

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear

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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 longtime 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: Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear

Interviewer: Rhea S. Adler

Date of Interview: 1976

Name · address · came in 1932, description of area then · post Depression period

Describes organization and membership make- up of 1st Historical Commission of Wilmette; mentions Evanston and Kenilworth museums

Mentions early Wilmette settlement, boundaries and Ouilmette family

Organization and history of Northridge Club

Consolidation of Central· Howard Junior High Schools

Discussion of Howard PTA past presidencies over the years prior to all Wilmette PTA

Wilmette Health Center activities

Discussion of son Kenneth, his education, career and family

NB. The tape ends abruptly as does typescript. I distinctly remember she described her English background, her return trips to England, particularly her last aboard Queen Elizabeth II, but it is not here.

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RA: Would you give me your full name and tell me where you live?

EFK: My name is Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear and I live at 2241 Chestnut Street, Wilmette.

RA: And how long have you lived there?

EFK: Since 1932.

RA: Thirty-two. What was the area like? What was Kenilworth Gardens like?

EFK: Well, it is interesting to look back at our neighborhood at that time. There were no paved streets, no lights, no storm sewers and the sidewalks were cindered paths. On Chestnut Street in the second block, a small wooden bridge crossed a stream which dried up in the summertime. That would circle through to Thornwood and tumbled over small stones and pebbles in the spring. On its banks grew wild roses, violets and wild iris and, of course, we picked all those wildflowers and put them in our garden because there was no one else in the whole street. Chestnut Street, at that time, was the only street opened in Kenilworth Gardens. It was opened with a 50 foot frontage and 177 feet deep as an inducement for people to come out and buy the property because, as you heard me say, there was prairie. That was all.

PA: Yes. And this was Depression time also, wasn't it?

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EFK: Just following the Depression.

RA: Yes.

EFK: Yes so, that many people who had bought property had to drop it and let it go. So Chestnut Street at that time on the one plat, which was made of a subdivision, was called Clover Road.

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK: But later they lined up the streets with the streets east of the Ridge where Elmwood and Greenwood....

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: . . . and Thornwood and Chestnut and so on, but in the beginning it was called Clover Road.

PA: Tell me, were there many trees out that way?

EFK: No. All the trees that are there were planted by the people who bought the lots and we all thought we had to have two elm trees in the front because we had a 50 foot stretch there and in my lot, which was the second lot at the end of Chestnut, there were little clumps of trees in the back, but on the other lots it was just prairie. No trees, really. There might have been one or two here and there, but old trees now and that, of course, is forty years ago are big, old trees today, but when we planted them they were just small trees. But everyone who came in did plant their own trees.

PA: Oh, yes. Tell me, you said you were at the end. Now....

EFK: Hunter Street was called 23rd Street and our house was

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the second lot from the corner.

RA: Oh, yes. I see. And there were no other houses at all in Kenilworth Gardens?

EFK: On Chestnut Street there were two other houses. One was in my second block. You see, that's only two blocks long from the Ridge all the way to Hunter.

RA: Yes.

EFK: And there was one house, a little bungalow, already built and lived in and near the Ridge was a large home by people -- owned by people by the name of Kline.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: And that was all.

RA: That was all.

EFK: Um hum. And then later on, uh, across the street came some twin bungalows. Bungalows were the style at that time and one other house, but in my second block across the way from me we could see, uh, a brown sanitarium which later became Maryhaven....

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: . . . which is now gone.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: And houses are being built on that particular....

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: But we could see all the way through and through our house. ..

RA: Was the golf course there?

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EFK: And there was a golf course. Yes. And when you came up from Kenilworth station - up the hill to Ridge Road - there was a golf course.

That - you mean east of the Ridge?

EFK: Yes. Right near the Kenilworth station - across the road was a golf course.

RA: That, I believe, is now - it was then and is now North Shore Country Club which is out on Glenview Road.....

EFK: Yes.

RA: . . . they tell me.

EFK: But that did not last very long as a golf course. The property was too valuable and so it was built up even before Kenilworth Gardens because it was so close to the - to transportation.

Um hum.

EFK: Yes. But when we would walk up the hill from the Kenilworth station - we had no car - so we kept our little baby buggy in a little shed which was the office of Kenilworth station. It's gone now.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: But we could put the buggy there and go down to the city.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: . . . come home and put the child who was two and wheel him up the....

