

James H. Throwe Oral History Interview, 03/07/2013
Administrative Information

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Interviewer: Anthony Macro

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Biographical Note and Abstract

James H. Throwe was born in Norwich, Connecticut, on May 22, 1930 and moved to South Windsor in 1959. He attended the University of Connecticut for his undergraduate education and for law school. Throwe served in the National Guard, including stints on active duty from 1950-1952 and as commander of the 43rd Infantry Brigade in a NATO force in West Germany during the 1980s. He eventually reached the rank of major general. Throwe worked in the military legal field as a member of the JAG Corps and in the civilian legal field as a law clerk for a federal judge in Hartford and later in private practice in East Hartford. Throwe was active in South Windsor Democratic Party politics, including serving as mayor from 1965-1967 and service on the town Planning and Zoning Commission and the town Sewer Commission. With his wife, Virginia Tucker Throwe, he raised three children in South Windsor: sons John F. and James E. Throwe and daughter Meredith Throwe.

In this interview, Throwe discusses his legal career, his military service in the U.S. and Germany, and South Windsor town politics, including the various key players in the Democratic and Republican parties in South Windsor. He also discusses the process of getting a sewage treatment plant for the town, his experiences of life on Main Street, and his involvement in South Windsor's Roman Catholic churches, among other issues. Throwe also added three written addenda to the interview transcript.

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Transcript of Oral History Interview

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General James H. Throwe



James H. Throwe

James H. Throwe
Oral History Interview
Interviewed by Anthony Macro
March 7, 2013

MACRO: [00:00:06] This is the interview of James H. Throwe conducted on behalf of the Wood Memorial Library—its oral history project—by Tony Macro at Jim’s house [1330 Main Street] on the morning of Thursday, the 7th of March 2013.

So, good morning, Jim. Thank you very much for agreeing to submit yourself to this interview. Were you actually born and bred in South Windsor?

THROWE: No. I was born in Norwich, Connecticut, on May 22, 1930, and didn’t come to South Windsor until the fall of 1959. I think it was October when I moved into 999 Main Street.

MACRO: And what age were you when you came to South Windsor?

THROWE: Twenty-nine.

MACRO: So your schooling was done in Norwich.

THROWE: I went to Norwich grammar school and then I went to high school at the Norwich Free Academy, which is a private school run for the benefit of all the students in Norwich and surrounding towns. I graduated from the Norwich Free Academy in 1948, and I started at the University of Connecticut at the branch in New London, Connecticut, between ’48 and 1950 and then in 1950, I was called to active duty as a member of the Connecticut Army National Guard, Anti-aircraft Battalion, called the 745th AAA Gun Battalion. I stayed on active duty for two years and was released from active federal duty in 1952 and I resumed my education at the University of Connecticut in Storrs and graduated in 1954 [with a BA in Government and History]. I applied to the University of Connecticut Law School in 1954 and was accepted and went to law school between ’54 and ’57 in Hartford, Connecticut, and graduated in 1957. I had already passed the Bar exam and was admitted to the Bar in June of 1957. I had been selected as a law clerk to a federal district court judge and spent one year as a law clerk, writing opinions or sample opinions and doing research for the judge [Hon J. Joseph Smith, U.S. District Court Judge].

[00:03:34] I had joined the National Guard in 1948 [while I was attending college – until August] 1950, when called to active federal duty. I was the battalion sergeant major at the age of 20 or 21—20 is correct, and I spent my time on the east coast of the United States, training at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, and then moving to the Boston area where we set up the Air Defense of Boston with 4 gun batteries—90-mm gun batteries—that were designed to protect the cities along the

coasts and the Canadian border from the Russians, who had B-29 style bombers that could reach the United States, and they had atomic weapons.

When I came off active duty and finished my schooling [at Storrs, I got married to Virginia Tucker, a girl I met at Gardner Lake in Salem. She was a camp counselor coming from Brooklyn, NY, and I was a member of the Norwich Life Saving Corps, which had a camp on the lake. It was a canoe and paddle boat romance. We were married in Brooklyn, NY, on August 4, 1954. We moved to Hartford to start Law School at the UCONN Law School in September 1954. I had the Korean War GI Bill and Virginia worked at P&WA. I worked part time at the Aetna Insurance Company and went to the AA & Guided Missile School at Fort Bliss, Texas, during the summer recess in 1956. I was selected to serve on the Law Review in 1955 and named chairman in 1956. I took the State Bar examination and passed it in December 1956. I was admitted to practice law upon graduation in June 1957. Because I finished in the top 20% of my class and was a law review member, I became eligible for appointment as a law clerk to a Federal judge for a one year term.]

I practiced law in Hartford from 1958 through 1962 with the Hon. Simon Cohen. In 1959, the house we were renting was condemned for a new high school, so I moved to South Windsor and bought an existing house that was built in 1929 from a guy named Ray Hallowell next to the Congregational Church at 999 Main Street, and lived there for nine years. There, we raised our three children who were all adopted. The first was John F., who was delivered to us on November 8th 1954, the day after John F. Kennedy was elected President; John was named after him. We had both worked on the election and missed the first call on Election Day. Then, we adopted James E. in May 1962, and Meredith in 1965.] In 1968, I built a house a little further up the street at 1330 Main Street, which we occupied in 1968 and have lived at this address ever since.

When I was in law school, I was not very active politically. I did work in one primary for the mayor of Hartford, but was not otherwise active. When I moved to South Windsor, I became active in the Young Democrats, was elected president of the South Windsor club in 1961, and later, in 1962, I was elected state president of the Young Democrats of Connecticut. I became a member of the Democratic Town Committee. I was appointed to the planning and zoning commission in 1960, and in 1961 I worked on the election of the new town government, which we had by referendum switched from a selectmen form of government to a council manager form of government. The Democrats won the first election with a six to three margin on the town council. The planning and zoning, at first, was to be appointed by the town council and in succeeding years to be elected by the voters of South Windsor. There was schism in the Democratic party between a liberal wing and a more conservative wing, which resulted in me not being reappointed to the planning and zoning commission along with Paul Kupchunos, because we were allied with the conservative leader, Harry Odlum—a very famous town chairman, who wielded an iron fist. The other group lined up with a dentist named Doc Williams—there were three councilors on it that were Democrats, and they all voted against me along with three Republicans. [Every month the Democratic Town Committee would put up my name and the Town Council would reject it.] Eight months later we solved the standoff by putting John Wholley in my place on the planning and zoning commission.

