

UNCG CENTENNIAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT COLLECTION

INTERVIEWEE: Louise M. Ward

INTERVIEWER: Missy Foy

DATE: May 14, 1991

MF: This is Missy Foy. It is the 14th of May 1991 and I'm in the home of Mrs. Louise Ward, and I guess if you could start—

LW: I'm Miss Louise Ward.

MF: Miss Louise Ward, okay.

LW: Yes.

MF: If you could start with some general information like where you were from and when you went to Woman's College [of the University of North Carolina, now The University of North Carolina at Greensboro].

LW: Oh, I am from Wallace, North Carolina, Duplin County, a small town. Graduated from high school there and I never—At that time, UNC Chapel Hill was a—did not admit girls unless they had special, I mean, were going for special degrees like music or something like that which was not my dish.

MF: Yes.

LW: And so the only school that I applied to was UNCG [The University of North Carolina at Greensboro]. I had pretty good grades so there was no problem and I don't know then that they had the business of everybody trying to get in everywhere because I don't remember that part of it.

MF: Yes.

LW: My daddy had gone to school here in Chapel Hill, graduated in law in 1903 and at the time I went to college he was on the board of trustees here. And also during the time, I can't tell you what year that we had the three colleges but it was about that time that Chapel Hill, State, and UNCG became one, under one administration. I mean, they were the greater university at that time. [Editor's note: In 1931, the North Carolina General Assembly created the Consolidated University of North Carolina, which included the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering in Raleigh, and Woman's College of the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.]

MF: Yes, yes. I think then it became Woman's College of the University [of North Carolina] or something.

LW: Well, but I graduated from the Woman's College of the University [of North Carolina] and of course my opinion is that those three colleges are then and now are comparable to universities. But I really dislike this business of sixteen universities being under a University [of North Carolina system].

MF: Oh yes.

LW: I think that the sixteen are not university caliber.

MF: Yes.

LW: And it really bothers me because well, as I said, my daddy was a lawyer. He had been in the legislature three times during his life and he had also been on the board of trustees over here so his feeling, he died in '42, so that's a long time ago, but of course I know what he felt.

MF: Yes.

LW: His feeling then was that politics should not be in education.

MF: Yes.

LW: And I think that now the sixteen universities, so-called universities, are politically set up and it's all due to that guy down in Greenville, North Carolina that pushed it. And I dislike him heartily. Of course he's dead now but anyway.

MF: [laughs]

LW: I mean, I just think that that was bad. And it still is bad in my opinion. This is my personal opinion, of course.

MF: Oh sure.

LW: And so when I went to UNCG it was small. I think, I don't think we had ten thousand people. I couldn't tell you how many we had then but there were, you know, it was supposed to be pretty big at that time but it still, by comparison, was small.

MF: Oh yes.

LW: I did not—if I were going to school today I would apply here because—

MF: At Chapel Hill?

LW: Yes. Because of my background, my daddy being having gone to school here, an uncle graduated in '05, one of my grandmother's brothers was here in the 1850s, so Chapel Hill is woven into the warp and woof of us.

MF: Oh sure.

LW: And if I were going now, I would apply here but I did not apply anywhere but at UNCG. I don't—as I said, my daddy was on the board of trustees. Now, at that point in time I didn't try to use any clout to get in here. I don't know whether I could have or not.

MF: [laughs]

LW: But this day and time people surely do use that kind of thing. But at any rate—

MF: They'll use anything.

LW: What?

MF: They'll use any means they can sometimes.

LW: Right, right.

MF: Yes.

LW: But I went there and of course I think it was my sophomore year was the year that all the banks closed.

MF: Yes, okay, so you started in '29?

LW: Twenty-nine.

MF: And then graduated in '33? Okay, yes, so—also during that time though a lot of the dorms were closed there, weren't they? Because some student—not a lot, but at least one or two, or maybe that was a little bit later.

LW: I don't remember that.

MF: Okay. Maybe that was a little bit later in the thirties that some of the dorms closed.

LW: I lived in Spencer Dorm during my freshman year and it was, you know, I lived in the southern wing that overlooked Walker Avenue. My—I could look out and see Walker Avenue. And then the other years I lived in Shaw Dorm. The—well, of course, everything was smaller than it is now so there's no comparison in a lot of ways between then and now. But I think there are a lot of things, as I told you on the telephone, that have been lost with the growth in that—and this is not just UNCG, this is just the times—

MF: Oh sure.

