

Interview with James Wyer
Interviewed by Phyllis Messenger
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James Wyer	JW
Phyllis Messenger	PM
Scott Keely	SK

PM: This an interview with Jim Wyer on May 19th, 1999, at the Deephaven Village Hall.

Jim, I'm wondering if you would like to begin by telling me where you live and how long you've been a resident of Deephaven.

JW: I've lived in the Robinson's Bay Northome area all of my life. My father moved back out here I think about 1914. I came along five or six years later. We they died, I continued to live in that house, which I acquired from them. Then, I bought a piece of property over in Northome on St. Louis Bay, which was a lot more protected than the Robinson's Bay exposure. I've lived there ever since. That was in 1960.

PM: Tell me about your grandparents and how your family came to Deephaven.

JW: Father grew up over in Excelsior in what is now the Christopher Inn. That was the old Wyer property. Their lake front included the two restaurants that were there. He had a lot of friends in the area, the Savage family particularly. Mr. (Earl) Savage Senior was the owner of Dan Patch, the famous race horse. From his boyhood, dad had always wanted to come back. After he got out of college, he went to work in Red Lake Falls and he always want to come back here. Eventually, he did and bought the place on Robinson's Bay and that's where I grew up. The old Wyer House in Excelsior, was sold to the people that made the Excelsior Amusement Park about 1920 or 1921. I don't remember much about that. So that's been kind of the background.

I went to school in Groveland. In those days, Groveland was a separate, I guess it still is, school district, but it didn't have a high school. So, I was free to go to any school that I wanted to and I chose West High in Minneapolis because, strange enough, it was easier to get there than it was to Excelsior or Wayzata. When I graduated from high school, I went to college, two years at Colorado University and then, the war time came along and I had to win the war for the Allies. Upon the cessation of hostilities, I came back and finished my course at the "U" (University of Minnesota) and have been here ever since, working for Minneapolis companies or myself.

PM: Tell me a little bit more about the school at Groveland and how you got there.

JW: I know Groveland has been serving our community for (almost) 150 years. I think it goes back to the pioneer Chowen family, which Chowen's Corner comes from. When they took possession of land along Minnetonka Boulevard, they dedicated a portion of it for use as an elementary school. So that probably would have been around the middle or late 1850's. The first school was a log cabin and then, they had a frame structure that replaced that. I presume about 1910, or somewhere along there, they built what I call the new Groveland School, which is one I went to, which existed until it was removed and that was probably about the middle of the 1970's. At that time, they finished the additions that now make up the current Groveland School.

In those days, the bus service was, at best, kind of fragile. It was an old, old bus and it was very crowded. My mother, who was a nurse, regarded it as a House of Pestilence; so, consequently, her kids had to

walk to school or ride their bikes, which I did for eight years. Sometimes, in the cold weather, I'd hook a ride with my father, who worked in Minneapolis at the time.

Groveland had four double classrooms. That lasted that way until about 1930 when they had an addition put on, which included a fine gymnasium and some additional classrooms. Then, again, right after World War II, they added to it, building along, I guess they call it, School Street, which is just west of the school. Then, again, I think in the mid 1970's when they removed the old building, they added some more one story buildings.

I don't remember how many kids we had, but there were two classed in each of the four classrooms. It had no organized athletics or gymnasiums or didn't have even a Kindergarten. The first grad teaches also had to double as surrogate mothers because the kids that were in first grade, this was their first exposure to communal living. Of course, there wasn't Kindergarten and I guess day care hadn't been invented yet.

We use to walk back and forth from our house in Robinson's Bay. It was about a mile. In those days, you didn't worry too much; although, I was forbidden to take a ride from strangers or even talk to them. Usually there were other kids since there was only one bus serving the whole community, it didn't necessarily come our way first so I always had companions, to walk with. In decent weather, I rode my bike and often would come home for lunch in the spring and fall.

PM: Did all of the children from Robinson's Bay area go to Groveland or did some go to Deephaven?

