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## Mary Jane "Jerry" Leisenring Spalding Memoir

**SP19. Spalding, Mary Jane "Jerry" Leisenring** b. 1913

Interview and memoir

2 tapes, 135 mins., 36 pp.

### CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Spalding, member of Springfield's Christ Episcopal Church, discusses her association and experiences with the church: Sunday school, women's groups, Boy Scout troops, social functions, renovation and expansion, and active church members.

Interview by Sandra Britz Armbruster, 1981

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## Preface

This manuscript is the product of a series of tape-recorded interviews conducted by Sandra Britz Ambruster for the Oral History Office, Sangamon State University on October 15, 1981. Margaret Reeder transcribed the tapes and Linda S. Jett edited the transcripts.

Jerry Leisenring Spalding's parents were members of Christ Church when Jerry was born. She was baptized there in 1913 by Rev. Riley and has been a member since. Christ Church has special meaning to Jerry and to her family. She remembers the auditorium and stage in the Parish Hall, and her brother Jack played for many events there. She remembers the plays that were performed in the theater and many of the events and celebrations held in the Church. Her children were also members of the Boy Scout Troop at Christ Church. The east window on the south side of the chapel was given in memory of her mother Martha Leisenring. Jerry has made arrangements that at her death she is to be cremated and buried in the wall at Christ Church's garden, thus continuing her life-long love and association with Christ Church.

Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

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Mary Jane "Jerry" Leisenring Spalding, October 15, 1981.

Sandra Britz Armbruster, Interviewer.

Q: Jerry how long have you been a member of Christ Church?

A: Since 1914.

Q: You were baptized in the church?

A: Yes, I sure was. Reverend Riley, I don't remember his first name, baptized me. I don't remember him at all really because he left when I was too young to remember. But I have his signature on my birth certificate.

Q: Were your parents members?

A: Yes, they were.

Q: How long had they been members?

A: That's a good question, Sandy. Ever since they moved here to Springfield. Moved west from Maryland, first to Peoria and then to Springfield. They had been members of Christ Episcopal Church all that time, but what year they moved out here, I'm not sure.

Q: What brought them to Illinois?

A: My dad changed positions and moved to Peoria with the Illinois Terminal Railroad which was then called the, well it was recently called the Illinois Terminal Railroad . . .

Q: Interurban?

A: Interurban, the electric railroad, right. He was located in Peoria. My brother Jack was born in New Jersey before they moved west and they lived two years I think in Peoria before they moved to Springfield. They were members of Christ Episcopal Church and that's where I was born and raised and my brothers were born and raised.

Q: How many brothers do you have?

A: I had two. Brother George in Milwaukee and a brother John G. M. Leisenring, Jr. who passed away five years ago. But Christ Church has been very special to me and to our family. I remember before the Sunday School building was built, before the Sunday School rooms were built where they are now, we had a stage. We went into the parish

house, into the auditorium and then there was a stage there where they used to have many theatre productions. Not only Christ Church but outside organizations. My brother Jack played for many of those because he was an accomplished musician. They had theatre comparable to what is now the Theatre Guild. The productions there on the stage and Sunday School productions on the stage, that is now where the Sunday School rooms are. You know, where you go up the steps to the Sunday School. That's where they took the stage out.

Q: Isn't it still a raised area? Don't you have to step up to use that end of the building even yet?

A: Oh yes, but you see the stage was taken out. That's where you go up to the Sunday School, the older grades. The nursery is in the new building. It's joined on to the Church and that wasn't there either then. It was just the Church and the parish house and the stage which was used by all community groups.

Q: Were you in any of the plays?

A: I don't think. No, I don't think so. I used to play for Sunday School, the piano.

Q: Did you? Tell me about the children's Sunday School.

A: Well, they used to love to sing. They loved to sing and I wasn't that accomplished musician but I could play the piano. "Onward Christain Soldier," "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" and all their favorite hymns and many Sunday School superintendents I remember. The first one I remember is Clarence Hamlin. Alma Hamlin still comes up to visit Christ Church. She lives in Wood River I believe. She's a friend of Esther Hathaway, Cliff Hathaway's mother. That is Cliff Hathaway, Jr.

Q: Right, we have the III there don't we, and the IV?

A: That's right. But Alma still comes up to visit Esther. There was Clarence Hamlin. Eric Green was superintendent of Sunday School one time. I think maybe he followed Clarence Hamlin. Then there was Richard Olson. He wasn't here too long before they were moved but after that . . . now they don't have a Sunday School superintendent, the assistant rector takes charge of that but they didn't have assistants in those days. They had the rector and they had the superintendent of Sunday School but there was no assistant, associate rector.

Q: How did they hold their classes in that big room?

A: The big auditorium room was partitioned off by these, what do you call them, these things that you put around the rooms, they weren't rooms. They were all in one big room.

Q: Was it like a room divider?

A: Yes, I don't know what they called them but they could put them around the tables and chairs where the classes were meeting. Like hinged screens, that's the way they divided the Sunday School rooms.

Q: How many kids were in a class usually?

A: I had a class of boys, all boys when John Hauser was rector. I had John Hauser Jr. and our son, James Spalding, and they were devils. I don't know which was worse. But I think there were about ten boys in that class.

Q: How old would they have been about?

A: Ten or eleven, about that, and those boys used to drive me crazy. And I will say this, I think the Sunday School program that they use these days, the books that they taught from is much better than it was then.

Q: Do you really think so?

A: Oh, I think so.

Q: What kind of things did they teach then?

A: It was sort of left to the teacher's imagination, a lot of it, really. I don't remember the name but they followed the Bible and they had specific sources that they used but it was not as specific.

Q: There really wasn't an outlined program?

A: No, sort of had to improvise.

Q: How long did you teach?

A: Sandy, I don't remember.

Q: Did you teach more than one year?

A: Oh yes, I taught for three or four years. I had girls classes and mixed classes and as I say I played the piano for the kids which I used to love because they loved to sing. And the piano which first was in this hall right in front of the stage then, and then they added on the addition for the little ones.

Q: Do you remember going to Sunday School there?

A: I'm not sure. I suppose I do, but I did for a good many years. Well yes, Mr. Hamlin was my superintendent.

Q: When you went to Sunday School? Do you remember any of your teachers at all? (Pause) Do you remember going to church with your parents?

A: Sure.

Q: Did you go to the service? Or were you put in children's Sunday School or a service for children?

A: The children didn't go to church with their parents very much, just on special occasions they were in Sunday School. I went with them yes, as I say on special occasions, but every Sunday, no. I don't remember how they, it seems to me that Sunday School was before church at maybe 9:30 and then church was at 10:30 or quarter till eleven. But in those days parents didn't bring their children to church as much as they do now, which I heartily approve of. It's a family service and the children should be there. I don't remember, Sandy, whether my parents took me to church and put me in the nursery or what happened, but I wasn't in church with them too often. But my mother and dad were very, very devout members of Christ Episcopal Church. Originally they were Lutherans from Lutherville, Maryland, which was founded by Martin Luther. So you can see why they were Lutherans. But they joined the Episcopal Church before they left Maryland and came west. My mother was a very, very active member in what they call now, the Episcopal Church Women, which used to be the Women's Auxiliary. She and May Hill, May Hodgson Hill, were very active in the Women's Auxiliary and also Mary Johnson, Betsy Newman's mother, and her grandmother, Betsy's grandmother, Gertrude Magill. They lived right next door to my folks on Illini Road and every year just before Palm Sunday, all the women of the auxiliary used to meet out at Gertie's, as we called her, and Mary's house and made crosses to be pinned on your lapel on Palm Sunday. I can still make them but instead of having the palms to carry they made little crosses. That went on for years.

