

Frederick William Waidner (1909-1989)

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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: Frederick William Waidner

Interviewer: Rhea Adler

Date of interview: December 6, 1979

Born in Wilmette - Panushka family Methodist Church - Waidner's arrival in community - pickle broker

Pickles shipped from here in barrels - Dinges and Gages from Westchester Co., N. Y.

Interrelationship of Waidner - Panushka - Dingee - Gage families

First Boy Scout troop - Congregational Church - second troop at Methodist Church

Community through WWI - rationing sugar, meat, etc. - WWII same - he in active service

Depression years - he worked at Curtiss Air Field (now Glenview Naval Air Base) - then into field of music

Waidner's were a Chicago family from before the Chicago Fire early Blue Law rules for Sundays

Discussion of Margaret McClure in relationship to Waidner and Gage families

F.W.W. experience as an adult playing with big bands and war bands - two sons and a daughter

Discussion of Fitch family

Sunday "do's and don'ts" in the M.E. Church and the Waidner family - Wilmette Country Club

Recalls childhood with Bill Gage, Stanley Gage's son and a first cousin of F.W.W., in No Man's Land.

Frederick William Waidner

RA: Let's begin by your saying your full name.

FWW: My name is Frederic William Waidner, and I was born in Wilmette October 15, 1909 at 1046 Greenwood Avenue.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: That was before the hospital, I think. I am not sure.

RA: Oh, yes, I....

FWW: Everybody was born at home in those days.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: So - my Mother was born at 1041 Forest Avenue before me 18, uh, was it 1884?

RA: And your Mother was whom?

FWW: Susan Panushka.

RA: Oh, yes, of the....

FWW: There were about eleven in that family.

RA: Oh, really? I had no idea that it was as large as that.

FWW: She was about the third from the youngest and she was the last one. She just died last June. She was 94 years old.

RA: For goodness sakes. And she had lived in Wilmette all of those 94 years?

FWW: Uh, practically. She - she sold the house finally. It got to be too much and she had an apartment on Central Street, Evanston.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And then she went to live with my sister, uh, yes, my sister in Potomac, Maryland.

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RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: For seven or eight years.

RA: How many of you were there - siblings did you have?

FWW: I had two brothers and a sister.

RA: Four of you.

FWW: There were four of us and I had an older sister that died when she was about six because of sickness. My mother was sure it was from appendicitis which they didn't know anything about in that time.

RA: That's right. And I assume that your doctor was Dr. Stolp.

FWW: Sure.

RA: Everybody in Wilmette during that period of time had Dr. Stoip, although I did hear from one of the Weedon sisters about another doctor who lived down on Green Bay Avenue, but she couldn't remember his name, but she had to go for him one time when one of the - her siblings was ill.

FWW: Oh, um hum.

RA: And in the middle of the winter and she rode back in the cutter.

FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: So that I haven't been able to pick up his name.

FWW: I couldn't - I wouldn't know that.

RA: Well, the people who had Dr. Stolp, of course, because he was the only doctor. *(Laughter)*

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FWW: He was the only one I knew.

RA: (*Laughter*) Yes. Well, that's quite possible. Let me take that.

FWW: No, this is all right. We finally ended up with his bag - medicine bag.

RA: Oh, didn't...

FWW: For some reason, I don't know, we had it at our house for quite a while after he died. It came over to our house some way and it had all of these little things full of pills.

RA: The pill bottles?

FWW: Yes.

RA: Oh, yes. Was it the kind....

FWW: Yes.

RA: ... that folded out and the pill bottles were all in a row?

FW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: This is - of course, this generation knows none of these things that you and I, uh, just considered a matter of course, but doctors write our prescriptions today rather than to carry medicines with them.

FWW: Oh, sure. Yes.

RA: This is uh....

FWW: And I suppose a lot of them were pink pills (*Laughter*) and he carried just nothing - sugar pills and....

RA: That's right. Tell me, uh, what is the profession you

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have followed?

FWW: Music.

RA: Music?

FWW: Yes.

RA; In what areas?

FWW: Well, I started in high school playing clarinet and then I went from there to saxophone, to flute, oboe, English horn. You see, I play all of the woodwinds.

RA: I see.

FWW: And I've been playing all different kinds of groups. I played with the Chicago Symphony for a couple of weeks. They needed a sax player and, uh, polka *bands*, (*Laughter*) wedding bands... (*Laughter*)

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW:all kinds of things.

RA: Are there many of those groups now still that play?

FWW: Oh, yes, because I still play.

RA: And do you have a registry or something where you....

FWW: No, the leaders call you.. They know what you can do and they call you.

RA: Word of mouth.

FWW: Like tomorrow night I'm at the Bismark Hotel and the next night I'm at the Hyatt House out at O'Hare.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: It's a different place every night.

RA: How interesting. It keeps you busy.

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FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: And then you teach, I believe?

FWW: Yes, a couple of days a week.

RA: And where do you teach?

FWW: Main South High School.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: Of course, now you're getting away - you want to hear about the church.

(Laughter)

RA: I want to hear about the church and your - your family's affiliation there.

FWW: Yes. Well, let me just talk about my family which - because they were both Methodists.

RA: This is fine. I would very much like that.

FWW: Yes. Well, my Grandpa Panushka and his wife, Henrietta, moved to Wilmette from St. Louis and I'm sure she was a charter member. Now you said it wasn't in the...

RA: Well, now this is only men. There are no women's names. This is not a charter group that we have, and I will get that for you to see. This is the list of the first contributors and the date of the church's establishment.

FWW: Oh, um hum.

RA: There is the date.

FWW: 1872.

RA: June.

FWW: Well, I forgot to bring my, uh..

RA: List of charter....

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FWW: Family tree thing because..

RA: Oh.

FWW:then I could tell you when they moved here, but they moved here before 1872 I am sure.

RA: Well, there were many people here for 50 years or more before....

FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: .. .and, uh, there was a church prior to this one that the Methodists all belonged to and it was called a . well, it was like a community church and I'm sorry that I didn't pull that for you, too, but - on the back, it's a xerox and . so that . but that is just a one sheet in our file....

FWW: Yes.

RA: .. .and it is the original?

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: But what happened was that a union church was formed of all denominations

FWW: Um hum.

RA: ... and the title reads how much each person contributed and then it says when there are enough of that denomination in the community that the Union Church will refund the amount of money that the individual gave in order that he might use it....

FWW: Um hum.

RA:to establish a denominational church....

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RA:of his own denomination....

