

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Ursuline High School Project

Student Viewpoint

O. H. 15

MARY M. HOLLERAN

Interviewed

by

Donna DeBlasio

on

November 5, 1974

MARY HOLLERAN

Youngstown native, Mary McCormick Holleran, was born on May 19, 1913. She is the daughter of Thomas and Mary Reardon McCormick. She attended Immaculate Conception grade school and then went on to Ursuline High School. When she attended Ursuline from 1927 until 1931, it was still an all-girl school. In her senior year, the school admitted the first boys. After her years at Ursuline, Mrs. Holleran attended St. John's Teachers' College from 1931 until 1932. She taught at St. Dominic Grade School from 1931 to 1936.

Mrs. Holleran presently resides at 4127 Rush Boulevard in Youngstown, with her husband John Elmo Holleran. She has four children, Anne, John, Mary Ellen, and Kathleen, and is a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and Seton Circle.

DONNA DEBLASIO
JULY 1, 1977

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: MARY M. HOLLERAN

INTERVIEWER: Donna DeBlasio

SUBJECT: Student Viewpoint

DATE: November 5, 1974

D: This is an interview with Mrs. J. Elmo Holleran, for the Youngstown State University Ursuline High School Project, by Donna DeBlasio, at Mrs. Holleran's home on November 5, 1974, at 2:00 p.m.

Mrs. Holleran, why did you choose to go to Ursuline Academy?

H: Well, I had been to Immaculate Conception School when I was in grade school and I guess it was just the thing to do when I was in eighth grade. There was no question about going to a Catholic high school. That was a must.

D: Did your parents decide that you should go there?

H: Yes, my parents decided that.

D: What did you think of the other high schools in the area?

H: Well, truthfully, I really didn't know too much about them. You really don't think too much about the high schools when you're thirteen or fourteen years old.

D: During the Depression, was your family's social and economic position high enough for you?

H: Yes, my father always had a fairly good job. He worked in the steel mill but, of course, in those

days, everybody was a little strapped for money. We managed though.

D: How exclusive was the high school? Was it very open to social positions?

H: We had some girls who were very wealthy, but most were in a medium class.

D: What did you think about the teachers and their methods?

H: Well, in those days, we thought the teachers were wonderful. Of course, they were very strict and we didn't shirk responsibilities. You either learned or else. If you failed any courses, they made sure you took them over again, and the best possible help was given to all the students. I remember a particular algebra class when I was a freshman. Evidently, the teacher wasn't getting it across to the students because only two or three of them passed the class. The next year, the principal taught the class and by the end of the term, everybody knew algebra.

D: What kind of methods did they use in teaching, lecture or discussion?

H: We had discussions, but mostly just work, work, work.

D: What was the discipline like? Was it strict?

H: Yes, it was a little bit strict. I'd say we had more freedom than we do right now.

D: Could you tell me what a typical day was like?

H: Well, as I said, we had lots of time because there were only a few students. We had hourly classes and quite long lunch hours. I think our classes were for an hour and we had a couple of study halls in between. At lunchtime, I think we had about an hour and a half because we didn't have the crowds that we have now. Everybody ate lunch at one time. As a matter of fact, we had enough time at lunchtime to eat, go downtown, and be back at school.

D: How long did the day usually last?

H: I think we were finished at three o'clock. We started at nine in the morning and finished at three.

- D: Was the school very large at the time?
- H: No, we had the same school building that they have now--the old school building. The enrollment was probably only about two hundred or two hundred and fifty. We started out with ninety freshmen and ended up with twenty-six seniors. They just dropped out and went to other schools. I suppose it was because of the Depression.
- D: Were there many cliques?
- H: Yes, there were quite a few. In fact, I'd say in each class there were maybe six or eight who stuck together. The rest of the girls were all as one family. There were a few who thought that they were a little better than the rest.
- D: Was this feeling mostly socially based or economically based?
- H: I think it was socially based. They thought they were really something and they just stuck together.
- D: What changes have you noted from Ursuline now and Ursuline in the 1930s when you went there?
- H: Well, of course, I haven't been up there for a long, long time. The thing that really scared me the one time I did go, which was about ten years ago, was that at the change of classes, everybody came flying down those stairways and the hall. You took your life in your hands.
- D: Well, do you think the students were well prepared for university training?
- H: Oh, yes, I think they were well prepared.
- D: Is this what the school was mostly geared to?
- H: Right.
- D: Do you think you can remember what the percentage was between "A's" and the "F's"?
- H: Well, I'd say five percent were "A's" and five percent were "F's" just like it is now. Of course, they didn't grade on the curve at all. You got what you deserved. A few of the teachers thought 98 was a

perfect score. They would never give 100, just 98. They figured that was a perfect score as far as grades were concerned.

