

John Tuttle Miller (1921-)

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The pages that follow constitute the transcript of an interview conducted as part of the Wilmette Public Library District's Oral History program, started in 1975 by a committee of the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library which has been chaired since its inception by Rhea Adler, a resident of the Village of Wilmette since 1932.

A copy of the tape on which this transcript is based is available for circulation, and may be obtained by checking with a Reference Librarian concerning circulation procedures.

This program would not have been possible without the cooperation of the many long-time residents of the Village interested in helping to preserve particulars of a fascinating past, and the patience, energy and effort of a small but dedicated group of interviewers, transcribers and typists who share the belief that the past is too important to be forgotten.

Richard E. Thompson

Director

ABSTRACT

Interviewee: John Tuttle Miller

Interviewer: Rhea Adler

Date of interview: Winter, 1977

Early memories of Wilmette - Death of father 1929 - Laurel, Stoip, New Trier schooling

Pony ~~S~~unshine+· Cart and sleigh · Delivery service for Consumer~~s~~ Grocery Store · Grandfather moved in from farm in Iowa in 1929

Northwestern athletic field before Dyche Stadium - Fire in bleachers · Built barn for pony from lumber salvaged from fire

Mother establishes ~~S~~unshine Corner+after refresher course at National College of Education

Manual training course from Lester ~~R~~ete+Ball · Treasure chest

Grinnell College - Marine Corps - First child was walking when he first came home - Back to Wilmette 1945

Buys a home from Robert M. Johnston (Johnston Brothers Real Estate)

Blacksmith shop where Janaes Laundry is · Had pony sharp· shod there for ice shoes red hot iron pounded into pony hooves

Building of Baha'i Temple from tar paper covered foundation to present - Beauty of building and gardens

Sports in school · Tenure of teachers longer then · More women than men ~~R~~ete+Ball · Square dancing ~~E~~ast side/West side+· Schools combined at junior high level help to break down barrier

Marine Corps volunteer - finished Grinnell College Parris Island, N.C. for boot camp - Officer~~s~~ training at Quantico, Va. · 2nd Lieutenant Commission -

Marriage --Miller~~s~~ met at Grinnell · She a minister~~s~~ daughter from Iowa ·

Dated for three years prior to marriage - Then moved to Duneden, Florida -

Assigned to amphibian/tractor battalion · Sent to California then to Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Guam · Preparation to invade Japan · U.S. bombs Japan - Return to San Francisco via LST, relaxed · Home for Christmas to wife and daughter

Jobs - Discussion of advertising field · Children, grandchildren

History of Wilmette Presbyterian Church - Early church · Fire

Florist · Sunday traffic - Electric cars · Gasoline cars

Depression - Brick streets - WPA

Wilmette Beach a fun place - Discussion of beach in 1930s - Sand and water clear · No alewives

Forest preserve along Central Street, Evanston to forest preserve

New Trier West/East, Locust, Highcrest Schools attended by children of Millers

· Discussion of early No Man's Land and its development

John T. Miller

RA: Would you like to tell us your name?

JTM: My name is John T. Miller. And %T+stands for Tuttle.

T-U-T-T-L-E.

RA: I see.

JTM: And I was born in Evanston Hospital and at that time our family lived at 106 Sixth Street in Wilmette which is the corner of Sixth and Isabella.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: And I have been in this area all my life except for years in college and the years in the Marine Corpse

RA: And you didn't go to Northwestern?

JTM: No, I went through the Wilmette school system. Started school in kindergarten at Laurel School and then went through third grade there. At fourth grade went over to, well, it was really Byron C. Stolp School and went through fourth through eighth grade there. And then went up to New Trier High School.

RA: And what years were you at New Trier?

JTM: I graduated from New Trier in 1939, but I have many happy memories of my early childhood in Wilmette even though my father died in 1929 when I was eight years old. We had a pony by the name of %Sunshine.+We had a cart in the summertime and two different sleighs in the wintertime. And we delivered groceries for a grocery store called %Consumers.+ It was on Linden

John T. Miller, cont. 2

Avenue.

RA: Oh.

JTM: Between Fourth and Fifth Street, right next to what was Terminal Hardware.

RA: Oh, yes. Now was it a %True Consumer+store?

JTM: It was like A&P or National.

RA Oh.

