

Interview with Dr. Richard O'Dell  
Marquette, MI  
May 11, 1988

#### START OF INTERVIEW

Interviewer (INT): It is May 11, 1988, this is an interview with Richard O'Dell, Professor Emeritus, from the History Department; interviewer is Steven Brisson.

Richard O'Dell (RO): The first thing I would like to find out is that I am well aware that reminiscence are the least reliable of historical resources. And so anyone who listens to this tape should recognize the fallibility of memories especially over a 30 year or more span – 30 or 40 year span. I came to Northern in 1949 primarily because this was the best job available and in the post war period. I had just finished a year of post doctoral, post doctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan and on my advice at the end at the University of Michigan that this would be a good place for me to spend a couple of years and then move on, as I published and became a little better known in the state and hopefully in the profession outside of the state. I was interviewed here in the spring of '49 and without realizing it, stumbled into a centennial celebration, Marquette had been established since 1849 and here I soon found myself in what would be quoted as man to males of \_\_\_\_\_ species. Sporting check lumber jack shirts and beards and my word, this really struck me as frontier atmosphere. So I must confess it seemed to me I didn't want, between my ignorance and on the other hand I could hardly believe in modern American society that people were living like this anywhere in the country. I kept my own counsel and \_\_\_\_\_ to mind that someone did speak up and tell me this was a centennial celebration so the next time after the celebration was over, after July when I showed up for work in the fall, that a lot of people would have quite a different appearance. So they, my first impression was something of a startling one, on the other hand, Marquette had struck me as a beautiful small town. And I came in to by railroad from the east and I had this nice view of the harbor coming in the train was slow and gave a nice \_\_\_\_\_, provided a nice \_\_\_\_\_. So I felt good about the atmosphere here, the curious thing is that Marquette over the last 40 years has given the impression to people and certainly to me that have been here, as being much larger than it is. When we came to Marquette County, according to the 1950 census, Marquette had a population of 47,600. That has increased to 74,000, so in the county we have had an increase of about 55.5%. The city on the other hand was 17,200 in 1950 and it is up now to only 23,200, an increase of about 28.2%. And I have thought a good deal about why it seems that not just the county but the city is so much larger and it seems to me the only explanation is that we have highways now, we have far more cars, there were people in town who didn't have cars, in fact the rail would be only street cars, they were removed only about 10 years before we came up here. And one family, I mean only one car family was standard, but now of course we have vans, mini-buses, all sorts of \_\_\_\_\_. Of course school buses are much more visible now than they were in, I believe that Marquette School had about two buses when we came, now they have a fleet of 36. So if everything grows in that proportion I can understand how we have a \_\_\_\_\_ of something much larger. The hospital too has grown and the medical facilities have just skyrocketed. When we came we had just one small unit that has been overshadowed now by all the buildings and multi-story, Marquette General Hospital complex. And among the other units around it they, but I don't believe there were more than a dozen physicians in town at the time, now we have well over a hundred and \_\_\_\_\_ have a whole gamut of services. The same is true with the legal profession.

There was not anything near the number of lawyers we have today. But it is of course in line with the national trends and that is not all together reassuring, to think that we have such a \_\_\_\_\_ to society. As we have. Well this is, I am just suggesting that these things are cushions you might say to my remarks as they apply to Marquette. To back up a little though, I came of course within a few years after the close of the second World War and at that time we were still tremendously excited about the impact of the bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. And yet there was a great deal of hope with the institution of the Marshall Plan and the reconstruction of Europe and then McCarthy administration in large passed. There was a feeling that the United States was leading the way into economically, a general recover of the world. The most devastated experience of course that was recorded in history, maybe not \_\_\_\_\_ questionably so because anybody that dies in a battle I am sure that they have been through total war and those that survived had not so you have to keep these things in perspective. But never the less when you take the sum total it was a great, great, great, experience, a great catastrophe.

