Interview with Harold C. "Bud" Lovell, 19 March 1986.

Allen: Bud, what class were you in at the Jr. College?

Bud: The class of `31.

Allen: Which meant that you came in '29

Bud: We were in Stratford High School and like all kids in that era, the stock market had just crashed. We didn't know what we were going to do about our further schooling. I thought,Raymond Happel, who was my friend since I was nine years old. We went every where together and so we decided to go to the Jr. College. And we enrolled in '29, and it was a stepping stone for our further education.

Allen: Now where did you go after that?

Bud: After that we went to DePaw Univ., in Newcastle, Indiana and I`ll get to that later. We had two years of being home and being in school, which I think in a way was bad for me.

Allen: How`s that?

Bud: Well, Mother`s apron strings type of thing. You wanted to get away from, see I had things pretty much easy in my early childhood. Everything was done for me and what I needed to do was get out on my own, and, but we weren`t prepared to go anywhere and so went to Jr. College. I'll tell you, it was some school.

Allen: Tell us about the school.

Bud: It was an old mansion owned by a Frank Lalley (sic), I found that out, on Fairfield Avenue and when I got there, school had started two or three years prior to that. They had put a wing on for the Science Dept. for Dr. Ropp and that was the school. Looking at UB today is a big difference. All the schools are that way today. I had English and French. I had Dean Scurr for English and Pierre Zampierre for French, Dr. Wallace for History, and Clarence Ropp for Chemistry, Alexandroff for Physics. The math teacher, I-

Allen: Was that Ballou?

Bud: Right, Ballou was for Math. And I was always a terrible math student. But I actually did my best in math, don't ask me why.

Allen: Well, I'll tell you, did you hear about how he used to weigh your papers, or homework problems at the end of the semester?

Bud: No, I don't remember that.

Allen: Milt Greenhalgh told me this. And Milt told me one day they went in and he gave a test. At the end of the test, he went over to the wastebasket, tore the papers up, threw them in the wastebasket and he says, he was all the time chewing something. And he said,"the school requires that I give some tests but the school doesn`t require that I grade them." Then he went on the justify this particular thing, but he did say at the end of the semester, he weighed out all he homework problems and the heavier they were, the higher the grade.

Bud: The professors were top grade. The only one I really thought was out of this world was Dr. Wallace. I could never quite figure him out and I'm not alone.

Allen: How's that?

Bud: Well, I don`t know, we just couldn't seem to grasp the way he was teaching. His exams were out of this world. You know like "Write down what's on page 194 of your textbook" or something. He was impossible. I think the best professor I had was Dr. Ropp.

Allen: Tell us about him.

Bud: He couldn't have been too much older than we were when we came in there. He is still around, isn't he?

Allen: He's in his late 80's.

Bud: But he was a good professor and you had to know your stuff which I was having some problems, but he was good. He was very, very kind of a relaxed fellow.

Allen: Tell us about Zampierre, I`ve heard a lot of stories about him, do you know any good stories about him?

Bud: I don't have any stories about him but he was a very nice man and everybody liked him. I would say he was the best liked professor in the whole school. He was a down to earth fellow and I had lunch with him.

Allen: Easy marker?

Bud: No but he was a nice, what you might call a regular guy. A nice man and everybody liked him and he seemed to get along with

everbody.

Allen: Several people have characterized him as "the little old winemaker".

Bud: Could be

Allen: You don`t know about that.

Bud: No, I didn't know him that well.

Allen: Outside of the classwork that you were doing, what did you do for fun and excitement?

Bud: Well for fun, of course, in the fall I didn't dare play football because of my knee that I`d had in a cast for a year, so we played touch football. We used to play it on the side yard. So that in between periods we had a lot of fun.

Allen: They used to do that when I first came to the university, in fact, I played with them.

Bud: Then in the fall, during early winter, we went out for the basketball team. We had a lot of fun in basketball.

Allen: When was the first basketball team, was that in the winter of '29?

Bud: I don't know if there was one before that or not.

Allen: I haven't found any record of one before that.

Bud: There could have been. I can't even tell you who the coach was.

Allen: I don't know yet. I have a lot of research to do in this area. You wouldn't have any clippings of the basketball scores.

Bud: No I don't. We were pretty average. We weren`t like they are today and the teams were definitely quite different. A jump ball at center after every basket, the scores were low and we played some of the high schools around here and we went up to Storrs, Connecticut, the univ. of Connecticut which was just like ours was, the cows in the front yard, and we knew a Burton Cook who was a dean up there. (something wrong with tape at this point)

Allen: Now he was at U.Conn. (tape is very bad) Now we've just been talking about playing up at U.Conn. You played basketball up at U.Conn. well, then Connecticut Aggies ,

Bud: Yes, it could have been that, it was Storrs, right.

