



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH: FRANK ZEMAN

CONDUCTED BY: SANDY MILLER

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PLACE: CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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Frank Zeman was born January 11, 1901 in Franklin County in Iowa. His parents were immigrants from Czechoslovakia, arriving in this country about 1870. Mr. Zeman has lived in the Cedar Rapids area from 1909 to the present. He married his wife, Thelma, in 1930. He began working for the Swift Co. and upon his marriage, owned an independent grocery business for ten years.

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

I. PERSONAL LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- 1--When were you born? Where?
- 2--How long have you lived in Cedar Rapids?
- 1--What are your parents' names?
  - Where did you go to school?
- 6--Are you married or single?
- 27--Did you raise a family? How big?
- 6--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--Horses and First Automobiles
    - Mud roads and the seedling mile
    - Hunter Airport and the first planes
    - Cedar River (ferries, floods, dams)
  - 31--Gas Stations
- 2. Communications
  - Newspapers
  - Radios
  - Advertising
  - Telephones

B. People in the Community

- 1. Amusements/Recreation
  - 29,30--Motion Pictures 30,31--Restaurants
    - 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)
  - 29--Baseball
- 2. Famous Characters
  - Cherry Sisters
  - Grant Wood
  - Carl Van Vechten (The Tattooed Countess)
  - Marvin Cone

