

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH: ZULINA SEVERA WILHELM

INTERVIEW BY: INEZ LYON

PLACE: CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

DATE: OCTOBER 26, 1984

10-07

2004.10.84

Zulina Severa Wilhelm was born in Cedar Rapids in 1890, the daughter of Josephine Dusil Severa and Wencil F. Severa. She attended Jackson Elementary and graduated from Washington High School and Smith College. Her father came from Czechoslovakia when he was sixteen. After living in various places, he settled in Cedar Rapids and opened a drug company that catered to the Czech immigrant community. Mrs. Wilhelm remembers that her parents entertained President Masaryk of Czechoslovakia when he visited here in 1922. The Severa family built one of the first homes on Blake Boulevard, near Bever Park when the area around was still country. Mrs. Wilhelm married George Taylor Wilhelm, who owned Metalcrafters Ironworks, in 1919, and raised one daughter, Elizabeth. She helped to found the Cedar Rapids Garden Club and has been active in it for many years.

