

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Rayen School Project

Student Experience

O. H. 20

DR. PATRICK KENNEDY

Interviewed

by

Mark Connelly

on

November 5, 1974

DR. PATRICK KENNEDY

Dr. Patrick Kennedy was born in Youngstown, Ohio on February 3, 1893, the son of Stephen and Jennie Kennedy. He attended the Front Street School, from which he graduated in 1908. He then attended the Rayen School and graduated from there in 1914. While at Rayen, he was president of his class and was a member of the football and basketball teams.

When Dr. Kennedy finished up at Rayen, he then went on to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1918. In 1920, he earned his M.D. degree from that school. From March of 1922 until June of the next year, he was sent to Russia to perform medical relief work. He then went to Vienna to study Obstetrics and Gynecology. From 1924 until his retirement in 1961, he was employed by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company as their company physician.

Dr. Kennedy currently resides at 1403 West Liberty Road in Hubbard, Ohio with his wife, Natalie, whom he married in 1923. He is a member of the Mahoning County Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Association, American Medical Association, and Industrial Medical Association.

DONNA DEBLASIO
July 1, 1977

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: DR. PATRICK KENNEDY

INTERVIEWER: Mark Connelly

SUBJECT: Student Experience

DATE: November 5, 1974

C: This is an interview with Dr. Patrick Kennedy dealing with the Rayen School Project for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program. It is being done by Mark Connelly at the Arts and Sciences Office Building on Wick Avenue. It is November 5, 1974 and it is 1:50 p.m.

C: Dr. Kennedy, would you please talk a little bit about your family's background and your background?

K: I was born in Youngstown in 1893 at the lower end of East Front Street, across the road from which the Republic Steel later built their blooming mill. In 1899, we had a kindergarten at the southeast corner of Market and Front streets. I attended that for one year and then entered Front Street School, which was at the southeast corner of Front and Phelps streets.

This school was three stories high, of red brick, with circular fire escapes on the east and west sides. The floors were of wood and the artificial lighting was from gas chandeliers. The playground was cemented and surrounded by a high iron fence. In back of the school there was a separate building, unheated, with toilet facilities. The students all went home for lunch and returned to school at one o'clock. The area served extended from the railroad tracks on the north to the Mahoning River on the south, and from the Cedar Street bridge on the east to the intersection of Rayen Avenue and Federal Street on the west.

I graduated from Front Street School in 1908. I lost one year because I had gone into a playmate's barn

where he had a pet raccoon and I stepped on the raccoon's toes. He took a chunk out of my leg and I was absent from school for about six weeks.

At the end of that time, in the eighth grade, I was offered a job to learn the printing trade. There was a printing shop on East Boardman Street about halfway between Walnut Street and Champion Street on the north side of the street. Learning the printer's trade consisted of sweeping out the building which was three stories high and then pushing a cart delivering printed matter to the business houses in the downtown district. However, before the year ended, I was permitted to operate a job press and I did this for the remainder of the year.

I went back to grade school the following year and finished up in 1908 at the age of fifteen. In those days, most of the workingmen's children went to work at the age of fourteen. It was not unusual for the boys to be working in the steel mills at age fourteen, some of them learning trades and others doing just routine manual labor. There was no requirement for you to continue your education beyond age fourteen. However, we had just one high school at that time, which was the Rayen School. Only a small percentage of the graduates of the grade schools went to high school, and of those who went to high school less than half graduated.

The course in the first year consisted of ancient history, English, algebra, and Latin. All students were required to take Latin. There was no other language or a substitute for Latin. If your grades were not satisfactory, you were called into the principal's office and told it would be necessary to improve. If you didn't improve, you would be asked to withdraw from the school.

C: You said that a small percentage of the students graduated. Was this even at the Rayen School?

K: Yes. Well, of those who finished grade school, I would say not more than twenty percent went on to high school. Of those twenty percent that went on to high school, probably not more than half graduated because there was a lack of interest in such subjects as Latin. There was also the transition from being in one class with one teacher and then entering high school, where you had four different teachers and moved from study hall to classes. You were left entirely on your own as to whether or not you did your homework.

Rayen School was, at that time, a rather crowded school so they resorted to half-day sessions. The juniors and the seniors and some of the sophomores went to school in the morning and the freshmen and some of the sophomores went in the afternoons. We all used the same study hall, which was on the second floor at the rear of the building and each desk was shared by a morning student and an afternoon student.