There is another point to keep in mind is that is that when in 1950 the population of the world was perhaps a billion and a half, no \_\_\_\_\_ I shouldn't venture to figure that I thought that I could pull that one but I cant. At any rate, I know since we have been here the population of the world has or of this country has doubled. We have a pressure on resources that we certainly didn't feel. So when you put all these things together and here we were on one of the last frontiers of the United States, except for Alaska you can start to visualize the congestion that the modern society has experienced in a relatively short period of time. And then when you put the anxieties that were caused by the discovery and application of thermonuclear weapons together with the very rapid industrialization and the unprecedented post-war prosperity that this country and the world enjoyed over the last 30 years again in a proportional way. Certainly the Third World you have people that have not shared in these benefits. But when you consider this great burst of industrial activity and the growth of all nations and the complexity and instruction of modern life should put those on the floor. But when complexity and instruction of modern life are taken into account there is no wonder that we have this feeling of uneasiness that is different from the course is a reminiscing about the good ole' days and that to pick out those things were most satisfying to remember. But in many respects they where terrible ole' days I have a very clear recollection of the Depression as I experienced it downstate in Lansing and of the fact that there was no cushions. Families were drawn together necessarily because people had to rely on family groups or more or less upon each other or they had to rely upon their association with churches or with the community. Things were at a very simple and intimate basis but of course in a reverse coin of that there were a lot of household tensions too. So what we see fought out on a grand scale by unions and management came down to a personal disputes between the operator of the corner grocer and his or her one employee. And in the home between husband and wife and child, there was a lot of child abuse I am sure which was never recognized or regarded as such. Spankings were relatively frequent. I realize that I am regressing here. What I wanted to say next, we lost a great deal of integration of our economy, we lost a lot of our political integration, governmental integration accompanied by a lot of social disintegration, the fragmentation of the family, of society; and so it's as though society as such is trying to struggle for an equilibrium, the maintenance of an equilibrium. You gain in some fields and you lose in others and on balance it is hard to say whether people are happier today then they were 50 years ago or whether we have simply shifted distresses to physical stress. The mental stress that occurred within the families to a more pervasive malaise that affects his psychology throughout. In a way it helps us to understand each other rather then we might otherwise we being forced through television in a rapid transportation to understand each other almost subconsciously we get this information as we simply get visual and audio impressions of each almost instantaneously from so many portions of the globe.

In 1949 then when I came to Northern, the world was toying by self-doubt, anxiety about where our species in general was going to be heading because of the newly discovered potentiality for self-

destruction that had come suddenly upon us and on the other hand with the hope that we would still \_\_\_\_ that prospect of the American Dream of human happiness and brotherliness through the satisfaction of material wants might still be achievable. There was this heavy reliance on prosperity to reduce tensions and hostility and to enable to more congenially together. We had the hope that the Marshall Plan for example and the United Nations was expected to develop in least in some quarters would leap beyond the failures of the old League of Nations and really establish a basis for global peace and understanding. In lying with this we can see some conflicting terms in the educational sense. I came a year or two after the issuing of the famous Harvard Report: General Education in a Free Society by James Bryant Coleman. Others were very interested in developing a holistic view of life and they were thinking against the background of \_\_\_\_ world concept and the idea that they would have to live amicably together and to not so much to share the wealth we had in this country but to enable to help other people to gain their standard of living up to American standard. I believe that was the ideal of many thinkers of that age both in Europe and this country. There was this feeling of hope and it would be achieved by building on the old liberal arts division and of course Northern had a liberal arts division this was a very good teachers college. It had a fine reputation at least in the state, it was a small school there were only 1,422 students here I believe when I came. It was hardly more than a large high school as far as the numbers were concerned. As far as the campus was concerned we didn't have much more in the way of structure, in physical structure than a fairly large high school would have. We did have dormitories and all that and an auditorium that many schools at that time did not have. We had ivy covered walls which many high schools had and some architects and other ivy people who worked on the building, John \_\_\_\_ didn't really like them, did their best to get rid of them as soon as possible because they ate into the fabric or into the stoneware. But Northern was a small integrated community, academic community and people all knew each other. The faculty not only knew everybody but we knew each others wives, husbands, their children and it was in that since an enlarged family and the students were certainly better known to use individually as a student body well I shouldn't say individually, but as a student body the students were better known to us then they are now. So there was some prospect here for building on that.

INT: Were you set off from the community were you cut off in any way from the city of Marquette?

RO: Oh the cold town and \_\_\_\_\_. Yes, that is a good question to ask. When came we had been told that Marquette was a cold community. There was quite a separation here. We would soon find that to be true. In our case it turned out to be quite the opposite for one thing we had on our faculty homes and \_\_\_\_\_ in our mathematics department people that were very active in the community and were department people that were very active in the community and were accepted, we had others that had those connections. Moreover, we were fortunate that we were greeted by some other young people that came in different occupations and professions after the Second World War. Lawyers, doctors, dentists who were as young as we were and yet they had put their roots down in town and so they had a welcome wagon and some of our predecessors had already formed so when we came we were integrated with some of the younger people into a subculture you know in Marquette. As that happened we found out that we were welcomed into what ever part of the community that we felt comfortable in going or wanted to go.

The business people were always congenial as far as we were concerned. We had our banking connection with First National Bank and E.L. Pierce was president of it and he was regarded as a very formidable man in many quarters but for some reason or other I found him quite approachable. He did us a number of personal kindnesses that some people thought were very uncharacteristic. So we didn't feel that but there were people that had that feeling and I guess persisted and it exists today maybe there is a greater feeling of cleavage now than there was then. I don't know because I am not prepared