[00:08:04] The following year, in 1963, I was on the nominating committee for the town council, and we had trouble finding candidates and two of us ended up nominating each other—Eddie Pastula and me. We ran, but the Republicans won the council five to four with a fellow named Jack Egan as their mayor. In 1965, I ran for reelection and was hoping that I would be defeated so I wouldn't have to be in the minority for another two years. Fortunately, we won that election with Bill Thresher winning by four votes, which gave us a five/four majority on the council, and I was nominated and elected mayor by the members of the council. I served as mayor for one term, from '65 to '67, and then I did not run again, because my law practice needed me, a partner having had a nervous breakdown, and there were three young children at home who also needed me. So I got out of the political business and went on the PTA or PTO at Pleasant Valley School, where my children were students, and then later I was made the chairman of the sewer commission, in 1971, and served as chairman until 1977, as we built all the new sewers in South Windsor and repaired some that were breaking up due to the pressure in the plastic pipes. Since 1977, I've served on a couple of boards and been active in the Democratic Party.

In 1971, there was a small war going on between the library board and the trustees of Wood Library. They wanted their own home rather than being housed in Wood Library, so they took a storefront on Sullivan Avenue and made that into a library and took all the books from Wood, some of which were not theirs, and moved them up to Sullivan Avenue.

MACRO: Do you remember what that address was on Sullivan Avenue? Where it was on Sullivan Avenue?

THROWE: It's where Geissler's store is—the shopping strip right where Geissler's is. It was—had another name then of somebody that I know very well. Again, it'll come to me in a minute [Armata's.]. So the people that were associated with Wood Library decided to form their own private library, so I became an expert by buying a book on the 501c3 corporations, and we formed a tax-exempt 501c3 corporation and re-established Wood Library as a library and also as a place where collections of various artifacts and other things were made, and Wood continued to fill a necessary need in the town of South Windsor, particularly at this end of town.

MACRO: Was that the creation—was that the beginning of the Friends of Wood Memorial Library?

THROWE: Friends of Wood Memorial Library—that was the beginning, yes, and I think it was Edith Vibert who was very instrumental in that. And the Shepard family, and there were just several other people that were on that first board. I served for a few years on the board and later dropped out or was replaced as my interests changed, although I did chair a Wood golf tournament one of the years.

MACRO: **[00:12:58]** But you were instrumental in establishing the legal framework.

THROWE: We set up the Corporation—got the federal bureau of internal revenue—the Internal Revenue Service—to accept them as a true charity and obtain that designation as a so-called 501c3 organization, which could accept donations, and people who made donations could get a tax credit for a charitable donation, which enabled people to give money to Wood to rebuild the library and to continue with the collections they had through the years with some very able people—notably, in the most recent time, John Wadhams, who's done a fantastic job of bringing all kinds of things to Wood Library—trips to various places, collections, musicians, shows, food enterprises, where different people would have an opportunity to cook. I cook, so I joined some good cooks in one of our Men's Night Out cooking at Wood Library.

MACRO: I remember standing alongside you.

THROWE: Oh, that's right. I have a picture with you. In the military, when I came back from active duty, I obtained a commission as a second lieutenant and continued to serve with the Connecticut Army National Guard teaching at the Officer Candidate's School, and serving as the battery commander of an anti-aircraft battery, until we went into the Nike program with ballistic missiles. And I went through the ranks until I was made a full colonel and served as the Judge Advocate for the State of Connecticut. A general named General "Fritz" Freund came in to be our adjutant general off active duty with 35 years in the Army, and he appointed me to be the commander of the 43rd Infantry Brigade, so it was a new career for me since I had never been in the infantry—just the artillery and the JAG Corps. So I took a short course at Ft. Benning where we turned blue, and was the commander of the 43rd Brigade with 3,500 soldiers for four years, and then I was appointed assistant division commander of the 26th Yankee Infantry Division, which is located in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont, and traveled throughout the New England area. We made six trips to Germany, where we had an assignment in case of war with Russia. We were positioned between an American division and the West German panzer division at the East German border.

MACRO: You say on the East German border— do you remember when that was?

THROWE: [00:16:48] 1980-1987; it was called the Fulda Gap. There's a big, broad plain in West Germany with mountain ridges on both sides, and there's a gap that goes before it near the town of Fulda, and it's called the Fulda Gap, and that's where we anticipated that the East German and Soviet armies would come through, and could reach the city of Frankfurt in a matter of hours if they weren't stopped, which would divide Germany in half between the American section and the British section. So our position as the light infantry division without the heavy fire-power that the other divisions had was in the woods between the two divisions, somewhat like Bastogne, and it was not a pleasant thought of what our chances of survival were. Fortunately, the Cold War ended [in 1989], and we didn't have to worry about our foxholes over in West Germany.

MACRO: Did you put a date on when this was happening? I can't remember.

THROWE: The first trip that I made to Germany as part of a NATO force was 1980—

MACRO: I see.

THROWE: —when I was the brigade commander and then later, through 1986, we went to West Germany at least annually for a week to two weeks, where we would practice war games, usually in the [vicinity of Frankfurt and] Mainz. We made a trip up to Fulda, where an armored cavalry unit was stationed, and also another one near the Czechoslovakian border, where there was another armored cavalry unit, who were to be the first stopper if the Soviets and East Germans decided to cross the line. And they were good trips. We met with our American and German counterparts. In one of the war games we had, we even had the French involved, even though they weren't members of NATO.

MACRO: Yes. That's interesting.

THROWE: So we—but the planning we did was how to get our equipment and soldiers onto the European border at the Netherlands and bring them—bring them east to a staging area outside of Frankfurt and then determine what our—where we would go if we had sufficient warning before they attacked with their buildup. So I got to meet the commanders of the 8th Infantry Division—Mechanized Division—the 3rd Armored Division—a guy named Koch, who was the commander of the 12th German Panzer Division, and I had an interesting tour of Germany over that six-year period.

MACRO: [00:20:19] Yes. So it was a six-year period. The British sector was to the north, I believe.

THROWE: They were up to the north, and the British troops were ghost troops. They had units designed to be there, but they were over in Ireland fighting the IRA. But we had—the 8th Infantry Division was really 110% strength and probably the best division in the United States Army stationed in Germany. The 3rd Armored Division was the heavy armor division, and that also was at 100% strength. You're talking 15 to 20 thousand soldiers.

MACRO: I had no idea that the French were—allowed themselves to be involved in any—

THROWE: We had a French general—he gave a medal to one of our enlisted soldiers because of his work on the combat exercise that we were conducting with them, but as NATO troops we were not allowed to go into France. I took the staff—the division staff—to check the roads, the airports, and the sea ports, out to Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Antwerp, and we had to skirt around France. But we had an opportunity to go through Belgium. We had an

opportunity to stop at Bastogne to see the museum there—the tanks that the American had and a bust of General McAuliffe [Anthony C. McAuliffe] who refused to surrender. When the Germans asked him what his reply was, he said, “Nuts.” And they didn’t know what it meant. And that’s all on a bronze plaque in the center of Bastogne.

