plot of land, my uncle Willie a plot of land who inherited the homestead, and then there was, they had a [indistinct] many years ago, that's before Prohibition, and my father and Uncle Willie ran that. And then when Prohibition came it stopped. And they went into store business and my father went into farming. And there's where we had lived at 2801 Lake Ave. as children until we got married. And then my grandfather gave my father six acres. And each of us children inherited property from my father. Each one inherited two lots. And that's where I built my house on Orchard Lane. I originally owned a house on Lake Ave. which we built, but we had sold that and we moved over to Orchard Lane.

BM: I see.

Track 3:

LF: My father and mother lived, and took care of their parents, and they passed away when I was about three years old. And we remained in that house until I was about seven years old. And my father had his brother who was a carpenter-contractor, build our house at 2801 Lake Ave., Wilmette, which is still standing just west of the Latter Day Saints church. I recall pushing a baby buggy of clothes along the street, which had a lot of ruts from mud in the road. There was no sidewalk.

BM: And the streets weren't paved.

LF: Um hum

LF: And that's how I helped move a lot of our clothes.

BM: Oh you loaded up your baby buggy and pushed the clothes over to the new house? That's great.

LF: Um hum

BM: Well I suppose that was how you did it. You used what was available.

LF: Our father took the horse and wagon and moved a lot of our furniture and possessions. By putting them into the baby buggy, this long gondola baby buggy, you didn't crush your clothes

BM: Right

LF: I recall that so well

BM: You grew up at 2801.

LF: Yes

BM: Can you tell me something about your childhood? What you remember?

LF: It was a very happy childhood. My mother was sick from the time I had known her. She had an inward goiter. She had it removed and then she had been in failing health due to a heart condition and asthma and bronchitis. And then my mother had three more children after that goiter operation. But she did die with the second operation. Either pneumonia had set in. Now they use sodium penethal. I recall when we went to school that we had to wear boots up to our knees like the men wear [indistinct]. Knee high boots. They did not have buckles on. And there was not a house from Ridge Road, that old house that is still standing there across from the Jewel Tea. There was a brick house, then [Ziebart's ?] garage, and then there was another frame house. Those were the only two houses on the north side of the street until you got almost to the railroad

tracks. There was no house even on Hibbard Road beyond Hibbard Rd. there was not a house.

BM: So you walked to St. Joe's

LF: We walked to St. Joseph School. The water was so deep that my father went to the greenhouses and he loaded the wagon full of cinders and built it up about that high because it was impossible for us to go to school. So he made a sidewalk, I'd say, about two feet wide.

BM: Looks like about two feet high too. He laid all those cinders?

LF: Yes. From Locust Road to Illinois Road which was at that time Reinwald avenue.

BM: Yes, um hum.

Track 4

LF: Then we had no electricity until I was seventeen years old.

BM: Oh

LF: Until my last year of high school. Power lines came through and I graduated from High School, New Trier High School in 1925. And we walked both ways to school. There was no means of transportation.

BM: That was a nice walk. How long did it take you?

LF: It took us about fifty minutes, I'd say, almost an hour sometimes. It just depended on whether there was a lot of ice and snow.

BM: If the weather was bad it would take longer.

LF: And then my father bought a car and he would take us to school if he could get the Model T started, and he would pick us up. And he'd pick up my cousin, Estella Thalmann, Estella [indistinct] now, and he would pick up Eva Schmidt.

Track 5

BM: So all the children in your family went over to the high school, too, and your cousins?

LF: Yes

BM: So you had a good group of people that were walking over.

LF: Yes. We were very happy as children. And then we used to play a lot of games. Parchesi and Old Maid and Pip. And we'd go to vespers on Sunday, we'd go to Mass in the morning, and then in the afternoon we had to go to Vespers. And then my mother would say, "Would you take the little ones along?" And then we'd get money for candy. And stop at what was at that time Winkles Candy Store. It was later bought by William [Lillian?] Parks. She was a Schaeffgen girl. And then we'd go to Vespers. And after that we'd play with my cousins and with some of the Seltzer children and we'd go from one house to the other on Sundays and each mother would prepare a nice supper for all of us.

