

McNary, Evaline C., July 5, 1911-May 26, 1994  
Colorado College Director of Residence Halls, 1934-1976

SIDE ONE - CASSETTE ONE

FINLEY:

This is tape recording number 4 of the Colorado College Archives Oral History Project. I am Judy Finley, interviewing Evaline C. McNary in her home at 1122 Wood Avenue. The date is November 9, 1976.

Miss McNary was at Colorado College for many years, from 1934 until her retirement in 1976, as dietician, manager of women's residence halls, and later as residence hall director. During those years, she saw her responsibilities grow from 60 women in two residence halls to 1250 students in 17 halls, many of them coeducational, plus the management of 55 to 60 rental units.

Miss McNary, when you arrived at Colorado College in 1934, it was the bottom of the Depression, and I'd like to know what your first impressions were arriving on the campus, as a new dietician.

McNARY:

Well, I had been, of course, at the big hospital in St. Louis, and the arrangements at Colorado College were pretty primitive at the best of circumstances, because they had--well they had an icebox, and they delivered ice every day. And they had a coal-burning stove, which I suppose would have used wood, too. So you had to keep coal, and you had to haul out the ashes. And of course, it was all the original from 1907. And by this time it was 1934, so you know, even then, it was obsolete.

But there were only 60 women in residence, and we had them on two floors in Bemis, and one floor in McGregor, and it was only after I came on the 28th of August that it was decided that they would open the one floor of Bemis. And Montgomery was used for faculty offices, and Ticknor had been closed up tight, some years before.

And the Koshare, which was the dramatic outfit, was in the basement of Bemis, and they were, frankly, a constant thorn in our flesh.

The buildings--well, they, too, were pretty obsolete. They had not been built with an eye, I think, to good plumbing, or anything like that. Bemis had been very carefully planned, by Miss Loomis, and was a very good building, basically, but it lacked many amenities.

FINLEY:

Did the girls eat in the big dining room, all their meals at that time?

McNARY:

The women ate all their meals in the big dining room, and were seated at table, at 7:30 or 8:00--I forget which--breakfast, and noon for lunch, and 6:30 for dinner. It was really quite formal, and there were, maybe, four or half-dozen waitresses.

FINLEY:

These were student helpers?

McNARY:

These were student waitresses. That first year that I was here, sometime they dispensed with everybody sitting down to breakfast together, at the same time, and that was a great relief.

FINLEY:

But dinner, still, there was candlelight, wasn't there, and a hostess, and introductory prayers, usually, or not?

McNARY:

Oh, yes, yes. There was a grace, but that went on for many years. That went on until--oh, maybe after the war. And everyone stood, you know, before they sat down, and repeated the grace, which I may be able to tell you in a few minutes. I can't pray it right off the bat--I said it often enough. [chuckle]

FINLEY:

Well, now, you must have had a fairly small and underpaid staff at that time--

McNARY:

Oh, mercy! We had a nothing of a staff! I think maybe--there may have been three people in the kitchen, and as I say, there were about half a dozen waitresses, and a couple of dishwashers. And the help, the paid help, students received a remission of their board and room, I think it was at that time. The other help, maids and people helping in the kitchen and so on, got like \$30 a month. And they all

lived in.

FINLEY:

I see. And did you also live in the dorm?

McNARY:

Yes, I also lived in the dorm, and I was really quite well paid, because I got \$1000 a year!

FINLEY:

Oh, my goodness! [laughter] A thousand dollars a year! Did that include any summer school at that time?

McNARY:

Oh, yes. I did not expect that it would include summer school, at the time that I started, but then, by the next summer, Mr. Davies, who had come in the fall of '34, decided that we should have summer school, and so we invested in sheets and blankets and that sort of thing, and spreads and towels, and had a small summer school.

FINLEY:

By that time, the enrollment was beginning to pick up a bit, in the fall, too, wasn't it?