LW: —now have changed so that people go to college, they don't stay in the university on weekends. They go home. They go to the beach. They go to you name it, wherever. But we were under strict regulations when I was there. We only got, I think Thanksgiving was the first time we could go home for a weekend and go anywhere for a weekend.

MF: Yes. [laughs]

LW: And I think that made for more cohesiveness in the people knowing each other, you know. And I think I told you it's also that I think another thing they have lost by growth and the times is that when we were there, we had Chapel and we—once a week. And we were assigned a seat in chapel and your seat was checked and you were supposed to have an excuse if you didn't go. And that was a time when people came together and people from the faculty maybe would talk or they'd bring in somebody else or whatever. It was a cohesive thing as far as students were concerned in that they had more feeling for the university as a place and they knew more about what things were going on. And it was—it had cultural advantages in that they brought in—I can remember, well, I couldn't tell you what year it was, but it was while I was there, that people such as Mark—Margaret—Martha Graham [American modern dancer and choreographer] who just died, was there, you know, gave a concert, you know. People like, who else? Ted Shawn [one of the first notable male pioneers of American dance] was there. I kind of remember the names of some of these people.

MF: Yes.

LW: But they have lived on for years, but you see they were young, I mean as, when I was there as opposed to now. I mean Martha Graham was like ninety something years old, I think, when she lived—Last month she died, wasn't it?

MF: Yes, I think. Or the month before.

LW: But I mean it was this kind of thing that I thought was valuable and we were supposed to go. Now people, I'm sure they have things there now but people don't go.

MF: Yes.

LW: Because they're not—These were things with the—well, in addition to these they had things that were not in the chapel but these—I'm trying to remember some of the other things and people that were there.

MF: With the concert lecture series?

LW: There was a concert, yes. And the music, Mr. Dean [Wade] Brown I think his name was, was the dean of the medical—of the Music School. And I, when I go to concerts now, I go with one of my friends who also went to school there, Louise Horner [Class of 1934]

was in the class after me. She lives here in Chapel Hill and we go to things together. I said, "Lordy, Wade Brown would turn over in his grave if he saw the way these people dress and the way they act when they come to concerts."

MF: [laughs]

LW: Because golly, he would lecture us about what you were supposed to do, how you were supposed to act and you know, you just weren't—If you went to a concert, you weren't supposed to go in your everyday work clothes. You were supposed to dress to go to the concert. You never left the—your—the seat when there was somebody, an artist was on the stage. All of these things that people do now—just are anathema to me because I was taught not to do this. And these are things that I think were lost. I don't know whether anybody's told you all these things before or not. I'm probably repeating a lot.

MF: Bits and pieces but every time I talk with somebody I get a more uniform picture of different things.

LW: Yes. Well, then another thing was, I don't know whether they have this or not, there was a feeling of unity among classes.

MF: Yes.

LW: I don't know whether there's that or not now. But when we were sophomores, I think, was when every class got their leather jackets. And I was a blue class. And so we had blue leather jackets and you had, of course, the college seal on them. But you knew what class you were in by whatever jackets you wore but that was a big day when you got—

MF: That lasted until 1972. It was Class of '72 that did away with a lot of the traditions like jackets and class officers, class day, sister classes. They did away with a lot of that, Class of '72.

LW: And then in addition to that, there were the things like—oh, what were the names of the Dikes [Dikean Literary Society] and—

MF: Oh, the societies?

LW: The societies. And I'm sure they don't have those now.

MF: No, they actually have a Greek system on campus that started, I thought it started in the seventies but I think it started around '80 or '81.

LW: Well, I just don't think—I mean I didn't grow up in a Greek system and so I don't think that people need that. But maybe they do.

MF: I don't know much about the fraternity and sorority system there. It's still maybe ten years old.

LW: I think this is an attempt to be a big something and this is what I dislike—

MF: Sure.

LW: —is now that from—and I told [Weston] Hatfield [UNCG development officer] this. I said now it seems to me they're trying to make a big, they want to be a big college, a big university or whatever. I said "I am not interested in they're being a big anything. I want it to be a good small something. "

MF: Yes.

