

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Rayen School Project

Student Experience

O. H. 37

DONALD J. LYNN

Interviewed

by

Mark Connelly

on

January 23, 1975

DONALD J. LYNN

Donald J. Lynn, a prominent Youngstown attorney, was born on January 9, 1891, in Youngstown, Ohio, the son of Emery and Harriet Crooks Lynn. He attended the Rayen School and graduated in 1909. Afterward he received an A.D. and L.L.B. degree from Harvard College. He was married in 1918 to the former Frances Viola Manson and they have two children, Mrs. Richard Weichsel and Miss Frances Lynn.

Attorney Lynn was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1917 and has practiced with the law firm of Harrington, Huxley and Smith and its predecessor firms since 1916. In 1932 he became a partner in the firm.

Attorney Lynn has been active in many Youngstown organizations, among these the Commercial Shearing and Stamping Company and the General Fireproofing Company, of which he is the former director. He has served as trustee and secretary-treasurer of the Youngstown Hospital Association and as director of the Mahoning Chapter of the American Red Cross. He has also been vice chairman of the board of trustees of the Mahoning County Community College.

From 1941 to 1947 Attorney Lynn was a lieutenant colonel in the Ohio State National Guard, then served as brigadier general commanding the Second Brigade from 1956 to 1959.

Attorney Lynn is a member of the Ohio and Mahoning County bar associations, past president of the Rotary Club, and trustee and vice president of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. He currently makes his home at 2356 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown.

December 29, 1976

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Rayen School Project

INTERVIEWEE: ATTORNEY DONALD LYNN

INTERVIEWER: Mark Connelly

SUBJECT: Life as a Student

DATE: January 23, 1975

- C: This is an interview with Attorney Donald Lynn for the Youngstown State University Oral History Project on the Rayen School. It is being done in Attorney Lynn's office at 1200 Mahoning National Bank Building. The date is January 23, 1975 and it is approximately 2 p.m.
- C: Mr. Lynn, would you please talk a little about your background and your family's background?
- L: Well, I was born here in Youngstown, Ohio, on Mahoning Avenue on January 9, 1891. My father was a practicing attorney in Youngstown here until the time of his death in 1910 and was a lifelong resident of the City.
- C: Where did you attend grade school?
- L: I went to West Side grade school on Mahoning Avenue and then to Rayen School. I graduated in the class of 1909.
- C: How old were you when you entered the Rayen School? Did you enter right after grade school or did you work for awhile?
- L: Yes, I entered right away, so I must have been out of grade school at fourteen. I was fourteen years of age when I entered high school.
- C: Had you heard anything about the school before you started there?

- L: Well, I always lived in the city of Youngstown and that being the only high school in town, at that time, I naturally would have heard about the high school.
- C: Had you been to it before?
- L: Not that I remember.
- C: What was your first impression of the school?
- L: Well, I would say that Rayen School is a place of learning. It's a great institution in my mind and it was and has been and I hope it always will be in the future. I haven't met any person here in town that didn't realize how much a high school meant until he entered it.
- C: What about the physical structure? Can you describe the building a little bit?
- L: This building was and is of Georgian type architecture with four columns below the pediment. I suppose you would say it was Grecian in style to a certain extent. It was a two-floor building with a classroom in the dome of the school which you entered by means of a long narrow flight of stairs. I took ancient history up in that room.
- C: Was ancient history always taught there?
- L: I cannot say. Miss Picard was our ancient history teacher. Well, I believe it was largely devoted to ancient history courses or classes.
- C: But there was nothing special about that room in the dome?
- L: No, there was nothing special about it. It was just a rather odd situation of using the dome for classroom purposes. Of course, it was a rather precipitous climb to get up to it. Nevertheless, we had a good time there.
- C: Was there any special place around the school, around the building, where you would congregate just say, to have your conversations?
- L: Yes, on the north side of the school there was a well and a pump where we got our drinking water and where everybody would congregate if you wanted a drink. We practiced football on the north side of the building and naturally, a pump and well was a most acceptable place to come to. There was a frame residence building over on Wood Street, that was devoted to classroom purposes and was connected by a boardwalk with the main building. Classes were held over there on both the first and second floors. We walked through that boardwalk through sunshine, rain, snow, and hail, throughout the entire year.