Allen: And you made some comments about the Aggies being a small school.

Bud: It was a small school, a couple of buildings as I recall.

Allen: The cows out in the front yard.

Bud: The cows were out in the front yard, right, that was the big thing in those days. Dairy work, etc. It was an agricultural school, that's what it was. Of course we knew, he turned out to be Dr. Burton Cook. He was a Stratford man that went up to Storrs because had had that inkling in that field.

Allen: I had mentioned that I knew him in the Army and from Western Connecticut and eventually Post College.

Bud: That's where my wife went to school, Western Connecticut. It was a teacher's college in the State of Conn. at that time, the only one. She got out of there in '36.

Allen: Bridgeport used to have a normal school and that went out about '25 or '26.

Bud: We played our games here mostly, if we had home games, we played them at Bassick High. And we also played in Central High and so on.

Allen: Did you play in any at the Presbyterian Church?

Bud: I don't remember. We could have.

Allen: How did you get from here to there where your games were?

Bud: In those days we were on our own, you know, we walked from the school down to Bassick.

Allen: But supposing you, when you played Connecticut Aggies for example.

Bud: Somebody had a car, Mike Sobel, he had a car maybe, a couple of cars and that was it.

Allen: Did you pay for your own gas?

Bud: I don't remember paying anything.

Allen: I know the budget for athletics was extremely small.

Bud: It was almost non existant.

Allen: They had ten uniforms I understand for basketball. You

mentioned football earlier which you didn`t play, did you go to any of the games?

Bud: I never saw a football game. I don't know what happened but I didn't.

Allen: I have the scores on that and it was a disaster. In the two years of football, we won one game and that was by forfeit. O.K. so what else did you do for excitement?

Bud: There wasn't too much to do for excitement, really.

Allen: Between classes, where did you hang out?

Bud: We might have gone down to a corner to a drugstore, there was one down at the corner of, near Bassick High School.

Allen: Was that the one that became Women`s Drugstore?

Bud: Could be, it was on the left hand side as I recall.

Allen: Left hand, as you were walking towards Fairfield.

Bud: Yes

Allen: O.K. Women`s was on the right hand side.
What was the name of the place that you went to?

Bud: I don`t know, I can't tell you.

Allen: I have a number of references to that but nobody seems to remember the name of it.

Bud: I can`t tell you.

Allen: Where did you eat your lunches, down there?

Bud: We probably brought our lunch to school as I remember. I don't think we went out too much. There wasn`t that kind of money in those days.

Allen: Were you there when Mrs. Pawson made sandwiches?

Bud: If I was, I don't remember.

Allen: I think that came a little bit later. Did you know Cortright?

Bud: I'll tell you a story about that. It concerns Dr. Ropp. Somebody had put a pail of water over the john and I happened to be in there and in comes Dr. Ropp. I didn't even know the pail of water was there. But anyway,I'm leading up to how I got to

meet E. Everett Cortright. He goes in, slams the john door and down comes the pail of water all over him. And immediately, I got blamed for it. And he brought me up to expell me. And I had a heck of a time, my father had to come over and we pleaded my case and I don`t know as Dr.Ropp ever really believed Ihadn't done it but I absolutly had nothing to do with that at all. Which means that I probably had a bad reputation as I was there at the wrong time. I had nothing to do with it but anyway that's how I got to meet Dr.Cortright. Of course, I know Corty Phillips from the bank. But we had sometime straightening that mess out and finally I got some kind of a grace, I don`t remember what but to this day, I`m innocent. Maaybe Dr. Ropp would like to hear this. It's true. I remember it so well because my whole schooling was going down the drain. They never did come up with the culprit and I don`t know either. That's how I met Mr. Cortright.

Allen: What was Cortright like?

Bud: He was a nice, old gentlemen as I remember him. He seemed old because I was a kid.

Allen: There is a picture of him when he was about 90 and we was 92 when he died.

Bud: I don't know how old he was when we were in school.

Allen: He was about about, just short of 60 at that time.

Bud: He was all right, he just decided let`s get to the bottom of this mess but I couldn`t help him and I think he thought I was hiding something I guess, but I wasn`t.

Allen: Were there anyother pranks amongst the students?