to say because if there is one I suppose I more identify with the community than I am with Northern after begin retired for 13 years and so it will be 14 years before too long (retired 1974). I had very little contact with Northern except through the library since I retired but the thing there that I want to emphasize here is that we did have a small, congenial faculty and we could become very angry at each other. The \_\_\_\_\_ took the lead in building on this Harvard Report to entertain faculty people 15 or 18 or us in their homes every two weeks for better than the year. We formed a voluntary curriculum study committee looking towards some kind of common learning program. We had the old distribution requirement for graduation and those I guess still exist in some obscure fashion. We were looking towards something on the model \_\_\_\_\_ standards with the basic college of Michigan State and hoping that it was possible to maintain a broad view in the presentation of subjects in the basic areas of the arts and sciences, literature, and mathematics as well. When we failed as we did, our failure was just part of the trip we went through the cycle of the Harvard trail. I think every institution has failed to maintain or that academic cohesion that was the ideal in the late 40's early 50's. I might add it was also reinforced for a time by the Great Books emphasis that came out of Chicago under the leadership of Robert Maynard Hutchins. That was another track of building curriculum around books as contrasted with around concepts and the reconstruction of the curriculum around concepts and facts that could be distilled from the great body of human experience. Those things had all receded and that \_\_\_\_\_ as far as we were concerned we were unable to do that. Until we got into the four course plan that was introduced later on which was more or less superimposed and which has not as far as I understand it has not achieved what it was originally designed to do.

Well this was the background, we would have vigorous debates, we would shout at each other, sometimes over ideas that we had. We would have people shout at each other and it was a national, professional organization in history and so it isn't hard to realize coming out of the Depression background that I would like to think that the people in the academic profession a lot less \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ self-interest than people in the business community. The academic community, the members of the academic profession a lot less \_\_\_\_\_ self-interest than people in the business community. The academic community, the members of the academic community have had very ... every bit as much invested interest in their stock of ideas as the groceries have had in their canned goods on the shelf and they guarded them just as jealously and they wanted to get a good price for them as they can.

Well coming back to this family spirit up here. I was very much impressed by the people that I met here. Of course the first man that I met or one of the first was the president. President Henry Tape. President Tape was the head of this institution from 1940, I guess I mentioned this, '42-'56; he was about half way through his administration at that time. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan, had a PhD in education, I believe from Columbia, least I assume that if he got the same thing, from Columbia, that is to follow, that is something that might be checked. And he was one of the kindest men I ever met. He, as far as his education philosophy, was concerned probably came out of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. And he seemed in conversation with me, he gave me the distinct impression that he was never so happy as he had been as the principal at Lincoln Laboratory School at Eastern. He enjoyed that experience. I believe his tendency was to carry over that materialistic feeling that a high school principal has into the presidency of Northern. I remember particularly a statement that Martha Laurion made to me some years later about she had preceded me on the faculty by a year or two and talked grammatics and speech grammatics. Miss Jane S. Bemis at the time said that at the end of her first year she had directed some plays and had been quite visible in her work of course, President Tape called her into the office and complimented her and said he was pleased to offer a renewal of her contract for the coming year and said that I know your mother will be pleased that you are doing so well. That she thought was a superb compliment. She could of done without. If I recall correctly Miss Bemis had come through the war in the Marine Corps herself. Head felt that any ties with had not been severed certainly she had a good relationship with her mother, I had no doubt. But it was a little different from maybe

when he was 20 years old. But that gives you a little clue as to President Tape. But he was a man I always felt comfortable with in his office. I had the feeling whenever I talked with him about a problem he was looking through it as far as possible through my eyes as well as his own. I think that spirit carried through, his problem was that he was very cautious with his relations with the State Legislature. We really were getting by on a shoe string; my recollection was that our general fund appropriation from the state was running about \$800,000 a year for the whole operation. And I remember he came back from a session in Lansing one time and confided in me with considerable satisfaction that the chairman of the senate appropriations committee after a rather difficult term, took him aside and said Henry don't ever worry about your budget request, we know that you never ask for anymore money than you need and we all know that, don't worry that we were going to tear down your requests. My recollection was I left that session thinking that yes I am sure he had the situation sized up, well the difficulty was he never asked for nearly enough that was needed. Well to move from President Tape, to who was a real gentleman, to move on to other members of the faculty who also were gentlemen, I think of Don Bottum, the Dean of Men at that particular \_\_\_\_\_. Mr. Bottum was in charge of housing, when I came up we wanted to rent a house, my wife and two children and so he took us around personally to visit some houses. And so he took us around personally to visit some houses. And to size them up for what would be satisfactory for us. And I was most impressed with the fact he knew all these people who were renting, known them for years probably, and before we went in he would give us a little idea of the house we were going to see and point out both its good points and its less desirable points. And then we would have a nice amicable conversation and then after we left he would say well now \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know if this is quite what you are looking for. Because there wasn't enough closet space or something like that. But otherwise this would be fine. And he was able to maintain that fairness, pointing out both good qualities and less desirable qualities without offending anybody. He had himself so well established in the community you might disagree with him, but then as to his appraisals but you would never question his sense of fairness from his standpoint. I remember this, that he was our representative on college day in the various communities of the Upper Peninsula. Go into the high schools all over the U.P. and talked to students, seniors in the high school, about future prospects whether they wanted to go to school. And he mentioned to me one time perhaps I don't belong to this \_\_\_\_\_. When I sit down with students I try to find out what his ambitions are, if he has made a vocational choice. And if he is interested in becoming a dentist or may suggest if he has the resources for maybe he would like to consider northwest or another might want to, if from the Copper Country, could do no better than going to Michigan Tech. If he had interest but then on the other hand if he were into teaching by all means, but I like to think we get our share. And it seems to me that, that \_\_\_\_\_ the reputation for integrity that it is very important for us. Then there was our department chair Dr. Albert Burrows, he was also director of graduate instruction, and again a very kindly man, who gave me the impression always that he was trying to look at things through my eyes as well as his own. He was also an ordained minister and I believe his religious convictions, they were very liberal, nevertheless had an influence on his life and conduct. He used to have in the graduate that luncheons we had during the summer, we had \_\_\_\_\_ good we had to \_\_\_\_\_ good, he would make some comments each Tuesday we met, and I remember one he was always very careful to treat everybody gently, he made one for him that was quite a critical remark about some educator in New York State he had run across, he was quite sharp in his criticism and so sharp he was a little taken aback himself, so he stopped and stared into his face a moment, and said I didn't mean that try to erase it from your memory. And then he paused again and stared a little longer and said, "Yes I did too." He was a \_\_\_\_\_ man too to have as a department head, he did very well in holding sociologists and historians together under one blanket. Because I have been used at the University of Michigan to find that, even there were personal friendships among the sociologists and the historians, as a group the historians had very little use for sociologists in that day and age, I presume it has changed greatly over the years; but at least at that time. I don't know if it has

