

This transcript was not approved by the interviewee.

Patricia Kissling
April 24th, 2008
Dr. Allen
History 650

Time: 0:00

Interview # 2: Dr. Joseph O'Grady.

This interview was conducted after I had already spoken and transcribed the interview with Dr. Rossi. The interview was held in Dr. O'Grady's house, 307 French Rd. Newtown Square, PA 19073. We quickly launched into the interview. The first hour and a half consisted of Dr. O'Grady providing his memories on the topics we had discussed over the phone, childhood, La Salle and his career in the United States Army. I was unable to ask many questions during this time but then we took a short break and after that I was able to ask specific questions about his education at La Salle, Notre Dame, and Penn. I was also able to ask about his specific contributions at La Salle and to the historical profession. We ended the interview by briefly discussing his activities in retirement. As the interview continued Dr. O'Grady became less professor-like in his answers and became more animated. Throughout the interview he periodically would get up to retrieve a book to help answer my questions. His faithful companion, his dog, sat with us through most of the interview which explains the heavy breathing or sound of the dog leaving the room that can be heard in the interview.

Patricia Kissling: This is Patricia Kissling, interviewing Dr. O'Grady on March 29th 2008. And do you give permission for this to be recorded?

Dr. Joseph O'Grady: Yes.

Patricia Kissling: Sure. Alright. As I was saying I wanted to learn a little bit about your childhood. Um,

Dr. Joseph O'Grady: Well I was born, I was born at home **on Littenmore st** in east Germantown. At that time it was called Irishtown. In Immaculate Conception Parish. Uh, I was born in 19, June 13th, 1934. There were five of us in the family. Both the parents were born in Ireland. Both emigrated um, probably um, just after WWI. I'm not quite sure. But I have since visited both my mother's birth place, uh and my father's, I actually lived in my father's home. There were five children. We um, we had I guess a happy childhood. There was not an awful lot. There was not an awful lot in our childhood. We, my father lost one job in the depression and we moved then down to **Sommerset St.** Which was a block and a half from old Shibe Park [Connie Mack Stadium] where the Athletics and the Phillies eventually played baseball. By 1944 we were able to, my mother was always interested in moving back to Germantown. So in '44, Christmas of '44, we arrived back in Germantown. And I finished grammar school at Immaculate Conception. I graduated from North East Catholic High School. And that

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was a long, a long trip, bus ride, a subway ride, a trolley ride from one of the city to the other. It was always an experience getting to school and coming home.

I started uh, I knew I wanted to go to college and I applied I guess March or April of my senior year in high school. And La Salle had the one uh, characteristic that I required. I could walk to college. That is what precisely what I did. We eventually did buy a family car and I had that for most of my college career. The college at that time, we had the high school was in the building that now has the bookstore. That was the gym, where the bookstore is. There were classrooms above the high school. Uh that was, the high school.

We had College Hall, Benilde Hall, and uh Leonard Hall, and McShain. McShain was built by John McShain, the builder in Philadelphia who built many buildings. The, when I arrived the library was actually in College Hall, where I guess, I don't know if they still have business, I guess they don't have the business office there, but it was on the first floor of College Hall. Right next to College Hall, you went down a couple steps. I imagine its still there. There was a little room that was the bursar's office. That's where you paid all your bills. They collected the money. It was in, I think fall of '52, just after I arrived that they opened the college, the library building and that is now the administration building I think. Or it was the last time I was up there.

The history department was composed of **Vince McCarthy**, Ugo Donini, Brother **Elifus Lewis** taught some courses. In those days, Christian Brothers were men of all forms of trades. If you were a Christian Brother you could teach anything, economics, history, and that's how I guess how Brother **Elifus Lewis** got the job. There was also **John Luckosh**, who was teaching fulltime at Chestnut Hill. And he had, I don't really remember how many classes he taught at La Salle. But that was about the department. I'm trying to think of, I think that was the department. They all were, they were, I guess organized as a social studies department. You had political science, economics, sociology, and history under that title. They were all on the second floor of College Hall. I think there was one room, two desks, and one easy chair as we used to call it. So it was, it was a small place.

Leonard Hall was the cafeteria. That was an old army building. Benilde Hall was an old army building that they brought I guess, maybe in pieces and just rebuilt, the put a brick façade on that made it look a little steadier. But as soon as you walked inside you knew it was an old army building. We had only, only a handful of history majors.

They had a counseling center on the first floor. And I got a job there. I don't know what I did in the counseling center. But I also had a job on the campus where I delivered the mail. I would sort the mail, it would get there about, oh quarter to eight. Sort the mail and then deliver it to the offices. The mail was, the mail room was right in back of the President's office. So I think, I guess Mike [Brother Michael McGinnis], the current president is his office still on the first floor of the brother's house?

PK: I believe so

JO: Yea. The mail room was right behind his office. And the office was **Brother Stan's** was the president. Uh, I'm trying to think, Christopher was the dean. He didn't have, a couple of other brothers but I can't think of their names. But there was a real Christian

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Brothers presence at that time. Those years went by pretty quickly, the four years. I knew that I wanted to go into some level of teaching. But I wasn't sure what level. I also knew that I would need a job when I graduated. So I took, in addition to history, I took education courses because Brother Azarias [King] appeared to know everybody in the educational field in the city of Philadelphia and its' suburbs. And anyone who got their education degree from La Salle was, he got them a job. I took, I wasn't sure if I wanted to do graduate work but I guess maybe around third year I guess, the junior year I decided that it was not secondary education that I wanted. I wanted to get a degree and go to graduate school. I also stayed with ROTC. It was required for the first two years. But I knew I would eventually go into the Army, because it seems that everybody went in. And I was convinced that I would rather go as a commissioned officer than a private. So I ended up with, and then I took extra courses in political science 'cause was also one of the fields that I was interested in. Probably more in terms of international relations than domestic politics. So I graduated, I think about 160 credits. And that gave me an opportunity to, and I took extra courses in philosophy too. Because I thought maybe I wanted to teach that. So by the time I graduated it was pretty clear that history was the subject. And I think it was **John Luckoch** who had some kind of contact with Notre Dame. So uh, it was John Tucker, Bob Jones, myself, yea there was a couple of others that went out to Notre Dame.

PK: Did they graduate the same year that you did?

JO: Yea. We all graduated together. And I think there were four or five of us that went out. Johnny Tucker, Bob Jones, and myself, oh and **Bill Hennifer**. But Tucker, Jones, and myself we rented an apartment in a house in South Bend. It was two rooms, two bedrooms, a room with a table that we called the refectory. And a little kitchen with a stove. It was a gas range. It was pretty, they obviously had constructed this apartment out of, out of a very little second floor space. I can remember when I was dating Connie [his wife] at the time. She came out for a football game. And when she saw this place it was in great disarray and by the time she left John Tucker said that he never wanted to see her again because all he did was clean for the weekend.

I did, I did have two year orders at that time. We all graduated, it was about twenty of us graduated with ROTC, and we all received two year orders, in the fall of '56. When I got the grant to Notre Dame I wrote to Washington [D.C.] to see if I could be called to active duty after I got the Master's Degree from Notre Dame. And then in the spring of '57 when I was finishing the master's degree I was given an opportunity to go for six months, instead of two years. That was the Eisenhower-rift, the reduction in force. When I got that letter I asked for the six months and then immediately applied to the University of Pennsylvania for the PhD. So I arrived, I went on active duty in June of '57. Finished at Christmas time, in fact got out three weeks early because it was Christmas time.