JTM: It was a chain called %Consumers.+And then they moved over to Fourth Street and we continued to deliver groceries over there. We delivered for any delivery in Wilmette for ten cents, no matter where it was. My grandfather moved in from his farm in Iowa in 1929 when my father died, but we didn't really have a good place to keep this pony. We would stake the pony out in nice weather over in Northwestern University's practice field. We'd drive an iron stake into the ground and have a fifty or seventy- five foot rope and the pony would graze over there. Northwestern didn't mind. They weren't using that property. In fact, we had, as children we had high jumping pits over there, a baseball diamond and all that kind of thing. There were no fences at the time.

RA: Was this before Dyche Stadium?

JTM: Yes. We looked out our, we all slept on a sleeping porch in the back of the house. And one night we

John T. Miller, cont. 3

looked out of our window. We could see across the fields to Northwestern. There was a big fire going on and before Dyche Stadium, they had wooden bleachers. And the story goes, I don't know if it's true or not, that the students wanted a new stadium so they set fire to the wooden bleachers. Well, the next morning we got up and our grandfather took us over there and we brought back all across the field all these timbers and we build a barn. And that was where we housed %Sunshine. +And shortly after that my mother, in order to support the family after my father died, did substitute teaching in the Wilmette schools. And she had taught school after college graduation. Taught school in South Dakota near The Black Hills. So she had experience as a teacher, but she went to the College of Education for a refresher course. National College. And then started a nursery school, which she called %Sunshine Corner, +named after the pony.

RA: That's very interesting as to how it got its name. because it was the play school, was on the south side of your house as I remember and I always thought it was because of its southern exposure.

JTM: No. That could have been the reason, but the real reason was that our pony was named Sunshine.

John T. Miller, cont. 4

RA: I think it's much more interesting.

JTM: So I still have, in about fifth grade, I think, there was a teacher at Stolp School by the name of Mr. Ball and he taught manual training.

RA: Was that Pete Ball?

JTM: Lester Ball.

RA: Lester Ball

JTM: And he was my manual training teacher and I still have a treasure chest that I made in manual training class. I think we made it out of pine and it has a top, kind of a domed top, and then we took blow torches and burned the wood and then scraped it and sanded it and steel woolled it and made it, gave it an antique look. And then with strips of lead and brass headed tacks, put these strips of lead on and it gave it the real authentic look of a treasure chest. And I still have that. And I keep, oh, some mementos in there from my school days, such as letters for different sports events and, oh, graduation programs and things like that.

RA: Oh, yes. Where did you go on to school then? After New Trier?

JTM: After New Trier I went to Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. It was the school that my mother graduated from and I had a sister and a brother who had gone there before I did. And went there and then went from

John T. Miller, cont. 5

Grinnell into the Marine Corps. And then came back to this area to Wilmette after, well, in December of 1945 and shortly thereafter I was married and our first child I saw when she was walking. I had been away.

RA: Oh, for goodness....

JTM: Came home to our first child who was walking. So we bought a home from Robert N. Johnston who had a real estate firm on Linden Avenue. And this was kind of out in the country at that time. The address was 2443 Birchwood Lane, off of Illinois Road.

RA: We had a victory garden out there just west....

JTM: Oh, there were lots of gardens out there and back of us now in the area that's a big park area was a farm prior to that and....

RA: Mr. Gathercoal, was it?

JTM: Well, Mr. Gathercoal. Yes, Mr. Gathercoal. The Gathercoal family home was right off of Illinois Road.

R: That's right.

JTM: It was a big red brick building that was located between what is now Birchwood Lane and Pomona Lane. And they had a fair amount of property. There are still trees along there. There was an orchard in that area at one time, too, and still a few of those

John T. Miller, cont. 6

trees around.

RA: Well, it was Mr. Gathercoal's land which we used as a victory garden. We got four gallons of gas a week. We had stamps for four gallons of gas a week to go back and forth to the victory garden.

JTM: He had a son who was a physical education teacher at Stoip School. %Hap+ Gathercoal.

RA: And he is now in Corvallis, Oregon. We still see them.

JTM: Oh, is that right?

RA: %Hap+ is there and so is Jim Gathercoal and Paul Gathercoal. They all live in Corvallis.

JTM: Oh, do they? I'd lost track of them.

RA: Yes.

JTM: Didn't know where they were.

RA: Jim is an architect and he went out there first and was very pleased with it and he got his parents to go and then Paul and his wife packed up and went out there and then finally %Hap+ and Mildred went.