changed at University of Michigan though I think it was, certainly have had a easier relationship here by understanding or have understood until 1974. The man to whom I was closest was Harry Ebersole, we were office mates until his retirement, he and Mrs. Ebersole had one son, Byron who had an interesting experience as president of his class at \_\_\_\_\_ Smithmore college, at the time he was in his junior year and his academic was interrupted by the second war and he went into the service and came back and he was elected class president again after his return. Both of the Ebersoles were very gentle people and very precise in there thinking and he carried a vicious load, I taught American History courses and Political Science courses, and Mr. Ebersole dealt with the rest of the climate. And that meant quite a bit to deal with. He had some relief, because a French teacher Flora Louber, Mrs. Ribber, spent part time with us teaching basic courses, Western Civilization. But otherwise he taught English History, Hispanic American History, European History from then to now and Russian History and how he managed to do that and do that to the satisfaction of so many of the students I will never know. He was very well liked and very well regarded by his students. They were very close friends of ours and we visited them down in Black Mountain where they retired down, our last visit with them was in 1975 a few years before they, I believe Harry Ebersole died at age 94, and his wife was close to that. There is one advantage to a faculty if you can look ahead of yourself there is comfort in the fact that these people lived to such a great age. Mr. Bottum is still alive, McClellan is, C.B Hedgecock died a few years ago at the age of 98 or 99. Tussel Thomas and Helen Thomas died a month or so ago in their 90's and it is nice to know with luck a couple can in my age and my wives maybe have 20 to 30 years left. We probably won't make it. It is nice to think that. Well also among our closest friends were the Forest Roberts and the Halversons, Lynn A. Halverson was head of the Geography department for many years. His favorite expression tells a lot about him as an individual. It was, "what do you know for sure?" He was always \_\_\_\_\_ the fact with good reason that people were losing tract of the geographical norms and now some 25 years later we are realizing just how far we have come from, he could see that in his own day. Russell Thomas was the head of the English department. He was a very precise man in his field too. I am jumping ahead of the story beyond the Tape Administration into the period when I to was a department head and I was sitting in meetings with Dr. Thomas and Dr. Halverson. I remember we were growing just fast enough that we lost this informality of getting our exams run off or eve going into the secretaries and running them off ourselves on the ditto machine. And we were told that we would have to submit them to a secretary a day or two in advance. And then we could get them processed. Well that wasn't satisfactory to him especially when it was learned that some of the secretaries had boyfriends in the student body and there was a certain seepage of certain information. So it was addressed at one department head meeting and Thomas rather stiffly I think said "Well I have a fool proof system, I wait until I know that the secretary is going to be scheduled to run off my exam and only then do I take off the master copy. I type up my master copy as I used to bring them in and I stand right there while she is running them off. And then if there are any defective extra sheets I pick them up too. I take everything home with me to keep them home overnight. I go into my class the next morning and give the examination. In that way only God and I know what is in those exams." And Halverson popped right in and said, "I knew there was a weak spot somewhere," which caused everybody to laugh, including Thomas. That gives you a better understanding of the relationship between the two men. There was a certain rivalry between them, they were good friends. They enjoyed ribbing each other a little bit. But there was that, sort of, give and take that when in on informal basis, we had a very good working relationship with the University of Michigan. When I came up, I came as an associate member of the University of Michigan faculty not because I got any money from the university but because I was certified to teach in the graduate program and the arrangement which occurred pretty well across the border was that if a student enrolled for a graduate program at Northern, it was possible for that student to take 18 of the required 24 hours in History, say in Saturday classes here or even classes offered during the week for junior and senior graduate students only, lecture discussion classes and