PK: And where did you go? Where were you stationed?

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JO: I was down at, I went down to Fort [sol] Oklahoma, for the officer basics course. Then I was assigned to Fort Knox and then trained in, uh then I came home at Christmas time. Started at Penn in January. Got a grant there. And spent two semesters at Penn, spring of '57 and the fall of '57. And finished the coursework and then finished, then got six, I guess -- I had, I guess I had to pay for, I could not take the six hours in dissertation supervision or something like that. So I could only squeeze three hours in. So in fall of '58 I had to pay for the three hours and I think the bill was like a hundred and sixty five dollars for the three hour course. So I had the grant to Notre Dame and the grant to Penn and I had the work-study grant at La Salle. I think I got, I figured it out one time, the cost of La Salle then was four hundred and fifty dollars; two hundred dollars a semester for tuition, and twenty five dollars for uh, activities fee, so it came to four hundred and fifty dollars. But I had a, it wasn't called a work-study, because that didn't come in until after, later in the '60s as a federal program. But I worked on campus, so I paid half, I got a half tuition scholarship for working. So I paid nine hundred dollars for a Bachelor's Degree. And I had a tuition grant and some kind of stipend at Notre Dame, so I didn't pay anything there. And I paid a hundred and sixty five dollars for the PhD. at Penn. So I got a PhD. for like a thousand dollars. That was a different world. Course a thousand dollars was a lot of money then.

I, we [he and his wife Connie] had been going together since 1955, we decided that we would be married in April of '59. And I was finishing, I guess I was reading for the final oral exams for the degree, for the PhD. Brother Frances was the principal of the high school [at La Salle] and he called me up and he had talked to some, one of the brothers at breakfast. Most of the decisions in those days was made by the brothers over coffee in the morning. And he had some, a teacher was sick or something or he wasn't going to be in for a couple days and someone suggested that he call me and ask me if I would be interested in teaching those classes. And that was I guess about a week before we were to be married. At that point I had no job and I had no grant. I was going to do, my dissertation was on *Irish-American Influence on Anglo-American Relations*. I was working for Arthur P. Whitaker at the time. He, he had a fight with a guy who was teaching French history. Can't think of his name, but they [Penn] had a scholarship that paid for two years of research in a foreign, overseas research. Which I needed in order to do, I wanted to do for the dissertation. And I was hoping that Whitaker would get that for me. But they had a fight and the French professor sent his student over to Paris to do some research and I was stuck here. So when Brother Frances called me I had no money, I had no job, and I was getting married in a couple weeks and he asked me if I would substitute for this [La Salle High School]. And I asked him how much do you pay. And he said seventeen dollars a day. And I told him I'll take it. And I spent I guess it was about a week.

So the last day there he called, came into the classroom just before class and he told me that a fellow by the name of **Quigley** was leaving La Salle [College] and he had a position in the history department. So they needed a substitute, they needed someone to cover his classes so this in April, [1959] just before we were getting married. So as soon as I finished classes that day, about I guess it was about three o'clock. I went right over to talk to, I'm trying to think of who that was. It was a Christian Brother, and I think he had a title of Dean of Deans. They didn't have the title Academic Vice-President at that

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time. So he was the Dean of the Deans. And I applied for the job. And it took about fifteen minutes. He asked me a couple a questions about how far along are you on the dissertation. I said that I was studying for the oral exams I had a draft of the dissertation written. And he hired me! [laughs]. That was in April of 1959 so I started.

I had a job at Independence Hall giving lectures, tours around Independence Hall, Independence Park I guess it was then called. There were a lot of, Bob Courtney, Dennis McCarthy was down there. They [Independence Hall] hired a lot of college people in the summer. That was before we really had a summer school so everybody had to get some kind of a job during the summer. So I had that job lined up. I had the Army lined up as I cam back from the six months, then I had seven and a half years of reserve duty. And I could do extra work in the summer there. But La Salle was the first, was the real job. And I didn't even ask what he paid; it was I guess another month before I got a contract. And I found out that they were offering uh, forty-four hundred dollars for the year. But it was a job. And I didn't feel that that was too bad because my brother, he graduated from Niagara [University] in 1955, 1956 I guess he did, no '55. He got a job with Price Waterhouse [now PricewaterhouseCoopers; an accounting firm] in Philadelphia as an accountant. And he got his CPA and he was making sixty-five dollars a week as an accountant. And that was I think I figured out that the amount of time I spent in the nine months I was making more money per week than he was. So I thought that was uh, and I started at La Salle then in September of '59.

It was, Dennis McCarthy was there, Ugo, Ugo Donini, John **Luckosh**, I don't know if Brother **Elifus Lewis** was there. Jack Rossi didn't come I think until '62. And we had, they gave us an office in the basement of the new library building. Yea that was where the office was. And half of that building was classrooms at that time. And I can remember everyone, there was, yea you wore I think we all wore -- as students you wore a sport jacket or suit and tie. So I went down and bought a Brooks Brothers top coat and I wore a homburg [hat] for that first year walking across the campus with a homburg [hat] on. And that, I don't think that lasted very long. By, within the first couple years the climate had changed and students were I guess in rebellion. So they, I think one group showed up one day with white t-shirts on and clip on bowties. And that was, that was shirt and a tie so technically they didn't violate the dress code. [laughs].

That, fascinating that I stayed there. Retired in July of '99. So that was forty years on the campus. Forty-four years there if you add the undergraduate. I was an instructor for three years. I did not have the PhD. at that time. I had the, had a little bit of problems with the, Arthur Whitaker.

He was in many ways was violently anti-Catholic. Some of his lectures were blatantly anti-Catholic and coming from La Salle's undergraduate and teaching at La Salle, I had my problems with him. The worse problem though was that I finished the dissertation by the summer of '61. And I brought it down to him for the first reading and I didn't hear from him for about six months. So I called the secretary. And it was very, I guess early I discovered that you become good friends with secretaries because they would always open doors for you when, when the doors appeared to be very closed. I called her and she said something to him. I don't know what, how that went on. He sent me a little note saying that he was going to get to it, but it was easily a year before he looked at it.

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And I decided that I'd go down and talk to, I became very friendly with the Otakar Odolozilik, who taught Czech, Slavic history. He was the archivist, the state archivist for Czechoslovakia; when the Germans invaded Czechoslovakia he was able to get out. Made his way to the United States and found the job at Penn. Not sure exactly how and when he got there. I went to him and I asked him if I could do another topic for a dissertation because I wasn't getting anywhere with Whitaker. And I knew that without the degree you wouldn't have much of a chance of surviving at the college level. And he said that he didn't think that was a wise idea. And he said but let me see what I can do. So he called me up the next day and said why don't you come down, it was a Friday, why don't you come down on a Friday. Whitaker has office hours from such a time to such a time. Said he always goes back to the departments' office after those office hours to do last minute work for the weekend, before the weekend. So he said we will go over and we will look if we can find your dissertation.