LW: I mean because I think that these people who come in are trying to build a monument to themselves and I dislike that. The thing when I went there was it was started by, of course, we had only had two presidents, I think, when I got there because there was [Dr. Charles Duncan] McIver and then there was Dr. [Julius Isaac] Foust.

MF: Dr. Foust, yes.

LW: Actually, Dr. Foust was the president when I was there. [laughs] I remember one time when I was a freshman getting a telephone call for me to call Dr. Foust's office. That was when my daddy was on the board of trustees [laughs] and scared me to death.

MF: Yes.

LW: And what would the president's office want to call me about? And what he was inviting me was over dinner so I got to go to his house for dinner.

MF: Oh, wow.

LW: But the university had been built, except for a couple of people like that, and there was a man who was the treasurer for years. What was his name? I can't remember whether it was [Edward J.] Forney.

MF: Forney?

LW: No. Somebody, Forney was he, anyway—

MF: There was a Forney.

LW: Yes, right. You know, I'm pulling things out of my air but—

MF: Oh, sure.

LW: But anyway for the most part the teachers were women and they were devoted women. And I think that it was a women's college and it was run for the most part by women and taught, the teaching was for the most part was women. And they were dedicated and they

were good teachers and I resent the fact now that I look at the things that I get from them and now most of the people are men. And I think that this is wrong and I told—and this maybe shouldn't go in there—but I, you can't put it in your book—

MF: [laughs]

LW: I told Hatfield and Audrey [Stone, UNCG development officer]; I said well, you know, there was all this, this, well, difference of opinions anyway. Whatever you want to call it between [Chancellor William E.] Moran—

MF: Oh, sure.

LW: —and the alumni. And I said I think he's stupid and I dislike him because that school was built by the women and that school through the years has been promoted by the women alums and I said if he strikes up a fight with the alums he is stupid.

MF: Yes.

LW: And I dislike him for doing that because he is trying to build himself up and I said I just don't like this. Plus the fact that everybody that comes in is a man. Now I am not one of these hell fire kind of women alums that will go out and walk in the streets and stuff like that but I feel like that that was wrong for them—I mean, I thought it was a lack of good sense for him to strike up a fight with the people who had helped to build that school.

MF: Yes, I see what you are saying exactly, yes.

LW: I mean—

MF: It doesn't seem real logical.

LW: Because for years they were the ones behind it and now, of course—Anyway, we had during my sophomore year I guess, was when all the banks closed, all that stuff.

MF: Oh, yes.

LW: And that's when, for two years, for one year, maybe it was two years, that we had a few men on campus as students. [Editor's note: In the 1932/33 academic year, there were about seventy-five men on campus as day students.] But for the most part the whole four years I was there it was just strictly women. And during those years when we had the men, they just—they were just there. And they didn't make a big difference one way or the other.

MF: Yes.

LW: But there were so few of them. But at any rate, I don't know whether that was the first year of when the bank closed or was the next year, but there were some men there. But

few. I know of one girl that—some of the girls dated those guys but not a whole lot. And some of them, I think maybe, ended up marrying some of those boys but there weren't that many.

MF: Yes.

LW: And another thing was that we had in the dining rooms, we had table assignments.

MF: Oh, yes.

LW: And a senior would be assigned a table and you were assigned a table for maybe a semester or something like that.

MF: What do you mean?

LW: A senior would be, you know, you always had—

MF: In charge of it?

LW: Well, they would, they didn't have any real power over anybody but—

MF: Right.

LW: But they just had, they were always assigned, I think it was one senior to each table.

MF: Sort of to keep up with things.

LW: Yes. And make for a little more unity and you see, you had different people from different classes and they—this was somebody they could refer to—information, whatever. But I'm sure. I think you would have a senior for a year. I mean, for a semester. Once, you know—

MF: And then it would trade off?

LW: Then they would—I don't think there was more than one senior. But then of course, toward—I'm trying to remember—seems like toward the end we might have had some that you could—I'm trying to remember at breakfast, did we go down, go down a line, you know, and pick up stuff. I think maybe you did partly but you, you did have people that would serve things at the table, you know.

MF: Yes.