JW: I don't know where the boundary is, but it was someplace over in Deephaven Park. The Borgerson boys that lived on Minnetonka Boulevard where Park Avenue intersects were Deephaven students, but, yet, the kids that lived on, say, Azure Avenue (Road) or some of the streets in Deephaven Park, as it was called, all went to Groveland. Then, Groveland went along the way to almost the Minnetonka City Hall is now. A log of the kids that lived along the lake shore did go to Blake or private schools, not all of them. Like the chap (John Burton) you just interviewed went to Blake. He would have gone to Deephaven if he'd gone to a public school.

PM: Your parents wanted you to go to a public school?

JW: Father had some strong feelings about that. My brother went to Blake, but he was very small for his age and was a very good athlete and Blake had a system of athletics for each level the kid went through. They called them A, B, and C teams and then junior varsity and varsity, so if a youngster was athletically inclined, he could play football or baseball or hockey or whatever with kids his own age. I was tall and spindly, so he didn't think that I needed that extra protection. Also, Blake was a tough school and I was lazy.

(Laughter)

PM: This would have been in the 1930's?

JW: I started Groveland, I think, I don't remember very much about it, about 1926 because I would have been the class of 1942 in collage, so that would have been about right.

PM: There was competition among various schools? Maybe you could name some of the schools.

JW: For Groveland, we had no formal teams. Herb Miller, who ran a filling station at Chowen's Corner, had just graduated from high school. I don't remember what his friendship connection was with the students in the school, but he agreed to come over and coach us, which he did in basketball. That was

the only sport that we really had...a couple of football games, I think, in my 7th and 8th grade. We played schools like Harley Hopkins, which is the school at Minnetonka Mills, and St. Joseph's Catholic School in Hopkins. I guess that was our fiercest competitor. Then, we also played against a school in Eden Prairie and one over in Glen Lake. It was unofficial and it was pretty much whoever Herb Miller could line us up with.

PM: You played Deephaven as well?

JW: No, strange enough, that's odd. Deephaven, after we had our gymnasium, used it as their home gym because Deephaven School, which was the one that was there before the war, had a gymnasium but it was substandard and you couldn't play an official game there. So, they used the Groveland floor as their home gym. Strange enough, I don't ever remember playing them. We played a lot of pick-up games with kids from Deephaven, but there was no set team and it really didn't come into being until later on when you had, in hockey and Little League, the Deephaven teams. They played Wayzata and Excelsior and all the others.

PM: You mentioned that your choice of high school was affected, in part, by the ease of getting there. Could you talk a little about that?

JW: We had transportation when I was a little boy. The streetcar went right behind our house and that went into Hopkins and then around Lake Calhoun into downtown. That was the way a lot of the people that worked in town commuted. Then, of course, as the automobiles became more prevalent, the streetcar gradually died an unhappy death. So consequently, then we had the Deephaven bus, which was run by an enterprising man. He had one bus and it ran back and forth, primarily for people that worked downtown. It didn't take care of the shoppers very well or the kids that wanted to go to school. It was much easier for me to get into Minneapolis West than it would have been to get to the high school at Excelsior or Deephaven or Wayzata. Wayzata is, I think, where I probably would have gone had it been easy to get to, but there was no transportation along the lake shore. When the streetcar was there, you could have done it by going all the way to downtown and then back out, but that didn't appeal to me. Also, West being a larger school, they had a lot of courses that I think my parents felt were better for me, like Latin and some things of that nature. I guess that wasn't as bad as it sounds, it does help with your vocabulary, but I haven't found many people that speak Latin.

PM: They thought you'd get a better education there than, say, at Deephaven High School?

JW: I think so. I did go one year to Deephaven. It was very pleasant because I went with a lot of my friends. They were kids that I was friendly with, of course, long after. Getting home was kind of difficult. You could always hitch a ride with somebody like by father or friends that were going to the office, but coming home, I'd have to wait until the business bus schedule for the people that worked downtown would go out to Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue and, then, around and out Minnetonka Boulevard, but, that wasn't until five or five thirty and our school, I think we quit at ten minutes past three. So, I'd take the Excelsior bus and get off at Vine Hill Road and walk home from Vine Hill home. We weren't allowed to hitchhike; although, there are a few times when people I knew would pick us up, but not as often as I might have liked.

PM: Did most people have cars or just one at that time?

