

C-HIST  
BER

Bergen, Joseph, 1919-  
Interview with Joseph Bergen / interviewed by Helen  
Dowdeswell. - Valley Stream Historical Society,  
May 21, 1991.  
1 cassette.

NOTE: Joseph Bergen, former postmaster and civic  
leader, reviews life in Valley Stream from the 1920s  
to the 1990s. He gives detailed information about  
many local organizations and programs.

1. Bergen, Joseph, 1919- . 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 Joseph Bergen, May 21, 1991. \*

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

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

JOSEPH BERGEN - 5/21/1991

b. 1919

Side 1

- 3 Introduction
- 6 Birthplace, Parents
- 28 Building of "old" Gibson - 1923 - Mill Road
- 40 Truck farms - Reising, Reisert - Celery specialty - farm sold  
to Curtiss Airport
- 65 Brooklyn Ave. School
- 67 Home on Catherine St. - Playmates
- 75 1927 - Dempsey-Tunney fight
- 82 Coaches at Brooklyn Ave- Kennedy, Williamson, Ward
- 89 Tarring of streets
- 95 Holy Name of Mary - Parents' activity
- 102 Early politics- People's Party - Waldinger, Police Chief - ~~Wald~~  
Wheelwright
- 112 Golder's general store - stores south of Sunrise
- 123 Stores north of Sunrise - Christman's bar and bowling alley;  
Pitney Hotel, Lang's Dept. Store
- 147 Pavillon Royal - 1934 fire
- 159 Fields for playing baseball - Lynbrook Oval - Semi-pro teams-  
Falcons - 1930s
- 185 War effort  
Rationing, Defense work, deferment, enlistment, Air Force  
brotherin Eritrea, Africa- sisters- candystripers
- 223 Mercy Hospital Ball
- 230 Father- secretary to Supreme Court Justice Thos. Cuff
- 240 Depression - WPA - post office building
- 249 Building of Sunrise Highway - elevation of L.I.R.R. 1934 - ~~Rox~~  
Foley Bros.
- 268 Holy Name of Mary - Bazaars - 1938

Side I cont.

- 282 Augustine and Dooley farms - Yorkshire development 0- Cornwall  
farm, Hall farm- post <sup>WWI</sup> ~~WWXX~~ development
- 3100 Swimming in brook and lake
- 322 Central High - two sessions - extensions pre and post WWII
- 354 Republic Aircraft job 1938
- 372 B & H aircraft
- 384 Wife Doris - classmate - Marriage 1947
- 390 Central and teachers
- 413 Columbia Aircraft job
- 4 31 Crestwood Dairy job- Lynbrook - 1947
- 455 Schildkraut Ford job
- 458 Appointed postmaster until 1980 - Growth of P.O. - Procedures
- 545 Activities in organizations
- Boy Scouts - local camping trips
  - Holy Name of Mary "Big 5" basketball
  - Fraternity
  - V.S. Athletic Assn. and V.S. Athletic Club

Side II

- 2 V.S. Athletic Assn abd Club - Clubhouse
- 15 Democratic Committeeman and president
- 19 American Legion and Elks
- 22 Wayside Home for Girls - 1968
- 25 Parks Commissioner - 1960
- State Park - beach 1927 & 1928
  - Leasèd park as local facility in 1950s
  - Village took over facility
- 82 Franklin Hospital Medical Center Trustee- 1973
- 120 Wayside Home - organization
- 151 Central High Alumni Assn
- 177 Recycling Program
- 283 End

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(Interview - May 21, 1991)



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May 21, 1991