

Interviewer: Rance Olljes

### INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Andrew Hagopian

Date and Place of Birth: 1-24-23 Granite City, IL

Address: 

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place:  
11-21-01 11 A.M. St. Gregory American Community Center

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

- background (family, education, life history)
- 1940 basketball team
- Turkish Genocide
- Lincoln Place Community

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Andy was pressed for time and we had to squeeze this interview in. He is in charge of the American Community Center. This is actually the second time I spoke with Andy. The first time I encountered an equipment problem.

## Biographical Summary of Andrew Hagopian

By Rance Olliges

Andrew Hagopian was born on January 24, 1923 in the town of Granite City, Illinois. Andrew ended up being the oldest of four children in his family, a family that was built around the community where he lived. Andrew was one of the members of the 1940 state champion basketball team in Granite City. He was one of the starting guards on the team. Unfortunately he did not get to play in the championship game because of a separated shoulder he incurred previously. Andrew ended up in the air force following high school. He became a Second Lieutenant as a bombardier on a B-17. He served in the military for three years eventually flying twenty-one missions in World War II. After his stint in military service, Andrew decided to go to college. In 1949, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in Marketing and Accounting. A few weeks after Andrew graduated college, he married his first wife. They were together for twenty-five years. He later married again and has been married for twenty-seven years. He is the proud father of three, and proud grandfather of eight.

Andy currently involves himself with taking care of the Armenian Community Center in Granite City. He also lobbies for the United States government to recognize the Turkish genocide that happened against the Armenians. Andrew is a man very proud of his background and he has good reason to. He has been successful throughout his life in sports, education, work, church, family, and love.