JW: We always had two cars as long as I can remember and most of our neighbors did. I don't know whether that was general. It's probably like it is now: there are a lot of families that have three cars. They have one four-wheel drive for the winter and other two. There were quite a few of our friends, I know, that had just one car. For the most part, after the streetcar folded, of course a lot more people had a second car. There was some carpooling among the men that were going to the office. In those days, I don't know of any mother that worked, unless she was a single mother. Bill Fairman, who was one of my closest friends, lived over in Deephaven Park and his mother worked. He husband had died. She was a teacher. But, she was the only one of all my friends.

PM: Even the families who lived in Deephaven Park who, perhaps, weren't as well off as those who lived right on the lake didn't necessarily have both parents working?

JW: No, I think that was an oddity. I don't know of anyone. They might pick up an occasional job, but thinking of the kids that I played with...There was Mrs. Lane, who lived down by Williston Park. She didn't work as such, but she would be what would call a caterer now. She made angel food cakes- made very good ones- and she made them for sale. Most of the kids, when we went home after school to play, if they didn't come to my house. I'd go to theirs and their mother would be there. That's, you know, quite different now. Also, there wasn't as much attachment to the material things to make life easy as it is now. When somebody built a new house, they had a refrigerator and a stove and a washing machine and that was it- no dishwashers and trash compactors and things of that nature.

PM: Did you use the lake as transportation?

JW: When I was a kid, I had to win my first sailboat race. Father was not overly mechanically inclined. He was mechanically inclined but preferred nature and sailing. When I had my first outboard motor- I don't know how old I was then, maybe ten or eleven- that was transportation for me as a kid, along with my bike. I could have, if I'd gone to Wayzata or Excelsior High School, used the boat to get over there for two months in the spring and two months in the fall, but there still was an awkward period in between. We've always had boats ever since I can remember. I guess some of the first pictures that the family took of me when I came home from the hospital was in our big row boat or out in the sail boat. Later on, when I was living by myself, I used by motorboat whenever I could. If I went to somebody's house for dinner or was going to play tennis someplace, I'd go by boat if there was someplace that I could park. But, generally speaking, the boat wasn't transportation as such, it was for recreation. I think I still use it that way pretty much. Just to go for a boat ride. ...I can't remember when I did that, but if I go someplace- going to Excelsior for dinner, for example or Lord Fletcher's- we'd go by boat this time of year.

PM: How about celebrations and holidays when you were a kid?

JW: I don't think we had anything that would compare with the Cottagewood Fourth of July Parade. We had some special days. When we were in Groveland, we had a field day when all the kids in the school went over to the Groveland Methodist assembly grounds, which is now part of Woodland, and that, in those days, was filled with summer cottages. This would have been in May before the cottage owners would come out for the summer. The school made arrangements to use the big communal building and a lot of open space. So, we'd go over there and have games and contests and things like that.

The only kind of community event was the Fourth of July. We lived in Robinson's Bay and there were four houses along the shore and a beautiful sand beach. The four houses would get together and they sponsored what we call our Fourth of July Party. It was kind of a communal effort. I think they

charged each family that came three dollars and with that we had fireworks and the kids had firecrackers that they could use and shoot. Everyone brought a picnic lunch or a dish to eat and a dish to share. This would start about two in the afternoon and we'd have all sorts of games, both for kids and the parents. Egg tosses and some of those got to be kind or wild as I suspect that some of the parents had had a nip or two before they came. It was kind of fun. Then, there were aquatic games for the kids, diving and swimming and under water races. I think there probably would be –I never counted them; I don't think anybody did- fifty families. Then, we'd have, as I say, various athletic contests and would have a grab bag or piñata for the kids. They'd be blindfolded and swing at this bag of goodies, usually hard candy things of that nature. Then, we'd have dinner and after dinner, as soon as it got dark, we'd have the fireworks display. It was looked forward to by all the kids, except the Wyer boys weren't too excited because it was usually held mostly on our property. The next morning cleanup was a mess and father would go off to the office with a reminder that he wanted to see the yard clean when he got home. It, sometimes, took us quite a while.

I think that was the only event that I can think of probably on into the 1950's or 1960's when Deephaven used to have a Water Day down at the main beach in St. Louis Bay. There, they had games for kids, primarily. It was a kid's day. The youngsters would have swimming races. They were officiated by anybody the mayor could grab- unfortunately, I knew him pretty well. (Laughter)

PM: So, you got pretty involved in that?