D: It was a small school so were newcomers resented?

H: No, they were very well accepted. We didn't have too many who would come in during the middle of the year. When we were seniors, I can remember the first class of boys coming in. We were just as friendly with the freshmen as with the seniors.

D: Was the first class of boys a large or small class?

H: There were quite a few boys I'd say half the class was boys.

D: What did you think of boys being admitted?

H: Well, we were a lot happier except that we were a little older than they were. See, we were ready to graduate and the boys were freshmen. But we were pleased with them

D: What kind of extracurricular activities were there, such as clubs and social functions?

H: We all had our own little clubs, but at school, they had card parties for all the holidays. They were mostly for the public. We didn't have too many social functions at the school.

D: Did you have any clubs like FTA and things like that?

H: No, no. In those days, they had nothing, just general little social clubs.

D: Was the image of the school very important?

H: Oh, yes, to us it was important. We thought that because we went to Ursuline, we were wonderful. Of course, we always thought it was the best school in town. Maybe that was just our own opinion. We did have quite a nice athletic association and we had meetings once a week. We had girls' basketball teams in those days. They went out of town and played basketball, and they had teams from out of town that came to visit here. It was quite nice. We had scholarship contests. We went to Kent State and I think Ursuline came in first place in the state when I was there.

D: Were you involved in any?

H: Yes, I was. I was in the Kent State scholarship contest. I wasn't on the basketball team. I didn't care much for it, but I had a lot of fun up there.

D: Did they have a dress code then or did you have to wear uniforms?

H: We wore uniforms after the first year. The first year we wore our own clothes, but after that, the school had a uniform. It was a must. The only time that you were excused for not wearing the uniform was if it was at the dry cleaners. Other than that, you wore the uniform.

D: What did they look like?

H: They were navy blue, with long sleeves, white collars and cuffs, and little buttons down the front. They were very plain. Then they had summer ones, in pastel colors made the same way.

D: Did the boys have to wear a type of uniform?

H: No, the boys just wore their own clothes, but they were well dressed. Nobody wore jeans or went to school sloppy.

D: Even in the Depression?

H: Right.

D: What does the Ursuline Academy mean to you?

H: Well, over these last few years, as I said, I haven't thought too much about it. I consider it a good alma mater. I just love the Ursuline Sisters because I was associated with them for many years in school and then I went to the teachers' college with a lot of them. We became very good friends. As I said, the whole class would get together at gym time or lunchtime and after we had our lunch, we would all sit around. During the winter, we went in the gym. We'd play games and we'd joke and laugh and talk. In the spring when the weather was nice, we'd go outside and take pictures out on the campus. Everybody had a lot of fun. We associated with all classes, not just our own. All classes mixed. We used to run around town. We had a ball; we weren't supposed to, but we did

D: Were you allowed off the campus at all during the day?

H: Unless you went home for lunch, you weren't allowed. The school was strictly a place that you stayed all day except for the students that went home for lunch. I had enough time during lunchtime to go out to the South Side many times. Of course, I had to ride the bus both ways. In those days, there was no such thing as driving your car to school. You were lucky to be able to ride the bus.

D: Did they have organized bus transportation?

H: We rode the city buses. We had school tickets. I think in those days, it was one dollar and thirty cents for thirty-three tickets. We just went to the bus counter and bought them. A lot of times, we'd have to lend them out before we ever got home.

When I was a senior, we had the first prom at Ursuline High School. It was actually a dinner-dance for the class of 1931, and it was held at the school. The juniors served a very nice dinner. The sisters chaperoned the dance, but they didn't come right into the auditorium.