LW: And some of the students—I knew of one, a girl, one of my friends had a niece and she was one of these that worked in the kitchen. I don't know if they have anybody like that now working as help.

MF: Yes, some campus jobs that you can get and so forth.

LW: Well, these were people that, I can remember, they would bring food from the kitchen to the tables.

MF: Yes.

LW: I mean, we just had tables—I think we only did that at night, I believe.

MF: Yes, I think that's how it worked. One of the things I want to ask you is what it was about the small school atmosphere that was special to you because you had mentioned that earlier, a little bit earlier, about it being small, that there was something really special about that.

LW: Well, I think you knew more people and you knew each—you knew people from your own class but you knew people from other classes and we all went to the post office. As I remember the post office was—well, it moved. At one time it used to be—it was in, what it is now the—I guess I—things have changed. I don't know what to even call them now, "The office." But there was a central post office and of course, that's where everybody went and that's where you saw everybody.

MF: Yes.

LW: But you saw everybody at other things. We had big May Day things, you know, and all of this kind of stuff that people were participating in and we had—well, they're not playmakers, whatever they were. Playmakers are here. But people knew the folks that were doing the—well, they knew the folks that were into sports and it was, it was more of a feeling of unity, I think, than you would have now. I don't know, since I'm not there now. [chuckles]

MF: No, I agree. You're probably very right. Also one of the things that was—what I picked up that was really stressed was a feeling of the importance of service work.

LW: Oh yes, oh yes. This was what the university—that university had been built for is that you give back. And it was paying back time. And you were supposed to do something in—whether it was your job or whether you were just community, you were supposed to do community work and do for other people and that sort of thing. That was very important, yes.

MF: What kinds of things, activities, sort of maybe centered on campus that were designed to sort of create that service atmosphere? I think, wasn't there—was the campus Y[WCA], the little Y Hut there yet?

LW: There was a Y place off from the campus that you could go for a weekend.

MF: All right.

LW: Sign up for a cabin and go for a weekend.

MF: And I know some of the churches in the area would come in and take students to—

LW: Oh yes. Well, I used to go to the Church of the Covenant, which was on Walker Avenue, not close, but my uncle was a minister there. And so, but the First Presbyterian Church used to come out there with buses and take people because it was a long way away. And I remember recently going on a trip with people from Chapel Hill and we went to the First Presbyterian Church on that trip and people that were with me on that trip remarked about when—these were people who live here in Chapel Hill but they were, well, one of them was here I think she said she graduated in '41, and somebody else was there. These were people that were after me by a few years but they live here in Chapel Hill. And they mentioned the fact, of the fact that they always went there to church because people—folks went and brought them there on buses and that sort of thing. And they remember that very distinctly and with a lot of feeling.

MF: Yes.

LW: But a lot of people from the university went, well, some went to the Church of the Covenant because they could walk there and some of those people I know that went there. But my first cousin was in my class also and she was the daughter of the minister there. So she, of course, went there. But then there were—one of my friends was very active in an Episcopal group on the campus. I mean, it was Episcopal—did they have a house or something up on Walker Avenue too? I believe—

MF: Yes.

LW: That was a student, sort of student center for them.

MF: Yes, a lot of—there are a lot of those sort of student centers on campus now, like the Presby House.

LW: Yes, well, they had one then and—

MF: I think that was the only one, wasn't it? The only—

LW: I don't know. But I know Polly Tatem [Class of 1933] was one—was in my class and she was always one that was going to that place. But, and I guess there were others also but I can't remember right away. But we also had very active, you know, class teams of various kinds and everybody always went to the big things in the spring when they had competition and that sort of thing.

MF: Yes.

LW: I never played on any of those teams but you knew that the good players and there was a lot of feeling for your team. And of course, I'm interested in sports, but I'm not interested

in UNCG being a big sports person. I mean, I'm not going to give any money to UNCG to be a big sports place.

MF: Oh, you mean the Division I athletics?

LW: Yes. I don't think they need—they say they need it. But I don't see that they need it.

MF: Yes.

LW: And I'm a sports fan here but—I go to all the football games, basketball games, that sort of thing but that's something that has been here for a long time and they are—and living in Chapel Hill it's much more fun to know these people. Of course, you see them every day. It's just they're big stars with some of these people outside of town but they're just everybody else. They're just like us here, you know.

