

Interview with Milton Reinhard, 22 January 1986.

Allen: Milt, you were a student at the Jr. College starting when?

Milt: I graduated from Bassick in 1938 and because of economic conditions I took a p.g. course and I entered Jr. College in Sept. of '39. And graduated in May or June of '41. Things were very difficult then and the Jr. College was a very small school but an excellent school, in fact people could transfer directly from Jr. College to Yale and I know of one or two who did, and not loose any credits. They had an excellent faculty. Dr. Ropp was probably one of the most capable Chemistry teachers. A couple of friends of mine who took Dentistry and Medicine and they were told that they had a, in fact when they went on to the advanced degrees and subsequently to the professional schools, they were told that they had excellent training in chemistry and, of course, Prof. Bigsbee was there, he taught Physics. Mr. Halsey was the advance man, he went out and recruited and a Mrs. Rettick was the Bursar and E. Cortright was the president and at that time, I think a guy by the name of H. Almond Chaffee was the president of the Board of Trustees. I was elected president of the Sophomore class in my second year. The Jr. College was a very pleasant experience because of the teaching staff. I thought the teaching staff was excellent. We had a fellow who taught law, only part time, his name was Frank Merrilat. He was at that time assistant clerk of the court of Common Pleas of the State and he taught the course on a Friday afternoon and I later went on to the Yale Law School after I got out of the service and after I worked a while in Washington. He was very instrumental in my passing the bar because I had, even though I went to Yale Law School, I didn't have a very good teacher in contracts. He was substituting. He had been an expert in (?) I learned most of my contracts from Frank Merrilat so I've told him many times after that that I had been very happy having been exposed to his course because he was an excellent teacher. Dean Scurr was an excellent teacher and old Prof. Pierre Zampierre was someone who no one could forget. He spoke about seven or eight languages and it was just a great, great thrill to and of course, Dr. Paul (sic) Goulding who taught English and Public Speaking was also a fine gentlemen. I do think he is still living.

Allen: Yes, he is.

Milt: And he was attacked a few years ago, some kind of a personal attack and was terribly beaten up and I don't know how well he is now but he must be well up in his years. I do still get a Christmas card every year from Dr. Ropp and his wife, Emily.

Emily was the librarian at the school my second year. The first year when I was there, her sister was the librarian. She got married, I forget what her first name was so I've had some contact with some of the Jr.College people, none through the Univ. of Bridgeport people. But the school was so small that the comradship and the fact that the faculty was so capable that we got good teaching and many of the people I knew went on to professional schools, to become dentists, doctors.(?) became a doctor, Dick Brown became a doctor, I became a lawyer and later a judge. Bert Frankel became an MD, Leonard Rome, who lives up the street here is now a podiatrist, he went there. Ray Blank is now a lawyer. I could go down the list and most of the fellows who went there went on to get advanced degrees and eventually some of them went on to get professional degrees. I can't say enough. I was always very happy when I was exposed to Jr. College. I don't know whether UB's as good as Jr. College was but if it is half as good, it is a good school.

Allen: Good. Now let us do a little biographical thing. We will skip ahead. After You left the Jr. College where did you go?

Milt: After I left the Jr. College, Bill, I got a scholarship to, as I recall, E. Everett Cortright was instrumental in helping me get a scholarship to American University which was a Methodist School located in Northwest Washington, just above Embassy Row in Washington. And I went to school there for two years, got my degree, went into the Marine Corps, and discharged early because of a medical problem, and worked for the OPA for a year when Chester Bowles was the Office of Price Administrator, and then came back and went to Yale Law School, graduating in 1947, ran for the legislature in '48 and was a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1949, 51, 52, was a member of the State Senate in 1955, was a member of the Board of Education and was elected in 1957, and 55, and reelected in 1957. I think it was a two year term. I was appointed Judge of the City Court in Nov. of 1957 and in January of 1961 I became a Circuit Court Judge and in March of 1969 I retired because I had 80 or 90 percent of my stomach removed because of ulcer problems so that's-. Then I lived down at UB for two or three years and then I worked for the city in a federal program for four years and I have since retired since Oct.of 84 not liking it very much, but for the resumes now at my age we are either over qualified or some other gimick so we don't get stuck on the age discrimination aspect.

