

**Wayne Ingersoll**  
**Narrator**

**Ray Larson**  
**Interviewer**

**March 24, 1986**  
**Heritage Education Commission Oral History Project**  
**Minnesota**

**RL:** This interview is with Wayne Ingersoll, who served as mayor of Moorhead from January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1980. The interview was held at the library at Moorhead State on hmmm...Tuesday, March 24, 1986. The interviewer is Ray Larson, representing the Heritage Education Commission. Hmmm, do you want to give your name and historical background, Wayne?

**WI:** Okay. Ray, one correction on what you said, it was January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1979.

**RL:** Okay.

**WI:** You said 1980.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** Some historians down the line...such an important thing, of course! [Laughs]

**RL:** Correction: January 1, 1978 to December 31<sup>st</sup>...

**WI:** 1979.

**RL:** ...1979.

**WI:** Okay. My name is Wayne Ingersoll. I am forty years old. I was born in 1945 in Texas. My parents, John and Ada Ingersoll were...my father was from this area and mother was from South Dakota; have lived in Moorhead nearly all my life except for a three-year stint in another town. As far as my family goes, I have two brothers: John who is forty-three, Bruce who is thirty-five. I'm married to a lady named Jeanne. I have two daughters, thirteen and nine. Their names are Erin and Bonnie. Maybe I'm jumping the gun here a little bit, but...

**RL:** Go ahead.

**WI:** No, you go ahead.

**RL:** Okay, your education, you went to the Moorhead schools?

**WI:** Right. I graduated from Moorhead High School in 1963, graduated from Moorhead State University in 1967 with a degree in English education, and I got an M.A. from NDSU [North Dakota State University], I believe that was 1973. Maybe it was 1974, somewhere in there.

**RL:** And you have been teaching for a number of years. Have you done anything besides teaching school?

**WI:** Well, I...my first job was in West Fargo from 1967 to 1972, five years. Then from...Moorhead from 1972 through 1980, then the 1980 and 1981 school year I did not teach. I was laid off from the Moorhead school system in 1980, and I spent a year working at a professional placement agency in Fargo. Then I got a job teaching English in Perham, Minnesota from...beginning in 1981. And the summer of...I spent three years in Perham. In the summer of 1984 I got a recall from the Moorhead school district, and my family and I sat down and we decided that we'd come back to Moorhead. And I have been back to Moorhead now teaching two years. So I have been in education teaching...it's my eighteenth year.

**RL:** Has all your teaching experience been in the junior high, Wayne?

**WI:** Yes, it has. Seventh, eighth, and ninth grade.

**RL:** And have you been involved in any other aspects of education besides teaching? I mean do you advise or do anything? Or coaching, or...?

**WI:** I have...well, so far as coaching has gone, I did a little bit of coaching in volleyball in...at the junior high, girls. I have no coaching certificate or anything like that, but pretty non-athletic in that regard. But ah...different org-...just different aspects of the school, nothing...nothing long term.

**RL:** I see. Now you've been real active in the teacher's association here. Would you like to comment on that a little bit?

**WI:** I...I've been active the last two years since I came back to Moorhead, beginning in 1984. I...when I was in Perham I was on the negotiations team and got some experience there, and when I came back in fall of 1984 I went to Howard Anderson (who at the time was the president of the local association) and said if you need a building rep or somebody to help stuff mailboxes I'd be happy to do so. And a few days later he came back and asked me if I would be the chief negotiator for the teachers. And I was a little floored. Ah, as it turned out, I accepted the position. And we had a good team, got a good contract for the 1985-87 school year.

**RL:** Plan to continue that?

**WI:** I am going to run for the presidency of the MEA this fall...pardon me, within the next couple of weeks that announcement will come out.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** The election will be, I believe, in April. And my plans are to run for the presidency. I believe there is some competition in there, and I'll do my best and then see if I can win the election.

**RL:** Good. Yeah, let's get on to the government and political background here. When were you involved with the local governments and politics and for how long?