The sessions were four and one half hours. We had four recitations and two study periods of forty-five minutes each. At the front of the study hall on a raised platform sat a teacher who kept order and decided whether or not you could leave the study hall for whatever reason you might offer.

C: What did you usually do after your morning session was over?

K: I was a freshman. We went in the afternoon. I had a part-time job at the Front Street School. I assisted the janitor. We had to sweep out the classrooms and then on Saturdays we mopped the classrooms, halls and stairways. I think I got paid \$0.50 or \$1.00 for a week's work.

C: How much did you get when you worked at the printing shop?

K: I got paid \$3.00 a week and I worked 10 hours a day on weekdays and about 9 hours on Saturday.

C: That would be 59 hours a week?

K: Yes. At that time, the man who was setting type was a regular typesetter and got \$3.00 a day. The man who ran the big press and supervised the ones who were on the job presses got \$2.50 a day.

C: What was the usual rate in the mill?

K: The lowest job for young fellows going to work in the steel mill was carrying water. They didn't have circulating water in the mills. Water was carried from the pump around to the men and they got \$0.90 a day for 12 hours. That was \$0.07½ an hour.

At that time, the track laborers on the railroad, who carried rails and had very heavy work, got \$0.11 an hour and they worked 10 hours a day.

- C: You said that you had a part-time job while you were going to the Rayen School. Did you still have trouble paying for the books and other things you needed?
- K: Well, I had two older brothers and most of my books were handed down. I didn't have to really buy any books until I went into Rayen School. My two older brothers went to work and didn't go to high school, so I had to buy books in high school. I don't recall now what we paid for them, but we did manage to get our books.
- C: Do you recall any big expenses that you had while going to the Rayen School?
- K: No, no, I didn't. We were able to buy season tickets for the football games and they were very cheap. I don't recall what it was, but it probably wasn't more than \$0.25 a game. At that time, football was played in an open field. They used an old ball park on the South Side at the corner of Warren and Hillman. It was the old original Youngstown baseball grounds. There were no bleachers at that time. You just stood along the sidelines and the cheering was done by about a dozen fellows that would get together and do some cheering when a good play was made.
- C: Was there a special dress code that you knew of at the Rayen School?
- K: No, but as I recall, the students dressed pretty well.
- C: Did you know of any student who could not keep up with students of a wealthier background?
- K: Well, if a workingman's child didn't do well in school, he would be asked to quit school, whereas some of the boys from the wealthier sections of the town would be babied and be permitted to stay in school.
- C: Did you notice this sort of treatment?
- K: No, but I knew of some fellows that weren't too bright who were able to graduate with their class. I knew of others that were told to withdraw because they weren't keeping up with the work.
- C: Could you describe a typical day in your life as a Rayen freshman or junior? What time would you usually go to school?

K: Well, during our freshman year we went to school at one o'clock in the afternoon. In grade school we weren't required to do any homework, as kids now are expected to do. It was a little bit difficult to do your studying at home when you had gone through grade school without having to do homework. There were always other kids from the neighborhood that didn't go to high school and would rather play. Your brothers and sisters and their playmates would be around. It was rather difficult to study at home in those days.

C: What classes did you like most?

K: Well, I dropped out of school after going about a month or six weeks of the sophomore year. I had a difficult time trying to study Latin during my freshman year and I flunked it. Because it was the first year of half-day sessions, they had special summer school for those who didn't get through and I made up the Latin during summer school. I went to school for about six weeks and then I quit and took a job on the railroad.

I received a clerical job which paid \$40 a month and within six months or more, I got a raise up to \$45 and after that another raise which brought it up to \$47.70. After working for one year at the Pennsylvania Railroad freight office, I was offered the same sort of job at the Baltimore and Ohio at \$58.30 a month. I went in and consulted with the boss of the Pennsylvania Railroad and he said that he was sorry and could not possibly meet that raise, so I went to work for the B and O.

The B and O had their office about two miles down the tracks from where I lived so I walked two miles down the tracks to the office and walked back home. I was paid \$11.00 a month more than I was paid at the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Well, at the end of my second year on the railroad, we had a recession and they had to cut down their payroll so I had to find a new job.

C: What year was this?

