

Carlis Sutton

CARLIS SUTTON: So there were three clubs: the Nobles -- I'm going to have to call Melvin Williams; he's on the line for everything. He's at the other club with David Dawson. And that group, they were guys out on Fowler and Pitner over on that west side of town. And then the Nobles, we were basically around this area: Darrow, Ashland -- yeah most of us -- Darrow, Ashland, Dewey. In fact, [Lewis Garnett?], he was the only one that was over on -- and Mason -- those two were on the east of the tracks, but most of us in what we now call Central Fifth Ward. And Wells started in the club because the Lads, which my brother and -- Lads was started by a guy named [Dickie Boy Strong?].

DINO ROBINSON: OK. And when was that -- what year was that started?

CS: Uh, let's see -- had to be around '58, because we were organized around '58 or '59 because they open Fleetwood-Jourdain for us to go dancing in 1956. Fleetwood-Jourdain, we would go to that on Friday nights. And then the club started as a result of dance contests and things like that. And (inaudible) Wells tried to get into the Lads. He was denied. So he put together a class of his classmates,

which was the class of '61. And then they said they needed some older guys to help them get established, so they chose three juniors at the time. That was me, [Woody?], and [Donny?] -- [Donald Basic?]. And the youngest guy was [Jake Clark?], who was in the class of '62. So we ranged from the class of '60, '61, and '62. So we -- that club must have stayed together -- our last big party was in '61, out here in the back yard, because I remember I was already in college then. I had gone to University of Illinois, and they were getting ready to go off to college that September, and (inaudible) was starting to go to college down in Arkansas. So the party had to be around in July or the first of August, because I remember I had to be to school around the second or third week of August, so we decided to have it in my yard before I went away, and that was our last big party that we had. We crowned a queen. I mean, it was really, really, really nice. We had corsages, and flowers, and food galore, disc jockey. It really, really was a nice set -- Christmas lights out all around -- until the Lads crashed it. OK? Because people came to the party from as far south as Chicago Heights and as far north as Lake Forest. So we had -- I mean, it was cars parked all up and down the street, and the first thing someone

said to say, "They're breaking the mirrors off the cars of the people in the party." And we went out and they had gone down and looked on every car that didn't have a city sticker, they were breaking the mirror off. And then we were under the apple tree, and someone said, "There's apples falling off the tree." "No, there's -- an apple's not falling off the tree." Then one of the bottles burst and cracked, and then I realized they were throwing bottles and rocks over at our guests from the -- over here on Lyons Street across, throwing them up in the tree and they were falling, so we told all the girls to get in. Got them out of the yard and my dad went around in a circle and he called a couple of his friends, and they got the guys and told them they had to move on. But basically, the party was over by that time anyway. So they tried to bust it up because they were not invited, and -- but then from there - - this is my brother, [Art?]. This is Dino.

ART: Hey, Dino.

DR: How are you doing? How are you doing?

A: All righty.

DR: Good, good.

CS: And the food is in the pocket. I'll warm it up for you in just a second and get you something from there. What do you need? Need towel?

A: No, I'm all right.

CS: OK. OK, I've got some towels in the bedroom if you need them. Huh?

A: No, I'm all right.

CS: OK. And -- well, you were in the Lads, right?

A: Huh?

CS: You were in the Lads, right?

A: No.

CS: What was the name of the club you were in?

A: I wasn't in any club.

CS: Yeah you were. The L-- because we used to meet. It was [Billy?], [Cherry?], Dickie Boy Strong. You guys came over to the house and met once.

A: No, I wasn't there.

CS: You weren't in the Lads?

A: No.

CS: I thought you were--

A: Cherry wasn't either. It was Dickie Boy and I don't know who else.

CS: Well, you guys weren't in an organized club at all?

A: No.

CS: Oh, OK. I thought you were. (inaudible). So I know it was the Lads and I know it was a club with the -- like I said, Melvin and David Dawson. I think they were called the Knights. I've got a Melvin is online. I'll have to ask him if he (inaudible).

DR: The Lads, the [05:00] Knights, and the Nobles.

CS: Right. And the girls were the Ivy Leagues -- those were like the sisters of the Nobles -- the Diablos -- those were older. It was [Connie Ward?] and that group. And those were the only two girl -- was there another girl group, Arthur?

A: I don't know.

CS: I don't remember.

