

These two tapes were made in 1984 by the Marshfield Clinic at the house of Dr. G. Stanley Custer and his wife Violet. Participating were Betty and Clark Abbott. They discussed various construction projects at the Clinic and people who lived in Marshfield.

Tape #1

Violet: We felt bad when they changed the name of this street to Palmetto, because we felt when a street has been named after a man it really should not be changed. We had just gotten through scrapping with the city over some other things that we did a lot of fighting about and we ran out of steam.

Stan: Al Hestekind pulled that one on us. I don't know if he was on the council at the time or what.

Violet: All I know is that all of a sudden we were informed it was Palmetto, which is such an unlikely name for a street. It just does not belong at all.

Betty: There are no Palmettos around here that I have ever seen.

Violet: It has always been an embarrassment to us.

Stan: I have always heard a lot of tales about the Below farm and, of course, those lovely elm trees that formed kind of an archway there. Not many will remember anymore. I think they called that lover's lane or some such thing as that at about the time we came here. It was a very lovely thing. I do not remember why now they cut down all the trees.

Violet: The elm took the elm disease.

Clark: The elm disease? Of course, that was quite recent. The last 15-20 years.

Violet: I think that is about the time that those trees had gone. They just gradually went. That is the way I remember it. I have to ask Peg to see how she remembers.

Stan: It seems like it was longer than that.

Betty: How long did Griese's live there?

Violet: Let's see, I walk with her every morning. It has probably been 30 years.

Betty: I was going to guess 30.

Stan: George and Peg have been there 30 years?

Violet: I am guessing. I think Kris was born here, I think.

Stan: They bought that from Elmer Ross?

Violet: Yes, I think that is right and he bought it from Homer Smith.

Clark: I think the only children they had when they came here was their oldest daughter. What was her name?

Violet: Lynn.

Clark: She was born someplace else, but I think all the other children were born here.

Violet: Yes. She had a different father. Her father died.

Betty: He lived down on the corner in that brick house, then the next house was Marshes at that time and then my father built the house next to that where Mr. Berg lives now. Across the street, in the powerhouse, is where we lived first and my father sold that house to Dr. Potter when Dr. Potter was married, you see he was

married rather late in life.

Stan: Then how old were you in those days?

Betty: When I lived in that: neighborhood?

Stan: Yes.

Betty: I think we moved there when I was in first grade, so I went to school at the Washington School. The neighborhood was all established. Normington's lived on the corner, Grant Normington father of the family that lived there, and Bluhms across the street. Mrs. Bluhm just died, she had been there all those years. Then there was the Noll family. Not the Agnes Noll family but a cousin or something like that. Walter Noll was one of his sons. Maybe his father was Walter, I wouldn't know that. Then the Booth's, George Booth, lived on the east side of Dorge's and the Bailey's across the street. He was the editor of the newspaper. That was pretty much the neighborhood, but it was a neighborhood that did a lot of things together. Eventually the Bissel's came to Marshfield from Edgar and they built the house which is just to the west of the Potter house. I remember when the house was built.

Violet: That is where Ousley's live now?

Betty: Yes.

Stan: I am familiar with that name only because I was given all of the old 16 mm. movies that Roy Potter took and I am sure that you will remember a lot of people.

Betty: I would, I am sure.

Stan: I have not shown them yet, I have not even looked at them yet, but I think it would be a very nice thing if when we do you could be there to identify a lot of the people, the names of whom I know, because Mrs. Potter, or maybe Roy, but I think it was Mrs. Potter kept a little book that told about who was on the picture and what the occasion was. I have 18 reels. That is a lot of movies. I am a little concerned, so I have talked to the men in the Audiovisual Department at the Clinic because of the brittleness that may have occurred. Some of these are not all medical people, some of the reels have to do with local people. Does the historical library have any movies of anybody? There have been some movies taken that I read about I often wondered what ever became of them. Some person took some movies of Main Street or Central Avenue the first time it was paved with brick right at the opening ceremonies. It would be nice to know whatever came of those things.

Betty: Yes. They certainly would be; something.

Stan: There must be so much valuable stuff up in people's attics.

Betty: Oh, I am sure there is. Dr. Potter was about the first one with a movie camera, I remember. It was quite a thing and I remember when the first time I came back here with Joellen, I believe, he took half the pictures of her.

Stan: So you have rather good memories then of Roy?

Betty: Oh yes, very good. You see, my father and he were best friends and we went on many fishing trips with him. We camped out in the early spring. They both loved to trout fish. My mother, Josie and I, Dr. Potter and my father all went together, we went in these old cars and we had tents that we really pitched, but they were the kind of tents to the side of the car, if you know what I mean? I have several pictures of those of my father.

Stan: What was your father's first name?

Betty: William [Wheeler].

Stan: Bill? There is another Wheeler that I met many years ago. I had him as a patient. He was a tall, angular,

fine man. I do not ever remember what his first name was. I am sure it wasn't William.

Betty: No, than wouldn't have been my father. Karl Dorge was his doctor.

Stan: He was a fine guy. He was very outdoorsy, he was a great hunter and fisherman. Well, you lived in that neighborhood when Roy Potter first moved in there?

Betty: Yes, I lived in that area all my life until we were married and then we were gone away from here a number of years and came back here and then I again lived in that neighborhood because the Normington house had been made into a duplex type thing. They lived downstairs and they rented the upstairs. Paul and Orville lived there for a while and then they were gone and had built their house by then, so we rented it when Clark came back to start his business.

Clark: They moved out at about the time we got here.

Betty: Just about.

Stan: What do you remember about Roy Potter? He was a very handsome guy.

Betty: Well, when I was a little girl I didn't think about that. He was awfully nice. He was also our personal doctor, among other things. He was rather quiet and never excited about anything. He took things very well. He had a great sense of humor and a great sparkle, you know, his eyes would laugh. I could just see him.

Stan: I understand that from my research that he was very great with kids.

Betty: He was, he did not alarm anybody. He was just kind of gentle and quiet.

Stan: You didn't know Dr. Lathrop?

Betty: No.

Stan: Because Roy Potter came from Auburndale, of course, and took over Lathrop's practice in 1910. Of course you were very young.

Betty: Yes, but I remember Mrs. Lathrop because she went to our church and she was the town character really.

Stan: Yes, tell me about her. We were up in the cemetery the other day and I saw the name Lathrop there and I said to Vi, you know that must be Dr. Lathrop's headstone. We went over there and sure enough it was. The thing that was interesting about it was that his wife lived until the 1940s and I had heard from others that she was the town character.

Betty: Oh, always.

Clark: You remember the one that was on the council?

Betty: Oh yes, she was the first woman that ever ran for the council and she ran and she won. I think Marilyn Hardacre was the second.

Stan: I'll be jiggered.

Clark: What was her first name?

Betty: Anna. Anna Lathrop. Oh she was just rare. She used to come to our church occasionally, I can remember as a little girl, she would sit in the front row and she had the oddest clothes you ever could imagine, she made them. I know one year she had an orange velvet dress or some type which had made from the portiere, you know from the doors, she wore that outfit.

Stan: She was not what you would call a good dresser.

Betty: No. It was always worth a good laugh afterward.

Stan: I understand that she and her husband had some differences of opinion. She was kind of a millstone around his neck or some such thing as that.

Betty: Yes, she might have been. I really do not know anything about him at all, but she was very outspoken among other things. She would just speak right up at anything that came into her head and perhaps that was an embarrassment to him. I am sure it must have been at times.

Stan: Yes, that and the fact that she would never shut-up, as it were. Was she a gal of veracity or was she just kind of a gasser, so to speak?

Betty: No, I think there was-a good deal to her, but she was almost too outspoken.

Clark: She wasn't a busybody. She got things done. She was ahead of the Helping Hand as I remember in the city for many years.

