

Narrator's Name: Grace (O'Brien) Jelley
Tape Number: Tape Number 1
Date of Interview: 9/29/75
Place of Interview: *Selley Residence*
Interviewer's Name: *Katherine Trimble and Carol Adams*
For: Oak Lawn Public Library

A. I know my brother, Fred, had his wedding reception at Cook School.

They've got a hall upstairs on the second floor. And that's where they had the wedding reception. He married Elsie (?) Cermack.

Q. Well now, let me put your name down. Say it out loud for the tape.

(inaudible)

A. Grace Jelley, and my maiden name was O'Brien.

Q. Are you related to Red?

A. Yes, his sister in law.

Q. And you were born?

A. On 53rd, 9530.

Q. At 9530 South 53rd.

A. At that time, I was born in the old building. That was at 6419 Edison.

Q. At 6419 Edison.

A. It was two apartment families. Now I believe--well, it's been made into four later on. I think it's still four.

Q. Now as far as your family is concerned, how do you rate? I mean

how many older and how many younger.

A. I had one sister and six brothers older than me and one brother younger.

Q. Seven older . . .

A. And one younger.

Q. And one younger. So your mother had . . .

A. Nine.

Q. Nine.

A. I have nine, too.

Q. You have how many?

A. I have eight living. I did have nine.

Q. You have a large family.

A. All of my brothers are dead now. I just have one brother living.

(inaudible)

Q. They must have died quite young.

A. Yes, they did.

Q. Then they must have died quite young.

A. Well, most of them had heart trouble and died before they were fifty eight. My one brother lived to be sixty two.

Q. And one is living?

A. Yes, that's the only one I have left.

Q. (inaudible) Does he live out this way?

A. Yes, he's head of the inspect - - guards at east Chicago, Old Chicago.

Q. Oh, Bolingbrook.

A. Yes, Bolingbrook. He's the head of all _____.

(inaudible)

Q. I met him when I was doing parishioner work for the convent.

Of course, it was St. Gerald's.

A. I went to St. Gerald's.

Q. I'd like to know a little bit about the parish.

A. I know St. Gerald's used to be right up where Ratajik's Medical Building is. That's where the first church was.

Q. That's where you went to church?

A. Yes.

Q. And that would be the northwest . . .

A. West corner. And that was . . .

Q. At 95th and Minnick.

A. I guess it's called 53rd on that side of the street.

Q. At 53rd Court, the northwest corner of 95th and 53rd Court.

A. And then I know we had catechism, and we had that at where Dove Candies is. People by the name of Hall had it in their house. That's where we all had our catechism there at 95th and 52nd.

Q. Let me ask you this. Was St. Gerald's started in Hall's home?

A. Yes, I believe they had the first mass there.

Q. Because I took my boy to the First Congregational. And, of course, coming home I would pass his house. And I never was a stranger and quite often he would be out on Sunday morning, and we would stop and chat.

A. Yes, they had the first, I think, two years of St. Gerald's School in this building up here. They used to sit on the kneeling benches and write on the pews. That's where the school first started at St. Gerald's.

Q. Do you have any idea of the date?

A. Let's see, I was probably in first grade. I went for three years to Cook School. I didn't go there when it first started. I was in second grade when it started. So I would have been seven. So it was probably—that's about as close as I can pinpoint it.

Q. About the late twenties.

A. Yes.

Q. Well, the church, I think, was started around 1922.

A. I think 1921. I think it's on the church, 1921 till, you know.

Q. Well, Father ^{Gerrity} was the first pastor.

A. And he was also pastor at St. James.

Q. Yes, that's what I was going to ask you if this wasn't a part of that parish until they . . .

A. I don't think it was called a part of the parish. I think it was just—he just came here because there weren't any other priests here then. He'd come down, and I think he held mass in Mrs. Hall's home at the time. And then they built, I think the parishioners all built this white frame church.

Q. I remember.

A. And I think it was probably when I was in second grade when they opened the school. I know I didn't go for the first two years.

Q. They had mentioned that Father ^{Gerrity} was instrumental in getting a bus to run on 95th Street. Do you know anything about that?

A. I don't know. But I think the first people who owned it was named _____. I don't know if he was involved in it. But I do know the people that ran it, the man that ran it was _____ because he used to run the school buses. They broke down everyday. We went to Calumet. That's where we went to school.

Q. Well, I suppose that most of the people who were members of the Catholic Church who lived here went back to their old parishes in the city to go to church.