JTM: Is that right? Well, in the wintertime for our pony in Wilmette and delivering groceries we had to put shoes on the pony. They call it %sharp-shod+ because the shoes would grab onto the ice.

RA: I see.

JTM: So in the location that now is Janaes Laundry used to be the blacksmith shop.

John T. Miller, cont. 8

RA: I was there once and they had beautiful oriental rugs hanging.

JTM: Oh, you're right. That's right. I did look in the door once, but I never really got inside. What I do remember, though, is they were putting up scaffolding to put up the super-structure. They had a fire in the scaffolding one time and the fire department had quite a time putting it out because it was fairly high above the ground.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: But they have succeeded and it's a beautiful, beautiful edifice.

RA: It's most beautiful. And we have big bus loads of people going by here in the summertime. They bring them out to see it. I think those of us who live right in the shadow of it forget to appreciate it.

JTM: That's right.

RA: And the gardens are so beautiful, but tell me about school and some of the boys' activities. Particularly the grade school.

JTM: I was always rather athletically inclined, although I wasn't a big boy. I liked all kinds of sports and what we did generally, if the weather wasn't too foul, was to get to school before classes started and have games in the play yard. And, uh, one of the games was pom-pom-pull-away,

John T. Miller, cont. 9

which could be a rough game, and some of the boys who came, uh, by the time school started their shirts were torn and that kind of thing, but that was part of having fun. We always felt we had good teachers. It seemed like the tenure of teachers at that time was longer than it is now. You've had a teacher and it would be a teacher who had been there fifteen or twenty years or something like that. There wasn't much movement around once a teacher was located, They generally stayed pretty long and many of the teachers were women. A few men, but mostly women.

RA: Were they married or single?

JTM: Oh, both.

RA: Both?

JTM: Um huh. I remember one, Miss Johansson was. We always called her ~~%~~Miss Johansson. +Obviously she was not married, but there were some that were, too. I mentioned Mr. Ball. Incidentally, I saw him two summers ago. He lives in the summer up at Gilbert Lake in Wisconsin. It's a lake that the Wilmette Girl Scouts have a camp on.

RA: He has just within the last year passed away.

JTM: Passed away. When I saw him, he was quite feeble.

RA: Yes.

JTM: And his wife was driving the car, in fact, and he was sitting on the seat opposite her. And he just did not

John T. Miller, cont. 10

look too well at that time.

RA: The Gathercoals and the Balls and the uh, uh, there were several people who used to square dance at Howard School.

JTM: Oh, yes.

RA: In the same, the Seashore.

JTM: Oh, yes.

RA: ...and Murphys. Remus Murphy who taught math at Howard School. Our children had gone to Howard School and Pete Ball by that time was over there....

JTM: Yes.

RA:teaching manual training. So did you have basketball and football and the sports they have today?

JTM: Yes. We had basketball and we had football and there was competition between the schools, you know. We played football games against Howard School for instance.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: And two of the ones that I remember playing against were John and Jim Versino who have the Wilmette Bicycle and Sport Shop. And they both went to Howard School. Yes, the rivalry was quite keen, in fact.

RA: Oh, yes. As a matter of fact they had a hard time getting the junior high to amalgamate together.

JTM: Yes, Oh, yes. Well, I think at one time it was, well, whether it was true or not, the feeling that if you lived east of the railroad tracks you were a certain

John T. Miller, cont. 11

type of person and if you lived west, someone else, but that obviously isn't true.

BA: That really has worn pretty thin by now.

JTM: Oh, yes, now it has, but at one time there was a feeling....

RA: When I came to Wilmette in '32, it was very much like that and Mrs. Drucker, who lived up in Indian Hill Estates, used to go to meetings and people would be introduced to her and they'd say, "and where do you live?" And she would say, "Oh, I live out on Lake Avenue." And that was all she'd say and they'd say, "Oh," and there would be sort of a drop in their voices, "Oh, across the tracks," but that no longer exists any more. The schools have done away with that a great deal, I think. Has helped, at least. Tell me about, you said you were in the Marine Corps?

JTM: Yes.

RA: And that was during World War Two?

JTM: That's right.

RA: It must have been in the European theatre?

JTM: No, in the South Pacific.

RA: South Pacific you were?

JTM: I went in from Grinnell, Iowa, to Des Moines, Iowa, where there was a recruiting officer and signed up in the Marine Corps.