McNARY:

Yes, and it picked up the next fall, so that we filled up Bemis and most of McGregor, and then within probably a couple of years, we opened Ticknor again. Then in '39, Montgomery was gutted and rebuilt on the inside, and to this day it is, I think, the nicest building we have.

And it's interesting to me that the project--the whole project--cost \$50,000, which gave you room for 26 women. And that, by today's standards, is pretty reasonable housing.

FINLEY:

Yes. Now, the whole front facade of Montgomery was changed at that time, wasn't it?

McNARY:

And it had funny little rooms up on third floor, so they took off the roof and raised it, and made a full-sized room you could really stand up in--it wasn't just an attic. Then Mrs. Taylor gave the sun porch, which is still on Montgomery.

FINLEY:

She gave that. Now, were those dormitories that you've described so far the only women's dorms, or weren't there other smaller houses?

McNARY:

No, there was nothing else then. And then, probably about '38, but it may have been the same year we went into Montgomery, or it may have been a year later that we began to acquire some of these smaller houses.

FINLEY:

Were any of those opened for dorms then, before the war?

McNARY:

Oh, indeed, yes! Yes, there were several opened. And among them was the president's house, which, of course, was on what they called College Place, which is where the infirmary is, and where part of Loomis is. The president's house was called Slocum, for Slocum, who was the first president.

FINLEY:

And it was a girls' dormitory?

McNARY:

And it was a women's residence hall. Also, on the spot where the back of the parking lot is, of Loomis, there was a building which the college purchased from some people by the name of Bartlett. The Bartletts had built 1130 Wood, once upon a time, but didn't live in it any longer, and Mrs. Bartlett and their daughter lived in this, and it was called Loomis, for Mrs. Ruth Loomis, who was the first dean of women. It was 1103 Wood Avenue, and it was a very, really quite a nice house, but we had some pretty inferior workmen here and there on the campus.

There had to be some plastering done in what we called Loomis, in this small house. So they plastered the living room, and we had it all fixed up, and it really was very attractive, and about the first day we were in it, a truck rolled up the driveway beside it, and the whole living room ceiling fell off! [laughter] Absolutely every inch of plaster fell off the ceiling! That was a disaster! [laughter] Because they hadn't used lathe, or metal lathe, or anything--they just slapped it on over the old stuff, which was already falling, you know! [chuckle]

So that was kind of a mess. Then, it was along about that time--of course, the administration building was over in what's now Jackson House--

FINLEY:

On Nevada Avenue?

McNARY:

On Nevada Avenue. And up and down Nevada, those houses which the College owned were named for trustees, but it didn't necessarily follow that they were the houses in which trustees had lived.

FINLEY:

Can you recall some of those houses?

McNARY:

Howbert--

FINLEY:

Yes, Howbert.

McNARY:

And there was Jackson, which had been the Montgomery residence, I think, and the Jacksons had never lived in it. And there were a couple of others--one of them was the Lambda Chi Alpha house, and the Lambda Chi chapter went off--oh, I think before the war, maybe.

FINLEY:

Were there also some houses along San Rafael there--the old infirmary?

McNARY:

The old infirmary was on San Rafael, and the old faculty club, and it had been the Ballou house. And Miss Bramhall lived in the house back of what was the faculty club. She had life tenure in that house, to the dismay of a number of people! When they were ready to build on that property, they couldn't use it until her demise.

But she had a cute little cottage, which was in the back of that house. The others were occupied by private families. There was a house which later became the Little Folks' School, and all of those were razed when the fraternities were built--the new fraternities that were built on that property.

And then the Betas occupied a house on the--oh, we had Gregg House.

FINLEY:

Where was that?

McNARY:

That was on the corner of Tejon and San Rafael, and that was the northwest corner.

FINLEY:

What was that used for?

McNARY:

That was a women's residence hall, but that wasn't converted until sometime during the war. It was not

converted in those--in the thirties--but pretty early in the forties, I believe. It had belonged to people by the name of Kissell, and it was named Gregg for the Gregg family, and specifically for Lucy Phinney Gregg, who had been the dean of women. And a very popular dean of women.