Betty: Oh yes, I am sure she was.

Stan: What was the Helping Hand?

Clark: Well, the Helping Hand was an initial welfare society that Marshfield had had.

Betty: Long before there was anything else like that.

Clark: There were probably 20 women in it and they took care of everybody that needed help really, like families or children who lived a fire.

Stan:: People were doing for themselves.

Betty: Everybody did for themselves. There was nothing on a state or federal level.

Stan: I mean, people were doing their own charity work, looking after the needy in the community.

Betty: The community looked after itself pretty much.

Stan: What are your memories of K.W. [Dorge]? I know a lot about K.W. but it is important to describe somebody to know their mannerisms, for instance, their manner of speaking, their manner of dressing and their mannerisms in general. When you inquire about what kind of a chap he was, people speak pretty much in generalities. You know, like he was a general, everybody was afraid of him or nobody was afraid of him.

Betty: He was exceedingly dignified. Of course, I am talking from a point of a view of a child, that is when I really knew him and he did not unbend a lot. It was his wife that was lots of fun and gay and lighthearted and all of that, but he was always very dignified, as I remember, and he was kind enough but I did not particularly take to him.

Stan: He had [a way] about him.

Betty: Of course, my contacts with him were only neighborhood picnics and I was off with the kids.

Stan: He did partake in neighborhood picnics and neighborhood activities and so forth?

Betty: Oh yes, I can remember one picnic we went to Bradley bridge, that is what we call Haider bridge now, and, of course, the roads in those days were nothing like they are now, they were just kind of a sand-mud trail and very very sandy and people would have blow-outs with their cars and everybody had an awful time. I remember just this one thing when we got to one corner, I was with my own family, and there was this big sign that somebody had just made that was ahead of us that said, "Bradley Bridge or Bust."

Clark: Bradley bridge is on the same river, but it is north of Stratford. We used to picnic over there when we were

first married and even before we were married we used to go over there. That was Bradley bridge and Haider bridge was down further and then downwards was the Moon bridge.

Betty: Well, Bradley bridge is where we went on the picnics. I remember one thing that happened at one of those picnics as the Bradley bridge with the neighborhood. Mrs. Bissel had a very beautiful diamond ring and she wore it on this picnic and we were sitting around on robes and it was all sand, there was no picnic grounds as such we just put a robe down and that is where you had your picnic, and somehow during that picnic she lost her diamond and this really upset everybody so they went back there and they took a sand strainer and by george if they didn't find it. She had lost it at that picnic.

Stan: Boy, that must have taken a lot of straining of the sand.

Betty: Yes, it did. It was something.

Stan: Vi and I were [in] Florida one year and I was walking the beach and I stepped from the curb onto the sand and here peaking up out of the sand I saw a little metal thing that looked like it was the end of a bracelet or something so I reached down and I pulled it out and by gosh here was a beautiful women's watch all set with diamonds around it. I never saw anything like it in my life. We looked around for some people and there was nobody around so I said, honey you've got yourself a fancy watch. Well, low and behold somebody sent a copy of an editorial to us in an envelope that was written down in Florida and it was about a lady from Wisconsin who found a watch set with diamonds who advertised in the newspaper to see if they could find out who owned it. They were absolutely amazed that a person would do that. That's a classic. Nobody ever claimed it, not that we know of in any event. The newspaper I am sure would have said something, but Violet had put our address in. Unknown to me, I did not realize that she was doing this.

Betty: That was interesting.

Stan: I don't even know what happened to that watch?

Stan: Mrs. Doege was quite a, gal?

Betty: Oh yes, she was wonderful. I think her maiden name was Walz and she had a sister Marie who would come and visit and we would go there at times.

Stan: Did she use to have some particular talents in music herself?

Betty: Yes, Mrs. Doege was very musical. They had this music room and she played the piano very beautifully.

Stan: Karl and Paul played fiddle and K.W. did too.

Betty: I do not know about that.

Clark: It seems to me that she was alive and lived in that house of the Masonic temple and we came back here in 1932.

Betty: Yes, they were still there and he was married then to Elizabeth, his second wife.

Clark: Well, that is right. Did they ever live in the Booth house?

Betty: Oh no, he lived in that brick house there.

Stan: Sixth and Chestnut and then he built the brick house, which was a Masonic lodge. It was an beautiful old home.

Betty: Yes. It was beautiful in those days too and, of course, again I am looking at it in the view of a small person but it seemed so spacious. It had a huge living-room and there was a huge hall where you entered and this huge parlor or livingroom and then to the right, closer to the driveway, was what they called the music room. It had a big dining room kind of north of the music room and we used to go there for dinner occasionally. In those days, kids were taken along on these and I can remember going there for dinner in the

wintertime. Among other things, one thing I do remember, was that they would have a fireplace fire and I was quite impressed with that because we had a fireplace in that Potter house but it was a small kind of an ornamental fireplace and I cannot remember if we ever had a fire in it.

Stan: There was two fireplaces, there was one upstairs as I remember too.

Betty: Well, I don't think there was when we lived there, that must have been added later. That house was interesting in that you had the stairway going up into kind of balcony. My room was at the top of the stairs. It was a funny stairway as I recall and my room was at the top of the stairs. Then there were several bedrooms, a small bedroom and a great big bedroom at the end of the hall, I believe.

Stan: Yes, there was a bedroom east and west in the front and there was one on the back on the southeast.

Betty: Mine, I know, was the one that was toward Normington's.

Stan: Is that the Normington that was drowned in that terrible storm.

Betty: No, this is the Normington from the original Normington family, Frank Normington, and there was all of his sons and so on. They were great hunters.

Clark: It seems like there were five or six of those brothers and they were all running the laundry. One was in Marshfield one was in Wisconsin Rapids and there was one up in Antigo or further north I can't remember, but there were several of them.

Stan: They all got in the same business.

Betty: Yes, they all kind of ran it that way too.

Stan: Syndicated dry cleaning and laundry business.

Betty: Well, it was laundry and dry cleaning I think originally. It was mostly laundry and the laundry was right down there on the corner where the first Clinic was.

Betty: You know, the thing I remember the most about Frank Normington was that terrible cough he had. I thought he was going to choke to death almost every night.

Clark: Yes, that was a cigarette cough. There was no question about that. He always figured that if he could smoke the cigarettes that helped him the most, but he had an awful cough. Charlie, you know, was almost as bad and Frank smoked a lot. He was quite old when we got back there, you know.

Betty: Yes, but he had that terrible cough. As Clark said it was an awful smoker's cough. I never heard anybody cough and strangle like he did. Living above him you would hear him coming way up the street coughing. He lived to be 91.

Clark: Where were you raised doctor? In this state?

Stan: I was born and raised in Madison. I have two brothers and two sisters, they are all living,. My father is 96.

Betty: He is still alive?

Stan: Oh yes.

Betty: Well, that speaks well for you.

Clark: Yes, you have a good inheritance.

Betty: You bet. That is what really counts.

Stan: Well, they both have all their buttons and he is as sharp as a tack. He has had photography as a hobby all of

his life and he still goes to shows and is asked to show some of his pictures. He took black and white salon photos and stuff in circulating exhibits and he really cut quite a swath for himself as an amateur photographer. That was not his work, but it was his hobby and he still fiddles around.

Betty: See that's the thing he is so interested in something that it gives him some purpose.

Stan: Yes. He has his own little apartment and he keeps it up, reads a great deal, goes to the library, goes to the art museum.

Betty: It is remarkable that his eyesight is that good.

Stan: Oh yes, he hears well. He has a pacemaker and all that sort of stuff. They put a pacemaker in him not so long ago, about three or four years ago and I remember the first thing he said, "Boy, can I see now."

Betty: Well, I suppose the blood is getting around.