A: (inaudible).

CS: Yeah, the Ivy Leagues was [Joyce?], [Emery?], [Peggy Jackson?], [Dorothy Holmes?] -- I can't rem-- oh, [Kay?] and [Holly Taylor?]. Man, it's a nice -- [Rosa Camp?], I think she was in there, because we had the after-prom party at her house on Fowler, out in the black prom was on Fowler and Dempster, and that was sponsored mainly by the Ivy Leagues. The Ivy Leagues and the Nobles went in with them. So we were -- the Nobles and the Ivy Leagues were pretty

much the group that -- we had run together ever since my foster school. OK, I'm sorry. OK, I'm sorry.

DR: Yeah, no. No problem.

CS: So the Lads, the Ivy Leagues were the girls. And the other girls were the Diablos, and they were sort of rough.

(laughter) They wore leather jackets and they didn't have the same kind of attitude or basically did no social --

DR: So the Diablos, were they usually teamed up with who?

CS: The Diablos, I don't know if they were--

DR: Were they kind of like --

CS: -- closer with the Lads or not. They were pretty much on their own.

DR: OK. And Ivy Leagues is teamed up with the Nobles.

CS: With the Nobles, right. And that -- both the Nobles and the Ivy Leagues were basically kids from the class of '61. The majority of both those groups was classes of '61 and '60. And now, Emery will be here for Thanksgiving. In fact, she just called me yesterday. She's coming in from San Antonio, and I'll get her to give me the name of everybody who was in the Ivy Leagues. Oh, but I almost think of, I don't know, Gloria Marshal, Emery Jackson, Dorothy Holmes, Joyce Mims. Now I do remember those four. And Peggy Jackson, because Peggy Jackson and Dorothy, we

would always go together to win the dance contest at Foster. Peggy or Dorothy was usually my partner in the dance contest. Now, generally, the Nobles and the Ivy Leagues won. Because I know Hackett -- was Hackett in the Lads?

A: I don't know.

CS: OK. I know Hackett was in a group, Maurice Hackett was a real popular black guy in our class, but he didn't graduate. In December, his family moved to California, so he wasn't around for graduation. I'm glad we're doing this. I'll sit down with Joyce and see if I can't come up -- and Wells won't answer his phone. I've been trying to call him for the last couple months to find out, since he started the club and he would know everybody who was in it. But yeah, we met I think once a month, if I remember correctly, and we mainly met at my house because my grandfather -- yeah, my grandfather hadn't died yet. Because I remember he did -- he was a plaster, and he plastered a whole room for us in the basement where we had our meeting. Put our shield up on the wall. We had a table and the officers would sit. And then we had refreshments. I mean, it was well-organized. And one of

the parents always there. It was a really, really good group of guys. So it's interesting now that--

DR: So it's like a pre-collegiate fraternity?

CS: Yeah. Most of us -- yeah, that's -- when I look back on it now, if they did, they at least came back -- I don't think [Archie?] finished, but he became an officer at the Evanston Police Department. [Woody Keefe?] finished Harvard. Mason finished AM&N with me, and now he's getting his masters at Bradley. I don't think Wells went to school. Lewis went away to Lincoln University because he was there with Arthur. [Wayne Griffin?] I think went to Southern Illinois. Where did [Massey?] go? I don't know where the other [10:00] guys, but half of us out of 13, I know about six or seven us all went to college. So I mean, 50 percent of us did go on for further education, OK? Jake started having a family early. I think Jake got married in his senior year of high school. But he was the youngest in our club. And now his wife now [Cheryl Butler?]. And I saw that Washington woman on the TV, must be their relative too, because she was just at that the funeral with [Ebenezer?], over there a couple days. I said, "(inaudible)," so I asked them why she's always knocking Obama in her articles in the -- is it the *Sun Times*? *Sun*

*Times*? I find *Tribune* -- I got it, but she writes one of the articles either for the *Sun Times* or the *Tribune*. And she had -- there was Lenore Washington, this was her husband who died, one of the Washington girls. And so she said -- I remember -- and I said, "Oh yeah, that maiden name was Washington." So maybe she's a part of that family. But yeah, that was basically the Nobles, the Ivy Leagues were our two groups, and then we had the Lads. It's unfortunate; most of those guys have passed now, moved out of town. Woody's passed in the Nobles, [Charlie Bower?], George Gaines. That's three.

