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Interview no. 666

Louise Resley Wiggins

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Louise Resley Wiggins
INTERVIEWER: Rebecca Craver
PROJECT: History of the University
DATE OF INTERVIEW: February 23, 1984
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO.: 666
TRANSCRIPT NO.: 666

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Student at the College of Mines and Metallurgy in the 1930s and 1940s; later became a Math instructor until the late 1950s, when she became Dean of Women and Assistant Dean of Students.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Beginning of her career at UTEP with the Math Department; activities as Assistant Dean of students; social life on the campus; student unrest; minority students.

Length of interview: 50 minutes Length of transcript: 29 pages

Louise Resley Wiggins
by Rebecca Craver
February 23, 1984

C: Was it Texas Western when you started?

W: It was called College of Mines and Metallurgy when I started teaching, math.

/PAUSE/

W: /I was/ called a tutor because there was no name for a person who just taught a class or two, and I was going to school with no idea of ever teaching math. I was majoring in education and hoping to just get a job teaching in a public school and had not decided what subject I'd rather teach. I was taking math from Dr. Knapp and at that time the football boys were nearly all failing their math, and they needed a tutor so Dr. Knapp asked me to tutor the football team.

C: And you think this was in '41 or '42?

W: Yes. Because uh, let's see, I guess I entered here in '38 and the fall of '38 and then '39 and '40-'41 came along so I must have started in '42 tutoring, just teaching the football team. I was living in one of the dormitories then which was Benedict Hall and the football boys would come down there and we'd take over the living room and I would teach them the math that they were taking under somebody else. I wasn't teaching it then, I was tutoring. Finally, we got a classroom. Dr. Knapp offered me a job teaching math if I would go ahead and take my Master's degree and take some more courses in math which I did. I did not take a Master's in Math because I didn't have the proper background. I took

it in Education with a major in Education and a minor in Math, and as soon as I got the degree I went on the permanent teaching staff as whatever they called us then.

C: Maybe instructor?

W: Instructor, yes.

C: Um hm.

W: And I taught math for, I think I went into administration in 1957 or '58 and I taught math that many years under Dr. Knapp and learned a lot more from him and teaching it than I ever did in a class.

C: Where was your office?

W: Up in Old Main. I officed with Dr. Knapp because I was his grader. I not only taught courses but I graded his, not all of his classes, but most of them. I was his protégé really because he taught me all I ever knew about math, frankly. Whatever I learned at the University of Texas was more or less in one ear and out the other, I'm afraid, because I did it so fast. I went in summer school and we would take the three-hours winter courses, three-semester-hour credit courses, and you only got two hours in the summer credit, but you took the same course.

C: Okay, now when you went into administration did you go in as Dean of Women?

W: I was Acting Dean of Women. The Dean of Women then was Betty Cosby and she decided to go away and study for her Ph.D. and they needed an interim person. I believe I had filled in before Betty came for Maxine Steele.

C: I think she told me that!

W: Yes. Yes, and then they hired Betty and I went on back to teaching and then Betty decided to leave and to start work on a Master's, intending to come back, so I was again acting or interim Dean, and Betty decided not to return and I applied for the position under Dr. Holcomb when he was President, but what year I /don't remember/. But anyway, that's how I became what was then called a Dean of Women. It was later called what else? Assistant Dean of Students and then somewhere in there the Dean of Students left, who was Clyde Kelsey, to go somewhere, South America or somewhere, and I became Acting Dean of Students for a semester. Then I went back when Jimmy Walker came in as Dean of Students, I was again Assistant Dean of Students, I think that was my title when I retired.

C: Well, how long was the title, Dean of Women, then?

W: Well, it was changed shortly after I went in because it was the fashionable thing to do then to have a Vice President as Dean of Students and an Assistant Dean of Students, and I would say I was the Dean of Women probably four or five years.

C: Um hm.

W: But I did the same things, the function of the office did not change.

C: What was the function of the office?

W: Well, at that time I considered it, and I'm not sure anybody else thought that's what it was, but to me the main purpose

of that office was to provide an extracurricular program so that there would be something available for every woman student who wanted to belong to any kind of an organization. Also, to be responsible for the behavior of the students in the dormitory. That was one of the big jobs and at that time we inaugurated, or it was already there, a government of the dormitories. We had a staff of officers who more or less determined or assisted in making the rules and enforcing them. It was largely their responsibility and in those days it was a tremendous organization, the way those young ladies handled their many, many problems and it was very seldom that the problems were solved in my office. They solved them. We had a marvelous dormitory head resident then, Mary White, who understood young ladies. We didn't have co-ed dorms. We had the men's dorm and we had the women's dorm.

