

Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

Lynching and Michigan, what kind of the state was this for the practice of lynching? John?

Speaker 2 ([00:08](#)):

Well, Michigan lags behind other States, uh, which of course, South as the record, uh, then, uh, Chicago Tribune and kept a record of lynchings from 1882 to 1902. And there were three thousands of animals. So there's seven lynchings in the South. And there were, uh, uh, roughly 700 in the North of the ones that are not, uh, 75 blacks in the South, uh, 700 whites, the blacks, uh, and, uh, uh, the Northern States, Michigan lags behind, uh, the half dozen lynchings in Michigan. Uh, the first one that I know of was in Mason, Michigan, uh, the, uh, union soldiers who had gone with Sherman, uh, all his March through the South, came back with, uh, a young NuGo boy, uh, who had been a camp follower and they liked him and they enjoyed him. So they thought, well, we'll bring back with us. And, uh, but when they got back, they couldn't decide who was going to take the responsibility of taking care of them.

Speaker 2 ([01:25](#)):

So they hired him, got him a job as a hired hand in a farm near Mason, Michigan. And, uh, uh, the boy was worked pretty hard and he decided he wanted to leave. Uh, let me go to see some, one of his friends in the WASO, Michigan. So, uh, he went and asked for his money that had coming to him and he got in an argument with a farmer's wife. Uh, and, uh, uh, apparently there may have been a scuffle. There's a debate about that. Uh, and, uh, he left, uh, for WASO and the meantime, the rumors spread around that he had attacked the farmer's wife when they killed her and that, uh, not everything, uh, imaginable and, uh, turned out, chase, overtook him on his way to, or WASO brought him back. And, uh, it was going to be trying to cope with the mob, took him and, uh, they lynched him there. Uh, they hanged him from a tree near Mason and, uh, the investigation of it later on, uh,

Speaker 1 ([02:41](#)):

We're going to get all that every time you get that. Oh, okay. Let's, let's go. Let's if I can, I hate to stop you. We're going to get that hit every time. So tell me, let's pick it up about the lynching.

Speaker 2 ([02:56](#)):

Yeah. Oh, there was investigation later on and blamed a lot of it onto a fellow from battle Creek who had come over and joined the mob. And he kept going along like a cheerleader edging, the moral legend along until they finally lynched him. And, uh, then there was, uh, he was a black boy. There was a black boy who was lynched and the 1890s and, uh, point herein for molesting a woman or supposedly molesting her since he was never tried. We can't say that he did. Uh, but, uh, those were the two blacks, the restaurant white. So, uh, in the North and Irishman was more likely to be lynched than the Negro. Uh, the Irishman, uh, uh, have a pretty, uh, Lutheran past in this country. They burn the churches and they, uh, a while back sins against the white or the blacks. I always remember, um, the, uh, Frederick law Olmsted.

Speaker 2 ([04:05](#)):

When I visited any of the, uh, plantations in the South, in the 1840s, he came to a plantation where a black was being pilloried punished for not doing a job they were supposed to have done. And Frederick law Olmsted went up to him and said, Oh, why didn't you do what you were told to do? And the, uh, the Negro slave drew himself up indignantly and said, what do you think I am an Irishman? And, um, because the Irish who was handled hired for a dirty job or dangerous job, because the Negro slave was

property, if he were lost, they lost investment. And, uh, the Irishman, if he were lost, it was no, no loss at all for it, if he was killed. And, uh, so in, in many areas, the Irish were punished the, uh, Tribune, um, uh, records of the Chicago trip directly to lynching from 1882 to 1902, uh, uh, the 700, uh, uh, lynchings lynchings in the laws. Most of them are Irishman.

Speaker 2 ([05:21](#)):

And the one that, uh, I published this book about, uh, my hobby printing activity, uh, was the lynching at coroner, Michigan, uh, a farmer who was killed by one of his hired hands. And they blamed it on drew, a young fellow from new Haven, Michigan, uh, who was, uh, named Sullivan. Uh, he ran away after the killing there and they please search for several months. They finally found him in a bar in Detroit, and they arrested him and brought him back to a coroner for trial and the word spread around. Everybody got excited about it. And there were rumors that they were going to break into the jail and take him out that evening and a special train and left. I only had Michigan with people from that far away to come to witness the lynching. Uh, they could have prevented it because they were better.