FINLEY:

Now you knew her personally, didn't you?

McNARY:

Only--I met her several times; I didn't really know her. She--I believe I'm correct--was Miss Loomis' successor; at least, she was the first person with any amount of tenure who succeeded Miss Loomis. After her came Miss Mable Barbee Lee, whom I met. She, too, I didn't know--she lived somewhere else--and she visited here once or twice, so that I did have occasion to meet her. She, of course, was--well, pretty liberal.

FINLEY:

For that day?

McNARY:

For that day and age. Even then, at the time I came, in 1934, there were lots of things in the files that were terribly amusing about, you know, the social behavior of the students. For example, if they had a dance, the boys all had to come over to the quadrangle in front of Bemis, and line up, and the girls had to--the girls marched out of Bemis and out of the other buildings, and joined them, and they filed over two-by-two to Cossitt where they had the dance. This took place at 8:00, and they came home at 10:00!

FINLEY:

Very well chaperoned, I'm sure! [laughter]

McNARY:

I'm sure they were well chaperoned! All these rules were specifically laid out in these mimeographed notices, you know, about how they would do.

FINLEY:

Were these rules still in effect when--

McNARY:

No, not--

FINLEY:

-- [can't understand] came in, in the thirties?

McNARY:



No. I think Mrs. Lee had probably--I think she had probably changed most of that. Of course, it was much less permissive than it has been since, because freshmen had to be in their rooms at 8:00, except on weekend nights, and upperclassmen had to be in at 10:00, and this was every night except Friday and Saturday nights. And then, I believe it may have been midnight when they came in, and everybody was really expected to be in, and they were--more or less. There were exceptions, I'm sure, that nobody ever caught up with-- [laughter]--and there were some they did! But by and large, that's when they were expected to be there.

The men, of course, lived in Hagerman, and some of them lived in Jackson, then, late in the thirties. They had opened--after they moved the administration building to Cutler, they used Jackson for a men's residence hall. I remember Mr. Benezet felt that the men were sort of the legion of the damned, when he came, because there were just so few facilities for them.

And before my time, of course they had had a dining room in Cossitt. They did have dining rooms in the fraternity houses, but the Cossitt cafeteria had long since been closed, and wasn't opened until during the war, when they opened it for the Naval ROTC units.

FINLEY:

Well, where did the men eat, then, in the thirties, when you first came?

McNARY:

That was it. They ate either in the fraternity house, or just here and there, wherever they worked board jobs, or that sort of thing.

FINLEY:

There was not a regular dining room, though, for them?

McNARY:

But there was no regular dining hall for men, except in the fraternity houses. And so, of course, many, many of the men lived--and were members of fraternities. And I think there's no question but what they served a purpose at that time.

FINLEY:

Keep them fed! [chuckle]

McNARY:

Well, yes. They had to. Then during the war, of course, the Naval ROTC, or the ROTC units, used the

fraternity houses as dwellings, as residence halls, as well as Hagerman and Jackson. But it still was awfully marginal housing.

FINLEY:

For the men?

McNARY:

For the men--throughout. Now, the women's was clean, and it was adequate. It was not--certainly never--elegant, at that time, except for Montgomery, which was quite elegant, I must say. And still is, in my opinion.

FINLEY:

Uh-huh. Well, now, when President Davies came onto the campus, things experienced an upswing financially, and in enrollments--

McNARY:

I think so.

FINLEY:

But there was probably never enough money to really do things right?

McNARY:

Not very much. Now we did a good many things--like we did over the bathrooms in Ticknor, and we did over Montgomery, and we did--well, we did a lot of touching up, but never anything more than that. And then, of course, I left late in '41.

FINLEY:

During the war?

McNARY:

Uh-huh, it was late in December, after the United States had gone into the war.

FINLEY:

And you came back, then, in 1945?