C: Sure.

W: However, when I first worked out there I lived in that small dormitory, Benedict Hall. I lived in that hall and there were only twelve people in the hall including me, so it wasn't very much a problem, but it was interesting at that time because we had just started trying to inaugurate a student government in the dormitories and that's where I learned a lot about dormitories. Benedict Hall was built with WPA labor, is that the name of it?

C: Yeah.

W: Yeah, and we really didn't need it because we couldn't get

anybody to live in it. We didn't have that many out-of-town students, but it was an interesting experience. And then of course, Bell Hall was built later and Benedict Hall was turned into all sorts of things. I can't, during the war it was rented out to married students even, and I had nothing to do with it during that period of time, and couples lived there. Then Bell Hall was built and it was built as a women's dormitory and the men's dormitory was Hudspeth over across the way.

C: Um hm.

W: Oh, it was a problem to fill the dorms. We went on recruiting trips every spring and fall.

C: Where would you go?

W: All over this end of west Texas and into Hobbs and Carlsbad and just meet with high school students and not really to fill dormitories, it was to get students. Clyde Kelsey, Jimmy Walker, and quite a few people were involved in it, Tom Chism. At the time we started that, Maxine Steel was Dean of Women I think, when that really became an effective situation, and when I went in, of course I just fell into that sort of thing. Later on, all of the functions of the Dean of Students Office changed. I had scholarships--the administration of the scholarship program was eventually moved to my office. I was even in charge of commencement one year and had to make all of those arrangements. So we just did most anything in those days that needed doing and nobody else wanted to do. Students were then beginning to

want, whether they needed it not, less and less counseling, so the idea of a Dean of Women being a woman to whom women students went for help or counseling, that gradually disappeared. The counseling service was developed and they took over most of the person-to-person counseling. I sometimes had dormitory students, but as far as counseling students who lived here and had always lived here, there was very little contact between those students and a Dean of Women.

C: Now there were dorm hours back in that time.

W: Oh, yes. At one time I think we had curfew in Benedict Hall I think it was nine o'clock, ten o'clock. We had a lot of unenforceable rules. Let's face it, there was no way on earth to enforce some of the rules that we had, so we just sort of got by, and didn't have any serious problems. We had a few panty raids and that was when Dr. Wiggins was here. But I was thinking this morning about, "Well, what did I really contribute when I was in that office?" And I suppose that if I had to put anything at the top of the list, I spent a great deal of time bringing in organizations, installing organizations. Mortar Board was my greatest pride, is my greatest pride, but I did not begin that. Dr. Elkins and Maxine Steele, I think in 1952, I remember that year, an organization was formed with the sole purpose of having it become Mortar Board at sometime, called Chenrizig. Maxine Steele may have told you about this.

C: She didn't tell me.

W: Well, I was their sponsor, but I was at that time teaching math, so I was teaching math in '52 for sure, and I was the, every organization had to have a faculty sponsor and I sponsored Chenrizig and several other uh...

C: Now how do you spell that?

W: C-h-e-n-r-i-z-i-g. Now somewhere in the files that I left with UTEP, which were voluminous, I think they've all been destroyed, would be the history of that organization and somewhere in the library they found a book on Tibet and Tibetan architecture (you know that is the story of the college, really of the University) and in some of the research that they did they learned that there was a princess in Tibet called Chenrizig who was a very learned, studious person, so that's how the name Chenrizig got attached to Mortar Board, and there never was any other purpose to Mortar Board other than bringing it along. To become a member of Mortar Board there had to have been an organization for so many years, I think five, functioning on the campus which promoted scholarship among women students, but we started applying. Maxine, I believe and Dr. Elkins turned in the first application for Chenrizig to become a member of National Mortar Board which is a very prestigious organization.

C: Yes.

W: And from 1952 until the time that organization was installed, we were filling out these pages and pages and pages of applications and being turned down every year. Finally, they

just told us not to apply again for two years. And I thought at that time, well that's it, never again will we spend time trying to get into Mortar Board because in the meantime up the road here, New Mexico Aggies had applied and had been accepted! And here we still were working it out and the only reason, I went to all the national conventions, the Dean of Women's conventions, was because I always talked to the people in charge of Mortar Board and I never got a real answer out of them except that somewhere along the line I got the impression that one of the reasons we were having trouble getting in to this organization was because we were a branch of the University of Texas at Austin.