Stan: Yes, even blood going to his eyeballs. He and my mother were seperated many, many years ago when we were quite small. Neither of them ever married again. He always carried the torch for his ex-wife. She was a very lovely, very pretty lady but boy I wouldn't marry her for all the tea in the China.

Betty: She sounds like an independent woman.

Stan: Oh yes, she is a lovely lady, but she is very independent.

Betty: That is not a bad quality you know.

Stan: No,. I don't think it is a bad quality. She was born very wealthy and wound up in poverty, as they all do. Her father was one of Germany's outstanding poets and writers. He has written hundreds of books and they really came from good stock.

Stan: Well, do you remember the 1926 building at all, Clark?

Clark: Oh yes, but I wasn't here I was at the University of Madison when they built it. I graduated in 1927 and it seems to me that they were just moving in or just finished building about that time.

Stan: They moved into it in December 1926 on Christmas Day or Christmas weekend. They did it like we have done it for years I guess. I don't how this happens, but all of the employees and the physicians moved the stuff from Central Avenue right into the Clinic. Just like we moved into the old building.

Clark: I remember the manager and Miss Josie Weigel.

Stan: Did you know the manager before that, Fred Koehn?

Clark: Yes.

Stan: Tell me about Fred Koehn. Tell me what kind of a man he was. What do you remember about him?

Clark: Well, I don't remember too much but he was a short man.

Stan: What color was his hair?

Clark: Well, I wouldn't know but I think it was kind of light. He was apparently a pretty good manager. He got along well [with] those people down there and I think he knew his business. I can't remember, did he die: Is that how he got out of there? Because Josie Weigel became the manager after he died or after he left and she was not manager too long, maybe eight or ten years.

Stan: I am not aware of whatever happened to Fred. Whether he died or whether he went back to Illinois where he came from. It is rather interesting to me how he ever happened to come up here, because one reads a lot

about Mr. Fred Koehn and his wife coming up to Marshfield to visit Mrs. Kuethe. I think they were sisters and she would come up here for medical treatment and then she would be in the hospital and the newspaper would tell about there going forth and back. When the first man who was the manager for the Clinic for a year left, Fred inherited the job or was chosen for the job.

Clark: Who was the first manager of the Clinic?

Stan: Oh I am trying to think of his name. [A. Morgan Chase]

Clark: It seems to me that Fred Koehn was the manager where they were up over the theater.

Stan: Oh yes, he was. The first manager's name, oh I have a long history about him. He was brought here at the head of, what was then, the first Chamber of Commerce in town and he worked in capacity for the Businessman's Association for a period of about three years before 1916-17. It was in August 1916 that he was approached by K.W. to come to work for the Clinic. Now, this man came from Florida and he had been an administrator in the Citrus Fruits Growers Association and apparently had been a very successful man and he left his job as chairman of the Businessman's Association and did a superb job in all of the things he did for the community at that time in starting various activities that would enhance the business climate in the city. Then he went to work for the Clinic and we really do not know whether he was good or bad, but I presume that he was let go because he did not keep very good books. Historically, one does not find any useful information about the economics of the Clinic or the meetings that were held. He did not keep any minutes. He did not have any financial reports of the Clinic. The financial reports were initiated by Fred Koehn and they were very complete. As a matter of fact, the format for those financial reports was followed right up through the '40s and '50s and some of it is pretty much the stuff we have now.

Clark: I bet I knew him, but I will be darned if I can remember his name either. I cannot picture his quite yet either but I will bet you I knew that fellow.

Stan: Yes. He was a very handsome man with red hair.

Clark: Redheaded?

Stan: Yes, he was redheaded. I am sure it will come back to me. He was a very interesting character, but I can only extrapolate from what isn't there and wonder what happened. He did leave town but, in my opinion, he was a superb guy. He really made some real contributions to this community way back when. Fred Koehn, he lasted up until 1940.

Clark: Oh was he there that long? I didn't think it was that long but it might have been.

Stan: Well, wait a minute. Fred Koehn was the business administrator and Josie Weigel was made the head bill collector and gradually she kind of took over the management of that place and she was very unpopular.

Betty: I can remember Mac McCormick talking about Josie. He was I think kind of fond of her but I don't know if he ever.

Stan: Well, she was a penny-pinching gal. She always could find jobs for her relatives and that is something lots of people complained about in those days. As a matter of fact, when Floyd Dietert came to take over the Clinic she was unwilling to relinquish the books and refused to give them to him.

Clark: She was there until he came then?

Stan: Yes.

Clark: I mean as a manager.

Stan: Yes. They gave her a leave of absence or vacation. They did not terminate her job right off the bat, but the handwriting was in the language, believe me, and they let her go.

Betty: Where is Floyd Dietert now, is he still alive?

- Stan: Oh yes.
- Clark: He is down in Sun Prairie or in that area isn't he?
- Stan: Well, he was managing a Clinic down in Madison, part of which was in Sun Prairie and then he retired from that and he is now living at Fresno or around near Fresno, California. He lives up here at a family summer home during the summer. We see each other several times a year.
- Stan: That original 1926 building, Clark:, was designed by the Ellerbee Co.?
- Clark: The contractor was Theodore Molzon and Son from LaCrosse. They built the Purdy Building and after they got through building that or even while building the Purdy Building they moved over and built the Clinic building. Theodore Molzon and Son from LaCrosse. The Purdy School was designed by Parkinson & Dockadorf which was an architectural firm from LaCrosse. That is why Molzon bid on that, I suppose they did a lot of work for that architect and they knew what he wanted. Now, I don't know whether they bid or they handed it to them or what but they are the firm that built it.
- Stan: They had a lot of difficulties initially getting Ellerbee to understand the kind of design that they wanted and K.W. spent a lot of time up there just telling those guys in trying to get them squared around and it took them a long time before they got the thing designed. They started building in April and they had it ready for occupancy in December.
- Clark: I always felt that might have been true because when they wanted to put an addition onto that building, that is the one next to the alley on the west end, they finally hired Gage Taylor to do it and he did it and we did the building of it.
- Stan: Gage Taylor did the design?
- Clark: He did the design of the first addition, but that was only one story high and for some reason or another they were not satisfied with Gage Taylor's work either so they hired Ellerbee back to put the second story on, so he was the architect for the second story on the back end.
- Stan: That was about two years later, I think, after the first one.
- Clark: It wasn't too long. There wasn't much time between.
- Stan: Yes, about the time that the first addition was finished they were already thinking about the second, but it was about two years before they actually put it together.
- Clark: I would have the dates in my little black books.
- Stan: We were talking about the 1926 building and you were mentioning that Ellerbee had done the design for the second floor addition, which is rather interesting. Did they have any particular problems with that building? Who did you deal with in the Clinic at the time, do you remember? Mostly, I suppose with-Floyd.
- Clark: Yes. I do not think we ever did much work until Floyd was there. It seems to me we did some things down there, but I can't remember what they were. They were probably small repair items or something of that nature, but I do not think we did anything. I think Floyd was there when they put those additions on, I am sure he was.
- Stan: Yes. You did renovating work in the front office I know and when they changed the basement around and made some offices down in the basement you fellows worked with that too.
- Clark: By golly, we did do that.
- Stan: There was some problems with the heating plant in that building. Do you remember anything about that at all?
- Clark: Well, I remember the boiler room very well. I think if they had any problems with the heating it was

primarily because they tried to use those boilers to burn a lot of their garbage and I think it didn't work very well. I don't think the boilers were designed for that purpose.

Stan: Bill Anderson was probably trashing. That is kind of an interesting thought. I know this business about the heating came up on two occasions in the minutes and I didn't have any personal recollection of what was going on.

