Edward W. Brown
Excerpts from September 5, 1990 Oral History
Interview by Mary Ellen Thomsen

Establishing Lacrosse at Gilman

MET: Now tell me about starting lacrosse.

Mr. Brown: Lacrosse in 1927, we had never had it at Gilman '28, right along in there somewhere and we had a boy in about the first form, he was the first or second form, by the name of Bill Schmeisser. His father was Bill Schmeisser of Hopkins lacrosse fame, who had written books on lacrosse and was still coaching in the afternoon at Hopkins. He was interested in seeing lacrosse started at Gilman. So I used to go down in the afternoon in the spring to the Hopkins practice, and he'd let me go right out in the field with him, and as he would correct a player he'd whistle them to stop and then he'd go over and he'd tell them exactly what they did wrong. I was the beneficiary of that instruction because he wanted me to go right along with him.

MET: Had you played lacrosse at Princeton?

Mr. Brown: Never played. Never saw a stick. Never. So Al Townsend and I decided we'd start up lacrosse, and neither of us had caught or thrown a lacrosse ball and never seen a lacrosse stick. So we had to learn how to catch and throw, and we did that on our spring vacation in between golf rounds down at Virginia Beach on the concrete boardwalk. That was how we started. Anyway, what got me interested in it originally, I thought it was very good training for football. That's what interested me originally in it. Then I could see there was a lot of merit to it, because if the kids learned to play at Gilman and they went on to college they'd have a sport that they
would be interested in and to some degree proficient at. For those
two reasons, I thought it was a good thing to start.

MET: And you coached it for several years.

Mr. Brown: No. I coached it for one year, but I knew I didn't know
enough about and never played it -- didn't know enough about it. So
after that I coached undersquad. And we got in some people who knew
something about coaching the varsity.