- C: Did you remain in residence on Mahoning Avenue?
- L: I did.
- C: How did you get to school?
- L: I walked. As a matter of fact, when I went home after school, I drove a horse home. My father kept a horse and buggy downtown and I was usually requested to pick up the horse and buggy and drive the horse home. Then I came down to get my father later on. Meanwhile, I fed and took care of the horses, my pony, and the cow that we had. I also fed the chickens, ducks and dogs. I did the general barnwork before my father came home from his office.
- C: Did you have what you considered to be a large residence as your home?
- L: Yes, we had a good-sized home.
- C: About how many acres of land did you have?
- L: Oh, about a half acre, with a frontage of seventy-five or eighty feet. It was a good-sized lot.
- C: Was it on the North Side?
- L: No, it was on the West Side of the City.
- C: About how long did it take you to walk to high school?
- L: Oh, I suppose we could make it in a half hour. We went down Mahoning Avenue and up Federal Street to the public square and to Rayen School. I suppose it took about a half hour.
- C: Did you have a lot of friends living around you that went to the Rayen School, that you went to school with?
- L: Well, I didn't have many school friends around here. Judge Erskine Maiden, now deceased, lived in the neighborhood and we went to school together. He was about the only high school student in the neighborhood besides me.
- C: Can you remember anything about the football team?
- L: Well, we had a pretty good football team: Taylor Wilson, Crawford Banner, Hugh Miller, Wendell H. Bennett and Fred MacLean. We used to play football out at Willis Park; those were all games in competition, because there was no other football field in town at that time. This field was out on the corner of Glenwood and Sheridan Avenues near Idora Park.

I was Associate Editor of the Rayen Record my junior year and Editor-in-Chief during my senior year. My job at the football games was to chart the plays as they progressed in yards rushing, kicking, passing, and whatnot for the Rayen Record.

C: Did you usually supply the Vindicator with the statistics of the game or did they cover the game?

L: I don't know. That was probably the assignment of the manager of the football team.

C: What teams did you play?

L: I didn't play on the Rayen team. I played football during the first world war. I was on the Camp Sherman football team and we came up here to Youngstown on November 19, 1917, for a game. The first half we played Rayen stars and the second half of the game we played South High School stars. Playing a new team for the second half was a tough assignment for all of us who played the full game.

C: When you were going to school at Rayen, who did the team play?

L: Oh, just the surrounding towns like Warren, Niles, and Campbell. I think we also played Massillon, although I'm not sure.

C: About how many boys went out for the team?

L: I would say a goodly number came out. It was expected in the high school.

C: How did they get the equipment? Did they have to buy their own or did the school supply it?

L: I think the school supplied it. I'm quite sure. You would naturally buy some of your own equipment, if you were interested in having it. In the main, the school supplied the equipment.

C: How did you get to the site of the game, to Willis Field? Was there any sort of transportation?

L: Oh, yes. The Park and Falls streetcar line ran from the Public Square out Market Street and down to and past the Field right to Idora Park. In those days we had summer or open streetcar accomodations to the Field.

C: Did you usually have a large crowd watching the game?

- L: Well, I would say yes. Of course, the high school wasn't very large in those days. We just numbered one hundred and five in my class in 1909 out of approximately five hundred students in the school, so I would say that we had quite a representative group at the home games.
- C: Was there a coach?
- L: Oh, yes, there was a coach. I forgot his name, but I believe it was Hugh Smith.
- C: Did he teach at Rayen?
- L: Yes.
- C: Do you recall what the tuition was to attend Rayen?
- L: There was no tuition at all, none whatsoever.
- C: What about the cost of books?
- L: Oh, you had to buy your own books.
- C: Did you have any brothers or sisters that went there before you?
- L: No. I had a brother who attended South High School. He was a member of the first class to graduate from South High School in 1915, but he never went to Rayen.
- C: Any special reason?
- L: By the time he was ready for high school, South High had already been built and opened up for students from our section of the City and he was required to attend that school. He entered in 1911 and graduated in the first class to be graduated from that school in 1915.
- C: You said there were about one hundred and five students in your class. Would you have considered it a fairly closely-knit class? Did you all get along?
- L: Yes, I would say so. Naturally in those days there were not so many outside activities as we have now. Social affairs consisted of bowling parties, boating at Lake Cohasset, and roller skating at the rink that we had on West Federal Street, near North Avenue, and school parties at Rayen school. We didn't have the sort of amusements that we have now. I don't remember of any motion picture theaters at the time I was in high school. There may have been some, but I wasn't aware of it. I have no recollection of it.