K: That was in the summer of 1911. They had to cut down the payroll, so they laid off the fellow that had to work twelve hours a day, seven days a week. I was offered that job, which paid \$72.00 a month, but I didn't care to work twelve hours a day, seven days a week. I quit and went to work on a truck garden at

\$30.00 a month, hoeing out in the field alone with a jug of water. This wasn't a very good job for a fellow that was used to being around other people. At the end of July of that year, the fellow that was looking after the boys at the fresh air camp quit and I got that job, which paid \$25.00 a month. I had charge of the boys there and I slept in the same tent with them. I had them on my hands twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

That fall I was offered a job down at the Christ Mission settlement, where we had quite a night school for foreigners. There was heavy immigration at that time. Christ Mission had a kindergarten and a night school in the evening. There was a nursery for the children of mothers who went to work. That was down in Dowd's Alley between Boardman and Federal streets halfway between Watt and Basin streets. I helped out in the evening with the teaching and also led the singing there for the boys. That job paid \$30.00 a month. I got my room, but I had to pay my board out of my salary. That gave me an opportunity to go back to high school. I went back in 1911 and finished up in 1914.

C: What did the students generally talk about? What was a popular meeting place?

K: Well, the front steps were a gathering place for some of the students, but some boys went down to the Union National Bank building on the square at noon. There was an iron railing stairway going down into the basement where there was a barber shop. Some of the boys would go down there and perch on the railing, then get a chance to see a woman's ankle while she was getting on a streetcar. The skirts rather swept the side walks, so when the boys saw an ankle, they got a thrill out of it. That was one of the ways the boys spent their time.

Well, of course, in the football and baseball season, the ground just north of the building was used for practice and we used to scrimmage on that gravel dirt yard. We also played baseball there. That was the only playground that they had.

They had one room under the northeast corner of the building for the athletes and there was one shower. If you went out for football, you supplied everything yourself. You didn't get anything given to you unless you made the first team. If you made the first team, you got a pair of shoes and socks and a sweater and some shoulder pads and hip pads. That was the extent of what you got from the school.

C: Were there any good players that couldn't play because they couldn't afford to?

K: Well, we always had a big turnout right when the season started. They'd take a picture of the group for publicity and after that, the crowd would start to diminish until the Thanksgiving game came around. This was at the end of the season, and there weren't enough players to scrimmage against. The first team wouldn't have eleven men so some of the faculty would get out and play on defense against us to toughen us up. Judge Bennett, who died a few years ago, played with us. He graduated from Rayen in about 1906 and taught there for a couple of years between his university and law school years.

South High was opened in 1911. They got, nine of the lettermen from the previous Rayen football team on their squad. To win the coveted "R" in football you had to play five full halves in five different games.

South had a much bigger district to get football players from. Everyone south of the Mahoning River went to South so they got all these big fellows whose folks worked at the Ohio works. They had a team that first year that just knocked the devil out of the Rayen team.

Then in 1912, our team went over to Canton and lost the game, 56-6. We got 6 points on a trick play where the end on the left side dropped back and that made the tackle eligible. The center passed the ball directly to the tackle, Gaskeen, right along the line of scrimmage. Gaskeen was later a coach at Rayen. He just retired as an osteopathic doctor here in town. Gaskeen ran the full length of the field, I think, for a touch down. That was the only way we got the 6 points. They beat us 56-6. South beat that same team 30-0 that year.

We played South on Thanksgiving Day on an old baseball park on West Federal Street. We went into that game with the idea of just trying to hold the score down so we wouldn't be disgraced for the rest of our days. We beat South 5-0. It was the biggest upset they ever had in the town.

By that time, a lot of feeling had built up between the South people and the Rayen people. Everybody on the South Side was interested in the South team. The men in the mills were all laying bets every year on the results of the Thanksgiving game. There was really a lot of spirit stirred up for that game.

C: How big was the crowd at the Rayen-South game?

K: Oh, there were usually a few hundred people at the game. There wasn't room for many people. They did have some old bleachers though.