Clark: Well, they had a good stack there and everything and it worked well, in fact, we added a lot to that stack when they built the other additions and the stack was big too. As I remember, the trouble they seemed to have in that boiler room was with the garbage or things that they tried to burn and some of it was wet and soggy and everything else and it probably did not burn right in that type and they may have had a special incinerator, it seems to me they did have an incinerator that they probably tried to burn in, but maybe they tried to burn in the heating plant and some in the other, I don't know.

Stan: I have a note here, apparently it was 1946, on the back addition because it was in July 1947 that the thought of putting the second story was first brought up.

Clark: Addition to the Marshfield Clinic, 4606 was our job number and that was Gage M. Taylor's. It must have been \$33,210.57.

Stan: Is that what the building cost?

Clark: That is what the addition cost.

Stan: Yes. I don't know if I have that here or not. Yes. O.K. That was in 1946?

Clark: I can't tell you what month, all I have is the year.

Stan: March 1948 the second floor had been added. The basement was renovated by that time. So we did both the basement and the second floor addition at the same time.

Clark: Yes, that would be right.

Stan: That was in March. Here it is again, I get to this business about problems with the heating plant. I guess Bill Anderson was still working for us at that time.

Clark: Yes, he worked there for a long time. Now here was got contracts 1948.

Stan: It may have been in 1947 when.

Clark: I do not have any contracts listed in 1947.

Stan: Oh, I see. In March 1948 the two floors had been added. No, here it is. The second floor back was completed in May 1949.

Clark: Yes, that is what I was going to say, I think it was 1949 because it didn't take very long to build it.

Stan: Yes, May 1949 for \$46,000.

Clark: Yes, the second story of the building. Does that include the basement too?

Stan: I don't know, that is what the whole price was. That must have been the basement too.

Clark: Second story of the Marshfield Clinic addition, I have a figure of \$32,933.00, now that might have been a bid but that is an estimate so I imagine that that is a bid. That is \$33,000.00.

Stan: Yes, but this total price must have included the basement because the decision was made to have the second floor added and the basement renovated in March 1948.

- Clark: On the job contract I have \$30,053.75, so it was less than our bid.
- Stan: What was that figure?
- Clark: \$30,053.75.
- Stan: Right down to the nickel.
- Clark: I don't know how that ever got in there, I never used to keep costs. Now here, Marshfield Clinic for \$17.00.
- Stan: You must have fixed the door frame or something. Do you remember the steel strike they had at that time? They couldn't get steel for the building.
- Clark: The second story building? I had so many strikes.
- Stan: We had to wait until some steel to arrive. They couldn't get steel and we had to wait. They guaranteed us that we would have it by such and such a time.
- Clark: Now you see that second story addition, Ellerbee and Co. were architects and Gage Taylor was on the other one.
- Stan: Now, that is fascinating. How did you like working with Ellerbee?
- Clark: Well, Ellerbee was one of those firms that had been in business a long time and those firms who had been in business a long time those people got pretty arrogant and they were kind of difficult to do business with. The firms that I liked to do business with that outfit you had for the rest of the Clinic, Settler Leech Lindstrom. They were wonderful to do business with and they finally had an inspector on the job that I really could not quite stand. I don't know what his problems were but he certainly had some. It didn't show so much on the Clinic job as it did when we built on elderly housing. You see, the same-firm designed that building too. Up, you know, on Sixth Street and this fellow, I have forgotten his name, had caused up quite a bit of problems.
- Stan: What way? Something wasn't the way it should be.
- Clark: No, that wasn't it. I will tell you that was a government contract and whether he was trying to impress these people from the government or not I don't know. It wasn't anything particular to do with the construction or not it was just his attitude on things and I cannot recall what they were, but I know he had them at the time.
- Stan: He was just a nuisance?
- Clark: We ran over our time a little bit and you know we had a hell of a winter that winter. We built that building in less than a year's time as it was and it was a lot of building, yes, but we had a terrible winter and we were way up in the concrete work toward the top of that building during that winter and there were lots of days that we shouldn't of worked even but we did and we tried to do what always done. We would always man these jobs and get them done and try to maintain the schedules. They were good designers. They may have been a little bit antiquated maybe in some of their stuff, but they were good architects. They were thorough enough and their designs were good and everything. I really don't think, you could criticize them, of course, those bigger firms they changed personnel in them all of the time too and you never knew who you were going to get.
- Stan: I think one of the interesting things about it is about that time when they were doing the building they also did an analysis of the future of the Clinic and made the statement that the Clinic would go to about 55 doctors and it would never grow any larger than that in no way, shape or fashion.
- Clark: Well, that was their conservatism probably and of course you cannot blame them for not having good judgement on that, there weren't very many Clinics in the country that you could compare to or have an experience with as to what they were going to do.
- Stan: Well, they had a good reputation.

Clark: Yes, as I say basically they were sound architects. There is no question about that. I am looking in the 1950 things to see, Clinic partitions, that is another small one.

Stan: Yes. We partitioned some rooms that were larger so we could double up on office space and also pediatrics was growing pretty rapidly and they needed more space and we moved them from first floor up to the second floor and we had to do some remodeling for them. Do you have anything about that ramp that we built for the disabled on the north side that opened into the basement? Remember that ramp we ultimately put in? I thought it was a pretty neat trick to get lame and the halt in there you know without too much trouble.

Clark: Where did we build that?

Betty: Wasn't it on the west side?

Stan: It was on the north side of the Clinic on the back that went into the basement.

Clark: That wasn't inside the building?

Stan: No, it was an outside job. There was a stairway that went down and the back door opened into the back entrance.

Clark: There was a well, a stair well back there. Where did the ramp go from that, was it in connection with that in anyway?

Stan: Yes. They created just a gradual incline so you could push wheelchairs down it and stuff.

Clark: Didn't you have to go up to the east side and then come back.

Stan: No, not that I recall. The whole thing was on the north.

Clark: Yes, It was on the north side but I mean the east end of it. Was there a walkway or something that took you up to the east side?

Stan: No, they would come in from the alley in the back.

Clark: Yes, they would come in the alley and they would go up. I think that was done later on. I think that was done when part of the other building was built or something. There was some changes made in there then I know it."

Stan: When did we start building on the big building?

Clark: That was about 1958 I guess.

Stan: That was the first big expenditure I think we ever made. It was around two million bucks, but you can help me with the sequence with that because we went from a basic plan. I think originally it was going to be four stories.

Clark: It was going to be three stories and I talked them into building the fourth story. I said you have to put a roof on it anyway. If you only want to build three floors why don't you build the structures for four floors, finish the three floors that you want to use and then later on we will come back and finish it and I told them it would cost them about \$100,000 to finish it, but you would save the cost of removing the roof and you could get an additional floor without having to change the exterior of the building including the replacement of the roof. Also, you wouldn't have to work above when you raise the building higher, then you have all this work going on only in this one building and you would have a hell of a time with your patients and everything.

Stan: That is right, I remember that now.

Clark: Yes, and that is what we did.