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA:but I thought it was very interesting that in the 18, I don't know the exact date, but somewhere between 1850 and 1872 that a Union Church held the community together in a spiritual way.

FWW: Um hum.

RA: Everybody was united, so to speak.

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: But you tell us about what you know about the Methodist Church and your family's participation therein. You may have that to take to the church.

FWW: The reason I said that Grandma was a charter member because when they dedicated the Methodist Church, there is a little chapel in the courtyard there and they dedicated that some way, but I don't remember Grandma being there....

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: ... as the only charter member living....

RA: I see.

FWW: . . . of the first church.

RA: In this present building.

FWW: Yes.

RA: So that we know....

FWW: Now. Yes.

RA: Yes. Does the church have a record of its charter members?

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FWW: They might have. I don't know.

RA: This was something Fern Lundburg has wanted me to do.

FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: To find out as much as I could about it.

FWW: Well anyway, I know that the Panushkas were members of real early stage and, uh, my Mother was - always talked about the first wooden building which I don't remember.

RA: Have you ever seen a picture of it?

Fw: I think I probably have, but I do remember the second church which was a red brick building that seemed like it was like a circular building.

RA: Oh.

FWW: And that's - I was in that all the time....

RA: Yes.

FWW: . . . because we always went to Sunday school and then we'd go to church....

RA: Yes.

FWW:after Sunday school was first, but I remember that - even running around the church, you know, when nobody was in that.

RA: Yes.

FWW: ð upstairs, (*Laughter*) but we had - Sunday schools were all down in the basement.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And then the church was upstairs.

RA: My husband and I grew up in a Methodist church. It was

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the only English speaking church in our little community....

FWW: Um hum.

RA: ò and Protestant. We left the Catholic church, but we - my family was traditionally Congregational.

FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: And I had been going there, but the Methodist church has always been a very strong force in this community, both socially and politically. Hasn't it in your....

FW: Yes, I think so. I think it was around 1900 my - the Waidners came from Chicago. They lived on Chicago Avenue and they moved out here about 1900 in that - moved to that big triangular lot across the Street from the church.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And it's a parking lot now, but originally the house was there and my aunt had this great big garden and she used to supply flowers for the Sunday services.

RA: Who was your aunt?

FWW: Ella. Aunt Ella.

RA: What was her last name?

FWW: Waidner.

RA: Waidner.

FWW: She was a spinster.

RA: Oh, yes. I was trying to think of a person whom I knew when I first came to the village who lived in that block. Excuse me, please. We were discussing where your different Waidner relatives lived in the Village. Where did the

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the Panushka offspring live, other than your Mother?

FWW: Well, let me explain about the Punushkas and the Waidners.

The Panushka family lived at 1041 Forest and then the Waidners moved in 1900
- the Waidners moved to 1048 Lake.

RA: Yes.

FWW: So their back yards were right adjoining and that's where my Dad met my
Mother, over the back yard fence.

RA: Oh. Well, this was very common in that day.

FWW: It was?

RA: Now tell me why both these families, or each one, came to this community.
Your Panushkas came from St. Louis.

FWW: Yes. Well, he was with an insurance company and he was sent up here.

RA: I see.

FWW: I mean, he came up here because of the insurance company.

RA: Um, then we've established that he was insurance. What about Mr. Waidner,
Sr.?

FWW: Well, he was - he came from Baltimore and he was in the pickle
business and....

RA: Was he with the Dingees?

FWW: Oh, no. No. This has nothing to do with the Dingees.

RA: I see.

FWW: He was with - well, I guess he was a pickle broker. He'd buy pickles all
over this - Michigan and Illinois.

RA: Yes.

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FWW And then sell them, of course, to Dingee or different pickle companies - Budlong Pickles.

RA: I see.

FWW: So I know he was friendly with the Budlongs from Chicago.

RA: Oh, yes. By this time they were in bottles or cans, weren't they - the pickles?

FWW: I doubt it. They were probably in barrels.

RA: They were still in barrels by then?

FWW: Sure because I remember those at Van Deusen's Grocery. We used to get pickles out of the barrel.

RA: Now this is very interesting that you remember this because I said something about they shipped in barrels out of here when the Dingees were New York people and somebody was appalled. They said, "How could they?" But they were - everything was pretty much - was shipped in barrels in....

FWW: Yes.

RA: ... the 19th century.

FWW: The Dingees came from....

RA: New York state.

FWW:New York state and the Gages came from Westchester County. I know that in New York, but the Dingees came out here, I don't know that they were particularly in the pickle business when they came out, but they...

RA: They were in the land investment business.

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FWW: Sure. Sure.

RA:and it's interesting in what we have at the Wilmette Library. There were five generations of Dingees involved before they - the fifth - I believe the fourth or fifth generation acquired the land, but the grandfather came out here very, very early when it was Indian reservation territory.

FWW: Yes. Right.

RA: And then the one kept working and it took him 75 years, I think. It was just shortly before he died that it was finally his. We have the papers....

FWW: Um hum.

RA:from Washington, D.C. on it - all the correspondence that went on about it.

FWW: Yes.

RA:at the Library.

FWW: See, one of my Mother's sisters married Charlie Dingee.

RA: Oh. That was the son of Samuel, wasn't it?

FWW: Right. Yes.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: And so that's how we are....

RA: You're related?

FWW:related to the Dingees.

RA: It's very interesting to talk to you from this standpoint because you know I know very few people in Wilmette - in Wilmette proper, east of the tracks, let's say....

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FWW: Yes.

RA: who are intermarried with all of these families.

FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: Grosse. Pointe . it's very simple to have one talk about all of the families because ...

FWW:Yes

RA: they're all cousins of each other....

FWW: Yes

RA: but the fact that you are related to as many of the early families as you are is most interesting....

FWW: Yes.

RA: and almost a unique situation that I have come across...

FWW: Oh, yes

RA: in five years Oh, yes.

FWW: Um hum.

RA: So I did interrupt, but proceed with your . with your story of your families.

FWW: Yes... Well, then, of course, another sister married Stanley Gage . another one of my mother's sisters.

RA: Oh

FWW: So we're related to the Gages

RA: I see

FWW: I have a cousin, Bill Gage, and I have two cousins, Margaret and Leonore Dingee. Of course, they're got married names now.

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RA: Yes.

FWW: Margaret McClure lives up in Highland Park.

RA: Yes. I've been wondering - do you suppose she would talk about her....

FWW: She might because I - in fact, I've got to go up there because I've got a thing from the family tree, a paper that my brother sent, and I want - I made a copy for her.

RA: Great. We will talk about that after we get through taping....

FWW: Yes.