Q: My children have had them.

A: I liked them.

Q: About three inches long?

A: Yes, and you put a little pin and put it on your shoulder or your lapel.

Q: Was Christ Church a bigger membership then?

A: I don't think so, Sandy. I think in recent years Christ Church membership has increased considerably. This is just in retrospect. I'm not for sure but I think this is right. Christ Church used to be like many Episcopal churches I suppose, rather cold. The people didn't turn around and greet their neighbors or it was just not as informal as it is now. I like this informality much better. Of course the Episcopal Church has been with the greeting every Sunday and the encouragement of members being more communicative over about ten years or so maybe has improved, I think, considerably in my mind. Of course it could have been this was a youngster's viewpoint. But I thought that it was rather cold and I think maybe the adults felt the same way, but it's not that way now.

Q: No, no, it isn't.

A: No way and of all the rectors who have been there, Rev. Riley, and after him, I hope I can remember the succession. Jerry Wallace was there for a good many years. John Hauser, Bill Jacobs who baptized our son, John, Frank Shaffer and Hoby Heistand. I think that's right.

Q: That's pretty close to the ones I know in the order. That's about right.

A: Well your memory sort of lapses a little bit, you know? But Hoby, he's something else, he's marvelous.

Q: Isn't he.

A: He's been so good for Christ Church. Frank Shaffer, I will have to say this for him. When my mother was still in the hospital and died, the day she died he spent the whole day with us at the hospital. He stayed right with us and I liked Frank, but he was not as open and communicative as Hoby is. Mary, his wife, I just loved. Mary, what's her name now? She married after Frank died. Of course their son is now an ordained curate in the Episcopal church, Paul Shaffer.

Q: Right, I remember him.

A: They had two boys and two girls I believe, maybe it was just one girl. But Mary married the widower of another member of Christ Church, Ed, and they now live in Ohio. I'll think of it probably when you're gone.

Q: That's okay.

A: Do you know who I mean?

Q: No, see we've only been members about four years.

A: They come back every once in awhile on weekends.

Q: That's okay, we'll remember it later.

A: They were very, very good members of Christ Episcopal Church and I can't remember his last name but anyway they moved to Ohio.

Q: Were you married in the church there?

A: No. Why? Because I married a Roman Catholic.

Q: Good reason.

A: I was married in the priest's home of Blessed Sacrament Church, but our children were raised Episcopalians. Don't ask me how I did this but I did it. I defied the Roman Church I guess.

Q: Was your husband a very active member of his church?

A: No.

Q: So it made it easier to bring your children to the Episcopal?

A: Oh he was upset. At the time we were married they would not, as they do now, marry you in the chapel or the church. You had to be married in the priest's home. We wanted to be married out at my folks, my mother and dad's house on Illini Road. Father Terrance, who was with Blessed Sacrament Church for many, many years, wouldn't hear to it. Two or three weeks later someone else of mixed faith was married at their home and that upset my husband considerably. He figured that maybe they just, it's sort of silly, but maybe they gave him a little more donation.

Q: Yes.

A: Since then he's not been too active and didn't even go to church. Who knows?

Q: Were your children married then in the church?

A: Susan, our youngest daughter, was married in St. Agnes Church. She also married a Roman Catholic. Barbara and her husband, John Keller, had a beautiful wedding in Christ Episcopal Church which was really a Milwaukee wedding in Springfield. That's true, they brought the choir from Milwaukee and all their friends from Milwaukee. It was just beautiful. That was in 1967 and it was a Milwaukee wedding in Springfield. Everybody came to Springfield for the wedding. They were both working in Milwaukee and all their friends were there so they came down for the weekend. Jim, our older boy, was not married in the church. Since then he's been divorced and remarried and he had two boys. But this goes back to what they say. The children come back to the church when they are ready too.

Q: Does he come now?

A: Yes, Jim and Gloria are members of Christ Church now. This is his second wife.

Q: Now which of your daughter-in-laws, was it Barbara that I met at the hospital, with the back problems?

A: That was Jim's wife, Gloria. That's Jim's second wife and they live out on Durkin Drive here in Springfield. Jim could probably tell you something about Christ Church too because talking about that Sunday School class that he and John Hauser were in. He should remember some of that.

Q: Do you remember the boys' choir?

A: Yes.

Q: Were any of your boys in it?

A: I don't think so. I don't think Jim was ever in the boys' choir. He was a member of Troop 7, Boy Scout Troop 7, and also John.

Q: How long were they members of that?

A: Sandy, I'll take that back. Jim was not a member of Troop 7, he was a member of Troop 3 at Douglas Avenue Methodist Church. He was a Cub Scout there and an Explorer Scout and his dad, Ernie, was Cubmaster of the Cub Scout pack. Then Jim went on to Explorer Scouts, he didn't go into regular scouts. Our son, John, was a member of Troop 7 and I'm happy to say he went through the Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout.

Q: Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout?

A: And also went to the National Jamboree in Pennsylvania in 1976 or thereabouts.

Q: Well he was active all the way through high school wasn't he?

A: Yes, in scouts, yes he was. They had very good scout leadership down there. Mr. Kennedy, used to have Kennedy Laundry, was their scout leader and he was very good with the boys. After that it was . . . (pause) It's terrible, names leave me. He's still there now and his son was also an Eagle Scout when John was named Eagle Scout so that should help.

Q: Bill Boyd?

A: No, Bill Boyd was never a scoutmaster, he was on the Troop Committee. John Dickason was scoutmaster at one time. Troop 7 was where both of my brothers belonged, my brother George and my brother Jack. It has always been a very, very active Boy Scout troop for years. They've molded and shaped a good many boys in Springfield who were not all members of Christ Church.

Q: It's not mandatory that they be a member of the church to be in that troop?

A: Oh no. Any boy that wants to join. That's the reason that at one time after John got his Eagle I was concerned because I had heard rumors that the present scoutmaster, I still can't remember his name, was going to leave because his boy became an Eagle Scout. That seems to be the ultimate when they get that unless they want to go on into advanced leadership of their troop or of the council. They usually drop out but it's still going under the same scout troop leader. I guess he decided to keep it after all.

Q: Good, because good ones are hard to find.

A: That's right it takes an awful lot of time. But my membership in Christ Church has been very, very precious to me. When we were in Baltimore last weekend, weekend before last, to have services for my Dad in Baltimore, we went to the little Episcopal chapel in Lutherville, Maryland. They have a very small chapel there and I did not remember that they had built a new church behind it. My brother George and I went into the little chapel which now is only used for

early 8:30 service and special occasions. While we were sitting there this young fellow came in singing at the top his voice, "Oh, were you looking for someone?" I said, "Yes, we are waiting for the 9:45 service." He said, "Oh, that's in the new church behind." So we just walked over there and went to church. But that's a very pretty church and it brings back many memories to me of Mother and Dad. That's where they were born and raised. The transition from Maryland to Illinois, which at that time they thought was filled with Indians when they came out here. People in the East, "Oh, you're going out with all the Indians."

