

## Recent Interviews Now Available

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Transcripts of the Oral History Project interviews, along with a subject guide, [link] are found in the Greenwich Library's Local History reference section, located on the first floor.)

### **Garden Catering (#2819) – Sallie Mc Hale, interviewer; Frank J Carpenteri, Sr., narrator, owner of Garden Catering.**

An interview about the start and expansion of a popular catering and fast food service in Old Greenwich. This interview covers Mr. Carpenteri's start in the business in Port Chester, moves to his purchase of Garden Catering, and to its opening under his name in 1991. The interview then details the growth of the business from one small store of 500 square feet to the present business configuration encompassing eight stores. In the interview Mr. Carpenteri discusses the growth and development of Garden Catering's menu, his views on customer service, and his ideas on business management practices.  
*Category: Merchants*

### **Greenwich Tree Conservancy (#2821) – Richard M. Blair, interviewer; Jo Anne Messina, narrator, executive director of GTC.**

An account of a volunteer effort begun in 2007 and supported by the Town of Greenwich to encourage the planting and protection of trees and to stimulate public interest. To that end, the Conservancy sponsors events such as the Commemorative Tree Program, enabling participants to plant trees on public lands in memory or in honor of a person or event. The Conservancy also plants trees on the grounds of all the town's public schools, conducts workshops to raise public awareness on the necessity of healthy, protected trees, and runs a Geographic Information System (GIS) to locate and identify trees. The Conservancy also engages the community by conducting contests, asking for nominations for the weirdest tree, the tallest tree, and the most beautiful tree in Greenwich.

*Categories: Conservation Associations Non-profit organizations*

### **Robert Arnold & Family Centers, Inc. (#2820) – Suzanne M. Seton, interviewer; Robert M. Arnold, narrator, president of Family Centers, Inc.**

The interview begins with an account of Robert Arnold's background and experience, including his early days as a clinician at the Greenwich Family Center in 1978. The interview then provides a detailed history of social services in Greenwich, including the founding of the Greenwich Family Center in 1895 as the Greenwich Aid Society, run by prominent women of the town. The interview culminates with a description of the organization today, having a budget of more than ten million dollars, with a staff of 200, using the services of 1,200 volunteers, and touching 17,000 lives annually through its different programs.

*Category: Social Services*

**A Childhood at Tod's Mansion (#2823) – Harriet Feldman, interviewer;  
Martha S. Hankins, narrator, resident, 1945-1955.**

A personal account of life in the Tod Mansion at the Point after World War II when the mansion was converted into housing for returning veterans. Mrs. Hankins, describes her childhood years there. She tells of arriving just after the town gave permission to the veterans to create individual apartments for themselves and their families. Mrs. Hankins' first and last memories are of "kicking the dust," when her family was the earliest to take up residence, and then in 1962, when the property was once again abandoned and demolished. The narrator relives memories of summers playing with friends on the beach and winters bouncing on the saltwater ice outside her door. A favorite indoor pastime was roller skating on the mansion's massive ballroom floor. Also included are reminiscences of Christmas and New Year's festivities.

*Categories: World War II Estates People Parks*

**Thomas Lyon House & Lyon Family of Greenwich (#2827) – R. M. Blair, interviewer;  
Julie Grey Pollock, narrator, granddaughter of last owner of the Thomas Lyon House.**

A history of the oldest colonial home in Greenwich, believed to have been built in 1695 on the Boston Post Road before being moved to its present location at One Byram Road. The home, having been donated in the 1920s by a family member to the Lions and Rotary Clubs, is now under the auspices of the Greenwich Preservation Trust and is slated to become a historic property available to the public. The interview gives the family history of the house and provides details regarding the original structure and furnishings, many of which have remained in the family and have been returned to the home for its restoration.

*Categories: People History of Farming in Greenwich*