**WI:** Well, that's really a pretty interesting, I think, story to a lot of people, Ray, because hmmm...I decided I was going to run for mayor in the summer of 1977. I had lived in Moorhead all my life. I had never been active politically. I didn't know the difference...hmmm...what a Republican was or what a Democrat was, the difference between the two or...any other party for that matter. But I'd seen some of the people, Fargo and Moorhead, who had served in public office, and I said to myself, you know, if they can be elected, why can't I? And for several summers I had served...I had worked for the city of Moorhead as a meter reader. And I had been in every house inside and out in the city of Moorhead many, many times and I got to see, I think, the community the way very few other people get to see it, get into all these residential areas and talk to people. And I saw a lot of dissatisfaction with certain things. Everybody always has a bitch about something or other, I understand that. But ah...I decided that I was going to run.

And I had mentioned it to my father, and he said, "Do you have an organization?" I said, "I don't even know what you're talking about, I don't...of course I don't have an organization." And he said, "Well, Wayne..." [Sighs] Hmmm....he didn't try to discourage me, but I'm sure deep down he thought I was a fool. And well, "You've got to get an organization if you want to run politically." Well, I never had an organization...well I...I got things going a little bit on my own, and some people found out, and I was...some people contacted me, and I said, "Sure, I'd love to have your help." Well anyway, it was a hodgepodge organization. I think it was very...it was very well run. It was...it was not a party effort; it was financed by people from both parties. I think more local Republicans kicked into my campaign, and I wasn't really aware of what their party affiliation was until after that. I was not a handpicked candidate by anybody. It was my idea. And I, as it worked out, got elected.

**RL:** How did you happen to...to run for mayor here? What...what motivated you to run for mayor rather than say another office instead?

**WI:** I thought I could win.

**RL:** I see.

**WI:** Now that was basically it.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** Hmmm. I had a couple of good things going for me. I had name recognition. By name recognition, anybody who listens to this in years to come knows that that's very important in a political campaign, as you do, Ray.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** But I had name recognition that extended in my case in the third generations of Ingersoll's in Moorhead. My grandfather, whom I never knew, was in the liquor business in Moorhead in the 1890s, in the late 1880s-1890s. And hmmm, my father was in the liquor business in Moorhead from right after World War II up until the time he retired. And I'm sure a lot of people, when they first heard, "Ingersoll for Mayor," they were thinking John was running—I wouldn't doubt that at all—instead of his boy. And hmmm...it's a lot of...a lot of name recognition. On top of that, I had spent five years teaching on the south side of Moorhead. And every kid who went through from Twelfth Avenue South on knew who I was and my name, I'm sure, was brought up in homes as being a teacher. And more, "Well, I had Mr. Ingersoll for a teacher, he did this." Or, "I saw this kid talking to him," that kind of thing. So the name recognition was built in. And ah...again, getting back to the original question, because I thought I could win.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** I...I was...I was *positive* I could win. I could see a...I could see weakness in the other candidate at that time.

**RL:** What was the margin of victory?

**WI:** Oh boy, fifty-four, fifty-five percent, somewhere in there.

**RL:** Mmmm.

**WI:** I don't recall anymore.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** Hmmm, I don't think it was over fifty-five percent. That's getting...that's a pretty big victory, you get over fifty-five. I don't think it was that much.

**RL:** And I believe that then well you said that your base of support was pretty broad. Well, there wasn't any particular element of this [unclear]?

**WI:** No. I...I remember Moorhead has four...let's see...four wards?

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** At that time they had four wards and eight precincts. And I won three wards and the...I won my opponent's ward. One ward I did not win, I lost one precinct by seven votes.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** And I think the other precinct by eighty votes or seventy votes. So it was broad based support. And the individual I defeated had been in city government for ten years or better, and hmmm...the reality of the situation is, Ray, that's when you're vulnerable, after that length of time.