Q: Did they come out in about the 1920's?

A: My brother Jack, John Jr. was two years old when they moved to Peoria and they were in Peoria two years before they moved to Springfield. He was sixty-nine when he died five years ago. So the year of his birth would be . . .

Q: 1907?

A: That's right.

Q: So that's when they came to Peoria. So they came here about 1909, 1910, somewhere along there.

A: Yes, that's close enough.

Q: I just wanted to have an idea how long they'd been here. That's close enough. So they came very early on. I think, wasn't the parish house built in 1914?

A: Yes, I think so.

Q: So they were here before the Parish House was put on?

A: Right.

Q: You were born in 1914, right?

A: Right, right.

Q: So you were born the year the Parish House was added?

A: Right, my mother always said that I started the war. (laughter) She used to say that I started the war.

Q: I think my grandmother would say that because that's the year my mother was born too. My mother was quite a handful.

A: Mother was the leveling force really. She was quite a woman. But she went first and then my brother Jack went. This is what really was hard for my dad to take because my brother Jack and he had sort of planned to spend their last days together. Jack's wife died and they had been on these many cruises, freighter cruises together just as

Mother and Dad did. They say it's always hard for a parent to lose a child before they go and he mourned Jack terribly. Of course Dad was 96.

Q: And he was still living by himself?

A: Well, not really by himself, he was still out at the lake, East Lakeshore Drive. But he had a young man staying with him who is still living in the house now until we sell it. We had the auction out there last Sunday. Then he also had two or three boys who came in and took care of the yard. He has an acre and almost a half.

Q: That's a lot of ground to mow.

A: Right and it's a beautiful location. I love to go out there but it's not practical and can't afford it and in the winters you know.

Q: Especially when you have to come in town to work.

A: Well even if I retired, who's going to shovel you out in the winter and mow the yard? It's beautiful, it really is.

Q: Were you active in the women's group, in any of the women's organizations, any of the guilds?

A: St. Hilda's.

Q: Have you always worked?

A: No, not until Susan our youngest daughter who is now—the only way I can remember the children's ages is the year they were born. She was born in 1943 which would make her thirty-eight right?

Q: Yes.

A: When she was eight or nine, the second or third grade, I went back to work. I stayed home and took care of the youngsters when they were little. People just didn't do all this working that they do now.

Q: You didn't expect to have all the material things that people expect today?

A: That's right, you didn't. I remember going to the little neighborhood grocery store and buying sugar and bread with stamps during the depression. You were rationed. That was what 1928-1932? There was a little grocery store over here on Lawrence.

Q: Where Jay's workshop is now?

A: It was just west of MacArthur. What is the name of that? Yes, I think so.

Q: Was it called J & J Groceries at one time?

A: No, I can see the name of this man and his mother that ran that store and I'll think of it later. But they had a neighborhood little grocery store and I used to wheel the children over there in their strollers, Susan and Barb. I believe it was Barb that was over there in the stroller one day and I took her out of the stroller so she could wander around a little bit and she got in the backroom where they had sticky tape for the rats or mice or something and she walked right into the middle of it and they had to pull her out of this tape, this stuff on the floor. Furlich's grocery store, Joe Furlich and his mother. You had coupons and you were rationed and you'd get so much and that was it and you didn't expect it. You got along, bread was five cents a loaf.

End of Side One, Tape One

Q: Have you held any offices in the church?

A: Sandy, you are asking me a difficult question.

Q: Were you ever president of St. Hilda's?

A: Yes, I was president of St. Hilda's two years and as I say I was pianist for the Sunday School for two or three years but as far as offices I don't think other than St. Hilda's. I know I was not any office in the Women's Auxiliary because I went back to work. Mother was an officer of the Auxiliary, Martha Leisenring. She and Mary Johnson and May Hill were very active and also the sewing group which is now the Wednesday Sewing Group. I don't remember what day it was they had it but I think it was a Wednesday.

Q: Did you ever go to the sewing meetings?

A: No, because I was working.

Q: Did you go with your mother when you were little, do you remember doing things like that?

A: I don't think so. In those days, they didn't take the children along with them. I don't know what we did. We had somebody with us.

Q: They probably had a baby sitter upstairs.

A: They used to have a live-in maid in Teutopolis, which is down by Effingham. My folks used to travel with G. E. Weaver and his wife, Mabel. Mr. Weaver was president of the Weaver Manufacturing Company, he and his brother, Ira. Weaver Manufacturing Company was on South 9th Street, or 10th Street and they used to travel quite a bit with them. At that time you could get a live-in maid for nothing. We lived all up and down 4th Street for a good many years.

Q: Which part of 4th Street?

A: South of South Grand. I was born at 1913 S. 4th when the Armistice was signed. I was born in 1914. I have pictures, black and white pictures of me riding my tricycle all decorated for Armistice Day. I don't remember too much about it but I remember everybody screaming and hollering and yelling and celebrating. We decorated our tricycles and rode. Then we lived at 1935 S. 4th Street which was on the corner of Ash and 4th and then we moved to 1410 S. 4th. So you see we lived all up and down 4th Street. My dad was electrical superintendent of the Illinois Traction at that time when he came to Springfield. It became the Illinois Terminal. Cliff Hathaway, Jr. could tell you something about the Illinois Terminal, the Illinois Traction, maybe better than I. Then from 1410 S. 4th we moved to 13 something South 6th while my folks were building their home out on Illini Road. That was when I was in seventh grade at Hay-Edwards School. They were the only house out there, next to Gertie Magill and Mary Johnson. Behind them where Betsy and Harry Newman now live and all those houses on Outer Park Drive, there was nothing there. It was just open fields.

Q: Well I know Betsy said her Mom gave them the land to build their house down there.

A: Right.

Q: So you have kind of grown up with Betsy Johnson?

A: Well Betsy was considerably younger than I.

Q: But your mothers were friends?

A: Right. Betsy's grandmother, Gertie, and Mary, the daughter. I remember Betsy and her sister, Mary Jane, and their brother, Norman Jr. We have pictures of them when they were just little kids out on Illini Road.

Q: That was a new development when your parents were building out there?

A: There was nothing there. It's just amazing. After so many years there, I don't remember, when I was in college I guess, they sold the house out there to Dr. Greening, Dr. Gersh Greening, who now lives at the lake also and bought on Eastlake Drive. Somebody asked me how long they lived out there. I think it must have [been] eight, ten years maybe, I'm not sure but that was the home where dad lived when he died.

Q: You were in college when they moved out there?

A: Yes, about a sophomore in college.

Q: Well they lived out there a long time? How long have you been married?

A: We were married 1937, the year after I graduated from college. How many years is that?

Q: Forty-four years.

A: Well we bought this house in 1945.

Q: So your daddy lived at the lake for forty-four years?

A: No, he didn't live at the lake, he lived on Illini Road.

Q: Oh that's when they built the house on Illini?

A: They built the house on Illini Road when I was in seventh grade, I think, at Hay-Edwards school. But they didn't live at the lake for forty-four years, we've lived here forty-four years. But I was a sophomore in college when they moved to the lake. I was in college from 1932 until 1936, the U. of I.

Q: What was your major?

A: What they call communications now, journalism. I used to write a lot. Some of these days I'm going to write some more when I retire. I love to write.