I remember the game on Thanksgiving Day in 1912. I had a boil on my right arm. I still have the scar there. I had a pad around the boil and adhesive tape wrapped around my arm. I didn't tell the coach I had it; I was afraid he wouldn't let me play. When we went into that game, we were scared to death because we felt that we were going to be wiped out. In those days the same men played defense as well as offense. At the end of the first half, we were under this old grandstand where we had some buckets of water with sponges in them, so we could sponge our faces off. I noticed the sleeve of my sweater was torn. Then I remembered about the infection. I raised my sleeve. The bandage was gone. The boil was gone. The hole in my arm was filled with dirt but I didn't feel a thing. I put my sleeve back down and went in and played that second half. I never felt any pain.

I often think of this experience as a prime example of the ability one has of ignoring pain when concentration is directed on another matter. I can understand how the Chinese can undergo surgical operations while needles are inserted into them and twirled.

C: Obviously football was very big at Rayen.

K: Yes, it was very popular with the beginning of school at South High School. Before that time it was more for the fellows that were really interested in athletics.

C: Did the people at Rayen give the school more financial support after South High School was established?

K: Oh, yes. An athletic field was built at South when the school was first built. In 1913 we started to use the field where the present Rayen School is located. We practiced and played some of our games there.

C: What position did you play?

K: Center and guard.

C: What other extracurricular activities were popular at Rayen when you went there?

K: Basketball and track were popular and they had a debating society, which used to meet in the evenings, and it was, for some, a big thing. I remember the French teacher organized a group of girls and fellows that were interested in putting on some little French plays.

C: What were the dances like back then?

K: The senior class would have one dance, but that was the only class that had a dance.

Along about 1906 the residence of the principal was on the school ground where the Board of Education now stands. This residence, when I first entered Rayen in 1908, had been converted into classrooms and I had my Algebra and English classes there.

In 1910, an addition was built extending from old Rayen to Wood Street. The Board of Education took part of the building and the rest of it was used for classrooms and a gymnasium. It was in this new addition that commercial studies were first introduced.

The girls played basketball and wore bloomers down below their knees. They didn't run the full length of the floor. At one end of the floor were stationed the guards and at the other end were the forwards. The center was the only one that ran back and forth.

C: Did many girls participate in sports?

K: Yes, yes. They had a Rayen team and there were also class teams. The boys had the same thing. They had class teams that played each other.

C: Did the teachers usually come to these sort of activities?

K: They went to the football games when Rayen began to play South.

C: What do you recall most about the teachers at Rayen when you think back?

K: Well, we had some very, very fine teachers. They were absolutely devoted to teaching and none of them lived well on the hog. They all lived, I would say, in the upper middle class. We had several outstanding teachers at Rayen in those days.

Miss Baldwin was a very, very wonderful teacher and so was Mrs. Peterson. We had Miss Tuckerman, Mr. Button, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Moore. All of them were just about missionaries. They believed so much in what they were doing and encouraged anybody that was really trying to get by. They would really give students a lot of attention.

When I went back to school after I had been working for two years, I realized the value of school. I went to work and got almost nothing but excellent grades the last three years. I couldn't stand Latin my first year, but I had three years of Latin after I went back to school. I had it during my sophomore, junior, and senior years. In my junior year, I took up Greek, which I studied for one year. Then in my senior year, I started taking German. I took this class until Christmas time. Miss Baldwin wrote to a Dr. Edmonds, one of her former students, who graduated in 1903. He had graduated in medicine up in Michigan in 1912, and instead of going into practice, he went into coaching. He coached at West Virginia for a year or two and then he took a job at Washington University in St. Louis. Washington University, at that time, built a new medical school. They had a new teaching hospital that the Methodists built there next to the medical school. Miss Baldwin wrote to her former pupil who always came to see her whenever he was in town and told him about me. When he was here at Christmas time in my senior year, he stopped at the school to meet me and told me about this wonderful medical school in St. Louis. I wrote there and got a catalog. I found that they wouldn't give you credit for a language unless you had had two years of it. The year of Greek I had wouldn't do me any good nor would the year of German. I had to drop German and take up Greek. Miss Tuckerman taught me German in her home on Saturdays from Christmas until June to make up for the Greek that I missed during the first three months of school. She wouldn't take any money. She just considered it a privilege to help students in their education.

C: Would you say most teachers would have done that?

K: I don't know. Miss Baldwin was the only one who helped me with extra work. She invited me and other students that were doing good work, to her home. She had a home out on Glenwood Avenue overlooking Mill Creek Park at the north end of the rock quarry. She would take us for a walk and introduce us to flowers

that we didn't know anything about. She fed birds at her windows and always had a fire burning in the fireplace in the wintertime.