- C: Did they have a type of vaudeville or stage shows?
- L: Oh, they had those. The Old Opera House was down here on the Public Square where the Mahoning National Bank is presently located. As a matter of fact, we had our graduation ceremonies in the Old Opera House in 1909.
- C: Do you remember your graduation day and who the speakers were?
- L: Oh, no, that I don't remember.
- C: I'd like to get back to that later. You mentioned activities like school parties. Were these sponsored by the school?
- L: Oh, yes.
- C: Would you say they were fairly numerous?
- L: Yes, they were numerous during our senior year and sponsored by the school.
- C: Were they held in any particular room?
- L: At that time the study hall was on the second floor of the building to the west of the original building, and I remember we would use the hallways, the stairways and the study halls and rooms. Most of the parties, in fact, the roller skating parties and the bowling parties were held, of course, away from the school property.
- C: So usually the activities were held away from the school property.
- L: I would say so, yes, except that meetings of the Literary Society, the Cercle Francais, the Galaxy, and the Latin Club, all being educational, were held naturally at the school.
- C: Did you belong to any of these education societies?
- L: Yes, I belonged to the Rayen Literary Society.
- C: What sort of things did you do?
- L: Well, the members gave talks and speeches on public questions of the day, and it was a grouping together of students who were interested in public affairs and who met for more or less educational purposes. That's about all I remember of it now.



- C: Do you remember it adding more work to your already academic curriculum?
- L: Not that I remember.
- C: So, it wasn't like a hardship?
- L: No, it wasn't any hardship at all. I think though that those students taking French and becoming members of the Cercle Francais were not permitted to speak English after the assembling of the club and were required to speak conversational French only. I never took French so I don't know. I did, however, take Greek when we were still at the old residence, under the instruction of Miss Florence Tuckman, and I still remember her teaching us the Lord's Prayer in Greek. There is a portion that I still remember today. It was the opening verse from the first chapter of the Gospel according to John, that we had to memorize which ran something like this: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." I remember some of those things she used to pound into us and I haven't forgotten them to this day. My pronunciation, however may be a little limited.
- C: Were there many people in these clubs? How many were in the Literary Club?
- L: Oh, about twenty-five.
- C: In the other activities, like the boating parties and so forth, was there an admission fee that you had to pay?
- L: No, the boys had to rent the boats. They had boats out there at Lake Cohasset which rented by the hour. I remember that I used to have a horse, a mare, that liked the water and I would swim alongside of her but holding onto the bridle.
- C: Do you recall what the price was to rent a boat at the time?
- L: No, I don't. I would say it was probably twenty or twenty-five cents an hour. That's just a guess.
- C: You were talking about how the Greek teacher drilled you and you remember to this day the lines of Greek. What about the teachers in general? Would you say that they were stern?

- L: Well, we had some very good teachers. In those days, I remember Miss Belle Pyle and Miss Ida Baldwin. Miss Belle Pyle was an art teacher and I worked quite closely with her on covers for the Rayen Record. We had Miss Florence Tuckman as the Greek teacher. Miss Emily P. Walcott was the English teacher. Miss Pickard, as I said, was the ancient history instructor. Clarabelle McNab was the office secretary and the principal's secretary. Then there was Edward D. Johnson, who subsequently became a Unitarian minister, Miss Gertrude Morrison, and Emma J. Owen who taught Latin. They were truly dedicated teachers in those days, well along in years. We got the ABCs drilled into us.
- C: Do you recall Miss Peterson?
- L: Oh, yes. What was her first name?
- C: Sara.
- L: Yes. Sara Jane Peterson. I remember her well.
- C: What do you recall about her?
- L: Her sternness. She was a very stern teacher.
- C: Do you recall how she disciplined her students or how any of the teachers disciplined their students? Did they ever involve physical punishment?
- L: Oh, no. I wouldn't say that. You know you can discipline a person by voice and by actions.
- C: What about the teachers and their methods of teaching? How would a class usually be run? For example, how would your English class be run?
- L: We read books and then we would come into class and discuss them and read the various paragraphs and discuss the English content. That's about all I can say.
- L: Well, Shakespeare's "As You Like It," and "The Merchant of Venice," those are two that I can remember. I've forgotten some of the others.
- C: Did the teachers ever attend the functions you had, for example the boat party and the skating party? Do you remember them attending?
- L: There were usually some chaperones present. One or two teachers would always be present at these parties.