RA: The hill.

EFK:the hill and across that golf course you saw.

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PA: Oh, yes. But were there any streets through it or.

EFK: Yes. Kenilworth Avenue....

PA; Yes.

EFK:with the trees and the grass in the middle was there.

RA: I see.

EFK: It hasn't been changed, but on the corner was nothing. Now I have a picture of that corner - Blann's drugstore.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK:when it was built.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: It was built later, but there was some shops a little farther up the street which are still there, but Blann's drugstore was built later on and I had a picture of the building. I've got all of these things somewhere, you know, but.

PA: Oh.

EFK:I can't find them all now and we haven't thought of them for so long.

PA: I know. That's the way with so many things.

EFK: But I am a saver. This is a Wilmette Life of 1938.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: So that's interesting to look at.

RA: I'm sure.

EFK: I have an article there - wherever I went, whether it was the North Ridge Club, the Howard School PTA or the Wilmette Health Center, I wanted to know how it started

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and no one knew so when I got to Howard School as president, I asked the woman who had been president before me if there was a history and she said not that she knew of. Well, I said, %Who was the first president of the Howard School PTA?+She didn't know so we went back and back and back until we found out it was Mrs. Robb Harper.

RA: For goodness sake!

EFK: So I went to see her like you went to see Miss (Indistinct).

RA: Yes.

EFK: ,...and I got the history from....

RA: Would you like to tell us about the history of Howard School? Can you do so off of the top of your head?

EFK: I don't think so. You know, I don't believe I have....

RA: Maybe one thing you could tell us then is....

EFK: Well....

RA:about the Health Department because you had a very important part in that for a long, long, long time.

EFK: Well, of course, I feel Dr. Seifert could probably give you more on that than I can because I can read you the letter in which he hired me....

RA: How interesting. Isn't that fun?

EFK:in 1947.

Dear Mrs. Kinnear:

After careful analysis of the applications which have been received by Dr. Seifert, you have been selected to fill the position of clerk

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in the Health Department at the Village.

The position compensates a part time duty or approximately sixty per cent of the full working month and the salary of \$75 a month is based on these hours. Under the arrangement, you will automatically come under the provisions of the Illinois Municipal Retirement fund and deductions for your contribution to this fund will be on a payroll deduction basis.

It is understood that you are available on December 1, 1947 and I would suggest that shortly prior to this you make an appointment with Dr. Seifert and Miss Hansen to meet and discuss with them your duties.

Very truly yours,

Village Manager

William Wolf

PA: How interesting.

EFK: Do you remember him?

PA: Yes, indeed. As a matter of fact, I have his map that he did during that period of time under the WPA work project and he assembled a composite map of the Village and it included.

EFK: Well, then on December 1, 1972, I got a letter from

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Armand Lund, Village Manager.

RA: Yes.

EFK: Dear Mrs. Kinnear:

Twenty-five years ago today you began your uninterrupted service in the Health Department. This is a very commendable record for which both you and the Village are to be congratulated. I am sure that Dr. Seifert and the other members of the Health Department staff, as well as all Village employees, will join with me in this expression of our appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

Armand Lund

EFK: Now that's the beginning and the end.

RA: That's most interesting and, uh, I know that you were active in many, many things in the Village, urn, other than the Health Department while that was a - what did they say - three quarter time job.

EFK: Yes. Yes. Well, that, of course, left room for the, urn, Wilmette Historical Commission for which I have been - Secretary for that same time.

RA: I see.

EFK: And the Commission was started by Mr. Horace Holly.

RA: Oh, yes. Of the Bahai faith.

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EFK: ..of the Baḡai faith who was a very ardent historian and he started to collect, first of all, the artifacts which we kept in the basement of the Village Hall and then Mr. Charles Henderson.... (*N.B. – under the presidency of Village President, William H. Alexander—Rhea Adler*).

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: õ took over after that and Mr. Henderson brought in a great deal of the mementos which we still have in our other Commission quarters, but over the years there are - I think I mentioned %Bal+Robinson...

RA: Yes.

EFK: .. . and Walter Cleve and, uh, Mr. Bender.

RA: Oh, yes, all of those men....

EFK: All of those men were active and interested and helpful and gave of their time and their talents over the years.