A: Is George still alive? I mean -- Wells?

CS: Wells is still alive, yeah.

A: George passed away, didn't he?

CS: Yeah, George passed away early, yeah. Yeah, Woody, George, I think [Tommy Hobbin?] -- yeah, put Tommy on there. I knew it would come to me.

DR: Tommy Hobbin for the Nobles.

CS: Yeah, Tommy, I think. He didn't come to too many meetings, but I think he was invited to join too. Now there was another guy, put him on the back too. [Walter Williams?]. He sent in his name, but we never let him in. I don't know what happened. And understand, it's probably the best,

because he went on to become a dentist. He did better than any of us. (laughter) So maybe that was premonition. Yeah, Walter -- I think that was my senior year or my freshman year in college, they started interviewing other guys to come in. And Walter Williams was one that was interviewed, but never was accepted into the club. That was basically it. Because we couldn't wear our sweaters to high school, so basically we would wear them on Friday nights at the dance.

DR: So the high school wouldn't allow you to wear them?

CS: No, no.

DR: Why was that?

CS: They did not allow any organization that was not organized at ETHS--

DR: Got it, got it.

CS: --to (inaudible). But the white boys who were on the football team could all wear their blue jackets. There was a group of guys called the "Blue Jackets" that lived down on Sheridan Road and Forest. God, who's the football player? Arthur, who was the big football player from our class who played for the Bears?

A: Jim Purnell.

CS: Purnell. Yeah, Jim Purnell, Don -- big fat guy. I can't think of his name. [Puggy Saddler?], [Sparky Radcliffe?], [Mike Errington?]. His dad was a senator. He lived on that last street that comes in, where the houses are right on the lake between Main and I think that's Crain. Mike [Erkin?]. There was about five or six guys from right down in that, mainly from South Evanston, on the lakefront. But they could wear their blue jackets. But we couldn't wear our Noble sweaters. So, but most of the guys in the Nobles were participating in some form of athletics anyway. So we just went on and got the Evanston jackets with the letters on them. Right. But we kept our sweaters for when we met on Friday night. And I guess we had a couple affairs. I think by '63 or '64 we had all broke up. And it was interesting. Every major fraternity was represented in the Nobles. Woody was a kappa; I went [Q?]. Who became an alpha? I think Wayne Griffin [15:00] and somebody else went alpha. I think [Louie?] pledged, but I don't know if he went over or not, English. But we laughed bout that too later on in life. It was interesting all of us didn't join the same fraternity once we went over to college. We spread out and--

DR: Yeah. Sometimes that's indicative of what college you go to. There's a stronger--

CS: Right. Right, because as I -- as I know why most of them went alphas and kappas, because when I went down to University of Illinois, I was telling somebody there were no omegas in Illinois at that time. Now, they had a chapter here in Chicago, but I didn't know any of them, OK? And when I went south, my God, who are these brothers marching around with these bald heads and all these capes flying. And they said, "I'm the Ques, man. You never heard of it?" "No, never heard of them. Never saw them in my life." You know, "If you're going to stay here, that's the only fraternity you should be in. Alphas and sigmas, I never heard of the sigmas." I said, "But my cousin and my other friends have joined alpha and kappa already," so that's why I wanted to join them. And that's when I had to make a decision whether I was going to stay there for four years, where my first plan was just to go down there for two years, get my grades up, and come back to the University of Illinois. And then I said, "Oh, the hell with it. Let me just go and finish up down here. I'm going to get this over with." And that's when I decided,

"As long as I'm going stay down here for four years, I just want to go out and pledge Que."

DR: So with this group, the Nobles, so you were around for about three, four years. And--

CS: Right, basically from around '58 through '62. Yeah. Because everyone had either finished high school and gotten married, gone on their own way about '62.

DR: But by '64, all of the groups had pretty much broken up?

CS: Yeah, right. But basically, we were more identifying with our fraternities about '64 to '65 at that time.

DR: So, with these groups, you -- I know you had parties. Were they like light competitiveness with the parties? You know, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible), who could throw the best party, and...

CS: Oh yeah. We had -- like I said, because the one we had -- yeah, we -- like the one we had in the back yard, I don't remember ever remember going to a Lad's party. Maybe I -- was Albert Strong in with them, Arthur, Sunny Strong?

A: I don't know.

