



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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INTERVIEW TOPICS
CEDAR RAPIDS: THE EARLY DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1,2 --When were you born? Where?
 2-3 --How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
 --What are your parents' names?
 --Where did you go to school?
 2 --Are you married or single?
 3 --Did you raise a family? How big?
 3-11,12-13,16,17-18,19,23 --What has been your occupation (career) during your adult years?

II. COMMUNITY TOPICS

A. Technology in the Community

1. Transportation
 --Railway travel (Union Station, trips to Iowa City on Crandic)
 --Trolleys (the Interurban)
 31-32 --Horses and First Automobiles
 --Mud roads and the seedling mile
 --Hunter Airport and the first planes
 --Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)
2. Communications
 --Newspapers
 --Radios
 --Advertising
 --Telephones

B. People in the Community

1. Amusements/Recreation
 --Motion Pictures
 --Cedar Rapids Parks
 --Dances
 --Carnival Week
 --Chautauqua
 --Community Theater
 --Little Gallery
 --Symphony Orchestra
 --Circus
 --Greene's Opera House
 --Amusement Parks (Alamo)
 --Camps
 --Community Centers (YWCA, YMCA)
2. Famous Characters
 --Cherry Sisters
 --Grant Wood
 --Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
 --Marvin Cone
 2-8,12,13,15-16, --Weaver Witwer

- 26-27,28-29,32
 4,6,7,8,16,26-29, --Hedy Witwer
 30,32

3. Lifestyle
 - Life before air conditioning
 - 31--Winter Activities
 - Holidays (Memorial Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
 - 5,9 --Clothing
 - Toys
 - Saloons/Taverns
 - Farm Life
 - 26 --Backyard Pool
4. Family Life
 - 3-9,16-17 --Household Help
 - Women's Roles
 - 17-23--Childrens' Activities/Behavior
 - Sunday activities (Church life, Sunday Blue Laws)
5. Ethnic/Minority Life
 - Immigrants (Czech, Greek, German, etc.)
 - Indians
 - 24-25--Segregation of Blacks
 - Jobs Available
 - 13 --On being Black
- C. Organizations and Institutions in the Community
 1. Education
 - Cedar Rapids Schools
 - Coe College
 - Mount Mercy College
 - Cornell College
 2. Government
 - City Services
 - Streets/Roads
 - Relationship with Marion (Courthouse Dispute)
 3. Medical
 - Hospitals
 - Patient-Doctor Relationship
 - Broken Bones
 - Polio, TB, Debilitating Diseases
 - House Calls
 - Home Delivery of Babies