Speaker 2 ([06:27](#)):

We talked about it and that evening they broke into the jail. They had been allowed to come in all day long. People filed through the jail to look at the man in his cell. And that evening they broke into the jail and they hang him from a tree there. And after his body was lowered, the boys in the town, uh, tied ropes was feet and dragged him through the city back and forth, uh, for most of the evening. And, uh, there was another lynching and, um, Sheboygan, um, and that was supposedly for a murder. And there was a double lynching in Menominee, Michigan, but of the law, all these lynchings, only two of them were of blacks.

Speaker 1 ([07:24](#)):

Now, when you and I talked earlier, I think you, you said that there were three in Menominee, two double, double, double. Now were those were the, were the two in Menominee at the same time, or were they

Speaker 2 ([07:36](#)):

At the same time? Yes, they were both involved in the same infraction.

Speaker 1 ([07:40](#)):

And what do you know? Anything, can you tell us anything about the Sheboygan and the Menominee?

Speaker 2 ([07:44](#)):

Not very much there. I haven't come across very much information about those. Do you know approximately when they were, yes. There were close to the turn of the century in the eighties and nineties,

Speaker 1 ([07:56](#)):

1890s. In fact, I'm headed up to Sheboygan this weekend to play at the opera house. So, and Menominee also 1890s. Yes. Um, do you know Russ magnanimous?

Speaker 2 ([08:08](#)):

Yes. After my cat. Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([08:11](#)):

Oh man. Yagi, that's it. Okay. And Russ, uh, we're going to, to the upper peninsula to talk about the Klan, he's written about the Klan up there, and he's a, he sat in all this stuff up for us, uh, um, which is, but I asked him about the double, uh, the Menominee, Michigan, uh, lynchings. And he didn't know anything about it.

Speaker 2 ([08:34](#)):

No, it was, I think it was written up in the Michigan history magazine at one time. The one interesting, we're talking about the KU Klux Klan, uh, the KU Klux Klan, which became so strong during the 1920s in than elsewhere in the North, a bore little relationship to the cooks kind of existed in the South after the civil war. Uh, actually the KU Klux Klan was, uh, not the biggest group, the Knights of the white community with the biggest group in the South. And the cookbooks Gran, uh, uh, was second. And then there were a number of smaller groups, but the one that, uh, the Clark historical library has the information on it. So on that was so predominant during the twenties, it became a national organization and it was not so much anti Negro except in places where there were a lot of Negroes living. Uh, but it was anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish, um, probably mostly anti-Catholic and, uh, they would advertise their anti foreigners, but the only foreigners that they were an antiwar Italians and Polish and, uh, uh, Mediterranean, uh, uh, immigrants, uh, Swedes and Norwegians and English, women Germans were exempt from being classified as foreigners. Uh, and, uh, but, uh, they weren't nearly as violent as the Lynch's. They did some burnings and they did some, uh, property damage, but, uh, there's no record of their having lynched, anybody, uh, uh, um, them physically,

Speaker 1 ([10:32](#)):

Except for the Muskegon. No, there was a Klan related and we've, we've fallen through meetings. Well, there was a male bombing that killed three people. Now, this was politically motivated. The Klan came to rise as a political power though in the toys. Uh, I think it started to fall apart with David Stevenson's, uh, arrest for murder and rape. Um, but, uh, we went and talked with Mark Okinon do you know, Mark at all? Primarily a baseball historian, but yeah, but he did this work on Muskegon history and there was a male bombing that went off and killed the township supervisor, his daughter and her fiance. Oh yeah.