C: Oh, I see.

W: We were not a full-fledged university. Well, at that time we were still called a college and because of the name, College of Mines and Metallurgy, Mortar Board being strictly a women's organization, it just seemed out of place to this group of high-powered women who decided who would be in the Mortar Board. But we kept at it persistently until eventually we did gain notice and we became a part of national.

C: That's great.

W: And also I worked with Alpha Lambda Delta which is an honorary freshman women's organization and Miss Cosby had started that when I went into the office, but it

took us three or four years to get that organization, but also Spurs, which was a sophomore women's group. We organized some honorary, I mean, some service groups Cardinal Key, Spurs. We also brought in a business women's fraternity and social fraternities and sororities were coming and going at the time, and when I went in we only had three, Zeta Tau Alpha, Chi Omega, Tri Delta. Kappa Delta came in and Gamma. Oh, at one time there were seven women's sororities on the campus. Two were for black students. We even were successful in getting those, and I don't think any of them lasted. I don't believe there are any over there now, but I'm not sure. We also had a Jewish sorority and I can't think of the name of that group. It was quite active, but it never got off the ground because there were not enough Jewish girls who were interested and it sort of dissipated and left the campus. Tri Delta was the last one to leave, but the others, it was very difficult to get girls interested in a sorority because the majority of them lived at home and their ties were to their churches and their high school organizations. So it's always been a battle to have enough girls in the sorority to justify the number that we had on campus, and you know at that time the three main groups had houses on campus. Well, that almost meant the end of any other group that didn't have a house on campus because naturally a girl can, out there at the school was more impressed with the lodges and houses on campus.

They never housed the girls but they were meeting places, they met in those places and had kitchens and had their rush over there, so that's one reason the campus never really became sorority-oriented.

I doubt that there are a hundred women now in sorority and we never had more than about 150.

C: Somebody told me that in the fifties the social life on campus really revolved around the sororities.

W: That's right. It did, and that was one of the things that I was trying to change because that's all there was. There weren't any other women's organizations. We also did something which I think was of very great value and I think it's one of the greatest losses that the Women's program suffered. We belonged to, or joined, Associated Women's Students, which is of course a national collegiate women's association and it was one of the most interesting and tremendous groups of young ladies that I ever had anything to do with. They had a national convention every year and I also of course attended the National Dean of Women's convention and to go to those two conventions and see these young college women get up and legislate and hold meetings of 800 and 900 young women and do it so smoothly and well, and then go to the Dean of Women's convention and here were all of us old ladies, practically, no they weren't but the young women, the AWS was such a vital organization, well-informed about everything under the sun, politically, nationally, state wise, and not only nationally

but world-wide information those girls had was really something. But of course when this thing came in about equal, you know, every organization had to have both men and women and if you could not have women's you could not have men's. The men on campus at that time, who were in student government, decided that AWS had no place on campus. It was organized not as AWS but it was once called a co-ed council. I'm having to refresh my memory on this. Because that was already in operation when I went into that office and they were funded by the College. A certain amount of student activity funds were allocated to this organization.

C: I see.

W: And they published a book, information book on women's organizations and opportunities that was really something, but to be able to do that they had to have money. Well, immediately when the money was cut off, this meant the end of the Co-ed Council. AWS was made up and, so was Co-ed Council of officers, or appointed officers from every woman's organization and then some members at large. So it was a representation of the entire women's group on campus and it gave those girls who lived at home and had no way of getting into any sort of activity on campus a way to find out what was there, what was available, and I think it just did a great deal of good but I'm sure it's gone, well, since before I retired it was gradually phased out.

C: So probably in the late sixties?

W: Um hm. Well, I retired in '73.

C: It's a sign of the times.

W: And I think it was gone by that time. But my duties had changed so much. I as the Dean of Women, I was sponsor of Panhellenic, which was the organization of the presidents of the sororities. That was a time-consuming affair, but from the University of Texas came the word that the Dean of Women, or whatever she was called at that time, should not spend all of her time with sororities, that sororities should hire their own advisors, so I gradually had to phase that out and I think the Dean of Women now has done the same thing. Judy Solis, Assistant Dean, I think she sponsors this group, and they moved their offices off the campus of the University of Texas. When I retired, I was not replaced for three or four years and the sororities just had to sort of run their own organizations. They didn't have any sponsor, but finally they did hire, after three years I think, they did hire, one. In the meantime, some of the city Panhellenic ladies would help the sororities with Rush and the things that they had to do.