A. I really don't know. Because I know they were going to here when I . . .

Q. But there wasn't a church here, you see, up until 1921.

A. Yes, but I think a lot of them even went out to Lemont to St. James from the parish before it actually had one in existence.

Q. Of course, they would have to drive out there, but there were probably enough automobiles.

A. And he'd say mass there, and then he'd come here and say mass.

One thing I can remember about Father Gerrity is every donation he read off. And, of course, there were all of us at the head of the line, you know, and he'd say, "Grace O'Brien, ten cents, Bernard O'Brien . . ." And he read every single donation, every single Sunday. And it was known if you didn't put your donation in.

^h
(laughter) And another thing, the reason I have this, this is my mother's and dad's marriage certificate. And he made them get one before he would baptise the baby because he wanted to make sure they were legally married. He was quite a tyrant.

Q. I was going to ask you if he was very strict?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Because I know that one of the neighbors talked to me about him. We were all protestants, and she said everybody loved him. So he must have been a very friendly person.

A. He was thundering though. Everybody seemed to be afraid of him, I'll tell you that. Because he, as I say, he would point you out in church and, you know. And another thing he would do is ask questions during mass. He'd say "Why did God make you?" And you'd have to stand up. And, of course, all the kids were sure he was going to call on them in church. But I think he really got the ball rolling.

Q. When did the first building go up over at 93rd? They built the school first, right?

A. Well, the school was just above the church.

Q. Well, I mean when I came out here, they were still having masses in the auditorium in the basement of the school.

A. Yes, I really don't know exactly what year. As I say, I think I went there for the third grade, but it had been going for two years before that. And, you know, they had high school for one year there.

Q. Yes, I was reading ^KRay's(?) fact sheet, and he said that he went to school there.

A. Maybe two years, but I don't think they ever got, any of those that went, I don't think they were accredited. I think something

fell through because they never had—I think it was only one year.

But when we went to school there, they had the two grades in each room.

Q. Then the kids, when they graduated, would be going to . . .

A. Calumet, most of them did. I think you could have had your choice of Calumet or Blue Island. But all that I knew . . .

Q. You could go into Leo or . . .

A. Oh, yes, and some of them even went to Parker. It all depended, I suppose, on what neighborhood you were from before. Calumet would be the closest public school.

Q. It must have been in the thirties, let's see, where they're located now.

A. Oh, it was earlier than thirties.

Q. Well, I came out here in 1929.

A. I went eight grades there, and I graduated in 1935. I mean I graduated from there, and my brothers had gone there ahead of me. My guess was the late twenties.

Q. . . . over there on 56th, 93rd or . . .

A. At 93rd and 56th, yes. I think it must have been the late twenties.

Q. Well, 1928, if you figure the six you went there.

A. Yes, I think so.

Q. When they built the building, when they built the school on 55th
there . . .

A. Yes.

Q. Yes, right between Central and 55th Court. It faced on 94th. What
year do you think . . .

A. In 1928, yes, I think about that.

Q. Because I came here in 1929 because we never went up there, and I
remember the little building on 95th and they kept that.

A. Oh yes, they used that for recreation and for different meetings
and they had the younger girls were the Patricians and the older girls
were the Geraldines, I remember. We had dances.

Q. It seems to me we had a picture of the Geraldines. Did you know
Mary LePenske?

A. No.

Q. Her brother teaches at Brother Rice, and she had been at Gerald's.

A. Was that her maiden name?

Q. No, I'm trying to think. No, that's her married name. We worked at the library.

A. But we knew almost everybody out here, you know.

Q. That's right.

A. You could walk down 95th Street and know everybody.

Q. And that is what we oldtimers didn't like about the rapid growth.

Because on Saturday afternoon, they always went up to 95th Street.

They went to shop and to meet their friends, you know, just like a little—almost a farming . . .

A. Well, I can remember when the telephone company was at 95th and 54th Court, and Mrs. Powers and Mrs. Pouly ran it. I'd just pick up the phone and say, "Mrs. Pouly, would you ring my dad's phone," and she would ring the phone.

Q. Oh, yes. Did you have, do you remember the one on the wall with the crank?

A. No.

Q. Well, of course, you would be too young. That was the kind we had when we came to Oak Lawn, and it was just like you say.

A. My mother and dad first lived in this house, it's right—they are just remodeling it again, ^{right up here on} ~~94th~~ and 53rd Court on the southwest corner. It used to be Mullen's house, well, I don't know who owned it first. But I have a picture of that before I knew the house was around here.