RA: because I'm at Newberry Library one day a week.

FWW: Oh.

RA: And so I do have a background for this kind of thing and I'd like to hear your - your particular background, but for this we want a broad general picture of the community and the activities.

FWW: Well now, as far as - back to the Methodist church again - when I was, you know, Boy Scout age, there was one troop in town - the first troop - and that was the Congregational church and joined that.

RA: Oh, yes. And who was the scout master?

FWW: Oh (*Laughter*) boy, I don't remember.

RA: Was Mr. Coburn at the time?

FWW: Coburn.

RA: Coburn.

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FWW: That name sounds familiar. Yes. I think so. Yes.

RA: And Minor Coburn's father.

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: He did a tape for us before he passed away....

FWW: Oh. Um hum.

RA: ..and so- but his daughter has it and she said that there were so many errors, she hasn't returned it to us.

FWW: Oh.

RA: I was going to tape her and I hope to get to it soon, but you met at the Congregational church and was that a large troop?

FWW: Well, I don't think it was too large, but it was the only one.

RA: The only. Well, this was very early on wasn't it - the beginning of scouting in the U.S.?

FWW: Oh, yes, because there would have to be - let's see, I was born, in 1909 and I was about 9 or 10, so it was, you know, right after the war. I don't think it was during the war, but right after.

RA: As I recall, it was somewhere about 19 - just before the war that it really took hold in England and then....

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: ...spread. Lord Baden-Powell - wasn't that the man?

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: Who started.

FWW: Well, I was in that for about a year and then there was

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a split. I remember the Methodists started a troop.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: So, quite naturally, I came over to the Methodist church.

RA: Yes.

FWW: And then Ben Cox was the scout leader then.

RA: Oh, yes. Now who was he?

FWW: Well, he was - he was an official of Spaulding-Gorham down in the Drake Hotel.

RA: The silver people?

FWW: Yes, but he was very, uh, I mean he worked real hard in the church. He was a Sunday school teacher, scout leader.

RA: Oh; yes.

FWW: He had two children, but he was..

RA: Very active - a community person. This - the Village has been very fortunate in having a great many people make very outstanding contributions to the community life. What other activities did the boys at that period engage in? You went through World War I and....

FWW: Yes. The only thing I remember about that is that we had sugarless days, meatless days and since I was about 9 or 10 years old at that time.

RA: Yes.

FWW:but I do remember the billboards and, you know....

RA: Just like World War II really. There was rationing, but not quite to the extent was there?

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Well, I don't remember because I was in the army.

RA: You were in the war? *(Laughter)*

FWW: I wasn't rationed.

RA: *(Laughter)* I see.

FWW: And, of course, it didn't. I don't know if it affected us - those sugarless days because sugarless days now would be good for you.

RA: Well, that's right. *(Laughter)* As many people, I'm one of those who's going sugarless these days.

FWW: Yes. I do, too.

RA: It is true, but I was on the other end of it as a young mother raising children and having meat rationing stamps and sugar rationing stamps.

FWW: You mean the second world war?

But you were referring to the first.

FWW: Yes.

RA: Well, that, too, was a time and then in between was the Depression.

FWW: Oh, yes. Yes.

RA: And do you recall that that had much of an effect on your family?

FWW: uh, it didn't seem to too much and it didn't bother me at all because I was just starting to work then so I never....

RA: You had a job?

FWW: Well, it was during the Depression era. Well, let's see

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I started working in 1929.

RA: When it came in.

FWW: Yes, I was working with Curtis Wright Air Field which is now....

RA: Ohio?

FWW: No. It's Glenview Airport now.

RA: Oh, for heaven's sakes.

FWW: You see Curtis Wright had fields all over the country.

RA: I didn't realize that. I knew of the one in Ohio.

FWW: Well, it was probably the main, base, but they opened this one up here and then, of course, during the war the Navy took it over and it is still Navy now.

RA: I see.

FWW: But I worked there in 1921. It was the first job I had....

RA: And what did you do?

FWW:outside of music because I had been playing....

RA: Yes.

FWW:music. all the time.

RA: Yes. What did you do?

FWW: Well, I was - like the secretary to the boss. For some reason he didn't like girls or something (*Laughter*) and I could type and take dictation....

RA: Yes.

FWW: . . . and so I got the job.

RA: Oh, that was....

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FWW: So it was a good experience. Then I went to Sky Harbor Airport because he went up there and I worked for him....

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW:for about a year. Then I went to work in an insurance company for my Dad for about 5 years until I couldn't stand it any longer and then I got into music....

RA: I see.

FWW:full time.

RA: Yes. Now how did you - your father came up here as - or was it your grandfather

FWW: Grandfather.

RA:who was in the pickle business and then your father....

FWW: No, no. My grandfather was in the insurance business and he came up and he worked for an insurance company. Then my father and my uncle got into insurance by themselves.

RA: I see.

FWW: And one uncle stayed in the pickle business, but the two other ones got into insurance and then they had an insurance agency for - until they both died.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And I worked for them for 5 years, but, I've been....

RA: Music has been your life though.

FWW:traveling around. Yes.

RA: Yes. Well, are you a lyric buff? Have you played with the Lyric Orchestra ever?

FWW: No. I've played with - I know quite a few of them. I've

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played with them....

RA: Oh, yes.

FW: but I've never played opera particularly.

RA: I see.

FWW: I think I played one opera thing one time, but that's....

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: ... kind of dim. I've sort of forgotten about it.

RA: Their 25th year this year has been quite....

FWW: Oh, the Lyric Opera. Yes.

RA: Oh successful, I guess.

FWW: Yes.

RA Yes, it has, but what was the musical life within the community. Always there's been the Chicago Symphony and - to draw people into town, but what about the Village itself and....

FW: Well, I'll tell you about the Waidners in Chicago. They lived right around Chicago. My Dad was in the Chicago fire. He was three years old.

RA: Oh. Your father?

FWW: Yes. And they had to - they wheeled him out of the house with the silverware and everything (*Laughter*) in the baby carriage and their house didn't burn, but....

RA: I see.

FEW:they weren't too sure.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: So then they - that was on Wendell Street which was near

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North Avenue. Then they moved somewhere else and then they moved to Chicago Avenue.

RA: I see.

FWW: That house was still there about 15 years ago and they tore it down finally.

RA: Oh.

FWW: It was one of those big four story things.

RA: Yes.

FWW: Narrow house. The kitchen was in the basement and they had the dumb waiters and.

RA: That went all the way up through - oh, yes. We had one of those in my childhood.