JW: Not too much so, but I'd always done a lot of work with kids and it was logical. I knew most of the youngsters anyway. In those days, my nephews were coming from California and spending the summer with me, I think to give their family a little sanity and rest. They would make friends very quickly, so I very easily got to know most of the youngsters= at least in the Deephaven area. Mayor Leonard Dayton was our mayor at that time and he was a neighbor, so I was collared quite early. I can't think of any others.

We had a theater, I think, at one stage. This must have been about 1947 or 1948 and they had a community theater here. They'd put on one play a year and they had all the locals, so to speak, doing the acting and directing. I ran the refreshment stand because they thought any skinny guy was probably a safe bet. He wouldn't eat too much. (Laughter)

I don't remember what it was. It might have been a Gilbert and Sullivan. But a lot of the present people...I know Lorraine Mackinerny had a starring role and Lee Owens. Vince Carpenter was, I think, the director. He was the musician and the composer. He lived here then over on Fairhomes Lane. Those are the three, but the Cottagewood Store Fourth of July Parade has endured. That's good.

PM: Tell me about Chowen's Corners. That was where you got most of your groceries?

JW: That was the loop of Deephaven; I guess it still is now that the Cottagewood Store is more or less defunct. I shouldn't say that. There will be howls of protest, I'm sure. Chowen's Corner when I grew up, was kind of the commercial center for least the people lived in Deephaven Park. We had a grocery store and a filling station.

(Break in the interview)

PM: We were talking about Chowen's Corner. Tell me about all the places there and which ones you when to.

JW: When I was very small, I guess about the time I started school, there were just two buildings. One was Lehman's Grocery Store and the other one was Henry Mason's General Garage. They were on the Corner. The garage faced on Northome Boulevard. The Lehman's Store had been originally part of the complex, the sawmill, which is now Burwell House in Minnetonka Mills. It was moved to its location at Chowen's Corner. I don't know when, probably after World War I. I think the first owner was a Mr. Ute. Then, the Lehman's, along about 1925, bought it and they operated it until the war. It was only place around that we could get groceries unless you went into town or, of course, to Wayzata or Excelsior. Instead of being the supermarket that we use today, it was a typical old fashioned store. It had employees at were right by the phone and in the morning, the housewife would call her order and would be guided in the selection by... Mother's favorite at the store was a guy named Ed, who was kind of crippled. He really knew produce. Every morning Mr. Lehman would go into the market in Minneapolis and pick up fresh vegetables and things like that. So, between the housewife and Mrs. Lehman or Ed or one of the other employees they had, they would determine what was going to be delivered that afternoon. They had a truck that made deliveries by two o'clock.

Then, occasionally, in our own case, mother would go to town and she would do some grocery shopping at Hove's, which is the predecessor the current Lund's markets. Mr. Lund worked for Hove. There you would get some things that of course you'd never get out here, like persimmons, which was a great favorite in our family. Otherwise, that was the way we were provisioned.

Then, we had a garden in our property and in the summer, we had a lot of fresh vegetables. Some of them mother canned. She had a lady that worked for us; her name was Sadie. She was a Scandinavian and she was a wizard when it came to canning and putting things up, so we had brandied peaches and we had tomato juice that didn't stop and all sorts of things were the bounty of our garden.

There were other people around the village in the summer, like the Board family who lived right across from the St. Therese Convent, who had a truck gardens. Mrs. Wilson, who lived right across from the old Deephaven High School, had apples and all sorts of fruit in season. Most of the people around the village had their own favorite suppliers of that kind of produce. Ted Rapley had a very fine meat market. He used to work in the Lehman's Store and, eventually, he wound up in the old Schroeder building at Chowen's Corner, which was a dairy distribution center.

Then, as I say, as more cars appeared, so did more filling stations. The Lehmans, used to have one old gas pump. You've probably seen pictures of them. You pumped the gas up into a reservoir. I think the reservoir held twelve gallons. The, the hose came from the reservoir and you could stop anywhere you wanted to. Then, Buster Timmers came along right across the street for the Lehman's Store. He had the first filling station. I think it was the Sterling Oil Company. It had a little shelter and an open grease pit where he did the work on servicing automobiles. Eventually, he moved up the street toward towards St. Therese Church and built a Pure Oil Station. Parts of it now remain as the One More Time. It's a used toy center.