Q. Oh, you have a picture of that house?

A. This is that house. (inaudible) You see, there weren't any other homes . . .

Q. Would you let us borrow it?

A. Yes.

Q. But we'd have to have it for a month. The people who bought that house came into the library, and they wanted to know what that house looked like because they wanted to . . . What was the address of that?

A. That would be the southwest corner of 53rd Court, 94th and 53rd.

(inaudible) looking at picture. But at the end of this house right here would have been where Weikers live now (inaudible)

Q. Now there is another house that was built the same time on 95th Street. I think Burgess lived in it.

A. Where else, at 95th and what? I know there are homes.

Q. On the north side of 95th this side of, well—what do they call it, 55th Court?

A. Was it Mrs. (Havelisk)?

Q. I don't know anybody who lived in there.

A. I know when we were kids going to school, we'd go by it and it was a Mrs. Havelisk that lived there. And that was years, and that was almost next to Stormy's gas station.

Q. Well, wasn't some of the Chapettis . . .

A. Yes, they lived in that big house that's still there right next to that place that's called Tempo Paints. They lived in there. Chapettis lived in there. And then in later years, I think, they built that apartment house next to it and that was more Chapettis lived there.

Q. Did you live there before the Moens lived there?

A. Yes, my mother and dad did.

Q. Oh, I see. And then they moved, then they bought that house in there.

A. And then they moved back. I think how they moved it was on great big rollers and pulled by horses. I faintly remember it. I probably was around four years old when they moved it. Because I know when my brother was married, I was his flower girl. And we had just moved into that house. I really don't know exactly what year, but I was about six years old. That would be about forty eight years ago.

Q. That would be forty eight years ago that you moved into that new house?

A. Yes, I think that's about how old that would be.

Q. About 1926-192⁷.

A. Yes, because I know we had just moved in there when he got married. And now this house right here behind here where McNaughtons live, that's an old house. That was Hopkins'. And then there was another Hopkins that was the grandmother. Two Hopkins.

Q. We hoped to view as many of the old houses as we can.

A. Well, we lived on 53rd there, there was Hilgendorf's Ice House, they had it right behind their house right next to it on 53rd.

Q. Why they lived in the house north of you.

A. Yes, on 53rd there.

Q. Was that a two flat?

A. It was a two flat, yes. They had the ice house in back. You'd go in there and buy your—everybody would buy their ice and they delivered all through the town.

Q. Now was it the Wildes . . .

A. The Wildes (inaudible) They were brother in laws.

Q. Mr. Wilde had south of 95th Street, and Mr. Hilgendorf was north of 95th Street.

A. Yes, they were brother in laws.

Q. Wasn't Mrs. Wilde a Hilgendorf?

A. I think so.

Q. And then Hopkins lived north of Hilgendorf.

A. Right.

Q. I know those, I've passed those two old houses.

A. I can't remember who originally lived in this other old house there.

What I remember is Klinkhammers, but that was just when I was going to school.

Q. Yes, but they came out here after we did.

Q. Yes, but I don't remember who lived in it before them. Oh yes, I can faintly remember who lived in there.

Q. How big were your classes at St. Gerald's?

A. When I graduated, there were thirteen in our classroom, two boys and eleven girls. And I told Monsignor McNichols that the tornado did one favor. My kids couldn't see my picture in the hall. They had all the graduation pictures in the hall for all the years, you know. And they'd come home and they'd say, "We saw your picture in the hall." I said that's one thing that the tornado did cause he said they never could replace them. I said thank the Lord for that. (laughter)

Q. Well, did the tornado destroy all those pictures?

A. Oh yes, it took the whole top floor.

Q. But people have pictures.

A. Yes, I suppose some of them do. But I don't think any of them would want to show them. They were horrible. (laughter)

Q. Oh well, that's the fun of it.

A. I remember years ago Hopkins had them. Of course, that was their

mother and father. They're both dead now. But they had a lot of pictures of 95th Street like in front of ~~Barren's~~ ^{Behrend's} and then the parades. I remember looking that up, their pictures. But I don't know after their mother and father died if they kept them or not.

Q. We have this yet to look into.

A. They did have a lot of pictures, years ago, when I was little.

We'd look at them I know. We didn't have too many of the actual town.