**RL:** For the record, who was your opponent?

**WI:** Dwaine Hoberg. He had served as...hmmm...on the City Council for a number of years.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** And then he had served, I believe, three terms of mayor. And I believe I voted for him for three...two or three different terms for mayor.

**RL:** Quite active in the Republican Party then, too, so...

**WI:** Yes, very active, and he ran for lieutenant governor once.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** Hmmm. That was the year I don't think the Republicans had a chance, but ah...

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** It was...it was quite a plum, I think, and...for him and then the more Republicans to have a candidate in that particular...at that level of state government.

**RL:** Okay, now you indicated that you...you chose to run for mayor because you thought you could win. And getting to the first question under...under the next category here is, hmmm, what were some of the other issues that you...?

**WI:** There were...there were a couple of...two major issues. There was a...a public golf course and there was a malting plant by Anheuser Busch that were coming into Moorhead. And they were very controversial issues. Hmmm. I'll take one at a time. The malting plant, I was against the malting plant, not because it would have...it was going to maybe bring in some...in tax revenue, that thing. The fact of the matter is, it was...it's the only business that ever came into Moorhead that directly raised water and light rates of the residents of the city. And it...the facts were there that it would raise it. Maybe not by much, but a lot of other businesses had operated in Moorhead and didn't have that kind of effect on it, and I was against that.

And I think even much greater than that, Ray, was the golf course issue. Hmmm. And I would say...

**RL:** [Unclear].

**WI:** I never...I never said that...go ahead.

**RL:** The golf course was a municipal golf course to be built...

**WI:** Municipal golf...right.

**RL:** ...on the south side of Moorhead.

**WI:** That's right. Ah, Village Green Golf Course.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** And it's a nice golf course, I've golfed there. Hmmm...I never said that the golf course wouldn't be good for Moorhead. And ah...maybe necessarily more it shouldn't have...well, I guess I [unclear - did or didn't] say it shouldn't have one, but the fact was, it had been...a public golf course had been voted down three times by the people of Moorhead. And the City Council pushed it through anyway. And that stuck in the craw of a lot of people, and it was a heck of an issue to capitalize on, because it was something they did not want. And I think people saw the council at that time as pushing something on them they...they had voted down in the past.

**RL:** And the malting plant just to...were there...was there another issue on the malting plant that ah...? Did the city have to give quite a bit to get it?

**WI:** I...I don't know the facts on it, and this goes back several years. And at that time I was not involved, of course, in the...in how the malting plant got in here.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** The main issue was...was the hmmm...as far...so far as I was concerned at that time was the increase in water and light rates.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** Now certainly there could have been some concessions.

**RL:** That...that wasn't an issue then?

**WI:** No, that...to me it wasn't.

**RL:** Yeah.

**WI:** Because I wasn't aware of how that worked at that time.

**RL:** Okay. Are you currently involved in government or politics?

**WI:** Ah...basically, no. Hmmm...maybe I support...I support a few candidates. Candidates I would support are candidates who I...I earn my living as a public educator. I would...I support candidates who to me would be either endorsed by my union or I think would have a good...do the best for education. Yeah. As far acting politically on my own behalf, no, not anymore.

**RL:** So you're a...in summary, your decision to enter politics was...was your own decision and it wasn't...you...

**WI:** Nobody came to me.

**RL:** ...didn't respond to a...to a...

**WI:** Oh, no. No. That was...

**RL:** ...to people asking.

**WI:** No, and that was...that was hard for a lot of people to believe. Because I'm sure...

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** ...if people wanted to...in 1977 wanted to go for a candidate to beat an incumbent mayor, Wayne Ingersoll would have been the last person who would have been approached.

**RL:** Okay, hmmm, who were your role models politically?

**WI:** Politically? Hmmm. None, actually, at that time. Ah...think of somebody I wanted to be like? No. Politically, not at all, so far as...

**RL:** How about non-politically?

**WI:** Non-politically, I always admire my father, I think, more than anybody. The way he thought, the way he acted, the way people thought of him.