FWW: Well, when they were kids they had - they all played. There were five in that family, and they all played and they had the Waidner family orchestra....

RA: Oh.

FWW:around Chicago and they played for different things. Not professionally, particularly, but in church things and picnics and so, of course, when we were - when our family started going, why - my dad played cello and so we had our own little orchestra and we would play at the church. We'd play like for Sunday school and different things.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: We'd get some other people with us.

RA: In the Methodist church they didn't dance.

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FWW: No, they didn't dance, but we played hymns....

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: . . .for like, you know, Sunday school.

RA: And no card playing....

FWW.: No.

RA:in the church.

FWW: No, nor even outside.

RA: I know. I struggled with that in my youth because I liked card games..

(Laughter)

FWW: Movies. No movies on Sunday either.

RA: Oh, yes. And what were some of the other forbidden things on Sundays?

FWW: That's all I can think of.

RA: Were you allowed to roller skate?

FWW: Oh, sure.

RA: Oh, were? I wasn't.

FWW: I went to the movies one time and, gee, I never saw my Dad so mad and I couldn't figure it out *(Laughter)* because I went around with quite a few Catholics who went and it didn't bother them. They had gone to church and they could do anything they wanted to.

RA: Sure.

FWW: But I went one Sunday afternoon and I got bawled out for it.

RA: A good Methodist didn't do that in the early....

FWW: So we played around - we also played at the Congregational

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church - you see not only the Methodist church, but we played over there, too.

We had like two orchestras.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: Sometimes we'd be over there. Sometimes we'd be at the Methodist church.

RA: I see.

FWW: But I know before - I don't even remember this, but I remember my Dad and Mother talking about it. There was a Wilmette Country Club....

RA: Yes.

FWW:which was later turned into the Shawnee Country Club and is now Michigan Shores.

RA: Yes. Now talk about that country club. It wasn't a golfing club, was it?

FWW: Oh, no. No. It was just a social club.

RA: And where was it?

FW: It was the same place as Michigan Shores is now except it was an old wooden building something - almost like the Kenilworth Club.

RA: Well, was that the first building that that club had because....

FWW: I think so.

RA: Oh someone told me - talked about going through the woods to picnics over around Chestnut Avenue.

FW1: Oh, wait a minute. You might be right, but I - oh, I think I remember hearing about that.

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RA: I tell you who told me that and it was Ella Butz.

FWW: Um hum, but then if that was the case, then later they did have a building like the Kenilworth Club at the place where Michigan Shores is now because I remember going to dances there.

RA: I see. Well, that was in - then about the mid....,

FWW: Well, it would be like the....

RA: 1920\$?

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: Um hum. This is interesting.. Well, I was remembering what Ella Butz put on about the very first one.

FWW: Well, I know that thing about going through the woods and I don't know where I read it, but I remember hearing about it.

RA: Yes, and she said that the families all brought their picnic baskets on the Fourth of July and Memorial Day and they always had self programs that were self-motivated and by the families themselves and....

FWW: Yes. Well, we used to have picnics at No Man's Land. You see, that's where the Gages lived.

RA: Yes.

FWW: On Sheridan Road - across the street from where the big apartments are now.

RA: In, uh....

FWW: They had a big....

RA: Tornado Tavern which it was later called.

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FWW: Well, that was their house.

RA: That was Henry Gage's home.

FtW: Henry Gage's house.

RA: And I didn't realize until recently, and I compared two pictures in our files at the Library and that house plan was identical with the Elmwood Avenue wooden structure.

FWW: Oh. Um hum. Well, of course, this was a wooden one.

RA: Well, wasn't it brick?

FWW: I don't think so.

RA: It looked brick in the old photographs and then it was painted later and then it had that big porch on the front.

FWW: But they still were (Indistinct) weren't they?

RA: That's right.

FWW: Was that Jared on Wilmette?

RA: There were four brothers.

FWW: Jared and Henry and....

RA: Leander.

FWW: Leander and then there was another one.

RA: And John. Young John. -

FWW: Yes. And then there was another one that stayed in New Jersey.

RA: Well, he came out here and then he went back.

FWW: Right. Right. Um hum.

RA: And this - the father and mother - there is a picture in

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 26

the Wilmette district of the four brothers and the father and mother, but the father and mother moved to New Jersey - Vineland, New Jersey and died there.

FWW: Right.

RA: And were never residents, as I understood it, at the village of Wilmette.

FWW: Yes. I don't think so.

RA: Well.

FWW: The one at Vineland is Uncle Portius.

RA: Portius. That's right because his mother's name was Portia. John and Portia Gage were parents.

FWW: Well, you see now, Stanley Gage married my aunt.. . -

RA: Yes.

FWW:but he had a sister, Portia.

RA: Well, Yes, that's true, but whose child was Stanley?

FWW: Henry's.

RA: Henry's son. Okay.

FWW: And so was Portia.

RA: Yes.

FWW: And she married an Englishman - Lee.

RA: Lee.

FWW: Yes. William Lee. A

RA: I see. Does....

FWW: He was an Englishman, but he was - he bought horses or something like that for England.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 27

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: He was stationed here. He lived here most of his life, I guess.

RA: I see.

FWW: Now, of course, the Gages - my cousin was Bill Gage. He seems to be, of that family, the only one left. His father, Stanley Gage, went into the family tree business....

RA: Yes. He did a beautiful job on a record for the Ye Old Town Folks....

FWW: Yes.

RA:that they have in the Historical Society.

FWW: Oh, yes. Um hum - because that was a yearly thing for - we always go to that....

RA: Yes.

FWW:the Old Town Folks meeting.

RA: Now it's at the Wilmette Historical Society.

FWW: Well, now she's my first cousin.

RA: Your first cousin?

FWW: Yes. Bill Gage is and so is Margaret.

RA: And Margaret is whose....

FWW: She was Margaret Dingee and she married Lawrence Dingee.

RA: And who was her father?

FWW: Charlie Dingee.

RA: I see. And he was the son of.

FWW: Well, he....

RA: Daniel, I believe.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 28

FWW: He lived right next door (*Laughter*) · that is....

RA: On Lake Avenue, was it?

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: Um hum

FWW: Uh, I guess it was Samuel. Now, you see, Margaret would know all of that....

RA: Yes.

FWW:and I do have some record of it, but not too much on the Dingees.

RA: All right. I wish you would ask her when you see her if she would mind doing a tape....

FWW: Yes.

RA:on the Dingee family....

FWW: Yes.

RA:if she has their background because, uh, they were inter- allied with the Westerfields.

FWW: Um hum.