Of Course, with the repeal of the 18th Amendment, we had a couple of taverns: The Log Cabin Inn and the Deephaven Diner. They were very popular and the younger set. I must confess that I knew what the insides looked like- as a matter of fact, probably too well. (Laughter)

That was pretty much downtown Deephaven. Then, of course, after the war, things changed. A hardware store came in, which is now a dry cleaner's shop. Then, it was moved next door to a little strip mall that we have. The Peterson Shoe Store came and eventually, the kind of mall right across the street from where the shoe store was. That was our commercial Deephaven- not enough to give us much tax relief, but we really didn't need it in those days. I can remember- I think probably as late as 1942, our property tax wasn't more than 75 dollars. (Laughter)

PM: It's gone up a bit.

JW: In my own house, which I built in 1960, my current real estate tax is about 23 times what it was the first year that I built it and it was a comfortable four figure then; so, things have changed-but I didn't have white hair then either.

PM: Did most of the folks who ran these businesses live in the community as well?

JW: The Lehman's who had the store lived right above it. That was very convenient because if there was a question as to price or quality, they could always holler upstairs. It has a central heating plant downstairs with a big grate in the floor on the first floor and then above it was another grate that heated the second floor. Henry Mason who had Mason's Garage lived right next store in a house that built and then his father had a couple of houses next door to that. Buster Timmers live over in Deephaven Park and his house is still there. The Log Cabin Inn was run by various people. The Peterson boys had it for a while and their father had the ice business and also the current Browning-Ferris (Industries). He pick up garbage. He also made ice cream. The Deephaven Diner was run by Lory Rapp and his wife, Shirley, and they lived over in Deephaven Park. So, most of the people that serviced the area with the needs, the people that did common labor and had the snow plow and things like that, all lived in Deephaven. In the case of Cottagewood, the Gustafson's were over here and they lived here. So, there wasn't much commuting for those people.

PM: How about Sadie who worked for your family?

JW: Sadie was a Norwegian. I think she was with us three or four years when I was very young. As a matter of fact, I spoke Norwegian before I spoke English – well, at the same time. I couldn't recognize it today if I heard it. A lot of people like Sadie came over from the old country and it was a good way to get adjusted to a new world. You provided, of course, food and shelter for them and they had a day off or two, I guess twice a week. Most of the people had help, most of my friends. Obviously, there were a lot of people who didn't, but we were lucky.

PM: Tell me a little bit about your career. I know you were in the military during World War II.

JW: There are people that laugh at that, but, yes. I covered my education a little while ago and after I graduated from the University of Minnesota, I worked for General Mills briefly and, then, decided I didn't want to become part of a large corporation, which was a wise decision. I became a sales representative for the Winton Company, which manufactured lumber and plywood and wooden moldings and things of that nature. The Wintons were Deephaven residents. They both had homes there and stayed there until their deaths. They eventually sold their lumber interests to a company in California and I had a choice of staying here and finding new employment or else moving out with the new owner and I wasn't very excited about that; so I eventually went into partnership with a friend and formed a company that did marketing and primarily promotional activities, not in the sense of a pencil like this with your name on it but planning promotions for companies like General Foods and General Mills and Coca Cola and Sara Lee. We had a pretty good client list. Most of our clients were not Minneapolis people, but we did do a lot of work for Pillsbury and 3M. It was communication work. We not only planned the promotions for them but we provided the materials. We didn't do the actual promoting, that was for their own sale people. It was a small company and very flexible and that was, I think, the secret of our success because we could move faster than a large corporation. We had, I think, a total payroll of about 30 people. Then, we had a distribution center where we had a lot of part-time help, but wouldn't count that as our regular employees. It was interesting business because it gave you an insight into a whole lot of different companies and different types of work. With 3M, we worked with

their Magnetic Tape Division and also the division that made the surgical tapes and, like, adhesive tape. Sara Lee took care of our dessert. We did all the marketing for the Doe Company, which is Castle and Cook, but that's the Dole pineapple. We helped them change their identity when they started to go into the banana business. We felt that it would be wise rather than to have a name like Chiquita, which was one of their competitors, to use the Dole name because everybody knew about Dole pineapple. It was fun. You learned a lot. It was feast or famine. Either you were making more money than you know what to do with or else the people that weren't going to pay you weren't even buying.