RA: I see.

John T. Miller, cont. 12

JTM: And they said, %If you will sign up, we will let you finish college,+which they did and then I was called about two weeks after graduating and was sent to Parris Island, North Carolina, for boot camp. And then was sent up to officers school at Quantico, Virginia.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: And after I got my commission as a second lieutenant, got a few days off and went home and married my sweetheart.

RA: Had she been in school with you?

JTM: Yes. I met her in school in Grinnell. Her father was a Congregational minister in Waterloo, Iowa.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: So we went %ready+for three years starting in our sophomore year. We got married and went down to Dunedin, Florida,where I was assigned for a short time in an amphibian-tractor batallion. The amphibian- tractors were developed so in landing troops you didnt get caught up on the coral reefs. They would climb right over them where a Higgins boat would get caught...

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM:on the coral reef. And then from there went to California and then to Guadalcanal and then went to Okinawa and Guam. We were all just ready to invade Japan when the bombs were dropped and the war was ended

John T. Miller, cont . 13

which was a blessing.

RA: **Yes**, it was.

JTM; Then came home from Guam on an LST that took twenty- eight days to get to San Francisco.

RA: Oh.

JTM: Well, they push the water. They don't cut the water. They push the water in front of them. They are very slow and I think you get six or seven knots at the most.

RA: Did you travel in squadrons or something?

JTM: Well, I didn't have really any responsibility at that time because the war was over. I didn't have my platoon any more. And so it was really just a carefree life coming back. Nothing to do except sleep and eat and read.

RA: Oh.

JTM: And I thought to myself at the time, "You will never have another time in your life when you'd have less responsibility than this time." And it was kind of relaxing for a month to do that because it has turned out that's true. Never again would we have that opportunity.

RA: And it's not often you have it in, even at the end of a war.

JTM: No. That's true. We got into San Francisco shortly after Christmas. Wanted to get home to see my wife

John T. Miller, cont.,14

and daughter that I hadn't seen and transportation was very hard to come by because there so many coming in and everybody wanted to be home for Christmas. So no way could you get on an airplane and finally they had put a train together called %The Furlough E Challenger.+Many, many cars, but all of them were chair- cars. Old chair- cars. So got on this train and it was three nights and two days of sitting there with a coal burning engine and the soot was coming in and, even though it was wintertime, the windows were closed and it was still dirty. The aisles were filled with suitcases, but nobody cared. They really were thinking of getting home. So it wasn't much to put up with, really.

RA: And you did get home?

JTM; And I did get home just in time for Christmas.

RA: Oh, that was a happy ending to an unpleasant experience, I'm sure. There were so many people from this area in the South Pacific during that time.

JTM: Yes, there were. Yes, there were. That's a nice thing to have behind. War is never a very pleasant thing.

RA: It certainly isn't. Well, then after you had a chance to get your land-legs again, you had a family to think about.

JTM: Oh, yes. I went to work shortly thereafter with a company called Victor Manufacturing and Gasket Company.

John T. Miller, cont. 15

Thirty- seven fifty West Roosevelt Road in Chicago which was quite a drive from Wilmette every morning, and I stayed there only for about six or eight months and got an opportunity to go into the advertising agency business as an apprentice.+So in 1946 I went to work for Alex T. Franz, Incorporated....

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM:which was a small advertising agency and I've been there ever since. Going on my thirty- second year there.

RA: Oh. I wondered what you did, whether you were an engineer.

JTM: No. Advertising agency business.

RA: Interesting. We have a son- in- law who's with Ogilvie in New York.

JTM: Oh, do you really?

RA: Yes.

JTM: A very fine agency.

RA: Yes. He started out here with Leo Burnett.

JTM: Urn hum. What part of the business is he in?

RA: He's really a marketing man. He was with Libbys until they sold their frozen, he's in frozen foods. When they sold their frozen foods to Orchard Farms, they asked him to go to Orchard Farms to guarantee their sale because it involved quite a bit of merchandise and quite a bit of money and then they had wanted him to go to Vevey,

John T. Miller, cont. 16

in Switzerland where Nestles main office is, but he said his children were at the age where he wanted them educated in the United States and he didn't want to leave them behind to be educated, so he broke off from Orchard Farms finally. Tried to hack it on his own, but in marketing that was too, slim pickings, so..