- Stan: So we added three plus the shell but we had to finish that shell.
- Clark: Yes, it was only a year or so after we finished the three floors that we went back in there to finish it.
- Stan: Yes, but we were also going up at the same time.
- Clark: No, we didn't go up. We finished the fourth floor and then after that, I think that was in about 1958, now let me read some of these things here. This paper is so old.
- Stan: Yes, that was one long continuous building project.
- Betty: It was, it was always something.
- Clark: Here it is. It was in 1957 and it was the north addition to the Marshfield Clinic. I have \$750,000 on that, of course that was just the work we did. You see the mechanical work we did not handle at that time, I do not think, at least this would only cover us. Now, that was in 1957 and we started in the fall because I always told them why the hell don't you get this planning done so you can start in the spring of the year to do your work instead of the fall. You always start at the worst time of the year. It rains all the time and everything else, but that didn't make any difference. I am sure that that was started in the fall.
- Stan: I guess the thing I remember mostly about that building was that great big tree that was standing on the north side. Such a beautiful tree.
- Clark: Yes, it was a great big Maple I think it was, wasn't it?
- Stan: I don't know what it was. There was a huge white oak tree just on the south side of Seventh Street right where the parking lot is now and that was almost right on the terrace and a squirrel had carried an acorn over and planted it next to the building and an oak tree grew up there and it was about four feet tall and I went up to it with a shovel one day and I dug that tree up and I took it and planted it in my woods here and it is still growing.
- Betty: I'll bet.
- Clark: Full grown now.
- Stan: I'll bet that tree is 30 feet tall, white oak.
- Betty: That was a nice tree.
- Stan: Yes, that was a beautiful tree, a huge thing. So we got going in the fall of 1957?
- Clark: Maybe that wasn't the estimate. This job is up near the top and we did a lot of other jobs that year.
- Stan: What kind of work did your Dad do Betty:?
- Betty: Oh, he was in the lumber business most of his life.
- Stan: Well, that is an awfully important business.
- Betty: Well, in the early days we mentioned the Below's and there was a firm that was Bowmer-Below Lumber Company and he worked for them for a while.
- Stan: That was a family from Stratford.
- Betty: I don't believe that was the family. Eventually when the Bissel's moved to Marshfield, my father and Frank Bissel were in business together and he finally sold out to Bissel.
- Stan: It is interesting how the wood industry really was a vital part of the economy of this community for a long time, not just in those very early days.

Betty: Oh no, it was the lumber days and then it was the wood industries like Roddis and several other factories and then eventually we just gradually saw the dairy industry kind of taking over where the lumber and wood was fading out a little and then the medical business began with the Clinic at about that same time. So there has always been something different, that is why the community, I think, is prosperous. It just hasn't been one thing.

Stan: They were able to make the changes. Wood, has been for a long time, a very vital part of the community.

Betty: Well, Wisconsin was pretty much built on wood.

Stan: Yes. The Weyerhaeuser's and those people.

Betty: Well, there was the Sawyers in Oshkosh and all the people in Wausau in the wood industries. There is a lot of millionaires who started there, Bissel and Woodson.

Stan: Woodson? Museum people up there.

Betty: They left that house for a museum. They lived in it at one time.

Stan: Oh, was that the Woodson home?

Betty: Yes.

Stan: Oh, that is a beautiful place, just a lovely place.

Betty: They had an immense fortune.

Stan: Well, I imagine they got it through hard work. It is hard to know.

Betty: Well, I think they worked hard but it was propitious times too, they were just right. They were all pretty aggressive people.

Stan: Are you conjuring up a lot of memories there, Clark?

Clark: Well, I don't find anything in 1958 that I did and now I ran out of that book.

Stan: Well, the open house for the Clinic was in the '60s.

Betty: Well, that was around Christmas time or in December or something.

Stan: Boy, it was November or December.

Betty: I think so because you were sick Clark and I had to go alone for that.

Stan: Because I remember how cold it was. When they took the picture I remember how cold and blistering it was. That was the time Laird came up with this congressman from Rhode Island or somewhere, an Irish guy, a brick layer, and there was a big bash.

Clark: Here is the finishing of the basement, but that was Citizen's National Bank. Here, miscellaneous work at the Marshfield Clinic 1959.

Stan: Miscellaneous?

Clark: Well, I'll tell you we did a lot of things in that building but I was looking for that contract when we finished that fourth floor and I will find it here pretty quick. We did quite a few jobs. In x-ray they did some changing around and those were small jobs.

Betty: Did you ever find the contract for the main building?

Clark: Yes, but we are not to the final one yet. Betty: What is the latest count on the doctors now? Stan: Last number I heard was 207.

Betty: 207.

Stan: I think they said 210 at the open house.

Clark: 1959 is the year we got that educational building for the Presbyterian Church.

Stan: 1959?

Clark: 1959.

Stan: Twenty-five years ago almost. Wow. Betty: Twenty-five years go amazingly fast, doesn't it?

Stan: Everything seems like it was yesterday. Boy oh boy I have a hard time sorting out the years.

Betty: Yes, unless you have something to pin it too it is awfully hard.

Stan: Violet is very good at that.

Betty: Is she?

Stan: Oh my, she is very very good at that. She can usually figure things out, but she does it as you suggested by identify it with the children.

Clark: Here, 1960 the Marshfield Clinic—finished fourth floor, \$101,715.00. Stan: Finished the fourth floor, what year was that? Clark: That was 1960. It cost \$101,715.00.

Stan: \$101,715.00.

Clark: Here is another job at the Marshfield Clinic—repair air conditioning system. That was \$3,008.00. Now what was that about? That must have been up on the roof or something.

Stan: It leaked. We had water coming in all over the place, not from the windows but when the air conditioning system would go on a lot of water condensation would form in the pipes. I don't know what was finally done, they had to be insulated.

Violet: I think. How much was that and what year was that?

Clark: \$3,088.00 and that was 1960. That was the next job right along side with the finishing of the fourth floor. It probably was done at the same time.

Stan: I remember that.

Clark: Now the architects were MSL&L, Setter/ Leach and Lindstrom was the last three but what was the M?

Stan: Magne, Tussler, Setter and Leach.

Clark: It was Magne, Tussler, Setter and Leach originally and then it became Magne, Setter, Leach and Lindstrom and then it was Setter, Leach and Lindstrom.

Stan: Magne, Setter, Leach plus Lindstrom.

Clark: Yes, Setter, Leach and Lindstrom was the final name, but those firms changed people all along the way. They had a good time up there in Minneapolis.

Stan: So we got the fourth done and it was 1960 but we don't know exactly what month, not that it makes any different. The open house was in the winter.

Clark: It was finished late in the year, but it didn't take the full year it only took a few months to finish.

Stan: So no sooner than we got the fourth floor done. Now that is a completed fourth floor that we could use?

Clark: Yes. The structure was there it was just the finishing of it.

Betty: We haven't got to the building yet, have we?

Clark: I am getting there. Now these figures on the cost are only for the general construction. Now, that would not be true of the fourth floor. Finishing of the fourth floor we undoubtedly probably handled the whole thing, mechanical work and everything, I would think. I think on the next big job we did we handled the whole thing. It all ran through us, mechanical and everything.

Stan: That was the fifth, sixth and seventh floors?

Clark: Fifth, sixth and seventh floors, that is right. You got an extra floor on that building too, you know, it was designed originally for sixth story building.

Stan: But they felt that the footings were good enough for an added addition.

Clark: Yes, they were. I am the one that talked them into that too. I said, now this building is a reinforced concrete building structure and I said I think if you switched to steel for the fifth & sixth floors you can gain enough in your weight problems to put on the seventh floor and the architects said we will check it out and they did and we arrived at that. Had they gone to the concrete we would have only got six floors, but they were able to get the seventh floor because we lightened the structure. Now you see farther down you probably would not want to do that, but up in the air, why. When we prepared for the connection to the fifth, we figured they were going to do that someday, we poured the roof slab and everything like that we prepared so that we could make the connections.

Stan: For steel?

Clark: No, we didn't prepare to make it for steel because we didn't know they were going to use steel at that time, but then we designed, not the architects, but we designed the structural connections that would transfer us from a concrete to the steel and it worked out beautifully. I think that was 1964, but I am going to look here a little bit further. I have only one regret as far as that building is concerned.

Stan: Oh?

Clark: Just one and that is that the damn city was so damn dumb they didn't take that building over for a city hall. It would have made a beautiful city hall and it wouldn't have cost us taxpayers very much money-

Stan: Yes, right. It would have been a steal.

Clark: It would have been an absolute steal, that's right.

Stan: Who was mayor then? Was Marilyn mayor?

Betty: Oh no.