MF: Yes.

LW: And but I'm not interested—I don't think UNCG needs it. I know the people there think that this is something that gets them students. I don't think that gets them students. I think a good school gets them—a good academic school gets them students. And I don't see that they need to go spending a lot of money that way because I think that they have, through the years they've got a name for themselves. And I told people I'm not going to give them any money for sports. Never, never. And so I guess—I think that the people in Greensboro, the city of Greensboro wants it. And they are pushing for it.

MF: Oh sure, sure.

LW: But heck, if they want it let them pay for it, you know.

MF: [laughs]

LW: It's the business people. Because Greensboro hasn't got anything really. They used to have Cone Mills, or whatever, and Cone Mills is not as big as they used to be. I don't know what else they've got there that, big name things, but they're competing with Winston and Charlotte and Raleigh for a name.

MF: I think they've got a couple of textile companies still.

LW: And so I don't, I don't feel the need of that for UNCG.

MF: How did you feel when it became a co-educational, you know, they admitted men in the '60s?

LW: Well, those of us who went to school there when it was Woman's College would rather it had stayed that way.

MF: Oh, sure.

LW: [laughs]

MF: What was it about an all-girls school that a lot of people tell me there was something about an all-girls school that was really beneficial to them, that gave them something they couldn't have gotten at any other school?

LW: Well, I think that in schools where you have both men and women that the men usually lorded over the women and they don't get the experience of being leaders that they got in a women's school.

MF: Yes, that's usually what I hear. And following that same note, student government during that time was really important.

LW: Oh yes, yes. And, see student government in any school now it seems, even now on this campus for example, I can remember when they had a women's honor council, a men's honor council here back, well, let's see, what year would this be, like in the '50s. And one of my—see I was over in the university and had students under me, but one of my students who's now a PhD of the university here, then she's a worldwide authority in her field on chlamydia, she was the president of the Women's Honor Council on this campus. I mean, you see, that was a—

MF: At Chapel Hill?

LW: Yes. But, and so, she was very good at it because she spoke well on her feet. She still does. She did a very good presentation of research program on something I went to about a month ago. And so, you see, you do get that experience of leading people and talking on your feet and that sort of thing that you don't get otherwise. And I know, I don't know what goes on up there socially but I can remember that well, the societies always had their social things. Then, after say the first semester, the people who were on the honor roll, they had a big tea, whatever, you know, reception kind of thing for them. I remember my mother came up there because I was—and she was invited. You know, it was a big deal.

MF: Yes.

LW: What they have like that now I don't know as far as unifying.

MF: Yes.

LW: But North—UNCG, North Carolina NCCW [North Carolina College for Women] as it was originally, I know, well, they're dead now but people that went to school there then, they went on and did—one of these people that I knew that was in Class of 1916 or something like that, went to a women's medical school in Philadelphia and then, and got her MD and she was a missionary in China for forty years. She taught in a, she taught in a

school, medical school, taught pediatrics in a medical school in China for forty years and then when she retired from that she came to Chapel Hill. That's when I knew her. And she said she was run out of China twice, once by the, once by the Japs and once by the Communists. And because after she came out from the Japs came in, then she went back. And see, she came out when the Communists. So I knew her and she was a student there. Another one who was in the Class of 1913 was a teacher, and a good one. She taught in North Carolina and she went to New York. She taught in I don't know how many different girls schools or whatever in New York and was a very well rounded person, you know, and had a lot of feeling for people.

MF: Yes.

LW: And I think when I was there that the professors—we knew some of them, you know. Katherine Taylor [Class of 1928, French professor, dean of women, dean of students, and dean of student services], you probably know her. She's retired now but she—somebody said she was sick now. But she taught me my freshman year. Taught me French my freshman year. And you knew—she lived on the campus or very close to it and she was always over there and into all these things that people on the campus were doing. You know, she was almost—she was young, so she was almost the age of some of the students there and she was just very active with students. My love was Dr.—Miss Florence Schaeffer, who was a chemistry teacher. And she was really sort of shy. [laughs]

MF: [laughs]

LW: But if you got to know her she wasn't. And a couple of, two of my friends who were also chemistry students, we got to know her and somebody called us the three graces. And then somebody else—another lady that was sort of, had a way with words, she said, "No, the three disgraces." But anyway, it was that kind of a feeling and Miss Schaeffer, we, she was not at that time, she was not the chairman of the department but she got to be later, but she was the kind that we would go, the ones that knew her well and she wasn't scared of, [laughs] we'd go run back there to talk to her and that sort of thing. And one of my friends, one of these three people that we always loved her, she, she, well, she was a good student but she got lax and Miss Schaeffer liked her very much but she flunked her.