Speaker 2 ([11:14](#)):

I remember reading about that now. Yeah. So that, and that was Klan related. I think the Klan was accused of it. They never found them guilty. I think, I think that the plea that Klan made was one of his members was involved, but not as an official of the clown, uh, uh, uh, but they, they didn't have any mall. Bakshian where they came into, uh, in the South originally, the Klan was, uh, wore the white gowns and so forth to frighten the superstitious slaves, uh, who still had a lot of, uh, uh, unusual beliefs about the hereafter and so forth. And they came looking like ghosts, but, uh, but in Michigan, uh, the Klan was first, I would say from going through the records and the materials anti-Catholic and then anti-Jewish, and then, uh, in the Detroit area, it could be an I black, but, uh, the black population of Michigan was very small at that time. And, uh, outside of Detroit too, it would be few blacks and Michigan. Uh, as a matter of fact, when I first came to central to teach, I had a student from about, up near Alpina, who had never seen a black person before until they came to the Mount pleasant,

Speaker 1 ([12:44](#)):

But the Klan went on there. There were those who were disaffected with the Klan because it wasn't active enough. You remember the black Legion? Yeah. Yeah. Now you, you lived in Detroit a long time. Yeah. With any luck at all, we're going to try and talk with a doctor Amman, a M a N, and who's put together this collection at the Ruth her library. Uh, but what do you know about the black bleeds?

Speaker 2 ([13:09](#)):

Uh, what I know about that is probably forgotten. I remember I, uh, I remember it, I was living in Detroit, uh, near that paradox. I forget what year that occurred was in the seventies. Wasn't it? Uh, it was in the twenties. Twenties. Yeah. Um, I remember reading about many times, uh, the black doctor that lived in this neighborhood

Speaker 1 ([13:33](#)):

Drowsy and sweet. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And he was found innocent. I mean, you know, for all the essences, uh, there have also been these cases where he was, he had a jury trial and was found innocent. Yeah.

Speaker 2 ([13:48](#)):

I've gone through a number of these Klan records from the twenties and, uh, extends up into the thirties. And many of them are rather naive the minutes of the news of rather naive, uh, uh, activities. And I don't think that, uh, many of the people were really evil. They were naive and they were blind. They had prejudices and they were probably joining others for some psychological reason for, but that would be a number of, uh, a minority would probably be violent. But, uh, I think for the most part, most of them would have shrunk from some, from a Lynchian or something like that.

Speaker 1 ([14:34](#)):

You and I share an acquaintance though, who was, uh, actively involved with the Klan. Yeah. It has to be a certain, uh, location,

Speaker 2 ([14:42](#)):

But yes. Okay. [inaudible] I knew him personally and I don't think he would have a dog. Uh, I, uh, surprised that, uh, some of the things that we got his papers, you know, after he died and most of them, I surprised at some of his activities, but they were not violent. Uh,

Speaker 1 ([15:09](#)):

But he was a member of the Klan.

Speaker 2 ([15:10](#)):

Yes. Oh yes. He was a leader in the Klan and then that area, and, uh, I've forgotten most of the, uh, ranks from grand dragon down to the different, uh, Cleveland. Yeah.

Speaker 1 ([15:26](#)):

They were all started with a K of [inaudible]. Well, tell me, tell me about Lou's activities, what you can remember about this guy.

Speaker 2 ([15:35](#)):

Well, he was a postmaster there and, uh, he was active in politics. And the thing that I remember about him was that he was a devoted husband, but he also played around a little bit and going into his papers. Uh, he was rather naive and he was a power in a small town and, uh, uh, had been postmaster. And, uh, uh, I don't remember what his occupation was, but we had a historical society here and he used to come to the meetings regularly and he always got up and told about something happened in the past and Blanchard. And he

Speaker 1 ([16:22](#)):

Now, I, um, actually he wasn't that his job was postmaster. That was a full time job then, but he was also a photographer. And, uh, he, he put together something called this and that a little column of, uh, of, of happenings. And he was also the head of the Oddfellows. Now that leads us to, in this area, I know Cal lender's, uh, made the link between the Oddfellows and the client. Can you tell, can you tell me a little bit about, about using the cover organism?

