

Caldwell: The West Side was quite different than it is today. There were much more stable people. There were a lot of Danes, a lot of Germans, and people with a great interest in parks. Today it's quite different, quite different.

Blum: Was corruption in the city the reason he left the park system?

Caldwell: Finally—I would have to say in my own words why I think he left, he never told me that in a definable way—finally he could see that these things were degrading and that they were self-defeating and that you can't do anything about it. The political system is such that you can't do anything about it. He was about forty or forty-five years of age and he was then having the first of the big places to lay out. In Lake Geneva he had some fine places, these are traditional wealthy German families. They built these big houses and laid out the places, Uihleins was one, Schlitz, Pabst. He had all the beer people who were very wealthy at that time and he laid out beautiful places. At that time he had the Rubens place which was one of the first of his places along the North Shore. As he said to me, "I really could see when I did the Rubens place, the real meaning of things. I didn't have an office, I made the plans for the place on Mrs. Jensen's kitchen table." There was great fame for Jensen but really there was not any money. In our modern sense of money, there was no money.

Blum: But he was one of the pioneers of landscape architecture.

Caldwell: He became famous. He was the only American landscape architect besides Olmsted who had a European reputation. When I talk about Jensen and I talk about these clients, the Ford family for instance and the Simms place, they imagine that he was nasty rich, it's not so at all. I have a plan of the Simms place, would you like to see it?

Blum: Can we look at it when we break, because the tape is coming to an end soon?

Caldwell: All right.