So old College Hall at Penn's campus, where the history department had its offices, it was on the second floor and it was a big wide and broad staircase. With one landing from the first floor to the second floor. And Odolozilik stood looking down the staircase waiting to see Whitaker. And he would then signal the secretary that Whitaker's coming and I would be in his office going through his papers, to see if I could find the dissertation. Because he obviously had lost it. And just before the secretary called me and said Dr. Odolozilik has indicated Whitaker's coming, I said, I found it was in the bottom right hand drawer of the main desk. His main desk, under a pile of papers. So I then went into the secretary's office, snuck around the other side where the teaching assistants used to hang out. Waited for Whitaker to come in then worked my way through a classroom to get out without seeing him. And what she did was that Monday she took it out of the drawer, put it on his desk and put papers on top of his desk. And when he got in that morning she asked him has he made, have you done anything with O'Grady's dissertation. And he says, I don't know exactly how that conversation went. But she called me that afternoon and said that he has found it and he's started to read it. And about a month or two later he called me. That's, he made a few revisions. But that delayed, that delayed getting the degree until, fall, I guess it was '65, may have been '65 before I actually got the degree conferred.

That meant that I had to stay three years as an instructor [at La Salle]. So it was '62 when I was made an assistant professor. And then it was five years you had to wait to become an associate professor. So I didn't make that until '67. a And I probably could have gotten that earlier if I had finished, if I had gotten the degree.

PK: What's the difference between the two?

JO: What?

PK: What is the difference between the two? An associate and an assistant?

JO: Oh. It's just that, well the big difference is money. It's just as an instructor and you start at the bottom of the scale. It became very clear early on that the only way you make any money as an academician is to become a full professor. And the minimum time for a

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full professor was thirteen years. Three years as an instructor, five years as an assistant, and five years as an associate before you could go up. And unfortunately, if you had the degree with you, you would be hired as an assistant not as an instructor. But I didn't have that so I started as an instructor.

But at the time, well I was fortunate in able in getting some things published early on. Did a book on a lecture series, *Immigrant Influences on Woodrow Wilson's Peace Policies*. And that was published by University of Kentucky Press. And that, oh I started to organize the *Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations* and we got Tom Bailey to be the first president. Tom Bailey he was the, probably the foremost diplomatic historian in the country at the time. He, **Sam Beemus** at Yale, was I guess, there were some that argued Sam **Beemus** was a more productive historian but **Beemus** had died '55 or '56 and Tom Bailey clearly was the foremost diplomatic historian in the country at that time. And by getting him to accept the position as first president it guaranteed that the society would be a, would take off. And it's still functioning now. It's the largest, I don't know how many members, thousands of people. And they're from all over the world.

So it, by getting that started and getting some things published, you know I could go up to full professor. And that's when you started to earn some. Got a decent, although I think yea, I think I was making about twelve thousand dollars a year. When I went up for full and I then jumped from twelve to like seventeen thousand. That was, that was the year after we moved into this house. So that was helped pay for this [laughs].

The, the. It [La Salle] was a great place under **Daniel Vernon** was the President from '57, '58. He was President when I arrived in '59. And the many of us, the older faculty that look back upon his years as the golden. That was the golden age at La Salle. It was a small place, you had this little room and the faculty, off the cafeteria where you would go for lunch. Then they built the union building I think in '61, '62. And then they had a faculty dining room was upstairs. When they built, in the first couple years before they built Olney Hall and before they built the student center, we were all pretty much huddled in – The English department I think was in Benilde. And there was a secretary area downstairs and in the basement of , the building that is on the quadrangle, is that, I can't remember what the building is. What's that building called now?

PK: I'm not that familiar with the campus.

JO: Oh, they started a secretarial service, where you could bring the things and they had some kind of a machine, this was prior to computers. Some kind of typing machine that, it would speed the completion of manuscripts, I'm trying to think of who was there. Names don't come up quite as often.

But it was a small group. Everybody knew everyone else. They, no matter where, we would get together for parties year round. Charlie Halpin, and Charlie's still around. **Russ [...]** in the Philosophy dept. John Rooney. Charlie's still alive but Joe Rooney just died, a couple a months ago. **Russ[...]**, dead for awhile. Amazing how many people are gone. Those, that kind of camaraderie, that kind of relationship where people from different departments were friends, they were friends, they were, it was

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-- When they built Olney Hall and they put the English department on the first floor, we were on the third floor. Political science and economics I think was up there with us. Each department had a corridor of offices and what that did was it broke down that process of seeing everybody. We became, the college lost that sense of camaraderie. The historians were stayed together. The political scientists stayed together, the economics people were down at the end of the hall. And sociology was down below us. It was, it tended to divide the college into smaller groups. And the college as a whole I think tended to lose that kind of character that it had.

We had I don't know if we had a thousand students when I first arrived. But I think we, the class of '56 we probably, I don't think we graduated a 150 students. I think we had about twenty-seven in the class, in the ROTC class that year. And (clears throat). Yea, then when the student population went up to what, 2500, 3000, yea that changed the whole character of the place. Olney Hall I remember as a big change. And you just didn't see people.

PK: About what year was that?

JO: Pardon me?

PK: About what year or what time period was that?

JO: College Hall, Olney was built in '60, mid sixties. [...] Was it 73. There's a corner stone. That was, when they were building that, and that was a 100,000 square feet. Brother Paul, Joe [...] was the business manager. Joe ran all the books, kept the place afloat. I think he had two sets of books. One set that he kept and nobody else saw and that's where he was stashing money if he could stash it to make sure that there wasn't another depression. Cause Joe was well aware what the depression did to the college. It was an almost killed the place. And then WWII almost killed it because there was nobody going to college. And one thing that, when the Korean War broke out, the Brothers had to [be] negotiating with somebody down in Washington to get an ROTC unit. And fear was that if they didn't get an ROTC unit they wouldn't survive another world war. They all, the brothers kept talking about at Villanova, Villanova had a V12 program [V12 Navy College Training Program] where, during WWII, and they had students taking courses I'm not sure exactly what kind of program was. It was called a V12 program. So they [Christian Brothers] wanted the ROTC so that they would be ensured at least a minimum number of students in wartime. And I think they got the ROTC just, just after the Korean War broke out, or just before. But it was a thriving institution in, by the time I graduated in '56.

It went downhill, the ROTC went downhill during the Vietnam War. And there were protests, there were sit-ins. Brother **Fidalian, Daniel Burke**, who was later President. He went down to Washington and chained himself to the White House fence, protesting the war. I thought that was pretty ludicrous and didn't have too much for that particular – Especially I, when I finished my eight year tour I finished in, in '64 and I got the PhD in '65 and I got a letter from [the] Department of Defense, or Department of the Army, asking if I would be interested in working in Washington for the office of Chief

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Military History. So I went down just to look at it and realized that I could probably make money with whatever free time I had, by simply reporting for active duty.

So I took the job with the Office Chief of Military History and very quickly realized that they were just giving me little bones to nibble on. So I found my way over to the personnel office in the Pentagon and got myself on lists of, for openings in other, other fields. And I got an opening in the assistant Chief of Staff or Intelligence Office. And I was given an assignment there and finished it in a day. Brought it to the secretary and she got it typed up, brought it down to the Colonel who was in charge of this particular, counter intelligence at that time. And he read it and said that if you keep working like this you're going to write yourself out of a job. And I said well you have something else to do? And he gave me a real assignment. And from then on I stayed with the Army.