MACRO: There was a wonderful film that was created for television, I think, of the special American group that was at Bastogne in the woods that you mentioned.

THROWE: The 101st Airborne Division, which is a light infantry division. So they don’t have the big artillery pieces that would help defend them. They don’t have a lot of armor, so those guys were really—it was *mano a mano*, sitting there on the edge of the woods and, of course, my hero George Patton came through and relieved them. And when we were going—coming back into Germany, we went through Luxembourg and it just happened that an American cemetery was there—where there were, I think, over ten thousand American graves, and over in the corner was George Patton’s grave, because when he died in that accident in Germany, they asked if they could bury him there, and his wife agreed, so that every American soldier wouldn’t have to be dug up and brought back to the States—a beautiful cemetery and over in one corner, a special grave for Georgie Patton. And so I visited that, plus they had some low *bas-relief*, a bronze plaque, showing the invasion of Germany, the Normandy landing, the landing in Sicily, and up through Italy—all done in relief. Just absolutely beautiful and manned by some old retired Treasury men from the U.S. who were in there. That was Luxembourg.

MACRO: [00:24:08] That’s very interesting. Now after those six years, where did your military career take you then?

THROWE: You can only stay as a general officer for five years unless you get promoted, and my five years ran out in 1987, so I was 57 years old and although I could’ve served for three more years, I had to retire as a brigadier general. There were no openings for major generals in the state of Connecticut. So that was the end of the line for me. So I retired in 1957 and my friends in Rotary had the portrait done of me—done right after 1987—by an artist [from Manchester, CT: Sandra Wakeen]. So—

MACRO: So all the while, you were practicing law.

THROWE: Yes. I practiced law in East Hartford, Connecticut. I went over to join Alvin Leone and Charlie Dana in 1962, and so while I was mayor of the town of South Windsor, I was also trying cases in Hartford, and what we did—I had my first trial in South Windsor in 1957 before I took the job with the federal judge, because you can’t practice when you’re working for the federal judge, so my first trial was in the old town court in South Windsor, and the judges and prosecutors were not lawyers. They could be, but they didn’t have to be. So the two judges in South Windsor were Ben Kupchunos and Bill Thresher. Ben Kupchunos was a farmer. Thresher sold insurance—hail insurance, I think, and he did real estate.

The prosecutor was a guy named George Stone, who was a traffic manager for Royal Typewriter. The young man that worked for Earl Reichle was driving on Ellington Road in a truck, and he heard a bang in the back. So he took the truck back to Earl's place where he parked next to a tobacco barn, and he came back in his car, and he saw a crowd on the street. So he went over, and they said, Blinky Chapman—who was a fellow that had a habit of drinking too much—had been hit by something and knocked down to the ground. And he says, "Well, I might've hit him because I heard a bang when I was coming the other way." So somebody decided that was evading responsibility even though he stopped when he didn't have to stop. So we had a trial in the city court. That was my first legal experience—was in the South Windsor court, and the interesting part of it was that after all the testimony, the prosecutor and the judge met together without me. I wasn't invited in to the office in the old town hall on Main Street. And guess what? They came out with a guilty finding. So the kid went back to Maine, and the \$50 that I was supposed to get for defending the case never came. Earl was going to pay me, but he said he couldn't, because the kid didn't work for him anymore, and he didn't have any money to take out of his pay. So that was my first introduction to justice in America.

MACRO: [00:28:18] It was arbitrary—not inviting you in for the discussion, wasn't it?

THROWE: Huh?

MACRO: That was arbitrary—not inviting you in for the discussion.

THROWE: Oh, yeah. Oh, no. They just—the judge is supposed to make the decision by himself. But in—when did we do it?—in 1960, the state passed an amendment to the Constitution to do away with the city courts and [replace them with] the state-wide system of circuit courts, which is what we have today. I had another case from South Windsor: a young man named Gilbert—drove a big milk truck for a dairy in town, and on his way back from delivering milk to these various convenience stores, he was coming up to an exit where he would've gotten off and, unfortunately, there was a Cumberland Farms similar milk truck stuck on the highway with no lights, no warning beacon, and it was dusk—dark outside. He never saw the truck. He ran into it. He was killed instantly, and his widow was a young girl in town—came to me to see if I could get worker's compensation payments for his death. And I looked at the police report and thought she might have a case, even though she had been told that she didn't have a case by another judge—by a judge. And so I had a police investigator look at it, and we decided that he didn't fall asleep at the wheel. He was driving his truck, and he couldn't see what was in front of him, and we had a case. So we tried it in the United States Federal Court in Hartford, and the judge was Blumenfeld [Joseph Blumenfeld], and he was about 80 years old and slept during part of the trial. The insurance company offered us five thousand dollars, and then we had a jury of peers, and they came out with a verdict in favor of the young man for \$1,870,000. We collected it all.

MACRO: Wow.

THROWE: [00:30:57] And so that gave the widow a new life. She had two small children and provided money for them when they turned 18. And I even attempted to turn it into a structured settlement where they would've received about 10 times the amount that they got when they turned 18, but the insurance company wouldn't deal with us, and even though we offered to reduce the verdict by 300 thousand dollars to 1 million 5, they had a time limit in which they had to react, and they didn't react in time, so the verdict had to go through, and they sent a marshal over to Cumberland Farms, and they came up with a check in due time. Otherwise, we would've been drinking an awful lot of milk. But it was a great victory, because I was sure I was going to lose. And I can remember walking the roads of Main Street, thinking about this young Gilbert—25-year-old, smelling the flowers in the meadows, and I even told the jury I needed to smell the manure from Shady Farm. And the jury believed him and didn't believe the insurance company's lawyer about the fact that he must have fallen asleep without any evidence of that.

And this practice that we had in East Hartford—I stayed in that practice until 1999 when I retired from the practice. We did everything. We represented small businesses in East Hartford and South Windsor. We represented—and I represented—people in South Windsor for all types of things, whether it was driving infractions, drunk driving, divorces, buying a business, selling a business, buying a house, selling a house, doing a will. It was a great practice because it was the thing that lawyers are supposed to do, without getting so specialized as many of them are today; and we did all of that without advertising. It was by word of mouth, and people knowing that we had a reputation. And when a lawyer says his word is his bond, it meant something.

MACRO: What was the formal name of your practice?

THROWE: Leone, Nagle, and Throwe, [later to become Leone, Throwe, Teller, and Nagle].