- C: Did being president of your class, bring you into relatively close contact with the administration of Rayen School?
- K: No. No. Somebody had to be president and I had made a good record in school, although my grades weren't any too good that freshman year. With the grades I got during the last three years, I stood third in the class in the honor roll. We used to have about one hundred and five graduates and the top ten percent were on the honor roll.
- C: How did you get elected as president?
- K: I was nominated by one of the fellows who later practiced law, Attorney Bill Swanton. He and I were pals during our last three years. I think he had more to do with my becoming president than anybody else. He was an outstanding athlete in all sports and was prominent in the debating society.
- C: Did the kids sort of look up to you because you were older and had experience in other jobs?
- K: Yes, they did because I was three years older than the average student in the class.
- C: You say you had the job just because somebody had to have it, so there was really no power in the position?
- K: No, no. In Rayen School, at that time, you had the haves and the have nots. I was among the have nots. We happened to predominate, so that was how I came to be elected.
- C: Was that what the election was based on?
- K: I think it was. They'd rather put somebody in that was in the middle class than in the upper class.
- C: The student body wasn't that tightly knit of a group then, if this distinction existed between the haves and have nots?
- K: Well, there was some of this feeling. The students who came from homes where they had membership in the country club had their own crowd and they sort of clung together, and gathered around the front steps. Those

were mostly girls whose parents belonged to the country club and the boyfriends that they invited.

C: What were your duties as president?

K: Well, we had to buy pins. The boys bought caps and the girls bought rings. We had one dance, a Halloween dance. We had only one member in our class who had an automobile. He had a Hutmobil with no top to it. He and a girl and I went out and hauled cornstalks into the gym and decorated it for our Halloween dance.

C: Was that the most memorable experience of your term as president?

K: Oh, yes. We had a social committee then. One day one of the girls got up and spoke. She said she couldn't see why a Gentile should refuse to go with a Jewish boy to the dance. It wasn't very long after that that the Jewish boy slipped around and asked her to go to the dance and she was insulted.

C: Who was the principal when you were there?

K: Mr. Griswold was there during my first year. Then when I went back to school the second year, Mr. Griswold resigned, and took a job as trust officer in the Dollar Bank. Mr. Miller became principal then.

C: How did they get along with the student body?

K: Miller was much more popular with the students than Mr. Griswold.

C: What did Mr. Miller do differently?

K: Well, some students thought that Griswold favored the people of North Hill that had money and social position.

C: How strict was the discipline then?

K: Well, I don't know that they had any real disciplinary problems. There was never any argument or fighting in the halls. There were very few colored kids going to high school. We had about one hundred and five in our class and only two were colored, a boy and a girl. The girl was the daughter of a colored minister and the boy's mother was white and his father was black. She taught a Sunday school class at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church out here on the corner of McGuffey Road and Wick Avenue. There was no race problem.

- C: What sort of dates did you go on, if there was nothing organized around the school?
- K: I didn't go out with any of the girls in those days. A small number of students belonged to the country club and went to the country club dances. That was about all.
- C: Who were some of your close friends that attended the Rayen School with you?
- K: Bill Swanton, who became an attorney, was really the only fellow that I spent much time with. You see, I worked during the evenings and on Saturday and Sundays down at Christ Mission, I really didn't have time to go out for football, but they let me go out anyway.

I might tell you about our graduation. Our graduation ceremony was in the old opera house down on the public square and I went with a girl that lived on Belmont Avenue where St. Elizabeth Hospital is now. A relative of hers took us in his car down to the opera house. After the proceedings we didn't have any arrangement for getting the girls back home so Paul Brenner, Helen Thompson, Mary Storey and I walked over to Burt's ice cream parlor on North Phelps Street and had ice cream. Then we walked the girls home to Belmont Avenue. After that, Paul Brenner and I walked all the way out to the Sharon Line. His family lived then on Landsdowne Boulevard near McGuffey Road. We walked to his home and I stayed there overnight, then in the morning I walked down to Christ Mission.

- C: How did you feel on your graduation day?
- K: Oh, I thought that high school graduation was the most thrilling thing in my life. It meant more to me than my bachelor of science degree and the doctor of medicine degree.