We were also the first class that graduated from Stambaugh Auditorium and, of course, as large as that stage is, twenty-six girls did not fill it. We had the girls glee club in the background and they sang at the graduation. It was beautiful. We were all on stage instead of being down in the body of the auditorium as they are now. Father Conry was the principal when I was there. He was there for several years. He was a wonderful priest. Before that, we had sisters. He was the first priest to be principal at Ursuline.

D: When the boys started, were the classes coeducational or were they separated?

H: They were coeducational. They didn't have any separation at all. The boys and girls had band together. The students in the band started out together as freshmen. There were only a few sophomores and juniors in it. They started the football team but, of course, they didn't do too well then. They had a priest for a coach then; he was pastor of St. Stanislaus Church.

We had quite a nice gym teacher. We had to wear those baggy bloomers and blouses for gym. We had long-sleeved sailor blouses, which were a pain in the neck. I guess you have to get used to things.

D: What other classes did you take?

H: Well, I took a straight academic course. They had a four-year academic course, which was English, Latin, History, Algebra, Chemistry, Biology, all the academic courses. Then they had a two-year commercial course which I wasn't too familiar with because it only lasted for two years after I was up there and then they discontinued it.

D: What did they do with it? Did they make it into a four-year course?

H: No, they just discontinued it and then you could take the typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping courses as electives along with your regular academic course. Another thing is that you weren't limited to just four subjects. If your grades were high enough, you could take five or six subjects instead of just the regular four. Of course, we always had religion; it was a must. It wasn't a full credit. I think it was only a half credit. We did take five or six subjects. We had quite a large assortment of languages. You could have German, French, Spanish. I had to take German for two years. They had a beautiful chemistry class. It was a well-equipped laboratory, and we had very good teachers

D: Were the teachers mostly nuns and priests?

H: Oh, only the gym teachers were lay teachers. No, we had no other lay teachers, only the sisters. This might seem strange to people now because I think lay teachers are in the majority.

D: Did you have a faculty advisor?

H: We had faculty advisors, but when the girls in the senior class put out the yearbook, the girls themselves got the information and all the ads. All the articles were put out by the senior girls instead of having it done professionally.

D: When you had retreats, were they handled by the school?

- H: Yes, they were handled by the school, but we did have a priest come in and give the retreat. I think they lasted for a whole week. There were conferences and then a little recess, and then more conferences, but they were very enjoyable. At least we got out of school classes for a week.
- D: Was the administration very much involved in the teaching activities of the school?
- H: I'd say that some of the younger sisters were very friendly and helpful. They were involved when we had card parties and things, but the older ones were so used to just teaching that they really didn't go in for the extra activities at all.
- D: Do you think they were devoted?
- H: They were very devout teachers, but when their school time was finished, that was it. The younger sisters there were the ones who mixed in with the students and gave them a little extra help. As I said, when we had card parties, it was the younger sisters who came to help all the time.
- D: Were they very strict about cutting classes?
- H: Oh, they never heard of such a thing as cutting classes. You didn't dare do that. As a matter of fact, nobody would even think of it. I guess that was before the days of class cutting and stuff. If you weren't in school, you stayed home. They called your home at 9:00 a.m. to find out where you were. It was strict. We never really did cut too many classes. A few times we'd leave the gym class and go downtown, but if we got caught, we would be punished. And, of course, in those days, there was no such thing as girls smoking. They just wouldn't put up with that. Of course, a few of the girls did smoke. They'd hide the cigarettes in the girl's restroom.
- We had a lovely lady who did the cooking in the cafeteria. The food was very inexpensive. Of course, as I said, we only had about a hundred or a hundred and twenty-five people in the cafeteria. We had lots of room to rattle around.
- D: How large was the teaching staff?

H: I'd say there were maybe twenty to twenty-five sisters, the librarian and the principal, who didn't teach. She confined her whole time to her work as principal, except on one occasion when a lot of freshman flunked the Algebra class. Then she took it upon herself to teach and she was a marvelous teacher. Yes, she explained that Algebra until everyone understood it.

D: Was tuition very high?

H: No, it was only fifty dollars a year at that time. Then I think they raised it after my second year to about sixty dollars. That was all.

D: Did you have to buy your own books?