MACRO: So you had three partners?

THROWE: Yes: John Nagle, [Sam Teller, Alvin Leone, and me]. Charlie Dana had a breakdown and had to leave practice. He couldn't handle the stress of some of the legal maneuvering and fighting that had to do with one of the lawyers and with clients. And so then we hired a young man named Sam Teller, who was an engineer but went through law school while he worked at Pratt and Whitney. And John Nagle, who went to Georgetown and Georgetown Law and had worked in worker's compensation cases at the Travelers. We hired him to do our worker's compensation. And we made that into a full firm when we moved over to 33 Connecticut Boulevard in a new building that we built in 1965. And that became our home until we brought in—Alvin [Leone] had two sons that were lawyers, so Frank and Bill Leone became parts of the firm. John Nagle had a son, Jimmy, who came and joined the firm and then left us to go into 'Teach America', because his heart was in teaching more than it was in being a lawyer. And he turned out to be a pretty good lawyer until the day he walked in and told me he was going to leave and go to the Teach America program. He ended up in the West Coast

teaching at schools, and now he's teaching at a law school in California. But the practice was just—it kept you moving, kept you alive. I was able to do some political things, but a lot of it had to take a back seat to running a firm and taking care of the clients and making sure that we got to the right court on the right time when you're doing such a diversified practice.

MACRO: [00:35:59] Returning to your political life in South Windsor: you mentioned that within the Democratic Party, at a certain period, there was a schism. It had been my experience after almost 50 years in the United States and always being a supporter of the Democratic Party, rivalries tend to develop—and disputes—that can be rather long-running. Has the Democratic Party in South Windsor been particularly fractious or—

THROWE: I think they have been fractious. It's always been so. Originally, the Democrats in South Windsor were fairly conservative farmers. In 1959, I worked on my first election [campaign], which was for first selectman, and Tom Burgess had been with the street department for years and was the superintendent. He ran for first selectman, and Dexter Burnham ran against him, and he was well known in town. A guy named Frank Pierce was a very conservative Democrat—ran for second selectman, and Warren Westbrook, who ran unsuccessfully many times for different offices, ran for second selectman. And Democrats were not the majority party in town, but it was really hard work, working out of the Kupchunos brothers' potato barn, going door to door to door, and with the popularity of Tom Burgess, the last selectman in South Windsor [before the change in political structure] was a Democrat—first selectman. He ran the town, and Bill Thresher was on the board of finance along with Joe Krawski, Sr., who was a potato farmer up on the other end of town who was also big on the board of finance. Our first mayor—I just dropped his last name ...

MACRO: We can add it in later, you know.

THROWE: All right [John Madden]. I can't imagine how could I forget him. He was a fiscal conservative, and he was a really good leader, but he couldn't handle Harry Odlum, who was more conservative than he was. And he was mayor from '61 to '63 and then decided in '63, he would run as an independent. And naturally, he lost. So that's how the Republicans got in, in '63, with Jack Egan, and we were lucky to make a comeback in '65 because we were still fractured. There was a gal named Shirley Delnicki, whose son [Thomas A. Delnicki] is the present mayor, and she was very active in the Young Democrats. Since she was a nice Lithuanian girl, the Kupchunos brothers thought she would make a great Post-Mistress. So they put her in the job, and it just tore everything apart, because we didn't have an opportunity to discuss it. It was done behind closed doors between the Kupchunos brothers and Harry Odlum, and I don't know who else. And so the post office was in the borough shopping center up there on Oakland Road, and she caused problems with the fire fighters who were also postal carriers, and she eventually left and now lives in another state. So winning for a majority in 1965 was a huge surprise, and it was done through people who were willing to work hard and go door to door to door and make contact with the people.

[00:41:02] And following that, into the '70s, the Democrats were generally successful in town elections and in electing a state representative and state senator. We had Fred Doocy who was our state senator for many years and ended up for a while as the acting lieutenant governor when Abe Ribicoff went to the Senate, and the lieutenant governor, John Dempsey, took over as governor. That left the vacancy that Fred Doocy took to become the acting lieutenant governor until we had the next election.

Now the Democratic Party in South Windsor seems to be getting better, little by little. But we still have fractures. We still have people who are on their own show and don't want to be part of the team. And when we get teamwork, we get wins. But the problem is getting people to volunteer, to serve and do things without any monetary gain, but just with the idea of having your ideas in the forefront of the way the town is run. And the council/manager form of government has worked quite well with nine people on the town council, which is the maximum that you want to have without getting a lot of dissension. Some towns even do it with seven, which works for an easier number, and some towns are a modified form of selectmen where instead of three selectmen, they have five or seven selectmen, and it becomes something like a town council but without the manager. It moves in the same vein as a strong mayor government, that we see in New Haven and in Hartford—works better. That great experiment in Hartford of a council manager form of government never really worked. But in South Windsor, it works. We're lucky to have had some excellent managers, who could stand above the political fight and present to the council without appearing to be one-sided or the other.

MACRO: Before I came to South Windsor—my wife [Virginia Macro] and I came in 1981, but had lived nearby in southern Enfield, I remember reading of rather fraught discussions about the building of I-291 down here—the Bissell Bridge, where the exit should be, and then later there was discussion of running an interstate up this side of the valley from Hartford up north. That must have caused some political discussion, at least, in the town. Do you remember anything about that?

THROWE: [00:44:44] I remember the discussion and most of it seemed to be on the state level rather than on a town level. Some of the local farmers were opposed to it because it would chew up the meadows and also from a conservation standpoint, we would lose some wetlands. Then because of the wetland issue, it never got very far off the ground, particularly down in East Hartford, where the Podunk River flows into the Connecticut River. There's just a whole bunch of wetlands, so we've got that "T" intersection [in East Hartford], but it would've been helpful to get around the city of Hartford. I need to take a break.

MACRO: Yes. Sure.

THROWE: The call of nature.

[A short pause occurred here]

MACRO: Jim, you mentioned you had some further thoughts on the sewer commission?

THROWE: Yes. When I was on the town council and when I was—the two years I was mayor, we had serious problems in a couple of areas of town with septic systems failing or being overused or the ground not being suitable for them, where they had done some building. And we invited the MVC to consider hooking South Windsor up to the MDC [Metropolitan District Commission] sewer system. And we had a committee with Enoch Pelton, Fritz Meyer, Bob Murray—all stalwarts in the town of South Windsor. We even took them up to the Shepard's 'Blast & Cast' and fed them steak and liquor and had the chairman of the MDC there, told them what we needed and what they could do and how could we get together. And they just sort of turned their noses up at us.