BM: That's a very nice way to spend a Sunday.

LF: Then in the wintertime for a thrill we used to go behind the ice sled. You know when they made the ice at Selzer's pond, we used to hitch our sleds with a rope and we'd go to the ice barn and come back again to our house.

BM: Now this was this horse drawn wagon?

LF: Horse drawn, horse drawn, on the sled

BM: On the sled?

LF: They would get the ice with their horses on the sled. They had to cut the big blocks of ice

BM: And you tied your sleds to the back of the

LF: Yes. And that was fun. And we could go ice skating in the ditches because the ditches had so much water. And that was before the sewers came in Wilmette. And my father had to dig a deep well. And you put in your own septic tank.

BM: And you had to dig that yourself.

LF: Oh yes. Each house had to dig that. And you had to have the electricity to pump the water into the house. So that is why we didn't have any conveniences until my last year of high school.

BM: Oh so how did the water get into the house then. You had to bring it in?

LF: You used to pump it by hand, but after we had electricity, the electricity would pump the water into the house.

BM: You said you were seventeen years old before electricity came in, so before that did you have a pump in the house that you could pump at the kitchen sink

LF: Yes we had rainwater pumps.

BM: Oh you caught the rainwater

LF: from the room

BM: for the house

LF: But the drinking water you had to carry in from the well

BM: I see. Then that meant you had an outhouse outside

LF: Oh Yes. That's why we lived so long.

BM: Right. You had to make the trip.

LF: But you know that I think we were a lot happier and more satisfied children then than they are now. We always went to school. And when I'd come home from school sometimes my father would say, "Well we have the house corn tonight." after school for the chickens and the horse and the cow. We would have to help with the house work because my mother was sick a lot, and the laundry. And at that time you had to do the washing on a washboard and the wringer. Otherwise we had a wash machine which went back and forth with one of those handles. And then I recall when I went to St. Joseph School, my youngest brother Edward, who became a fireman in Winnetka and is now retired from the fire department we were studying civics and about the fire departments and the fire department truck went by. I was wondering where did that truck go, to because you could hear the clanging of the bell. And Lo and Behold it went to my father's house. My youngest brother at the age of about five years old had lit the haystack on fire.

BM: Oh My Goodness

LF: ð and here a man talked to my father in the field and he said, "Ben you've got a fire by your barn." And sure enough, my father went home, and here the haystack was

BM: Was the hay inside the barn?

LF: No it was outside. It had a big haystack.

BM: Did they get it out in time?

LF: They got the fire out before the barn went.

BM: What happened to your brother?

LF: My father gave him a good spanking, and I felt so sorry for him. I hid him so my father couldn't scold him no more. And I hid him under underneath the stoop of the steps in the basement. Until his anger diminished.

BM: [laughter]

LF: My grandfather Joseph Thalmann gave my uncle Joseph Thalmann a plot of land to build a house after he was married. And William Thalmann inherited the homestead which is now standing. In which the house where my father was born, Bernard Thalmann. Mrs., her name was Katherman Thalmann married Frank Schmit, who later built a house on Lake Ave. And then Rose Thalmann married August Siler, and she built a house on her plot of property. And John Thalmann was given his plot of property and he had built a house. And then my father built a house.

BM: Were these being built all about the same time.

LF: No. I tell you what. Joe Thalmann built his house first.

BM: About what time. Could you guess?

LF: Oh my gosh [long pause]. About . See Lawrence Thalmann passed away. I think he was born there in that house. Oh maybe about 77 or 78 years ago he built that house, Uncle Joe did, I say about 78 years ago.

BM: About 1900?