C: Tell me some about dances, teas, some of the parties.

W: Well, way back in those days there was a student association which sponsored weekly ballroom dances.

C: Really?

W: Yes, and Co-ed Council, their big event of the year was the co-ed Ball, which was held just before Christmas, just

before we let out for the Christmas holidays. This was the big affair of the year because all the gals could invite the boys and that was usually a beautiful dance. It was a program dance in those days.

C: Ohhh.

W: And everybody who could get a date was there and these Saturday night dances were well attended. Girls wore formals and then when the fraternities and sororities started having their formals, they were usually held before Christmas. But the big event of the year was this Co-ed Ball and girls would spend days decorating that ballroom and I remember once when they had it put in Holliday Hall when Vera Wise was an art instructor here, or the head of the art department, and she worked with them and it was always just a fairyland. You wouldn't believe how they could do, what that hall would look like but of course that all went when the student revolutions and uprising, nobody wanted to belong to anything. There was a time when Mortar Board girls were turning down invitations to belong to Mortar Board. Sorority girls didn't wear their pins out in public. Nobody wanted to belong to anything. And it was difficult to keep those organizations alive during that time. And a lot of them went by the board. There was another group that was interesting that we brought on, Phrateres, which was an organization of girls who either could not afford the Greek sororities or did not want to belong to them. It was patterned after the Greek sorority and the headquarters were in San Diego,

California, I think, and it was really at one time a tremendous organization because at that time there were no Jewish sororities, there were no black sororities, there were no girls of Syrian or Syrian descent who could belong to anything because they were barred from sororities themselves, but they could all belong to this Phrateres. And at one time it was spelled P-h-r-a-t-e-r-e-s. It meant friendship and this woman who organized it did it solely for the purpose of giving the girl an opportunity to have a part in campus activities and belong to some sort of an organization. Now, that's been gone for a long time, too. Funny thing about that, a man called me the other day and said there is an account in one of these banks (forgotten which one it is) in the name of the organization of Phrateres, and it was enough money to, (course that was his business to find out what to do with it and then he got a commission), and I gave him the names of the girls who were in that organization, and I presume they did do something with it, but that organization did a lot of good. They had teas and they had luncheons and as far as just student teas, I don't think there were any that I can think of. Most of that type of thing was done by the individual groups in trying to get members. They had teas, but they were membership getting affairs, and as far as being something to which anyone on campus that wanted to go was invited, I can't remember that we ever had anything of that sort.

- C: Well, there were teas for women faculty and staff, weren't there? Maybe the sororities...
- W: The faculty's women's club was organized about in there somewhere and, yes, they had teas and luncheons for faculty wives and that group is still a very active group, and then somewhere way back in there the women's auxiliary was organized and they've always had four or five large functions and in those days most of them were held on campus. After the union was built, they were usually held on campus. Now they're held in homes out over the city that are, oh, some of them are held in the President's home, and always the President's home was open to auxiliary functions, I don't know. We didn't, the homes were not really large enough in those days as the President's home was to entertain a large group of students, but in those days way back there, we had assemblies every week of the entire college population. What did we call them? We used to meet up in Holliday Hall.
- C: Really?
- W: Um hm, once a week on Wednesday mornings, I think, at 11 o'clock. I remember those things. They had programs and brought in speakers and you were supposed to go as a student or a faculty member.
- C: Everyone on campus?!
- W: Uh huh, everybody was supposed to go. I can remember one instance that sticks in my mind and I'm sure this has no

value as a historical item, but the word got out that they were bringing Clark Gable in to be speaker at one of the assemblies and somebody asked Gladys Gregory if she was going and her response was that she just wasn't interested in going to see Clark Gable. Now why of all those things that sticks in my mind, I don't know, but it does.

C: Maybe their attendance was falling off. (Laughs)

W: I don't know. (Laughs) But he didn't come. I don't remember Clark Gable ever appearing up there, but it was a smaller group of people and a close group of faculty in those days. We were, we knew everyone and the old faculty lounge, of course, was the gossip mill and everybody went in there at least twice a day. We must have consumed barrels of coffee.