H: We bought our own books. Of course, we bought our own paper and everything extra. We did pay for all our books. Of course, we could buy second-hand ones here and there, too, from the upperclassmen. They didn't change the books as often as they do now, I don't think

D: Did you put on any plays?

H: We did. We had a play every year. As a matter of fact, when I was a senior, we had a Shakespearean play, which was against the class wishes, but the senior class teacher insisted upon it. Even though the class was against it, she sent us to an elocution teacher, Miss Peebles. I was in it. Since we had no boys in the senior class, we had to use the girls to dress up like boys. I think there were three of us who went down to her a few days a week. But the play was beautiful and then we had songs, dances, and other things for the other girls.

The girls gave the big excuse that they couldn't afford the costumes, but she picked out the ones she wanted and we got them regardless. I don't know where she got them, but we got them for a very low rental. I think we only had to pay a dollar for them. It turned out to be a really nice play.

Miss Peebles taught elocution and Mother Paul had made arrangements for us to go down there. There was no charge connected with it at all. Miss Peebles taught us the parts that we had for the Shakespearean play. We went there two or three days a week for a couple of

weeks until the play was ready. The Sisters were wonderful. If they went after something, they got it. The people were so gracious about doing them favors. I had heard that this particular teacher was used to having what she wanted, so when she wanted a Shakespearean play, that's what she had.

D: Were the parents very much involved in the school?

H: Not really. We had no PTA like they have now. If you had to have a parent come up, you must have done something terrible because it was an unheard of thing for a parent to be around there. I don't think my parents ever were around, except to come to plays or at graduation. I don't think they were up there at any other time during my high school years.

D: How long before you went there was the new building opened?

H: I think it was opened for four or five years before I went there because I can remember going up there to senior plays when I was still in grade school. It was a fairly new school, but they still used the academy for the grade school classes. I think after we left there, they discontinued having those classes there and used it for an art building. In fact, I think they still use it for an art building.

D: Did a great many of the students become nuns and later did many of the boys become priests?

H: Well, in our freshman class, I think there were at least five who went into the convent when they were freshmen. Then, of course, after they went into the convent, they didn't come back to Ursuline. I think they went in at the half year. Of course, a lot of them are principals of schools now. We didn't have any boys in that class so we didn't have any priests. We did have quite a few sisters. Just from the freshman class, that's the only one I can remember.

D: Do you know of any of the nuns that taught you that are still living?

H: There are quite a few. Now, one especially, a very dear friend of mine is Sister Kathleen Kelly. She has an older sister who is still in the convent. She isn't well now, but I had her in grade school.

Sister Winifred is in the infirmary, too, but she was a beautiful English teacher.

Sister Blanche is still living; I think she's retired now. But she was there. In fact, quite a few are around yet.

Father Conroy, who was the first principal, is still living. I haven't seen him for a long time, but the day we went over to Kent to the scholarship contest, we did have lunch with him. We all were worried because we were all trying to figure out who was going to pay the bill. We all wanted to treat him, but it turned out that he paid the bill himself, so we didn't have to worry about it. I think there were four or five of us at the table with him. He spent that whole day with us at Kent.

D: Were you very close to your teachers?

H: We were close to some of them, the younger ones. They knew everything about you. How they found it out, I don't know, but they did. Then we'd move along right with them. We would have one Sister for a certain class in the freshman year, then we would have her for something else when we were sophomores. So the Sisters changed around with different classes. But we knew them all really well, I'd say, and they knew us. They knew your capability, that's for sure.

D: What colleagues of yours are still around that you still know?

H: I see a few of them who are married and still live around here at church occasionally. Quite a few of them are dead. One of our graduates died not more than six months after we got out of high school. She went in nurse's training and she got scarlet fever from one of the patients and she died. It was heart-breaking because she was a close friend and a sweet little girl. Several have died within the last five or six years.

One of my classmates is head of the dietary department at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Sister Frances Clare. She was Catherine Fullerman

Sister Celine, who is the guidance counselor at Ursuline was a freshman with me. She's one of the ones that went into the convent. Do you know Sister Jerome?

D: I've heard of her.

H: She was a grade or so behind me. But she does a lot of wonderful things in this diocese with the poor.

D: What would you say most of the students did after they left high school? What kind of jobs did they do?

