

Interview with Wilbert Treloar, Marquette Michigan July 6, 1995

RMM: ??? could we start with your birthdate?

WT: October 28, 1901.

RMM: OK thank you. When did, where did you grow up or where did you live before you go to Northern?

WT: Mostly in Marquette, I came to Marquette in 1905, 1907 and I went mostly through grade school, I started it in second grade and then I went through high school and then I went to Northern.

RMM: When did you begin in classes at Northern?

WT: September of 1919.

RMM: What was the environment of Northern like at that time? How would you characterize the school?

WT: Well at that time Northern was normal. And if I recall correctly your ?? executive was ??? superintendent then came James Hamilton ??? I believe he was the first one that was officially recognized as president of Northern. ?????? This is not derogatory at all, it was an extension of high school, you were ??? difficult change from high school to a university. The campus was quite limited there were only like two buildings and in back of the buildings was woods. I would say the proportion of girls to boys wasn't one to one but ??? girls and boys, would be about pretty close to 5 to 1. A lot of kids would never make the football team today, ??? they needed fifteen players for substitutes and kids that never even played football in high school, I know were members of the Northern team. I am thinking of at least four members of my graduating class were never on our football team during high school were members of the first team and we played for the independent teams around the area, I believe we ?? established football and basketball ??? Michigan Tech and I don't know exactly what year ??? I just ????? I know that the feeling ?? was that ??? there was more attention directed toward the girls than there was the ?boys? I think one of the teachers was a ?? literary societies, you were automatically placed in a literary society ?? I happened to be a member of ??? what they did was as you registered for you junior year your year ?????? ??? your school one year they would put your first and then all your odd numbers ??? be in ??? and the even numbers would be in ??? And then the next year they would change and ?? would take the odd numbers and ?? would take the even ones and there was a ?? humor and natural rivalry developed along with camaraderie but they were, the two literary societies of ??? at the time, you were automatically placed you didn't have a choice. And you had regular visitors you ?instructors?, you didn't ??? on Thursday night ??? figures out of the area ??? of course that was we met some other night and that was it, you were ?? and I remember one of the other was I remember is every

Thursday morning at ten we had a ?sandwich?, you had a
 ?????????????????? 26 months of hypocrisy. ??? always sat on ???
 particularly important but I remember ?? several programs ??? you
 were born ??? you were ??? but the property member was the one
 who was very helpful, I don't know anything about the ??? the way
 of the time and you have to ?? institutions by the period of
 time you are talking about. There was a development, there was a
 method to develop a school spirit but at that time it was a
 teaching school and teachers ??? and I think even that the girls
 went there with the ideas that being able to teach for a couple
 of years would be ??? They wanted to get background of training
 and people who belonged to other schools ??? graduated Northern
 ??? ??? let them grow and ?? a universities problem but you have
 the pride in the school that you are going to hurt. ??? be proud
 and they weren't the engagements, the relationships between other
 schools, we were pretty much by our selves, ??? problem. I can
 remember more than anything how much it would cost me today in
 order to \$6000 ??? was only ??? conceivably. When I graduated or
 when I attended tuition was \$30 a semester and if you didn't have
 \$30 ??? pretty bad shape. ?? \$60 there was no such thing as
 hour/credit you graduated with your grade ??? great it was. ???
 per semester ????? the idea credit/ hour wasn't heard. The
 things that they take for granted today were not known 70 years
 ago ???

RMM: OK I would like to just go back to somethings that you made,
 could you comment on the personality of the president Tate, you
 said he always, he wanted people to address him with

WS: No I didn't ??, I don't know, I don't know what caused the
 dispute with president Tate. But when ?????????? Oh here is a
 very ??? gentlemen. I think one of the things ???not aware, was
 the ?????? I remember John Marsden who was ??? general for the
 state of the Michigan. John was not a politician who went down to
 defend ?????? the upper peninsula dedication wanted ??? and they
 would have to get John and John quickly became, and it was a good
 attitude generally but he wanted no part of the political ?? he
 was on one term. He went down ?????? Northern to him was the end
 of the line ??? considered ????? state legislature was concerned.
 The state legislature ??? president of Northern down and find out
 what he wanted and ??? what they want according to John. And he
 directed the ?????? there were a lot of things as I look back, I
 see a lot of the four or five incidents where pioneer ??? the
 school ??? save a lot more money that the legislature didn't have
 to give and the money ??? ?????? That has obviously changed and
 also ?????? for the school. But Northern came to a time where it
 ?? Northern ?? family and I think that President Tate went
 through a developing years and has grown from just a you know we
 finally got a school up in Marquette to ??? as a ??? the
 educational system and of course ??? within the community. But
 as you probably know most of the ??? is ?????? community ???????
 in the winter because the ground wasn't as good as it is now but

they know it and you probably know it, they have taken advantage of it. The drawing board couldn't handle all the buildings and the room that ????? a lot of them opened, quit a few of them also ?? meetings and so the ???? was ???? literary ??? for ???? ?

