

C-HIST  
BEN

Benedict, John, 1925-  
Interview with John Benedict / interviewed by  
Helen Dowdeswell. - Valley Stream Historical  
Society, May 20, 1998.

1 audiocassette.

NOTE: John Benedict, a former Marine in World  
War II and Korea, tells of war experiences and of  
his varied career since. He speaks of growing  
up in Valley Stream and graduating from Central  
High School in 1942.

1. Benedict, John, 1925- . 2. Valley  
Stream (N.Y.) - History. I. Valley Stream  
Historical Society. II. Dowdeswell, Helen.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Outline of Interview - Prepared by Helen Dowdeswell.

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

JOHN BENEDICT

5/20/98

1. Introduction
5. Born 8<sup>13</sup>S. Central Ave. , Apr. 5, 1925  
Parents- John and Wilhemina (Necker)  
Siblings- Anna and Pauline B  
German ancestry
40. Father - plumber and bar owner
90. Move to Valley Stream to avoid city traffic
130. Earliest memory - Doris Johnson across Central Ave.
140. Mother did not like country noises
170. Father bought two houses, one from a Hendrickson family
190. East Central Ave. children to Franklin Ave. School- West Central to Clearstream.
200. Walk to Franklin Ave. through woods. - swimming in brook.
220. Neighbor- Warren Swenson
240. Central H.S. Sports- Class of 1942
250. Reason for hating Japanese
280. KKK in V.S.
310. Mother - Lutheran---Father- anti-religious
340. Yacht Club in Sheepshead Bay
350. Real estate rich
360. 1942- age 17- work for American Express  
Feb. 1943- enlisted in Marine Corps  
Hero Harry Torgerson
390. Demolitions- island invasions- reasons for fighting
420. V.S. friends stationed in Hawaii
447. Back in V.S. - Vets gathered at Hoppl's bar- many became policemen
470. To work for Con Edison in New York  
In reserves ' then reenlisted 1947-1953 - Sergeamt
490. Korea  
All experienced men  
Cold- overrun by Chinese-fought way out- never taught to retreat- attack in a different direction 1950-1953
520. Bethesda Naval Hospital  
1957- Opened a bar in Brooklyn

- 530. Family home in V.S. - Apt. in Brooklyn  
Gave up drinking
- 570. Northwest Airlines - from cleaning planes to cost accounting
- 590. Married a widow with four children  
Left V.S. because of arguments in village about nativity scene
- 600. Move to Babylon, then to Baldwin.  
Started cab company
- 630. Sold out- Drove cab in Hicksville- Job at Macy's in charge of trucks
- 636. Wife's illness and death in Patchogue
- 670. Children - multiple marriages
- 707. Move to Riverhead after heart attack
- 720. Manager of Suffolk County district office o H& R Block
- 780. Question- where to settle
- 820. Changes in Long Island
- 840. END

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(Interview-May 20, 1998)