Speaker 2 ([16:52](#)):

Yes. There was a pretty close association period regarding fellows in the van and Kalyn his own father was the Klan. So he had an inside view, but, uh, in Adrian, Michigan, uh, but the Oddfellows here and, um, uh, Mount pleasant was almost synonymous with decline members, but the odd fellows reading the newspapers, uh, if there's any period of Michigan that I'm better acquainted with the 1840s and 1850s, because it was a California gold rush period. Uh, the Oddfellows, uh, came into existence in Adrian, Michigan, for example, and they were looked upon very hostile. They were a radical group. Uh, they were, uh, in some places considered illegal, uh,

Speaker 1 ([17:51](#)):

Why their purported purpose is to, to be friend a widows and, and help orphans.

Speaker 2 ([17:58](#)):

But, uh, they were rivals to the masons too, so that had some effect upon him, but, uh, the newspapers would make uncomplimentary remarks about the odd fellows.

Speaker 1 ([18:10](#)):

Hmm. And, and in this town, the odd fellows and the Klan were synonymous. Now, what would the, what would the odd fellows say about that?

Speaker 2 ([18:22](#)):

Um, or today they'd probably deny it is ended, but, uh, the, in the newspapers that made references to them, uh, they held rallies at, uh, uh, Island park and different places. And, uh, all the participants were, uh, odd fellows. But when I'm thinking about, uh, uh, Lou Cape and, uh, uh, he was a Democrat and, uh, most, uh, cleanse the ultra conservatives, but Lou [inaudible] claim to be a Democrat.

Speaker 1 ([19:06](#)):

You know, one of the things I know you have occasionally started a, uh, um, a story about one of the things that I'd heard was that among Lou Katelyn's papers was a correspondence with a female impersonator in a circus. Was that so, yeah.

Speaker 2 ([19:24](#)):

Uh, yes, I lose something. I have a dim recollection of that. I, I wouldn't, uh, uh, but, uh, that, that may, I was trying to think of his infidelity and that may have been, that

Speaker 1 ([19:37](#)):

I would like to know about the story of, uh, of this publication. What do you, what can you tell me about what was the, where did the idea come from for you

Speaker 2 ([19:47](#)):

This book for this book? Well, I read the, I love reading old newspapers and I've read most, I've read all the Michigan newspapers to 1860, uh, the D the extant today, and I've read many of them belong that I wrote, uh, the count of, uh, little Jake, the clothing merchant, and sang now. And for that purpose, I read all the, uh, Michigan, the Saginaw newspapers up to, uh, 1900 or thereabouts. And, uh, I, I may be looking for some particular information, but I, my attention is drawn to other things, a tiny van. And I came across the story of the lynching at Corona and the newspaper reporting this book. I wrote a, uh, I did the typesetting all by hand and I printed it on my I'm a hand fed platinum press. And I wrote a three page introduction to it. The rest of it is consists of the newspaper stories and the newspaper style at that time was quite dramatic.

Speaker 2 ([21:03](#)):

Um, it tells me it starts out William Sullivan, Elias burns, alas Murphy, who murdered latent leach, a farmer living near Duran Michigan on the night of January 1st was capita adjusted in Wyoming. My patrol one John Long, and the celebrated during Miranda was assumed. The only a matter of record earlier Saturday evening, William Walden, a lot more. And George health, two sailors who live in new Haven where Sullivan also lived for several years, stalled into devil's saloon at 93, Western on the street, and to their intense surprise, they saw Sullivan seasoned in the chair. They were enabled to believe this site at first, but at a second grants or showed them that it was he, and they went out quickly so that he would not recognize them. Every water, \$1,500 has been hanging over solving's head for some time. And it did not take them long to conclude, to notify the police.