I would go on active duty for various times, long term tours, but whenever I was free, from La Salle's duties. And I ended up staying twenty-eight years in the army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. We actually get a check from them now. And most importantly they pay all of our healthcare problems. So that was, again it's interesting in that what I ran into Brother Frances told me that **Quigley** was leaving it was a chance encounter. And I got a job that I held for forty years. Another chance encounter, a letter, they somehow found out about the PhD, offered me that position with Army Chief, Chief Military History. And then I stayed for twenty-eight, I stayed for as long as I could. They finally told me twenty-eight years, that's enough. But Colonel **Sossi**, he was a fascinating guy. His parents were interned in WWI, or WWII. They were taken Lake Tahoe or someplace. They were living in San Diego I think. And their son then graduated from the University of Honolulu and he was in the ROTC and he ended up making a career with the Army. He was a fascinating person.

He would do all kinds of things, I got paid sometimes from black fund. In intelligence the, that fund is not disclosed. It's classified, and the amount of money that is spent, and how it's spent, and if they couldn't find reserve money they would always find money from the black fund to pay me, to bring me on active duty. So it ended up as a kind of second career.

The, so I wasn't really, wasn't really in that anti-war mood, that most of the faculty was. They actually had a -- I had to report for active duty during the poor peoples march in '67 I think it was. And I had to walk over people in front of the Pentagon, lying down. When I got inside they told me, the first thing you have to do is you got to go back out and put your civilian clothes on, cause we don't want anybody walking around Washington out of uniform. And I thought that was a disgrace. So I had to go back out, walking over people. And I came in as a civilian and that was, that experience kind of conditioned my mind to disagree with the anti-war protestors at La Salle. They were pretty, pretty violent. Not violent, they were pretty [raucous] and they, I don't know if they ever shut down. They sat in on College Hall but I don't think they ever shut down classes, they ever shut down the school. A lot of other places, Kent State. I did a study for a friend who was running a program at Kent State, a diplomatic historian, on the non-allied nations of -- (looking for book on shelves) *Europe's Neutral and Non-Allied States*, published in '89. I didn't realize it was that late. But he called me up and asked me if I would do the, Ireland was a neutral nation during WWII. And remained neutral

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throughout Cold War period. So I did the paper on Ireland. When he called he said we need somebody to do a paper on the military; Irish Military. The Army, Navy, Air Force. I laughed at him, I said well they got a navy, there's one rowboat and they have a 50 caliber machine gun but they don't have a motor on it.

So we, I don't know how that came up but – That was, oh, oh Kent State. The meeting was at Kent State and that was, it was a couple of years after Kent State, with the ROTC. I forget the exact details but they were not supposed to live ammunition in their weapons but they did and there were four or five kids killed. And that, we had that conference there from the conference came that book. But, that was fifteen years after that Kent State thing, but that, that whole experience was still very much alive on that campus fifteen years later. They had a monument built for them, on the knoll.

Nothing like that ever happened at La Salle during the Vietnam Crisis. But the enrollment with the ROTC virtually collapsed. And there were those who arguing that they should drive the ROTC off the campus. And I guess they eventually did because I don't think there is an ROTC at La Salle today. I think there is an ROTC unit, somebody at Penn, I think if you want to join the ROTC you have to go down there, take the military classes there. But I don't think there's any ROTC at all is there?

PK: Not that I'm aware of but I'm not a hundred percent sure.

JO: I don't know if there's a -- The teaching experience was a great experience. I enjoyed my time at La Salle. I enjoyed my time in the Army. I had a good life. I'm kind of rambling here. Are there any specific questions?

PK: I wanted to go back and discuss a little bit your time getting your bachelor's degree. You already had said why you had chosen La Salle to go there, it was within walking distance. Were there any other colleges that you had thought of or was La Salle it?

JO: No. It was not a possibility. My father died when I was fourteen. And there were five of us. And no there was no – I knew that there was no other. I didn't apply anywhere else because that was the only place I could walk to. And those four years, I gave you some idea of what my interests were. I can remember, well I had John **Luckosh**. He was one of the probably -- I probably had an interest in history, I had that really when I was in my first year in high school. I was in high school from '48 to '52 and in the fall of '48, Churchill had already published, I think the first three volumes of his multi-volume history of WWII [*The Second World War*; six volumes]. And I can, I read those as they came out, read the whole series.

I remember arguing, he made, he tried to explain why, he tried to explain why an Australian division was being moved from Australia through, the plan was to move it through the Suez Canal and bring it into England. And at the last moment the Australian government diverted that division to some, Burma, India. And Churchill tried to explain that away. And I felt, I felt as I was reading that, that he was lying. I think he was making up and excuse, he tried to downplay the independence of the Australian government and he tried to excuse the Australians. And I made up my mind that I was

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going to find out why the Australians diverted that division. And never got quite around to finding out about that.

But that's when I became really interested in trying to find out what happened in the past. And that's essentially what a historian does. You try to find out happened. And you do it by going through all kinds of materials. I'm not convinced that oral history is very helpful. The mind remembers only what it wants to remember. So I never got into oral history. I stayed pretty much with the documentation and you can find out an awful lot if you just keep going through the documents. So it was small school, small class.

PK: What kinds of classes were offered?

JO: Well, well you had lectures. Essentially in history we just had lectures. You had to take a biology course but, I guess I had the basic Biology, 101, Biology. And that was taught by **Dr. Holroid**. He had an office on the first floor of College Hall and there was a little anthem theater classroom. It was not built as an anthem theater it was, the seating, raised seating, that was built into the room. It was, he had his desk was just a big flat cabinet type thing. Where I guess he had the chemicals, the labs are. So he had his own lab right there. He would, **Holroid** would lecture in his PhD, his doctors gown. And he was the last one that I think lectured in his, you walk in and that gown would be hanging on a nail somewhere. He was an amazing person. He arrived, he arrived I think in 1929 and was still going strong, when I was promoted to full professor he was one of the first to tell me that I got the promotion. So his career --

I had **Matt Skcisowski** in philosophy. And he was an absolute brilliant man. He was, he was the one that almost single handedly turned me into a philosopher. And I took as many of his courses as I possibly could. And I took a lot of courses. The, we didn't have, there were no -- average class size was fifteen, twenty students. I had classes in Benilde Hall. Most of the classes were in Olney Hall and the ROTC classes were [unbuilt], under the stadium. The football stadium. On the one side, underneath the stands they built this whole thing.

They had a Caisson Club they called it. They had all kinds of, history society, all kinds of clubs. They [Caisson] had a Harvest dance you know in November I think. You had the junior prom and the senior prom. Oh and they had, they always had, clubs had dinner dances. And those were usually at a hotel on Chelton Avenue just before Wayne. Now I think it's an apartment building. But that was where they had, that was a pretty popular place. They'd, [**Crane's**] it was. There was a place out on Queen Lane I was convinced that they would breed alcoholics. They would, you could get a whiskey and water in a little water glass for fifty cents.

There was one time, I lived in Germantown and Con lived in Drexel Hill. And I had two dollars, two dollars. So I put, and gas was thirty cents a gallon. So I put three gallons of gas in the car and I had a dollar. And I knew if we went to [**Crane's**] she would have no more than one drink because they were, they would breed alcoholics. So we went in and I got to know this waiter there. They were all kind of independent, so I saw Phil there and I waved to him. And as soon as one of his tables was finished he, we got the table. Ordered two whiskeys and waters. And we nursed that thing for at least an

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hour, two hours. And I said, would you like another drink and she said oh I don't think so. So I had the night out, had gas in the car for two dollars (smiling).