Q. Well, during the depression, there were a lot of people who were not able to take pictures. (inaudible)

A. I think I have a—well, all my family were policemen, well, practically all of them were policemen. I have one of my older brother, a policeman on a motorcycle. But I don't have any others. Then they used their own cars when they were policemen. They got paid when the village had the money, maybe every two or three months.

Q. Were they all policemen in Oak Lawn?

A. Yes, well, they were—my brother Fred. My father was a policeman when he was younger. Then he was J.P. for thirty five years.

And then my brother, Fred, no Merv, Francis was a policeman. Freddie was a policeman, and Ken was a policeman. They all took their turns, you know. They were on—Ken was on for twenty years. Freddie was a chief at one time, and he was also a coroner later on when he wasn't a policeman anymore. Another thing that I can remember when I was a kid, you probably remember it, too, was the wooden sidewalk in front of the ^(Kamadis) news stand there.

Q. No, I don't. It seems to me that it was almost (inaudible)

A. Well, I know when we were going to school, they still had the wooden sidewalks. We used to take the sticks and put gum on them and reach under there—they'd drop their change, you know. We'd get some change from underneath the boards. I can remember that distinctly.

Q. Was there a little jog on 95th Street there?

A. No, I don't think so. There was a—Kamadis's(?) news stand was where the Village, is that the Village Tap, that tavern that fell down, and they had a tavern and they sold newspapers and candy.

Q. Did they have a tavern in that building?

A. Yes.

Q. Oh, I remember going in there to pay the newspaper bill.

A. Yes, it was a combination. You could walk away with your newspaper. And then where the pet store is now, later there was a root beer stand there when my husband and I were going together.

Q. Yes, I remember that. The *Behrend* Barren(?) girl had it.

A. I think, well what I remember I think Mrs. Peterson ran it. I don't know if she owned it or not, but she ran it.

Q. Now, of course, she's probably dead now. How long have you lived here?

A. Eleven years here, and then we lived on 51st for—married thirty five years, we lived there about fourteen years on 51st and 94th right across from the Pilgrim Church.

Q. Oh, is that where . . .

A. My daughter lives there now.

Q. Yes, did you build this house?

A. No. We owned this property—right after we got married, we bought

the property from the Smutneys. That name has probably come up.

Q. Yes, Duke or Carol.

A. Yes, well we bought it from Smutney, and we were going to build on it. And then we saw this other house, and we decided well, we couldn't afford to build, we'd buy. So we sold it to a building contractor. And then my husband's aunt and uncle bought the house that was built, and then he died, and we bought the house from them. (inaudible) And then my brother and sister in law lived right over there. Well, she still lives there, but my brother is dead, Mrs. O'Brien. And the next door was Kruegers. They lived there for years. I think they might have built that house, the people next door there. And then Nan Canally lived here. She used to teach embroidery and patch work quilting that we took from her there. That house is real old.

Q. Well, you must have a lot of relatives.

A. I do, we do, the Clevelands, they're a relative.

Q. Are very many of them in Oak Lawn?

A. Yes, well, a lot of them. And then my husband's relatives are here.

The Bates, we have relatives, the Clevelands, the Zimmermans. We have a whole lot of them.

Q. Yes, did all of your brothers and your sister have large families?

A. No, my one brother had five, two brothers have five. And my sister didn't have any children. Three of my brothers didn't have any children.

My brother, Ken, has two. I was the only one who had the same amount as my mother.

Q. You have a large family.

A. I have nine children. My husband just had three brothers. They all lived out here but the youngest one. After he got out of the Navy, he moved to LaGrange.

Q. Well, did your husband's parents live in Oak Lawn?

A. Yes, in fact, you might have even known them. His mother and dad lived where Sandeman's undertaking parlor is now.

Q. Oh, I remember the house.

A. She always lived there. In fact, their living room was the undertaking room where they had their . . .

Q. Did he and Mr. Brunⁿ (?) start the business together?

A. No, they just took care of the building, lived there and took care of the building for Mr. Brun^Wç.

Q. They didn't own the building?

A. No, Mr. Brun^Nç did. He owned the building and he owned the business.

And they just, he lived with them.

Q. Well, didn't your father have a real estate business?

A. Yes, he had that right where the Pier 1 is now.

Q. Yes, now that would be the southwest corner of 95th and 52nd?

A. Right.

Q. And didn't Brun^çç have a . . .

A. They had a little milk store there.

Q. Yes, cold milk. Now when I came here, you know, everybody had a milkman, and you'd get it in pints and quarts. Well, then they started selling the milk in half gallons, didn't they? And they had these little stores where you'd go in. You see, the regular grocery stores didn't have it.