RA: I understand Walter Cleve was responsible for many of . much of the shelving and the display cases....

EFK: With the help of James Williams, Walter really made all of the equipment that we showed our pictures and things like the big display area there - they would come up - James and Walter would come up in their working clothes and spend all day hammering and sawing and making what- ever was necessary to display the things which had been coming in over the years.

RA: Um hum.

EFK: And we have some beautiful things in the. ..

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RA: Yes.

EFK: We've got some lovely things which we can't show because we don't have enough room.

PA: This is a great need....

EFK: It is.

PA: . . . for the Village.

EFK: It's a great need to find a home for our Historical Commission, but when you look at other towns the, uh, Historical usually has been supported by the Village, not by individuals, but usually the Village of Winnetka or the Village of Evanston had been given a home to start with.

PA: Oh.

EFK: Like the Dawes home.

PA: Yes, the Dawes home in Evanston.

EFK: Yes. And in Glenview, uh, people gave that home which is over 100 years old so that they could start from there.

RA: Oh, yes. Is Winnetka not a private historical society? It was my impression they were.

EFK: Well, that I don't know, but you know what Kenilworth has. You've seen the Kenilworth museum?

RA: I understand they have a museum there....

EFK: Um hum.

PA: . . . in the new, uh, hall that they have built.

EFK: No, it's a separate building and it was given to them

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by the Stewart family.

PA: That's right.

EFK: Just the same as our skating rink.

PA: Yes.

EFK: It was given by Mr. Darwin Curtis and he paid \$400,000 to make the..

PA: Not the skating rink but the, uh.

EFK: curling rink.

PA: Curling rink.

EFK: Well, so the Stewart family gave \$400,000 to the Village of Kenilworth who erected that beautiful building.

PA: And the land they already had. That was a memorial park, wasn't it?

EFK: Yes. Yes, it's on Village land.

PA: Yes.

EFK: Um hum. And....

PA: This someone gave also as I remember.

EFK: Yes.

RA: They had an English garden there for a long, long time which was very lovely.

EFK: And then the - two of the Commission had put plaques on various parts of our Village, one of them on the trail tree at 10th and Greenleaf....

RA: Um hum.

EFK: . . . and another one down at our lake front - the park down at the lake front....

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PA: Oh, yes.

EFK: . . . which they felt would have been the spot Anton Ouilmette built his cabin when he married Archange, the Indian girl.

PA: Yes.

EFK: Now they don't know, of course. That's too long ago.

RA: Yes.

EFK: But, uh.

PA: Well, as I understand it, the cabin was here when the Dusham family came to town. The cabin was still really extant and they used it for housing in the beginning. That's what the records show at least and the abstracts....

EFK: Um hum.

PA:state this fact.

EFK: Yes.

PA: And then after '35 - 1835, of course - they left and went to Shawnee, Oklahoma and, uh, they did - there are transactions where they sold that land. However, they sold it extra legally - I guess you would say because it was not to be sold without the signature of the United States. On some of it President Polk had his signature, but finally it wasn't until Grant was President that they finally got the President's signature on the entire reservation which was 1,280 acres.

EFK: Um hum.

PA: And it included part of Evanston - the present day Evanston.

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EFK: Yes. Right. The Evanston borderline there - the Central Street, Evanston.

PA: Right.

EFK: Near - down near the, uh....

PA: The lighthouse.

EFK: Yes. Well, one year James Williams traced the, uh, descendents of.

Antoine Oulimette who had eight children....

PA: Um hum.

EFK:and we found three ladies in California who were direct descendents of Antoine and Archange.

RA; Were they back here for the 75th anniversary?

EFK: Yes. Um hum.

PA: I remember it.

EFK: And you will find their - all of their names and where they live now in the files there.

PA: Yes. They always appear on each and every abstract....

EFK: Um hum.

PA:that has to do with the Village..

EFK: Yes because....

RA: except for the Gage Park which was north.

EFK: Um hum.

PA: Elmwood Avenue was the north line....

EFK: Yes.

PA: ... of the reservation.

EFK: Um hum.

PA: But they - their names always are the first on any abstract..

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EFK: Um hum.

RA:that is written for us.

EFK: Well, it was very - until we traced those ladies, they had never thought and never been in Wilmette because that's generations ago.