CS: Because he used to have the quarter parties out on Fowler Street, and a lot of them would always be at the quarter party in the basement. But they weren't like anything like we gave. We didn't give any cheesy parties. They were all

like yard parties or we met over at Fleetwood-Jourdain and had a set over there. We didn't do basement parties. No, we -- no, that -- that wasn't us.

DR: Did you guys do any social service or anything like that?

CS: Basically, not that I remember. At that time, like I said, most of us were spread all over Evanston. I'm trying to think. Now, I know we never did give anything for Christmas. I don't remember tutoring. I don't remember. I'll have to ask Wells. I can never get him to answer the phone. Because he really had it organized in the kinds of things we were supposed to do. I know he said there was going to be no cussing and (inaudible).

DR: Did you guys write up bylaws or rules?

CS: Yeah. Yeah, he had the bylaws and the rules. Because we had regular officers. Sergeant of arms, treasurer, president, vice president. I think Woody even became president at one time, I think. And I know Sam probably was president at one time, Sam Ward. Because he was a very, very active, though. He was probably the most well-known person in Evanston at the time, because Sam won his category in the state, his weight class, for three consecutive years.

DR: Yeah, and Sam was part of the Lads, right?

CS: No.

DR: No, (inaudible).

CS: [Bernard Ward?].

DR: Bernard Ward, OK.

CS: And we was probably the best the athlete in Evanston at that time, on the football team and wrestling. He went on to Oklahoma State and finished for Oklahoma State. He plays -- yeah, Sam was alpha also. Yeah, Sam was alpha. Louie pledged alpha; I don't know if he went over. Mason always wanted to go kappa, but he never did pledge.

DR: I just want to make it clear. Bernard, Samuel Ward, same person?

CS: Same person.

DR: OK, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CS: Right, he was the athlete, right. Was outstanding athlete. The best athlete in high school at that time. And he finished in '61. Now, [Owen Tablas?] was in one of those groups too. [20:00] I have to go back and look at my yearbook and the classes. A while ago, my (inaudible) class '61. But looking at the football team and the wrestling team, I could tell most of the guys who were in the Nobles. Because you either played some kind of sport. That was Wells's thing. He wanted you to be participating

in something -- and Woody and I were the only two black elective people in our class. Woody was elected to student council for the whole high school, and I was on district council. So we pretty much had some political savvy at the time. Yeah, because they wanted -- yeah, and [Barbara?]. I think Barbara -- [Barbara Reese?], she probably was an Ivy League too. She was the only black girl that had any -- because there were only three blacks with elective office in 1960, OK? Woody, Kay, Barbara Reese, and me. That was it, out of a class of 800. And it was interesting, because when I ran for district council, I remember the principal called me in and said, "Well, there are only 10 black kids in home room. You don't have any chance of winning." There were 250 kids at that time in every homeroom. And I was at 204, and each home room -- so there were 12 home rooms: 104, 204, 304, 124, 224, 324, 44, and 64. Now they call them "north," "south," "Beardsley." But they were division, and there were four divisions: 04, 24, 44, and 64. And I can say, out of those four divisions, in the class of 1960, only three blacks made it to elective offices, OK? And it was interesting. Two of those were Nobles and one was an Ivy League. So we pretty had a pretty progressive group of kids even for that time in the

high school. And all of us were pretty tight as far as keeping in contact with each other and supportive of each other during that time at the high school. And yeah, just thought about that. The only elected officers during our time out there were people from either the Ivy Leagues or the Nobles. I like to ask Dorothy Williams, because, like, she was one of the Ivy Leagues.

DR: I remember her mentioning it a few times, and I didn't get the connection until later that, "OK, Ivy League. OK, this was a group." You know, and just kind of putting all of these pieces together.

CS: Yeah, yeah, and it was interesting because the way we dressed, I mean the Lads -- was it [gousters?] or gangsters? I don't remember. There were two really distinct dressing styles at that time.

DR: Yeah, scholars and gangsters.

CS: Right. We wore the penny loafers, the cardigan sweaters. The girls wore the plaid skirts, Kashmir sweaters, saddle oxfords, penny loafers, sneakers. They wore the Cuban shoes with the Cuban heels, the Italian-knit shirts, and those slick pants like shark skin. OK, we did corduroy, gabardine, wool. We did wear that slick shit, and then pointed to high shoes. And then, Wells was the only one in

the group [and he finally cut?] -- Wells did have a process, and eventually he cut that shit out his head. But we had no processes in our group. Mainly very short, cut hair. We did, most of us had a blazer, but we wore blazer. All of us had a major blazer that we would wear sometime at the meetings, a black or navy blazer with the grey wool slacks.