Allen: Now when you were at UB, what was your position there?

Milt: I was administrative assistant to Alfred Diem who was then Vice President of Finance and Treasurer of the University. At that time, Littlefield was still there and I remember, well of course I do know that after E. Cortright got out, I think James Halsey became the president then became Chancellor, and Lit-

tlefield came in and then one of the finest men I ever knew came in, Thurston Manning, and things just didn't work out and he got the shaft from my point of view but, and then the present administrator.

Allen: When you were working for UB for Diem and then a little bit for Harry Rowell,

Milt: Yes, oh Littlefield

Allen: Were you doing sort of in-house counsel work too.

Milt: Well some, but not too much 'cause the university had a counsel by the name of Cohen and Wolf. I was doing some and I helped draw up the prospectus for the library and we were advising as I recall state finance and I helped out on that and I also did various things in getting the properties up in order because the university owned a lot of private properties and they were selling some of it and I would get all the information that was needed in that respect for him. I did very little counsel, that was done by Cohen and Wolf and also by Dwight Fanton on the labor aspect with Pullman and Comley .

Allen: I remember those days. I just came in as Dr. Miles's assistant at that point.

Milton: What was- oh, Harry Rowell, I couldn't remember his name.

Allen: Backing up a little bit, you say you got out of Yale Law School in '47. I got my master's there in '47. We were just across the street from each other.

Milt: Yale was a delightful, great school and we had excellent professors. I still get the Yale Quarterlies, most of them have died off now and I read the obits and they bring back a lot of memories. They were excellent, excellent teachers.

Allen: O.K. coming back to you and the Jr. College, I found out in the Scribe of 1941, you were called the most popular and most ambitious. How did you get these?

Milt: Well, I worked very hard because I had a mother who, by the way I had two brothers, who are MDS and I had a mother whose first priority in our lives, in her life and my Dad's, his priority was the same, was our education, so my brothers were both in the Marine Corps and had an extended period of service. My one brother was at Guadacanal and got off for many months by the Japs, and my other brother worked, before the war, as a riveter at Sikorskys, went in the service and decided to stay and my mother was pleading with me to get him to get out, he later went to William and Mary and later went to Jefferson Med. School where

he got his degree and my other brother graduated from Jefferson Med.School in Philadelphia, which I think is one of the oldest med. schools in the country, and my youngest brother is a psychiatrist now. He's head of a hospital in Pennsylvania. He retired from there and went out to practice with four younger men who had been under his direction at the hospital and he is a practicing psychiatrist in Wisconsin. My other brother is a general practitioner in Southport. He had some very serious operations last year and has semi-retired. He still maintains a position of being an industrial doctor for DuPont out in Fairfield. So here is my mother.(Shows picture). My mother really .

Allen: That can account for the ambition, how about the popular part?

Milt: I don't know, I was much more quiet then, maybe that's why. I don't think I would be elected now because I am much more vocal because I feel that evil exists too much in the world and if good men don't stand up and scream, nothing is going to be accomplished.

Allen: You also were voted as having done the most for the school.