And, we made a lot of things with, this Caisson Club, they would have Friday night, there was a place right on Church Lane. The International [Independent] Order of Odd Fellows or one of those things. They used to rent that I think for like fifty dollars. And you'd get a hundred people in there. The undergraduate was a nice, it was a great place. La Salle was a great place.

We still, we had our fiftieth anniversary last year. We had a dinner here for I think there were six or seven couples that go back to 1952 when we arrived. It became a different school with the opening of Olney Hall. That was, and I would think if you talked to any other faculty members that are still around from that era, I think they would agree with that. Although I did have, I was on, they had the middle-states evaluation every ten years. I remember one middle-states evaluation in the early seventies, '71 or '72. And I was chairman of one of the committees so I had, I would make a report to the faculty. And we were, I guess enrollment was one of the things we had discussed and tried to analyze and trying to predict. And the prediction, the evidence that I had collected would indicate that the college, we would be losing students in the next ten years. And all the evidence, and that's one of the things that I think prompted them, the administration then, to open to females. The black, the projection number of prospective college students, I think that report prompted them to do that. But at the faculty meeting someone, I'm trying to think who said it, but one of the faculty members made the comment to the effect that historians are better looking at the past than predicting the future. And he threw the whole report out and, but I think that that was the basis for opening the school to, that of course changed the college completely. And the arrival of the first female faculty member was Mickey Weinstein.

PK: And she was in the history department right?

JO: She was in the history department. And there was great fear that, I guess I was known as, well as ultra conservative or non-liberal. Maybe it was because of the Army uniform. But there was great fear that I would not pay any attention to Mickey Weinstein. We ended up having an office together in Benilde Hall. And when she proposed, when she proposed at one meeting, a department meeting, she proposed a course on Women's History or you know, I don't know Women Studies or something. And she figured that I was going to vote no. That was the consensus. And she looked at me as if, she didn't ask anything, she looked at me and obviously was waiting for my diatribe against such a silly course. And I said to her, I said Mickey if you think I'm going to vote against the American woman you're crazy. So the course was approved and she taught that course then.

That, yea the arrival of -- It changed the basic nature of the institution. It was, it was a man's place in those early years. And it became a different place.

PK: Do you remember what year that was, that women were admitted?

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JO: '73 or '74 was that? That's pretty easy to find, you know. Have you gone through any of the documents of Grabenstien? Have you gone through?

PK: Uh, yea I went through what he gave me, but it was mostly just about you.

JO: Oh, oh so you haven't tried to figure out when all these changes were. It's hard to, when you look back -- When I arrived at La Salle I came to, I was all set for four years. I made my decision, I had gotten in. I'm going to be here for four years. And I thought boy I have nothing to worry about for four years. And it went so rapidly. And I had one year at Notre Dame. Then I had three semesters at Penn and I was back on campus [La Salle] as faculty.

The, in those days they also had, when everybody knew each other. You know, small, the women, the wives decided that they would, they organized a Wives Club. In the army you were always, the whole world revolved around the Officers' Club. And but Con was, well I was twenty-five, and she was twenty-four when we were married. She had to drive up there for a meeting of the Wive's Club. She was petrified. [...] and I think this Jim Henry, Jim Henry was the athletic director. And we, and Jim Henry's daughter, Julie, we, she was going with this fellow, oh John, well a friend. And we would often double date. And John **Gerblowski**, well John and I got together because I had the car and John didn't have a car and he needed a car. So, we met Mrs. Henry as, you know a faculty member's wife. And we would go up there and pick up Julie to go out. So we were meeting Jim Henry and I can't think of her name, Mrs. Henry, but I can't think of her name. But it was, I think her name was Julie too. When she walked in [to the Wive's Club meeting] Jim Henry's wife, Julie's mother, came right over to Connie. Took her under her wing and introduced her to other people and when she got home she says she had a great time. But she was frightened because she was just a, literally a little kid.

And when I got on campus, I graduated '56 and I was back three years later. And (laugh) suddenly I'm on the same level with all these people that I'm always looking up to for four years. Yea that was kind of --

PK: Was it intimidating for you?

JO: Ah, yea, well the first, it was -- Well but it was such -- At first I guess it maybe was a little intimidating. But there was such a wonderful group of people. And if, well Russ Norton would have parties. The Rooney's, the Halpin's, the Courtney's, Bob Courtney and his wife. That did not last very long if there was any sense of intimidation. It disappeared very, very quickly. They accepted you as an equal.

It was kind of strange though being promoted. And actually having a hire rank than some of those people. People I had as an undergrad, some of those, a couple never made it to associate professor. A number of them never made it to full professor. So when you make it to full professor and you walk around campus talking to a faculty member that taught you composition and he was an associate professor and you were a full professor. It was kind of, that was kind of strange. That was kind of strange.

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But, and then Con became, I mean, they, those women were a great group of women. We'd have an annual retired faculty meeting in November. And you go up there and you have a great time. They, you're talking with people that you haven't talked to for a year. And you're talking to them as if nothing has changed. I mean I retired, I left in July of '99 so you know I'm out nine years. And it's as if you're still back on the campus. Going to class. Any other questions?

PK: Do you feel that your education at La Salle as an undergrad prepared you adequately for your furthering degrees at Notre Dame and at Penn?

JO: Oh, yea, [mumbles] Dennis McCarthy. I had Dennis as, for West, it was the United States and the World. It was a goofy course. That was the first course you took. And Dennis, Dennis talked so fast we called him 'machine gun'. And he would spit those facts out and you couldn't write fast enough. John **Luckosh, Cuzakowski**, oh who was the Christian Brother that taught the economics. I had Brother **Clemnsion, Clemnsion** in the English. I used to think that guy, that guy didn't walk across campus he floated. He was a big man. But he was very spiritual. He was almost a mystic. He could've easily been in the cave five hundred years ago. No, -- I had some great people. I never had any trouble no matter where I went. I, taught me how, how to do research. How to find answers to questions. How to write those things down. How to make sense of what you were putting together.

And that's what kept me in the Pentagon. I spent eighteen years there and I was given assignments that were high profile. And I was, one assignment, I gave it to Colonel **Sossi** and he read it. And said Joe come in tomorrow in your civilian clothes because we're going to go down the corridor. We went to the e-ring, the outer ring of the Pentagon, was the decision making. And we went to the Army General Council. And as we're walking down he said you tell this guy what you really think about this particular policy. And he said you're free to say anything you want. And say it as forcefully as you, as you can. So I appear before this guy Army, the chief army lawyer. And I think he was violating the law. And he was violating not only the law but the spirit of the law. Violating the rules and regulations of the United States Army. And I flat out told him. And he was incensed. Absolutely incensed. But I was not introduced, I was a captain at the time, I was not introduced as Captain O'Grady. I was introduced as Dr. O'Grady. And **Sossi** just sat through the whole thing. Whether the guy changed his opinion or not I don't know. But as we left and walked down the corridor and back to our own little hooch. He said, [...] And that ability, that cynical ability of finding out what happened and coming up with the solution that would solve that problem. And if you did it once down there, any time you were free you could go down and they'd give you an assignment and they had absolute confidence. And that's what I learned at La Salle. That you can –

I had, I went out to Notre Dame and I knew that I had only one year, cause I had two year orders. I knew I had to finish that Master's Degree in two semesters. So I had to pick a topic when I arrived. I had to do that research, write the whole thing, and have it finished in June. And I was, they gave me what they did, they said they could not, could not give me, they couldn't give me a two year or three year delay. The only thing

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they could do was delay me till the end of the fiscal year. So the old, the governments fiscal year was July 1. So they would bring me on active duty at the end of that fiscal year instead of the beginning the fiscal year. And I was due to go in September. And they brought me in then on June 30th of 1957. And on June 30th in 1957, when I reported for active duty, the Master's thesis was being typed in South Bend, Indiana. And I had to do that. Let me just, I'll be right back. I'm going to just see how long, what is our time, how is the time? (leaving the room)

PK: We are doing good. (noise: moving recorder)

JO: That thing, that thing there? An hour and twenty minutes. And we are supposed to do this for three hours?