When I first entered Rayen in 1908, it was the only high school in Youngstown that gave you four years of high school studies. Rayen School received students from Struthers, Hubbard, Girard, and Niles. A graduate of Rayen was considered in a class equivalent to one from our present day colleges.

- C: Do you think there was a feeling of superiority among the students at the Rayen School compared to the students at South High School?

- K: Well, they were decidedly more middle class on the South Side. At that time the fine homes on Wick Avenue, Bryson Street, Madison Avenue and Lincoln Avenue were occupied by the people who built them and nearly all the outstanding people in the town lived on the North Side.
- C: Did they take an interest in the school?
- K: Yes. You see, Rayen School was originally a privately-endowed school and the trustees of the Rayen School were, I think, predominantly people who lived on the North Side.
- C: Did you ever talk to them?
- K: No, I never did.
- C: In what ways did the Rayen School prepare you for your later experiences in life?
- K: Well, Rayen School, at that time, was preparing students for college and that was their full ambition. There were no trade schools or anything connected with it. They did have a small shop, where you could train during your freshman year for one afternoon, a week. They gave you a block of wood about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches square and about 6 inches long. They gave you a square and a plane and you were supposed to make the block of wood into a square. It took me two or three weeks to get that thing square before they let me go on and make anything else.
- C: Did you find you were well prepared for college?
- K: I was not prepared for college life. I was well prepared in lessons and in taking examinations but living in a large city university was a great challenge. Most of the student body came from St. Louis and its suburbs. Many of those living in the dormitory went home on week ends. It was very lonely for me.
- The faculty members were more interested in their research work than in their students, and when assigning work to be done, it seemed that they thought you were taking only their course and nothing else.
- C: Did the teachers at Rayen warn you about this different atmosphere at college?

K: No, No. The teachers never told me anything about it, but I certainly felt it when I got to the University.

C: How did you finance your education?

K: Well, as I say, Dr. Edmonds, through Miss Baldwin, got interested in me. I went to Washington University and I didn't have more than a few hundred dollars saved up, so they gave me a scholarship based on my record in high school, which covered just my tuition. I had to pay for my rooms and meals. Dr. Edmonds gave me a job as a rubdown man in the gym, rubbing down the football players after they got through practice. They would practice after classes in the afternoon and get through at about six o'clock. Then you had to be down in the gym and rub these fellows down. That paid three dollars a week. Well, I did that for about three or four weeks, then there was a job opening in the commons washing dishes for your meals. I washed dishes for three hours every night, to pay for my meals. I could have bought my meals for eighty-five cents a day. Yes, I got eighty-five cents for three hours' work. It was hard work and I had to work fast to get through in three hours. I used to smell of dishwater, so when I got to my room I'd take a shower and go to bed and then get up at about four o'clock in the morning to do my studying. To have teachers that were just so indifferent as to whether you made it or not was disappointing. It was rather a lonely hard struggle.

C: What one thing sticks out in your mind the most about the Rayen School?

K: The thing I remember most is the devotion of those teachers that I mentioned. When I think of Rayen School, I think of Miss Baldwin and Miss Tuckerman and Mr. Miller and Miss Smith in English. I think of those people when I think about the Rayen School.

C: Do you remember the sports activities foremost?

K: Well, I remember those football games we had when we would beat South. South beat Rayen without any trouble the first year and then we took them the next two years that I played. It wasn't long until South was winning most of the games.

C: How many hours did you study at night while you were going to high school?

K: Well, when I was down at Christ Mission those last three years, I used to get up at around four o'clock in the morning and study until about seven thirty or eight. A family named Wick, H. K. Wick, had a farm out on Logan Road. They skimmed milk, after they took the cream off and we used to get that milk for the nursery children at the Christ Mission. I went there in the morning, before going to school, and got those cans of milk and took them back down to the mission, so that took about forty-five minutes. I studied from about four o'clock in the morning until about seven thirty.

C: As much as you liked the teachers, were you sort of afraid of them in the classroom?

K: No. No, I don't recall being afraid of any of these teachers.

C: Did they ever put you on the spot?

K: No. The only fellow that was singled out was this Bill Swanton. In our second year Latin class Mr. Button, the teacher, would call on Bill Swanton often. Swanton was very precise in the use of the English language. That was his hobby. When he used a word, you knew that he knew what it meant. In the class he was the authority on whether a word was a gerund or a gerundive. If the student hesitated, he would call on Bill Swanton to say whether it was a gerund or gerundive. That was the only time I remember any student being singled out.