A. For a while they didn't call them dairy stores, they just called them milk stores.

Q. They didn't handle the half gallons, did they?

A. No, and . . .

Q. The largest was a quart.

A. Yes, when ^{Behrend's} ~~Barren's~~ hardware, that was half grocery for years.

They had groceries for years and years, I know that. In fact, they had that, they still had that when I was first married, I think, the groceries.

Q. Well, then did your father discontinue his real estate business?

A. No.

Q. Or did he move to a different location?

A. Oh yes, he moved down to 49th, 95th and 49th there, right, I think it's—let's see, I can't picture what's on the corner now. It was a tobacco store for a while. Now I think it's a land, loan or land they sell, something like that.

Third Party: Commercial credit or something.

Q. Now where was that located?

A. At 95th and 49th.

Q. And what corner was that?

A. That would be the southeast corner.

Q. Do you remember what year that would be?

A. No, I don't. Berelli Drugs were right on the corner that my dad was right next to.

Q. Oh, yes.

A. And he had that . . .

Q. The ~~the~~ corner was vacant then at that time.

A. No, Berelli Drugs was in there.

Q. In the corner?

A. Yes.

Q. And then your father's store would be west of . . .

A. East.

Q. East of them, oh yes, southeast corner.

A. And another old home is this white house over here, people by the name of (Koose)[?] live there now. It used to be Singleton, 95, I think, 9530 Minnick.

Q. Did Singleton build a lot of houses around you?

A. No, Phillips, Phillips was the one who built a lot of houses.

Q. ^H Harry ~~(H)~~ Phillips.

A. Yes, he built a lot of houses.

Third Party: I wonder if it was Bill Singleton's father then because the house on 96th and 54th, Schussler's, that was built by Alfred Singleton in 1894.

A. Oh, I didn't know that.

Third Party: I didn't either. I'm just doing my research.

A. But I know Harry Phillips built a lot of homes.

Q. Yes, you see Mrs. Phillips' parents, I think, were charter members of the First Congregational, and they farmed the—the Phillips' family, Harry's parents, I think, farmed out in Worth. And I think Laura's parents farmed up around 79th. I may be mistaken, but I think that they farmed up north. So they were very definitely ^{pioneers} (inaudible).

A. She must be now about ninety four.

Q. As far as I know, she's still living.

A. Oh yes, she's still living. She lives in Florida with her daughter.

April's husband died about two or three years ago.

Q. Yes, I heard they had a little income retirement home.

~~A. Well, I know a couple of years ago April had written to my sister in law and said that her mother had entered a fashion show or a senior citizen's beauty contest or something and had won. And they still went dancing. I think Hazel has been married several times. But she said her mother was still—then I think her mother did break her hip or her leg and hadn't snapped back from that. But she would be really up there in years now.~~

Third Party: What about Joe Jelley?

A. He's my husband's brother.

Q. Who lives south of you?

A. Here?

Q. Yes.

A. People by the name of Schumagowski, but I don't know them—you mean years ago or now?

Q. Now.

A. There name is Schumagowski. In fact, his wife was just killed by

~~a car last April.~~

Q. Where did the Aulwurms live?

A. They lived in the second house down. She still lives there.

She should be able to give you (inaudible). I know she lived here as

long as I can remember. And I think her father and mother were here

before that. I think her mother's name was Sahn. S

Third Party: Was it Sahn, S-A-H-N? S

A. Yes, I think they pronounced it san. "sas" "

Third Party: Oh, did they?

Q. I'm always confused on that.

A. And then the nephew, Al Aulwurm, moved right next door to that

little white . . .

Third Party: There was an Aulwurm who was an original trustee of the

village, a native Aulwurm.

A. Yes, I think that was the grand—her brother probably.

Q. Well, Harnews were the first family to live in here. Now John

Singleton (?) first wanted to buy property here.

A. Well, there was a Harnew lived across the street here, Frank, young Frank, the one that died. I think he did die, didn't he?

Q. Yes, just a couple years ago. He lived on Edison.

A. Well, that wasn't the parent's home. He lived here with his wife and children across the street. They lived—I think people by the name of ^{(Fieffer)?} Piper live there now next to Conroy.