Q: You should start working on it. Don't wait until your skills get too rough.

A: Right, right. I like to write. Of course in those days they didn't have all the opportunities that the kids have now of days.

Q: Especially for women.

A: That's right. When I got out of college I looked for a position with the local newspaper. It wouldn't have paid me to even go to work, what they paid in those days, in 1937. I worked with Charles C. Thomas Publisher, a medical publisher, for a year before I was married and I just was a flunky, you know. I would do whatever had to be done and that was enough and then I was married. But the kids today has so many more opportunities than we ever had, in school and out of school. But I'm not sure they realize it, it's a different generation, two generations cause actually we have two generations in our family. Our John and the other three.

Q: How old is your John, eighteen?

A: He's nineteen. He was born when our youngest Susan was almost nineteen. So we have two generations.

Q: You sure do.

A: Same goes in my dad's family. Dad was twenty years younger than his older sister, who raised him. Course they had big families in those days and it's all through the Leisenring and Kapp family. My

mother was a Kapp, no relation to Buddy Kapp. He came to services, I remember that, our sister's services, which we had at Smith's which used to be on Edwards Street between 7th and 6th on the south side of the street. That's where Smith's were at that time, in a brick building before they moved out here on South Grand. But Mayor Kapp came to Aunt Rose's service there at Smith's.

Q: Did he spell his the same?

A: Yes, he's some relation way back, K-A-P-P. So Springfield has sure changed. All this expansion. I used to know all the names of all the streets and where they were located. I don't know any of them anymore.

Q: All except the division?

A: That's right.

Q: That whole area west of Chatham Road, I can remember when it was farm land.

A: That's right, my dad used to take Barbara and Jim walking on Sundays and took them out cause they liked nature and liked to be out in the outdoors and he'd walk them out where Dirken Drive and the whole area west of Chatham Road was just a dirt road that went behind Illini Country Club golf course, where he used to play golf when it was nine hole. That was just a dirt road so he would take them out in the country. There wasn't anything there and nothing south. It was just farm land. Where the overpass is on Jefferson where the train goes over Jefferson out west, that's Churchill Road I guess it is, that was his country. There was nothing.

Q: I remember.

A: And all of a sudden all of these new developments have sprung up and I don't know any names of streets or subdivisions. I see a name of a street and I ask Ernie, "where's that?" and he'll say, "I don't know."

Q: Do you remember, is there anyone in Christ Church who particularly impressed you as a child?

A: At the church?

Q: Anybody you especially remember, some event, some thing or their personality or something that would make you remember.

A: The Christmas Pageants, I remember those.

Q: Tell me about some of them.

A: Well, they were much the same as they are now. I mean we participated in them and you were very awed and very excited about being in the Christmas Pageant. I think to the young children growing

up this means a lot. As far as people who I particularly remember, I remember Bill Jacobs when we had John baptized in Christ Church. John cried the whole time, of course I was just starting over on my second family and he said, "Didn't you feed this child before you brought him here?" I said, "No I didn't." (laughter) Bill Jacobs lived in the rectory where Hoby and Betsy live now and our daughter, Barb, used to babysit with their kids.

Q: How many children did they have?

A: Three I think, two girls and a boy. I may be wrong, maybe it was just two. Also Judy Withey, Judy Withey Petefish, used to babysit with them. Judy and Barb were in high school together. Incidentally, her mother, Vivian, Judy's mother Vivian, could probably tell you something about Christ Church too. Her husband, George, died several years ago but she is a member of Christ Church. She lives out on Jeanette Lane I believe it is. I think Vivian originally maybe was a Presbyterian but it doesn't matter. She's now a member of Christ Church. Her daughter, Judy, who now lives in Morton and Barb were very close. And as far as any one particular person in Christ Church, of the Sunday School superintendents whom I remember Mr. Hamlin, Eric Green, Dick Olsen. I think Clarence Hamlin probably put in the most years there. He was there for quite a few years and his widow Alma could vouch for that. But I still think that Hoby, our present rector, is the greatest as far as I'm concerned. Both Rosemary and Bill Toland were wonderful also. Rosemary was at our auction last Sunday looking for postcards of Dad's cruises. I didn't have them out, they are in that box over there. I didn't know Bill saved them and she said, "Bill collects postcards."

Q: Oh, he does?

A: I didn't know it.

Q: I didn't either. I'll tell you who has got some neat old postcards is Betsy and Harry Newman. They have some of the lagoon at Washington Park when they had the canoes.

A: Right.

Q: And showing the entrances then and different things about the lagoon when they had the canoes and you could rent a canoe on a Sunday afternoon.

A: Sure, John, when he was in nursery school over there on Douglas, fell in that lagoon. They took them over there for a field trip and Mrs. Wilson, who had the nursery school in her home, jumped in right after him. That's deep. He just got too close to the edge and fell in. She took her shoes off and went in right after him. Slightly wet people. That is deep. That is an old mine shaft under there.

Q: The one down at the bottom? The lower one? Not the duck pond?

A: The duck pond I'm talking about. It was the duck pond, not the lagoon.

Q: I know that's supposed to be very deep.

A: Right. Christ Church has really come a long, long ways in my opinion as far as attracting new people. I think that has a lot to do with the Rector and Hoby does that. He attracts young people and he has a way with both young and old. As I said earlier, there were a good many years there when people didn't really communicate and it was cold. If you did any communicating it was in the guild or auxiliary, but not in church. That used to be sort of, I guess until recent years, a standard, what do I want to say . . . part of the Episcopal Church.

Q: A little bit of stand-offishness?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember anything like members having to be invited to be a part of Christ Church?

A: Invited to be? No.

Q: Some of the older women have told me that when Christ Church was founded, to be accepted as a member, you really had to be "invited." One lady termed it "bidden" into Christ Church.

A: That must have been before my time I think.

Q: It was when it was very early on.

A: I never heard of anything like that, no. But it could have been. It was very exclusive I guess. It was founded by "blue-bloods" of the community etc. but nobody invited me, I just went.

Q: I think by the time Jerry Wallace came he put an end to that pretty much.

A: I would imagine, yes, because he was very out-going and very down to earth and he didn't follow any format. I mean he was very, very natural and very much at ease. He was very low church of course, very low church. Of course Christ Church has always been low church. Somebody said we were the outcasts of the diocese. We were the only low church in the diocese, I think.

Q: We are, right.

A: But I love it.

Q: I like the simplicity of it.

A: Right and I like the service the way it is now too.

Q: Tell me, I hear all of this controversy over the prayer book changes.

A: Oh that's crazy. I don't know why there is so much controversy. Why should there be?

Q: I don't know but there sure seems to be a way of raising a lot of people's anger to change the prayer book.

A: Well, Sandy, that never bothered me in the least because I don't think it's that radical, that much of a change. Just because they changed the service, well yes, at one time when they had the trial book out before they had the final printed, you were jumping back and forth, you know, from the old prayer books to the trial service and it was a little hard to follow.

Q: Now see that's about the time we came into Christ Church.

A: Right and they would have to tell you where they were in this book and in that book but as soon as they printed the final . . . I could never understand that. I suppose it was because some people thought they should never change the prayer book. But it wasn't that radical a change. There were some things that were changed sure, but what difference does it make? That's not what you go there for.

Q: You feel that it wasn't anything to get excited about?

A: No.