Milt: Well, I don't know whether I did the most for the school but I cleaned the school. I laugh a little now at these people who get what they call "grants.. I had a NYA scholarship which consisted of getting a big \$10. a month and cleaned the rooms, the Biology Lab. and I never took Biology. I wasn't good at cutting up animals and, one of the nicest men I ever met, I shouldn't have forgotten him, was William Everett. Bill Everett was the nicest man and I did, I cleaned his lab every day and scrubbed the floors, washed the windows, cleaned out the various bottles and trays and everything and that \$10. made a difference and would have probably, had not the \$10. been available, I probably would not have been in school. I had some bills that I found after my Dad died about a year and a half ago, and the tuition at Jr. College at that time was \$167.50 a semester, and my mother saved everything and the tuition at Yale when I was up there was \$250. a semester. The books were \$6. and \$7. I just have a son now who just entered, he was working and decided to go back to school , at the Univ. of Missouri in St. Louis. He called me, enraged, the other night because he had to pay \$25. a piece for books that were so used he could hardly use them. So I told him that, I couldn't imagine probably law books were now \$70. or \$80 a piece at least, and the professors always manage to write little amendment in them and like the West Publishing Company print a whole new volume, and you've got to start all over so I said apparantly the same thning happens in education.

Allen: O.K., now you mentioned also that you got a scholarship

to American University from the Jr. College.

Milt: Well, it was by American University, but I think Cortright was the one. It was a scholarship, but in order to go there and since Washington always has been and still is a very high cost of living area, I had a job. I served breakfast in the morning at six o'clock, I waited on tables for dinner and I worked four nights a week in the book store. So these programs today where the kids, where the students do all these things and don't do anything for them is absolutely outrageous. There are so many house cleaning jobs that could be done by students in lieu, in return for them getting my tax money. I, everybody screams now that all this is beneath them, nothing is beneath you if you want something badly enough, and I still brag about the fact that I had a multiple of jobs. When I got out of law school I had, I was practicing law, I was in the legislature, I was assistant law librarian, I was teaching down at UB, Business Law, and I was also a Secretary to the Knights of Columbus a couple of nights a week picking up a few bucks, so I get very upset with these people who claim they are working so darn hard and I didn't have a car and I used to have to take the bus, and I had ulcers and I used to more than once get pretty sick going to work and still work because I had to because I had a family. When people say they are working hard today and I see what they do, I absolutely say to myself, "MY God, what would they really do, if they had to work?"

Allen: This is something that comes through with many people that I've been talking with on tape. Everybody, well I'm from essentially from the same generation as you. Our attitudes towards getting ahead are a little different.

Milt: We worked at it. Well, I always had a job every summer and I gave 98% of my money to my mother to pay for the tuition during the school year. My brothers did likewise and there's no questions about what we gave in, you got a 50 cent allowance, if you smoked, the ciggrettes then were a dime a pack and they were a penny apiece, some places illegally sold them for a penny a piece. You are not supposed to break the stamp but, if you asked for an advance for next week, my mother would have a standard answer, "well, next week's has not come yet ", and so the 50 cents, if you spent it, was gone. Of course, I realize today that a young man taking a girl to the movies and even out for something to eat afterwards, a twenty dollar bill is rather, probably doesn't stretch. But I think they miss an awful lot of things today. I noticed in the paper today, I think there is only one movie now in the city of Bridgeport, one motion picture house and its located down, I think it is the old Rivoli on Fairfield Avenue and its an adult movie which means if you read some of the titles you would know what kind of movies were being played there, a triple X or better. I said, "Holy gosh, the Beverly closed, the Merritt Theatre closed, sold it to some com-

mercial outfit. The Beverly, the Masons own that apparently, and they sold it to somebody who are going to do some developing. So I think the kids today miss an awful lot 'cause television is all right but nothing beats going to the old fashioned movies and sitting there and eating popcorn. Popcorn today, with butter, is about \$2.50 and if you want a big bin, it is about \$4.00, and so things have changed but I'm not one that believes that this is progress. I believe that we would be better off - I would like to see young people today to have to worry a little about things without having an effect, to let them know really what it is to have to suffer, we've all tried to, and myself included, and I'm sure you too if you have any children, we've tried to make things better for them, and that's not wrong, but I do think that we are more liberal with them 'cause we can be because we have the where with all and I don't know if it helps or hinders. I sometimes wonder. Thank goodness mine seem to. I have two sons, lawyers. One's a lawyer for law firm, Ralston Purina, out in St. Louis. They just bought Continental Basin, he and his boss are going to take over the regular aspects of that, you know they are the bakers of Wonder Bread, and the other son is a lawyer for (?) Corporation and they have an office on Park Avenue and lives in Harrison. The other son has (?). Worked and got laid off at a (?) airline out in , I hope has found that piece of paper he wrote (?)