Speaker 2 ([22:04](#)):

The style of writing at that time was more dramatic. And so I collected all the reports from the different newspapers and arranged them in chronological order. And it makes a cornered story, quite a horrible story, because when you come to places where, uh, the, uh, uh, the body was taken by the Hills by several, I knew the boys, the vote being gone and dragged up and down the street over the rough pavement, the assembly singing little hang solvent, do any kind of a tree accompanied by kicks house and the Christmas to humanity shuttered at the depravity developed by a mob of usually rational beings. The type of writing at that time was very dry. And, uh, I collected, uh, Oh, group of stories, thought hangings throughout the, uh, North and, uh, one, uh, uh, in Ohio, uh, as a public, there were lynchings and they were public hangings, a woman than, uh, um, Western Ohio for example, was accused of murdering people in their boarding house.

Speaker 2 ([23:27](#)):

Uh, it may have been probably, uh, food poisoning, but she was accused of murdering them. And she was, uh, scheduled to be hanged in the public hanging at Columbia. Wow. Everybody in town left, especially the excursion down the witness. I mean, and I, I come across many, uh, uh, descriptions of

hangings where, uh, for days in advance, people would be congregating in the town to witness the Hayne. And about every hour, they, uh, Jayla would bring me a condemned man out on the balcony so that people could see him and they would all shout insults at them. And they've taken back to him and one hanging, uh, in Kentucky, um, a fellow, the rope broke, hang him again. The rope broke again, and they broke the third time. And so they conclude that God was intervening and that he must not be guilty. And they released him and he lived to be 97 years old. He must have a sore throat.

Speaker 1 ([24:43](#)):

I can't imagine that hanging would be a pleasant way to die nor necessarily overly quick.

Speaker 2 ([24:49](#)):

Yeah. Uh, are they, uh, uh, the New York, the New York police Gazette was, uh, somewhat of a tablet of its time. And, uh, although it has a great deal of good writing in it. Uh, but the, uh, artwork is particularly graphic and they featured it from time to time in hangings, Indiana. They show quadruple hangings of, uh, Negroes in Indiana. Indiana probably led the North and hangings during the latter part of the 19th century.

Speaker 1 ([25:32](#)):

Uh, and the early 20th too. I understand that the Klan had its largest membership in Indiana. Yeah.

Speaker 2 ([25:40](#)):

Yeah. What does he know in Indiana? I would say that the primary animosity of the Klan there was blacks in Michigan. I would say it was Catholics. Now. I remember, well seeing Klansmen hold meetings in new England when I was growing up in Massachusetts and they would meet on this big hillside and burn across and have them meeting sing the star Spangled Brown.

Speaker 1 ([26:12](#)):

What is the attraction of a hanging? I mean, I had the other way

Speaker 2 ([26:16](#)):

I would too. I wouldn't be able to watch it. Uh, but, uh, uh, at that time it was, uh, uh, I re read and read about one, an ethic and the arc, uh, or people, uh, concession concessionaires came and, uh, set up shop. Uh, it was a real carnival activity and the people would gather there every day, see the fell on them, uh, on the day of the hangar. And there's one story about it hanging up where the, uh, concession is bribed. The jail had to postpone the hanging twice so that the keep the people in the business and tower. Do,

Speaker 1 ([27:01](#)):

Do you know if any of the Michigan hangings had anything to do with the Klan, the port Huron one?

Speaker 2 ([27:07](#)):

No. I don't think any of them had any thing at all to do as a client now, you know, they probably shouldn't be some distinction between the riot activities and the hangings, the Detroit riots that had fatalities, but that was probably the same motivation as lynching people were killed. And,

Speaker 1 ([27:31](#)):

And, and, you know, we're going to be talking with dr. Norman McCray, do you know dr. McCray, uh, next week we're talking with him and, and he's, he's gonna talk with us about, uh, the black Legion, but also about paradise Valley. And, and you came from the Detroit area Dearborn.

Speaker 2 ([27:49](#)):

Well, I remember the Detroit riot during the warriors. I was working in a factory in Detroit and, uh, uh, we had several black employees, but the black employees were just used as sweepers. And none of them worked on machines or, uh, any skilled job. Uh, and there was one young black lady that was a college graduate, and she was working as a sweeper. And, uh, but I remember one night going through the plant and I saw, um, something under one of the workbenches. I thought, Ooh, a dog may have gotten into something. And I went over and it was a black man. He was afraid to go home because he had to go through white districts and he was afraid to go home to his neighborhood. So I took him home and, uh, uh, he didn't come back to work until I was excitable. It was over.