H: I think quite a few of them did office work, but there were several who taught. I taught school. But we also had quite a few nurses. Another girl, Anna May Keenen, was a school teacher, too. I think, as a rule, most of them worked a few years and then got married, and had a family just like I did.

D: Do you think the Sisters were very strict?

H: Oh, they were strict enough, as far as morality was concerned, but other than that, you could do as you pleased even in the classes. I imagine if you were caught skipping a great many classes, there'd be a lot of punishment or a good lecture anyway. But they really didn't do too much of that.

Sometimes you could pretend you were sick and then someone would have to take you home. Then you'd go to the old Hippodrome Movie which was fun. That would be before your time. They had stage shows there. You could manage to leave school right after lunchtime and say you were awfully sick and afraid to go home by yourself. So, you'd have to go down to the office and ask if you could have somebody take you home. Then you'd go downtown and go to the show.

D: Did they do anything if they found out that you weren't home?

H: They never found out. It's funny they didn't because the girls knew what you were doing, but they never really said anything. I know a couple of times when I didn't go to school I stayed there by the phone until the principal called. I'd tell her I was sick and by then, the day was finished.

D: If somebody was truant in school, did they send anybody out to check?

H: No, no, they just assumed they were sick. They considered Ursuline High School an epitome of everything

right at that time. Ursuline girls didn't do stuff like that. You had to be quiet on the buses--not that we weren't--and we got plenty of lectures about making noise on the bus or disrupting things. We had to take that same bus that came down Wick Avenue and by the time the students got on, there wasn't room to squeeze a dime in there because of all the other passengers. We had to go downtown to change buses and then we went our separate ways. We got a transfer with our school ticket. They were free.

Of course, when I first started Ursuline, they had the railroad tracks there on Wick Avenue. They didn't have the bridge yet and many times we were late because the bus would come and just the time the bus came, a freight train would come. Then, of course, it would take so long for the freight train that you would be late for school. I think after the first year I went there, they put the bridge up. Then there weren't any more excuses for being late.

- D: What kind of classwork did you do? Was it mostly tests or did you write papers?
- H: Oh no, we had lectures and we had our own papers and compositions. They kept you working. Of course, we had a lot of lectures in chemistry. I think three days a week we had lectures and two days we had experiments. I think those lasted maybe two hours each, but we didn't rush through our chemistry. We'd take our good old time about it. We had a beautiful chemistry lab up there. For three days a week, there were lectures and they'd ask questions about the lectures and we had to answer them. Then we had to read our chemistry books and know all the information in that, too.
- D: Was the library very extensive when you went there?
- H: Oh, I wouldn't say it was. We had a lot of good books in it. They are probably old. I can't say that we really did much in the library. Most of the time if you wanted a book, you went down to the Main Library and got it. But we did have a library and I think most people had encyclopedias and things at home that they needed. That's mainly what they had during those years--encyclopedias. So I didn't spend much time in there.
- D: Did they do special things for holidays, for instance, at Christmas? Did they decorate the school?

H: Oh yes, we always decorated it. We always had a little Christmas party, mostly for all of the classes together instead of having each room like they do now. At Halloween time, we had a Halloween party in the auditorium and that was for the whole school. As I said, we had card parties held by different classes and they would be for the public. They would play cards, have prizes, and have a nice lunch for them. I suppose the proceeds would go to the high school or to the convent. I really don't know. We had a card party at least once a year. In those days, people played cards a great deal.

D: Did you have to go to Mass or was it optional?

H: We had a Mass one day a week, I think, in the auditorium for all the students. We'd go to Mass and then we had our breakfast

D: Did the girls at Ursuline come from all over the area?

H: Oh, yes. I was the only one from St. Dominic's. There were quite a few from St. Patrick's. They came from Hubbard, Girard, Niles, and all over. They didn't mind that trek on the bus at all. Those girls that came from Girard had to leave so early in the morning to get down there, and they came on that city bus anyway. I had a lot of friends from Hubbard. People from the East side, the West side, and from all over came to Ursuline, so I acquired a great many friends from all parts of town. Then I renewed acquaintances with a lot of girls that I had known before who came to Ursuline. It was really an interesting experience

I think you almost need a book to write down all you think about the school. We thought it was one of the best places we ever went. We didn't just consider it school. In fact, we felt bad when we left there. But you have to leave. We missed the teachers. I see some of these Sisters now over all these years and I still feel as friendly to them as I did when I went to school. We just haven't lost that friendship over the years.