RMM: Do you remember, when you were ???, do you remember the heart that was in front of Longyear hall? Kind of a raised mound of earth that was raised like a heart.

WT: Oh sure, there used to be a lot of kids in the back use it you could nestle, or couples in their crazy love

RMM: How was it used while you were at Northern? Were there public programs that were around the heart?

WT: No, not that I know of, it was just there.

RMM: It was just there. Do you remember what people thought about? You know why it was there or anything like one of these ???

WT: No ?? One of the things that I don't think jolted me, but surprised me was the number of the contingent committee. There was an interest that the committee had in that ???? I do not know, I am not aware in my memory at all of any of the outstanding recognition or any kind of connotation that was given to the heart shaped ??? but I don't believe at least it was never mentioned in my presence that it had any connotation or that it had any connection between that and the university using it as a social ?? it was just there.

RMM: Now when you were attending ??? had said that guys would kiss their girls there or fraternity boys would pin there girls on the heart. Was it used for that purpose at that time?

WT: Well first of all there were no fraternities and there were no pins to pin on their sweethearts. It may be that a couple who were ?? choose to be ???? to that spot but there was never an unexplained feature of the school or campus or campus life. I was not aware at anytime. Now I could have been extremely naive but I was not aware at anytime that there was anything unusual or romantic association to the ??? as a recognized ?? I don't remember, it may have been the school ????? , I know I didn't ever use it.

RMM: When you were attending Northern was there ever a Dean of man or a Dean of women? Was there ever any rules or that you were supposed to follow?

WT: Well Ethyl Carey was Dean of Women, she had one hell of a lot of rules. I remember one spring it was a very beautiful warm day and this girl, I do not know here name and if I did I

wouldn't give it, and we sat outside ????? I was supposed the main entrance ??? concrete wall coming out there you could sit on it. We used to sit on it and cross your legs ??? and someone took a picture and it was published, something about the way to spring on your ??? ?????? Now and then ??? Ethyl Carey, one of the girls ??? aroused the boys ??? she used to attend the bank and have the men walk ???? making a six inch ??? and she kept it between the boys and the girls so that way when ?????? I never ????? holding a girl to close ??? I am sure there are a lot of other ones. Another one is ????? the ????? custodian. But ????? you go out the window ??? open up and somebody would ????? I think ??? nevertheless the doors would lock. I don't believe I ever dated a girl but they say that ????

RMM: When you said you were going to school you said you graduated in twenty ____ ?

WT: Twenty-one

RMM: Twenty - one, was there, what kind of entertainment or music was there for the kids like on the weekend and so on and was there any drinking, that was kind of the beginning of prohibition. Was there any sort of alcohol.

WT: There was some sure. There was some wine but I may be wrong but I don't know a single person between women I don't remember any girls taking a drink.

RMM: Earlier you mentioned the assemblies. When you were attending school at one point it was called chapel. Was that a term that was used when you were there ?

WT: Never.

RMM: What did the assemblies usually consist of it? What kind of programs did they exist of, could you give us an example of what kind of programs they consisted of?

WT: ????? There would be faculty presentations on different ??? and there would be ?employee that skipped? by student or ????? was ??? getting ????? and other student activities at different times.

RMM: Do you remember who was usually in charge of that? Students or faculty or? In terms of putting together the programs.

WT: That's a darn good questions, no I don't know it just seemed to me one of the ????? would be ?? I have to assume different members of the faculty ??? working ??? of teaching various programs. ??? in charge of one program ????? in charge of ?? program. Obviously I am presuming this that president ??? wouldn't ??? I don't know that, I just don't know.

RMM: After you, oh will you were a student at Northern were you personally involved in any activities or any sports?

WT: I ??? for two years, I was editor of the Northern ?alumnu? Professor ?? was the faculty advisor for the editorial staff at that time. I was president of the class. Does that answer ?? I remember the names of ?? in charge of ??? and she was ??? and she came up from ?? and came through the foyer and ??? one hell of a sensation ??? women members of the faculty ???? and she came up stairs she ??? wanted something. she wasn't attractive but to me the mostly, I am sure the most important (end of side one)

RMM: Now when you were ?? president I have noticed that some of the policies like the past 1916 goes that starts with Lincoln that you have put back into play, did you remember any class gift that was given?

WT: No.

