

ADRIAN PERREAULT
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – Adrian Perreault

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): No

CD#: 001

Name of Interviewee: Adrian Perreault

Birth Date: 19 June 1919

Main Topics: In this interview Adrian Perreault discusses his life as a Marist Brother, including the process of becoming a Brother, what it was like to live as a Brother, and his duties and responsibilities. Adrian had the unique position of being the Marist College librarian, and he talks extensively about how he received that position, what it was like working as the librarian, the issues and problems he had to overcome, and how he developed the library and the position of the librarian over the years.

Others present?: Yes

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 11 June 2001

Location of Interview: James Cannavino Library, Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 41 minutes, 30 seconds

Number of disks: 1

Recording medium/format: Microdrive

Brand of disks: IBM 1GB Microdrive

Archival copy made: Burned to a gold alloy CD (MAM) and is held in the Marist College Archives and Special Collections. Saved as a .wav file at the highest resolution possible. CD copy is available for researchers.

Quality of original recording: Good

Restrictions on interview access or use: None

Transcribed or summarized by: Nancy Decker

Brief summary of interview context and recording contents: The interview was held in the James Cannavino Library on the Marist College campus.

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:04.09 – 00:08.04	Adrian Perreault discusses his family and his early childhood. He briefly talks about how many siblings he had, what his parents did for a living, where he went to grade school, and who in his family served in World War I and II.
00:08.05 - 00:12.53	Adrian reflects on his arrival to Poughkeepsie in 1932 to attend high school. The group was so large it was split into two groups, and his group remained in the Juniorate for the third year of high school. He recalls the number of students that were involved and the names of some of his classmates, as well as what a few of them are doing now. Adrian also mentions how the Brothers would have many nicknames, and he recalls several of his own. After becoming a brother Adrian had two years of college in the Marist Normal School, which was a division of Fordham University.
00:12.54 - 00:16.11	Adrian briefly talks about his years as a teacher, first in the elementary, and then in the high school. After several years of teaching he became a librarian and worked for several years at Saint Ann's Academy and Mount Saint Michael Library. He briefly reflects on how he received the position of librarian. While he worked he received his B.A. from Fordham University, and then went on to get another degree from Saint John's where he was the first Marist Brother to attend the school.
00:16.12 – 00:23.03	Adrian moves on to discuss some of his other responsibilities. In addition to being the librarian at Saint Ann's Academy and taking classes he worked with the boy choristers, was in charge of discipline, attendance, and transportation. He goes into some detail describing how he transported the choir down to St. Patrick's Cathedral twice a week for practice and mass, and what time they had to be there. From Saint Ann's he moved to being the librarian at Mount Saint Michael's, where it was his responsibility to move the library and its 9,000 books to its present location in the gym building which he did in one day by using students to

move stacks of books before they went to class. He spends some time describing the transition.

- 00:23.04 – 00:30.14 In 1958 Adrian moved to Poughkeepsie and became the librarian here and he talks about his experiences in Poughkeepsie. When he first came he was the only librarian and library staff member on campus, although after a year they began giving him secretaries. At the time the library was in all three floors of Greystone, although eventually Adrian moved it to Donnelly Hall. Adrian also discusses the budget for the library, and how the budget for books and magazines went down because the budget for staff and student workers went up. He worked most of his career under Linus Foy, although he was hired by Paul Ambrose, and he worked with Dennis Murray near the end of his career. Adrian then reflects on the transitions the library went through. Adrian also had been able to create a big staff, growing from just himself to four librarians, four or five clerical workers, and countless student workers when he left. Adrian also mentions the security issues he had to deal with as librarian, which was extensive in Greystone, as it was very easy for students to walk out the door with books unseen, to Fontaine where they insisted on having a security system at the door.
- 00:30.15 – 00:33.32 Adrian recalls that as the college grew, he began reporting to someone further and further down the chain of command. He also reflects on how the atmosphere of the library changed when lay students began attending Marist. Students were allowed to talk in the library and meet to work on projects, the operating hours were extended, and the library was open on Saturday's and Sunday's. Many of the lay faculty used the library and encouraged or insisted that their students use it as well.
- 00:33.33 – 00:35.23 Adrian compares life as a librarian under the two presidents he lived under, Linus Foy and Dennis Murray, and the biggest difference would be that he had a direct connection with Linus Foy, while Dennis Murray had the librarian way down the chain of command. Adrian does feel, however, that the Marist ideals can still be maintained at the college; however he feels there is a bigger emphasis on sports now, which would not be beneficial to promoting use of the library.
- 00:35.24 – 00:39.28 Adrian's wife Betty recalls a story of when an old Marist student bumped into Adrian and knew him to be Brother Adrian Perreault despite the fact that when the student had attended Marist, Adrian was no longer a Brother. Adrian then remarks on when he left the Brothers and began living in an apartment, which he got a very good deal on because he bought the apartment and furniture from former Marist Brother Gus Nolan who is conducting this interview. Later Adrian married his wife, Betty, who speaks about her time at Marist as a student.

00:39.29 – 00:41.30 Betty concludes the interview by discussing how they keep in touch with people from the Marist community through the GMC, the Greater Marist Community, which is a gathering of Marist Brothers, former Marist Brothers and their wives. They meet once a month at each other's houses to eat, drink, pray, and reminisce.