

Bay View Historical Society
2590 S. Superior St.
Milwaukee, WI 53207-1954
<https://bayviewhistoricalsociety.org/>

Project: Bay View Historical Society 40th Anniversary Oral History Project

Interviewee(s): John and Mary Fisher

Interviewer(s): Gail Germanson, John Sargent, Caleb Westphal, and Bradley Wiles

Date: April 29, 2019

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Interview Length: 48:05 minutes

Preface: This index was compiled by Bradley J. Wiles in November 2021. It is based on the recording and an unedited transcript generated through the Transcribe Wreally application. The interviewees discuss their long residency in the Bay View neighborhood.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topics</u>
00:00-1:44	Introductory statements.
1:45-7:32	The Fishers currently reside at Bay View Terrace. Mary Fisher (nee Newman) was born and lived most of her life in her family's home on Wentworth Street in Bay View. John Fisher was born in Seattle, Washington and his family lived in Union Grove and Oak Creek, Wisconsin before relocating to Bay View in 1962. Mary attended Immaculate Conception, Bay View High School, and Milwaukee Area Technical College. Her father was an English teacher at Bay View High School during her senior year there. She is the oldest of ten children. Her father was also a part-time professional photographer. He had an accident one year before his planned retirement that left him paralyzed. John attended Sacred Heart, Marquette High School, and Marquette University. He was a substitute teacher upon graduation and taught at Bay View High School with Mary's father.
7:33-12:22	The Fishers are charter members of the Bay View Historical Society. John worked for the U.S. Postal Service and was interested in post office history in the area. He wrote articles for the BVHS newsletter and recalls interviewing a retired post carrier who worked on rural routes in areas that would become Bay

View.

- 12:23-18:36 Mary discussed the church as one's social center in Bay View when they were growing up. Organizations like the CYO provided plenty of activities for young people like dances and concerts. There were also lunches, fish fries, recreation, and other regular events that allowed parishioners to get together socially. School and city playgrounds were safe and offered organized leagues and other programs. Activities were available all year, including ice skating during the winter.
- 18:37-24:50 The Fishers discuss memories of the sound Bay View landmarks and the Little Italy community around Groppi's Market. Mary remembers her family purchasing groceries at Groppi's on a tab that would be paid at the end of each month. Her father worked an extra job at a local produce market to help put food on the table. Mary recalls spending most of her time outside of class at Bay View High School because of her involvement in extracurricular activities.
- 24:51-33:01 The Fishers discuss their activities on Lake Michigan at South Shore Park and Oklahoma Beach. They mention the South Shore Water Frolics, smelting, and their kids learning to sail at the South Shore Yacht Club. They have been involved with a program to bring Catholic and Protestant teens from Ireland to learn how to sail.
- 33:02-36:43 Mary says that she thinks some of the camaraderie of the neighborhood has gone and that things have changed way too fast. John thinks that the neighborhood used to be more friendly and open, but admits that he may not be completely aware of everything that is happening. Mary served on the historical society board and hospitality committee.
- 36:44-47:30 The Fishers discuss how they met. John knew Mary's brothers from athletics and socially. Her brothers had a band and they met at a show, marrying in 1973. They have five children, some are still in the area and others live elsewhere. They discuss dining at DeMarini's Restaurant and seeing movies at the Avalon Theater. They also talk about current and existing grandchildren.
- 47:31-48:05 Acknowledgements and copyright statement.