then to go down after an accumulation of 18 semester hours to do down to the University of Michigan for two seminar courses taken simultaneously in one summer and then receive a master's degree from the University of Michigan. Three-fourths of the work done at Northern, one Fourth at the University of Michigan and the degree did not bare Northern name at all, it was a degree granted by the University of Michigan. To me that was an ideal situation for everybody. I remember we had a visiting professor in English from Ann Arbor, Albert Marquardt, with whom we became well acquainted who made the comment that he thought it would be a good idea if an exchange professorship could be worked out on a regular basis where by at least one member of the University of Michigan faculty would teach here for one year in exchange for one member of the Northern faculty teaching at the University each year and w thought that was an excellent idea and I'm sure we weren't the only ones to whom make the suggesting but nothing ever came of it which I think was very unfortunate and as I look back on it one of the worst turning points in Northern's history came I believe when with the closing of the Tape administration we became oriented toward Michigan State and that tie with the University of Michigan, I raised the issue in the informal setting in the community oh about two or three years ago in connection with the study that was being made of Northern's future as a University and I learned from a person who did have down state connections and who also is very closely associated with Northern at one time and this may not be an impossibility to restore that connection but I tried to put through a phone call this morning to get an update but I couldn't make the connection. But that was one of the finest experiences I believe our students could have had. And I have regretted that we have gone in the direction for graduate work before we were prepared for it. I believe it would be a natural \_\_\_\_ it is a natural thing to provide masters degrees in education after all we were an educational institution and that should be done. But to go into master's degrees in history for example, and these other fields, have been strangling us and I judge you're in a better position than I to understand that. You don't get a coherent pattern, as I understand it, of study. You don't have certain distribution requirements, you fill out your block with what is available and you may not have very much choice. Now that is I believe \_\_\_\_ unsolved, that is out of my jurisdiction limits of my concern is this afternoon. One other thing that I would like to mention concerning the Tape years and this is due to or maybe this is to be attributed to Russell Thomas more then anybody else. We had an excellent lecture concert series. As poverty stricken as we were and I was reminded of this during the \_\_\_\_ controversy. Northern was able to attract to the Upper Peninsula nationally known speakers. The very first fall that came and I was driven by the \_\_\_\_ episode to go back and refresh my memory by looking at the Northern News issues for that fall. We had in the summer of 1949 a lecture by Lewis \_\_\_\_ professor of history at the University of Chicago one of the outstanding authorities of French History in this country speaking on then and now, how safe is democracy. He had been a participant in the University the very famous University of Chicago Round Table, radio broadcast, what they called in that time. We also had the "De Papaur" an excellent group of black singers, drawn from the black contingent of the armed forces under the direction of Captain Leonard Décor. There were about 25 of these men, marvelous singers. In fact they had been up here before, but they appeared in November of 1949, I believe. Raymond Soobom was here also in November of 1949, just a week or so later. Soobom was one of the foremost news analyst's in radio commentators of his day. He would definitely be in the ranks of Harry Reasoner, Morley and Milestein, student of Leopold Alver, a great teacher a great violinist of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was here in March of 1950 David Lloyd a tenor was on the community concert series too. By the way, Northern had a very good cooperative arrangement with the community concert series, in those days the community concerts were held in the Kaye Auditorium, the old Kaye auditorium, the students were given free tickets, there was an arrangement by these students have free admission, or maybe I am wrong on that, they may have had a very modest fee or reduced fee for admission. Either free or reduced. I must say that student's participation even under the most favorable circumstances was not as great as one would have liked to have seen. Maybe I think maybe so often as in my case at Michigan

State, I very seldom availed myself to these lectures, and I regretted it in my later years. Think back to the people who came to campus and I didn't hear it. But I believe one of the most interesting came in October or in the fall of 1950. We had the Marine Band, under the direction of Major William Sanderman. We had the Charles Lawton, we had Dorothy Thompson, one time wife of Sinclair Lewis, one of the perhaps the leading women columnist of her day. All in one series, then in July of 1951 we had Kurt Von Schuschnigg, who was the Chancellor of Austria at the time Hitler moved in and took over on the \_\_\_\_ of 1938.

SB: So there is a story connected with his coming?

RO: Yes, you heard of that one, did I tell you that one?

SB: Yes, you told me a quick version.