PK: Yea (laughs).

Short break (noise: moving the recorder).

Ending time recording #1: 01:32:19 (92.36)

Resume Interview recording # 2: 00:00:00

JO: I didn't do much oral history as a professional historian. But I did a lot of interviewing work with working at the, in the Pentagon. There assignments, well the large organization like that has a tendency to forget things. I was called down one time and confronted with the fact that this particular office did not contribute to the annual report that the United States Army sends to Congress. And that was an illegal act they violated the law. And in that particular case I had to, I had to go around interviewing a lot of people to find out what was, why it occurred. And then I had to come up with – And I found, and I did a lot of that.

There was another case where I literally was in a vault inside the Pentagon. It was [ban] vault. And it was secure communications system. I was interviewing people about events that occurred, three four five years before. These people had moved on to other positions. And I found that I could communicate in that vault with any military instillation in the world. And, a lot of these people were scattered all over the world. I found that doing that kind of interviewing, trying to find out what happened, that I found I could be much more effective, much more – move faster if I had done a lot of leg work early basic research in the documents. And they told me exactly the person's I should talk to, and I knew exactly what questions I should ask. The, I'm convinced that oral history can be a functioning thing only if you are thoroughly versed in the subject itself. And most of what I did -- Allen Nevins, Allen Nevins, have you heard of that name?

PK: No

Time: 00:03:45

JO: Allen Nevins, he was the guy -- Allen Nevins was a professor of history at Columbia '30s, '40s, '50s, and he was a great biographer. He did a biography of Henry Ford and a number of -- But he was the one that started this. In my recollection, he was the one who really pushed it at the American Historical Association meetings. The oral history. He had a huge collection of oral history interviews up at Columbia. And if -- He -- I remember one meeting he was arguing that you have to become so involved in, well a biographer knows this. A biographer knows that he becomes, literally, the person that you are writing about. He became Henry Ford. And that's that same idea. That you have to become thoroughly enmeshed in the subject, the topic in order to be able to ask the right questions. But I guess I just wanted to, there's a little bit of teacher left in me.

PK: It's alright I don't mind. (Clears throat). Excuse me. I have a few questions about um, certain accomplishments that you made. Some of which you have already brushed upon. I wanted to first talk about the lecture series that you organized that later became the book, *The Immigrants [Influence on Wilson's Peace Policies]*-- It was called the Maurice Frances Egan Lectures.

JO: Yes (looking for book on shelves). Maurice Frances Egan was a graduate of La Salle. Let me see, Oh there, Rita Kiefer, La Salle College secretarial services, this is Rita Kiefer. I thought we had something in here about Maurice Frances Egan. (looking in the book). Maurice Frances Egan graduated from La Salle 1874 and ended up as American Ambassador to Denmark, I think, in the Wilson years. But,

PK: Could you tell me how you came to decide to organize this lecture series? What influenced you or motivated you?

JO: Pardon me?

PK: What influenced or motivated you to do so?

JO: Oh. Hm. This was, when was this published? Let me just try to think (paging through book).

PK: '67 I think.

JO: Yea '67, University of Kentucky Press '67. I think what happened -- Otakar Odolozilik, did the one on Czechoslovakia. And Victor Mamatey, Victor S. Mamatey. In 1963, 1963 Victor Mamatey was in -- the American Historical Association meeting was in Philadelphia. I got involved somehow as a commentator. I think it was Barany, Barany, '63. (paging). Barany did a paper -- oh the Magyars, the Hungarians. He read a paper on Hungarian-Americans, I forget what the title was. But Victor Mamatey was the chairman of the session. They had three papers and he somehow knew of my dissertation was *Irish-Americans* (cough) *Influence on Anglo-American Relations, in the 1880s*. And he came and that was published by the *New York Times*. The New York Times Company, that was published (looking at another book back on shelf). Well it's the

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[...] press, but the was the New York Times Company, and that was published in 1976. So he didn't know – I got the dissertation, I was finally accepted. We had talked about the Whitaker

and loosing it. That was in 1965, 1965 – how did Mamatey get my name? He must have known, he must have somehow found out that I was working, must have been through Whitaker. – I mean when you're doing a dissertation nobody, at least in those days, people were frightened about telling anyone what they were doing because someone is going to steal your idea! And they'll get it done first. So you have to do something else because this dissertation is, it has to be original. It has to be the first time it's been studied or if it's been studied again. So I got involved – I guess it wasn't – how the hell did I get involved in this?

The Master's thesis was an extradition treaty between, an extradition treaty signed in 1885. I went to Notre Dame, and I already told you, I knew I had to finish. I couldn't dilly dally around. And I met Tom, Tom Brown was Phelps-Rosebery. (paging through book). Tom Brown, taught American History. But he (putting book back) did a book on Irish-American Nationalism. And he did for Little Brown. So when I got there he was finishing that manuscript. I got there in September of '56, he was finishing that manuscript. I was a reader for him, I read his blue books for his undergraduate students. He also used me to do some research on this particular topic. So I knew that he was involved in this whole business. And I learned that, in the first week I was there, the very first thing he had me do I guess was to go over and look up some materials for this Irish-American Nationalism thing. Then I found out what the manuscript was and he gave it to me to read and to you know make, point (dog moving) out things that are not clear. So I knew he was involved so I asked him specifically, I told him my situation. Two year orders. I am going to report on June 30th, I will be out of circulation for two years so I can't half way through a Master's Degree, go in the Army for two years and then come back and finish. What would you suggest as a topic. And what he suggested was the Phelps-Rosebery extradition treaty of 1885, and the Irish-American Influence on the rejection of that treaty by the senate. And he felt that I could get, do all the research and get it finished in time, in two semesters. Because I would use the South Shore, there was like a trolley, the South Shore Line, that would bring you right into downtown Chicago. And I would go to the University of Chicago Library. There was a group of, he had a contact there that, where I could stay. I mean he set the whole thing up for me.

Now I, I'm assuming that Mamatey somehow must of have bumped into Tom Brown. Tom left Notre Dame two years after I finished. He left in 58. Took a job at the State Department. Worked in the State Department for ten years. I mean he was working on the [British] desk. I, somehow Victor Mamatey learned what I had done on the extradition treaty. He either learned it directly from Brown, they didn't, today you just go into the internet and punch your things in and go to Google and you can find, it's incredible what's available. It was somehow he found out about that. Victor Mamatey asked me to be on, he had three papers organized for this session for the AHA and he needed two commentators. So he asked me to, to be one of the commentators. Because I had done this business with the, with Irish-American's in the 1880s at Notre Dame. And that's where I, that's where I met Mamatey and Barany and there was another guy.