**RL:** How did your occupation help or hinder your involvement in government and politics? Now your occupation as a teacher is [unclear].

**WI:** As a teacher. Ah...Yeah, I found it at times very difficult to take the time away from my job. Hmmm. Being mayor was a part time job, and it still is a part time job, and I treated it as such. However, whenever I had to be away during the school day, I had to pay for that time, which was

only right. And I had to keep a log on the time I was gone and get...make my arrangements to have my classes covered. So consequently, I spent most of my time at the City Hall either in the morning or after school was out. It hmmm...I'd...I wouldn't say it really helped or hindered, more hindrance, I suppose, than...than a help. Ah...but one has to put things in perspective. And I think I did.

**RL:** What do you feel was your greatest failure or disappointment in government and politics?

**WI:** Oh, boy.

**RL:** Let's back it up and let's...

**WI:** [Chuckles]

**RL:** Let's say, what do you feel was your greatest...?

**WI:** Accomplishment?

**RL:** ...accomplishment? Any lasting changes in the community or what...?

**WI:** I think there were some...well, I think we had some pretty good changes that came, too, that come to mind. But not so much because of Wayne Ingersoll. Ray, I...hmmm...government works very, very slowly. And it's a combined effort of a *lot* of people. And hmmm, I think whether I had been there at that time or somebody else had been there at that time, I think the reality of the situation is a lot of these changes probably would have come about in spite of, not because of. And I think if people who sat in public office would look at things *really* realistically, they might agree with that particular statement. I think we got a good police chief, number one. That, I think, was an accomplishment of the two years I served as mayor.

Another thing, we got in a...and I won't say anymore on that. Another thing we got in was a...ah...I think it was an eight million dollar housing program where young couples could come in and buy houses at very little down and about eight or eight and a half percent. And hmmm...all kinds of people were able to buy houses. Now that...I don't say that happened because *I* was mayor, that happened *when* I was mayor. And I was proud of that, that that happened in that time.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** Those were the two...the two major things.

**WI:** Okay, now is there...? Getting...now, to follow up on the other question then, was there anything that you were disappointed in?

**RL:** One...yeah, is...and thinking of it since you brought that up. One thing that disappointed me, and I was just shot out of the saddle on it when I brought it up to the City Council, I had Bob



Schaefer, the city attorney, prepare a...oh, what do you call it? A new ordinance. Anyway, I wanted to limit the terms of office to two terms.

**WI:** Terms of office of mayor.

**RL:** Two terms of office for everybody. You could be on the...at that time, council was four years, mayor was two years.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** I said mayor, either two terms or five years, or council, two terms or ten years. And...pssst....Jim Marcy was the only one who voted for it. Jim was stepping out anyway, didn't really care either way, I don't think.

**WI:** Why do you think it went down?

**RL:** Ah...stepping on a lot of toes! [Laughs]

**WI:** I suppose.

**RL:** Those people didn't want to be limited to terms in office.

**WI:** Hmmm. What role did the state and national problems like war, economy, finances, or depression play in the community during your years in government politics?

**RL:** I would say very little. For this...hmmm...ah...see, when I left in...well, 1979-80, that was just the beginning of a recession. And it was shortly there...about a year or two later that Moorhead...the City of Moorhead really had to cut back and have layoffs of people. And fortunately, I didn't have to become involved in that.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm. What was the power structure in government at that time?

**RL:** I think...ah...in government...

**WI:** Or in politics, too.

**RL:** Politics. Hmmm. Ray, I don't feel that the power in Moorhead rests in the local officials and in the elected officials. I think the power is behind the scenes with people who...ah...the wealth in Moorhead. Hmmm. I think ah...well, the most powerful man in the city of Moorhead, if you want to use the word powerful or influential, Bill Dosland. He's...and Bill is no longer holding elective office but he is very, very persuasive in what he says and what he can get done. I don't say that negatively...I...to me that's just the way...ah, what the facts are. I think, hmmm, [Richard] "Ray" Stordahl, a very powerful person in policy setting in this city, no longer holds elected office. I...I don't think the real power hold is in the hands of the elected officials. They *think* it is, but I don't think it is. There are some others. Hmmm. Good people. Have a lot of influence.