In my senior year we had some fellows who came into study hall one day with the top of their heads shaved. They were pounced on and sent out of the study hall and told to get the rest of their hair cut off.
(Laughter)

C: Did you ever take part in any of these pranks?

K: No, I never got into this business of painting buildings. Somebody was always climbing up on top of the school building and putting their class number on it. Before a big football game, they would gather a lot of wood and have a fire on the grounds and do some yelling and cheering. I was so busy working those last three years that I didn't get to spend any evenings like that.

C: Do you have any other comments?

K: There's one thing that I'd like to mention. During the four years I was at Rayen, I saw only one fellow who was under the influence of liquor. He was staggering down Wick Avenue hill on a Saturday night. I don't know why I was out that Saturday. I only saw one person intoxicated in the four years that I was at Rayen.

C: Was this a student?

K: Yes. Now, that doesn't mean that there wasn't some drinking going on. It was so secret that you just didn't even hear anybody talk about it.

C: Was the situation different at South that you know of?

K: No, I didn't know anything about what went on at South. The only thing I remember outstanding about South was the coach there, when they first opened up. This fellow's name was Corbet. They said that he used to be on the football field with a club and whenever these fellows didn't do what he told them to do, he wouldn't hesitate to whack them on the rear end.

C: What was your coach like at Rayen?

K: We had a fellow named Hugh Smith. He was a graduate of Oberlin College and he was one of these idealists. He never taught anybody a dirty trick. I think he taught Latin. He had a brother who also joined Rayen and he had charge of the work in the gymnasium, and also taught. Hugh Smith was one of those very quiet fellows. He didn't have much to say, and he never used any profanity. He never browbeat anybody, but he was an excellent coach.

C: If there was one thing about the Rayen School that you could have changed while you were there, what would it have been?

K: I don't think I would have made everybody take what they called the "classical course." Some of these kids could have taken mechanical drawing or something like that to go along with what they learned when they went into apprentice training. Rayen School wasn't looked upon as a school to prepare for a trade or manual work. It was to prepare you for college.

C: What were the complaints of a lot of the students at that time?

- K: School was a voluntary thing on your part. You didn't have to go to high school. You could go to work or stay home and you could quit any time you wanted. There was no compulsion about it at all. In the mid 1920's, they passed a law in Ohio, which required all kids to go to school until they're 18. Before that, after age 14 you could just quit if you didn't feel like going.
- C: Did many do this?
- K: Yes. Ray Thomas, who I was telling you about, graduated in 1908. There were 100 in his class and that was the biggest class that Rayen had ever had. Rayen, at that time, got students from Hubbard, Struthers, Niles and Boardman.
- C: How would they get there?
- K: They came in streetcars. I think they attended school at Boardman for two years, then came over here to finish up. You only had about one hundred graduates. There were no Catholic high schools like Mooney and Ursuline in those days.
- C: Is there anything else you'd like to talk about or have you said everything you've wanted to say?
- K: Anybody that graduated from Rayen School always felt that they had really done something.
- C: Do you still keep up with events at the school?
- K: No. No, Rayen School is nothing compared to what it used to be. The Rayen alumni meeting used to be held at the Rayen School. You would always see some of your old teachers and some of your old classmates who came from Pennsylvania and surrounding areas. They don't have the alumni meeting there now. They have to hold it in some big hall. They've been going out to St. Maron's Hall, The Ohio Hotel and the Saxon Club.
- C: When you came back, you did attend alumni functions?
- K: Oh yes.
- C: When did you stop attending these functions?
- K: I stopped attending them at about the time they stopped having them at the Rayen School. I went back there last in 1963. This Dr. Edmonds that got me interested

in Washington University came down from Chardon, Ohio with his wife. He thought he was going to get the orchid for being the oldest alumnus there. As it turned out there were several members from his class and also, there was a fellow that married a member of his class, who had gone into Rayen and had left Rayen to go into the Spanish-American War. He was the fellow that got the orchid. They always gave an orchid to the person who came the farthest or the oldest one there.

C: Is there anything else?

K: No, there isn't.

C: Thank you very much, Dr. Kennedy.

END OF INTERVIEW