Bud: After that I guess I realy don't know.

Allen: Were you there when someone called up the Health Dept. and said the john was plugged up and they had to close the school for for a day?

Bud: I don`t remember.

Allen: Were there any social activities?

Bud: I don`t remember too many. I wasn`t too much of a social climber in those days. If they had them, I don`t know. Did you hear from anybody?

Allen: I haven't heard much. There were some dances, did you go to any of those?

Bud: I don`t remember going, no.

Allen: The Scribe came out starting in 1930, do you remember anything about that?

Bud: Not too much, no not really.

*allen: The school newspaper. Julius Fine was the first editor. Did you know him?

Bud: I think I remember the name.

Allen: You mentioned Ray Happel and is he still around?

Bud; No, he's in Florida. He's retired .

Allen: Does he come up here?

Bud: He comes up to Maine. His son lives in Wilton. Would you like to talk to him?

Allen: Yes, I`d like to talk to him.

Bud: I can`t see him for a while but when he comes up, I`ll ask him.

Allen: When he comes, tell him to give me a buzz, or you give me a buzz and contact him and we can sit down and chat for a day.

Bud: He will have something else to tell you, I`m sure.

Allen: Maybe, at that time, we can get the two of you together and one reminds the other. One of the problems in interviewing this, I don't always know the questions to tickle the memory. O.K. you said you were going to say something about DePauw.

Bud: Yes, I was. This is <u>DePauw Univ</u>. Well my friend, again Raymond Happel was responsible for us going to DePauw because he had german classes with Elsa Lassier. I don`t know if you recall her. She had taught at DePauw the year before and it came time for us to go somewhere else, we finished her and she said, "why don't you go out to DePauw University?" We said "What's that?" Nobody ever heard of it. And I'll tell you, it's the best thing I ever did in my life, outside of marrying my wife. Really,it was a marvelous transition for me. A wonderful school. There were only 1800 students and today 2400. It is a coeducational college and it's endowed, it's not a state school. Eli Lilly is their underwriter from Indianapolis. From performing arts, mathematics and science programs, just like Dana did here. The price of everything goes up, it is a great school.

Allen: In that respect, do you remember what your tuition was when you were at the Jr. College?

Bud: I think it was about $500.

Allen: $365.

Bud: A semester?

Allen: A year.

Bud: $365, I thought it was more than that.

Allen: I only paid $600 at Yale starting in '39, that was when we ended up, I forgot what it was when we started

Bud: It is just under 12,000. at DePauw now and I think we paid-less than $500 a year. I had a Thanksgiving dinner there for .25 with all the fixings. We used to have Sunday dinner there with the people that ran it right in our own home for .50, all you could eat, family style. That's the way things were.

Allen: And you could eat then too,

Bud: At .50, I think they probably made money on us, it`s hard to believe.

Allen: I remember up in Vermont, covered dish suppers. Under 12 it was .10 and over 12 it was .25 and I could eat more than any man then. They lost money on me. Have you had any connection with the university since your graduation?

Bud: No, I really haven`t.

Allen: Any particular reason why?

Bud: No, I just haven't. It seems like a different university than when it was the Juniuor College. It was just a little Junior College.

Allen: That's understandable because you did go on to get your degree at DePauw and that was actually my college degree.
Allen: What did you major in at DePauw?

Bud: Science and Psychology as a minor and ended up in the Hardware equipment busines.

Allen: Was this a business started by your father?

Bud: Well, sure, it's been in the family for 202 years now, probably one of the oldest business in New England, maybe the oldest. We recently had our 200th birthday two years ago. I got a citation from Pres. Reagan and Gov. O`Neil, the legislature.

Allen: Do you have family to carry on.

Bud: My brother`s there, he's got two kids, I don't know if they will. I don't have any children. That's the way it is.

Allen: O.K., I've been trying to think of other questions to tittilate your memory about the Junior College, but I`m running dry. Can you think of any other recollections?

Bud: I don't have too much to tell you that I haven't already said but it seems like I should.

Allen: Did you find those clippings that you had? You said you had some clippings that you wanted to look up.

Bud: I don't have any clippings. I just have the picture that my wife found, but no clippings. I don't know if Ray would have any or not.

Allen: I will have a picture by then of the baseball team.

Bud: I had a picture of the basketball team. My wife had it out on the counter to day but it was too wet

Allen: Thank you.

Bud: I wish I could tell you more. Possibly, When Ray comes, he can certainly fill in where I`ve left off. He's a very personable guy and -

end of tape.