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And I think after that meeting I saw the possibility of using those people to analyze three different groups. No one person could have done this. Because you have (paging through book), you have the Germans, the Irish, the British, the Italians, the Magyars, the South Slavs, the Czechs, the Slovaks, the Carpathoruthinians, the Mid-European – oh that's Arthur May – The Jews, the Poles. No one could have done that because no one has that much language skill. You can't do the Poles, you can't do the Jews, the Czechs, the South Slavs, that which Yugoslavia would eventually become. [...] I mean just trying to, our son is married to a Hungarian. And he's trying to study, he is, he speaks French, Polish, German, Italian. I mean he, but, and he is working now in Sweden and he's studying Swedish. (clears throat).

So the idea came after that meeting at the AHA [American Historical Association]. That I could probably get a book out by contacting these people. Then I had to find out who the others would be. And I talked Dennis, Dennis McCarthy into doing British. Because they had huge propaganda machine in the United States trying to get us into the war, WWI. So we had the session I think in, [bunches of false starts] (looking in book). Well, hm, I guess what, now I see what, this was – My contribution to this first appeared in the [records of the American catholic historical society] in September 1963. So, that I had already finished, or at least that idea of the Irish-American's and Wilson. That was already in my mind when I went to the AHA meeting and met some of these people, including Mamatey. Then, I must have talked to Mamatey at that meeting and said I have a manuscript on the Irish, you, I could get Odolozilik, Barany was at the same meeting, he could do the – I guess it was there that I decided that we could put this together and get a publication. So it was in '60, that was where it began. It began, no it was – The lectures were given between '62 and '63. So it must have occurred at the same time, both at the AHA, because I did not know Victor Mamatey before that AHA meeting. I did not Barany before that meeting. So the, those people were added so the idea came before, before the meeting. But I had already done my work in '60, '61, '62. I saw the possibility of getting a publication.

That was the centennial year, '63, uh '62, '63. And instead of just having parades and dinners, we'd have an intellectual study. And I guess it was also triggered by in '62 I was promoted to assistant professor. And I knew that to get associate professor in five years I would have to come up with a major publication of some kind. That was probably what triggered it as much as anything else. But the possibility was clear when we went to that meeting and I was asked to be a commentator.

So I could get the rest of – And then when I got the manuscript together I brought it to Arthur Link. Arthur Link was the foremost student of Woodrow Wilson. Link's multi-volume study [...] plus the publication of Wilson's writings. Link did his work at Princeton. I got to know Link because I was up there working on a paper on the Irish-Americans. When I finished putting the whole thing together and I think he agreed that we could come up with something like that. When I got the whole thing together I sent it to him and asked him if he thought that it was publishable. He didn't lose it at all. And he came back, recommended that it be, wrote a very flattering letter.

So I sent those to, I talked to University of Kentucky Press. There's a guy, I can't think of his name, I wonder if it's in here (look through book). I talked to him,

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University presses are always looking for materials. I showed him, I sent him a copy of Link's letter recommending publication. And he bought it. And then came out. I think they actually made money on it. I don't know how many copies they sold but it was –

That gave me a link into a lot of other things because at that time **Lue Gerson** at Connecticut was the only one working in that field. Prior to that there's very little thought ever given to how immigrants tried to influence foreign policy. That introduced me to a number of people that I contacted when we were starting to organize the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Including, Tom Bailey. And I was on a panel with Tom Bailey. He was the chairman, no, no, no, I guess he was the chairman of that panel. Meeting him set a certain [stance], in talking to him I realized that if I could get him to accept this position of president of this organization, it would take off. He would legitimize.

The reason why I wanted to form that society was because it was getting harder and harder to get on convention panels. More and more difficult. In the old days, when there was just small little group, it was all done by word of mouth. Jobs were assigned by word of mouth. The first meeting of the American Historical Association I attended was in New York in 1959 and that was in December of my first year at La Salle. And I went up to the meeting, just to get a feel for what's going on, see how many jobs there were. And do you know that they had a blackboard, a portable blackboard with a piece of chalk and a guy would put job openings on. He put up six, six job openings teaching history in the United States that Christmas.

If you couldn't – 1958 was the National Defense Education Act when the federal government suddenly pour millions and billions of dollars into higher education. That was in response to the 1957 Sputnik launch so that any institution, any institution that opened a new PhD program in any subject the institution was given two thousand dollars (phone rings) and there national defense education grants of two thousand dollars (phone ring). So the Sputnik, the National Defense Education Act suddenly created all over the country for people. The '60s exploded. They then began, you would go to a meeting in '63 or '64 a hundred and fifty jobs listed on this sheet of paper. But the first one, there were six jobs. And the guy put them up on a blackboard. There was not one job for an American historian. So I thank God for giving me the job at La Salle. Because I would not have gotten job. I would not have gotten a job if – I wouldn't be working till '65 or '66. I mean it's amazing. Getting this [the book] out in '67 got me the promotion to associate professor. It also gave me all kinds, met all kinds of people. By the time I went up for, five years later, I had enough published and enough – I had done everything you were supposed to have done and gone forward.

And we needed that money to pay for this [house]. We brought Con's mother with us [and?], Aunt Nan. Aunt Nan lived here [this room] (dog moving). There was a wall there. She had a [colonopy] so she had to have her own bathroom with her own window for when she would irrigate. So this [house] was all tied into getting promotions. Meeting people and it was just the way things fell.

Arthur Link, I would see Arthur Link, you know, I wouldn't say we were friends but I mean we both would see each other at every convention. – As you study the Army you realize that there's always, there's always a mentor. You need a mentor, you need

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somebody that tells you how this particular group or this profession or teaching how it works. I was fortunate in meeting mentors. Mamatey. We were good friends, actually friends. See each other, we would talk in correspondence for a long time. Victor was about sixty when I got [there]. I met a lot of people. And that's where that came from. It goes back to seeing that the Irish were involved in WWI with Wilson and the self-determination business. Noticing that others were working in that field. Talking to, meeting with Victor. The conversations I had with Link. If Link had not written the letter we would probably, that would not have seen the light of day. And he was, Link was a major figure in American history. And that was his whole life, Woodrow Wilson. He published every piece of every letter, every letter to Wilson, every letter from Wilson. (dog leaving room). It's an incredible amount of work. I mean the guy was working in his eighties. That's how I think that developed. (dog drinking)

They say you have to take you have to take advantage of an opportunity. Because they don't come often, they don't come often. I tried to tell the children, look for victories. And the little victories are the best victories because they're the only ones you're going to have. Don't look for big victory (dog walking) don't look for a big promotion just take it little steps at a time and you get your victories, you get your share. (dog shaking collar). How about any others?

PK: I'm loaded with them.

JO: What?

PK: I said I'm loaded with them.

JO: Okay.

End interview transcription at 00:36:32

Interview Log by Question

(0:36:35) PK: You had mentioned that the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Could you tell me a little bit more about that? How it came to be, who was involved?

It was created because the history profession was becoming to large thus smaller groups began to organize to ensure they would be able to produce publications. First organized at AHA meeting. Goal of the society is to allow young historians to build up their resumes and get promotions due to their participation and publications. Collaborated with Alexander DeConde to found the group in 1967. He served as executive secretary to the group for eight years before leaving. Stopped active participation because already obtained full professor status. The group grew from one hundred fifty members to a national level with thousands of members. The society helped him form professional connections with other historians.

(0:49:07) PK: Are you still active in the society today? Do you attend any of the meetings?