- C: Did they ever come out just to have fun with you?
- L: Not that I remember. They were there just to keep an eye on the activities that were being conducted under school supervision.
- C: Do you ever recall having what you considered to be a type of social relationship with the teacher where you had a friendly relationship rather than just a student-teacher relationship?
- L: Yes. Particularly with Miss Ida Baldwin. She lived at that time out on Hubbard Road, and Erskine Maiden and I used to go out there frequently because she took quite an interest in the students. We had advanced mathematics and advanced algebra with her. We selected to take that advanced work with her and she took a great interest in us and she used to stay after school and help us along with our problems. I can remember distinctly about Judge Maiden and myself. I had a horse, a means of going out to Hubbard Road, which was quite a distance from Youngstown in those days before the automobile. I remember visiting her. She had taken an interest in five or six of us boys who were being groomed for the Harvard entrance examinations. In those days, the Harvard exams were being given at the end of each year. In other words, at the end of my first year, I would take an examination in Latin and an examination in mathematics and an examination in ancient history. They /the school/ took an interest in this group who were preparing for going to Harvard University, or Harvard College. So, to that extent, some of these teachers found they were very much interested in helping us out and giving as much instruction as possible and tutoring us for exams.
- C: So, when you went out there, was it specifically to be tutored?
- L: No, no I wouldn't say that. No, that would be after school.
- C: She lived out on Hubbard Road?
- L: Yes.
- C: Do you know how she got to Rayen School?
- L: No, I don't. She lived, as I said, on Hubbard Road, near the McKelvey Farm, which is right east of where the General Fireproofing plant is located. The General Fireproofing plant is located on Logan Avenue and straight east is the house where the McKelvey farm was situated. She had a cottage to the rear of the big house.

- C: Did she live alone?
- L: As far as I remember. How she got back and forth I don't know. I haven't the slightest idea.
- C: You mentioned the Harvard entrance examinations. About how many students in your graduating class went to Harvard?
- L: I, Wallace B. Porter, Arthur du Casse Maag, Ralf S. Cochran, Vincent D. Kline, and Erskine Maiden, that would be six that went to Harvard at the time.
- C: Would you say that you were a straight-A student at Rayen? Was there any subject which you had trouble with?
- L: Well, I got First Honors in my class, if that's an indication. I've still got the watch that my father gave me on that occasion. I forgot how many A's I got. I do remember getting First Honors. That's all I remember at this time.
- C: What was your favorite subject?
- L: Mine was mathematics, although I enjoyed everything.
- C: On the whole, would you say the student body at Rayen was a very intelligent student body?
- L: Well, I would say yes. In those days, of course, not everybody went to high school. Of those who did go to high school, I would say, they were most interested in studying and progressing their studies. On the whole, the student body was more aggressive and more interested in high school studies than students are today.
- C: Would you say that many of them failed, or do you recall any of them failing?
- L: No.
- C: What do you recall about the principal of Rayen?
- L: Well, at that time, the principal was Welles L. Griswold. He was principal from 1901 and I think he was succeeded by Mr. Edwin Miller in 1911.
- C: You were there when Mr. Miller was there.
- L: Yes. He was there as assistant principal.
- C: Do you recall any difference between the two?

- L: What do you mean?
- C: Well, for example, what was their relationship to the students? Would you consider one to be more friendly, or to take more interest in the students?
- L: I would say there was no difference between Mr. Griswold and Mr. Edwin Miller. There wasn't any difference at all. They were both good disciplinarians and both were interested in their work, so I would say that both were excellent principals.
- C: Being editor of the Rayen Record, was there any time that you had to deal with Mr. Miller, or were you mostly on your own?
- L: I was mostly on my own. As I said before, my close association with Miss Belle Pyle was due to controversies on the covers of the Rayen Record.
- C: What type of controversies?
- L: Oh, maybe I wanted a certain color, and she wanted another color of paper. Maybe the design was something that didn't appeal to me. That was just a personal matter, that was all. There was no controversy, but we had good arguments.
- C: Who would generally win?
- L: Miss Pyle, because she was advisor to the editorial staff.
- C: How many people were on the staff?
- L: Well, approximately twenty.
- C: Was the business manager your right hand man?
- L: Yes. Robert Proctor served in that capacity.
- C: Do you recall how much it cost to put the Rayen Record together?
- L: No, I don't have the figures at this time. The staff consisted really of the editor-in-chief, the business manager, and the assistant business manager. Then you had associate editors who produced the copies. There was the exchange editor and the cover editor. Marie Soller Tear, the wife of Frank W. Tear who was later the principal of Rayen, was my cover editor, and she and I had some debates, too, for the proper cover. Then we had the athletic editor and the alumni editor. You also had reporters from the freshman, sophomore, junior,

and senior classes. Then you had the faculty committee and that consisted of four or five members of the faculty. I remember Mr. Francis Herr, who was on the faculty committee, and Miss Belle Pyle and Mrs. Peterson.