RA: And this ties · most of the families were tied in together because there was · sort of like the Mayflower people. There were so few of them....

FWW: It was a small town. (*Laughter*)

RA: That's right - that they intermarried and usually it was the boy or the girl next door and....

FWW: My mother remembers, uh, uh, wooden sidewalks and then they had ditches along the street.

RA: Instead of sewers.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 29

FWW: Yes. Well, those ditches were the sewers....

RA: Yes.

FWW:and the wooden sidewalks and the dirt streets, of course....

RA: Oh, yes and....

FWW: That was 1880\$ or 90\$.

RA: Oh, yes. Your mother lives in Wilmette?

FWW: Well, she lived at 1041 Forest and then when she married my Dad she moved to 1046 Greenwood Avenue, two blocks away. *(Laughter)*

RA: Oh, I see. *(Laughter)*

FWW: So she didn't go very far.

RA: No.

FWW: And Dad built the house, I think, before they got married.

RA: And that was in the Gage holdings then because it was....

FWW: Well, my Dad bought it from the Gage....

RA: Yes - because they were in real estate.

FWW:because Uncle Stanley was in real estate.

RA: That's right.

FWW: And he had all this land. So he was a lawyer although mostly - he dealt mostly in real estate.

RA: Oh. Were not several of the brothers lawyers....

FWW: Could have been.

RA: ...in the family?

FWW: Could have been. I don't know. I don't know too much

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 30

about the rest of them. Jarod · I remember the name Jarod, but they were all a little older than I was and, of course, Bill Gage was my age or....

RA: Where does he live?

FWW: He lives in, uh, near Buffalo.

RA: Oh, yes · in the east.

FWW: A suburb of Buffalo, but he was a lawyer and then, uh, he didn't work in Chicago. As soon as he got his degree he went to Buffalo and he's been there all the rest of his life.

RA: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. But he grew up in Wilmette?

FWW: Yes. Well, he grew up - yes - Chicago and Wilmette. I understand that he would live in Chicago in the winter and then he'd · you see they owned most of No Man's Land.

RA: Yes. I realize that.

FWW: I mean · after all the houses had been built, he still had No Man's Land....

RA: Yes.

FWW: ... and that's where we spent our summers cause we'd go three blocks up to Bill's house and Aunt Kate would always be there and so the · my three - two brothers and I would be up with Bill.

RA: Were the piers there....

FWW: Sure. Sure.

RA:when....

FWW: My Uncle Stanley built....

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 31

RA: Yes.

FWW:those piers and then he put in some iron piers to (Indistinct)

RA: Did Stanley build them or Henry - your father?

FWW: Stanley. Oh, Henry probably built the wooden piers, but I remember the iron things....

RA: Oh.

FWW:to bring the sand in.

RA: Oh. Oh, yes.

FWW: My Uncle Stanley had that done and, uh, uh, when they finally sold everything off that left Bill you know Bill got, uh, pretty well fixed. I mean he's been working all life....

RA: Well, yes.

FWW:and had all this stuff left to him, too.

RA: Yes.

FWW: He has a house in the Virgin Islands.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: He rents it out most of the time. It's a funny thing - he, uh, said that they went down there for a couple of weeks, but he didn't go in the house. He rented another house because the tenants were so nice he didn't want to kick them out.

(Laughter)

RA: Oh, this is wonderful.

FWW: So, in other words, he's got the house, but it's rented

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 32

there all the time.

RA Oh, yes.

FWW: But eventually I don't know what will happen.

RA: This is - well, I haven't been able to get some of this family background that you have given us today. But what are some of the other things - now we got you through to young manhood and World War II and then you were launched on your career. Now what about your own family?

FWW: Oh, well, we're sort of getting away from the church. *(Laughter.)*

RA: Oh, yes. If you have more on the church....

FWW: Yes. Well, anyway, well, just about me - I think it was in 1936, I went and I got my kid brother who had graduated from Lake Forest College by this time - I got him to take my place in the insurance company because I didn't want to leave....

RA: I see.

FWW:particularly, but as long as he was there then I felt free to go so then I started traveling. I was with Sophie Tucker for a while, and, uh.....

RA: Oh, were you really?

FWW: .. .but I traveled all around the country with different bands, uh, until the war - until 1941.

RA: Who were some of the bands you played with?

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 33

FWW: Well, Anson Weeks - some of the names you might know.

RA: Oh, Anson Weeks I know.

FWW: Charlie Agnew and....

RA: Oh, yes, that's - after all, I'm of your vintage (*Laughter*) and a little older so that I do remember all those....

FWW: Yes.

RA: because that was my dance band and I was....

FWW: Well, we played so many ballrooms you just - like the Archer Circuit out in Iowa. We'd play one ballroom. The next night it would be another one....

RA: Yes.

FWW: Oh fifty miles away in another town. All the little towns in Iowa had ballrooms.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: So we'd just go through the whole circuit. It would take us about two weeks to do it, but there were so many places to play and there were so many bands.

RA: Yes.

FWW: You know.

RA: Big bands, too.

FWW: Private big bands traveling around.

RA: Yes.

FWW: And then I - this was when I went in the war and I was out of that for a while. Even though I was in music, you know, I joined the army.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 34

Were you - that I was going to ask you. Were you in the army band?

FWW: Yes. Um hum. And then afterwards I got out and, uh, what to do, you know, and I went out on the road with Henry Busse. There's another name band.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And I was getting a good salary, but in the meantime (*Laughter.*) the hotels and food had all gone up and I didn't realize it.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: So I just wasn't making any money and so I came back to Chicago and settled down here and I just played around this area.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: So....

RA: This..

FWW: But my family I, uh, we moved out to Northbrook and I had two sons and a daughter and, uh, the two boys were very musical. Although one is in the music business, but the other one is not. But he's so musical he can whistle or sing any symphony you want to hear.

RA: Well, after all, this is what - third, fourth generation?

FWW: Yes. Right. Yes.

RA: And this comes naturally and you don't find that heritage too often among families.

FWW: Yes.

Frederick William Waidner, cont .35

RA: Maybe somebody will sing and it will go down all right, but to have musical families as such is rather rare, I think. Do you recall, um, any of the other arts in Wilmette at that time? I have a locally painted painting upstairs that I bought at a rummage sale and, uh, I was wondering if you remembered any artists of the time that lived in Wilmette?

FWW: I don't think so. There was the, uh, Fitch family don't know if you've heard....

RA: Yes.

FWW: . . . of them.

RA: Yes. I know Becky....

FWW: You probably know....