Speaker 1 ([28:48](#)):

What was the motivation of the Detroit riot

Speaker 2 ([28:52](#)):

Hatred? Uh, uh, I think it was a fight for the bottom rung of the ladder. Uh, it started in, uh, on Belle Isle, uh, uh, a white and a black got into a scuffle and it spreads through Detroit just like fire. It just exploded. Um, no.

Speaker 1 ([29:22](#)):

And did a lot of this have to do with housing pressures and paradise Valley?

Speaker 2 ([29:27](#)):

Uh, probably yes, but I think it was a lot, there was a lot of banter antagonizing between the foreign element to the, the, uh, uh, people of recent extraction and the blacks that lived close together. They had conflicts. That's why I think it was a fight for the bottom wrong. Um, but Detroit was making remarkable progress. Uh, I taught high school in Detroit over on the East side. And when I went to that high school was 10% black, my left, it was 70% black, but the white kids in the black kids were getting along fine. They were, uh, building friendships and I've gone back to reunions and they still would, uh, uh, well, uh, on good gyms, they hadn't been in contact with each other, but then it began to come in from the South and such numbers. Uh, I would, I used, I was a summer school principal, so I had to go down to the grade schools in the area.

Speaker 2 ([30:37](#)):

And, uh, I, uh, uh, surprised Prince Wilson's grade school was telling me that the whole student personnel almost the complete school were changed with the new year new families coming up from the South so forth. And if it had moved more slowly than I think Detroit would have made it very good adjust adjustment as it is, uh, well, you're driving through Detroit now, and it looks like a bombed out city and certain areas where houses have been vandalized and, uh, wonderful old neighborhoods, great architecture. And the people were so proud of the homes. He's Polish people had the houses neatly



painted the longes and, uh, they were proud of their homes. This was a castle and all disappeared. Uh, Oh,

Speaker 1 ([31:36](#)):

Do you want to go back to the book one more time? If you say there are two additions to this thing now, what was your press run? Tell me about this.

Speaker 2 ([31:43](#)):

Well, I, I had, uh, I've always loved printing. That's probably something I inherited because my grandfather was a type engraver. He'd designed the, uh, type faces and so forth, but, uh, I don't think that was the chief dress. I've always been interested in printing. It's a wonderful, uh, something spiritual about it almost. But, uh, so when I had an opportunity to buy an old press, I bought it for \$35 and I bought some type. And eventually I ended up with 600 cases of pretty tight, but I, uh, began to print these interesting things that found in the newspapers. And most of them dealt with the California gold rush, but I couldn't resist publishing the limit lynching at Corona. I had the book all printed and somebody told me that, Oh, somebody in the WASO is coming out with a book about that. So, uh, I took 50, I gather the 50 copies of the book together and printed a paper cover for them and made it 50 a copy edition. So I'd be the first out with a book. Well, proven that the, uh, rumor was unfounded. There was nobody in the wasm publishing a book about it. So, uh, I have 50 I've printed, 50 copies of the paperback edition and 450 of the, uh, cloth bound edition. And, uh, so this would be someday. I read a book, I guess you'd say it's rare now. Yeah. I don't think you can go to the bookstore and find anything

Speaker 1 ([33:23](#)):

Hoarders. Isn't going to have this Barnes and noble isn't going to have it,

Speaker 2 ([33:27](#)):

But I was intrigued by the style of writing. And, uh, there was another collection that I gathered together wrote in a magazine article about it, uh, about the, uh, super frauds the man named SOPA, uh, would plant these clay artifacts and so forth. And he was, uh, uh, insisting that, uh, uh, Noah's Ark landed over near investor Berg, Michigan. And, uh, he had these artifacts to prove it and so forth. It became a nationwide, uh, uh, uh, people began to notice it all over the country and articles about it and newspapers, and particularly the moments because of mom and, uh, based there a book of mom and on a Joseph Smith base, the book Bumble on the lost tribes of Israel landing in America. So this was something that the mom was and became fascinated with and they reprinted copies of the, uh, Soper pictures and so forth. And I gathered that, made it go. So the newspapers are full of excellent stories that can be resurrected. In fact, some of them have very good literary quality, uh, police Gazette. It was, uh, considered, uh, uh, in my time it was considered a scandal sheet and, uh, you'd only find it in barbershops, so forth, uh, but it has a lot of very fine writing, uh, interesting material.