RO: I told you that one, should I repeat it? Dr. Kurt Von Schuschnigg was to appear in a morning session 10:30 one weekday morning and he was scheduled to come in on the 400 (Chicago & Northwestern train from Chicago that arrived within 400 minutes from leaving Chicago to Ishpeming), which is a train up from Chicago that arrived well depending on the time of year and the weather sometime between midnight or 3:30 or 4 in the morning, nobody could be sure when. But since this was in the summer the time span could be narrowed with some confidence. And so he came in just about when scheduled. Well I had been invited to introduce him. So in the afternoon before his appearance I prepared my introduction and that evening I had been sitting home with my wife, the children had been gone to bed, she was ironing and it was she who suggested that who was going to meet Dr. Schuschnigg when he comes up in the morning on the 400, because the 400 did not run through Marquette. It came through Negaunee and I would have to drive over there or someone would have to drive ore there and get him or else there would be limousine service to bring him. So the college didn't seem that they could afford the limousine service so somebody would go over and pick him up. Well when we got to talking about that it was about 10 o'clock and we just had the uneasy felling that maybe I should back stop on this. So we decided that Dr. Russell Thomas or someone he would delegate would be doing this. He hadn't spoken to me about it he had just given me the invitation to introduce the man but didn't say anything to me about getting him. So in all likelihood it would be Dr. Thomas himself who would go, if anybody did, and we decided the thing for me to do was to drive past his house about 11:30 he would be in bed long before that if he weren't up for an occasion like this, if the light was on I would turn around and come home then that would mean that he went over to pucker up Dr. Schuschnigg. If the house was dark then I'd better go. The house was dark and I went. I stayed in the background just in case anybody I would know was there and I didn't want to embarrass anyone, but nobody was there. And the two people got off the train at about 12:30 and Schuschnigg was one, he was easy to recognize, he had one suitcase, he was a professor at St. Louis University at the time, that is how we got \_\_\_\_, so we rode back he was very nice, he said this was a dreadful imposition, that he was sorry I would have to be out so late, well I took him back to town, came up to the Northland Hotel which was the hotel at that time is the Heritage House, now whatever they are calling it these days, and I said I will come in with you he said, "No, no, no you have been so kind I will be alright," so I went home and went to bed. We agreed I would meet him about 9 o'clock in the morning we will have breakfast together and drive to Northern. About 9 o'clock the next morning I went to the Northland and asked for Dr. Schuschnigg, they said "Dr. who?" I had assumed his reservation would be tagged for late arrival and of course in the summer months the Northland was crowded in those days, it filled up pretty fast. No Dr. Schuschnigg. So the next thought was the Clifton (Hotel), that was the nest best hotel, somewhat more modest and not too far, so I went over there, so then the next was the Adams, after that was the Brunswick then the Janzen,



we did have some more as possibilities but I got to the Adams and there he was. And horrified, it was a clean place I don't mean to downgrade the old Adams, but it had a room I was able to look in, when he met me at the door, it had a wash basin in the corner and a lavatory and bath down the hall about 30 or 40 feet away. So here was the next chance to the rescue, \_\_\_\_\_ in the Adams hotel. We at least got him breakfast in the Northland and he was again, was said oh my fault I should of let you come with me, if worst comes to worst you could of stayed in my house. That would have been difficult at that time, because we were living in rather congested quarters. So I think in the Adams he was better off than he was with the O'Dells. So we got out and I remember introducing him and I remember one statement he had mentioned, he had been an observer at the Versailles Conference during the First World War and he opened his talk with reference to this and said that as the conference as the number of various delegations were assembled the spirit of brotherhood and parents at their side it was just marvelous. It was so thick it was like a friendly fawn you could almost cut it with a knife and brotherhood peace was on everybody's list and yet he said within a few months that was all going and that was all dissipated and he said what happened? It was simply that when people spoke of peace they didn't mean the same thing. When the French meant peace they would not fight a war without good solid allies. When the Italians spoke of peace they would never fight another war peace to them. The Americans they would never pay for another war and although the Germans weren't present you could be pretty sure what their response would have been that they never intend to lose another war and so that was the difficulty how easy it is to use the same work and think you are in agreement when your not and it doesn't mean you split by various foreign tongues it can happen in the same language, well so much for \_\_\_\_\_ except for this in preparing my introduction I had to consult with a few authorities we had in the library we had a much smaller library then they have now and the only thing that stuck out was in the standard text book I think was longer or one of those longer \_\_\_\_\_ he was dismissed with a very brief personal reference that he was tactless and stubborn and then had complicated these problems with the Germans before they had left well however that may have been in that setting I felt he was certainly anything but stubborn and that he was the soul of tact.

[TAPE 1 ENDS]

[TAPE 2 BEGINS]

RO: One of them was \_\_\_\_\_ who came here during the early 1960's as I recall and then Harry reasoned I had I was privileged to sit at dinner with Dan Rather and I remember that was during the Vietnam War when Rather was wondering, well we were all wondering how to conclude that conflict. It was causing a great deal of pain even in 1964, and he commented, he had just come from a tour of installations in the east, he said we are in there for 20 years people think that this is for a very short time. Our installations are there from the \_\_\_\_\_ and he didn't see any immediate prospects of disengagement of the conflict. He was talking not only about Vietnam but also the Philippines and whole. I had an interesting experience with Harry reasoned. We invited representatives of the press and of the TV and of the radio to sit on the platform. And I had planned to, of course just a matter of protocol, I was to introduce each of these gentlemen and then introduce Reasoner. And I forgot to introduce any of them. And so I quickly got into my introduction of Reasoner and got him through the second World War when he started to branch out into various activities, I mentioned his work as a journalist and as a radio commentator and on TV and then I said in recognition of these three elements service we have three men from each of the median here tonight. So I introduced each of them. Then I went back to take care of Reasoner. Oh they thought that was fine, novel way to introduce a man. I don't think I \_\_\_\_\_ very many people on that one. To come back to the lecture and concert series that Dr. Thomas conducted, in addition to that we had a couple of programs I was quite imminently involved in one in 1952, and