JTM: Well, he's been in a couple of good organizations. Leo Burnett's a fine agency and.

RA: He feels he got some great training. He went from Burnett to, oh, two men who now are both gone, I think.

JTM: Benton and Bowles?

RA: No.

JTM: In Chicago or New York?

RA: It was in Chicago. Most of his training was here in Chicago, but McCann-Erickson then called him away from there and then Gardner in St. Louis got him and so he's been on the ball since.

JTM: Very interesting.

RA: So he's had some good experience, but that isn't Wilmette. They were in Winnetka for a long time, but we get back to Wilmette. And now you have quite a family, haven't you?

JTM: We have five children. The oldest is about thirty-three and the youngest is fourteen. So everybody

John T. Miller, cont. 17

is really out of the house except our youngest who is a sophomore at New Trier.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: And it's like the normal family. We go through periods when everybody's home and then one by one they leave.

RA: Oh, yes. How well we know. Our grandchildren are just about at the stage your children are now. We have a fourteen year old in high school.

JTM: We have four grandchildren, all boys., The oldest one is ten and the youngest one is three.

RA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

JTM: We, um, getting back to Wilmette, I have some very happy memories of the, we went to the First Presbyterian Church, the corner Ninth and Greenleaf and that church burned down. And then we, services were held for at least a couple of years, I remember, in the Women's Club while they were rebuilding the church. And the old church used to have a bowling alley down in the basement. As a little boy, I used to set pins in the bowling alley.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: Wilmette's bowling league. But when they built the new church to replace the one that was burned down, they didn't put a bowling alley in.

RA: They pretty much use the whole of that building today. The basement is very much, I've attended a number of

John T. Miller, cont. 18

things over there.

JTM: I remember my father used to go out to West End Florist every Sunday morning to bring my mother a flower to wear to church. A little flower to put on her lapel, or on her dress, and I'd go out with him and it seemed like West End Florist was so far away from the corner of Sixth and Isabella. In reality it was probably two miles, two and a half miles, but you really didn't see that much traffic going out. If you'd see three or four cars, that would be about it.

RA: And what was most of the traffic? Were there lots of horse and buggies during.

JTM: They were delivering ice in buggies, but most people that had cars either had an electric car, there were a few of those around, or a gasoline driven car, but the streets certainly weren't crowded at all.

RA: And were they all paved?

JTM: Ah, no. Oh, no, they weren't all paved. And, in fact, some of the better streets are still what are now the brick streets that haven't been covered over by asphalt yet, but I'd never forget some of those brick streets during The Depression. The WPA had people they put to work. They would take these bricks up one by one and put a new sand base on to level them off and then re-set the bricks. It was a make work project, but it gave

John T. Miller, cont. 19

people something to do who didn't otherwise not have a job.

RA: Now you're talking about the thirties. The early thirties.

JTM: The early thirties.

RA: During The Depression. And this is quite memorable in my life, too, because I was raising a family at that point and not many people were. As they were getting out of college, it took a great deal of courage and nerve to try to surmount the Depression years. So I often think about Studs Turkel and his articles, that he was a single man and so I didn't, don't feel he has a great deal to offer me. All he had to do was keep clothing on his back and food in his mouth.

JTM: Wilmette beach was always a fun place. It's different now because they have enclosed it in with fences and the parking lot takes up a good part of the place, but we used to spend as much time as we could in the summertime down at the beach. It's quite different. There were two rafts. A close-in--to-shore raft and a further-out raft and then past the second raft was the high dive that you had to have your WB, for Wilmette Beach, little token or, it was really a piece....

RA: Letters, weren't they?

JTM: letters sewn on to the suits, but that was always

John T. Miller, cont. 20

a pleasant thing.

RA: Do you remember the houses that were where Gillson Park now *is*?

JTM: Oh, yes.

RA: On north uh, or south of Lake Avenue:

JTM: Yes, I do.

RA: Well, I was commenting about this because I helped with a summer school group so my children could go during The Depression....

JTM: Oh, did you?

RA:down there and when it rained we had the basement that we could go right in to from the sandy beach,

JTM: Yes.

RA: And the water was then beginning to wash away those lots.

JTM: Yes.

PA: But there were houses all along there.

JTM: All along. Yes, there were. And the water was so nice and clean. The sand was clean.

RA: Yes.

JTM: No problem with alewives or things like that.