DR: Your club colors were what?

CS: I think they were -- if I remember the sweater was blue and white. That's what I was trying to -- and I know the shield was red, white, and black. But our sweaters, we had white sweaters, and the shield was just blue. That same shield, but it was blue on the sweaters, and it just had "Nobles" across it. Yeah, sweaters were blue and white but our shield was red, white, and black. And I don't know why we didn't get our sweaters red, white, and black.

DR: And how about the Lads? What colors were they? Do you remember?

CS: I think I remember a lot of red. That's the only thing I remember about the lads. [25:00] Like I said, it was interesting, we were in the same class, but we weren't that close. We didn't hang with most of them. And as I look back on it now, I did -- it wasn't -- I guess it was a

class conscious and an education division even back then. But the kids who were going progressive, going on to college, participating in sports, and those who were slick and cool, and wanted to emulate the guys in Chicago on the south side and the west side. We never had that. Didn't want to be white, and I want to make that real clear. Nobody wanted to be white. OK, that was in the Nobles, but we did want to have a little bit of class about ourselves. And they did have that. They really did -- it was some excellent, great guys in that club. Every time I look at the (inaudible) now, it's almost symbolic of what we had in high school with them. But that was interesting. I'm just -- I'm trying to think. I know we used to have a big Christmas party at Fleetwood-Jourdain, and I don't know if we collected toys, or sweaters, or canned goods. I know there was some kind of social commitment that we participated in. But that was part of everybody who was at Fleetwood-Jourdain at that time. I know we had special collections especially around Thanksgiving time and Christmas. And because we were only there basically just four years: '56, '57, '58, and '59. Because by the class of '60, June, most of us were gone. But our main social place for gathering. Football games were all on Friday

night. And after the Friday night football game, we all go over to (inaudible) with [Jordain Karl Foster?]. In our senior year, the Elk's Club -- the Nobles would hang out at the Elk's Club. The Elk's Club was right there on -- I'll tell you what. The salvation army is on Sherman and -- what's there now is the Bank of America. So that's Chicago Avenue -- that's not Grove. Can't be Lake Street because it's past Lake Street. It must be Green--

DR: Greenwood.

CS: Greenwood. Yeah, Greenwood. Right across the street from the salvation army. In our senior year, we had a couple dances at the Elk's Club. Because one of the members of the Elk's Club -- I can't even remember his name either, guys -- was our freshman football coach. And he was way ahead of his time. I know they got rid of him. And he told us, you know, "You guys have got to go speak with Jourdain." He knew we couldn't go to the Y right around the corner. And he said, "Come on over to the Elks." "Y'all don't have our type of music." And he said, "Give me the music that you want. They have a big jukebox there, and we'll get the records for the jukebox." And he even did that. And I remember that man looking at him clear now. Could not think of his name. But he's one of the few

white people that reached out to us at that time, and I thought that was very interesting that he allowed us to come and dance at the Elk's Club like we would dance over here at Fleetwood. I never went in the Y until I was way grown. But they had their dance, the white kids, every Friday night after the games at the Y, and it was interesting. And it was called the plantation room, and that was another reason, "We're not going down there. That's too much of an analogy with slavery." We're not even going to be bothered with that. In our first year of ETHS. (inaudible) I'm trying to think. I think it was our first year. I know it was our first year. All of the swimming meets were held at the Y, and then they opened the pool, which is over there now. I think they opened it in '59 -- '59 or '58. But I do remember, I think it was my freshman year, while they were working on the pool, all Evanston's swimming meets were held at the Grove Street Y, OK? That was the only pool -- competitive pool in Evanston at that time. [30:00] I don't know why they never had a black swimming team at the Evanston Y.

DR: That's interesting. I've talked to a few people before that said there was one on the swimming team, but he had to practice at the Emerson Y.