- C: You mentioned a few times about the cover of the Rayen Record. What did you consider to be a representative cover? What did it have to show?
- L: Well, I don't know if it had to show anything. It had to be artistic and it had to be appropriate and have a real design, something that would look good.
- C: What did you have to choose from? Did a student design it?
- L: Yes, it was usually designed by a student. The art classes, Miss Pyle's art classes, were the chief producers of the materials for the covers because they were working on the art.
- C: So, it wasn't the product of one art student, but the product of the class?
- L: That's right. You chose the best. A choice came in as to what cover you had for the month of Thanksgiving, whether it should be a turkey or a shock of corn. I'm just speaking facetiously, of course.
- C: How often did it come out?
- L: Every school month. It came out monthly.
- C: Was it distributed free?
- L: Oh, no, you had to buy it. It came out monthly and I forget what the price was.
- C: I notice there are ads. Was the business manager responsible for getting the ads or did the staff do that?
- L: Well, he had a staff and an assistant manager. The two of them got the advertisements.
- C: The ads were never delegated to the students outside of the Record staff?
- L: I don't think so. Not to my recollection.
- C: Do you recall how much an ad costed?
- L: No, I don't. I wasn't particularly interested in the cost of the advertisements.

- C: Would you say that there was a good reception of the Record? Were most of the copies sold?
- L: Yes, because as I said, in those days we didn't have television and whatnot, and this was an activity of the school and everybody was interested in seeing whether or not their name was in it.
- C: Did it turn over a profit?
- L: I haven't the slightest idea at this time.
- C: Do you recall how many hours a night you studied?
- L: Well, I would say approximately two or three hours every night, from about 8 until 10 except on Friday night. We studied again on Saturday night or Sunday night, whenever you could work it in.
- C: What were the school hours?
- L: Well, I think eight thirty was assembly, then you went to your different classes until noon. Then at one thirty you started in again and went until four o'clock. I'll tell you how I got home at times. Fishers had a moving business and barn on Mahoning Avenue and they had the gurney and the horses and some of the boys would get on the back end of the wagon, the vans, and ride them as far as Fisher's, just beyond West Side School. So that would be a half mile home, especially at noon because we went home at noon. I, too, used to go home at noon and I walked a mile each way because I used to hop a ride on the back of a horse-drawn vehicle, and with the back flat we used to hop on wagons to save time.
- C: Did anybody ever throw you off?
- L: No. The drivers were always willing to take three or four fellows. They were more or less kindly disposed toward us, the poor students, who had to walk home at noon. Those were the horsedrawn buggy days.
- C: You mentioned your graduation day. What approximately did you feel on that day? Was there a sort of regret for leaving Rayen, or an expectation of what was to come in the future?
- L: Well, I think for me it was a feeling a jubilation after finishing four years of work. It was also a sort of let down. I would say it was a day of pleasure and jubilation to get finished with high school work, and of course, you were looking forward to summer and to going to college. It was just a finishing of a job well done.

- C: Now, you were accepted at Harvard. Would you consider that to be one of the high points of your life? Did you receive news of your acceptance when you were in high school?
- L: No, it was sometime afterwards. You took your last course examinations in June of 1909 and you were notified somewhere around July to be ready for September. It was the latter part of July as I recall that you were notified that you had been admitted to the college. All of our group was admitted and we went down together.
- C: Did you receive a scholarship or a fellowship?
- L: Well, I never received a paid scholarship. I elected to have a Harvard College scholarship, which was just an honorary scholarship. You could have taken a paid scholarship for a certain amount of money, but I think that the main idea was to pay my way through. In those days the expenses weren't as high as they are today. To get through college required from six hundred to seven hundred and fifty dollars. I have a record of about six hundred and fifty dollars for, I think, my first year expenses.
- C: Were you well prepared by the Rayen School?
- L: Yes.
- C: Were there any radical changes that you noticed between high school and college?
- L: Do you mean as far as studies go?
- C: Right.
- L: Well, yes. You're more on your own in college as compared to high school. I'd say there was a difference. Of course, you still had different courses you took at different times. And the college work was more difficult than high school work. That depended upon whether you liked the course or not. I had to take both German and French and I took one year of German in college in order to graduate. If I ever had a nightmare since then I frequently dreamed that I was in a German class and hadn't spent any time on preparing for an examination and this always woke me up with fright.
- C: Did you find yourself studying a great deal more in college?
- L: Oh, yes. When I went to college, especially law school, I had to work long hours, but in college it wasn't so strenuous.