RA: This has always been a puzzle to me why we didn't have any of those things in those days, but I'm told that the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. .

JTM: Let them in.

John T. Miller, cont. 21

RA: .. .let the alewives in.

JTM: We used to also walk down to the end of Isabella at the lake and there was a big stone out in the lake, maybe fifty yards offshore, where the water would be over your head, but if you could find the stone that was maybe six feet in diameter, you could stand on the stone.

RA: Oh.

JTM: And that's where we'd go skinny dipping. We'd take our suits off out there....

RA: Oh, yes. (Giggle)

JTM:and swim in the bare.

RA: It was a lot freer in generations past than....

JTM: Oh, I'm sure.

RA: ..our crowded conditions today, but this was true throughout the country, I think. What kind of side- walks? Do you remember those? Were they all concrete at the time?

JTM: No. I think there were still some brick sidewalks. Some dirt sidewalks, but the main streets all had, as I remember sidewalks. Eighth, Ninth, Seventh, Sixth, Fifth, all the way down. It was built up and there was an iron plate, cast iron plate, where the water would run underneath but you could ride your bicycle, for instance, down Central without getting off

John T. Miller, cont. 22

at every curb. There were no curbs there.

RA.: Oh, I see.

JTM: It's a little difficult to *explain*, but you come to where the curb is now. The curb would be there, but the street was built up and an iron plate over the top of it so that the water draining could go underneath the iron plate but it wasn't bumpy.

RA: Were those in the place of sewers?

JTM: No. They didn't replace the sewers. They just made it so that you didn't step down on to the street and then step up on the other side. You could go right across. On level.

RA: I see, but originally, I believe, there were ditches along the wooden sidewalks,

JTM: Yes, there were. And I guess these metal plates were put there to allow the water to drain underneath them when it rained.

RA: I see, but from the streets only. By that time there were sewers.

JTM: Yes, by that time there were sewers.

RA: In the very beginning, I guess, when Wilmette was a new village there was no need of sewers. The water just ran off that was used and....

JTM: That was before my time though.

RA: I'm sure it was and the pumps that were on the inside,

John T. Miller, cont. 23

there's one house I know in Wilmette that still has a soft water pump.

JTM: Is that right?

RA: . . . in the kitchen.

JTM: Oh, a house that, when we moved to Birchwood Lane in 1946 the house behind us that was on, that is now on Pomona Lane, I believe, was a farm house. And at that time, in 1946, they still had a pump outside that they got water from.

RA: Well, I remember as a child, too, in my hometown which is out in DeKaib County, we got water from pumps.

JTM: Yes. Well, the fact is that they didn't have any water down in Pomona Lane. The people that lived in that house got permission from a neighbor on Birchwood Lane to run a pipe through their backyard to bring water over to their house.

RA: Oh. That is very interesting. Were the Behans there? Were you there when the Behans lived.

JTM: I don't remember that name. Where did they live?

RA: They lived on the corner of, what's the street next to Birchwood? North.

JTM: North of Birchwood? Well, on the west side of Illinois Road, it's Cardinal Lane, but that's a new thing.

RA: No. Let's say. Go back to Birchwood where the little red building has been moved in.

John T. Miller, cont. 24

JTM: Oh, yes.

RA: And the house that faces Illinois Road at Birchwood there, not the one from which the lot was taken, but the next one.

JTM: Oh, I know which one you mean. I don't remember the name of the people. I don't think it was Behan at that time.

RA: Well, they didn't live there for very long. They came in to town from there, I believe, and lived on Wilmette Avenue and about Fifteenth Street later, but they, too, were part of the square dancing group at Howard School.

JTM: Oh, were they? When we were kids, they had a, in addition to the North Shore Line coming down and running down Greenleaf Avenue and then going north, we had a street car that ran down Central Street in Evanston and then that went out to the forest preserve. And there was a trestle that went up over the railroad tracks out where the Northwestern freight line now runs along.

RA: Oh?

JTM: And the streetcar, to get so it didn't go across it, went over this and we used to think that was so much fun climbing up, but you had to be very careful that you weren't on the top when a streetcar would come along.

John T. Miller, *cont.* 25

RA: I can imagine. Well, I....

JTM: And it dead ended in the forest preserve.

RA: We have pictures at the library of that trolley line that I believe young Dave Leach has given them to the library. His father was quite a railroad buff.

JTM: Yes.