RA: I knew Becky and I know.

FWW: Elizabeth.

RA:Elizabeth and I've tried very hard to get her to do a tape.

FWW: Um hum.

RA: And she....

FWW: Elizabeth won't?

RA: She has resisted.

FWW: Ah, shame on her.

RA: Well, when you see her, you tell her. -

FWW: Because the Fitches and the Waidners were very close.... Very close.

....down town in Chicago and then they both...

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 36

I see

FWW: They both moved out here and Claude was, uh, he was kind of a big shot in the army - I can't remember. Of course, Elizabeth is, too.

RA: Well, that's....

FWW: She was a colonel.

RA: Yes, uh.

FWW: But Claude....

RA: ... so she came by that naturally then.

FWW: Yes.

RA: Her father had been a regular army man.

FWW: Well, not regular, but he was reserve, but he was high up, but he was - it seemed like he was almost like an inventor.

RA: Oh.

FWW: But he played violin and he played with the Waidner orchestra.

RA: Oh, I see.

FWW: So that's how they got so friendly probably.

RA: Oh.

FWW: But they've been very good friends right straight through

RA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

FWW: So I've known the Fitches all my life.

RA: Yes. Well, I knew Becky all through the period she was at Wilmette Life.

FWW: Oh, yes. That's right. I'd forgotten about that. Yes.

RA: Yes.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 37

FWW: Yes.

RA: Yes and all the way - all through the years

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: õ I have known her. We have many photographs that she took - over in the Library.

FWW: Oh, that's right....

RA: Around the village.

FWW:she was taking pictures.

RA: That was one of her....

FWW: Yes.

RA:interests.

FWW: Yes.

RA: And so they are very good photographs.

FWW: But now as far as artists, it seemed like Edith Fitch - that's Elizabeth's mother - she had some relation. think they - she came from Vermont or somewhere.... In the east.

FWW:in the east and....

RA: The Fitches....

FWW:and there was some relation that was quite an artist.

RA: I see.

FWW: And so, I think, we had a couple of her pictures....

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW:floating around.

RA: But she wasn't a local person.

FWW: I don't think so. She hadn't been here. She visited

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 38

here. Probably painted here, but I don't remember too much about her.

RA: I see.

FW: But that's the only thing I know about art.

RA: Well, I was wondering if....

FW: I was just thinking of the (Indistinct)

RA: Of course, they didn't have it in the schools. That's right.

FWW: Well, uh....

RA: Did - do you remember having art in school?

FW: Oh, sure.

RA: You - didn't you draw apples and color them or something like that?

(Laughter)

FWW: Well, of course you did that and I was always lousy at it, but (Indistinct) at New Trier they had art teachers - Mrs. Murphy. She was the....

RA: Yes. Mrs. Murphy....

FWW: She was the....

RA:many years. Miss Murphy, wasn't it?

FWW: Miss Murphy. That's right.

RA: Yes. My girls even - she was there when they-when they were there.

FWW: Oh, um hum. Yes.

RA: She taught there for a long period of time, but I forget because I've lived in the Village....

FWW: How long have you lived in the Village?

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 39

RA: 2.

FWW: 1932. I was down in Texas - oh, no - 2 - I was in - oh, I was in the insurance business then.

RA: Oh, yes. Well, we came out in the depths of the Depression. We had gotten out of school in 7.

FWW: Well - oh, college.

RA: Yes.

FWW: Oh, well, I hadn't gotten out of high school then. (*Laughter*)

RA: (*Laughter*) Yes. And nobody was getting married then.

FWW: Yes.

RA: And above all, nobody was having children during the Depression. So we did both and, uh, it was really quite a....

FWW: Oh.

RA:struggle. (*Laughter*)

FWW: Yes. Yes.

RA: But we made it and we found Wilmette a very happy place to live.

FWW: Yes. Well, you know, when I think back, I couldn't have had a happier childhood. (*Laughter*) You know I just had so much enjoyment - enjoyed everything so thoroughly.

RA: Didn't....

FWW: It seemed like I knew everybody in town.

RA: Yes.

FWW: I didn't, of course, but I knew all the houses.

RA: Well, I think it - from my coming here in 2 - I had come

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 40

from a community where everybody knew everybody else.

FWW: Yes.

RA: And I was the fourth generation in my family to have lived in the town.

FWW: Oh. Um hum.

RA: And, um, I would walk down the street with my three children and I would just say to myself, %f somebody would only say hello to me,+because people greeted each other, you know, like bosom pals as I walked down the street and I knew nobody and it was a horrible.....

FWW: You mean walking down here · the streets here?

RA: Yes. Wilmette Avenue....

FWW: Yes. Yes.

RA: ...and Central and so that it took, but after a while I had the feeling that I knew a great many people....

FWW: Yes.

RA:eventually when I got worked into the community and, I must say, I think our family · our children - enjoyed all of the advantages of this community and there are so many that I think we fail to really appreciate. sometimes.

FWW: Well, it seems like there were more then because there is so much more going on now that, uh....

RA: Its sort of fragmented these days.

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: I mean you're torn between so many things.

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 41

RA: It's a very, very fruitful community to be in because you can find your kind almost anywhere you seek.

FWW: Yes.

RA: There's such variety and....

FWW: Yes, that's - well, that's - I mean when I'm teaching I see these kids saying, "I can't do this, I've got to go here, I've got to go there." They're gone - they're doing so many extra curricular things and I get thinking, gosh, I didn't.

RA: No, you didn't.

FWW: I played ball if I felt like it. I'd practice the piano and then, uh, somebody would be out because we had a couple of vacant lots around, uh, where we lived. We'd get out there and play ball. We had a football team. around Greenwood Avenue.

RA: Um hum.

FWW:and the principal of New Trier's son used to coach us. (*Lau9hte'L*) He'd come down there once a week.

RA: And who was the principal then?

FWW: Ah....

RA: Oh, all right.

FtW: I can't think of his name.

RA: It was Atker. It was before Matt Gaffney.

FWW: Oh, sure. Yes.

RA: Long before. Frederick Harper was....

FWW: (Indistinct)

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 42

RA: There was a Harper.

FWW: Well, that - he was Dean of Boys.

RA: Dean of Boys.

FWW: That was....

RA: Bob Harper's brother was it not?

FWW: It was his brother. Yes.

RA: Um hum. Um hum.

FWW: He was Dean of Boys, but he was in mathematics, I think. (Indistinct)

RA: How large was the high school when you were there?

FWW: Well, uh, you remember that building - the building with the....

RA: The old building. Yes.

FWW:clock.