Q: Why do you think people get so upset about change in that form?

A: I don't know really except maybe they just don't want to change anything. They just get in a set pattern and that's the routine that they have followed for so many years. When they change it, it upsets them I suppose.

Q: Do you think there was really a doctrine change of any kind with the new prayer book?

A: Well there could have been. I'm not that well versed in it but I don't think so. As far as I'm concerned no.

Q: How do you feel about having the lay people help with the communion?

A: Well I think that's great. I really like it. I think the more that the congregation participates the better. I may be different from a lot of other people but I've felt as I say, I remember the way it used to be where nobody participated when the altar used to be back up against the wall, the reredos was not there and the little window that is over the altar and the priest had his back to the congregation.

Q: They changed that too?

A: Oh sure. The service, he had his back to the congregation during the celebration of the holy communion, the altar was not forward.

Q: And in the pictures it looked like it was not back against that wall. I have one old picture and it doesn't look like it's all the way back, but it may have been.

A: Well maybe it wasn't but there was an altar and they never stood behind the altar.

Q: Now the priest turns and faces the congregation.

A: Yes, but they never stood behind the altar, they were in front of it always. That's what made me think it was flush against the wall.

Q: It might have been. The picture I have is rather cloudy. It's hard to tell.

A: But they moved the altar out when they put the . . .

Q: Do you remember Mrs. Palmer?

A: Sure I do. She was something, she was very active. Her husband, Dr. Palmer, had Palmer Sanitarium.

Q: Where was that?

A: Out where the Presbyterian Home is now.

Q: On Chatham and Lawrence?

A: Yes, she was very active along with Mother and May Hill, Gertie Magill, Mary Johnson and more than I can name. She was a very faithful member of Christ Church. She was a character. She had a mind of her own but she sure did what she started out to do.

Q: Do you remember some of the other women she was closely associated with? Mrs. Hatch?

A: Mrs. Hatch, right, Judy Hatch's mother. Pascal Hatch was president or vice president, I don't remember which, of the First National Bank when it was back in its infancy. Cordelia Hatch and Judy Hatch, Judy was the daughter, I always get this mixed up, but I think Cordelia was Frank Hatch's daughter and Cordelia Pascal and his wife's daughter, they had two daughters. Judy Hatch married Rockefeller.

Q: She did?

A: Governor of West Virginia. Judy was quite a bit younger than her older sister. Judy was active in the Sunday School and the choir and, oh yes, one time I sang in the choir. I forgot that. You'd never know it now but I did. That's when Lottie Taylor was the choir

director and Ann Wancker, her sister, was the organist. The organ used to be over there to the left of where the lectern is now.

Q: Oh to that side. Where the pipes still are?

A: Yes, she used to sit on the bench there and look in the mirror to see who was coming in the church and if everybody was in and ready. She played the organ for a good many years. That's Lottie Taylor and Will Taylor. They lived on 1331 Dial Court. I remember that. Mother and Dad were good friends of theirs. Will was with Franklin Life Insurance Company.

Q: What was he there? Was he one of the officers?

A: I think he was, I'm sure he was. I used to sit on his knee when we went over there for Sunday supper and worked crossword puzzles. He loved to work crossword puzzles and he worked them with me. Lottie was quite a singer. She was president of the Amateur Musical Club for years. She goes out to Sangamon State now. The theatre, what do you call it?

Q: The Mury Opera?

A: Yes. They had it in Springfield High School for years and then when Sangamon State opened their auditorium out there they moved out there. This year is the first year they've been out there. That's not right, it's the Springfield, maybe it's the Community Opera.

Q: I was thinking of the Mury Opera.

A: No, no, the Mury Opera is out at the lake. But this is what used to be the Amateur Musical Club and it is now the Springfield, well the Springfield Symphony Orchestra is out there too.

Q: In the new PAC building?

A: Right. Lottie was president, Charlotta was her name, and she was president of the Amateur Musical Club for a good many years. They lived on Dial Court there. There was Ann, and their mother and they were from Waverly originally, the Waverly area. They were active in the church although I don't think Lottie was ever actually a member. Ann was, but they were very devoted to the choir.

Q: The choir has attracted a quite serious membership hasn't it?

A: I would say so, yes, and Larry Moose is doing a marvelous job with the choir. Herman Ifort was before him. Herman was very dedicated and his wife, Virginia, was a very accomplished writer. I have one of her books. She was also a nature lover. Her death was very tragic.

Q: What happened to her?

A: She was in the Myers Building one day, got on the elevator and collapsed and died. She was young. I guess it was hard, she must have been in her 40's, no more.

Q: Oh really. You know they have a collection of her works at Western Illinois University, her paintings, her writings.

A: She was very, very talented.

Q: Something else I've learned doing these interviews, she must have been a wonderful lady.

A: She was a very pretty woman too. She was very striking. She had black hair and she wore it long and pulled back with sort of an oval face. She was very, very pretty. They had one son. But I think, Sandy, I'm not sure, but I think she couldn't have been more than in her 40's or early 50's but she was in Myers and got out of the elevator and just collapsed.

Q: Do you think people dress different for church?

A: Oh sure, oh definitely. I can remember when we always had to wear gloves, white gloves or whatever kind of gloves, and a hat. You never went to church without a hat and gloves.

Q: Did the men always wear suits?

A: Yes, they sure did. I think this casual way of dressing is much better.

Q: You're one of the more modern thinkers on things like that I have a feeling.

A: Well maybe it's because I'm getting older and I don't want to fuss, you know, as much. But we never went to church without gloves and a hat. That was unheard of.

Q: And a dress or a skirt?

A: Well there weren't pants then.

Q: I would have been out of luck.

A: That's right but I draw the line about kids coming in with blue jeans and bare feet. That's a little too much. But they can put on shoes and that's alright. What difference does it make what you wear? You're not there for show, this is what it used to be, a dress parade. You'd dress up and everybody on Easter Sunday, everybody turned around and looked at everybody else to see what they had on. So and so had this on and so and so had that on. I can remember that, and I thought, "Well, this is silly. What difference does it make what you wear?" No, I think it's much better now, I really do. I know there is a lot of people who object to the loosening of the tradition I guess, or what they've always done for so many years, and the changes

in the prayer book but I don't feel that way, Sandy. To me church is you go there for you and you're sharing with God, you're being with God. I don't think it's important a lot of this that they make such a fuss about.

Q: Yes, I agree with that heartily. I had better, my husband and I are probably the most informal of anybody that comes there.

A: No, I don't think so. As I say, to me, Christ Church is my home. I am going to be buried there at Christ Church, in the wall, in the garden.

Q: Oh you are?

A: And so is my husband. The ashes are going to be put in the wall of the garden. They have three or four of them there now.

Q: Oh, there are, who?

A: Didn't you know that?

Q: No.

A: Go in the garden sometime and there are plaques on the top of the wall.

Q: I didn't know that was there.

A: Mark Kirk is there. He was a member of Christ Church for years. His ashes are there. He was vice president or had a high office in Central Illinois Public Service Company and his services were held in Christ Church, his family and his widow and children. There is a plaque there for him and for two women, one of them is a Gardner. Go up and look at them.

Q: I sure will.

A: All I have to do is write a letter to Smith's with a copy to the church, that's what Hoby said. I don't want anybody taking me across the miles.