~~Q. Then Mrs. Harnew who is still living would be really (inaudible)~~

Q. The Aulwurms built their house.

A. Yes, the Aulwurms were carpenters, I thought.

Q. So they would come here a lot.

A. Oh, yes. I know the Aulwurms were carpenters because they were doing work, handy work or whatever they did, around the village when we were kids.

Q. Yes.

~~A. How about a cup of coffee? Would you like a cup of coffee?~~

(flaw in tape)

Q. I think it's Bill that lives north of me. And he married Franks, Isebell Franks. Well, that's the one. And, of course, they all

lived over there.

A. And then the other two . . .

Q. No, wait a minute. The two children are—oh yes, let's see, there are one, two, three, four adults. But Grace isn't in there.

A. No, she wasn't there.

Q. Now the children, the first one.

A. William O'Brien, that was my brother.

Q. Yes, William O'Brien—and William O'Brien was the son and then Emmett, E-M-M-E-T-T. May I ask you, is Emmett an Irish name?

Third Party: Sure, there's a great Irish patriot poet named Robert Emmett.

Q. Because I have a friend who married an Emmett Smith.

~~Third Party: My grandfather was Robert Emmett Graham.~~

A. You don't hear too many Emmetts these days.

Q. That's why I wasn't sure. He said his family was Irish.

~~A. I know my grandmother . . .~~

~~Third: There was a famous Irish . . .~~

~~A. My grandfather . . .~~

~~Q. . . . was Emmett (inaudible) and that's two Ts because so many people spell their names differently, you know.~~

~~Third Party: I know all about Robert Emmett.~~

Q. Now, I'm trying to place this . . .

A. Now, that might be Mirkles on the corner. Is that house that old?

Q. Now, is that—would those houses be to the west?

A. I think so, to the northeast. You know, it might be Mirkles house.

~~Q. You see, after it filled up (inaudible) That's right, and then so often now, these old homes are being torn down, you see, and newer homes So those in the background would be . . .~~

~~A. And everybody, like (inaudible) Macklenburg's . . . To ns . . .~~

~~Q. We would be looking at the south.~~

~~Third Party: Yes, maybe north.~~

Q. Looking north and that would be kind of like the rear, wouldn't it?

A. This would be the side of it cause this would be the front here.

(inaudible) ~~tape has lots of noise on it, two people talking at once, etc.)~~

Q. We should drive by there and compare it with the picture.

A. ~~That's the only old picture I could find of . . .~~

~~Third Party: Do you have any when you were growing up?~~

~~A. Some.~~

~~Third Party: What we do with them the clothes are fascinating,~~

~~the clothes that they wore.~~

A. This was one, and I imagine that this was ~~upstairs in our house~~

because this is my brother, Bill ^{Emmett} and Freddie. ~~(inaudible)~~ *up near there*

~~Third Party: Well, everyone dressed alike, you know.~~

~~Third Party: Greg, Francis, Emmett and Lee.~~

Q. Want to write that down?

Third Party: Now wait a minute, I don't want to get these confused.

This is over a creek and then I know that that's the picture. Now if

that's the family, are these the four older boys?

A. That was the three youngest.

Q. Can you give us an idea of the day this was taken?

A. If it isn't on the back, I wouldn't know.

~~Q. You would have to guess. Nobody would dispute you because it was~~

~~your picture.~~

A. Fred would be fourteen years old. I'd say he was about nine years here.

~~Q. I'll have to . . .~~

A. You can't tell with Bill cause he was always taller.

Q. If he was living, how old would he be now?

A. Sixty eight.

Q. Sixty eight, now that was 1977.

A. Now wait . . .

Q. 1917, does that sound right to you?

A. Yes, I think it was around then.

Q. And then he was nine years old at the time. That would—now we add that, 1926, would that be about right?

A. That would be fine.

Q. He would have been born in 1917. I have him down as sixty eight.

A. He'd be sixty eight in 1970, yes.

Q. That's right, 1907. So that would make the picture about 1916,

wouldn't it if he was nine. I thought it would be nice if we could

~~guess, you know, and affix as many as we could to 1976, you know. Then~~

~~you'd have your even numbers so why not date it 1916? (inaudible)~~

Q. Now you wouldn't have any idea where it was taken?

A. I imagine it was taken right up there on the . . . (inaudible)

Q. I haven't got that far. The location is about 94th and 51st.

About 93rd Court? We'll just put 53rd Court, and we'll put it

9400 53rd Court. (writing names on picture) Now that's F-R-A-N-C-I-S,

that's double M and double T, Emmett.