RMM: your class?

WT: No.

RMM: was that a

WT: I guess I don't believe that there was an established tradition

RMM: I see, so it just comes down to the class and the students in that class

WT: I think so, yes

RMM: Now what did you, I guess I was trying to ask this earlier, why did you go to or why did you come to Northern?

WT: I did because it was in Marquette.

RMM: Were you planning on going on to teaching or into teaching?

WT: I didn't want to but that ???? at it. We lived in an age of ???? and my ?????? so I ??

RMM: I didn't say you went for college, had they started the four year program or was it just

WT: The four year program as I believe it was announced the year I graduated. They were going to build baccalaureate and bachelors degree and one member of our class, ???? but she was the first one but I can't think of her name. But she decided to stay on for a few more years and get a baccalaureate at Northern. Now most of them took it as an opportunity that they could go out

and teach a couple of years and then come back with a little of money. And so ?????

RMM: So then how did this affect you? You had the two year certificate then?

WT: I had two year certificate and went out to teach.

RMM: So then you did go out and teach?

WT: I taught for four years.

RMM: OOh, where did you do that?

WT: ?Even?

RMM: And then what happened after teaching?

WT: I was ready to ???? in ??? Two vehicles were left home and I was ???? and we got a telephone call ??? all the boys come down and help ???? and I wrote the story for the Mining Journal ????? and the Mining Journal offered me a job and I took it. 1925, May. ??? My first ?? was may ?21?

RMM: and then you continued to work for the Mining Journal until? What year was it?

WT: Well I worked ??? Now I worked in the Mining Journal for a while and then I was transferred to Iron Mountain ????? and stayed with the Mining Journal organization itself ??? Iron Mountain for a while ??? down to Ann Arbor but I was back again and my life with the, in a sense, ?the working matter the working industry?.

RMM: Now at one point there in the 1970's , this is kind of away from Northern but it is kind of connected to Northern, you wrote the biography of the Cohodas family.

WT: right.

RMM: How did you get involved with that?

WT: I was ??????

RMM: now you were still at the ???

WT: the ??? yeah. I retired from the Mining Journal.

RMM: Oh

WT: They ??? from the ??? and ?? home had to drag them home from something or another that had been held at the Cohodas garage in

Michigamme and he said the ??? and he was standing there coughing and ?? done in my kitchen had never been ?? there. So ??? was feeling all right we wrote a story about it, we wrote a book about it. ????

RMM: When you wrote that book did you interact, did you interview Sam and get information from him or how did that work?

WT: I interview Sam and then ??? and ???

RMM: How long did it take you to work on that to

WT: About a year.

RMM: Did you work with Sam before or was that the first time?

WT: I had know Sam, I had worked with Sam on a number of ?offers? Sam gave me the I wont say the honor but the privilege of sitting in his office while he made phone calls, confidential calls about the business because he knew I would never reveal them and I never have up to this day. Things that happen and things that I know about at one time he said I knew more about the Cohodas family than anybody outside the Cohodas family and I had no way of ??? but the way it began, when I first met Sam, when I first ??? him I ??? and I ????? I knew ??? and I thought that I was ??? and maybe I was ?? my ????? was always confidential and my news was always confident. Did you hear the story about the ???

RMM: MMHM

WT: I don't know a ??? that ??? me in as such ??? he was ????? could be checked and he did and I continue to believe, never once ?????

RMM: So this was before that you developed this relationship with him before you wrote the book?

WT: Oh yes, I had never planned before I wrote the book I had never planned for the things that

RMM: Now was it difficult, now I ask this because we are putting together a renovated Cohodas room over in the dorm, and we are working on putting together a story using your book and then other material that the family has given us and so on, was it, I ask this question keep in mind, was it difficult to pull a lot of that story together in terms of birth dates and locations and where they were from ? I know for instance the town they were from, ?James Lome? is kind of confusing the situation. Did you find it you know difficult, I wouldn't say so much difficult, but you had to go out and gather a lot ????? asking for information, asking family members for information?

WT: Oh you had to ask but they were quite cooperative.

RMM: But you said you had to do a lot of digging?

WT: Well as you do on everybody. I had to dig ??? anything ???
?? didn't have to good of a memory of ??? in Poland.

RMM: How did you as a person that knew him and ?? around with him you were obviously familiar with the family with the ??? was there, could you capsule some kind of description or comment on the character of Sam Cohodas as an individual as you knew him.