RA: Yes.

EFK: And the name of Ouilmette had been lost....

RA: Yes.

EFK:in the mist of time. None of these ladies were named Ouilmette....

RA: Because I think the majority of her children were girls.

EFK: Yes.

RA: There were three boys, I believe, but most of them were girls so they had, even at the time the land was first sold, had different names.

EFK: Different names. One was Deroschee.

RA: One was Darling.

EFK: Oh, yes.

RA: And another had married....

EFK: I don't know. There were....

RA: And, as I remember, when they came back they were adamant about the fact that their forebearers themselves - Archange's children - were only one quarter Indian blood....

EFK: Of course.

RA:and three fourths French.

EFK: French. You see, her name was Chevalier.

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PA: Yes.

EFK: So it was quite - uh, quite usual for these French who were like Ouilmette to marry the Indians....

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK:because there would be no white girls - French, you know and they would be living, as he did, with the Potawotomies.

PA: That's right.

EFK: And so....

PA: And it was to their advantage....

EFK: Yes.

PA:to marry into the Indian tribes.

EFK: Yes.

RA: They could do better at trading.

EFK: And, of course, Antoine had already a home in Chicago....

PA: Yes.

EFK:before the - uh, before he was married at Fort Dearborn

PA: Yes. He came with the American Fur Company in what - 18q - in 1793.

EFK: Seventeen.so that after he married Archange, uh, like all husbands he found she didn't want to stay on the reservation. She wants to go live in the city.

(Laughter)

PA: This is quite true. As I understand it, it was the only cabin north of the river at the time it was built.

EFK: Um hum.

RA: And there was nothing between that cabin and the - -

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Chicago River at the time, but the settlers after the French....

EFK: oh, yes. After the Civil War, why then the people from the South came up - people

RA: Well, they were already - the people from the South were already into Illinois before the Blackhawk War.

EFK: But after that war was over, then the railroad came through.

RA: Yes.

EFK: And the shipping was dropped in favor of the railroads.

PA: It took quite a while though. I think we fail to realize that Gage's piers were built for the purpose of not only of protecting the shoreline....

EFK: Um hum.

PA:but to bring building lumber in from Michigan where Gage owned large properties and to build the houses that he had the....

EFK: Um hum.

PA: . . . Drury brothers built for him and then Dingee.

EFK: Um hum.

PA; . . . had the Gedney brothers, who had been ship's carpenters before they came to Wilmette and so they, too - and Westerfield started the first pickle factory.

EFK: Yes.

PA: He not only had a pickle factory, he had an apple orchard and it was he who brought Mahoney to Mahoney's farm and

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that was Westerfield's farm originally.

EFK: Um hum.

PA: And they raised the apples there, had a cider mill and made the vinegar....

EFK: Um hum.

PA: . . . to barrel the pickles and the Dusham's had the cooperage....

EFK: Yes.

PA:that did the staves and the barrel heads.

EFK: So....

RA: And I read somewhere in one of the ~~mag~~ books, as they called them of the late 19th century, where the Dingeess had shipped 100,000 barrels of pickles out of the Chicago area from three plants. They had one here, one in Ravenswood and one somewhere else.

EFK: Well. And a very thriving business at that time.

PA: Well, they were enterprising people.

EFK: Yes. Well, they wouldn't have been pioneers and, you know, it's so funny that when our streets finally were to be made, the Village Board wanted the streets very large wood. They wanted it very large.

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK: And we who had to pay for them didn't want boulevards up and down Chestnut Street in front of us.

PA: Yes.

EFK: But it was very difficult to put anything over at the

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Village Board in those years. Mr. Cazel, I think....

PA: Yes.

EFK:was on the Board at that time. Maybe Mr. Orner was President. He was President for a long time.

PA: Yes.

EFK: But Mr. Cazel, you know, having the drugstore near the corner - we knew him and we did not doubt the other members of the Board. So one time when I was in the drugstore I said, %You know, Mr. Cazel, those wide streets that the Village is advocating for our section, we don't want it to be a section where people would drive down to the extinction of our children. There are so many little children and that is why they come today to take over the houses of the people who came yesterday.

PA: I see.