CS: Yeah. And [Clarence Johnson?] was a buddy of mine when they started practicing over here. And, oh God, I remember the coach's name, little short guy. [Doby?] -- Doby -- I have to go back and look. Make a long story short, I was at wrestling practice. I know it was -- I can't remember, but we were away from each other, and walk home together, he would come out of swimming and I would come out of Beardsley gym. And one day he said, "I can't walk home with you no more, man." "What do you mean? What's up?" He said, "I'm no longer on the swimming team." "What do you mean you're no longer on the swimming team?" Doby Bert -- Coach Bert, Doby Bert. Little short guy. Said, "I went to practice the other day, and he said, 'dude, why are you walking home every day with that nigger?'" He said, "Beg your pardon?" He said, "I see you waiting for that nigger every day. Why are you walking over with him?" And then he said, "I'm a nigger too." And he said, "You're a what, Clarence?" He said, "I'm a nigger." Said, "I'm sorry. I didn't know that. I'm sorry. You can't be on the swimming team." And I will never forget -- (inaudible). And he said, "Man, that's my last day." And I said, "Oh man. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to--" he said, "Man, I got to go to work anyway." He was raised by his grandparents, and it

was rough. He said so. "It was just something I wanted to do. But forget it, man." And he was one of the ones, also, that, I remember, who we made a vow that the day we graduate from high school, we would leave Evanston forever. He moved to Chicago, and it was interesting. He went into printing. He started at the print shop at their ETHS, and became one of the first black -- I used to call it -- I call it the linotype.

DR: Linotype set.

CS: Right, for the *Chicago Tribune*. That's where he retired from, yeah. So he made good money.

DR: Yeah, I'm familiar with linotype, used to be in the business, so...

CS: Yeah. Right, OK, I remember. (laughter) Clarence was the first one who did that, the guy who used to be on the swimming team. Was told he couldn't swim because he was black. Yeah, he went and later on became a [lineman?]. I think he made more money than all of us that went into school teaching. But he never -- I don't ever remember him coming back to Evanston. His brother still lives over here on Ashland, across the street from [Priscilla?]. But their grandmother was German, and that's -- she would help me with my German pronunciation. And they lived in the

basement right here off Emerson Street, on East Railroad. It's the research building near -- their house was right there on the alley by the -- there used to be a storage warehouse, the red brick building, right across from farmer's market. OK, then the older building that's right there by the street, their house was right next door to that storage house. And there were two or three houses there facing East Railroad. And they tore two down, but that cottonwood tree that's right there on the alley, that's still there. That was in his front yard. Because we used to sit under that tree sometimes when I walk him [over?]. I was going to the farmer's market the other day, and I said, "damn" -- now, Clarence is dead now. He passed. But I remember he lived in the basement, and we'd come out and sit on the steps and fight off all those things that would be blowing around in the springtime. It would accumulate all on the steps and stuff. We used to sit there. That was Evanston's form of cotton that they had down south, our cotton -- that's just some of the things [we?] come up with. And Mason was on the other side of the tracks. His back door went into Mosing Church -- the back of Mosing's church. And his house is now torn down also. It was right next door to that laundry factory.

DR: Right, right those. Yeah, the National Towel --

CS: And I see now they finally got that for sale, yeah. Who would buy that, [I'll tell you?]. That's up for sale.

DR: Really? Wow.

CS: Yeah. That was there when I was born.

DR: That's been there forever. Yeah.

CS: I'm serious. Yeah, because Mason lived right next door to that, to the towel place. It was only -- because I think it was only two houses in that block between Clark -- and he was in the one right on the alley next door to North Shore, and I think there was one house next door to him. But he and Clarence were about the only guys I knew [35:00] that lived east. Most of my friends, like I said, we were from the west side going from Dodge out to about McDaniel. But the Nobles expanded -- in fact, we had, yeah, [Louis English?], (inaudible) Garnett, and Mason was from over on East Railroad. So we had really -- it was really pretty good.

DR: Did you guys have a motto or anything like that?

CS: We had all that. That's what I'm saying. It's--

DR: Can't remember off hand?

CS: I can't remember. Yeah, we had a motto; we had the colors; we used -- I know *Robert's Rules of Order*, because we had a

sergeant of arms. We had a treasurer, and we had to do something other than dances, so I know we raised money, but I'm trying to think what did we raise money for. Now that you mention it, it's really interesting. I don't know.

DR: You didn't keep any of the bylaws or anything like that?