D: Do you think they were more dedicated than they are now?

H: Oh, I think so. Teaching was their life, and they had no other objectives but to teach. Now, they're

allowed to go out, to go places and do thing. In those days, the Sisters didn't do those things. They taught school, they went home, and that was their day. It was different. But now, you know, they do socialize a lot more and they drive cars. They're allowed to get out and visit a little, but those things were unheard of when I went there.

Those Sisters walked to the convent every day, too. They didn't get a ride. They walked up and they walked home. Lots of nights we walked down with some of them and carried their books for them. That was a long cold hike from Rayen Avenue all the way up to Ursuline and back, but they walked it.

D: Was religion strongly emphasized since you were going to a Catholic school?

H: Not really, no more so than it is now. We had our religion classes, I think, only three days a week. You really had to be there, and in the upper classes, we had Father Conry for instruction and rather than just having it out of a book, he lectured. You did learn a lot from him. We didn't just have questions and answers about religion. You read out of the book, but it wasn't the catechism-type book that they had in the grade schools. Religion was a must. You had to have those religion credits along with everything else. Everyone took them except for the non-Catholics who went there.

D: Were there a lot of non-Catholics?

H: We had quite a few and they went there simply because they figured it was the best school. They weren't obliged to attend the religion classes.

When I was a senior, we had a wonderful teacher who had been teaching in several of the grades when I was in grade school. We made a new song for our graduation. It was called, "It's Our Dear Old High School," and we put it to a melody that was popular at the time.

Several years later, when my youngest brother went to Ursuline, she was still teaching there. He had to write a poem for one of his English assignments. I thought, well, I'd play a little joke on him because I was always making book reports and stuff for him. So I wrote the poem word for word the way we had it

for our senior music. He took it to school and the teacher called on him to get up and read it.

She said, "I think I have heard that before." He came home from school and he was furious. I said, "Well, that will teach you to do your own homework from now on."

The song was very pretty and I knew the teacher would recognize it right away. I did it really as a little joke. She taught at Mooney for awhile, too. She's been dead now ten or fifteen years, I guess.

D: Was there a great amount of competition between the girls?

H: No, not really. There were a few who were kind of fuddy-duddies. You know how girls will let each other see their homework. Everybody passed it back and forth all the time. There were a few who would not even let you look over their shoulders. I mean they never let you look at anything that they had. We got to the point that we just didn't bother with them. You knew, in the class, who you liked and who would do you a favor. The rest, you just simply didn't bother with except to speak to them. A few of them are in the convent today, but they were always teachers' pets. There were quite a few of them, too. You know, they'd butter the teachers up and, of course, they were the ones that always had the assignments right on time and always perfect. Of course, I wasn't always like that.

I used to tell the teacher that I didn't have an assignment for no particular reason. She'd come to one in front of me and then she'd come to me and she'd just say, "Next." She knew I wouldn't have it. But I finally got a couple of teachers who didn't clam down so hard and I wouldn't have missed my homework for anything after that. They were so wonderful that you just wouldn't miss.

I got fabulous marks in the subjects, too, when I found out that the teacher wouldn't have pets or pick out special ones. I did much better work but I just couldn't care before that. If I had it, all right, and if I didn't, I didn't care. When I got some that didn't have teacher's pets, I really worked my head off for them.

- D: Do you think a lot of teachers had what they called teachers' pets?
- H: Oh, I think a few had, but not all. Some of the teachers were so sweet. They just loved everybody in the whole class. But I think a few had particular favorites that they thought would be the best for everything. I think it works that way at all times. I've seen it over the years myself.
- D: Was there a lot of intermingling between the classes in a school so small?
- H: Oh, yes. Every class mingled with each other, even freshmen and seniors. Now I didn't notice it so much when I was a freshman because, I think, you're a little timid when you go into a new school. Right away, they elected representatives from the freshman class. They didn't /really/ elect them, they just picked them. I think the teacher must have just looked around the room and she started picking out the representatives.