End of Side Two, Tape One

A: I was talking about my brother George and Betty, who are members of Christ Episcopal Church in Milwaukee and very active, George Leisenring and Betty Leisenring. They have a cremorium under the church for ashes of members of the church. I think there is something like six hundred spaces for crypts.

Q: There in Milwaukee? What church is that?

A: Christ Episcopal Church.

Q: There too.

A: Actually it's in Whitefish Bay which is part of Milwaukee. That's where they are going to be buried. I don't see any, a lot of people object to cremation, but when you see all this space taken up by cemeteries, they are running out of space. However my mother and my dad and my brother are buried in Druid Ridge Cemetery in Baltimore, their ashes, in the Kapp family burial plot. The stones are all marked with Mother's family, the Kapp family, and my dad's name was on the stone except for the year of his death. It was all arranged.

Q: They wanted to go back?

A: The Leisenring burial plot is also there in Maryland, but he wanted to be buried there in the Kapp plot with mother. Mother died in 1966 and Jack died in 1976. He was a very accomplished musician by the way.

Q: What did he play?

A: The piano. He used to play for the choir at Christ Church and also at the Sunday School before I came along. He performed in many of those things they used to have on the stage, he played the piano. Allan Abels, a good friend of his who is not a member of Christ Church, Sam Mulford was not a member of Christ Church, Razz Ambruster who now lives in Alton, Ross I think his name used to be, we called him Razz.

Q: Yes, oh that's Roger's cousin.

A: Really.

Q: Don Ambruster who lives out on South State Street and Ross are brothers.

A: Right.

Q: And they were Roger's cousins.

A: I didn't know that.

Q: They were second cousins.

A: Well Razz was a very close friend of my brother, Jack's, and they had an orchestra together. They used to play up when they were in college. Jack's Orchestra, Razz was the banjoist and Jack was the pianist and they played up in Lake Geneva for several summers at the pier there. Lake Geneva, that's where Jack met his wife. Well they're second cousins. We had a very nice letter from Razz when Jack died. In fact he was up here to see him when he was in the hospital. Don of course was younger.

Q: Don just retired in the last couple of years from Bell Telephone.

A: Now he was quite a bit younger than Razz, wasn't he?

Q: I don't know. There was another brother in there and I don't know how they ranked but I think Don is the youngest.

A: Oh Alfred, wasn't it Alfred?

Q: Yes, he lived out in California and he's dead.

A: Oh really.

Q: He died several years ago.

A: But Razz used to play the banjo and sing in the orchestra. He used to hold this doll and sing, what was that song that was so popular then?

Q: "The Dolly with the Hole in Her Stocking?"

A: No, that was long after this. This was long about, oh he used to rock that doll. I can see him yet. I'll think of it later but it was sort of a lullaby and he had a doll and he rocked it and sang this. He and Jack were very close. Then also Jack, when he was in college at the U. of I., had an orchestra over there that Razz was not in. They shipped their orchestra overseas a couple of summers on the ships. They booked them on the ships and they'd play on the ships, the passenger ships, which they used to have then. They got their passage over there and back and then two or three weeks to roam around, bicycle around, and go to these hostels and stay over there awhile before the ship went back. A wonderful experience, they bicycled around, they didn't have cars then. They went all through Germany and you name it and that's while they were in college.

Q: They really did have a great time didn't they?

A: Jack had an orchestra and my brother, George, had an orchestra. George used to play saxophone. They practiced out at our house at 21 Illini Road.

Q: And you played the piano?

A: Yes, I was a pianist, George was a saxophonist, and Jack was a pianist. But Jack was very versatile in that he could read music as well as play by ear. See people normally, when they play by ear, can't read music, but he could both. We have a tape of his here that he made for my dad. He could sit down and play Leiberstrom, classical music, popular music, you name it and we always used to have "sings" when the family got together. We'd all gather around the piano and sing. All the old favorites, you know. He had a remarkable facility or knack or a gift of being able to sit down and play anything but he could still read music.

Q: Isn't that wonderful? Do your children have this musical talent?

A: Barb and Sue both, well all of them, Barb and Sue and Jim, all took. Jim was not a pianist, they took piano yes. Barbara is still quite musical and Jim was a sort of quite a rounder. He took accordion, he was quite a drummer for awhile, he liked the drums, but he never was very serious about any of them. John played in the high school orchestra until it practically folded up. He was a viola player. He still has his viola which is an in between type, it's not the little one. He's pretty good. I asked him the other day if he wanted to sell his viola. He said, "No, I don't think so really." It's still up there maybe he will take it up again.

Q: Is he still at Springfield?

A: No, he's at Lincoln Land now.

Q: Okay, I knew he was in college there.

A: He's in Lincoln Land, second year.

Q: Second year already?

A: Already he's nineteen. He's going to SIU in Carbondale next year for the last two years. They are supposed to have a very fine communications school. It's been recommended to him but he's a little concerned I think because he has a girlfriend and she doesn't want him to leave her and she's afraid he will forget all about her you know. But he needs to get away for a couple of years.

Q: I understand that.

A: But I don't know what else I can tell you.

Q: Tell me something. Do you remember when Jerry Wallace was fighting corruption? Can you remember that? He was very actively outspoken against the pinball machines and the punch boards and all of that.

A: Yes he was, he was very outspoken.

Q: Tell me a little bit about him.

A: Well he was a very unusual man. He said what he thought and didn't mince any words about it. As I say, he didn't have any format that he followed. He was just as apt to say something in the middle of, you know, very unexpected, but he was very opposed to corruption, vice which was just beginning to rear it's ugly head in those days. His wife, I'm trying to remember her first name, she was a very, very pleasant woman and they had one little boy, Andy, who came along after they came here. Course I thought at that time, and I was little, I thought they was sort of old to have a youngster but I'm sure they weren't as old as I was when I had John. But she was very active in the church and Jerry was of course in complete charge of everything in the church. There was no assistant. In those days they didn't have assistants. We had the superintendent of Sunday School and that was

it. I don't know, Sandy, what the enrollment was then. I have no idea and no way of knowing, but I'm sure it had to be less than what we have now. There were a lot of wealthy families in Christ Church but they've all long gone. As you said, before you mentioned the fact that you had to be asked to join the church. That was before my time but there were a lot of wealthy families and that's what they probably existed on for a good many years. And all of a sudden now we are back to being down to earth and everyday, which Hoby handles beautifully.

Q: The everyday money worries now.

A: That's right.

Q: We don't have any parishioners today.

A: The Hatchs, the Palmers, gee, who were the other ones?

Q: Do you remember when they rented the pew?

A: I never rented a pew.

Q: They used to, they had them numbered.

A: That must have been quite a few years ago, before I was born.

Q: I understand that Phyllis Herndon Brissenden still sits in the third pew from the front on the aisle because that was the pew that her family rented. Even though it's not a rented pew anymore she still likes to sit in that particular spot.

A: Well that's another family, Phyllis' folks. Obed Herndon used to have Herndon's store and his wife, but I didn't know they rented them.

Q: I don't know when they stopped paying for pews or renting your pew but I know they did do that for a long time there.

A: Well I don't think my mother and dad ever rented a pew.

Q: I don't know when it stopped but they used to have little brass numbers on them and you had half a pew. Betty Leinicke still has one of the old ones.

A: They did have little numbers on the pews but if my folks ever paid for their pew I never knew it.