RA: Yes - with the clock.

FWW: That was the building when my mother went to school there....

RA: Yes.

FWW:and I think it was built....

RA: Built in 1900. 1901, I believe.

FWW: 1901. I think we opened it up in 1901 in January.

RA: I thought 1901 was when it began. Yes.

FWW: My mother was, uh, she - of course, everybody went to Evanston before that.

RA: That's right.

FWW: So my mother was really in the first graduating class....

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 43

RA: I see.

FWW:even though she went there a couple of years, it was probably - I don't know, but she said she was in the first graduating class which was 1903, I think.

RA: Yes. I think you're right and Ella Butz was in that class, too, and she gave me her class ring to give to the Historical Society....

FWW: Oh.

RA: ð when I interviewed her and 1903 was the year.

FWW: Yes.

RA: So that, uh, and who were some of the teachers? Do you remember them?

Was there music at the high school as much proportionately as there is now?

FWW: Oh, gosh, I don't think so. I don't think there was any particular music then, but this is - there were only - I think I saw a picture of the class - maybe 35 or 40....

RA: Um hum.

FWW:or less than that.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: Have you seen any (Indistinct)?

RA: I believe Alice Wheelock, too, was either the first graduating class or the second.

FWW: My - we had the Trevium. It was the yearbook.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And we had that around the house for years and then I

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 44

think that, uh, I think Rebecca got it and had it all fixed up or something like that.

Now I'm not sure. I can't find it.

RA: I wonder if the Historical Society has a copy.

FWW: I think they have it.

RA: They do have it?

FWW: And if they don't have it, then New Trier has it.

RA: I see.

FWW: But I'm not sure.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: I lost track of it, but I - I used to look through it. I know my uncle....

RA: Oh, yes.

FW:was on the football team. He had his picture....

RA: I see.

FWW: They had a football team....

RA: So they did have a football team then?

FWW: And they did have music because I remember now - I remember my mother talking about it - the music teacher....

RA: The music teacher....

FWW:Sharpe - somebody by the name of Sharp.

RA: I see. Would that have been voice or instrumental?

FWW: Well, it could have been - it was both. Probably everything because....

RA: Um hum.

FWW: .. I don't suppose there were too many teachers. When

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 45

I went to school the original building was there, but then they had added in back.

RA: More on to the back, Yes.

FWW: To the back and they had the, uh, auditorium.

RA: Not the new one?

FWW: No. No. The one - it's * I think it's a library now or. ..

RA: No. It's - it's been torn down now.

FWW: It's been torn down and the tennis courts were right next to it.

RA: That's right, but there's - the newest addition that Harry Weese did has been put in that spot.

FWW: Oh. No, that was the gym. It wasn't an auditorium.

RA: It was the gym before it was the library.

FWW: Yes. It was the gym and then in back of that, going north, was the swimming pool - the old swimming pool. I think there's a new one there now.

RA: They've always had a swimming pool at New Trier?

FWW: Well, I don't suppose the first few years, but there was one when I was there and before - it was there before I was there.

RA: I see.

FWW: And, uh, I went there in '22 so it has to have been there quite a while.

RA: Um hum. So you graduated in '22?

FWW: '27.

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RA: 27?

FWW: Yes.

RA: Yes.

FWW: Urn, then, of course, I saw the . oh, the auditorium was just on the opposite . across from the Tower Building on the other side.

RA: On the other side?

FWW: The West side.

RA: Where the auditorium is now was there not a smaller.

FWW: Yes.

RA:auditorium that they tore down?

FW: Because that's where the band used to rehearse on the on the stage.

RA: Yes. And I remember that.

FWW: Yes.

RA: So that was in the late 30's perhaps that they built - oh, no, it was later than that.

FWW: Well . the new one you mean?

RA: The new one.

FWW: The new one was . I think it was built . well, it was after . during the war. It must have been before.

RA: After the war.

FWW: I don't think after because, uh, I came back here after being with Busse and, uh, I started . I was here for a couple of years and I started teaching.

RA: Oh, yes.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 47

FWW: And one of the first places I taught was, uh....

RA: In the new auditorium.

FWW: . . .in the new auditorium upstairs. They had a little studio by this time. We didn't have any . . . all they had was the stage (*Laughter*). That was the band room, but now, of course, there's a whole big building.

RA: Yes.

FWW: So it was built before the war, I think.

RA: I see. I've . . . I've sort of forgotten, uh, just....

FWW: Yes. And then back of the old auditorium, going north from the old auditorium, was a mess hall . . . was a lunch room . . . a cafeteria.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: And they used to have dances there. It was . . . it was kind of big.

RA: Oh, yes. The auditorium or the cafeteria is still in the same place. I believe that is north . . . just north of the auditorium yet..

FWW: Um hum. Is it a new one?

RA: It is new.

FWW: Probably is.

RA: That whole - it was a whole unit that was built and there's a division between the building - the old building and....

FWW: Yes.

RA:there's part of it where the shop work was done, I

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 48

believe, on Woodland Avenue.

FWW: Well, shop used to be way at the back and there is there a big chimney
a heating plant in the (Indistinct) building?

RA: I in my memory

FWW: The shop was back in there, I know.

RA: I see. Well, the shop is at the west end of the building now.

FWW: Oh.

RA: And I think of the chimney as being at the east en of the building.

FWW: Well, the shop was all along the north....

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW:the north- the back of the building.

RA: Oh, yes. Um hum.

FWW: There was wood working and metal working and....

RA: Theyøe always had a very good shop program....

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA:up there in my memory.

FWW: Because they were working on cars even then.

RA: Yes.

FWW: They had cars in there. They forged with hot metal.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: I remember that.

RA: Um hum. How. large was the high school in your period of time?

FWW: Well, there again, it seemed like I knew everybody in

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 49

high school.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: Maybe some of them when I was a senior and maybe some of the freshmen I didn't know, but....

RA: Yes.

FWW: .. .you know, it seemed like I knew everybody.

RA: What would you say?

FWW: I would say.

RA: A hundred maybe - five hundred?

FWW: Well, I'm trying to think of the graduating class. It was under two hundred, I guess, so I suppose around six - seven hundred.

RA: Two hundred graduating class, then four of those would be around eight hundred maybe.

FWW: Yes, but it was less than two hundred.

RA: Yes.

FWW: It was six or seven hundred.

RA: Yes. Um hum - somewhere between six and eight maybe.

FWW: Yes, I've got a copy of that class....

RA: Oh, no. The thing is, uh, around six hundred is considered a very good number to be a good educational.

FWW: Well, of course.