(parts of this tape were almost impossible to understand)

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

~~Q. (talking before tape went on) That was of Harry Fletcher. (inaudible)~~

~~A. Would you eat a piece of strawberry shortcake?~~

Q. I'll have some if you'd like some. Well, first I want to get these

pictures straight. This is Kenneth O'Brien.

A. Have you talked to Georgie Schussler yet on 54th?

Q. Just casually.

A. Because he's been here since 1908.

Third Party: I called him and asked him about the old Schussler house.

He was the one that gave me the information.

Q. So he was the one who gave you the information. He's very much interested in Oak Lawn because I know I talked with his wife, and she said, "I know he wouldn't move out of Oak Lawn." But, of course, so many of the . . .

Third Party: That house has been sold.

A. Oh yes, I know it.

~~Q. Who bought it?~~

~~A. Some young couple bought it. My cousin was interested in it, but the price was too high.~~

~~Third Party: It was fifty-two five.~~

~~A. Fifty-two five. You know what they want for this one next door, forty-four nine.~~

~~Q. Is that for sale?~~

~~A. Yes.~~

~~Q. Well, that's because . . .~~

~~Third Party: Today it pays to buy these older homes, you know.~~

~~A. It used to be two apartments, but now it's all single family.~~

~~Q. Oh, there's one family living in there?~~

A. Yes, just a young couple with two children.

~~Q. Oh, yes. you have to be financially able. You have to have a lot, you have to have something behind—at least, I would want something behind me.~~

A. Well, they haven't touched the yard at all. The yard hasn't been cut this year, I don't think. They really have let it go. It's a shame that they bought the old house. They had a coat of paint put on, but that's about it. But the ones that are moving in Schussler's are supposed to really—that's what they bought it for was to really . . .

Third Party: Restore it.

A. If you've been in Schussler's house, it's not like this one was abused because it was rented many times. It was two apartments, but that was only single family. And the floors are worn as far as the varnish on them, but they aren't damaged or anything. The woodwork and the stairwells going upstairs are all carved oak, just gorgeous.

(inaudible) And then, of course, the stairwell is that (inaudible)

And our kids all called it the key house because it looks like a key.

Q. I had this young man helping me, and we did—his aunt worked, wrote

for the Worth-Palos Reporter, Kay Bonner(?), and Alan—Kay and I did that house because they had a kindergarten(?). And so we put it down as the first kindergarten. That's the house that he liked. You see, (inaudible) Well, you know the Harker house?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, that was, they tell me, by the lake. And then that was moved over next door to you. And then the Phillips bought it, and he moved it over onto 95th Street, and he built this house.

A. The Harkers were previous Barges. That's what the grandfather's name was. And he used to make horseradish in his basement. My brothers worked for him making horseradish. I can remember years ago having Barge's horseradish.

Q. Did any of them work in the signal factory?

A. No, I don't think so.

Q. Or was that gone?

A. No, that must have been gone by the time they . . .

Q. Did you know the Esthers in the neighborhood?

A. Yes, they lived down in the apartment there(?).

Grace Jelley (1)

pickle 37

Q. Well, Mr. Esther was the—he was the manager of the signal factory,

and George Schussler, I guess, was, might have been his only employee.

That, of course, would be seasonal work, wouldn't it, you see, when the cucumbers come in.

A. Now down here on the corner there's a woman, her name's Mrs. Meyers, I don't know if you know her or not, she's lived out here for many years.

Q. Yes, as we came around the corner cause we came from the library, that's what I told Carol. I said I think we should try to see her.

A. Now she's lived there for years.

Q. Now this picture, now can you tell me about what year?

A. Well, I know it's on 53rd in the middle of the block. It's on the west side of the street. It's still there. It's the brown _____ home there.

Q. Now it's on what street?

A. It's on 53rd . . .

Q. Fifty third . . .

A. About 97, probably 9720, 9730.

Q. On 53rd Avenue.

A. Yes.

Q. Now I think I can tell you the house.

A. The Stubers lived right next door to them.

Q. That was the house. Do you know Mrs. Tucker?

A. Yes.

Q. She was a Pipas(?). She owned almost that whole block.

A. Well, that was probably her house then.

Q. Yes, she lived in that house. That was the first house to be built there, you see. And then later, of course, I got the Hoff^Smans(?).