CS: No, no. It's -- the last person I think that had any access to that was Louis English. Because most of our meetings were held at my house there on Darrow, or Louie's over on Garnett. Wells and George, I think they were still in the projects then. Yeah. That was the last couple years they had the Quonsets right there.

DR: Over off the canal?

CS: Right between [park?], yes. Yeah, there were about three rows of Quonsets. Hackett lived over there, the [Hamiltons?], the Gaines, [Kitty Williams?].

A: Where's Kitty now?

CS: She's over here at Fleetwood-Jourdain on Wednesdays.

A: Oh yeah?

CS: Yeah, she's still -- she retired--

A: The senior citizens?

CS: Yeah, with the senior citizen group. Yeah, she retired. She also taught district 65. Kitty.

A: Nice looking old girl.

CS: Yeah, she was. [Johnson?]'s her last name now. She married [Carry Johnson?]'s brother that worked with Mom at Saks Fifth Avenue. Yeah, Carry Johnson is her sister-in-law. Yeah, so -- yeah, so they were still in the projects then. Yeah, because I think we had a couple meetings at Wells's house since he was the founder. Then Archie's house we had a meeting, a couple meetings, Sam's house. They were in the townhouses on Darrow right behind [Thrimming?]'s store on Simpson and Darrow. They had just put those townhouses up then. They were brand new, around '58. Yeah, I think they were around '57 or '58. Because Archie moved in there, Sam moved in there. And we had a couple meetings at their townhouse there.

DR: OK, I'm sorry. Who was the founder again?

CS: [Wales Gates?].

DR: Gates, OK.

CS: Yeah, Wells was the founder. And like, so, he was the class of '61. And he recruited -- Wayne Griffin lived there too. Wayne was on Ashland.

A: Where's Wayne nowadays?

CS: I saw him the other day, and it was so pitiful. He acted like he didn't know me. I felt so sorry for him. He hangs out at Dominick's where the men sit over there. He came

and asked me for five dollars. And I mean, his family built a beautiful home on the corner of Dewey and Davis -- no, next street to Davis -- Grove. Davis, Grove. His dad owned the grocery store that is now where the Chinese cleaners is, right on Dodge and Emerson. And his dad also was the first milkman. And his grandmother and grandfather own that nice-looking yellow brick building on the corner of Foster and Dodge with the big lot at the back. That was his grandparents. And he lived over on Ashland, right down the -- in fact, it was right two houses from Full Auto Supply, across from the car wash, where you -- right before you go around the Green Bay road. And in fact, that house is still there. Someone fixed it up. That was the house he was living in before his dad, who built a new for his family over here on Dewey. Yeah, so Wayne was there. Yeah, so Wayne, the Gains. So now, they were basically guys who were north of Simpson street in this area. So that was Wells came from there, Gains came from there -- Wells and George. [40:00] Wayne Griffin. I don't know how Wells got us together. To this day, I don't know why he chose the three of us seniors, Mason -- because Mason, Woody, and I were always together anyway. I mean, we were three. And I think he asked Woody to join because Woody

and Louis English were on the cross country team and we real good friends. And Woody told him, "Only I will join if Mason and the Sutton comes with me, my boys come with me." So that's how we got to be a member of the club as a senior group. We were the three guys in the class of '60. And we got in, I'd say -- I think we must have got in around '57 or '58. Well it had to be the class from '57 or '58, because they would have been freshman in high school that year, and that would have been our sophomore year. We were from '56 to '57. That was our freshman year. Then they came in from '57 to '58 for their freshman year. So we must start a head start either '57 or '58. I remember because -- right, because that was open in '56, so it was right about the same time that Fleetwood-Jourdain opened up. But there were I think as many as probably five or six black teenager clubs at that time.

DR: Five or six, you said?

CS: There were five or six, yeah. Like I said, Melvin Williams was in charge of one, and [David Dawson?], then Dinkie Boy Strong at the Lads, and we were the Nobles. So I know there was three.

DR: So Lads, Nobles, and...

CS: And I think -- let me see if he's online now. He's always on the internet.

DR: All right, I'm going to stop the recording.

CS: OK, right. Let me see if Melvin is on now and I'll ask him what was the name, because they just had a reunion not too long ago of his school. Let me see if he's online. Melvin Williams.

DR: November Second, 2012 at the home of Carlis Sutton.

CS: Where does it say "send?"

END OF AUDIO FILE