LF: Yes, about 1900. And . Katherine Thalmann who married Frank Schmidt, built her house about . [long pause] . let's see my sister Helen was 15 years old . oh I say they built that house about 55 years ago I think. And Aunt Rosie built her house about 54 years ago, and uncle John Thalmann who married Susan Wine [unclear] built that house about.. [long pause] .1903. And um, .my father built his house in 19 [long pause]

BM: Here's a pencil .

[Track 6]

LF: Well my sister Helen is 62 years old now. I have to do the [unclear] .

BM: About 1916?

[Unidentified voice]: Oh no, no definitely not.



[Track 7]

LF: Bernard Thalmann, my father, built his house in the spring of 1914.

BM: That's your family.

LF: That is the last parcel of property that, which run as far as Romona Road. My grandfather had owned three quarters of a mile of property on Lake Ave.

BM: Now you said you had friends, the Selzers. Where was their house? Is it near?

LF: Their house was on Hibbard Road and Illinois.

BM: and that's where they had the pond?

LF: Yes

BM: I have this note here says the Meyer Ice Company?

LF: Yes the Meyer Ice Company made the ice.

BM: Now would the company come and cut the ice from the pond?

LF: Yeah

BM: And then would they pay the Selzers?

LF: Oh yes. They would pay the Selzers.

BM: It was stored on Green Bay Road? Was that right?

LF: Yes. And they had another ice house, if I recall right, they had one on Washington St. Frank Meyer Jr. Is still living here on Shermer Rd, in Northbrook. His father had team and an ice business. He would deliver ice to all the people in Wilmette. And we looked forward to the iceman. He only came once a week. And he came on Friday. They delivered all the ice by wagon then. They would hang it on a weigher, you know on a scale. They had these here tongs that they would carry it in.

BM: And they would put it in the ice box?

LF: Yeah

BM: Do you know where on Green Bay Road where that ice house might have been?

LF: Maybe in the present location now where the Meyer Ice Company used to be you know

BM: Where did that used to be?

LF: You know where Washington St. is in Wilmette?

BM: Yes

LF: It was Washington and Green Bay Road, right near there. In that area.

BM: You said there were no houses from the end of your family's property

LF: Now next door was Frank Borrell's house. Then there was no house till you got to Dr. Ayer's house which is now tore down. And then from there on there was not a house on the South side of the street until you went beyond the track where that Meiers tavern stands. That was the only house there.

BM: So that tavern was there even then?

LF: There was no tavern. People had lived in that house, but they made it into a tavern. You were allowed a liquor license in the village of Glenview. That was a part of Glenview.

BM: I See

LF: And then there was no house on the South side of the street until you went to Wagner and Lake which originally belonged to my husband's great-grandparents.

BM: What was their name?

LF: Their name was Wagner?

BM: OH! I see.

LF: And then there was no house from their house from their house until you got to my husband's grandmother's house.

BM: And what was their name?

LF: Her name was Frake. And from thereon there was no house until you got to old Clara Hinley's house. And Hinley's built that house then the last owner was Hemistack who had a nursery there and they sold to Harold Heinz. And then there was no building until you got to Waukegan road which at that time they had built what you call the Garden of Allah.

BM: What was the Garden of Allah?

LF: Oh it was a beautiful one what they called a road house, you know? Where they had all these elaborate dinners, and beautiful carpeting! Oh it was a gorgeous place! And then it went broke during the depression. I can recall all of that yet. In fact my husband worked there as a bus boy when he was young.

BM: I see. Uh huh.

[Track 8]

BM: You know you said you mentioned the Hinley house. About where is that now? About what number do you know? [indistinct]

LF: [indistinct]

[Track 9]

LF: The sewers and water came in about 1920 or late 1926. And [indistinct] Realty [Realty] bought all the property which is now called Indian Hills Estate on the north side of the street from Romona Road to Illinois Road. And later on the uh..houses were built in Indian Hill Estates and houses were built after that when the property had numerous houses new houses were built east of Illinois Road in the other estates, you know.