Clark: No, no.

Stan: That was Madison then.

Clark: No that was long after Madison's time. Who was in 1970? When did you move in 1972 or 1973? No, you moved up to the other site in?

Stan: It was 1974 or 1975.

Betty: Was Tippelt mayor then?

Clark: Tippelt? No, not then.

Betty: Jimmy Wendt I'll bet. He was mayor a long time.

Clark: No, if Jimmy Wendt would have been mayor we would have had it.

Stan: You know I think you are right, it was probably Tippelt. I had forgotten about him.

Clark: Well, Tippelt was the one that was mayor when Mayor Hardacre followed him. She went in in 1978. This is her sixth year.

Stan: That is right, that would be 1978.

Clark: He was probably mayor, well, maybe it was Tippelt.

Stan: I think it was. I had forgotten the guy was mayor. What ever happened to him?

Clark: Well, he was at that meeting not too long ago that I was at.

Betty: What meeting was that?

Clark: Well, that committee that is trying to figure out a new government for a new city. Incidentally, I think they are doing a good job and I think maybe we are going to get someplace.

Stan: You won't get a governor you will get an administrator, you mean.

Clark: What?

Stan: A city administrator you mean?

Clark: Well, they are going to have to change the former government. You can't leave it to amateurs forever, you know, and I think they will get something worked out.

Stan: Too bad Marilyn can't go on.

Betty: Maybe she is tired of it?

Stan: We all get tired of that.

Betty: I think so. I think she is so tired of meetings.

Stan: Yes.

Clark: Both she and Betty Ptacek are not going to run again. She has done a very good job. I don't think she has been an economical mayor if you read that thing in the paper last night or the night before. We are paying one and three quarters million dollars in interest every year and we have over a ten million debt, about 11 million. Now, this is just the city that does not include the schools at all, just the city. Well, can we afford one and three quarter dollar interest payment every year just to have this city have a little bit better roads? I think they have done a fine job on these roads, but whether they aren't going to far is what I am questioning. When you have to borrow money, only have to borrow it while it is easy you know.

Stan: Yes, it is easy to spend somebody else's money and it's fun. I have learned that from experience. I have, spent a lot of other people's money for one thing or another and I have always enjoyed it, much more than spending my own.

Clark: Yes, that is 1964. 1964 addition to the Marshfield Clinic.

Stan: Now, when you speak of the 1964 addition you are talking about what, five, six and seven?

Clark: Five, six and seven, that is right and there was some alterations on not only that but in five, six and seven we included the whole basement over the backend, under the parking lot.

Stan: Oh, under the parking lot. Yes, I had forgotten all about that.

Betty: It was constantly.

Stan: Yes, it was constantly.

Clark: It wasn't costing you much then either, not compared to today's cost.

Stan: It would have cost us a lot less if we did do it all at once though. We wouldn't have had a seventh floor either.

Clark: Yes, and you would have been short of space. There is no question about it.

Stan: Yes, couldn't have handled it. Have you got a number for money there?

Clark: Yes, \$945,743.00 and that probably included the mechanical too. Yeah, I am sure it included the mechanical. Our estimate on that particular addition was \$735,000.00, but I am sure that that would not have included the basement out under the parking lot because that was all added afterwards, you know.

Stan: Now, that is different than the estimate of \$750,000.00 in 1957.

Clark: Yes. Was it 1957 the other one was? Did I give you a cost on that?

Stan: Yes. That's ten years of building. Ten years of building. My goodness!

Clark: No twenty years, it is 1984.

Stan: No, I mean from 1957 to 1967. You know, we started.

Clark: From 1964.

Stan: Oh., I thought you said 1967. It was 1964?

Clark: 1964.

Stan: You're right, that is what you said and I wrote seven.

Clark: It wasn't even ten years.

Stan: No, it is less than ten years now.

Betty: That is still a good many years to be building.

Stan: That is still a lot years. You bet. Do you remember any particular problems that you had with the building at that time during those years, Clark? Any things that were outstanding?

Clark: Basically, we never really had any problems with any of those building that were well designed. You get buildings that are designed properly and they go together right you don't really have any problems. You might have construction problems or something like that but nothing of any significance.

Stan: You didn't have any problems getting material or anything like that?

Clark: No.

Stan: We did have trouble with the windows though.

Clark: Oh yes, now those windows were the first aluminum windows of that type that were designed and these designers of those windows that the architects proved and I always felt badly about that, but those guy should have never used them. They were not built so that they had a mechanical block for water on the outside, they depended on the chalking entirely and they never had a mechanical block. I told them that they were no good and not to use them, but as with most architects you talk to them, I licked a few of them, but you couldn't lick them all.

Stan: I remember now, that there was a little brew-ha-ha about whose responsibility this was. I remember that now.

Clark: We spent a lot of our own money trying to repair those things, caulk them and fix them up.

Stan: Yes, over and over again.

Clark: In fact, I think we spent about five or six thousand dollars because we felt that if there was anyway that we could fix them we wanted them fixed and we didn't feel it was the Clinic's fault, but we felt that the architect should have shared in that expense but we couldn't get those guys to do anything.

Stan: You never had any trouble getting your money from the Clinic?

Clark: We never did, oh no. No, they always treated us very fairly and I always felt that we worked very reasonably for them.

Stan: Yes, I think so.

Clark: We never made any fortunes on any of those jobs and we did do good jobs. The workmanship was there and I was a little bit resentful of that Larson. You remember he was kind of manager after Dietert left?

Stan: He worked with Floyd. He was assistant.

Clark: Yes, he worked with Floyd. He got Boson in there to do some work and he said that Thompson and Abbott charged him too damn much money and everything like that. He just didn't know any better, that's all. I don't think that any of the work Boson did or anything probably could compare that the work that we did. You wouldn't know anymore about it than I do, but he was mad at us or something and I don't know why. I heard from the Boson's or somebody that he had said that we had overcharged on maybe equipment rentals and things like that. Well, hell you look at the amount of equipment we had on those jobs and the small amount of charges, there just wasn't anything.

Stan: Yes. Well, Brad he has been kind of a big disappointment you know. He took over his father-in-law's bank and ran it for a while and he sold the damn thing and got out of it.

Clark: Oh, he did?

Stan: Yes, he is big and fat and

Clark: Well, he was a small town boy that I think didn't know how to handle success. You know, I liked Brad and I always got along him fine and he never complained to me about anything, if he had something he had to complain about he could have complained and I certainly would have had an open mind and I would have gone over and explained anything to him that he didn't understand.

Stan: Yes.

Clark: You know, when we built the upper stories we had to put an elevator on the outside the building on the north side and that was our design and our idea and it saved them a hell of a lot of money and it made the job so much easier for their patients and everything because it didn't bother anything. He [Larson] would always would go up in the fourth floor and look out the window and look up Main Street and stuff like that. He would say, boy! that is a wonderful view and I said you ought to come up on this elevator with me and I will get you up to that seventh floor and then you can get a view of Marshfield. Oh, he said, I can't stand that, I

can't stand heights and I said oh yes you could, you could. Well, anyway finally one day he decided he would go up with me and so we went up and I said you can't fall out, I guess he was afraid of falling out of the elevator or something. I got him up there on the roof and we looked around and it was a marvelous view, but he was just shaking he was so scared.

Stan: Oh yes.

Clark: Is he still living in Neillsville?

Stan: Yes.

Violet: I just heard the other night that he bought a big motor home and they are going to spend some time with that.

Clark: I always got along with Dietert all right too. I felt he was kind of [] about a lot of things, but he would understand. For instance, if I had a reason for doing something a different way or something, a lot of this work we did on a time and material basis, you know, and it wasn't set up for work that you could bid, and I did everything I could to save him a dollar every place I could without cutting the quality of the construction of which you had to have. I think Floyd appreciated that a lot more than Larson did. Of course, Larson maybe didn't know too much about it and maybe he wasn't into it too much. I think he was trying to make a showing at the Clinic and probably that is why he thought he would maybe get rid of us.