**WI:** Do you think Fargo has any power in Moorhead?

**RL:** Has it...? Say that again?

**WI:** Do you think Fargo has any power, any involvement in the power structure of Moorhead?

**RL:** I honestly don't think so. I don't think...Again, the power structure in Fargo I *don't* think is in the hand of the four commissioners and the mayor because...of...from my experience, power...*money* is where power comes from. You can be a nice guy, get a lot of votes, but money is where it comes from. And those people sitting on the council in Fargo, they make a wage like you and me. Ah, do I think Fargo has a lot of power over what happens in Moorhead? I don't think they're...that concerns them.

**WI:** Okay.

**RL:** They have enough to worry about over there. Hmmm. The money is to be made on that side of the river. There is where the power lies.

**WI:** When you were...and when you were mayor, was there anyone that you called on for advice and support periodically?

**RL:** I talked a lot to...hmmm...Gar Anderson, I found him very helpful. I also...

**WI:** He was the fire chief.

**RL:** Yep. Gar was the fire chief. Ah, I also found Bill Morse[sp?] who just died within the last year a very knowledgeable individual.

**WI:** And he was the assessor, is that right?

**RL:** I believe that was his role.

**WI:** Yeah.

**RL:** His office was next to mine.

**WI:** Yeah.

**RL:** And ah...hmmm...I was the new kid on the block and Bill was old enough to be my father and I found him very knowledgeable, very wise. A lot wiser than a lot of people ever knew. And a good man.

**WI:** What kind of coverage did you get from the media and the press? And did you feel that they treated you fairly?

**RL:** At the time, I didn't think I got good coverage. I didn't think they treated me fairly. Looking back on it now, they were doing their job. They ah...hmmm...it's a...was a conservative press, and I beat their fair-haired boy, and consequently they had a little fun with it. But Ray, in the long run, you read something in the paper, people forget about what they read in twenty-four hours, forty-eight hours after they read it anyway. So hmmm...they were doing their...they were doing what they were told to do, I think.

**WI:** What changes in the community have you seen?

**RL:** Since what time?

**WI:** Since...well...during the...

**RL:** While I was...?

**WI:** While you were in the...

**RL:** While I was in office?

**WI:** ...office and...

**RL:** Hmmm...not a lot. It was a...such a short time, a two-year stint. But I think...hmmm...I saw Moorhead, for whatever reasons, trying to expand and trying to grow a lot more quickly than I thought it should have. There are still a *lot* of empty lots. By growth I mean space-wise, area-wise. Lot of developments, a lot of lots sitting out there with unpaid specials that the rest of us are going to have to pick the tab up on eventually. Hmmm...get some developers in who want to make some bucks and do it in a quick hurry, and people go along with them, they'll do it, too. But...that's about it.

**WI:** So that was more of a change...changes for...for ah...

**RL:** It was...it was ongoing.

**WI:** It wasn't good changes. Is there any changes that you've seen that have been particularly positive?

**RL:** One thing that came about is the traffic flow in downtown Moorhead, I think while I was in, that was done during that time. You could now go east and west without stopping every block, and you can make a left turn without backing everybody up, as you can see.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** And that was a long time in coming. That's just one thing.