BM: So they had to dig up all those roads to get the sewers in?

LF: Oh Yes

BM: And how about the connections to the houses? Did they hook up the houses too?

LF: Later on they did

BM: Later on. Oh this was just the street sewer

LF: This was just the sewers. It started across the street. And then they put in the storm sewers, the sanitary sewers. Then they put in the streets but of course Lake Ave. I recall when that was built. My husband helped build Lake Avenue when he was a young boy about 16 years old with horses. And that was about 48 years ago. And that was the first time I ever seen my husband. When his whiffletree broke and he couldn't drive his team of horses back to Lake avenue

BM: What's a whiffletree?

LF: Where the two horses are connected to the [crossbar ?] where you harness them. And he stopped in. And I just got through pumping a pail of water not a pail, a tub of water to give to our cows across the street. Because previous to that that was all cow pasture and all the people around the vicinity would put their cows in there and they would rent the pasture for their animals.

BM: This was on the north side of the street?

LF: On the north side before the sewer and water went in. And I just got through pumping that big tub of water for our cows and I was going to get our two in when he walked in and the horses seen the water and scooped it up like that. And he asked my mother for a whiffletree and my mother gave him one from our barn. And he said, %will return it.+ And I said to my mother, %indistinct ] pump another tub of water? I just got through pumping it for our cows.+ I had to pump that big tub of water all over again. I said, %eeze, if that guy has a lot of nerve.+ We laugh about it to this day. I said I'm still waiting on him. I waited on his horses when I was about 13 years old. Children worked awfully hard when we were young. Very, very hard. And we were grateful if we could just finish high school. I'm Catholic. I don't know what religion you are. The nuns said to my father, %it's a shame you if won't let your daughters to go to high school because they are very good students.+ Years ago they thought if a girl just went through eighth grade they had enough knowledge how to keep going. They should know how to run a house and to take care of the family. And that was the old theory years ago. We wanted to go to school further so I graduated from New Trier. In fact all of my father's children were graduated from New Trier except my second oldest brother. He decided he wanted to become a brick layer and go to trade school. And he is past 69 years old.

BM: How many children were in your family?

LF: My father had four girls and two boys.

BM: Now your father was Bernard Thalmann?

LF: And there will not be one direct descendent of the name Thalmann from my father's family because my brother, Edward, has two girls, by brother Andrew had a boy and a girl, and my brother Andrew's only son became a priest. So there won't be anyone to carry on the direct name from Bernard Thalmann.

BM: What your mother's name?

LF: My mother's ã

[Track 10]

LF: My mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Wasnowsky W-A-S-N-O-W-S-K-Y. You can pronounce it. [Loud traffic noises.]

BM: How many brothers and sisters?

LF: My mother had four girls and two boys.

BM: Do you want to give me their names?

LF: My sister, Rosina Thalmann, married Joseph Borre, and my sister Leonora Frake, Leonora Thalmann, who married Edward Frake, and Andrew Thalmann married Regina Maisen [unclear], and my sister, Helen Thalmann, married George Borre, and my brother, Edward Thalmann, married Anne Zweid, Z-W-E-I-D, and Clara Thalmann married Raymond White of San Francisco.

BM: Oh I see

LF: I know all who are married. I don't know if my memory is sharp enough for you or not

BM: No that's fine. We've got all the names

LF: But I can give you all the names of Joe Thalmann's children, but I don't know who they all married

BM: We can get the names later. When you went to school at St. Joe's how big a school was it at the time?

LF: Um the youngest picture here...[rustling of papers]

[Track 11]

LF: I recall when I went to school at the age of six we went to a brick building which was used many years ago for housing quarters for the nuns.