EFK: We all came because of our children and he said, %Well,+ he said, %You are pioneers.+And he said, %Anybody that pioneers, in my mind, is crazy.+

PA: That sounds like Ernie Cazel. (*Laughter*)

EFK: So we finally did go to the Village Board because by that time the other streets had eventually been platted out and because we took 177 feet....

PA: Yes.

EFK:what was in back of us was cut down to 125 feet.

PA: I see,

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EFK: And you wouldn't want a boulevard in front of a little lot where the frontage was 25 feet although ours was a 50 foot frontage.

PA: Yes.

EFK: And if you just had 25 feet, you didn't want a boulevard and, by that time, there were enough people - you see - for those in the Village Board and us to let the streets be a little bit less high.

RA: Yes.

EFK: than what they had anticipated if every street was going to be like Chestnut which it wasn't, you see, eventually.

PA: And eventually those lots - you had one of the wider lots....

EFK: Fifty feet.

PA: . . . in Kenilworth Gardens, but most of them were narrower, were they not?

EF: No, they were all 50 feet wide, but the length was much shorter.

RA: I see.

EFK: But the 50 feet, I think, is a width, but the frontage, you see, on the other streets is 25 foot frontage whereas ours is 50 feet from the sidewalk.

RA: I see.

EFK: And, as I said, the reason they made them so big was to induce people to come out and buy property in the country

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as it really was country at that time.

RA: Um hum.

EFK: I have a list of all of the flowers that were found in the, uh, fields. In the long stretches of prairie, the black-eyed susan (Indistinct) and the rabbits and squirrels leaped through the green fields. Sixty-five varieties of wild flowers were identified as growing in our neighborhood at that time.

PA: For heaven's sakes. Is...

EFK: You may not know, but the Northridge Club on Arbor Day in 1933 planted a tree on the site of the Harper School. The Harper School was not built at that time, but it was an open prairie piece of property with no trees. So Northridge put on Arbor Day a tree which is still there on that property and, I think, perhaps the new Northridge doesn't know much about that and we might bring that up and put a plaque on it later.

Oh, yes. Now tell me, you mentioned Northridge. Now I know you had much to do with Northridge. Would you like to talk about it.

EFK: Well....

PA:a bit?

EFK: In the early 1930's Mrs. P. J. Church called in three of her neighbors to tell them of her idea for a club and her thoughts were stated in our first publicity. It says, "The purpose of the club is to create a neighborly feeling,

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to study the problems of this community and to work as a unit for its improvement in every way. That was why the club was started - because we were then, as you know, without streets or lights, sewers or - and it took a concerted effort, uh, of all of the newcomers to get those things in. Now we, in the beginning, had no mail service. We had a box on the Ridge like the country people have a box on a post, but my husband did not like that idea so we had a box at Kenilworth because when he got off the train at Kenilworth, he could go into the post office, open the box and take it out and walk up the hill to home. But a great many people, especially those who were closer to the Ridge - you see we were two long blocks away from the Ridge and there were no houses there so that, uh, those who lived closer thought that a box was a better idea and it wasn't until about five years after the people decided in Wilmette Post Office that we were enough homes to have a post....

PA: Oh.

EFK: to have a postman. . .

PA: Most unusual. I didn't realize that because we, too, came in '22 and I had friends out in Kenilworth Gardens..

EFK: Um hum.

RA: . . .but I didn't realize that it was....

EFK: Yes.

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RZ!: I knew it was sparse.

EFK: Um hum. Then.

RA: .. .but then Northridge was started, really, as a civic thing.

EFK: Really, it was started, as Mrs. Church explains, to study the problems of the community and, of course, in order to get acquainted with the new people as they came in. With having no roads and some of us having no cars, some people had to get their children to school. Now, mine was too small. We didn't have to worry about schools, but if you had to get your child to Harper School at that time....

RA: It wasn't Harper, though.

EFK: I mean Howard School.

PA: It was Howard School.

EFK: Howard. There wasn't any Harper. Howard was where you would have to send your child to kindergarten and that was a long distance and....

PA: And Howard had been just built about that time, hadn't it - just previous to that?

EFK: Yes, it was quite a new school and now my son never did go, uh, until he was seven. I taught him at home because there was no other way of getting him to school.

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK: And so when he was seven he went into first grade and, uh, finished, of course, at eighth grade with the rest

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of the group, but, um, later on when more and more people came and a sparse house here and there and they were dotted all over the section, uh, there was a car pool....