So we got into a study of doing—going it alone to construct our own sewer system in the town. And so I left office in '67, and in the next two years the town came up with a plan to build a sewer plant and sewer the main industrial road in town, Route 5, as well as some of the residential areas that were hardest hit—North View Drive being principally one of them. And so while I was doing PTA stuff, that went ahead, and we got federal funding from Abe Ribicoff. That actually happened when I was mayor in 1967. Abe was our U.S. Senator, and he came to town. We had the golden shovel out there on Route 5, and dug the first piece of ground for the sewer line, and we got millions of dollars to build a plant where the town's share was 10%, and the federal government took 75%, and the state of Connecticut took 15%. So it allowed us to do it without bankrupting the town, because John Madden said the sewer system would bankrupt us, but not when we had the federal funds available. And we were lucky enough to be one of those early towns such as Enfield and Stafford Springs that got the money for a sewer plant and sewers.

So by 1971, the sewer plant was built. The initial sewer systems were put in place up on North View Drive and going up to Avery Street in South Windsor, which required a pumping station to get up over Avery Street for the Benedict Road area. And in 1971, when Abe Glassman was mayor, he asked me to take over the sewer commission—said it would be once a month [that it met]. It turned out to be once a week, [sometimes at] midnight, looking at holes with sewer pipes that burst and making big decisions on the areas in town that we would sewer. And by the time I finished my term in 1977, we had sewered about 85% to 90% of the town. The only—the two biggest problems were the plastic pipes that were put in on Avery Street malfunctioned and were bursting and had to be replaced with the cast iron pipes that could stand the pressure better than the other ones.

The other thing was, in the '70s, the price of oil went from 20 cents a gallon to \$1.20 a gallon, so it became prohibitive to continue to burn the leftover waste that we would spin in the sewer plant and then burn it so that there would be no residue other than the carbon. And so we stopped burning and went to lagooning. And lagooning was fine to let nature take its course except that in the middle of August, it became apparent to a lot of people on Main Street that the septic tank had gone septic, and you could smell it up and down the street, particularly if the wind was blowing out of the west. So they solved that with lime, which they used for a while until the state said it was doing something to the water in the Connecticut River. So they had to

stop using the lime, and they were using other detergents to clean up the smell. And so we struggled through those years, but that enabled the town to provide sewers for commercial and industrial use on Route 5 and other commercial areas of town, and it allowed homes, particularly up in Avery Heights and particularly in the Farnham Estates where we had these houses that were built in the '50s with failing septic tanks, to hook up to the town sewer system and maintain their houses, because otherwise, they'd have to abandon the house. So it became a very important thing that we do this, and we made some really good decisions about continuing to provide sewers throughout the town. Now those federal programs are gone, and it is too expensive under the present economics to do much more extensions but any new developments have to take care of their own sewers. So that's been the goal of the sewer commission or whatever name they're going under now. So those were seven great years in one sense, although they took a lot out of me and my family, to be out so many nights on a job that was supposed to be once a month.

MACRO: [00:53:12] I can imagine, but it turned out very successfully. You mentioned that the sewer smells from the plants down the road on Main Street caused a certain amount of tension on Main Street. You have lived on Main Street for many years. Can you speak a little bit about relations on Main Street, the social atmosphere over those years, and its relation to the rest of the town?

THROWE: The—Main Street—everybody has usually been allowed to be as friendly or as unfriendly as they want to be. You can be close with your neighbors or not close. My wife always had trouble adjusting to Main Street, and said you could be dead a week before anyone knew it on Main Street. I enjoyed the company of my neighbors when I lived down at 999. I had a cat that actually was a member of the Congregational Church there, and I enjoyed the people that were around me—Tapleys and Hallowells and others, Burnhams, all who lived in that area right around 999 Main Street. And when I moved up to 1330, I became very close with the Kashetas, the Pandozzis and the neighbors going up, Joe Saczawa and his family, the Andrulats—Warren Andrulat and his family. And in the heavy snows we had in '69 and '70, we formed a snowmobile club, and the people on Main Street made paths and bridges to cross the brooks so that we could go down into the meadows and snowmobile safely without going into the river or running into barbed wire. And it was a great time, until that had to stop because people were abusing it.

A lot of the activities around Wood Library have been very successful in bringing back some of the camaraderie on Main Street so that you get to meet people from the seven or eight miles that Main Street comprises, from all over town and see the variety of ages and types of people that live on this wonderful street. When I moved here in 1959, I became more involved in town activities, political activities, schools, and you can see some real good groups—and that has grown and flourished in the town, not only with things like the Friends of Wood Library. We've had the South Windsor Foundation that adds things to the schools, some of the concerts that we have in town up at the Evergreen Walk, which is a wonderful venue, and the dinners—the table dinners that help provide some aid for the education system, the different groups that people

belong to—the quilting group, the ladies luncheon group—they all add to the flavor of Main Street. The only thing I miss are the elm trees, which used to grace the street when we first moved in. They were busy dying, and so now we've got maples that still line the streets, but we have to be careful to make sure they don't foul the electric wires that carry our electricity.

MACRO: [00:57:27] Yes.

THROWE: And so the clubs in town—the Exchange Club—I've been a very active member of the Rotary Club in South Windsor since 1970, which raises immense amounts of money and builds things like the Rotary pavilion, some baseball fields, lights for baseball, Jaws of Life for the police department, ambulances for the ambulance society, and there seems to be a coming together of all these groups in town that do various social things that are beyond the scope of the town political system, beyond the scope of the council, or beyond the scope of the board of education to make a more quality—a better quality of life in town.

MACRO: Yes. That's very good to hear. There's criticism I hear not just from Main Street, but from citizens of the town generally, that there's no focal point to the town—no kind of—no town green, and the shopping center—the Stop & Shop shopping center is really not—certainly not an architecturally interesting place. In fact, it's rather drab. Any thoughts about that? Could that have been avoided? Can there be any amelioration of that site?

THROWE: [00:59:15] When I ran for the town council in 1963, my theme was, what South Windsor needed was an “eye”—an eye for the town, a town center, because we didn't have one. Unfortunately, the way the land lays, this having been a parish of East Windsor and originally, Windsor, it never had an area where you would have a real town center. We had East Windsor Hill, Wapping, the Main Street gang, and Depot Road, which became Pleasant Valley Road. And then when we split off from East Windsor, I think in 1845, the town—Main Street was the main drag, and there wasn't that big a drag. We had a couple of speakeasies that Barney Daley wrote about and a house of ill repute and at one end, the house at the end of Main Street where the escaped slaves were housed for a while on their way to Canada, but nothing that resembled a center.