another in 1957. My predecessor was Mrs. Starr and she had been on the faculty just one year from 47-48, no I guess she must have been there two years, 47 to 49. That is where memory can play tricks. But at any rate she was on the faculty during the campaign election campaign in 1948. And she had conducted a very successful mock convention. Mock conventions were very much in vogue in those days, both in colleges and high schools. Students would get together and campaign for candidates of their choices and set up mock nominating conventions and have a good time. Well in 1952 it didn't seem to me or others in the same area history and political science, you could have a mock election very well because the candidates were not coming forth very visibly except for Eisenhower. Eisenhower and Taft were leaders in the Republican Party but there was practically nobody else who was going to be in that picture. The Democratic picture was quite confusing. Stevenson was dragged kicking and screaming into the candidacy I think just to have someone running against Eisenhower. Eisenhower been chosen. So we got the idea he could focus on issues this time. So we set up a Vital Issues Conference this time and we got people around the area to represent different interests, to take the responsibility for bringing speakers up here. And then the college itself agreed to support two or three general speakers who wouldn't fit a business interest or labor union interest or a religious interest something like that. So we started in January to lay the groundwork for this Vital Issues Conference in May. So we had this all worked out and completed in four months and a great help to us was Walter Gries who was the Northern representative more or less, or the Upper Peninsula representative on the State Board of Education. All of the institution in Michigan at that time, of course Western, from the teachers Colleges, Western Eastern, Central, and Northern were under the State Board of Education. There were four members on the board plus the Superintendent and a couple instructors if I recall correctly. The Fellow from the Upper Peninsula was Walter Gries, who was the Personnel Director, public relations director for Cleveland Cliffs. Anyways a long with George Bishop he was one of the two leading spokesman for the U.P. He was a great \_\_\_\_\_ speaker known throughout the area. He became quite interested in this. We had a meeting up in the old Lee Hall conference room up on the third floor of townspeople. And in one meeting it was decided we would map this out. We would get a representative for industry, representative of labor for one session, we would get some a Catholic spokesman and a Protestant spokesman, and a psychologist or at least a spokesperson for representative in a general or a very \_\_\_\_\_ way with psychological, scientific perspective you would say of life. That would be another program. We would get an agricultural specialist from Michigan State; we would get somebody from the Federal Reserve System to talk about finance and so on down the line. Well on the back of my mind was the fact that when I was at Evansville College we had a big fuss down there over the firing of a young professor of philosophy and religion, so three of us went one night from Evansville college over to Louisville, Kentucky where Norman Cousins, then the editor of the Saturday Review, was Addressing the Kentucky Education Association. Well we managed to meet him backstage afterwards and we sat down in the lounge in one of the Louisville hotels and we had a pleasant evening. And so after, when I got up here to Northern about well over a year later, it occurred to me it would be fine if we could get as eloquent a spokesman on world peace as Norman Cousins. He was about, he was very much interested in world federation \_\_\_\_\_ at the time. And then yet he wasn't a zealot \_\_\_ he was established in literary circles and had friends in conservative as well as liberal quarters. And so I presumed now that at that very slight acquaintance with him to write him. And asked him to come up and participate in this and he accepted. So we got Norman Cousins up here and then we negotiated through \_\_\_\_\_ agency Lee Kidick for Stuart Chase who was never the less a well respected writer on economic and social problems and a man who was quite well acquainted with Norman Cousins too, in fact he was given credit for having coined the expression with the New Deal but he died last year or the year before and it was mentioned in his obituary. As a matter of fact, when we drove around the Island (Presque Isle) when he was up here he told me personally that he should not be credited for that. He did not \_\_\_\_\_ and as a matter of fact I was looking over his publicity here last night and he does not give