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK:so that one mother would take all of the children one week and another mother, as I'm sure they do today.

RA: And at that time Howard was....

EFK: The only school.

RA: And eight grades.

EFK: Up to eight grades. Yes. And when I became President of the Howard School PTA Mr. Todd was the Principal and, ui, we had two separate commencements for Howard and for Central and I thought it might be a good idea that we have the commencements together, but the east side people preferred to have their own and also, urn, in Howard the girls had been sewing for a year and making frocks and it was suggested that for commencement they wear the little frocks that they had been making, but they said on the east side they wore long frocks, so it wouldn't work out. So some mother said, %Well, if they have long frocks for graduation day, why can't they have them here?+%Well,+I said, %for an eighth grade child it seems+- and you know the condition of the thirties - people were not buying an extra frock for a child for one occasion, but I said, %We will put it to a vote.+So at our next PTA meeting I asked all those who were

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in favor of having the girls wear the frocks they had been making to raise their hands, and then all those who preferred to have the girls wear a long frock. You can guess what happened. I said afterwards to a mother, %was surprised that the long frocks had it.+Well,+she said, %the girls wanted it.+But here again comes that difference between the east side and the west side which prevailed for so many years and which now, we hope, no longer exists.

EFK: Well, my suggestion was to get them together that we have one commencement at the Bowl.

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK: And that's how it started.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: But then, of course, there is always a question of the weather.

RA: Yes.

EFK: And if you can't have it at the Bowl....

RA: There's no place....

EFK: then the auditorium would not be big enough.

RA: Yes.

EFK: So I-having been out of PTA - I still don't know whether they are together or separate.

RA: Well, I think making Howard a junior high school....

EFK: That may help.- that may have helped. Yes.

RA: Well, did. - I think - rally but that took three

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referendums before that was passed in order to achieve
a consolidated junior high school.

EFK: Um hum.

RA And was . people's prejudices die hard.

EFK; I know.

RA: And if this had gone - this carries back, I guess, to the days when Grosse
Point was west.

EFK: Um hum.

RA: It was west and there were seventeen....

EFK: Right. Right.

RA: .. .saloons up and down Ridge and this area in the east part was settled by
many people who were Northwestern
oriented and that had its four mile limit....

EFK: Sure.

RA: .. .around and was ~~totaling~~+

EFK: Of course.

RA: And then the WCTU....

EFK: Yes.

RA:was first headquartered in Evanston.

EFK: Um hum. Yes.

RA: It . it had its effect throughout.

EFK: But still the President of the Central School and I went together to the PTA
convention.

RA: I think it was never any question between the people of. our two good
(Indistinct) Howard School long after that.

EEK: Yes.

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear, cont. 26

RA: You preceded Mrs. - up on Washington Street on the hill, didn't you?

EFK: No. No, I think before me there was Storms.

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK: And then there was a woman by the name of Smith who lived on Wilmette who is gone now.

RA: Well, there was another person. Mildred (Indistinct)

aunt - Hap Gattnercoal's aunt, who still lives, oh, I want to say Kinnear and I know it isn't Kinnear, but it is very similar to your name. (N.B. DeVinny)

EFK: Oh.

RA: And she still lives.

EFK: Well, I did not bring....

RA: She preceded Doris Van Winkle. I know that because I....

EFK: Well

RA: ..worked under Doris Van Winkle.

EFK: All I can remember is that going back to get the history and I didn't bring our - our - our (Indistinct) Did I bring our - I think I brought our Health.Center history, but not - yes, this is the Health Center history here in this Wilmette Life

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK:of 1938, but I do have the - oh, I may have given it back to the PTA.

RA: Well, it doesn't matter....

EFK: Yes.

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear, cont. 27

RA: . really.

EFK: But I did have the names of all of the past Presidents, but I know I got a letter

RA: For many, many years, I think, we want to record the fact that each school had its own separate....

EFK: Yes. Yes.

RA: Because.

EFK: Now here's a letter from the Logan Howard Highcrest Parent Teacher Association.

Dear Mrs. Kinnear:

The officers and members of the Logan Howard Highcrest Parent Teacher Association extend to you, as a past President, a most cordial invitation to be their guest at the annual Founder's Day Program to be held in the Howard School, Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock, February 4, 1941.