Stan: He would like to throw his weight around. There is no question about that. It is true, Floyd is fellow you could reason with.

Clark: You know, Floyd really didn't see the picture either, not at all. Just look at where this Clinic has gone and Floyd was scared to death. He was really scared to death when they got over 35 doctors, why that was too much for him and he was always so complaining and so scared of, what kind of medicine did he call it, socialize medicine or something like that. Well, it really isn't socialized but it certainly had worked to advantage to the medical profession pretty damn well. He never saw that, the possibilities of it being good. He only saw the possibilities of it being bad. I thought Floyd served the Clinic well.

Stan: Up to the point where he came.

Clark: Right, to the point where he could handle it. It is probably well that he did get out of it. It got to be too big for him.

Stan: That's right. When it got to be a real multimillion business, why, when you're talking numbers like that boy you have to be able to think quick and soundly. It is true, we floundered around a spell looking for the right person.

Clark: I have been surprised at how well they have done up there and yet some of them how poorly they did. They had one fellow there from Madison. What was his name? It began with "L". He was kind of a manager.

Stan: Oh yes. Len Genung. He came from Madison.

Clark: I don't think he understood.

Stan: No, he didn't last but a year anyway. I didn't think he was going to, he never brought his family here all the time he was here. That was strange.

Clark: He caused us a little problems but not much. I was able to convince him that we were doing all right. You know, we built a hell of a lot of parking lots and outside things for that Clinic awfully cheap.

Stan: You guys built those parking lots?

Clark: We designed them and built all of them.

Stan: Is that right.

Clark: We did everything that they got done up there, except the last couple of years. We designed them, we designed that sidewalk across Oak Street, the stairway and suggested those things. They wanted to put another gate in there somewhere and I thought what the hell, if you want to do that why not put a small gate. They didn't have to put in a drive-in gate they had plenty of drive-in space, put the gate down at the other end of the lot and let them walk right across the street. We could never get any cooperation from the city on that. I did my best but they wouldn't put in the markers across the street that I wanted or anything. I wanted plastic markers put right down on the pavement.

Stan: Right into the concrete.

Clark: No, not into it but right on it, white so it is visible and I tried to get them to paint them. They did paint them but they never did maintain them. I said there is no use in painting them they will wear right off. That sidewalk being down there and going up across the street and up the stair saved a lot of these people a lot of walking in the cold air and that didn't cost very much.

Stan: Did you guys do the work on the Chevrolet garage on Chestnut and Seventh there.

Clark: We may have done some work on there. I don't remember whether we did or not but it seems to me we did.

Stan: I don't know who else would have done it.

Clark: I don't know either. No, I think Frank Phillip built that building for S and S Chevrolet. I think maybe Frank did that. I can't remember.

Stan: I don't remember what year that was. That must have been late '60s early '70s.

Clark: Oh no, that garage wasn't there that long.

Stan: The S and S Chevrolet garage. Oh yes. Oh yes. In the '60s?

Clark: No. By the time we completed that in '64 that garage was gone, because that was all made into parking lot. They had to have a lot of parking. You know, they even got the city to give that half a lot for parking lot and then they made the parking lot across the other side of Seventh Street, then it was north of Sixth Street.

Stan: Yes, right. They did. That's right by golly.

Clark: You know we built those parking lots for about \$2.50-\$3.00 a car.

Stan: Boy, that is cheap!

Clark: I should say it is cheap and those were good lots. We never built a parking lot that we didn't design. You know, putting in a blacktop parking lot or anything else has to have a structure that will maintain itself so it won't go to pieces. You never saw any lots we ever built go to pieces, they parked a lot of cars in those lots. You had to build a base that would support a blacktop and those are two different operations. You had to get the grade right and everything so they would drain. I think the one we built across Oak Street is an excellent lot and I talked them into building that bigger than what they wanted.

Stan: Oh, the one we got now. Did you guys build that? Across the tracks?

Clark: Yes, we built the one across the tracks and we built the one up on North Avenue too, but I never could talk them into putting blacktop in and we put extra granite in their. You see, you can only put granite in about 4" thick and compact it because if you put it in thicker it won't compact. You know, granite is about 20% clay, decomposed granite is about 25% - 30% clay and it will settle and of course when it is on a pitch like that, that grade was about a 5% grade, and when you have it on a grade and it doesn't have the protection of a blacktop on it, it will crumble, move under water, rain and floods. I did my best to talk them into that. I don't know why they thought I was trying to make any money out of it because I think they just didn't want to spend money and of course the blacktopping was expensive, but not in those days it was \$1.50 a yard or something like that.

Stan: What lot is that?

Clark: That is the one at the west end of North Avenue or North Street. North Street is the one that goes right out from the hospital west. That all is parking lot. Everything south of North Street to Broadway Street is parking lot.

Stan: Okay.

Clark: We built two of those lots.

Stan: Yes, I remember now.

Clark: Now they have taken it all apart and made it one great big lot, which I thought was a good idea.

Stan: I know which one you are talking about now.

Clark: You know I am amazed at the hospital. When they built that lot, off of Oak Street south of the Clinic and south of the Hospital there, and they never did a good job on that lot.

Stan: They just ripped that up again.

Clark: Yes, I know that but why don't they do it right the first time. They let some of these people do it that don't know what they are doing.

Stan: They think anybody who pours a little asphalt or something can do it.

Clark: You know I never had a better example of that in my life than I had up at that ShopKo parking lot and that is a good example of what I was telling you. They went in there and it was kind of a low area and they filled it to level it out and get it graded but they didn't have much grade it was almost flat instead of making it so it would drain they didn't and they filled it in with decomposed granite and there were places that decomposed was 30" thick and do you remember how that lot sagged and sagged.

Stan: Oh, the holes in that thing.

Clark: Yes, well they finally had to come back about two years ago and they hired Doine, who worked for us quite often, to take out all of that granite, he learned enough from working with us how to do some of these things. He took out all of that granite, 30" deep and they had just huge holes there and he filled them up with sand, that is what they should have done in the first place, and then put about 4" of granite on top and then put on the blacktop and it worked fine. That is a big area. A couple of thousand cars they could park there.

Stan: Yes, that is a big lot. I used to hate to go to that place because of that.

Clark: Now, here is the hospital, they won't get somebody on there to do that job and do it right. They will fiddle around with it and the city does the same thing. I told this new Haerter and I think a lot of Haerter, I think he is smart and he does a good job.

Stan: Do you.

Clark: I told them you cannot put this granite on clay because it will soon mix and turn to clay, but they paved that whole lot south of the Armory. They just took off the grass and the top soil and they put on about 3-4" of granite and then they blacktopped it and I will bet you within a year or two they will be tearing that out again. Look at those lots we put in there. That first lot was built in 1972 and now this is 12 years later and if they wouldn't have had to put that addition on there they wouldn't have had to touch that. That is 12 years. That other lot east of that we built, I don't have the date I have the Thompson-Abbott book and at the time we did those lots we were working under Building Consultants, but that was at least 10 years ago, about 1974-75 and the only thing they did to it was move the lights from one of those other lots they had and moved them do there.

Stan: Who has inherited your Company?

Clark: No one has inherited it. Thompson-Abbott we closed it out. It is still in existence. It has a certain number of assets and things like that and we operate the Company now as a, I don't know what you would call it, but we do all the work office work for Building Consultants.

Stan: The administrative stuff.