RA: ð experience and atmosphere and then it got up so high when my girls were in school.

FWW: Um hum.

RA: It was around, uh - oh, it was close to five thousand, I think, before New Trier - the second New Trier was

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 50

built - New Trier West..

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: And now they're down again so low that....

FWW: Yes.

RA: ... they're considering....

FWW: Closing the West, I believe.

RA: Well, isn't that the big argument in the community as to which one gets closed and.....

FWW: Oh, I don't know.

RA: Oh, yes.

FWW: I taught at West though for a couple of years.

RA: Did you?

FWW: Well, just recently again.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: I didn't know what was going on too much because I was still, living in Rockford.

RA: Oh, yes. That's right and you....

FWW: We have the Glenbrooks out there.

RA: Oh, you're all of Northbrook represents - that's right, it's Northfield that counts, too.

FWW: Northfield accounts....

RA: To New Trier.

FWW: Of course, New Trier West is in Northfield, isn't it or is it in Winnetka?

RA: Yes. I believe it's in Northfield.

FWW: Yes. Um hum. Yes, now they all go to New Trier West..

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 51

RA: Well, wasn't Northfield instituted really as a younger Winnetka? Wasn't it the second generation Winnetkians that they....

FWW: Northfeld....

RA:started building Northfield up.

FWW: Oh, it's the building up....

RA: Of course....

FWW: It's the township, not the (Indistinct) and so what isn't in Winnetka or Wilmette or something is in Northfield. Yes. New Trier Township and Northfield Township, but as a village it was an old farming community, was it not?

FWW: Oh, yes.

RA: A lot of Grosse Pointe people were residents of Northfield township.

FWW: Yes. When we were looking for a house we ended up in Northbrook, but we did look at a house in Northfield and it had been - it was an old farm house with some kind of (Indistinct). It's a familiar name around Northfield

RA: Oh.

FW: I can't think of it now, but this was their old farm house. It had been modernized.

RA: I see.

FWW: I wanted to buy it (*Laughter*), but my wife said, "No."

RA: Oh. You're an old house buff, too? (*Laughter*)

FWW: Yes. Well....

RA: I love old houses.

FWW: Yes. Well, I like the big houses. We have a little

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 52

ranch house. It's still too small.

RA: Well, my husband thinks our arrangement is too small, but I prefer to do tapings (*Laughter*) and things like this to keeping house these days.

FWW: Oh, yes. Yes.

RA: So....

FWW: But the house we have here in Wilmette at 1046 Greenwood is, uh, was real comfortable. (*Laughter*)

RA: I can imagine.

FWW: We have about five bedrooms so, you know....

RA: Yes.

FWW: It was a big house.

RA: Yes.

FWW: You know, a living room, dining room.

RA: Yes.

FWW: The living room is big.

RA: In the 1100 block of Greenwood, do you recall that?

FWW: Yes. Sure.

RA: Um, did you know Kitty Rogers? She goes to your church, I believe.

FWW: Well, you know - you mean the Methodist church?

RA: Yes.

FWW: Of course, I'm living in Northbrook now.

RA: Oh, you're in Northbrook now.

FWW: But, uh, I don't seem to remember that name. The, uh.

RA: Farrar was her name.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 53

FWW: The Drurys - oh, Farrar. I remember that name.

RA: Well, they lived - she lives now in the original - it was an original Gage house in the 1100 block.

FWW:: On Greenwood?

RA: On Greenwood and it occupies the entire block.

FWW: You're not thinking of the Mulvihill house?

RA: No. This - she did a - during the Bicentennial year she had the entire block do a research of their real estate. She fixed....

FWW: Oh. Oh, I see.

RA: She was in the real estate business.

FWW: Yes.

RA: And she gave it to the Library.

FWW: Yes.

RA: And she discovered that she was in an Augustus Gage house.

FWW: Augustus Gage. That name doesn't sound too familiar.

RA: Well, I have him in the 1880 census. I have a copy of that here and, uh, she found what she thought was a Civil War uniform, but it turned out to be a Knight Templar's....

FWW: Oh. (*Laughter*)

RA: . . . outfit which,...

FW: Yes.

RA: . . . the Historical Society has now.

FWW: Yes.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 54

RA: But, um, she found this in the attic and this is what led her to do the research on the family.

FWW: I'm trying to think. We were in the 1000 block, but then....

RA: This was a single house and it faced 11th Street originally.

FWW: Um hum.

RA: And it had a port cochere on the west side of it when you drove up with a carriage and then it was all land (Indistinct)

FWW: On the north side?

RA: Um hum.

FWW: Well, you see, as I remember it - we were on the corner....

RA: Um hum.

FWW:of 11th and Greenwood on the northeast corner and then the northwest corner - it was vacant and eventually the McIntoshes - you know, you've heard of the McIntosh Realty.

RA: Um hum.

FWW: They, uh, I can't - I've forgotten his first name. He put up one house and he put another house just like it and they were very nice houses, they're very nice houses, for his sister, so - but there - there wasn't anything there when - that's where we used to play ball and then was the Drury house and then Myrtle Lane, who was a Drury, had a house next to it and then a great big yard and a big house which is the Mulvihill house which could have been the Gage house.

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 55

RA: That....

FWW: Maybe.

RA: Well, not I - I will retract and say that I am not positive.

FWW: Well.

RA: But I - I felt pretty - I don't - I am sure there's an Ashland.

FWW: No.

RA: Or Elmwood. Isn't Greenwood between the two?

FWW: Yes. Um hum.

RA: Urn....

FWW: Now you're talking about the north side of the street and....

RA: The north side....

FWW: Now this is what I remember.

RA: . . .*and* the northwest corner. There is another house now that is east of it and there is quite a lot to the west that Kitty still owns, but there are other houses in the block.

FWW: Oh, wait a minute, Rhea. Are you thinking of the 1200 block?

RA: Is it 1200?

FWW: Sure. I'd bet you....

Then maybe I am. You see.

FWW: (Indistinct) I am sure it is. Yes. Time goes so fast.

RA: Well, yes. I....

Frederick William Waidner, cont. 56

FWW: I should have bought a two hour one. (Indistinct)

RA: Well, my tape is still going. Let's continue with it and then we can, um, transpose maybe.

FWW: Well, I'd give you . . . I'd just leave this tape for you.

RA: Yes. So I'm wrong and it was . . . it's the 1200 block.

FWW: 7th, sure. Now I - yes.

RA: The Farrar house.

FWW: Yes because now I place the Farrar's living there. It was 1200. Yes.

(End of tape)