

John P VanAlstyne

Tape 1, Side 1:

[I/1/1] Introduction. Early childhood in Kinderhook, NY.

[I/1/30] His parents and grandparents, city, medical practices, banks and daily life described.

[I/1/212] Moved to Geneva, NY at age 5. Horse and wagon delivery, electric refrigeration, trolley car. Father worked at experimental station. Milk pasteurized when he was 10.

[I/1/285] City center, and clothing store described.

[I/1/385] Depression. WPA [Works Progress Administration]. Families helped each other.

Tape 1, Side 2:

[I/2/1] Social activities and school life.

[I/2/217] Economic base of city was in milling, canning, eyeglass lens grinding.

[I/2/239] He earned his allowance cutting lawns and picking cherries. Saved for college.

[I/2/307] World War II. Because of health he was 4F and taught school. Had originally wanted to be an architect. His parents were ill and he attended college on scholarships.

[I/2/506] Became Dean of Academic Advising.

Tape 2, Side 1:

{II/1/7} Attended Hamilton College.

II/1/130] World War II. He taught military and civilian students.

[II/1/182] Diseases and medical discoveries.

[II/1/377] Went to Princeton graduate school. For 3 years worked at bank in NY. Was married with a child.

[II/1/467] Attended night courses at Columbia.

[II/1/480] Took a 60% cut in salary to teach at Hamilton.

Tape 2, Side 2:

[II/2/1] Met wife and married while in New York City. After the birth of the first daughter, they went to Hamilton College. Two more daughters were born and they all went to Europe for summer.

[II/2/86] After recovering from hepatitis he became a professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, with 1,000 students. He was instrumental in starting the Association of University Professors.

[II/2/300] Study to restructure the college was funded by the National Science Foundation. This led to many changes and was studied by MIT and educators from Sweden.

[II/2/327] He was made Dean of Academic Advising. There were 2, 400 students in the college.

[II/2/498] When he reached 65 and was no longer an administrator he went to Washington and then London on college projects. In summer he taught teachers.

[II/2/553] He will be teaching school children this fall as well as adults in the College for Seniors. "Students are ageless."

Tape 3, Side 1:

[III/1/1] During his last year at WPI he sold his house at a profit and moved to Asheville.

[III/1/18] Discovered College for Seniors, was impressed and became involved. He spends 5 days a week all year volunteering. [Ron Manheimer, Lin Brown, Walter Adamson, Norm Smith, Earl Hitchcock, Cissie Stevens]

[III/1/133] His attitude toward the college and its composition is discussed.

Tape 3, Side 2:

[III/2/1] On this side he gives an overview of his thoughts about Asheville - economically, historically, culturally, educationally, financially - and the relationship between the various groups. [Eugene W. (Gene) Ellison]