C: Where was that located?

W: It's where the student, Vice-President of Student Affairs, or whatever they call him now, it was in that area in there.

C: I see.

W: There's one room set aside for a faculty lounge about the size maybe twice as large as this room with long tables down in the middle. Everybody sat around and of course over in the corner there were tables of chess players and coffee was over there. You'd go in and get your coffee and put your money in a little cup and I don't think, the name of the manager of the cafeteria was Chuck somebody and

I think he never really came out on his coffee but we always were supposed to pay for it, but that was the hub of the campus for faculty social interchange; that's where every...you went there and you rarely found it empty in the morning. In the afternoon it would be pretty well--well it was never empty in the morning, let's face it. Those people who didn't have 8 o'clock classes were in the faculty lounge at 8 o'clock, you can be sure.

C: What spelled the demise of that?

W: Well, the building was moved and changed.

/PAUSE/

W: Well, this was a very attractive place and we had a cafeteria line and we'd go through that line instead of going downstairs and going through the student line because it was never large enough even for the students downstairs and the one upstairs was never large enough for the faculty. Now I understand there is a faculty lounge.

C: Yeah.

W: It's a dining room, isn't it?

C: Yes, well, it's off the cafeteria area. Hardly anybody uses it.

W: They go into the student...

C: Well...

W: It looked too large to me. I wonder.

C: Yeah, it's not...

W: The Student Affairs Offices had Thanksgiving dinner up

there and invited me this year, and I went and I was amazed at the size of the room. It was filled that day, but I don't know where all those people came from. If there're that many people in Student Affairs, it certainly has grown tremendously since I was there.

C: Well, there are a lot. Well, in the late sixties when all the student demonstrations were taking place around the country, do you remember concern here?

M: Yes, they rioted one day and walked off the street in front of the administration building and threatened many times to go in and take over the administration building and may have done so, but on one particular day things were real tense. Gary Brooks was the Vice-President for Student Affairs and the students did gather in some sort of a picket line over in front of the administration building, but I think they just locked up the administration building. They couldn't get in. Well, that made them angry so they stomped around on top of cars and attacked a bus, city bus, that was bringing students out and nobody could get up and down the street and they finally got over to the union building and started making speeches and gathering out on that opening there that used to face the library and things got a little tense. They had to call, I believe, the city police may have come out but nothing really, no damage was really done. But it was a very unhappy, tense sort of situation.

C: Do you think there were outside agitators?

W: Yes. Fairly certain that they were because the Dean of Students found some material, printed material that was being distributed but did not originate here in El Paso. They were outside agitators coming in and registering as students, particularly in the black student areas. I don't believe the students we had at that time would have, were unhappy enough with their situation here to have made as much of an outcry as they did had they not been pushed into it because they were, no one was discriminated against over there. This has always been an open city and an open campus. I know when I was teaching math I walked into my first, the first year that black students were enrolled and I had, oh, ten or twelve black students in my freshman math class and I had been warned beforehand that I would have and nobody minded. I soon forgot that they were black and the others were white because we had some very brilliant black students. We had some that were tools of this unrest that was going around that were sent here but were not college material but they were given every opportunity to make it if they could, and I definitely feel having been here through all that time that there would have been nothing there. We had some very outstanding black students. Some of them had gone on to do some outstanding things. I can remember one girl in particular who was in my freshman math class who is now a teacher at, I don't know her name, I can't tell you that, but she's teaching at the medical

school in Galveston. And we had some very brilliant black students who've gone on to do a lot more than just play basketball.

C: Um hm.

W: And now I can't recall names but they came here and apparently liked it because they graduated, many of them.

C: What about the Mexican-Americans, were there any social organizations that were just their own or...?

W: Not social, social, social. I expect there were. As soon as the Chicano movement hit here they were given an office and they have a strong organization to this day, I presume.

C: I guess that's that MECHA.

W: But up until that time, for a while the Greek sororities did not take girls with Mexican names, Latin names I would say, but later they did, and now I would say half of each group is of Latin origin. That all dissipated.

C: Well, was it a real big deal when the first Mexican-American girl was admitted to a Greek sorority?

W: I think a lot of people took it that way, mostly alums. As far as the students themselves were concerned, they would have taken them anytime.

C: Sure.