Not currently active, didn't want to overstay his welcome. At twentieth anniversary dinner he was pleasantly surprised that he was asked to sit at the head table due to his involvement in the founding of society. He didn't attend the fiftieth anniversary because he was traveling. He isn't familiar with current members, most of those whom he knew have passed away. He is still active with history, expecting an article to be published pertaining to the Mitchell Talks in Ireland and he may return to some old unfinished manuscripts, but he does not attend many historical meetings/conferences.

(0:54:17) PK: Yes, I also learned that you were involved with what was called the Pickwick club. Could you tell me a little bit about that?

O'Grady makes a quick trip to the basement to see if he still has papers on the Pickwick club but realizes those boxes have already been placed in storage. The group was formed to stimulate intellectual thoughts on campus and to keep everyone connected. Teachers who were doing research, in all different areas of study would present their findings to the group and then there would be discussions. The meetings were held upstairs in the Union building. The meetings lasted a few years and were named after Charles Dickens' Pickwick papers. The club imitated the faculty clubs in the Ivy League schools, he compares it to the Officer's Club in the military.

(1:02:35) PK: When did it [the Pickwick Club] first begin, do you remember?

Remembers it began after the Union building and Olney Hall were built. It was trying to reunite the faculty due to the separation of departments which occurred when Olney was built. He liked participating and learning about other peoples research but due to his hectic schedule with the army and his family he stopped actively participating.

(1:05:47) PK: Ah yes, I understand that you also helped to found the faculty senate?

Before the founding of the senate the faculty was not organized. Instead the Christian Brother's made decisions without any faculty input. The faculty got tired of this and wanted to have a say in campus affairs. The idea of a faculty senate came from catholic institutions which were doing the same thing. It was a struggle to keep it going in the early years. He served as secretary and took extensive minutes and distributed them.

(1:09:03) PK: What sort of things were discussed [by the faculty senate]?

The first job given to the senate was to discuss the dress code. Many felt this wasn't a serious enough issue and O'Grady wrote up extensive minutes and distributed them to the departments. After this incident the senate could pick its own topics, mainly issues pertaining to salary. That was the first time the faculty had any input on their salaries. They also created a tenure and promotion committee. Catholic colleges especially need a faculty senate because the people in charge of administrative affairs are religious men, not always faculty. He wrote a paper on the origin of the faculty senate in which he criticized how the administration handled various issues. The paper and minutes of meetings may be in the La Salle Archives.

(1:20:08) PK: I also learned that you were chair of the history department for one term. How did you get that position?

There was an interim chair held by a Christian Brother, **Boneventure**, who was from Canada. The brother left suddenly and O'Grady was given the position by default. He served one four year term. During his term he had a disagreement with the administration, which wanted to make the position a rotation in order to ensure one person would not hold the post for too long. He disagreed with this and thought it would limit the growth of the departments. He didn't enjoy the administrative side of the job. He felt he could be more productive elsewhere. He chose his successor to be Jack [John] Rossi.

(1:26:50) PK: Do you remember any specific problems or issues that you dealt with during that time?

Typical problems. Teachers giving out too many A's. Theopolis Fair hired during this time as the Latin-American specialist. He was the first African-American hired, but O'Grady did not view this as an issue because he was desperate for a professor since the other man hired did not work out. Talks about his reputation for being a tough grader. After his term he was ready to give up the position. He was already a full professor and earning the most money possible.

(1:39:45) PK: Do you have any memorable students that stick out in your mind? I heard there was one who got a Fulbright Scholarship?

The student who received the Fulbright studied at University College in Dublin. He also started an archive class and three students went on to have successful careers as archivists. One holds a job in Philadelphia. There was also a Jewish student who became a successful lawyer. He retired when offered a buyout package and he took it. He had become discouraged at how small the lack of jobs for students in the historical field. Hence why he developed an archival class in order to make his students more marketable in the history field. Discusses students that used to visit him at his home. As the chair he would take returning students to lunch and they would discuss how well La Salle prepared them for their jobs/further education.

(1:53:39) PK: How do you think that the history department has changed over the years? In the size? In the topics that are covered/offered?

When he was in college and returned to teach La Salle offered a course called America and the World which taught students about America and Europe from the 1500s until the present. Upon returning to La Salle he commented that this course was not taught at Notre Dame and Penn he immediately recommended that this course be changed to Western Civilization. This caused the department to drastically revise the curriculum and courses offered to students. Western Civ. was made for a lower level class and other more specialized upper division courses were created in the areas of Eastern Asia, Mid Evil era, honors classes, and independent studies were offered also. However, La Salle never incorporated statistical analysis courses into the curriculum. This area of study emerged in the 1970s and gained much popularity during this time in the field of history; however, La Salle did not follow this trend and instead continued to emphasize the analysis of documents. He also served on the curriculum committee which dealt with the questions over what history courses should be required by all students. Another big change occurred in the '90s when Western Civilization was changed to Global History courses. He could see this trend emerging by the number of text books published on the subject. He also spent time teaching a few courses at Villanova, Temple, and the Philadelphia Police Academy; all of which mainly dealt with immigrant history. After these teaching experiences he appreciated the structure of La Salle compared to the organization, or lack thereof at the other institutions.

(2:17:14) PK: You have already mentioned, kind of, your thoughts on oral history. What are your opinions on other disciplines in history that have evolved over time? Other specific areas? Other fields?

He views the problem in the field of history is that everyone has such a narrow focus or field of interest. With each degree he earned he had to narrow his focus even more, though he did other projects outside his area of specialization when asked. He fears that the field will become so narrow that people will not be able to communicate their research/findings with others because no one will have a general knowledge of a certain

subject. He feels that to survive in the field historians need to become more generalists than specialists. He emphasizes the importance of global history and globalization through stories of his travels in Europe. It's important to find an area of study where an historian can get published and write and earn promotions when hired but it is vital to remember the importance of globalization. He feels that the questions of where the field of history will go is now in the hands of others, and is looking forward to retirement though he may return to some unfinished manuscripts.

(2:30:09) PK: My final question is about retirement. What is the best part about being retired? (wife enters room to prepare lunch; kitchen noises throughout last few minutes)

He enjoys the money that was saved through his time at La Salle. They [he and his wife] have financial independence and enough money to whatever they please whenever they want to. They travel often to visit their son in Sweden and their fifteen grandchildren. Now that he is moving he will have no more housing concerns which is a great freedom. He enjoys planting flowers in his spare time. He reflects that he was extremely fortunate to get the job at La Salle and forging friendships with other faculty members and historians. He also acknowledges his time in the Army and the benefits he received from that. He mentions that there are no worries, now he only concerns himself with his children. He looks forward to his move and the more freedoms that come with it.

Transcription:**Bold:** names/spellings I could not find

[] definitions, clarifying it/they, referencing books or organizations, phrases not sure of what said

[...] inaudible words

() background noises = dog moving, coughs, looking in books

-- show false starts

Sources used during transcription process:

1. La Salle University Website
 - faculty names
 - buildings on campus
2. Wikipedia.com for clarification/spelling on certain persons/things/books
 - Shibe Park
 - Pricewater House
 - Homburg hat
 - V12 Navy College Training Program
 - Winston Churchill; *The Second World War*
 - Independent Order of Odd Fellows
 - Allen Nevins
 - Phelps-Rosebery Treaty
 - Arthur Link
3. www.oah.org/pubs/nl/2007/hess.html Website for: Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. Includes names and brief history.