There always was a desire to turn that land where Stop & Shop is now that Dick Kelly developed—was the closest thing we could get to a real center for the town. I tried during the time that I was mayor to see if we could get some of this money from the federal government to build a center for the town, but we couldn't because we didn't have any old buildings to tear down. So Bristol and Enfield and some of these other older cities got the rehab money to rebuild their centers, because a lot of those are not worked out—not in Enfield, not in Bristol. But it is unfortunate. Windsor, across the river, may have a center on the [Connecticut] river, which is built around it. Enfield has the area that used to be called Thompsonville, which is where the factories were and everything else.

South Windsor was unfortunate. We had farms and farms and farms. So what they're doing now around the town is working on is a new plan of development, and that might solve

some of the problems, but I think we have to do it with what we have—to continue to build up around Dick Kelly's town center where the town hall and library are, and more importantly, around Evergreen Walk, which seems to be an extension of the town center, particularly if they add a hotel and then some other things to that.

MACRO: In your life on Main Street, you mentioned the activity around Wood Library and the Congregational Church, did you belong to a church?

THROWE: Yes. I'm a Holy Roman Catholic, and when I first moved to town, I was a member of St. Francis of Assisi. We went through a couple of priests who had two problems—mostly alcohol or almost exclusively, alcohol. And they brought in this Episcopal priest who became a Catholic and then a Catholic priest named Gordon Wadhams ...

MACRO: Wadhams?

THROWE: [01:03:07] Yes—who had been pastor of the little church around the corner on Fifth Avenue, New York, and had an English accent. And he was just magnificent. A few people thought he was turning us into Protestants because he came at the time that John XXIII had turned the altar around and opened the church windows. He gradually became very popular after they first got over the Protestant scares. And so I was very active with him when we started reading the canon of the Mass in English while he did it in Latin, and it was a real pleasure to be a part of that church. Later, we ended up at St. Margaret Mary's because we were on the dividing line between the two, and the priest at St. Margaret Mary's was an Army chaplain with me in the National Guard, and so we ended up having our daughter married there.

And now, I'm active in St. Margaret Mary's as a reader of the Scriptures, and so I do that every other week, particularly when I have two gentleman who are intellectually deprived—used to call them retarded—and I take them to church every Sunday or so. They take care of my envelope when I'm up on the altar. So I'm still active. I enjoyed living next to the Congregational Church as they went through different ministers there. They had one, and I'm dropping his name, but I could add it—who was just absolutely fantastic. I hate to say it—if I ever become a Protestant, I'm coming over to his church. And the Congregational Church on Main Street has gone through several ministers without finding someone to [really] replace him. Their flock is diminishing. The Wapping Church [Wapping Community Church, on the other hand, is doing quite well and almost looks like a Catholic church because they have two services on Sunday. But the religious community in South Windsor is alive and healthy. We have a relatively new synagogue that was built off of Colony—no, not Colony Road, but Governor's Highway, and they even have bingo on Wednesdays, so we're all doing the same thing in trying to keep our churches and synagogues alive and well with parishioners who attend them and contribute to their wellbeing. They provide for a good moral standing for the community no matter what your faith. We have an ecumenical way of conducting things in South Windsor that I'm proud to be part of.

MACRO: I suppose your own Roman Catholic upbringing took you to the Democratic Party here naturally, because I think the Democratic Party in town had as its base, Roman Catholic people.

THROWE: Yes. The Lithuanians used to practice [the pre-Christian pagan religion of northern Europe, until they were converted to Catholicism around 1500; they formed a large community here].

MACRO: And there are many Irish in town.

THROWE: [01:07:27] And the Irish, of course, except the northern Ireland—the black Irish—Presbyterian. The Irish are very strong in their religion also. They built churches. They provided them with priests and bishops, and on and on.

MACRO: What is your name, Throwe—what is the background to that?

THROWE: Well, I'm a mutt. I'm half Irish, one-quarter German, and one-quarter French. "Throwe" is the French part. My great-great grandfather and his brother—one was Jean and their last name was Jeté, and they came down [from Canada]. And the other brother was Napoleon. They came down from Montreal in 1861 to North Adams, Massachusetts, and joined the militia—the National Guard—the militia in North Adams to fight in the Civil War. The recruiting sergeant said, "Hey, what does that mean there, that Jeté?" "It means 'to throw'," so he said, "Well, from now on, your name is Throw." So I have a shaving mug from my grandfather that has "Throw" with no "e" and my grandmother, who fancied herself to be high-class Irish, added the "e" because the priest, when he wrote it on their marriage certificate, he had the "Throw" with a little curlicue at the end, that looked like '-e', and she made that "e" part of the name. So it was never done in court, but it went from Jeté to Throw without the "e" to Throwe with the "e." [Originally, the family was from Anjou, in France, where the name was spelt "Geste".]

MACRO: That's a wonderful story.

THROWE: Later when I was playing basketball for various teams, I played with a Greek team called the Hellenic AC, and they had to give me a Greek name when we played in some of these towns where you're supposed to really be Greek or they would look at me and say, "He doesn't look Greek." But they changed my name from James to Demetrius and Throwe to Petaxa, which is the Greek word for "throw."

MACRO: That is a wonderful story. Well, look, Jim, thank you very much for subjecting yourself to this interview. We—as part of the Wood Library oral history group—thank you very, very much and wish you well.

James H. Throwe—Oral History Interview
March 7, 2013
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[01:10:23 end of audio]

N.B. 1. Supplementary material for the purpose of clarification has been added to the aural transcription thus: [.....].