BM: Oh

LF: Then they built the new school that was attached to the church. And that had four classrooms. And I recall the real high steps which I always feared of falling down. Cause one step was very, very steep from the second floor going directly down. And the other one had a landing. And the washrooms were in the basement in the old, in this here building. And then later on when they closed this old brick building they put an addition on the north side which contained four more rooms which had the 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. And the lower grades were on the east side. And I recall the old Mr. Kevelin, who was the janitor, he dug the graves and took care of all the gardening work at St. Joseph Church and the

school. And the nuns had a new house. It was a white house, a frame house, three stories that housed all the nuns.

BM: They were the teachers.

LF: The teachers. And Mr. Kevelin he lived in this old brick house, old brick school building, which was converted into living quarters.

BM: Who was the pastor of the church?

LF: At that time I recall Father Nestrater, and then when my last year of high school. I think in my second year of high school, I came home we were all walking together all of my cousins. And here my father was one of the pallbearers who helped carry Old Father Nestrater out of his house into the church. And then Monsignor Newman became pastor of the church. And when he became incapacitated, why then Monsignor Meter is now. He is pastor now. They seem to want them to resign when they get close to seventy years old. But Father Nestrater did a lot of building and helping with the town and he was one of the first members on the school board to erect New Trier High School. And of course New Trier Old schools have been torn down and all new ones were erected since I was there.

BM: Oh yeah the building was torn down

LF: Oh yes. So I know all these things, you know. But I had that school picture. Oh here it is here

[Track 12]

LF: Oh. Here this was the old building on the east side. I know most of these kids names too. And I know how many of them are dead.

BM: We really should write these things down, because I think, because [break in the sound]

[Track 13]

BM: Today is May 17, and I am continuing the interview with Mrs. Frake. We have a few corrections and a few additions to the previous taping. Mrs. Frake would you tell me about the houses that were where the Ziebart building is now?

LF: Well east of the Ziebart building is a brick, two-story house that is now occupied by Mrs. Virginia Borre. And west of the Ziebart is another large, two-story house. And then there was not another house on Lake Ave. going west until you got near Edens Plaza that had a vegetable farm owned by the Kolvatskys and west of the Kolvatskys was another farm that was run by the

Durbin family. And then there was not another house until you got to Harms and Lake Avenue where Ernie Schupe [Schutte?] lived in there who had a dairy and he shipped milk to the different dairies.

BM: He had the cows there

LF: Where the Wilmette Golf Course is now was a cow pasture for all his cows.

BM: Oh. How about on the south side of the street

LF: On the south side of the street I remember Winkles had an ice cream parlor and candy store. And then came the um, Henry Seichel house, and next to that came the Becker house and the Hartmann's house, the Ditmer house, and then um there was the um can you just turn that off a minute?

BM: Yes

[Track 14]

LF: These houses I remember when I was about eight years old. Then there was the old Chris Brown house on Lake Avenue. And then there was the other Brown house on Lake Avenue. And then my uncle, Joseph Thalmann, had three houses on Lake Avenue. And then the next house was where William Thalmann lived in which was the old Joseph Thalmann homestead.

BM: What number is that on Lake? Do you know?

LF: The Joe Thalmann? I don't know.

BM: About twenty-two twenty-three hundred?

LF: You know where Hunter Road is?

BM: It goes right on Hunter Road is?

LF: They tore one house down on Hunter Road by Hunter and Lake. So therefore George Lehman had to sell his house. Because it was in the road block [unclear]. And then there was the Thalmann homestead, you know, my grandparents. And then there was not a house and then west of that on the Thalmann Homestead was the tavern which later was converted to a grocery store when prohibition came into effect. And then there was not a house until you reached Locust and Lake and my uncle John had a house there on Lake Ave

BM: And these were all farms?

LF: No this was vacant property.

BM: Oh

LF: But I do recall some of the houses on Locust. I don't know whether you want those too or not?