Speaker 1 ([35:10](#)):

What have we not covered that you want to cover? What have I not asked you that I should have?

Speaker 2 ([35:16](#)):

Oh boy, I can't think of man. I think probably the only thing that I would, uh, uh, reiterate on the, uh, Klan, although I hate to say this, they would not as harmful in Michigan as, uh, the picture that has been drawn with them is I don't think they were a benevolent organization, but I think that the, uh, we're not

as bad as in some other areas in the country, you know, uh, it was particularly strongly the anti-Catholic angle, uh, not only in Michigan, but in Massachusetts. Uh, but, uh, I can remember in Massachusetts seeing signs in front of the mills and wrongly, uh, Blackstone Valley, which is a big area for cotton mills. And, uh, there'll be signs out front, no Catholics, no Catholics need to apply. And, uh, the anti Catholicism was pretty strong, but take a look at the times

Speaker 1 ([36:20](#)):

As a country, we were scared of socialism Bolshevism. There was upheaval, we just finished the war to end all Wars. There was all manner of threat to the country. So it would be, it w it would be like September 11th all the time. Yeah. You were waiting for the next bombing, the next art anarchist piece of activity. So wouldn't it be natural that you'd want to be a Patriot.

Speaker 2 ([36:46](#)):

Yeah. Uh, but how to contend it would be debatable. And they, uh, I think the client, the wrong path, but, uh, uh, the Al Smith election was the, uh, um, and most violent election. I think that we've ever had in my hometown of Western Massachusetts, the Republicans decided to hold a rally, uh, big election period election rally. And they selected, uh, East park, which was right in the middle of the Italian tenement house district. Well, they were asking for trouble. And, uh, when they, uh, uh, they had a parade right down on the Shrewsbury street, which led to a, it's a Boulevard leading to East park. And, uh, as soon as they go down between the tenement houses, the barrage of, uh, rotten eggs and rotten fruit tomatoes, everything descended upon them from the roofs of the dependent houses. And I was coming home from selling newspapers downtown, and I saw this woman, uh, and she would have been an inspiration to grant Hill. She was mocking marching, resolutely forward, holding a staff that had held a banner that somebody had ripped off from her, but she still held that staff up and shouldn't marching forth. And I started laughing and she whacked me on the side of the head. And I still have a scar that I've been a Democrat ever since.

Speaker 2 ([38:33](#)):

But, uh, uh, the kids in school had fights in grade school. I had fights everyday over. Also the Pope was coming to take over America and a thousand pencils collected. And, uh, it was a really violent election.

Speaker 1 ([38:49](#)):

Well, the same argument was raised when John F. Kennedy always running, you know, is you're going to have allegiance to the constitution

Speaker 2 ([38:55](#)):

And the boat. Yeah. So, but it was much more violent. Well, in Boston, uh, in my school, it was straight on st. Patrick's day and the Protestants wore orange neckties. The Catholics wore green neckties. And I wasn't Irish because I'd see Italian kids with the green neck tie. And if you saw an orange neck guy, he was supposed to jerk it off, cut her off. Uh, but it got so bad in Boston that they decided to make st Patrick's day a high holiday, but they couldn't make Sam practice their holiday because it would be in violation of a constitution, recognize a religious holiday. So they named it evacuation day. My 17th was the day that the British evacuated the Boston Harbor. So they, uh, put a new name on the name on there. Well, they called it, uh, evacuation day and it's still a holiday. They don't have me in school in Boston, on evacuation day, but they have a lot of st Patrick's day celebrations.