himself credit for it either. Cousins was a very sensitive, vibrant man, and of course he had been well known. I believe that's about the best \_\_\_\_\_ I may be wrong on that, but at any rate he was a very serious illness that he picked up in Russia and almost died from and in this position explore the psychosomatics aspects of healing and he certainly was not into faith healing or things of that sort but he does have a very feeling of close relationship with mental outlook and \_\_\_\_\_ and in fact his anatomy of an illness \_\_\_\_\_ postpone more recent work it has Ed Asner portrayed him on TV about a year ago. I don't believe it was a good portrait of him as I remember Cousins. A better one would have been to get somebody who more resembles the George Gershwin. There's a closer I think personality between Gershwin and Norman Cousins, it was sensitivity without the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ element that you associate with as a sensitive man too as an actor but this is aside too, anyhow we got Cousins we got Stuart Chase and we got Ruth Alexander. Ruth Alexander was the darling of the National Association of Manufacture and an arch conservative and I remember I was looking through a letter and I got through correspondence from other people but I was looking for a letter that Stuart Chase wrote me before he came up here, in which he said he thought it was rather strange that within two weeks he was on the same lecture platform with Americas two leading hatchet ladies. Well we managed in four months to put together this program with Cousins, with Stuart Chase, with Albert Duestch who was one of the real top four runners or copy raisers in the early phases of mental health movement as it generated \_\_\_\_\_ in the Second World War he wrote articles in the Saturday Evening Post and in many ways his own sight was not good, he was handicapped, not that he suffered an emotional or mental disturbance, but he knew what it was to be handicapped and he was really an authority on the mental health movement and very important voice in that. We had those three. We had Ralph Noux, the Vice President of the Inland Steel Container Corporation, out of Chicago, the \_\_\_\_\_ got him, the United Steel Workers provided Frank Fernbach, who is the educational director out of Washington, he was the education director for the CIO, the yes CIO, we got Frederick Trebort Stramm who was a leading congregational Minister in his day, we got Father Royce from Wisconsin, I think Appleton or Green Bay, I don't know. He was a well known figure in the Catholic circles in this area. Arthur Mauch was an agricultural authority from Michigan State, we got Paul McCracken who then was a rising professor of Economics at the University of Michigan who then became president of the chairman of the Economic advisory for the president, the President's Council on Economic Advising, I've forgotten, I think he was Nixon's economic advisor. Well there were 14 of them all together and they were here for a two day period, well really over three days, starting on Thursday evening and winding up on Saturday afternoon with Norman Cousins, very eloquent address on the positive strategy for peace.

As an outgrowth of this when the interest developed in building the Mackinac Bridge and the construction for that got underway, a number had thought of the concept of having the Upper Peninsula holding open house celebrating the completion of the bridge. And encouraging all of the communities of the Upper Peninsula to have some make a point of advertising one or more, however large or small some beauty spot or something that their community can take pride in and to make Northern the hub of the six week celebration. Well we worked on this for four years without avail, but we did, the Tape we went through a transition period with the Tape \_\_\_\_\_ Harden Administration, so when President Harden came up he \_\_\_\_\_ to a mini lecture series, again this is supplementary to the regular concert series, and then an appraisal then we had four lecturers, T. V. Smith, a philosopher, \_\_\_\_\_ Beals a specialist on education and a distinguished professor of education at Michigan State at the time, although his connection with the state was in passing, then Carl Darrow was connected with Bell Telephone Laboratory's, then John Mason Brown who was one the leading critics of his day, and then exceedingly popular lecturer. So we got those four and then we went beyond that and tried to get Michigan State and the University of Michigan to support us and also we went to elicit the support of General Motors. And the upshot of this was that is about as far as it got. University of Michigan was very much interested they said they send up people, they said they would give us 40,000 dollars worth

of research help and get into the demographics study of the Upper Peninsula as a contribution. Michigan State was prepared to, Michigan State had just celebrated its centennial prepared themselves for a centennial down their and Michigan State was ready to cooperate in dealing with Agricultural exhibits to the extension service. So Dr. Halverson and I went to Flint to the publicity office of General Motors and they assured us if we got this thing under way they would give us there best \_\_\_\_\_ for six weeks. Trouble was we couldn't get it off the ground locally. I think President Tape was afraid of it by the way this, it was already dead by the time we got \_\_\_\_\_. But President was interested enough to try and revive it. But then he got interested in running for State superintendent of public instruction and for a crucial period he divided his time between here and downstate politics and it just kind of went by in the shuffle. Meanwhile President Hatcher, from Michigan came up on a campaign swing with spell with Joseph Herbert who was the Upper Peninsula regent of the University of Michigan, and we had a meeting down in the basement of the old Union National Bank. Lloyd was in the \_\_\_\_\_ and the issue was; how are we going to get all five or ten thousand dollars here locally to get it off the ground. So here was George Bishop the Head of the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau and Mathew Bennet, local physicians, President Tape was there and there was some business men around tow, the mayor who was Beckman at the time, Max Beckman. They were sitting around about a dozen of them and so it was obvious that they didn't know how this was going to be funded locally \_\_\_\_\_ and so finally Hatcher said, "How much is the bridge going to cost?" Everybody knew it was about 100 million dollars. What is it for? Dead silence and that was it, we knew we got the \_\_\_\_\_. Now as I mentioned it was revised with this series man and appraisal in 1957 we did have four people then and we tried to work this out in some detail but it never got off the ball. I often thought that there was something symbolic in that this was a time in the middle of the 1950's when Eisenhower had the \_\_\_\_\_ summit and when the spirit of Geneva was gone and that which strikes me as the time we could have had a synthesis in the cultures of Northern coming from the Upper Peninsula and southern Michigan, a national synthesis in our economic and social thinking with respect of the direction that we might flow. Then the best prospect for world peace at that time and all up and down the line we missed it the population of the country was about 150 million probably optimal as I look at it.

END OF INTERVIEW