

Childhood

I would like to begin by briefly discussing your childhood before you attended college at La Salle just as background information

When were you born? Where?

Did you have any brothers or sisters? If yes, did any of them attend La Salle or other institutions?

How many years did you live in that area? If moved can you remember why? When?

Did religion play a role in your childhood? Did you attend church regularly? What denomination?

When did you first begin school?

What schools did you attend prior to La Salle? Elementary, high school/? Were these public or private institutions?

La Salle: Bachelor's Degree

Before we begin discussing your college years I was hoping you could give me a time line of your schooling so I can better understand how long the process took and then I would like to go through each one individually. When did you attend La Salle, 1952-1956? Notre Dame? University of Pennsylvania?

How did you come to choose La Salle for your college educations? Locale, financial, religion, parents?

What was your major? Did you declare right away or did you need time to think about it? Did you change your major ever? Do you remember how you came to choose history/education?

How large was the history department while you attended La Salle? A lot of majors/few majors? How many teachers? What kind of courses were offered?

When did you first take an interest in Irish-American and immigrant history? Was there anyone or anything that influenced this decision? Teachers, travel, parents ect?

Could you please tell me what the classes were like while you attended La Salle? Were they lecture classes, group discussions?

What were some of your favorite subjects during this time? History and other disciplines?

Who were some of your favorite professors/teachers?

What kind of grades did you receive?

What activities were you involved in while at La Salle? I have a whole list here but I am not sure what some of the groups/abbreviations mean.

Were there specific reasons for joining these groups? Just for fun? Academic advancement?

How large was La Salle when you attended? Student size? Campus size?

Where did you live, in dormitories? Where was that located?

Where were your classes? What buildings?

During the time you attended it was an all male institution. Did you enjoy the experience? Had you applied to any co-educational schools?

Was it always your plan to go onto to further schooling after La Salle and obtain your Doctorate Degree? When did you decide this, before or after began college? Who/what influenced this decision? Who helped you in the application process, any specific professors?

Notre Dame: Masters Degree

How did you come to choose Notre Dame? Did any other classmates of yours accompany you there?

Did you have any other schools in mind? Did you apply to any other institutions?

Could you please describe what the application process was like? What requirements you had to meet in order to be accepted? GRE's? Paper? Interviews?

How large, well developed was the history department at Notre Dame compared to La Salle's?

What did you study while you were there? Irish-American history?

What were the classes/curriculum like there? Lecture/discussion? Similar to La Salle's style or something new?

Do you feel that your education at La Salle adequately prepared you for graduate school? How or why not?

Were you involved in any activities there? Teachers aid/assistantship? Groups/clubs?

Did you have a job while at Notre Dame?

Where did you live while you attended Notre Dame?

University of Pennsylvania: Ph.D.

How did you choose the University of Pennsylvania for your doctorate degree?

Did you have any other institutions in mind? Did you apply to any other universities?

What was the application process like?

How large was the history department compared to Notre Dame? Compared to La Salle?

Do you think that both La Salle and Notre Dame adequately prepared you for a doctoral program? How, or why not?

How did you decide on a topic for your dissertation? Do you have any stories about your dissertation defense? What was it like to work with your advisor and a dissertation committee?

Were you involved in any activities, programs, groups while at Penn?

Where were you living at this time?

Return to La Salle

Teaching

I understand that you also taught at La Salle while completing your degree. Please tell me a little bit about that. How did you get the position, was it offered to you or did you go through the application process? Why did you want to teach at La Salle instead of another college or another job at that time? What year was this?

What kind of courses were you responsible for when you first began? General requirements? Seminars? Upper level courses?

Did your course work change over the years? Were you able to select specific topics and courses that you wanted to teach?

What were some of your favorite courses to teach? Irish American? Foreign Relations? Immigration?

Could you describe to me how you ran your class? Was it a lecture style class or discussion based? Did that depend on the course being taught?

How did you learn to organize and teach the material covered in your courses?
Something you learned yourself or while studying at Notre Dame/Penn?

Could you tell me if the curriculum, what you were supposed to include in classes, or the classes taught changed during your time at La Salle? Were there reasons for these changes?

Are there any particular students that you remember? Kept in touch with/mentored/collaborated with? Who/why? I was told to ask about the student who received the Fulbright scholarship/fellowship, Bob Lavrey?

Could you tell me about the process you went through to apply for tenure at La Salle? Did the process, requirements for tenure and promotion change over time? Do you have any stories about coming up for tenure/promotion positions?

Drastic changes

Do you remember when females were first admitted to La Salle? What year was that? I have heard it was a controversial topic for some. What were your feelings on the issue? Do you remember any campus protests or demonstrations?

Do you remember when the first female professor was hired? I heard that it was in the history department.

Do you remember when La Salle began to admit African-American students? What year was this? Could you tell me when the first African-American professor was hired? Were these changes more controversial than admitting women? Were there protests among the students? Among the professors? What kind?

Do you remember when La Salle College became La Salle University? What was the reason for the change? Student/campus growth? Financial/funding? Was this a big ordeal with protests and meetings or was it for namesake only?