Q: It may have stopped by then.

A: Maybe they did and never said anything to me about it. They did have numbers, each side was numbered, on either side of the aisle.

Q: They had a little arm kind of in the middle of it, of the pew length.

A: Yes, I remember that.

Q: Do you remember when they remodeled the church?

A: Sure.

Q: What all did they change?

A: Well they changed quite a bit up in the chancel. That used to be perfectly bare and it had a tile floor which was pretty but it was cold in the winter, had no carpeting under it. Mosaic tile floors, you know, that sort of thing and the altar was very bare. As I said before, I think it must have been flush against the wall or pretty close to it and all that was there was a very small cross and this window that used to be above the altar, the stained glass windows over the choir loft and that was it. The church pews, I'm trying to remember the floor there. There was no carpeting and the pews, the benches, were just hardwood benches, nothing on them and not very comfortable to kneel on. The pews were just about as uncomfortable. So they made great progress as far as improving the appearance of the church inside as well as the comfort because these old wooden kneeling benches and the pews were in pretty bad shape by the time they remodeled.

Q: About when was that, 1970?

A: Gee, Sandy, I don't know, did somebody give you an idea of that?

Q: Yes, it was maybe 1970, 1965 to 1970 somewhere along in there?

A: That could have been because I graduated from school. I really don't remember whether it was that late or not.

Q: Well it could have been earlier, I can look in the vestry minutes and find that.

A: But it sure improved the church with the reredos and the new choir stall and all the woodwork up there in the chancel.

Q: They put that little like wainscoting up in there again.

A: Nothing had been there, it was just absolutely bare.

Q: It must have been a very austere church?

A: Yes, it was and the unfriendliness of people didn't help it any either. If you spoke to anybody, it used to sort of frighten me when I was little, I thought, "Gee, these people are awful, cold," you know, nobody speaks to anybody else. They didn't have anybody greeting anybody or turn around.

Q: Did they have coffee hour?

A: No.

Q: That's a recent invention.

A: Right, we had Sunday School, we had Church and we went home and that was it. They just didn't.

Q: Then you agree with what Mrs. Schoening told me that the "Websters only spoke to the Ridgelys and the Ridgelys only spoke to God."

A: Right I do, I do, I sure do.

Q: Did your mother work on the Red Cross project?

A: Yes, she did.

Q: What did they make mostly?

A: We used to make bandages for the cancer dressings and I don't know all sorts of . . . I wish she were here to tell you. She worked on everything down there, bandages for cancer dressings, and bandages for this and I don't know.

Q: Did they have war projects where they worked on stuff for the war effort?

A: I'm sure they did.

Q: Do you remember Grandma Lanphier?

A: Grandma Lanphier, Libby Lanphier's grandmother? No, I knew Libby and then her daughters.

Q: Was Bitsey Libby's daughter?

A: Bitsey and Susie Kelley, Bitsey Beard and Susie Kelley. They are members of Christ Church. Susie is.

Q: And Bitsey Beard is too.

A: Right and Jack, Libby's husband. I remember Jack's dad. I don't remember that I knew his mother but Jack's dad just died not too long ago.

Q: Right, he was Lanphier Insurance, right?

A: And his dad, John Lanphier, Sr., was out on West Washington by Eisners, I mean where Mrs. Feltenstein is.

Q: Oakbrook Terrace.

A: Right, just a couple of years ago and he was ninety some years old also, ninety-six or ninety-seven. Then there were the Bradfords who used to be members of Christ Church, very active and they moved to Florida.

Q: Have you remained friends with any of the people you grew up in church with? Have you kept close to any of them?

A: Well yes and no because most of them have moved away. Families that I grew up with are no longer here. Bradishs, John Bradish and his wife and daughter, Lillian, were very active members of Christ Church and the Bradishs used to live a couple of houses east of us here. Mrs. Bradish was custodian of Lincoln's Home for years. In fact we played bridge in Lincoln's Home when she was custodian.

Q: Oh you did?

A: We sure did and then after Mrs. Bradish, Virginia Brown was quite a writer. She wrote several little books about Lincoln. We played bridge upstairs in the apartments. When the apartments used to be upstairs, they lived there. It was not all open to the public as it is now.

Q: Oh, these people actually lived in Lincoln's Home?

A: Yes, they lived upstairs in apartments upstairs and then they'd go down the stairs in the back and get refreshments while we were playing bridge. It was sort of weird, but Mrs. Bradish was there and then Virginia Brown followed her. You had a sort of funny feeling about playing bridge in Lincoln's Home.

Q: What did they use for a kitchen?

A: There was a kitchen downstairs.

Q: On the first floor?

A: Yes.

Q: The one that is remodeled as a an old time kitchen now? It was modern.

A: Well no, it never was, well it was modern, they had put all this stuff up in there to remodel it up to the period. But there was a regular kitchen there, that's where they did their cooking. They went down these stairs and had a refrigerator and a stove.

Q: They've taken them all away again.

A: Mrs. Bradish was very active in Christ Church as well as her daughter, Lillian. Lillian was married to Richard Linney who was an active member of Christ Church. He was a trust officer at the Springfield Marine Bank. They had one son and in later, I don't know how many years, they were divorced and she remarried and moved to Maine. Lillian and I were very, very good friends. I'm trying to think who else was in that. Oh, Cliff Hathaway's first wife, Margie Hathaway, was in that bridge club also, when we used to play bridge every two weeks. I haven't played bridge for years.

Q: I love to play bridge. I'm not very good, but I enjoy it.

A: We used to play a lot of bridge but this was a little bridge club. It started out with four tables and then went down to three tables and it went down to two tables and we ended up with one table playing something else besides bridge, I don't remember what it was. They'd all moved away or died. Billie Haynes, she was not a member of Christ Church. She was a Williams, Billie and Mary Williams, lived over here on Lincoln between Lawrence and Fayette.

Q: Do you remember any of the big dinners, parties, potlucks and things like that?

A: Yes, I don't think as I remember any of them were potlucks.

Q: That's a recent thing?

A: That's a recent thing, yes. It was mostly the women of the church prepared the dinners and served them in the dining room. Talk about ours not being very modern today, that was worse. It wasn't very modern but they cooked the meals right there and waited on the tables. They ran their legs off on that cement floor. But potlucks, I don't remember ever having any potlucks. They used to have a lot of, the Women's Auxiliary, had luncheons once a month and they fixed a salad and coffee or tea and desert and rolls. I think potlucks are very new.

Q: Especially at Christ Church?

A: Yes.

Q: Have you ever heard the term "jitney dinner?"

A: Jitney? What's a "jitney dinner?"

Q: Something Mrs. Schoening was talking about. Apparently all the women would contribute something to this and it was open to the public and like for a price you could go up and have all you wanted to eat. It must have been very early on in the church when they did those.

A: It could have been before I was a member.

Q: Yes, that's what I figured because she's the only person who has used that term.

A: You mean they fixed the stuff and people went through and bought whatever they wanted?

Q: Yes. I was just trying to get a little more clarification if somebody knows what they were really. I'd like to have more than one person remember any given thing.

A: Jitney dinners.

Q: Do you remember the Men's Luncheon Club?

A: Yes.

Q: Who was Boomer Davis? Somebody ask me, do you remember?

A: Who?