**WI:** Okay. How did the nature of your community involvement change over the years?

**RL:** Of my community involvement? I think ah...I was involved for a...like I say, that two-year period of time, and ah...then I was gone, literally, for four years. And now...now that I am back, hmmm...I hope I'm answering the question that you asked. [Chuckles]

**WI:** Yeah. Well you came into the...you came into politics...eh...rather abruptly. You didn't

**RL:** Right.

**WI:** ...really work up through the...

**RL:** No.

**WI:** So and then you left for a time and ah...so a lot of...

**RL:** Yeah.

**WI:** And because of your...your age, a lot of your involvement is still...could be still ahead of you, too.

**RL:** Could still be. Hmmm. I have been a...When I came back to Moorhead I was approached by people who wanted me to run for mayor again. And I said...Hmmm...that's what? It was 1984. The election was November of 1985. And I said, "I'll think about it and analyze it." And I...I did. And...hmmm...present mayor Morrie Lanning was doing a good job and there was no way in hell I could have beat him. And I knew that. A lot of people said, "Oh, you can beat him." And I said, "No, that's not true. I...I don't think so." The average guy on the street in November of 1985 had no reason not to vote for Morrie. None at all that I could see.

**WI:** During that time. Brings up a question though, you were...the time that you finished your...your term of mayor, as mayor, you decided yourself not to run.

**RL:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**WI:** And ah...you want to comment on that? I mean there were a lot of people who wanted you to run.

**RL:** I know that! And ah, I think I disappointed a lot of people. And ah...maybe some I didn't! [Laughs] Probably the ones I disappointed most who wouldn't have an opportunity to go out and beat me! But...I had...I knew I was going to lose my job in the spring. And unless you've ever gone through that, and people listening to this down...in years to come, unless they've...that's ever happened to them, they have no *concept* of what that means. And I'm not talking about your ah...you're a kid going to school in high school and you have a part time job for three or four bucks an hour. I'm talking about going from a good income supporting your family and ah...paying for your house and...and that kind of thing, and going down to a *zero* income. And

the next thing you know your kids are getting free hot lunches. You know, it's just...it was a hard pill to swallow, and I knew it was going to happen. And that was probably one of the major reasons I...I didn't want to have that responsibility, plus the responsibility (if I had one) of...hmmm...taking care of the city, because in reality, my family would have come long before the city. Secondly, I...for two years I was gone a lot. I had two little children. And hmmm...all of those things...hmmm...kind of came together and...

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** That was why.

**WI:** We've talked about the government, ah...your role in government and your role in education. And have you been involved actively in other aspects of the community such as service clubs, things like that?

**RL:** No. The answer to that would be no.

**WI:** Probably because you're...ah...you're involved...you're...

**RL:** A lot of other things going on, yeah.

**WI:** As a teacher you don't have the time off and...

**RL:** Or I have chosen not to take the time off, one or the other. Being involved in the teacher's association is a lot more time consuming than most people would think.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm. Ah, did your family support or discourage your involvement in community affairs?

**RL:** Oh, they supported it. My wife did. My children were too young to even know what the hell was going on.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** At that time.

**WI:** Ah, do you feel that your involvement in...in...as mayor of Moorhead and the government have an effect on your family or your family life?

**RL:** [Sighs]

**WI:** Positive or negative.

**RL:** Positive...okay, I was just thinking positive...nothing negative. Positive, ah, I think we had to use our time a little bit better. Hmmm. But then again, this is going back a few years now. And

it's been six years. Nearly ten years since I decided to run. And hmmm...the kids were quite small, so no, I would say very little if any negative effect. Good experience for everybody.

**WI:** How did you deal with the stress that comes with going into public or political office?

**RL:** Was kind of tough at first. Because you...you want to please everybody. And it took me a few months to realize that really wasn't what I had to worry about was pleasing everybody. I had a job to do and did it the best I...I could. Ah...in hindsight, I'm sure like anybody else, gee, I would certainly do certain things differently now than I had done before. Hmmm...

**WI:** What were some of...well, was there any...any issue that...anything you were involved in that was particularly more stressful than others that really [unclear]?

**RL:** One real stressful situation was the police chief and I had a difference of opinion one time, and hmmm...

**WI:** This is the new chief?

**RL:** No, the former chief.

**WI:** Former chief. Okay.

**RL:** And hmmm...it was a...a stressful situation for him, it was for me. And ah...looking back on it, I...hmmm...I probably would have kept my nose out of the situation and let the person hired to run the police department run the police department. That...let me just comment on that. That's a very...it's an occupational hazard. It happens to people who get elected regardless of what it is. Sometimes they get a handful of votes...votes. And they really think they're self-appointed experts on a lot of issues. And that happened to me for a short period of time. And I...I learned quickly that I was not a self-appointed expert regardless of how many votes I had.