2. Three Addenda, written by James H. Throwe in February 2014, follow as a separate document. (ed.)

ADM
March, 2014

ADDENDUM I

South Windsor Democratic Politics

When I came to South Windsor in 1959, I was introduced to the Democratic Party by Stanley A. Johnson, the Town's Deputy Sheriff. Stanley and his friend, Charley Enes, the Town Clerk, had convinced me to move to Town as a young lawyer with my wife. Harry Odlum was the chairman of the Democratic Town Committee and wielded almost absolute power over Democratic affairs. Harry was an appraiser and did appraisal work for the State and for private parties and lawyers. Harry and his supporters wrested power away from a group led by Tom Ahern, a local farmer. Helen Ahern, Tom's widow and welfare director for the Town, referred to Harry as the "Station 31 crowd", referring to the trolley stop in front of Harry's house on Main Street. Harry had married Myrtle Reardon and lived in the family home there. So Harry ran the Town Committee together with the Kupchunos brothers, Tom Burgess, Town Public Works director, and Frank Pierce (married to a beautiful Riordan girl [Barbara]). Frank was a very conservative Democrat and actually belonged to the "John Birch Society", a right wing conservative group. Harry handpicked candidates for local and State offices. He also was involved with the inner workings of Town boards and commissions. He often gave board members "advice" on how to vote on a particular application. In 1959, when I moved to Town, Harry took me under his wing. I was put on the Planning and Zoning Commission and was made secretary. The Town was growing with two big housing developments being built: Avery heights off Avery Street on land owned by the Kupchunos brothers, and Farnham estates on land owned by "Doc" Farnham, Republican Town Chair. Other small one family homes were also being built for the influx of post WWII vets, who were coming from Hartford to the suburbs. They formed a nucleus of Democrats, who were soon going to challenge Harry Odlum. In 1959, we had a Town election, the last under the Selectman form of government. Tom Burgess was our candidate for First Selectman and Frank Pierce was our candidate for Second Selectman. We met for campaign strategy in the Kupchunos Brothers' Potato storage barn on Graham Road with the three Kupchunos brothers, Harry Odlum, Charley Enes, and Stanley Johnson to get out the vote for an October election. Dexter Burnham, a popular local who was State Editor of the *Hartford Times*, and Warren Westbrook, who was well known and had run for State Representative before, were the Republican candidates. It was a tight race, but the Democrats prevailed.

On Election Day, we often kept a small bottle of whiskey in the car when we picked up voters who needed a ride to the polls. I was given a bottle of whiskey and told to pick an older man on Main St. When he got in the car, he said he wanted to pull the top lever, which was the party lever for the entire Democratic slate (later the party lever was removed), but he said that his hand shook so much that he needed something to steady it. I said, "would this help?" and handed him the bottle. He took a long swig and held out a steady hand saying, "Now I can reach the top lever." Also, there was a shack-town at the local brickyard, where a number of blacks lived in squalor. They were given rides to vote and a half pint for their troubles. Liquor stores were closed on Election Day, so we were doing the Christian thing, helping the needy get through the day without the shakes.

The Town Court was in the hands of the Democrats, as the appointments to it were made by the Governor. Our Judges were Ben Kupchunos and Bill Thresher. The Town Court system was due to end in 1960 and was replaced by the Statewide Circuit Court system with professional judges (i.e. lawyers). Court sessions were held in the evening on Mondays. Everyone was a part-time employee. George Stone, a traffic manager at Royal Typewriter and former motorcycle cop, was the prosecutor. As a young lawyer, I had my first taste of Town Court justice one Monday night in 1959 or 60. A young worker for Earl Reichle driving on Ellington road hit a drunken pedestrian with the rear of his truck as the pedestrian stumbled into the side. He drove away not knowing he had the accident, but returned to the scene to say he might have hit him with the side of his truck. There was no Town police, but a resident State trooper who arrested the young man. I was hired to defend him by Earl Reichle on the advice of Harry Odlum. I prepared and presented our defense expecting an acquittal, until I saw the prosecutor and the Judge retreat to the Judge's chamber to decide the case. I was not invited. My heart sank as they came out and Judge Thresher declared him guilty and fined him \$50. The Young man went back to Maine and I never got paid. I learned the value of getting a retainer (a subject they didn't teach in law school).

The Town voted to adopt the Council-Manager form of government in 1960 with a nine-person council and a Town Manager hired by the Council. The Democrats met to pick our team to run for six seats on the Council. John Madden, who worked for the tobacco farmers and was chairman of the Board of Finance, a powerful committee under the Selectmen form of government, was our first choice, followed by Frank Pierce, Jack Woodcock, Ed Steben. Larry Keefe and Tom Burgess Jr. Madden was a terrific campaigner, putting articles in the two newspapers, *Hartford Courant* and *Hartford Times*. We had two "stringers" who covered the Town news. The Democrats won 6-3, with Dexter Burnham, Gaylord Payne and Jack Egan as the minority Republicans. However, the Democratic split was happening. The council was feeling their power and did not want the dictates of Harry Odlum and the Democratic Town Committee. They set up their own selection sub-committee to interview candidates for the Planning and Zoning Commission, which was to be appointed by the Council initially and elected thereafter. Ray Hallowell Sr, Paul Kupchunos and I were the incumbents and expected to be reappointed. We went to the subcommittee's meeting and were asked questions about zoning and planning. Then we noticed two other Democrats there, Fran Coleman and another Democrat. When the Democratic Town Committee's nomination came before the Town Council, they rejected Paul Kupchunos and James Throwe. Charley Enes, Town Clerk and the acting Town Manager, notified the Town Committee. The war was on. Every month the Town Committee would endorse Paul and me, and every month the Town Council would reject us 6-3, with three Democrats joining three Republicans for a 6-3 vote. Then the Lithuanians arose in force and Paul Kupchunos was voted in, but they continued to reject the newcomer whom they viewed as one of Harry's boys. Finally after eight months I withdrew my name and John Wholly was accepted in my place.

Part of the dispute centered over control of the party mechanism and decisions made without prior discussion. One was the postmaster's job, which had become vacant and was a political appointment. Shirley Delnicki, a local young woman active in Young Democratic politics and darling of the Kupchunos brothers (all Lits), was suddenly presented to the Democratic Party for endorsement as our new Postmistress. The party members were surprised, but the votes had already been counted and we swallowed it. She did not do well and caused a rift with the postal workers and the volunteer firemen, and probably cost the Democrats the next election. The rift grew wider. John Madden decided to run as an independent and refused Democratic endorsement offered by the Democratic Town Committee. The other five decided not to run for the 1963 election. We couldn't find candidates. Ed Pastula and I were on the nominating committee and ended up nominating each other. The Republicans won 5-4 with Jack Egan leading the pack. Burnham and Payne did not run; John Madden lost running as an independent without party endorsement.

Gay Payne later invited me to lunch at his insurance company, where he was president, and told me of the conspiracy that involved the three Republican councilors and how they and the three renegade Democrats led by Madden planned and carried out the rejection of Paul Kupchunos and me.

In 1965, the Democrats were still divided, but we put together a team of Democrats who worked on their own without much help from the Town Committee. It looked like a sure thing for the Republicans, who seemed to have everything going their way. I hoped that I would get defeated, so that I would not have to suffer two more years as minority leader and Jack Egan's bombast. They had a car parade the Sunday before the October Monday election. We had selected Ray Hallowell and Barbara Murray to run with myself, Umberto Delmastro, Bill Thresher and Ed Havens. Barbara had worked in the Town Hall and was active with the women, who were the backbone of the party. They were our computers with their 3 x 5 cards of all the voters. They made the calls, etc. Barbara gave them a boost to go all out. On the day of the Republican cavalcade of convertibles, Barbara grabbed me and said, "Let's get going door to door." So we did, and on election night we were surprised to find that Bill Thresher had won by four votes. Umberto Delmastro was the top vote getter, but we had caucused and Del and I said that I would be mayor and he deputy mayor. Little did we think that it would happen. The Republicans were stunned, but we cooperated with each other the same as we had in the previous Council. We often caucused on issues before the Council Meeting, so that we could get through the agenda and save the disputed items for the Meeting. FOI would prevent that system now. Those four years were an exciting time in my life.