Q: Boomer Davis. That was supposed to be the name of one of the Mens' group, Boomer Davis Luncheon Club.

A: Who was Boomer Davis? I remember the name but I don't know who Boomer Davis was.

Q: I think somebody told me and I can't remember for sure.

A: I remember the name Boomer Davis but who and what he was I don't know.

Q: Apparently they had quite a good group for him.

A: Yes, they did, very active. This group they have now that meets on Thursday is a beginning of that same thing. Except I think then times were more relaxed and men could spend a little more time there at the luncheons than they can do now. Everybody wasn't dashing off to go back to work or something else.

Q: Did more of the men seem to have their own businesses?

A: Well some, but some were in the banks. They were probably in positions where they could afford to stay away longer. It didn't make any difference if they got back in time. So this was like Dr. Palmer. I don't know whether he was ever. Mrs. Palmer was the one who was more active. But they run the TB sanatorium where the Presbyterian Home is now and was a very noted TB surgeon and physician and what have you. Of course it wasn't as big and expensive as it was now, but it had a very good reputation. I am trying to think of Mrs. Palmer's first name, she worked hard down there. There again there was money involved as far as the church was concerned. The Hatches, and I'm sure I overlooked a lot of them, the Herndons. There are a lot more.

Q: A lot of people have come and gone?

A: Right.

Q: I was going to ask you some more about the wall where they have the people buried. How long ago was that started where people were put in there, do you know?

A: Well the first one I knew of was Mark Kirk. Of course the dates are on those plaques on top of the wall and this was Hoby's project.

Q: Oh it is?

A: Oh yes, he's talked about cremorium or whatever they call it in the garden, but it's been a while. There are three plaques there.

Q: I'm going to have to make a point to see them.

A: They take a stone out of the wall on the garden side and put the crypt, the box, right in there and put the stone back in and then they put the plaque in the upper part of the wall.

Q: Do you remember when they used to have ice cream socials in the garden?

A: Yes, they had a lot of them. The wedding receptions, we had a good many wedding receptions there.

Q: In the garden? Were there very many weddings take place in the garden?

A: Yes, they had weddings there. They were very pretty. Depended upon the weather too, you know. Yes, they used to have a lot of ice cream socials and teas for the Women's Auxiliary. That garden was not as pretty as it is now. Eleanor Gover has done a beautiful job, she and her committee in taking care of that garden but it was always a pretty spot. And it's just like I bet I've heard a lot people say they'd go by on the street and they'd come in and sit down. It was like a haven for the busy downtown thoroughfare to be able to walk in there and sit down between the church and the temple on the other side.

Q: Yes, I used to use it when I worked downtown.

A: Still I'm wondering. Do you know what the church committees are planning to do with that Sears property? Are they going to build over there or what?

Q: No, they want that to have an option to expand the church when it's needed.

A: What would they expand?

Q: Well if they would ever need more Sunday School rooms. I think what they had hoped to do, for the present, was maybe using some of it for the church offices where they need a bigger office. Then they had talked about using it for the elderly in the church, like apartments for the indigent in the church who couldn't really afford to be in their own home. Maybe like Cellini's apartments were where they pay 25 percent of their income and then they can help taking care of some of the poor in the church who really don't have money to support themselves.

A: You could put that there where the apartments are.

Q: Just using the apartments as they are, doing enough remodeling to make them livable. But I assume, at the present time, they are just going to continue renting it as it is rented, the office space and whatever living space, whatever it's rented out to now. But it's the last piece of land adjacent to the Church that they can get their

hands on if they need to expand and also for parking. They can have their parking spaces and then rent the other. I think they want to kind of for awhile and open that up to an entire parking area. But they just feel if they don't get that parcel of land now, that the Church will buy eventually, because it's the only direction they can expand.

A: That's right, that's right, I know that.

Q: And that's why they want it so badly.

A: I just wondered. I had never talked to Hoby about what they planned to use it for, but I'm sure he had something in mind.

Q: Yes, the women wanted to sell it and they were trying to give the church as good a deal as they could without giving up everything themselves. They were trying to be fair and I think they've probably worked it out very well. But they felt like if the church would ever need to grow and got to the point where they needed more facilities, that's the only way we could do it.

A: Well I'm trying to remember where the offices used to be. You still walk up the stairs and the basement and the dining room was still there and the kitchen was still there and you walked up the stairs and there was this auditorium with a stage, but the offices . . . I guess it's all changed so much, but it was probably right there where it is now but there was nothing on the other side. You went right into these glass doors and went into the auditorium.

Q: The way I think it was, and tell me if this sounds right when I say it, you came up the stairs as you come in now and on the side towards the alley, or the east, was where the church offices were.

A: That's right.

Q: And then the priest's office was in back of the where Hoby's is?

A: Right.

Q: So that the offices ended even with the top of the stairs?

A: Right and then you went right into this glassed-in . . .

Q: So if you came up the stairs you didn't realize you were actually coming past two offices.

A: Right, and they had many productions as I say. The local talent or local whatever and the piano used to be right there before they added on the Sunday School building. The piano set right at . . .

Q: Right where the stairs go down now?

A: No, it was on the other side below the stage, right below the stage towards the alley on that side.

Q: Oh, on the opposite side, I see.

A: And the Sunday School rooms, eventually when the Sunday School grew, they had some of the classes up on the stage.

Q: Do you remember when they had Sunday School in the Masonic Temple? It would have been under Bill Jacobs.

A: I never had Sunday School in the Masonic Temple.

Q: Apparently during the time--wasn't Bill Jacobs there before Frank Shaffer?

A: Right.

Q: When he was there they had so many people coming they had three services in the morning. The Sunday School part of it was in the Masonic Temple.

A: It could have been but I didn't know about it.

Q: They said when they built the Sunday School addition it was not big enough to accommodate.

A: No it wasn't.

Q: And now it's plenty big enough. They still use some of the rooms in the carriage house but it's got enough room. Have you seen the new teen furniture.

A: The what?

Q: The new teen room, the new furniture. Somebody gave them four thousand dollars worth of new furniture and carpeting for that room. They've painted it and fixed it all up and the kids . . .

A: You and Roger did a lot of that, didn't you?

Q: No.

A: Somebody did.

Q: Some of the young people, the young married couples, painted that but they've repainted that again and they've got brand new furniture. John should come down and see it. He wouldn't recognize the old teen room.

A: He probably wouldn't.

Q: Beautiful and the young people are coming back again.

A: That's good. It doesn't look like the same place then. Of course he's been at a great disadvantage because he's been working at the radio station until midnight or twelve to seven on Sunday mornings,

depends on when they want him. So he has to sleep and he'll come back.

Q: Oh sure, sure they do.

A: We had the same thing with our other kids.

Q: But they said that the teen group was growing again. They had gotten pretty scarce so I'm glad to see it. It got down to about seven or eight. Now it's up to around fifteen or sixteen I guess pretty regular on Sunday.

A: Well that's good.

Q: It doesn't sound like a lot but then . . .

A: It's a big jump yes, if you can get any of them back. We had the same with our other three. They drifted away for awhile and it used to bother me but they came back. You just have to let them go their own way. Kids these days are not ruled. I wouldn't say ruled, but they have their own minds and they are going to speak it and use it whereas when we were growing up you didn't have the freedom that they have now and you didn't know anything else.

End of Side One, Tape Two