W: They were governed by the alums. There was no feeling among the students themselves. That feeling was generated by the alums because nobody could take a girl into a sorority

until the alums agreed that she could be in there and the girls resented it and when it did happen, I think it just happened. We had Negro students admitted long before it became public knowledge.

C: Really?

W: I believe that Texas Western, was the first Texas college to admit black students. I've always believed that, but there's no way to prove it because you did not go into it at that time.

C: Yeah.

W: They just came and someone called me one night, I think whoever the vice president was, and said, "When you go into your math 304 section 9 in the morning, you're going to have some black students. Make as little show of it as possible." And that's the way it happened, and I don't think most of the people in El Paso knew we had black students out here.

C: Probably not.

W: They were glad to have them. The problems that came on our campus were always brought in, and I firmly believe this, from the outside. We were a border college. We wanted Mexican students. We had no feeling against the black students whatever. I knew the man who was in the Dean of Students Office, Walter...he was a delightful person. He was always the life of the party, but I can't remember his name. I don't know whether he left of his own accord or not. I believe he did go on and

study, to get a higher degree. I think he wanted a Ph.D. When I retired I'm sure there were quite a few. I didn't have a Negro as an instructor or a teacher when I was there in school, but before I retired we had quite a few. Some of them I understand were very good teachers and very well liked.

C: Sure. Well, do you remember any problems you had as the Dean of Women in the dorms, or any funny things?

W: Yes. Not very funny.

C: Okay, problems.

W: When the move came to integrate the dorms and the boys and the girls stayed in the same dorm, those of us in the administration more or less just said, "Well, they're doing it everywhere else. They're going it at the University of Texas. The students are pushing for it. We have no choice." And that's the way it happened. And, of course, about that time we had to do away with curfew. That gave us a lot of problems because of the two new dorms that were built right there on the border almost, we never felt that it was safe to leave those doors unlocked all night long. So, that gave us some problems.

C: Well, did you have one floor for the boys, one for the girls, like that?

W: Yes, I think so. I don't know. (Laughs) They probably integrated themselves. I'm sure they did. But boys lived in Kelly Hall and I suppose girls lived in Barry Hall, and it was quite a problem but it was allowed.

Wasn't anything you could do about it. As far as trying to enforce curfew, there were always ways to get in and out of that dormitory.

C: Yeah, yeah.

W: And I remember one occasion that has always given me a great deal of laughter and enjoyment. When we had six or seven residents in Benedict Hall and I was the head resident, I think curfew was 10 o'clock. Well, the dorm was a three floor, I believe it was a three or, the basement was the dining hall and there were three floors of rooms and on the bottom floor there was one room that we never put anybody in because there was a window that all you had to do was raise the window up and go out the window, which was being done constantly because we knew the girls well enough that when they came in at night they always came in to say goodnight. One night I knew, well, the window sill, where they crawled in and out all the paint had been worn off it because they'd crawled in and out so many times. So one night I went into the room with the full knowledge of whoever was working with me at that time in the dormitories, and turned out all the lights and stayed in the room. I knew they had all gone out. Then everything was quiet, so I thought that would be a good time to go see what was going on, I don't think they stayed out very late, I don't think it was past 12 o'clock, here all six of them were climbing in the window and I turned on the light,

and there they were and it was too funny. (Laughs) I don't think we punished them because you couldn't at that time. Those were college girls and it was hard to. But we laughed about it, had a good many laughs about it, but we did get the windows locked so that they couldn't come in that window, but I imagine they got in and out some way. About that time we started having the panty raids and the boys would get in one way or another and leave messages on the mirrors in the girls' rooms. They got in from the top of Bell Hall, they learned some way of getting in there. We could tell they had gotten in because you could see the footprints and I don't remember anybody being terribly disturbed about it because it was just their way of showing us, I think, that we had unenforceable rules. You just couldn't do anything about it. Nobody worried about it very much, I don't think. At the time these six girls came in, they were in the dormitory council, so I don't even remember what the outcome of that was. I just remember the startled look on those gals when the light came on (laughs) and I was down there. But anyway, when the boys were breaking into the dorms and when they were doing the panty raids, the dormitory governing council took care of it. They handled those situations. We did not. We met with them but rarely took part in their meetings because they handled them well enough that we didn't need to. And I

suppose they still have a governing council in the dorm. I think that was one of the most learning experiences that I had in working with women students was to observe how they handled their own peers in a situation that needed correcting. They were very fair, very knowledgeable about what could and could not be done, and they wrote the dormitory handbooks themselves. Of course, we okay'd them, but every bit of that came from the dormitory councils and I give a lot of that credit to the lady I mentioned before, Mary White, who came in here. She had been a dormitory counsellor at New Mexico A & M and somehow they got her down here and she was very good at setting up and handling the council. I was more or less just there as the Dean of Women and they did a wonderful job. Of course, I don't know how they handle it now. I don't know if boys and girls, I don't even know if boys and girls are both still living in those halls.

