

JOHN WHITE
Marist College
Poughkeepsie, NY
For the Marist College Archives and Special Collections
Index – John White

Project Name: Marist Heritage Project

Transcript: Yes

Summary: Yes

Photograph(s): Yes

CD#: 042

Name of Interviewee: John White

Main Topics: The following interview begins with John G. White recalling his educational years, as well as his years of service in the Navy. The interview touches upon John G. White's transition into teaching History at Marist College and the expansion of the College at that time. The interview ends with a comparison between Marist College in its earlier years and the College at its present stage and John White's feelings on the importance of a liberal arts education at Marist.

Others present?: No

Interviewed by: Gus Nolan

Interview Date: 21 November 2002

Location of Interview: Archives and Special Collections Reading Room at Marist College

Recorder model and type: Marantz PMD 690

Length of interview: 59 minutes, 37 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: Erin Kelly

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

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<u>Time (00:00.00 ~ in hrs./mins./seconds)</u>	<u>Summary</u>
00:00:00 – 00:10.05	Professor John White discusses his personal history. He describes where and when he was born, his family, where he received his education, his time spent in the Navy, his time flying as a pilot, and his years at Fordham achieving his Masters degree and various coursework towards a doctorate, all while working as a graduate assistant and teaching various courses as well.
00:10.06 – 00:30.01	Professor White reminisces about how he attained the job at Marist College, and what it was like teaching here in the early years. He describes some of the committees he was on in the early years, and talks about some of the people that he worked with, especially those in the history department. He also mentions a side job that he had playing classical music for an hour at a local radio station, and talks about how that job helped him with his teaching.
00:30.02 – 00:37.30	Professor White talks about the development of the curriculum and of the department. He talks about the creation of the sixty-sixty program, the expansion of the History Department, and the succession of history teachers that taught at the college.
00:37.31 – 00:42.54	Professor White describes the physical development of the campus, the available buildings, the layout of the campus when he first arrived, and the small tight-knit faculty to the college today. He also spends some time discussing the atmosphere of the college, where faculty and students were encouraged to be innovative, and they were, while today he feels that neither the students or the new faculty are innovative at all.
00:42.55 – 00:50.19	Professor White reflects on the presidencies of Linus Foy and Dennis Murray. Linus, he feels, was very much a faculty man, and an academic, and he remembers him very fondly. He relates a few side stories about the innovativeness of the students and some of the pranks they pulled. Then he moves on to Dennis Murray, who he feels has done spectacular things with the campus.

00:50.20 – 00:59.37 Professor White reflects on what he feels his contribution has been over the years, which in his mind, his contribution would be if he had an impact on the lives of any of his students. He also discusses what advice he would give to the board of trustees, which would be to keep Marist as a liberal arts college and to not become a trade school. He concludes the interview by reminiscing about a few other people that he worked with who made an impression on him, and who he feels made significant contributions to the school.