BM: Oh sure

LF: Now John Epps house on Locust, and there was the Reagan house and the Pinsky's house and then on the corner of Wilmette and Locust St. there was a house owned by the Meyers, M-E-Y-E-R-S that's how you spell those Meyers. And then the Peter Weints lived on Locust street also, the Weints, they were old-timers, W-E-I-N-T. Those are the only ones I recall.

BM: Um hum. OK. Ah..Mrs. Frake [sound interrupted]

[Track 15]

BM: Would you like to correct the names of the Thalmann children that came up after the fire. No -- before the fire.

LF: Before the fire, Josephine and Caroline Thalmann had two children --

BM: While they were living in Chicago.

LF: While they were living in Chicago -- and they escaped the fire with their possessions that they could possibly salvage and buried the rest. And they walked from Chicago all the way to Hibbard Road by Joseph, my grandfather's parents' home -- he and his wife and Susan and Hannah.

BM: About how old were the two girls at the time?

LF: They were -- I guess one was about three years old and one was about one or something. And they pushed them all the way from Chicago.

BM: Wow

LF: And Uncle Joe -- I think he was born here in Wilmette -- you know, which at that time was Gross Point. I'm not too sure -- but I know that Susie and Hannah -- from what I was told, was the oldest one that they felt so bad to think that Susan was found dead when she could have been of some help to the family.

BM: Oh that's right -- she's the one that was found dead in the ditch there by the pasture

LF: Have you got the tape on there?



BM: Yeah. Want me to turn it off for a while?

LF: Yeah

[Track 16]

LF: My father Bernard Thalmann built the house west of John Thalmann when I was about 7 .about seven years old. And there wasn't a house until you got to Romona and Lake, now, which was all open prairie. And Frank Borre and his family lived in that house. And then there was not a house until you got to the corner of Lake and Hibbard which was owned by Father Edwin Nestraeter and later the Ayers bought it.

BM: How do you spell that?

LF: A-Y--R-E-S.

BM: Now that's about out where the Chalet Nursery is isn't it?

LF: This is on the South side. And west of Hibbard Road I recall the **Cassles** house which was off the street of Lake Ave., and then west of **Cassles** house on Lake was a house owned by the **Lemonbergs**. And the Cassles house would have been on Laramie if the streets were [indistinct]. And then there was another old unmarried man by the name of Minzel who lived south of the Cassles. It was like in a field. And then west of the Lemonbergs' house across the tracks there was a house that was owned by the Chicago North Western freight line and Frank Meier's tavern occupied that. And then there was not another house until you got to 7th Lake and Wagner Road which was named after my husband's great grandparents. And that was occupied by the Wagners. And then the next house west of Wagner road on Lake was the old Frake homestead. His grandparents. And then next to that house was my husband's father's home, the George Frake family, on Lake, and next to them was the Henley family, on Lake, and that is as far as Waukegan Road and Lake. That's what I remember 7 all of those houses.

BM: Do you remember a **Louche**, Mike Louche

LF: Mike Louche, yes. You know he's very, very ill in the hospital. You can get maybe more information out of his daughters but right now they're at the hospital practically all the time 7 because he is paralyzed. I went to school with Alice Louche's oldest daughter. She was in my class at St. Joe's and she passed away about three years ago. And Mike Louche at one time used to live on Glenview Road, and he bought his brother-in-law and sister's house next to that swimming pool. You know on Crawford? And he had his farm there.

BM: That's the original? well that's where they grew up wasn't it?

LF: Well? when they were little, there was a little house on Glenview Road and there's where the Louches used to live.

[Track 17]

BM: Mrs. Frake, would you describe the picture of the school building that's in the St. Joe's dedication issue?

LF: I attended first grade in the old building which was brick down below and up on the top it was frame.

BM: Oh, frame?

LF: And first and second grade went together. And then when you got to third grade, ah? second grade, you moved into the big building. And?

BM: Now you said first and second grade was in the small building?

LF: Yes first and second Grade.

BM: Were they still teaching it in German at the time?

