

Sterner: The drawing boards. And then after going back to Illinois for a spot, I came back to Quinn and he made me assistant Clerk of the Works on Wrigley's phenomenal 2000 Lincoln Park West building, where I was for over a year during the construction. Then I went back for my final 1930 senior year, so that I graduated 1931, June, right into the middle of the Depression.

Blum: What was your graduation thesis?

Sterner: Well, when I graduated or, rather, when I decided to go back for my senior year, September of 1930, I didn't have any money because I had been supporting my father and brother, and all my funds were used up. So, I took two or three suitcases filled with huge, new monograph books of prominent architects I had bought out of my meager funds on various paydays at McNally and Quinn. I had about four hundred dollars' worth of those books at that time, which I didn't want to part with. But I took them down to my Wilmette Public Library and told Miss Whitnack, "Here are about four or five hundred dollars' worth of fine architectural books, and you can have them for sixty dollars cash. I have to go back and finish my senior year." She waltzed her checkbook out and gave me the sixty dollars. Of all those books at the library, there are only three of them left. All the rest have been stolen over—well, let's see—fifty years, so that's a pretty good track record after all. So, I went back for my senior year with sixty dollars and washed dishes at my fraternity house and got the highest grades of my entire career at Illinois. I not only played polo but I introduced polo as a major athletic sport letter. We got forty-five remount horses from the cavalry at Fort Riley [Kansas] that had never had saddles on them, and we trained them for polo. Then, as I say, when I graduated the Depression was really on, and there were no jobs whatsoever.

Blum: What was your graduation exam like?

Sterner: Oh, in my senior year I had qualified for the two years' practical experience in my soon-to-be graduation from the university, which were the requisites to take the exams, and I spent five days and passed everything except design. In those five days, you take examinations on a half a dozen subjects, including