Allen: O.K. now what with all this work, you must have had some fun somewhere during college to be -

Milt: We had an excellent time. I was student body president of American University. American University was located at the top of the hill at the intersection of Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenue, and it's a beautiful section of Washington. You come up Massachusetts and you finally reach Wisconsin and go down and then come up, and I was surprised after the war I went up there and saw what had happened. We had about 200 in our class when I graduated, I was president of the student body. In fact I ran against a girl and I think that helped me with the women, and her husband today is a the defense correspondent for the Baltimore Sun. I see him on TV every Friday night on that program called Washington Week in Review with Paul Dukeland (?), channel 13, and I had an excellent education in, during that campaign and an excellent time living in the city of Washington. We had a lot of fun living at Jr. College. It was a small school and we had a lot of parties and we did things within reason because of the limitations of finances, but we more than once went down to the Cafe Howard and had a few drinks and came out with, having to give the waiter on more than one occasion a rather small tip and he wasn't very happy about it, but we felt that we really didn't realize tht we had gotton so close to the boundaries of our-. One time we left the fellow ten cents, we went back the following week we tried to made it up to him, but he was pretty upset. But that was a lot of money in those days and the Jr. College was an

excellent place, and I always recommended and I only lived two blocks, I lived across the street from Bassick. I got out Bassick in '38 and, therefore, I only lived two blocks from the Jr. College. So I could walk down the street to the school and I would walk home for lunch and that made things more economical, and it was just a delightful experience. We had a doctor Willard Ballou who was father-in-law to Dr. Paul (sic)Goulding. Goulding married Dr. Ballou's daughter, and there was just a comradeship there that was completely unbelievable and everybody knew everybody.

Allen: Do you have any funny or humorous incidents from that period?

Milt: Well, I don't know, it's been, well I know I finished second in the Beard growing contest. We had the thought to get as many men, (? finished first and Dr. Rome, when I went there one day for some podiatry work, he brought out this picture and showed it to me. It was somebody measuring our beards and the Ray Blank was on it and Dr. Henry Ochman, who is a dentist now, they were our opposing really, I guess. We had a men's club there and we had some real hazing experiences that were rather difficult but, I wouldn't have wanted to miss Jr. College. I loved Yale. Yale was an experience as you probably know, you were up there in graduate school. Yale was an experience you were really, some people in my class were John Lindsay's brother, former Mayor of New York, Morgenthau was up there, he's a little bit younger than me, he is now the Manhattan District Attorney, Nicholas Katzenbach was in my class, he later became Deputy Secretary of State, and was very friendly with Robert Kennedy and was later, I think he was Atty. General under Johnson, and he's now has a very humble position of being general counsel for IBM, and I would like to know what his salary is, I'm sure it is much more than the Yale Law School Budget for this year. And we had a lot of very interesting professors.

Allen: Coming back to the men's club at the Jr. College, I keep reading a little bit about it but I don't know much about it.

Milt: Well, it was down in the cellar underneath the Physics Lab and we had a club and it was like a fraternity, really. I was in Nebraska for ten years in my first few years of high school was spent out there and in high school we had fraternities and of course I belonged to Phi Sigma Kappa when I was at American University, but this was similar and we would have as I recall, we would have parties once in a while, but we never had dances. It was just a men's club where the boys could go down and sit around and talk and smoke. Of course there was a lot of card playing in the, were you teaching down there, Bill, when they had the Fairfield campus?