Clark: No, not that so much as the financing and the book work. You see, Thompson-Abbott set up all the insurances that we carried, which are still in existence, and all the Building Consultants' employees are paid by Thompson-Abbott. All those insurance policies and things are maintained and we have an office building at Rothschild, you can see it from the overhead on Highway 51 it is down in the hollow there, and all of our consulting work is all done out of that building. But Thompson-Abbott handles the whole thing, that is, they handle it through Thompson-Abbott and Building Consultants and Thompson-Abbott sends a bill to Building Consultants and Building Consultants pays us one check every quarter or something like that for what they owe us for those services. That is all there is too it. Then we don't have to set all that services and everything for Building Consultants. It works out very well.

Stan: Are you still active?

Clark: Well, I am not so active anymore. I was up until about two or three years ago. Now I really don't have time to do it. I have so many things I want to do myself.

Stan: Isn't that a fact. I'll tell you I am so cotton-picking busy I wondered how I ever got the things done when I was working.

Clark: Well, I have wondered about that many times since I have retired. How the hell, did I ever get time to work. The thing is you don't do the things when you work and all the other things are neglected.

Stan: Well, I sure have had a big summer trying to catch up. Wow.

Clark: Now, you see I go up to Lake Superior in the summertime and I build protections against the Lake and stuff like that, cribs and breakwaters and stuff like that. I got the Lake pretty well licked, I think I have.

Stan: You do.

Clark: I am going to build one next summer.

Stan: I have news for you. No way in the world you could whip nature.

Clark: Well, I have news for you too. In 1971, I built two reinforced concrete breakwaters 80 feet long. I have 200 feet of property out there. That is 160 feet and I have about 35 or 40 feet between the two and I have a crib going out and those things are solid cribs built in there and up until last summer we had to replace our crib that went out. This year I built a small crib to break the erosion along that beach at the west end of my breakwater and Matt Green's stuff from there on is all cribs and then he has a crib going out about 150 feet from there. I didn't more than get that crib built and the sand was almost solid between those and they must be 300 or 400 feet apart. Now, in front of this breakwater that I have I got probably 25 or 30 feet off sand. Now depending upon where the winds and the waves come from it moves around but it doesn't move out. It is right up against that breakwater all of the time. Right to top of it. Next year I am going to build one on the east end of the other breakwater and Thornton Green is going to build one further down and I will bet you that we will have that whole place from Townline Creek to Halfway River, we will have a sand beach all the way around there, a half mile long.

Stan: Won't that be neat.

Clark: You see, if the winds can't get in there and the waves can't get in there and rush along the beach they are blocked and they drop the sand all of the time.

Stan: Yes, otherwise it just keeps moving it down.

Clark: That is right and you don't get that erosion. I think it is going to work.

Stan: I know that, I haven't convinced my wife, but I had built a breakwater like you did but I have 300 feet of nice property up at White Sand, but what I did is I got some big logs. The waves and ice in the winter time just erode that shore something fierce so I cut down some big trees and I got one of these little come-a-longs and I get these things down, maybe 30 feet long you know, and drag them down, get them into the water and float into place and take a couple of canthook and stuff like that and roll them right up to the shore and when the ice comes they drive that thing up against the shore but they can't do anything. I noticed now that I have done that, even though we have a gravelly bottom, we have large areas of sand which we never had before, but I will bet you 20 to 1 if we put some cribs out there I could probably do the same thing.

Clark: That is why I built my breakwaters parallel to the beach and built them right along the shore, kind of back toward the bluff, as they call it, just to protect that thing until I could get this beach up in front of it and that is the reason for it. I have great big logs when I built those breakwaters, I put clamps into them so I could set logs on top and then I put cables around those logs and that raises the top up and takes the tops off the waves.

Stan: Yes.

Clark: That really works good. You know you can't always work on that Lake. You might want to work but you can't because the Lake works itself so much, depending on the winds and stuff like that. In the middle of the summer you can get something done.

Stan: It's cold. That water is cold.

Clark: Oh no, not that cold. We swam a lot in Lake Superior this summer. 78° water. We swam on the 19th day of September, which is the day before we came home and we had three weeks of the most gorgeous weather up there you ever saw before we came home. After Labor Day, that was terrible it rained all the time, but we went swimming on the 19th of September and the water was 65° and the air temperature was 84° and it was just as nice as could be. We didn't stay in very long, I will admit it, but we could get in. You know, if the water is 65° and the air temperature is 60° you can't stand it but if the air temperature is 85° or 86° you can. We had temperatures all those three weeks averaging from 70-90 that late in the year.

Stan: Wow!

Clark: All through the equinox and from September 21st ten days either day you can expect rain. This year we got our rain about the 1st of September and we never got anymore rain. Just beautiful weather over the equinox period. Did you see that moon tonight? It was just beautiful.

Violet: Oh yes. I was driving home from Mom's at that time and I thought on my and I saw it and it was. so wonderful.

Clark: Yes. Just beautiful.

Violet: You've been building too this year I hear.

Clark: Well, you know we have been going to Lake Superior since 1940 and I have a great respect for that Lake and the power of water and wind. You can't get enough data and information to really design against something up there because you just don't know what you are going to have to contend with. After observing it for so many years there are certain elements of design that you can use, for instance on those breakwaters I figured out that I had to have a 1250 lbs. per lineal foot of crib in order to make it stay.

Stan: Just imagine 1250 lbs. per lineal foot. Wow!

Clark: That is why I designed these breakwaters. They are 3 feet wide and 30" inches high and a every foot of those weigh 1250 lbs.

Stan: You had it figured out.

Clark: Why sure. You have to have it long enough and you have to have it deep enough to stay and you have to put ties on them to keep them from going down into the sand, not many ties but just enough to keep it there. You can do a lot of things with that Lake if you want to.

Stan: But you know it can out do you too.

Clark: Oh, you never know the extreme weather condition you can't guard against but the average condition you can.

Stan: Do you get much ice damage.

Clark: No I never get any.

Stan: Let's see your on the south shore?

Clark: You see my whole front of my property, the whole 200 feet is protected now and when I get this other crib in to stop that erosion all along there I won't worry at all. I never had worried very much I figured it would stay there.

Stan: You did pour some concrete and that is what you are using.

Clark: Oh no, I used concrete on the breakwater.

Stan: But you are using natural stone and so forth?

Clark: Stone from the Lake, but I put wire baskets in the crib, I built a crib. Usually I build them out of logs, this summer I built one out of ties, railroad treated ties and bolted them together.

Stan: You put wire inside of that?

Clark: Yes, it is like a box and you put this in there and the cover tips up, it's loose' and you fill this full of 18" of rock and you have about a ton and a half of rock. That's what holds the crib in place. I used to use big rock but the sea will roll off a big rock, but now I use smaller rocks maybe 8" or 9" and put them in there and then you wire the cover down and no rock can get out. This works pretty good.

Stan: Yes. Who helped you handle those ties?

Clark: Oh, I hire a crew to help build them for me. I don't do that myself. Those ties are pretty heavy.

Stan: Don't tell me kiddo, look at my fingernails. They are heavy. When I built this little barn instead of pouring a cement slab, I dug holes four feet deep and buried these ties in there and leveled them.

Clark: For what?

Stan: For a foundation.

Clark: Oh, for a foundation and then put boards over the top. That is a good idea.

Stan: I put 4 X 4's across them

Clark: What is your floor exactly, wood?

Stan: Yes. Wood and treated wood.

Clark: Did you have to level it up with sand or something.

Stan: Don't have to level it up.

Clark Is there air space underneath.

Stan: Yes, just a small air space.

Clark: Well, even a little air space is too much unless your wall will sustain itself.

Stan: Oh, I have joists on there. I laid joists across. I have the 4 X 4 going across this way and I have joists going across that way and then the floor.

Clark: Then you are alright. I was thinking you might have a flat plank or something.

Stan: Oh no.

Betty: Well, we better get home if these people have to leave early in