RA: And so that we have some pictures, quite a few pictures that he gave to the library. And so I have seen that line that you speak of and they called it ~~the~~ Trolley.+

JTM: ~~The~~ Trolley.+That's what it was. It reminds me much of the trolley cars in San Francisco now.

RA: Oh.

JTM: Except they're not geared to go up and down....

RA: Cogs.

JTM:cogs, the way in San Francisco. It was an electric trolley.

RA: Toonerville Trolley. There used to be a cartoon in the newspaper....

JTM: Yes.

RA: .called The Toonerville Trolley. Well, your children then have all had the advantage of going through the Wilmette schools, too.

JTM: Yes, that's right. Our oldest one, Carol, went to Highcrest School when it was just that original building.

John T. Miller, cont. 26

RA: The little country school.

JTM: The little country school and I think they had one class in each of the grades. And, of course, now they have expanded and built on two or three times and now it's closed.

RA: That's right. Now they're a various number of activities in there, I'm told.

JTM: Well, the building's being put to use, but not as a school now.

RA: That's right. And, of course, it was taken over in my time from a rural district school. It was a Cook County school originally.

JTM: That is correct.

RA: The original building, so then they went from Highcrest to where?

JTM: Highcrest, uh, well, some of them went to Locust after Locust was built. Before that they went to Howard.

RA: I see.

JTM: And then two of them went to New Trier East and the other three have gone to New Trier West.

RA: Oh, yes, you're in the west district.

JTM: We're just on the dividing line. Illinois Road is the dividing line,...

RA: Oh.

JTM: . . . out by us and we're one block west of Illinois Road.

John T. Miller, cont. 27

RA: I see. And, of course, it is closer to you than....

JTM: Yes, I would guess it's pretty much equidistant.

RA: Is it?

JTM: Yes, as far as the distances go. I haven't actually measured it off, but I would guess it was about equidistant.

RA: It was an interesting way that they handled that in order to make the division, as I understood it. I was on the League of Women Voters committee that studied the need for a second New Trier and I know there was..

JTM: Well, Art (indistinct) was on the site selection committee....

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: ...and looked around for various sites that might be available.

RA: And they let it slip through their fingers the first time.

JTM: Yes, but it's a nice location now.

RA: It's a beautiful campus. When my husband went to open house he said, "Oh, I'd like to go back to school and start all over again." +Yes, there are several, we have one young man who has gone all through West and is now over at Northwestern Tech. And he's been the technician for the committee over this year. And I've

John T. Miller, cont. 28

been interested in his comments because he's been my only direct contact with New Trier West.

JTM: Our children all enjoyed it. They've had a very fine experience there. They are a nice group of teachers. It's just a nice facility.

RA: Yes and the location is marvelous.

JTM: I used to walk on occasion to New Trier East when I went there. It's a long way from Sixth and Isabella to New Trier East, but if the weather were nice, I walked up along Sheridan Road through No Man's Land. And my first real job, I think, aside from doing lawn work or delivering groceries with the pony, was working in a Phillips 66 gas station that was in No Man's Land.

RA: Oh, yes.

JTM: It's no longer there, but quite a few experiences up there. They had slot machines.

RA: Oh, yes. When No Man's Land was in its prime, it was wide open. It was really, and the highrises haven't seemed to have done the damage that.

JTM: No, I think that they've, as long as they don't spread out any more, come any further south, it's fine. They've been a good addition to that area in my opinion.

RA: And they haven't needed that many additional services really.

JTM: No, they haven't really. Most of the people that live

John T. Miller, cont. 29

there don't have children that are going to school and that whole area has been very well developed.

RA: I feel so, too. And sometimes too well developed if

I want to get groceries on Saturday and I can't find a parking place, but it's had its day. And I can remember Tornado Tavern and.

JTM: Oh, yes, and the Pink Cottage was there.

RA: Oh, yes. And then there was an old, old shack where, over right on the lake where they used to have a card game going on all the time.

JTM: Quite a few things were going on in that area.

RA: I can remember walking all the way up the beach in years gone by as far as Kenilworth Beach itself when there was, before the water gouged it out, the way it is. We can't do that any more. Well, you probably feel you would like to get on.

JTM: I think so. It's been very enjoyable talking to you.

RA: Well, I've enjoyed listening to your experiences, certainly, and I'm sure that the rest of the community will, too.

(End o tape)