C: I don't either. I think from what my son tells me the trend is reversing. My daughter is a senior in high school she has requested all girl housing.

W: Well, a lot of girls didn't like it then.

C: I'm sure, I mean who...?

W: But they did not have the backing. There were always a few who were very aggressive and wanted to go along with whatever the trend was, who were outspoken enough to get these things changed and there just wasn't any purpose in

our trying to run two different dormitories when all over the country they were running these integrated dorms. And they did not work. A lot of the girls were most unhappy about it because we had, particularly in Kelly Hall, the girls were in suites--okay here are four girls in a little space not much larger than right around in here, and if a girl wanted to bring a boy in there then, the other three had to go out someplace else and it was never a happy--I don't think the boys even thought it was that great. I'm sure they bragged about being able to go over there and go in and maybe in some cases they'd get together and study and it was all right. But there were always study halls and places where they could meet without going into the bedrooms, but they could if they wanted to. There was no regulation against it. It was just up to them to monitor their own little areas. If they didn't want boys in there they just would decide they didn't have boys in there, and even in those days we had girls requesting floors where there were only girls. Now, in some cases, I think boys and girls both lived on the same floor. My granddaughter is in school in North Texas State University and a member of a sorority and their sororities and fraternities are all housed in what used to be called, what used to be a motel and one sorority will have one floor and then there will be a fraternity on the floor and then a sorority, and then a fraternity, that seems

to create no problem, I don't know why. I haven't talked to her very much about it, but I don't think that was exactly our situation. I don't really know how they integrated the dorms. Tom Chism and I suffered over that situation.

C: He's a neighbor of mine. I go for walks on Saturday and I always see him in his garage. Well, I'm going to turn this off. Thank you.

W: Well, I don't think I've given you very much help.

C: You have too.

W: Things just used to be different, that's my...

C: They sure did.

/PAUSE/

W: Particularly, I remember when Dr. Smiley, well when they all were here, that reception was always held there in the student union building and it was my responsibility to help get that organized and work with the president's wife and the food sometimes was prepared right there in that little kitchen and all was set up for that was quite an enormous problem because they served, everybody, it was a big reception with a receiving line, no less.

C: For all the new faculty?

W: Well, all faculty and any students, I think, who wanted to come were invited, and I think townspeople too. I remember one time when Dr. Wiggins was President it was held down in one of the hotel ballrooms when our union building

was being refurbished or something, but it was a very big social. I guess that was the biggest social affair of the season.

C: And it was in the fall?

W: In the fall for the new faculty, and I don't know what has become of that. I'm sure some sort of a reception is held.

C: Well, Monroe has reinstated a faculty reception at Hoover House.

W: Well, that house was large enough for it but until we had a house of that size, when Ray was President, when Holcomb was President, and when Elkins, they had that home up in Mission Hills. And they always had the reception out in the backyard in those days, there, because for some reason we weren't having it at the union building. Most of the time it was held in the union ballroom, but it was quite a job because of food and the ability to bring in serving pieces but it was a very lovely affair. It was always very well done and enjoyed by the faculty because that was one of the few times when the entire faculty was together other than faculty meetings and, course that was business. This was purely social and I think most everybody anticipated it with some sort of eagerness to meet the new people. It was a good way to start off the year. Now I'm trying to remember when I retired, I believe at that time it was being held at Hoover House. The Rays were

very generous with the Hoover House. During their tenure, sometime during the year, every single faculty member was invited to that house for either a dinner, a luncheon or a reception. I don't think anyone else ever did that, the faculty became too large.

C: Yeah, that's right.

W: But from the beginning of the fall term through the spring term, Mrs. Ray and Dr. Ray saw to it that every single faculty member was invited in there for something, some social affair. A few at a time maybe, you know, they had as many as the house would hold, for seated dinners even. But I think that had to go by the board, too many people.

C: Too many like we said.

W: That's right.