Allen: Yes

Milt: Well, there was a lot of card playing in the men's room. As you went, I don't know where it was when you were there, but the fellows used to play a lot of cards in the afternoon and during lunch hour. I'm not a card player so I never - but Frank Verrilli, who is now one of the Workman's Compensation Commissioners, was a great, avid card player, and Andy Verone (Devone?) who was the best athlete in my generation, went to Jr. College, was a great card player. He is now deceased but he was an excellent football player from Stratford High and an excellent basketball. I played on the basketball team. We used to play down at Presby's gym down on State and Myrtle Avenue before it was moved up off in the Stratfield Road, right across from the Stratfield Farm. A fellow by the name of Ed. Riley, Jr. was the coach, his father was the coach at Central High School for all sports, Football, Basketball and Baseball for a number of years. Ed Riley, Sr. and he was also the Truant Officer. He never taught.

Allen: I understand the basketball team had a little tight budgets.

Milt: They did, A fellow by the name of Harry Ashcroft, I recall was one of our coaches. He coached us after Riley did. We didn't have much. We did travel a bit and I think we played a few away games and one of our games we played as I recall, that's a long time ago, Bill, down at the Presby gym. We used to practice down there a couple of nights a week and it was very. Joe(?) played, Henry Ochman, Andy Devonne, I was second string, I was never, I was a good runner but I was never a great basketball player, and in fact I'm still not that fond of basketball. The Jr. College was an experience that I would say was at the top of maybe a few other things in my life that I remember, because I did get a chance to go to school with a few of the people who had gone on to high school with . Like Bill (?), he had gone to high school with me, a couple of other people who had been in the classes behind me came in, cause I did miss, cause I did take a post graduate course at Bassick because of the economic situation. I know I could not have gone away from home and gone to college, I could just not have afforded it, and to be there, and it was not a (?) debt, then it was expensive contrasted to Yale because I knew fellows who were going to Yale and Yale was not too far that above Jr. College, but Jr. College had a very tight budget the faculty got peanuts, I'm sure. I know Dean Scurr owned a house out here on Astoria Avenue. I didn't even know where Astoria Avenue was until recently. She owned a house off Laurel Avenue but Dr. Ballou and them, I don't know where they lived.

Allen: Ballou lived on Fremont Street

Milt: Oh, right behind the school, o.k. Well there were a

couple of buildings back there, the girls lived in. There was also a house which would now be adjacent to Fruitrich.

Allen: That was called Wisteria

Milt: Wisteria and that was under the guidance of a Mrs. Decker and I remember and we had the Wisteria Festival out in the back of under the Wisteria blooming flowers. E. Everett Cortright was quite a gentleman. And we had a lot of pleasant experiences and I'm glad I went to smaller schools. American University was the same way. I knew everybody in the class and it was just a pleasant experience. I don't know how today at Yale, it wasn't that big when I went to school and they haven't increased the sized of the classes which is amazing. They are not like Harvard where (?) that they would always say to the Freshman class, look to the left, look to the right, cause one of the three of you will stay, the other two will flunk out. Yale had a very difficult entrance exam as I recall. I only knew one fellow who didn't make it in my class and that's because he didn't apply himself. He just didn't study. He had a horrendous life, he got involved with crime. But I never lost a credit anywhere I went and to me that Jr. College, I used to say that's the best darn Jr. College in the country. I don't know whether that would hold today, but to me the faculty was excellent. If you give your P's and Q's there you could carry on in other work and of course I didn't take sciences but as I said, chemistry, physics and Bigsbee, I understood was good in physics. and Prof. Everett with his slow way from Georgia, was a real great gentlemen and I learned a lot. Prof. Zampierre never flunked anybody.

