

University District Oral History Interview Index**Interviewer: Sarah Milbrodt****Interviewee: Tim Bass****Date of Interview: October 16, 2008**

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0:07:17- 0:11:35

TB:

In fact, the guy who built our house, our house is actually a double we bought, and uh the guy who built it developed a lot of the area. He owned the lumber yard, and um...he wanted a house for himself, but he didn't have a family at that time so he built the double and he built it to look like a single home and um...he built most of our street and, and as I said he developed most of the area, so I think he chose on his street not to have rental properties, so the rental properties are the next two streets and ours is the single family homes, except for ours, so we have the only rental, ah...we have the only property built as a rental on our street...so it's kind of interesting.

SM:

Do you remember what his name was?

TB:

I don't remember what his name was, but I know in terms of history of the area it's very cool, it's right by the ravine, the uh Glenn Echo Ravine, and the Glenn Echo Ravine was the eastern reach of the activity that was around the umm...what'd they call it...the umm Olentangy Amusement Park. At the end of Neil Avenue, um Neil Avenue makes the turn and goes up to high street, that was the end of a street car line, and the people who owned the street cars, I don't know if you knew any of this...they built, the guys who owned the street cars built recreation centers and the ends of all the lines so the people would pay to ride out, and so Olentangy, where the Big Bear sits, or the Giant Eagle now, and the apartment complex called...Olentangy village or...whatever that is now...that was, a lot of interesting things there, that was an amusement park, that whole property, and I mean with rollycoas-rollercoasters, zoos, shooting galleries, a big bowling alley that was there even when I was a kid, and um...they had, it was at the end of the Ravine also, and they had a horseback riding vendor so you can ride horses up through the Ravine to where we live, which is, you know, six blocks up the hill, and umm...when they sold some of that property Catherine Leveck's husband or the Leveck family, who used to own the Leveck Tower, built that Olentangy housing complex as a planned community, and it's really nice the way it plugs on to High Street there, it's got a little commercial interface with the city, and then the private community behind it, which, you know was a thing that was going on back then. So a lot of history right there, and uh...then up the ravine...maybe before that...there was a, where North High School sits, one the same ravine was a umm...old sewer pipe factory, clay...yea...and they, it was uh clay works or something, North Columbus they called it, and umm, that's now the property that North High School sits on, so it's kind of interesting...they had a big pond, they had a dam on the ravine, and then that was the water they used in their manufacturing, and that's why North Columbus is there, that whole little, as you go up High Street you notice it get dense again

right by Hudson...that's all there because that, that was a little village and...the...the way that you know that something was farther away then they wanted to be is they named it after...something so it's North Columbus. It wasn't really in the city yet, when they did it, and then of course, you know, the University District really bridges from there to...you know, Columbus ground...

SM:

Yea...

TB:

So, it kind of filled in and made High Street, it's kind of interesting...

SM:

Do you know about, like what time the um...plant was there? When they closed it?

TB:

Boy...I couldn't tell you, you know dates, but I know most of those buildings are pre-1900, some of them, you know the 18, late 1800's...um maybe turn of the century so that...um...the plant was probably, well the High School's probably built in the twenties or thirties, so...you know the plant had to be gone somewhere around then...but there were you know at that time, there were that many high schools in Columbus: North, South, Central, East, and West, and so that was North.