C: Did you go to Harvard Law School?

L: Yes.

C: Were you just out of college when you entered law school?

L: Yes, I was right out of college. I was specializing in government and I got a job as the executive director of the Cambridge Taxpayer's Association in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which was something like a Board of Trade or a Chamber of Commerce. I had been recommended for the position by Mr. Monroe of the Political Science Department of Harvard College. The former executive director was just leaving so I took that position until I went to law school in the fall. In the meanwhile I was offered a part-time job coaching rowing crews down at Wellesley College. This, of course, was with the consent of the Taxpayers Association.

C: You came back here right after your graduation?

L: After I graduated from law school in 1916 I came back here. I was admitted to the Ohio bar in January of 1917 and became associated with my present law firm until the fall of 1917 when I entered the service. I was out in a year and a half and have been with the firm ever since.

C: You mentioned that your father practiced law.

L: My father was a practicing lawyer here in Youngstown in an office building on Wick Avenue hill opposite where the court house used to stand. Beside it was a building where the Elks Club used to stand. Subsequently, the railroad went through there and that's when the present court house was built and the former court house torn down.

C: When you started your firm was there anybody else in it?

L: Oh, yes. I was just a young fellow then. The firm had been in existence for many years prior to that time and had practiced law under numerous names. When I first came to the firm it was known as Arrel, Wilson, Harrington and DeFord. Judge Arrel was a former judge of the Common Pleas Court and his room was the room in which we are presently sitting. He had a rocking chair where I am sitting now and would sit and rock most of the day with a book of law in his hands. There must have been six or seven men in the firm when I was just admitted.

C: Were most of the men in the firm from Youngstown?

L: Oh, yes.

- C: Do you recall what some of your other friends from Harvard Law School did?
- L: Well, Ralf Cochran went with the Surface Combustion Company. Wallace Porter went with the Pennsylvania Railroad because he had a Pennsylvania Railroad scholarship. He went to Altoona, Pennsylvania, the division headquarters for that part of the Pennsylvania Railroad at that time. Arthur Maag died shortly after he got out of college. Judge Maiden was elected to the Common Pleas Court and died a number of years ago.
- C: If you could think of one thing that stands out in your mind when you think of Rayen School, what would it be?
- L: It's scholarship, no question about it. Rayen has sent its students to all of the big universities and its alumni have been prominent in the professions. It has always had very good and high standards in academic circles; no matter where you have been. So there's absolutely no question in my mind but that Rayen School stands out for its high calibre of scholarship.
- C: Would you consider the student body to be made up of people from what you would consider more wealthy families or was there a pretty good cross section?
- L: I'd say it was a good cross section of the vicinity of Youngstown. In fact, many of them came from outside the City--from Hubbard, Niles, Girard and other surrounding areas.
- C: Do you remember any coming from Briar Hill?
- L: Oh, Marie Soller, whose father was the minister at a church at Briar Hill, was from there. She since married Frank W. Tear, who served as principal of Rayen School for many years. Briar Hill didn't mean much to me in those days; it was just another part of Youngstown.
- C: Do you make a distinction between the school you went to and the present Rayen School?
- L: Yes, I do, because of the lack of scholarship and the lack of discipline.
- C: How do you feel when you look back and see that this is what it has become?
- L: Well, I look back with a lot of regret at the change that has occurred over the years. I suppose the change was

due to the change in time, the shift in population. So, to me, the Rayen School of those days was far superior to the current Rayen School. That is to be explained by the fact that students come from a shifting population and there are changes in ideals and whatnot and because the students are compelled to go to school. I think in those days we went to school because we wanted to learn and advance ourselves. I think today that most of these students go because they have to go. Naturally, there would be a change in ideals and a lowering in educational standards.

C: Do you still keep up with what is happening at Rayen?

L: No, I don't. I used to keep in closer touch. Ada Rogers was a close friend of my wife and taught at Rayen. We went back and forth and I heard from her all about Rayen in those days. She is now dead and I don't have any more contacts with the school.

C: Is there anything else you would want to put on the tape about Rayen School?

L: Well, I might add that the Rayen School of my day didn't have the inter-school competition that you have today. However, I think that our efforts were spent on the development of the then Rayen School. Maybe we didn't have the city spirit of inter-high school football competition that now exists in the city of Youngstown.

C: Is there anything else?

L: No, that's about all I have to say.

END OF INTERVIEW