His contributions

I have heard that during your first few years at La Salle you were extremely active in the department with helping to organize events, groups, publications and even chair of the history department. I would like to start by talking about some of the lectures you organized or participated in first.

I have found that you were responsible for arranging the Maurice Frances Egan lectures in 1963. Please tell me about this, describe the process for me.

-How did you come up with the idea?

-How did you arrange for the speakers to participate, I noticed a few of them were from Penn?

-What did you speak about at the lecture?

-Where was it held? How long, a few hours or a few days? What kind of people attended students/faculty/historians/general public?

I am under the impression that the lectures used in the Maurice Frances Egan event were compiled into a book around 1967. Is that correct? *Immigrants' Influence on Woodrow Wilson's Peace Policies*, and you were the editor? How did this idea originate, to publish these ideas? How long did the process take?

Did you organize/participate any other speaking events on campus or elsewhere that I have not mentioned? Were they local events? Did you travel to give lectures? Who organized these events? (same questions as above if organized)

Dr. Rossi informed me that you were involved with the foundation of a journal, *The Journal of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations*. Could you tell me about this journal and the role you played creating it?

When was it first published?

What caused you to become involved?

Who/How many other people/professors/historians/poly sci involved?

Is it still around today?

I have found a few other items of yours that have been published. *How the Irish Became Americans*, 1973, and a few other journal articles that were given to me through the La Salle Archives. Could you please discuss your works and publications? Am I missing some? What were the titles, topics, journals in which they appeared?

I have also learned that you were a founding member of the Faculty Senate? Could you please describe the purpose of this group to me? When was it created? What was your role? How long did you participate in the group?

You were also involved in the Pickwick Club which was a group of professors who met to discuss certain topics. Could you describe this group and your participation so that I can better understand its function. When began? Who participated, interdepartmental or only history dept? Where were the meetings? How long did you participate?

Chairmanship of Dept.

I would like to spend some time talking about your years as Chair of the History department. I understand that you only served one four-year term. When was that?

And how did you become the Chair? Who was your predecessor?

Could you please describe what kind of responsibilities the chair of the department held?

What sort of problems or challenges did you encounter during your time as chair? Faculty/staffing/students enrollment/funding? How did you overcome these?

What do you think you brought to the department during your term? Contributions/organization/policies?

How would you describe your leadership style while you were chair?

How did you manage to balance teaching, research, and service to the department/university? Not to mention family?

Why did you decide not to be the chairman for another term? It is my understanding that you could have run for at least one more term if you wanted to? What were your reasons for this decision?

Opinion/comparisons

How do you think that the history department has changed over the years. From the time that you were a student and through your teaching career?

- Growth of department in size? Reflect growth of campus and student interest?
- Courses/specialties offered change?
- Curriculum?
- What are your thoughts on the graduate program offered? Beneficial?

I would like to also discuss your attitudes towards your colleagues, both within the history department and in other areas. Did you find it easy to work with them? How so/why not? In your opinion what are important characteristics that teachers should exhibit/have? Do you still remain in contact with any of them? With whom did you work with in the dept for the longest?

Minna Weinstein
Miroslav Labunka

Aruthur Hennessy
Theo Fair

What are your thoughts about the administration at La Salle, on how the university was run. Do you feel that it was run to the best of its ability or were there problems? What were they? Did the administration improve/worsen over the years?

I would like to discuss the role of the Christian Brothers at the university? Could you please explain their purpose and the functions that they fulfill, I do not understand their role. How did their role on campus change over time?

I would also like to discuss how the campus of La Salle has changed throughout the years. In your opinion what were some of the major, significant changes that took place on campus and in student life from the time when you attended as a student until the time of your retirement? What are your thoughts on the campus' progress? Buildings/student growth/ethnicity/majors offered/sports added/clubs. What has remained the same?

In your opinion how has the history profession changed over the years? New theories/methods introduced? New disciplines, such as Oral History?

Family/retirement

I didn't touch upon this earlier but I would like to discuss a little bit of your family life and your activities since retirement.

I understand that you are a family man. When and where did you meet your wife?

When were you married? If before school finished, did she live with you? How did she show her support for you during this time?

How many children did you have? When? Names and ages? Were they born locally?

Dr. Rossi mentioned that he had your two sons. How many of your children attended La Salle? Majors? Graduation? Did they participate in similar clubs/organizations as you? Did they go on to further education?

Finally I would like to discuss your activities since your retirement. In what year did you decide to retire? What were the reasons for this decision?

Have you been working on any literature, articles, or other research during this time? If so what are these topics? Have they been published?

Are you still active in historical circles? Attend/give lectures?
Do you participate in events at La Salle? What kind of functions? Alumni functions?
History dept events?

What other activities have been keeping you busy since your retirement? Other hobbies, family?

You were recently traveling abroad in Sweden. Did you travel often during your time at La Salle? Where have you been? Why, academic or pleasure?

Do you miss teaching?

What are your favorite memories of La Salle?

What are your most rewarding experiences as a teacher? As an historian?

What is the best part about retirement?

Is there anything else that you would like to talk about that we did not cover?

What are the most important elements of collegiality?