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2006

Interview of John P. Rossi, Ph.D.

John Patrick Rossi

La Salle University, rossi@lasalle.edu

Gregg S. Pearson

La Salle University

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Rossi, John Patrick and Pearson, Gregg S., "Interview of John P. Rossi, Ph.D." (2006). *All Oral Histories*. 20. <https://digitalcommons.lasalle.edu/histdeptohall/20>

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Index- John Rossi Interview #1

Interviewer: Gregg Pearson

Narrator: Dr. John Rossi

**Place: Olney hall, Room #340
La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA**

No. of CDs=1

No of sides=1

Duration: 1 hr., 12 min.

Date March 8, 2006

| <u>Time (Hour: Minute)</u> | <u>Topics of Discussion</u> |
|----------------------------|---|
| 0:1-4 | Introduction, family background |
| 0:4-10 | <u>Neighborhood as youth:</u> family ethnicity, lived with aunts and uncles, life in lower Olney (Ruscomb St.), neighborhood ethnicity/social background |
| 0:10-23 | <u>Upbringing as youth:</u> family values, education as a youth, religion, influence of Uncle Ray, family politics, two families, eating habits, jobs as a young man |
| 0:23-30 | <u>Interests as a youth:</u> interests at school, interests outside school, reading, history, fascination with baseball, movies, Uncle Ray as a “baseball buddy,” grade school memories |
| 0:30-32 | <u>High School:</u> selection of high school, attended La Salle College High School |
| 0:32-47 | <u>College- Undergraduate at La Salle College (LC):</u> attended LC, mixed record as a student, commuter, life as a LC student, influence of Dr. John Lukacs, growing interest in history, growth of LC activities, job at Department of Recreation, influence of Christian Brothers, student relationships |
| 0:47-50 | <u>Graduation from LC:</u> family reaction, fellowship to Notre Dame, Uncle Ray “claims” his LC diploma, father passes away |
| 0:50-57 | <u>Graduate School at Notre Dame:</u> student life, weather, history curriculum, academic interests, preparation from LC, student job, Notre Dame Library |

| | |
|------------|---|
| 0:57- 1:07 | <u>Doctoral Studies at the University of Pennsylvania</u> : selection of Penn, reasons for coming home, ribbing George Stow and Jack Reardon, dissertation topic (British Liberal Party 1874-1880), and advisor selection, serendipitous nature of life, student life, classmates |
| 1:07-1:11 | <u>Post Penn Activity</u> : fieldwork in England, part time teaching at LC, writing dissertation, start of full time teaching at LC, surrounding neighborhood change |
| 1:12 | Conclusion of interview #1 |

John Rossi Interview #2

Interview: Gregg Pearson

Narrator: Dr. John Rossi

**Place: Olney hall, Room #340
La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA**

**No. of CDs=1
No of sides=1
Duration: 1 hr., 13 min.**

Date March 22, 2006

| <u>Time (Hour: Minute)</u> | <u>Topics of Discussion</u> |
|----------------------------|--|
| 0:1-13 | <u>Teaching at La Salle College/University (LU)</u> : career progression at LU (1962 to present), current promotion structure, requirements for promotion, gaining tenure, process of gaining tenure today, associate editor of <i>Four Quarters</i> , Lindback Award, interest and influence of George Orwell's writing, historical topics of interest (British history, Irish history, 20 th century Europe), writing as an area of interest. |
| 0:13 | Short Break (7 seconds) due to technical difficulty |
| 0:13-20 | <u>Teaching at LU</u> : changes in the history department, reflections on teaching, friendships, duties as chairman, most scholarly work, enjoyment of baseball writing |

- 0:20-22 JFK Assassination: reaction of students, reaction of faculty, meeting JFK
- 0:22-26 Vietnam: effect on students, effect on faculty, reaction of university administration, Kent State, ROTC, anti-war mentality
- 0:26-29 Women at La Salle: survival of the college, tone improved, integration of women, slow reaction by Christian Brothers, women faculty, Minna Weinstein
- 0:29-33 Commuter to Residential: changed over time, building dormitories, increase in social activities (Chuck Berry, Smothers Brothers), history department speakers
- 0:33-38 Evolving Role of Christian Brothers: less influence due to declining numbers, emphasis on teaching, humility and personal qualities, lay person as next president, presence makes LU unique, interaction of lay and Christian Brother faculty.
- 0:38-40 Graduate Programs: started with religion, added MBA and others, initial reservation on graduate history.
- 0:40- 44 Student Changes: socioeconomic, differences for attending college, behavior, backgrounds, problems with American education system, career plans
- 0:44-45 Change Events: lay president
- 0:45-48 Length of time at LU: explains why he has stayed at LU, lack of publishing early in career, teaching, friendships
- 0:48-50 Brief summary of his time teaching at LU (due to assumed technical difficulty early in interview)
- 0:50-55 Changes in Local Neighborhood: racial and ethnic change, reasons for change, movement to suburbs, economics, relationship with LU, adaptation at LU, outreach programs
- 0:55-1:06 Baseball: origins of the game, evolution of baseball, Abner Doubleday, major changes in the game, baseball mirrors change in

American life and culture (immigration, integration of disparate social groups, religion, competitiveness, culture, growth of suburbs) 1964 Phillies and sports negativism in Philadelphia

1:06- 1:10

Summary of questions: reflections on lifetime accomplishments, strong marriage most significant, colleague testimony

1:10-1:13

Conclusions and reflections on the interview process