MF: Oh, no!

LW: And everybody knew that Miss Schaeffer was firm and fair.

MF: Yes.

LW: And, I mean the fact that she flunked Melba, and so what did Melba do? She went out and worked for a few years. She came back and got her degree later, invited me up there to her graduation, that sort of thing. So it was. It was kind of a feeling that you have and Miss Schaeffer for years, we always got Christmas cards back and forth and you know, that kind of thing. She died a few years ago of—and I had sort of lost count of her for a while. I didn't know what had happened to Miss Schaeffer. Somebody said, "Well, she's

in some nursing home or something in Greensboro." So finally I found out where she was and—

MF: Friends Home [retirement community], I think, wasn't she?

LW: Well, she's dead now.

MF: I know, but I think she was at Friends Home.

LW: Well, I can't remember the name of it was but I finally found her and went to see her. And at that time, she could hardly—I don't know whether she had had a slight stroke or not. But I—I think she knew me.

MF: Oh, good.

LW: She—when I walked in, she smiled and I talked to her and talked to her about things that we knew, both of us knew about and I think she knew me. But that was not too long—a couple of years before she died. But one time, after she retired, I had gone to see her. She lived in an apartment on, not on Walker Avenue, it was somewhere near the college. What was the name of that?

MF: McIver Street? McIver Street?

LW: Might have been McIver. No, McIver is the one—

MF: Down near Tate [Street], yes.

LW: It's on Tate maybe. No, Tate. I'm trying to remember. Tate goes—is it perpendicular to Walker Avenue? Tate?

MF: Yes.

LW: No, the one that goes down by the music, the one that goes down by the [Brown] Music Building.

MF: Let's see Walker and then McIver would come up Walker.

LW: Okay, I don't know anyway.

MF: Maybe it was McIver Street. But it might have been called something different.

LW: Might have been McIver Street.

MF: Might have changed names.

LW: Well, you see there was—this was the street that goes down by where Walker Avenue

comes in here and then there's a street that they, Walker Avenue that they've now closed. But this is a street down here. Walker Avenue came in here and this street came here and that—Walker Avenue went that way and they closed Walker Avenue up here, haven't they?

MF: Yes.

LW: Yes. Well, see that was not closed when I was there.

MF: Yes, and there was like a bridge too, wasn't there?

LW: Yes, yes, right. Bridge over the top there where they now have everything.

MF: Oh sure, a lot of building, yes.

LW: But I did go to see Miss Schaeffer when she was in her, after she retired in that apartment. And we had a nice visit. But I always loved her and a lot of people did.

MF: Yes.

LW: I don't think she got the recognition that she should have gotten when she died but for a long time I wrote them ugly letters saying so one time to the Department of Chemistry.

MF: [laughs] I've heard her name several times.

LW: I mean one time when, well, that's when Jane Joyner was on the board of the something up there. And I told Jane, I said, "Damnit, you all should have given Miss Schaeffer some recognition as the professor of the year or whatever and you gave it to somebody else and I'm mad." So she remembers that. [laughs]

MF: [laughs] Well, you certainly don't have a problem telling people what you think, right?

LW: What?

MF: I'm just telling—this is the same thing my husband says to me. "You certainly don't have a problem telling people what you think." That's what my husband says to me.

LW: Well, that's what Hatfield says. Well, he says, "You had strong feelings but you don't mind saying so."

MF: Well, that's good. My husband always teases me about that because I'll just come right out and say it.

LW: Well, I don't know.

MF: I think that's a good way to be.

LW: Well, I guess when I was little I was very, very shy. I don't know when I got so I wasn't.
[laughs]

MF: [laughs]

LW: But I dealt with a lot of students and in a position where you have to tell them what you think.

