

<b>Code</b>	517005
<b>Subject</b>	Walter Allen
<b>Date</b>	6/19/2008
<b>Interviewer</b>	John Bennett
<b>Special Notes</b>	

**minutes:**

622 E. Shaft Rd. July 2, 1927 London England Parents born Switzerland  
0 Uncle in London and mom stopped there where I was born  
Weeks old came to US Father managed country clubs resorts and hotels June  
1 1941 elementary school in Chicago  
3rd year of high school in Elyria Father managed yacht club in Cleveland I Met  
Alex Theal a photographer Father was moving on to another job and MR. Theal  
gave me a job and enrolled me in West Tech High School his alma matter That  
2 started me in the profession of commercial art  
3 Army in 46 and out in 49 Settled in Cleveland  
4 Visited Switzerland and families  
Did a lot of sketching and doodles and drawing. He did see something in me.  
Introduced me to art history. Course at Cleveland Institute of art on GI bill Worked  
at 4 art studios and ended up as an art director: Griswald Escherman Only one of  
5 them is left.  
6 Retired from Artists Studio First thing I did was design a t-shirt  
Something to wear like a uniform: Researched the t-shirt idea and presented to  
7 West Creek and they accepted it.  
Made a design on the computer at home. Set up the estimate to produce it. It was  
8 a black-on copy for the silk screener  
Early 2000 for the t-shirt Sue again was in charge of booths for homecomings,  
outings. I did a banner for them using the same process: photograph already  
9 donated

Took the photo and put logo on the banner with the printer, got estimate and they  
Oked it Dark Green t-shirt with white lettering People were using West Creek  
without the words preservation committee so I made West Creek larger  
10 preservation committee was small enough to fit under the word creek  
tried to get a nice arrangement of the words on the banner we added a leaf to  
11 the logo for the banner and repeated the pattern  
I manned a booth for them at my village Brooklyn Heights, had a home day and I  
12 manned the booth  
last thing I did was to develop a set of stationary. They wanted a visual of the  
13 wandering creek and presented many designs to choose from  
I drew a piece that looked like a wandering creek They wanted a mechanical  
14 device Horizontal bars with the creek meandering through it  
On river sweeps I put on old clothes and got into the creek Saw a presentation by  
the board and a relative of my wife in public office invited me to a West Creek  
15 meeting  
I was interested in keeping the path impact. Jim Wallace and I presented to West  
Creek how it should go through Brooklyn Heights. We traipsed through the valley  
near the creek and marked out the paths and presented it to West Creek we  
16 were the Brooklyn Heights representatives.

As we walked through the area I drew on a map so that they could see where it  
17 was. Then they plotted out what properties they would need to get the path done

Brooklyn Heights bought the property in Seven Hills for the park. That's what  
18 they've done all the way through Parma  
Leap frogged into Independence to buy property next to the Cuyahoga river What  
we presented to West Creek we also presented to Brooklyn Heights so that they  
19 know what West Creek wanted to do  
West Creek made several presentations to our council. Dave Vasserelli helped  
20 get the property in Seven Hills. It's so nice to have a park like that  
a bridge over to Seven Hills and that's where Heniger House is and tied by West  
21 Creek slowly creeping to the final piece  
West Creek turns them over to the villages or metro parks. I wanted to be a part  
22 of it and do what I could.  
West Creek would like to make the park a standard size. We lived in an  
apartment and we went to the park. I was happy to see something like that go  
23 through our village

It has connected the community to the other communities. More aware of  
24 cleaning it up Our park has baseball diamonds and children play in the creek  
It brings everybody down and outside of the houses. The park is getting bigger  
25 because they have built more for the people  
The seniors walk Wednesday mornings. The logo gave them a visual identity  
26 which they did not have before.  
They did not have an identifier for the people behind the scenes until the t-shirts  
27 and logo what I did was give them a little bit more identity  
home days raises money for the park pave the tennis courts, put up pavilions 3-  
28 4 days long Rides, amusements games prizes.  
West Creek is interested in the path and preserving that creek Home days is  
29 interested in the children  
30 There were so many people who were driven, they had daytime jobs  
They were so devoted and I wanted to be a part of it. They were very active and  
31 everybody jumped on it.  
So many things were going on at the same time. It was exciting to be a part of it  
32 and put what I could into it.  
Hurdles: someone reluctant to sell property or have a path in their backyard. The  
33 physical part of getting through a difficult terrain  
34 I hope to live long enough to enjoy the finished project  
It's pretty close to what Mr. Wallace and I laid out. In Brooklyn Heights. Small  
35 tunnel but not allowed yet.  
36 ODOT would build us a pedestrian bridge across 480 They will find a way  
West Creek is very good at waiting it out. I see them connecting finally all the way  
37 through Brooklyn Heights  
Brooklyn Heights was the largest greenhouse under glass Save some of that  
38 land to make park land connecting to the park  
Brooklyn Heights council has now come along with West Creek and developing  
39 land in the area and what West Creek has done for the village  
Acreage undeveloped in green house area they want to do something with that  
area. Cliff goes down to flatlands and river Do something that is not commercial  
40 and used up  
41 Community is becoming aware of it  
Some will be involved and other not but most people will want to walk the park  
42 and be connected  
43 Should make a film of West Creek  
44 providing an identity

45 It feels great to see people wearing the t-shirt  
46 married twice tough to be a parent and maintain with a job  
I married the landlady of one of my babysitters. I married her. She was the 14th  
47 child of a large family named Foot  
Her nephew, Les Foot, was the councilman who asked me to go to West Creek  
48 Her father owned part of the farm on Schaff Rd.  
49 I feel lucky to have fallen into this Got into art back handed.  
50 nice growing up on the country club a huge place to play in  
51 living on Shaff road has made me more appreciative of the land.  
Those people were so great at organizing. I think it (the logo) did make a  
52 difference.

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