**WI:** Was the issue of...of the police chief, we...you commented that you felt that we got a good police chief. Was the issue involved in the selection process there? Was that any issue?

**RL:** Oh, no. No, this was long before, I think, Jim had...Jim Dickinson had even decided to retire.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** I don't know. It was on some procedural thing in the police department, and I should have kept my nose out of it but I didn't.

**WI:** Do you think you'd ever like to see your children or grandchildren involved in government and politics?

**RL:** Ray, that would have to be up to them. Hmmm. I think, as you know, you can't live your kids' lives for them. You can't tell them what...you can't tell them who to marry; you can't tell...you can't pick their friends. Ah...That has to come from them.

**WI:** Now you were pretty much...you were a winner in all the...in your involvement in politics. So ah, you...you've never lost an election at this point.

**RL:** No, I guess not.

**WI:** Do you feel that your...your standing in the community has...has benefited from your having served as mayor?

**RL:** I think it has, but I think you also have to realize that, hmmm, if you ask the average guy on the street who was mayor before Morrie Lanning they wouldn't...wouldn't be able to tell you who. So hmmm...I think it's a little of each, I guess.

**WI:** If you had your years in government to live over, is there anything you'd do differently and why?

**RL:** Hmmm. Well, like I say, we all have hindsight, and we're all a little wiser with experience. Anything in particular I would do differently? Hmmm. No, I have to answer no to that right now. I just...I would say no.

**WI:** Okay, and last question here is what do you feel is your greatest contribution towards making Moorhead a better place?

**RL:** I am raising two fine young ladies, daughters, and ah...I'm a good family man, I think. And I think that's a hell of a lot more important than anything else. Raising a good family to grow up and have their own families, I think, is my...is a significant contribution.

**WI:** Hey, these are the questions that were [sighs] a part of the interview. Is there anything that you'd like to say on your own behalf or...or add to it or qualify or anything like that?

**RL:** I have enjoyed the experience of talking and sharing these things with you. Ah...I'm sure if anybody's ever interested in years to come on that period of Moorhead's history and talked to other people from maybe the...who have a *different* side of the story, hmmm, they might get...they might get the...the facts might be pretty much the same but they might get a different picture of what it is. Ah...everything isn't always cut and dried. But ah...I have enjoyed the interview, and hmmm...in time I'll probably listen to it and see what I said.

**WI:** How old were you when you were mayor?

**RL:** Thirty-two.

**WI:** Would you have been possibly the youngest mayor of Moorhead?

**RL:** No, I wasn't. Hmm, a lot of people thought that. The youngest mayor of Moorhead was hmmm...hmmm...C.I. Evenson, Clarence Evenson. He was elected when he was thirty-one.

**WI:** Is that right?

**RL:** Yes. And then he was in for two years [1921-23], and then he was out for ten years, and was in again [1929-1931].

**WI:** Yeah, he was the grocer.

**RL:** Right.

**WI:** And he went on to be in the Legislature.

**RL:** And he was in the State Legislature, yes.

**WI:** Yeah. Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** And he was an old-.he was a pretty old man when he was in the Legislature.

**WI:** Yeah.

**RL:** C.I....he died during my term. I think he was in his early nineties at that time.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** But a lot of people think of Evenson...oh, no, he couldn't have been the youngest mayor. Yeah, he was, back in 1921, I believe it was.

**WI:** Mmmm-hmmm.

**RL:** 1920.

**WI:** Good.

**RL:** Second youngest!

**WI:** Well, I enjoyed visiting with you, Wayne. And we thank you for your contributions to the history of Moorhead.

**RL:** Thank you, Ray.