However the demands of a law practice with a partner who had a breakdown, a busy schedule of jury trials and a growing family (we adopted our first son on election day 1960 and a son in 1962 and a daughter in 1965) – it became too much, so I retired in 1967 to care for more pressing needs.

After spending some time on the Pleasant Valley PTA, and increasing my participation in the National Guard, I was pulled back into the political arena in 1971. The Town had started a Sewer project during my Council years and with Abe Ribicoff's assistance got huge grants to build a sewer plant and sewer system where only septic systems were. The plant had been built and a fledgling system started in Town. Abe Glassman was elected Mayor in 1971. The chairmanship of the Sewer Commission was up for appointment. Dick Reeves, a Republican, was the incumbent. I was asked to take the chairmanship with the lie that they met once a month and it was easy. I took it. Dick Reeves was gracious. It was hard work: Federal Grants, meeting with the engineers, sewer lines braking in the middle of the night and middle of the road on Avery street, problems at the plant with employees, the oil crisis and the need to stop burning the excrement, lagooning the stuff and trying to keep the smell down in August etc. etc. Finally, in 1977, I was able to retire. At this time I stopped being a Judge Advocate with few court martial trials to become Chief of Staff and take Command of an Infantry brigade of 3500 troops with no prior infantry experience. That became another important cog in my life's work.

In 1971, after four years of Republican control of the Town, the Democrats came back to life under Dennis Moynihan, a red headed former UConn football player, who became our Town Committee Chair. He turned the young wives in the party to cheerleaders complete with uniforms. With Abe Glassman as the leader, the Dems swept back into office, taking control of the Council, School Board and other elective offices. We were in the middle of the sewer program and a growing Town. Abe went on to become our State Representative, and Bob Smith, a tall energetic young insurance agent, won the Mayor's seat in 1973. He served one term and decided to step down. The Republicans were showing signs of life and had a young, brash businessman named Allan Caffyn, who refurbished boilers and lived in an old house on Main Street; he decided to run for the Council. There were sparks between Smith and Caffyn.

At the last meeting of the Council in November 1975, just before the election on Tuesday, the Council was in a jovial mood and had a short meeting. Bob Smith with Dennis Moynihan and some close friends, including a Republican, went out to celebrate. After they had celebrated sufficiently, they drove back through Town in Bob's station wagon. He saw a bunch of "Caffyn" signs and decided there were too many. He started pulling over and pulling up the Caffyn signs and throwing them in the back of his station wagon. Some of this was observed by a local police officer in his cruiser. He followed Smith, but did not stop or arrest him. (Smith was a close friend of Chief Kerrigan [John J. Kerrigan].) Finally he stopped pulling down Caffyn signs and drove home after dumping the signs.

The next day the election was held and Caffyn lost by a small margin. Sandra Bender was elected as our first woman mayor and the Democrats remained in control. The Republicans were outraged as well as Caffyn and his wife Nancy. They demanded that Smith be arrested for trashing the signs. After two weeks, Chief Kerrigan relented and got an arrest warrant for Bob Smith. I was hired as his lawyer. We went to court in the Circuit Court in East Hartford [now in Manchester]. Smith did not want an arrest record, so we applied for the accelerated rehabilitation program, where, after some community service and a showing that he would never do it again

and maybe an apology, Smith could be placed on probation for a period of months, after which the charges would be erased. It took a while for the town to look on it as a joke, but after a while it became a great story.

The Caffyns never forgot or forgave. In 1977, Nancy Caffyn ran for the Council and was elected mayor with a Republican majority. She fired anyone who was close to Smith that she could. Only the Great Ed Havens could bring the Democrats back to power. He was elected mayor in 1979 and many times after. He is still on the Council at age 88 as our Deputy Mayor.

[END OF ADDENDUM I]

ADDENDUM II

Harold and Larry

In 1980, Judge Kuehn appointed me as Attorney for Harold Congdon in East Windsor to verify his mental disability for the Probate Court. I went to see him at a restaurant in East Windsor where he worked as a cook's helper. I found him to be pleasant and polite, but still with a learning disability that left him unable to read or write. I wrote my report and charged a \$35 fee. As the years progressed, I became more involved; Larry Perry came into the picture and soon I started inviting them to my home for holiday meals, finding painting jobs for Harold and getting them appropriate apartments from Enfield to East Windsor and finally South Windsor. Eventually I was appointed conservator and guardian of their persons. Bob Starr was conservator of their Estates, which came from their earnings and were kept in savings by Helen Pryzbyla of Schaub's restaurant, where she took care of them following their release from The Mansfield Training School that they had been committed to for several years. She saved their earnings and provided for them for 30-40 years, so that when they retired in 1995 at age 62 they had substantial savings. My involvement grew and I was taking them to church, getting their medications, arranging doctor's visits, getting them into South Windsor Rotary as honorary members, bringing them to holiday dinners at my home, and even taking them to Florida and on two cruises. I stopped taking any fees for my services due to their finances and my own feelings. Father Sullivan told me it probably made up for all my sins and kept me going to church every week. They are now 80, both happy participants in the South Windsor Senior Center, where they participate in many activities including Set-Back cards* and trips. The State Department of Developmental Services is now involved with Larry, who has run out of money and is on Title 19. It is the involvement of Bob Starr, Helen Schaub, the Senior Citizens Center and others who have helped two disabled men to lead a happy and fruitful lifestyle.

PS. Larry Perry died on February 28, 2014, of a heart attack.

*"Set-Back" is a card game also called "Pitch" or "High, Low Jack and Game".

[END OF ADDENDUM II]

ADDENDUM III

Max Adelson

Who was Max Adelson? I never met him but heard of him. He was an attorney and had been Town Attorney during the selectman government days. Rumor has it that he got into a terrible argument with a judge in Hartford and as a result quit the practice of law rather than face discipline. He had a house built on Pleasant Valley Road, which resembles something Chinese or Japanese. Supposedly, it was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. It still stands in good condition. There must be more about Max and his house. Maybe Barbara Murray knows. Sandy Jeski told me that he was her father's lawyer, she remembers going to his office with her dad when she was a little girl, and he was not married and had no children.

[END ADDENDUM III]

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