Allen: I understand that he was called the "Little old winemaker"

Milt: Well, he used to go to, the place is for sale now, it's up here on Ash Street, between Ash and (?), its called, my sons belonged to it, it was an Italian club at one time, but Prof. Zampierre used to go up there, get a ride up there, a couple of mornings a week and I think he had a little vino with his lunch and then come back. SubAlpino Club. Is is apparently defunct, in fact it is so defunct that two of my sons, in fact all three of my sons, know Gerry Maloney, an Irishman, eventually became president. And that was unusual in an Italian club. Zampierre we used to call him Zampy. He was a delightful guy and his wife was a delight. He lived in Southport and he told me his wife died first and he was a very lonely man when she died but Prof. Zampierre never flunked anybody. I don't think he ever flunked a person in his life and I don't know, he gave a girl a B and she transferred somewhere and they said, she came back and told him, the professor said you are not a B student in French you are a C and she said, why did you give me B's and he said " it is because you are so pretty." French was not my favorite subject but that is the only one I ever had trouble with in school, but I managed

to zip through it because of Zampy I don't know whether I would have flunked it with somebody else, but I managed to always keep my grades pretty high. And I graduated from Bassick from the National Honor Society. I worked. I liked to study, I didn't mind school at all. I though school was a racket compared to working but I can't say enough good for Jr. College and I understand Littlefield is still living. I see his, during the last election I was out, I voted and then I went somewhere in the North End and he was walking down Westfield Avenue with his cane and in a very military fashion was Eaton V. Read and I talked, I stopped the car and talked. He is living now at 3030. He used to live over here in Northbrook and used to walk a lot, holding that cane. He has a certain form that he follows whenever he walks. He picks the cane up, and he used to do it when he was a deacon down at the Episcopal Church down here, and I hadn't seen him in a while. I thought he had moved away and he told me no, he was up there and Littlefield is up there too. Read seemsto be pretty good. He was dean when I taught down there. I tught once semester, a full load. I taught money and banking and economics and a couple of other things. One of the professors became very ill and I think he had a touch of TB and they were really stuck, they got the notice within a short period of time prior to the semester commencing. I taught a full load there, just one semester. I enjoyed it but the money was small, it was not there. It was enjoyment and if I 'd have been blessed with a father like Rockefeller with a trust fund, I probably could have taught school, college, but the money wasn't there but it was a delightful experience and I still run into people who say that they were in my class in money and banking and, I taught quite a few. I was there about three or four years teaching business law. And in the summertime I had an eight o'clock class down there. But the Jr. College was just an excellent thing for me and as a predecessor to UB, I can't believe it's grown so, but after having been on to American University in Washington and seen how big that is, how huge that place is now, it had a lot of ground but very vew buildings and the Navy built some buildings there during the war because I did some training. I got out in '43 and the Navy was coming in. They had a contract with the Navy and rented some of the buildings out and obviously (?) and I remember when they bought the first building, Marina down there. You were there in the Juniour College?

Allen: I came the first of Feb., 1947. I had just finished up my masters at Yale .

Milt: Did you know a fellow by the name of Bob Crane? He was taking a masters course down at American University and I came out of the building one day and on York Street I saw him. He's taking a course. His father had been a Methodist Minister. American was a Methodist school and I went to Chapel. I told the priest that if God got mad at me going to any church, he wasn't the guy I thought he was.

(Comments about rulkes and first amendment)

Milt: Will Bill, I've slowed down. But you have brought back a lot of memories. I have a small book of all the pictures of the members of my class but I can't find it. I've got it somewhere in the attic. I was looking for it last night, but can't find it. A nice bunch of people and I still see some of them once in a while. I am the motivator of my high school, I keep all the records of my high school class reunion. We're coming up to 50 in 1988 and we had four people in my class expire within the past three months since, its been horrendous. In fact one was just buried from the Golden Hill Methodist Church yesterday. Her name was Doris Kreske Furze. Librarian up at Sacred Heart.

Allen: Thank you very, very much. End of tape