

C-HIST

BAU

Baum, Robert J., 1932-

Interview with Robert J. Baum / interviewed by Helen Dowdeswell.

-- Valley Stream Historical Society, January 14, 1997.

1 cassette.

NOTE: Mr. Baum recalls with vivid detail growing up in Valley Stream during the Depression and World War II.

1. Baum, Robert J., 1932- . 2. Valley Stream (N.Y.)
- History. I. Valley Stream Historical Society. II. Dowdeswell, Helen.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Outline of Interview - Prepared by Helen Dowdeswell.
2. Photograph of Robert J. Baum, January 14, 1997 *

* Original Photograph is filed in the Valley Stream Historical Photograph Collection.

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

ROBERT J. BAUM

Jan. 14, 1997 9/8 01/15/97

1. Introduction

5. Born 1932, E. Lincoln Ave.

Father, John, Mother, Marie, Siblings: Marie, John Jr. , Edna May
Parentst, grandparents and relatives - many local German names
Father- first and itinerant farmer, then wholesale produce dealer
Mother, a city girl, active in Women's Auxiliary of the Fire
Dept.

The Dot Hunt Dancing School- dancing at Park Inn
Area south of Sunrise along Rockaway and side streets.

License renewals in January at Motor Vehicle Bureau

Brooklyn Ave. teachers and playmates

The woods along Brush Drive-Gobson Oval, Foster's Creek

Selling produce from child's wagon along Cochrane Pl.

Families on Aesop Pl.- Nicholas, Fiest, Gore, Mayne, Howard

Munson Plumbing Supply- others

Bringing home ice in wagon

First washing machine

Building a barn

Getting a Christmas tree for the R.R. station

Poorly heated house

Feeding the pigs

Father buys 1927 fire truck

Thanksgiving ragamuffins

Memorial Day parade

Gibson Oval carnàval

Christmas in wartime

Story of baby chicks

Father's death

Parents' divorce

Walter Baker, musician at Park Inn, stepfather

John Baum, Jr. , wrestler at Central', other wrestlers

Protestant- Catholic marriage- children raised Catholic

Pressure from Church to go to new parochial school

Problem of father's burial

Jr. High at Central- split session

Teachers- Mr Keffer, Ger., Miss Angell, Social Studies, Mr. Darlin

Darling, Shop, Mr. Lent, Science, Mrs. Clarke, Eng., Principal

Dr. Stuart.

Memorable janitors at Brooklym Ave.

Friends arguing politics during wartime

Difficult time for brother, 4-F because of bad vision

Relatives in service.

Mother at Sperry, Father at R~public Aircraft

Rationing- shoes, gasoline. No more metal toys, soldiers or Lionel trains

Eating pork instead of beef

Coffee beans in bulk without rations coupons

Mayor Waldinger, the Buck brothers

Stores along Rockaway Ave.- first T.V. in 1939

Shopping out of town

Entertainment out of town

Valley Stream's different culture- commuter and farmer, Jewish and Christian, Catholic and Protestant, no Blacks

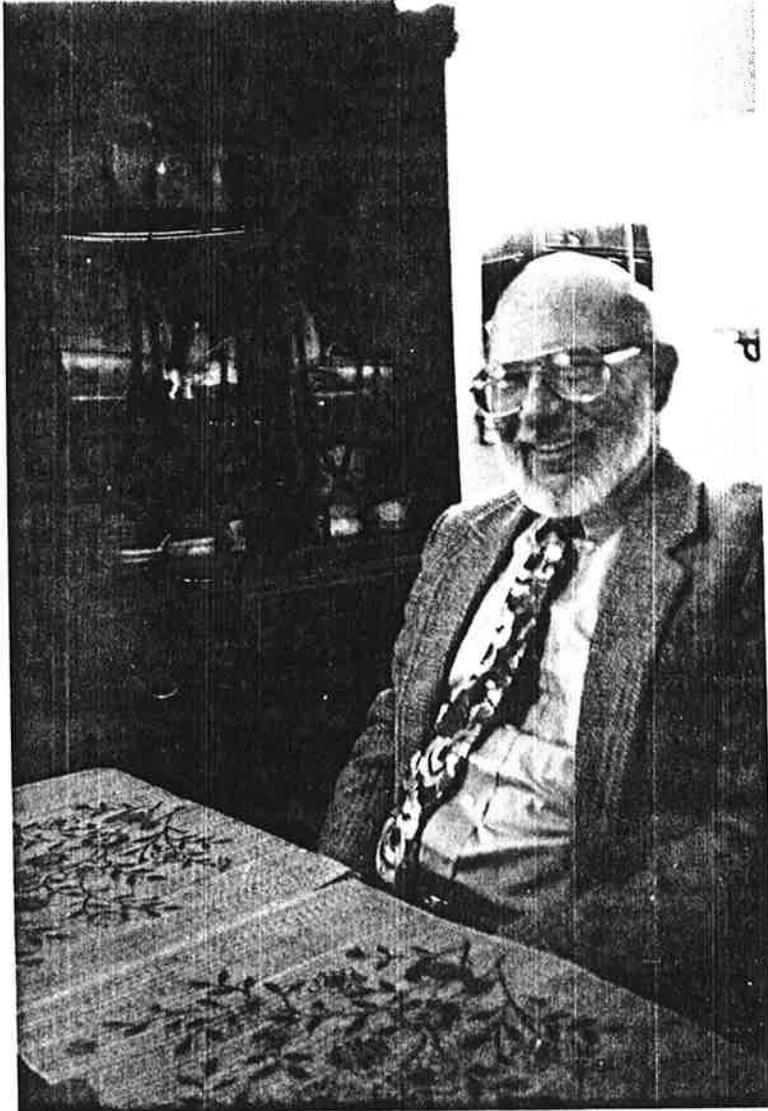
Class of 1950

THE END

BAUM, ROBERT J. 1932-- DOB 5/25/32

Robert has many vivid memories of the fourteen years of his childhood during the Depression and WWII which he spent in Valley Stream.

(Interview- January 14, 1997)



BAUM, ROBERT J. January 14, 1997