MF: Yes.

LW: And you try to do it in a nice way and I think, for the most part, they always accepted it pretty well. I mean, if you're in a position where you're supposed to do that and you don't do that then you're neglecting your duty, I think.

MF: Oh sure.

LW: I mean, you see, I was in laboratory and you—there are a lot of other things like history, I don't think there would be as demanding as far as the exact correctness of something, you know, every day. But when you're in a lab it's got to be done and done correctly every day.

MF: Yes.

LW: And the people have to be brought up to realize this. That you're dealing with somebody else's life, which is not true of a lot of other things.

MF: Yes. I've written down on a note here somebody else that I've interviewed that said something about the [Carnegie] Library having a fire in '32 and that they had to move all the books across the street into the Students' Building. Do you remember anything about that?

LW: I remember that they had a fire in McIver [Building].

MF: In McIver. See, I asked somebody else about that—

LW: Right at commencement. Right at commencement. And that was the year, it was '33, it was the year that I—wait now—was it the year I graduated? I think it was. Anyway, they had it in McIver in the room with a lot of chemicals and stuff.

MF: Yes.

LW: And they came and got Miss Schaeffer out of the line. She had on her regalia things, you know, to walk in procession.

MF: Yes.

LW: They came and got her out of the line because they had this fire in McIver and they wanted to be sure that they didn't put water on—

MF: On the, yes.

LW: —on the fire because the water with some of those chemicals would be terrible.

MF: Right.

LW: And so Miss Schaeffer had to go and tell the firemen what to do.

MF: Wow!

LW: I'm sure—I know that's true.

MF: Yes.

LW: I don't know if you got the papers that you can go back and check on.

MF: Oh, sure, they have everything in the [University] Archives.

LW: I know that's true because I was there. And at commencement, I can remember when I was a sophomore, I guess it was, that I was one of the ones, I don't know who choose me, anyway, to carry the flowers. You know, we went out and picked—

MF: The Daisy Chain?

LW: Daisy Chain.

MF: Yes.

LW: And people that were doing this, you know, I know it was my sophomore year, that you stayed on. You didn't go home, you stayed on because you went out and picked the daisies and came back in and made the chain and we made such one that was really heavy. It was beautiful. But that was, I don't know whether they still do that or not, but.

MF: No, I think that was another thing that went out with the Class of '72.

LW: Yes, right.

MF: I guess they thought that they were moving into a more sophisticated university lifestyle.

LW: Well, that was very colorful, very nice.

MF: I think there's been an effort to bring back the Daisy Chain and several other traditions

but—

LW: Do they have a May Day thing?

MF: No, they have a thing now, sort of a homecoming in the fall for, along with the soccer schedule.

LW: They used to have a May Day, big wing ding on May day and they had—one year they had it down in the park. Another year they had it on the front campus in front of the main building there. And of course they used to have, and I don't know in the spring, all the spiraea was always beautiful—

MF: Yes.

LW: —and over there on Walker, on Tate Street in front of that building. I don't know what they have there now.

MF: Yes, you mean in front of Foust [Building]? Yes, they have a lot of trees down in that—

LW: I know but over on—over in front of Foust, over on the street.

MF: Oh, okay, there's a big hedge.

LW: Yes, well the hedge was a spiraea hedge and in the spring that was always real pretty.

MF: Yes, it's really huge.

LW: And the one year I think, that I remember, they had the May Day down there.

MF: Yes.

LW: But that was a big deal. I was—this brings back the thing—I hadn't thought about that fire but I remember very definitely about that fire.

MF: Yes.

LW: I think it—I'm trying to remember. It seems to me like it was my senior year.

MF: Yes.

LW: But it was when the people were going to the commencement exercises.

MF: Bad timing.

LW: Yes. And I think Miss Schaeffer was already dressed and they came and got her.

MF: Yes. I know there's probably something I'm forgetting. That usually happens.

LW: I don't know what you're interested in.

MF: Mostly just, you know, about your experience as a student at a women's school, which is—you've told me a whole lot about. Exactly what you've been telling me about is what I'm interested in, so—

LW: Well, I, you know, I'll think, "Well, golly why didn't I tell her about so and so."

MF: Oh—

[End of Interview]