PM: You were able to keep this business going and thriving and stay in Deephaven where you wanted too...?

JW: Yes, our office was in St. Louis Park and it was a nice easy commute. I had two partners. One of them lived in Golden Valley and other in Edina. It was easy for us because we were all...You have to be a gamble, I guess, to be in that kind of business. In the long run, the bad days were offset by the good days. It was a prosperous company. I sold by share to my partner and, then, he retired about a year after I did and sold it to two other gentlemen. It's still running, but under a different name. Their focus is a little different than ours. They wanted to be more in the advertising end of it. We were structured like an advertising agency, but we didn't do any media work or consumer advertising though.

PM: What was the business called when you owned it?

JW: It was Robert Meyer and Associates. Bob was my partner and he had the most stock of the three of us that owned it. He was a very able marketer and he thought well on his feet. He was a born salesman, so I figured he'd be a good partner. I don't know what he thought of me. (Laughter)

PM: You've been very active in lots of things around Deephaven. You talked about working with kids and you've also been on some committees and so forth. Could you talk a little about that?

JW: I avoid elective office like the plague and have never considered it and I think I would be wretched at it because I'm not very good at hand pumping and, of course, politics is filled with that. But, I have tried to help where I could. Leonard Dayton, who was by neighbor, kept me busy with various little projects, informational type things. He gave me the assignment of figuring out how to solve the beach problem we had in Deephaven. This goes back to right after World War II and even before that: You'd go down to the main beach at Deephaven and you couldn't find a place to park because all of the cars that were in the parking area and all of the people on the swimming beach had Hopkins addresses. The first thing we did is we had license check to see where these cars were coming from. Then, we eventually came up with a sticker. I had a committee that I worked with and we did this jointly. It was the starting of the little stickers that we still get. You can park within walking distance of the beach. The people in the surrounding communities like the western part of Minnetonka, we didn't shut them out. They can buy a sticker- I think they still can. It used to be ten dollars. I would hope it's more than that now.

We had a big problem because we had no buoy system in St. Louis Bay or down by Carson's Bay. Anybody of his right mind could come out and throw a buoy in and it got to be a real nuisance; so, the city attorney determined what legal right we had to control it and we did. Again, Dayton got me to work and we laid out an anchorage system for the city, which is still used. That kind of stuff is the way they put me to work.

I had a very definitely unofficial arrangement with Ray Sullivan, who used to be our chief of police. He used to sic me on a lot of kids that were on borderline cases of, he used to say, "either being a good kid or turning hood." I guess turning hood... you remember that title. In those times, my nephews

were out here in the summer and they would bring home kids that I had never met and, then when they went back to California, these kids would keep coming over because I had all the toys that they liked to play with, like go carts and boats and water skis and things like that. I have a lot of respect for Ray's intuitive nature because he realized that a lot of the kids had bad companions or poor supervision and he knew that if he could get them over on my property that they would, at least, be supervised and there would be something for them to do and they would probably be mixing with other kids that he felt were safe. So, I did a lot of work with kids that way, but none of it official. Also- I was kind of selfish because I'm basically lazy- I always had a great supply of kids that wanted to work. I paid well. I also had a lot of stuff I didn't want to do myself... I miss the kids. Now, they try to hire me.

The nature of the community has changed a great deal. It used to be a blue collar community with just a fringe of white collars. Now, it is just the opposite. It's a very affluent community. All you have to do is go over to the supermarkets or the shopping centers and take a look at the cars you see there. There are more Lexus or Audis than there are Fords or Chevrolets. When I was young, if you had a Buick... Well, you didn't know anybody that had a Buick or if you did, it was damned few people.

PM: How do you think that change had changed how people live on the lake itself?

JW: Deephaven used to be a neighborhood and now it's a residential area and a good one and it was a good neighborhood. But, the people that lived on the lake used to use the lake. I can remember when I lived in Robinson's Bay and I would go over to the Minnetonka Yacht Club where we'd sail from the in the *Putt-Putt*, there would be a sailboat in front of everybody's dock and probably a half a dozen kids on the dock. Now, with lake shore footage- I suppose it's hard to put a price on it, but it is somewhere between \$4000 and \$7000 a front foot- families who can afford that kind of property, for the most part, don't have a lot of kids. They may have grandchildren, but they're not around. The sailboats are all gone and there are motor boats there, but they aren't used very often. It's changed quite a bit.