LF: Yes, We were taught German and English.

BM: Both?

LF: Both.

LF: And the weather was so unbearable cold that I only went to school part of the time.

BM: Oh? Was any heat in the building?

LF: I mean there was not much heat in the building. In this here building I recall we wore coats sometimes all day because the heating did not work right.

BM: Was there a central heating system?

LF: They had pipes along the wall. They had hot water systems. But it was so beastly cold that you could not heat up these great big buildings. I went to first grade in this old building, then I skipped second grade, and went directly to third grade and then I went into this new building.

BM: What kind of clothes did you wear when you went to first grade? Were the dresses fairly long, or were they short? Do you remember?

LF: No the dresses were below the knee.

BM: and dark cotton stockings?

LF: Yes, black stockings and black shoes.

BM: Was that part of a uniform, or was it just ordinary clothes?

LF: Just ordinary clothes. You can see everyone was dressed different.

BM: Yes, that's too bad. I thought maybe the shoes or stockings might be something. They were high shoes too looks like, weren't they?

LF: Yes you can see mine were high shoes. We wore the higher shoes because there were so many stones in the roads. That's why you had to wear shoes so you wouldn't get all the stones in the slippers.

BM: And then you had to wear boots in the winter-time ?

LF: Oh, and especially in the fall and in the spring of the year we all wore boots up to the knee. They had no buckles on them.

BM: You just pulled them on?

LF: Yeah

BM: They were rubber then?

LF: Yeah, they were rubber boots?

BM: Did you carry your lunch, did you go ?

LF: No, we carried our lunch?

BM: You packed your lunch at home?

LF: Yes

BM: Ate in the classroom?

LF: In the classroom. And I recall going to school. Here's the old Father Netstraeter who did a lot for the village of Wilmette. He helped even building with the New Trier High School. Now you see now here is the building the first,

second, third and fourth grade eventually were moved in this part. And then, here, then they put the fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth grade in this side.

BM: Now this is the church and the school this picture?

LF: Yeah, this is the addition they put on. That's the addition. And I recall my going to eighth grade and I was downstairs here for the eighth grade. Now I can recall that so plain.

[Track 18]

LF: We used to go raspberry picking west of the tracks on Lake Avenue which is now occupied by the Skokie Valley Material building yard. And we picked pails of red raspberries every day while they were in season.

BM: How did you get there?

LF: We walked from 2801 Lake Ave., Wilmette, to the, ah, place now occupied by the Skokie Valley. And there were thousands of raspberry bushes.

BM: They were just growing wild?

LF: They were just growing wild. We really ate good! And you know how expensive they are!

BM: Incredible now

LF: Well honestly we used to pick these big kettles you know and pails, and go and pick them and then oh [indistinct] ...them home

BM: Who did you go out with? Your brothers?

LF: My brother, and my sister

BM: After school?

LF: After school or during the summer vacation we'd go there and pick them. And of course when we were young we always had to work in the fields. My father had a vegetable farm. And I recall my confirmation day, I was in high school, and my father said, "You got a legitimate excuse and you are confirmed on Monday at 9 o'clock by Archbishop Hogan of Chicago." And my father had just a big crop of green beans. And he said, you know if a frost comes we'd lose them beans, and we picked about 300 boxes of beans on my confirmation day.

BM: Was it in the fall?

LF: It was in the fall of the year. It was in early October. And the beans got a very good price. And that's how I spent my confirmation day, picking beans!

BM: Yeah 300 boxes! And then what did he do?

LF: And he loaded them on the truck and took them to the market in Chicago.

BM: Um hum

LF: So you can see

BM: How large a farm was it?

LF: Well my father had six acres, but you can plant a lot there. And then he rented some land. He rented my aunt's because my uncle had passed away and then my father would, you know, farm that too.

BM: I see

[Track 19]

BM: Well I think that just about covers it and I would like to thank Mrs. Frake for giving us her time.