And it's been signed by Doris Van Winkle.

RA: 1941. Urn, I would have thought you were going to say that is - that does not include Howard though. She - she was at Logan.

EFK: Logan Howard Highcrest.

RA: Oh. Logan, Howard and Highcrest.

EFK: Yes.

RA: Because her child did go to Logan before she came over.

EFK: Yes. Yes.

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear, cont. 28

RA: (Indistinct)

EFK: Well, this is a Parent Teacher Association - Logan Howard Highcrest.

RA: Oh, yes. They - and then for a long time they were combined.

EFK: Um hum.

PA: And Central School and Laurel School were together. Was that not correct and it was....

EFK: Yes. Yes.

RA:during....

EFK: Um hum.

PA: Marjorie Seashore was.....

EFK: Yes.

PA:very instrumental....

EFK: Yes.

PA: in getting these because we worked on it at that time when I was President of Howard....,

EFK: (Indistinct)

PA:in ~~4~~5, I believe.

EFK: When I was President of the Health Center which was affiliated with the Tuberculosis Institute of Chicago and Cook County....

PA: Oh, yes.

EFK:we had an annual Christmas seal night and the Chairman was Mrs. William T. Morgan and the....

PA: Oh, yes.

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear, cont. 29

EFK: ...program was under the direction of Miss Mary McKay, Music Supervisor, Wilmette Public Schools and the, urn, Christmas seal talk was given by the Christmas seal chairman, evidently of Chicago, Mr. Homer Buckley, and a play by Elizabeth Kinnear directed by Miss Mildred Flaskered.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: The drama teacher, Wilinette Public Schools was given and the name of the play was %Leannie and the Christmas Seals.+
(Laughter)

PA: Oh, yes. Well, this is · youꝑe had quite a career in play writing.

EFK: In play writing. Yes. I · I have just sent one which I - I think may be peculiar to the Bicentennial. Itꝑ the story of Mary Todd - not anything to do with Abraham Lincoln. Of course, it has to be.

PA: Yes.

EFK: But it is the story of Mary Todd who was a southern gentlewoman.

RA: Yes.

EFK: Very well educated, who came to Springfield to visit her sister, Mrs. William Edwards....

PA: Um hum.

EFK: ... and met Mr. Lincoln and this play I am sending to the, Ford Theatre in. Washington....

PA: Oh, yes.

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear, cont. 30

EFK: ...to see whether or not they could use it for our Bicentennial.

RA: Oh, yes.

EFK: I, um, I think I have written more plays for different occasions. (CL ghen)

Like this, for instance, must have been written.

RA: Specifically.

EFK: ...for the occasion.

RA: Exactly!

EFK: Now let's see....

RA: And what are some of the other things - you mentioned your son. What.

EFK: Oh, yes. I (*Laughter*) - I have just one son who is, um, a teacher of religion and humanities. His name is Kenneth and, uh, he is a graduate of Albion College, BA., Chicago Theological College, B.D., and his Ph.D. in California in the Pacific School of Religion. We have one. And he has three children. Uh, Elizabeth is 20 and married.

RA: Oh, for goodness sakes.

EFK: Barbara is 18 and Kathy will be 17 in August of this year. Now Elizabeth, um, was still - is still in Portland, but Barbara has her own pad and only Kathy is at home and still going to college.

RA: Now is this Portland.

EFK: Portland, Oregon.

RA: Now is this (Indistinct)? I didn't realize that

Elizabeth Fisher Kinnear, cont. 31

was where he was.

EFK: Yes. Well, originally after he graduated from Chicago Theological he went out to Berkley, California to the First Congregational Church there where he was the Youth Minister and Dr. Loper, who had been a minister here in Wilmette, was the Senior Minister.

RA: Oh.

EFK: And Kenneth was the Junior Minister for two years and then he went to Corvallis there he found that the Gathercoals were in his church....

RA: Indeed.

EFK:which was a federated church consisting of Presbyterians and Congregational and Kenneth was the Junior Minister there. Now Elizabeth was born in Berkley, California, Barbara was born in Corvallis and Kathy was born in Portland so, u, he was in Corvallis for two or three years when he went to. .

(End of Tape)

Interview continues on Track 12, side 2 of the tape. Untranscribed.