(Break in interview.)

JW: I might have been in the middle of a sentence and I'd hate to be accused of ...

(Laughter)

SK: I was wondering what it is about Deephaven...Obviously, you're fond of Deephaven.

JW: It's getting back to what I was saying just before the interruption of the water truck. The fact that the areas here, Cottagewood, Deephaven, and I'm sure it's true in Wayzata and Excelsior, are all changing...materialistic. Maybe yes, and more of a residential area than the community neighborhood that it used to be. Deephaven, I think is unique. I'm sure every town you go to is unique. For some reason, I think it's the fact that most of the people are here because of the ambience and the lake and whether they use it they look at the fact that we have very good schools and the fact that we still have some open space. You drive along and you don't see textured lawn after textured lawn. You see the ferns under the trees, like the road over to Highway 101, Ridgewood Road, is very picturesque. Though there are houses there, their ribs aren't hurting my elbows. I think that coupled with the fact that people have taken a pride in the community. I don't see as much of that as I did before. I think Deephaven's vibrant background comes from the fact that it has had a very good cross section. It has some very, very wealthy people, like Mrs. (Walter) Douglas, who used to drive around the village in a Rolls Royce with a chauffeur and a footman. You have a lot of people that are not materially blessed at all.

People have always been willing to pitch in and run for elective office and, now, we have a lot of people that would make very good mayors- not that we don't have one. You mentioned the fact that you live out here, you play out here, but what are you giving back to the community? Nothing. I think that that is a change in basic philosophy. I know that when I was little you could always tell when election was coming because people would come over to talk to father always two at a time: some one that knew him and the candidate for office. Now, the only way you find out who is running is if you look in the suburban Sun papers, the *Minnetonka Sun*, and they give you the profiles. You don't know the people and, as you pointed out a few minutes ago, I used to know almost everybody by name or at least by face or if not that, where they lived. Now, there are just too many people. Also, we're in a fluid state because the people from Wayzata are going through Deephaven to get to Excelsior and vice versa. It used to be when transportation was streetcars and buses that that didn't happen so much.

SK: Do you remember a lot of things from the 1930's?

JW: Quite a few.

SK: Do you remember- I don't know why I'm interested in this- were the roads paved?

JW: We had paved roads- not all of them. The Robinson's Bay Road, which I lived on ... I can remember coming home from school in the third, fourth grade in the spring and the waster would be running down the gravel road and I would dam it up and generally get my feet wet and my mother mad. The road from our house to, say, Groveland School- I used to walk that every morning or everyday at least for eight years- was always paved. Depending upon the number of houses... for example, there were places in Deephaven over here by Hooper Lake and in the area...Amesbury was just on big tract of land and some of the roads that serviced such communities probably weren't paved. I think by the middle 1930's most of them were. But up until 1930, it was iffy. I can remember a lot of them. I can remember when you could slide on any road you wanted to in the winter because they didn't use sand. Then, of course, the sand and a Flexible Flyer don't go very well together. I would imagine probably 1930 would be a good cut off point. By that time, I think we were pretty well paved.

SK: they didn't have any appreciable horse traffic that you can remember, did they?

JW: No, there were a couple of farms in the area. The Thorpe Farm, which is now Thorpe Park over in Deephaven, had horses; but, for the most part, we didn't have a manure patrol or anything like that. There would be horses. Several places people boarded horses over off 101 and people would ride and they'd come over. I can remember when we were over at the yacht club sailing, every so often you'd see horses over at the swimming beach.

SK: Christmases? Did people go in sleigh rides our here?

JW: The Hanus farm which was the Hanus Bus Company over on Williston Road, used to have sleighs. People that had kid parties in the winter quite often had sleigh rides. Gradually, they became hay rides because the sleighs where wheeled. I think when the Hanus people started to close their farm down- they were the last ones that I can remember- them, you would have to go way out down towards the river or over beyond Excelsior to get a sleigh ride.