WT: I am sure that he loves his wife, one thing. Sam was the same way with ?? as he was with me. He was an ?? league. ??? was the only problems that he, I don't know I guess. Sam was a ????? I would say when he was 40 some years ??? I never knew of him ??? or forgetting ????????? I remember on time, he says I don't understand these people that always got ahead, ?????? and ????? my ?????? me ????? he says I am accustom to doing business with old Jews and Italians and ????? and he says to me shake hands on everything and we shoke hands and ?? bond. One thing that I miss in the old ways is the ?????? Jews and the Italians were running most of the businesses and everytime that you shoke hands with one you made a contract. ??? when you made a contract you shook hands, "yes I will be there" and you shook hands with them, you meant ?? what he was going to do you were ??? to do it and you did. You don't have to, didn't have in modern days ?????
?????

RMM: No that is alright this kind of fits in with Northern because we are working on this project. One question about Sam Cohodas I have for you and maybe you can shed some light on it, in doing some of the re , organizing the material looking at some of the resources we found that there was discrepancy with his birthdate. Did you ever run across that or did he ever mention that?

WT: Never.

RMM: the discrepancy?

WT: No.

RMM: Because you said he was born in 1895

WT: That is correct

RMM: in later years but the earlier records points to 1897.

WT: All I know is that ??? we had what twelve birthday celebrations for him. They were all pegged on 95, all of them. ??? ??? who used to be the manager of an insurance company,

Metropolitan, was the first ??? to be 75 and I used to ?? special edition ??? and ??? All of them was pegged on the idea that ????? This is actually the first time that anybody has mentioned a discrepancy in understanding his birthdate.

RMM: OK, those all the questions that I have on Cohodas. I guess after all this time with your situation with Northern, either directly or indirectly through the Mining Journal, would you want to make some comments in terms of kind of summing up your view of Northern as the type of institution when you went there and then what is ????

WT: ????? people responsible for Northern. I halted to ??? this obligation to the community. It has been a growing force within the community obviously educational and also economical. It has grown it has gained ?????????? the vision of the community. It has ??? effectively, I think that the ??? and the people who are associated with it and ????? even the ??? Northern ??? and ??? of the years that ??? that Northern has accomplished the vision of its leaders and I think ???????? I ??????

RMM: Now over the years do you, you knew President Kaye as a student at Northern

WT: Yes

RMM: And then you, could you comment on the personality and character of the other presidents that you might of known or had to work with through the Mining Journal or something over the years.

WT: I think that Harden was the ?goody?, I think Harden took Northern further along, in proportion to what had been, than any other president. I think that he developed the right to try and last time I know ??? lowered the ??? I think the right to try was one of the big things that made Northern's reputation ??? and I think that Jamrich did a tremendous job in developing the academics ??? and improving the academic standings and I think he will always be remembered for his work in that direction and I think Vandament ??????

RMM: Now do you remember the earlier presidents? Munson, Pierce, Tate?

WT: I remember Tate somewhat, Pierce was the only one new. Munson was the one who developed ??????, I heard stories about it, he was ??? a good man, I'm ??????

RMM: And then ?? Tate you had some little ?? of?

WT: I thought Tate was just a developed character, I can't remember anybody ever trying to ??? and ??? . I think that Harden

??? president ???

RMM: Well I think that you mentioned earlier that the state legislature ??? Northern as the northern portion of the end of the trail so then these presidents kind of ?

WT: Well I don't know what they did but they had difficult, only Harden had the guts to change. Put it this way I have always said this about Harden, ??? had to have two and two in each court and Harden had two and one and ??? when he found the other one, only Harden used to do it. ??????? and ????? that man was Michigan ????? it was a group around him, you know ??? I can't believe it ???

RMM: ?????

WT: ??????? ????????? legislature wanted ????? I would have ??? but ?? the other person ?? gone down ?? climb after me and nothing ??? it didn't make no difference but he said it would , so ??? later. ????? said ??? president of Northern ???????????????

RMM: So then the

WT: And they expect ????????

RMM: and this

WT: Harden changed that

RMM: Mmhm and this was about what year was that?

WT: ???????

RMM: the 50's sometime?

WT: Mmhm

RMM: So that would be kind of an example of the situation Northern would give

WT: The relationships ??? the relationships between the legislatures and the political ??? and you know all schools have a political side to them, I guess on the political side Harden was the first one to have an ??? understanding of the political considerations of ??? growing education.

RMM: And then the presidents that have followed ????? fallen into that?

WT: Well ?? I think that ??? Jacobetti was a big help.

RMM: Because Jacobetti then came into the legislature in 1954 and pretty much paralleled his career and Northern's growth pretty

much paralleled.

WT: No doubt ?in my mind?

RMM: We are sort of toward the ends here, is there anything that I have left out that you would like to mention?

WT: ???

RMM: OK well thank you

WT: I appreciate it