I went into the first meeting that they had of the athletic association and I was elected secretary for the freshman class. The gym teacher said, "You take the minutes." I had no idea what she meant by the "minutes." One of the seniors--I knew a few of them--came over and showed me how to take the minutes. They were all very helpful. We all had lunch with them and then I got to know the seniors just as well as /I knew/ the freshmen.

- D: Did you have class officers?
- H: Oh yes, definitely. We elected them at the beginning of each year. Then, of course, they elected officers in the athletic association. That was the only thing that we did have. In it there were two freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors, and two seniors. Its purpose was to take care of the athletic events. Really, I can't remember that we did much at the meetings, but we had one once or twice a month.
- D: Was there a student council?
- H: No, no. That was before the days of student councils. We didn't really have enough people for it, I guess. If you had a beef, you went and talked it out. You know, you didn't have to have a representative to

represent you. If you had something to talk about, you had time to go to the teacher and talk it over with her, that's all.

- D: Do you think the students had any influence at all with the teachers?
- H: I don't particularly remember having too many things to talk over. We all got along pretty well. We never really had any trouble. What they told us was law, and we never questioned it at all. That was authority. I suppose that even at home, if you were told not to do something, you didn't do it. You didn't say, "Well, I'd like to." Oh, no, that didn't go. We were told we couldn't do something, and we didn't even question it. It was the same way in high school. If they told you to do something, that was fine and you did it. If they said that something was out of bounds, then we just took it as a matter of fact that it was out of bounds. I don't think we ever disputed them. They were rules and we abided by them.
- D: Was there a great deal of pride attached to Ursuline?
- H: Yes, there was very, very much pride. We were delighted with the school. As I said, we thought we were the best people in the city because we went to Ursuline. It was a beautiful school. But I think that's just because we had that put into our heads for so many years before we went to high school. Ursuline High School was the school to go to. It was the Catholic high school. And I have found out, over the years, that if you are applying for a job, you do get more preference if you come from the Catholic high schools than if you come from some of the other schools.
- D: Did you ever have any contact with the other high schools in the area?
- H: No, none. We went to their football games. We knew the kids that went there, but other than that, that's all we ever did. We met some of them when we went to the scholarship contest. As I said, we had no clubs. We had a Latin Club, a German Club, and a band, which wasn't too good. Other than that we didn't really have anything. We had nothing like we have today.

D: Was the incoming freshman class large?

H: The incoming class was quite large because of the fact that they had admitted boys for the first time. Now why they had the boys, I don't know. I think the Bishop had asked them to admit the boys and they had quite a few that first year. As a matter of fact, some of those boys looked like our little brothers and they'd insist on carrying our books downtown. I can even remember a couple of them coming to my house; they wanted to take me out. Here they were, fourteen years old and I was going on eighteen. They were really cute little boys, but they thought that because you were friendly with them, it was all right to take you out.

D: Do you know who the first boy graduate was?

H: Well, the first boy, who was a senior was John George O'Brien. He actually was supposed to be graduated the same year I was, in 1931, but I think he needed a few credits. He had transferred from South because they began admitting boys at Ursuline and he was quite a football player. I think he needed a couple of credits to graduate, so instead of leaving he did a little post-graduate work.

He was supposed to graduate, but because there were no other boys graduating, he was not in the graduation picture. There was another boy who also transferred from South, Frank Cavanaugh, but I think he was a junior when he came. He played on the football team with the freshmen and sophomores. John O'Brien stayed there to do a little graduate work because he wanted to play on the team. He turned out to be a lieutenant colonel in the Army. Now he lives somewhere around New Mexico or Arizona. We were quite good friends. We graduated from grade school together. Frank Cavanaugh died last year. He was a fireman. Throughout all those years, he lived right down on the next block

I would never have traded my four years at Ursuline for any other school in town. It was a wonderful experience and a wonderful four years. The memories connected with it are something I will always have. Nobody can take them away. I see quite a few of the people. They weren't all classmates, but were from the other classes. I see them pretty often. I thought

there was no other school in Youngstown like Ursuline. My brother went there and graduated from there. My son went there for awhile. But my daughters, of course, all graduated from Mooney since we live on this side of town.

END OF INTERVIEW