A. That was just about two blocks to the Hofstetters(?).

Q. I know the house that you have in mind. Now if you can give us the year.

A. Well, it would be about forty years ago.

~~Q. So, we could make it 1935.~~

~~A. Around there, yes.~~

~~Q. Could we make it 1933?~~

~~A. Yes, you could make it 1933.~~

~~Third Party: (inaudible) joke about changing the date.~~

A. Well, it could be 1936 because, well, forty-one years or thirty-nine years. The liberties we are taking with history, Mrs. .

Q. Well, that's not really too much, 1936. (laughter) Now, that's Fred?

A. Fred O'Brien.

Q. Fred O'Brien. Didn't he live in that house at one time?

A. Yes, he lived there for a couple years.

Q. Just for curiosity, what year did the Clevelands come?

A. They came out, I think, about the same time as my mother, see, Clevelands—my mother and Mr. Cleveland were brother and sister. And, I think, they came out almost the same time. They built their house on 50th Court at the same time that my mother and dad built the house on 53rd. They were building them at the same time. My mother and dad designed this house.

Q. Because they made plans, yes, for that house. But you must have come—your parents must have come before because . . .

A. Yes, they lived here before up on the hill.

Q. Did they ever live in that . . .

A. Well, the Clevelands lived upstairs of us in an apartment when we lived on 53rd.

Q. Oh, I see.

A. There were two apartments. We lived downstairs and they lived upstairs. But my mother and dad owned it.

Q. Oh, I see.

A. So I don't really know just exactly when they came out to live in the apartment.

Q. So then it was moved over the other side of 54?

A. Yes.

Q. And both families have built?

A. Yes, it was just moved just so they could build the house. That's when they moved it off the lot, and they started building right away.

Q. The house was moved to Edison Avenue.

A. Edison, 5419.

Q. At 5419, in about what year?

A. When did I say that other first house was built?

Q. Let me see, I'll have to go back.

A. I was about six years old.

Q. I don't know whether I even. . .

A. Forty-eight years ago.

Q. I have 5419 Edison. And then your brothers seven older and one younger.

A. Because the house was probably built about forty-eight years ago, so that would probably have been forty-nine years ago.

Q. (looking through notes) In 1926, I would say would be just about right because it was right here when I came out here. That would be in 1929. So it would probably be Edison, 5419 in 1926.

A. But my brother, Ken, he might be a little more accurate on it.

Q. Yes.

A. On some of those dates.

~~Q. Let me see do you get to the library very often?~~

~~A. No.~~

~~Q. Well, I have a couple things that I thought might interest you.~~

~~This is the film festival, and also . . . (tape interrupted)~~

A. This is the way my mother had the children. I'm not sure if she even had a doctor. I know she used to help out with the babies after my mother had them.

A. Well, that might have been the woman that Mrs. Sanders, you know Mrs. Sanders, (inaudible) talked about. I think she had—her mother maybe, she was related to her, a practical nurse, you know. What I was going to say the question came up because we were living in Oak Lawn when our boy was born. I just have the one child, and he was born at 54th and Morgan, which was Chicago. Well, I always considered him an Oak Lawn, you know. But actually, you know, his birth certificate says Chicago.

A. Well, that's where all mine were born at Little Company of Mary. They were all born in . . .

Q. Evergreen Park, and that is why I think people are off, you know. Of course, you give your address, I think, when you deliver. Yes and for your parents, your father's name, Frank J. O'Brien, and born in 1881, and then Mabel M. Cleveland. And she was born in 1884.

(inaudible) . . . at 63rd and Cottage Grove in Chicago. And the date

the family moved to Oak Lawn was 1909.

END

(Talking about Holy Family Church, the tape is barely audible at this point. I can hear faint voices in the background, but the hum or defect in the tape is too loud to make sense out of most of it)

A. They used to take us over to St. Bernadette's.

Q. Is Bernadette's the one that's at 96th and Longwood Drive?

Third Party: No, Bernadette's is 94th and Francisco.

Q. What is the one at 96th and Longwood Drive in Beverly?

A. That's where I was baptized. It's a real old church.

Q. The school is real old there on the south side of 95th street, Longwood.

A. You're thinking—no, this wasn't it. This was on the Longwood Drive. You're thinking of Longwood Academy.

Third Party: The Academy of Our Lady.

A. Yes, the Academy of Our Lady. Years ago, it used to be called Longwood, now it's just Academy. (inaudible)

(from here on, totally inaudible)

END OF TAPE