McNARY:

I came back in 1945, on the first of May in '45, and the armistice in Europe, I think, took place in June or July of that year, and then the Japanese surrender didn't come for another year. [sic]

You asked also about some of these houses. The dean lived at 16 College Place. There were four houses along there. The first belonged to a Mrs. Peabody, and she, when she died eventually, left to the college. Then the one belonging to Dr. Drea, and the college bought that, I think, from him after his wife's death.

Then the third one was a house in which the then Mrs. William Howbert--in which her grandmother had lived. I have forgotten whether her grandmother was Mrs. Kernochan or who she was. It may have been Kernochan. That was redecorated and renovated, and that's where the dean of the college lived, and it's where Dean Hershey lived in those years.

Then later, after the war, and after the dean moved out of that, it, too, was used as a dormitory. And the Drea house was used one year, I believe--one or two years, but not for long, and that was, of course, long after the war.

FINLEY:

Did you deal with the problems that arose due to the influx of married veterans on the campus after the war--the housing situation?

McNARY:

Well, we had no housing for married veterans, and the college had no off-campus rental program. So what they had was entirely off-campus, except for the Quonset huts, which stood over where Slocum is now. Those, of course, also were very primitive--it was a little village over there.

FINLEY:

When had those been brought in--during the war?

McNARY:

No, they were brought in after the war. See, that was the site of the old San Luis school, and then that was razed, and these Quonset huts were put in their place. And I often think that if Slocum hadn't been built in that location, they'd still be there, and still be in use! [chuckle]

FINLEY:

Were you ever inside one?

McNARY:

Oh, yes! Of course I was inside them!

FINLEY:

What did they look like inside?

McNARY:

Inside, they--in retrospect, they were awfully crummy! [chuckle] But at that time, they seemed like a very good thing, you know.

FINLEY:

Did they have more than two rooms for each student?

McNARY:

They had--oh, perhaps--yes, they had more than two rooms. They were for couples. They were rather adequate. They had a living room, kitchen, bedroom arrangement--very small efficiency kitchen of some kind--and they had two bedrooms, I believe, because most of those people had children.

FINLEY:

Had children, yes.

McNARY:

Yes. And of course, they were curved. They were half of a cylinder set on the ground--you've seen them.

FINLEY:

Were the interior walls that corrugated metal, also?

McNARY:

Uh-huh; uh-huh. [chuckle] They must have been hotter than anything you can imagine in the summer. They had funny little windows which were hinged in some way, so that they dropped open. Some of them had them rather nicely fixed up.

FINLEY:

I'm sure they did.

McNARY:

And some of them, I'm sure, didn't. But--oh, there were many dogs in that village, and there were fights, and there were all kinds of disturbances, as I recall! Being populated, you know, by young men just home from the wars, they were rather--I think it was probably rather a harum-scarum bunch of people--kids--but I think they had lots of fun!

FINLEY:

I'm sure they did. Now, I'd like to ask you some questions about some of the people you dealt with during these years. Of course, President Davies also left during the war, but then he came back immediately after the war. Can you describe him and your relationships with him in any way over the years? What kind of a gentleman was he?

McNARY:

Well, of course, I wasn't directly responsible to him. I was responsible to the dean of women. But Mr. Davies was a very aggressive sort of person. He was a young man--by my standards now--I think 40, 42, something like that. He was extremely attractive. He had a wife who was a terrible problem to him, and his daughters were--well, they hadn't

been here a week until they both ran away! [chuckle] They found them down at Fountain Valley. I think that he had probably so many domestic problems that it made him considerable of a male chauvinist. I think that it could be attributed to that.

FINLEY:

He had his own health problems, also, didn't he?

McNARY:

Well, I expect he had some health problems, but of course, nobody knew it then. But I think his principal health problem was alcohol. And I think that was undoubtedly an escape. But he never, of course, employed any more women than he could help.

And that has more or less been true until within the last--under ten years--it's been true on this campus. And only in places where he felt he had to have women, was he interested in having them. Although there were one or two exceptions. Martha Lou Lemmon Stoleman was one of them.

And it was during those years that the Women's Educational Society, of course, opened and furnished the infirmary, and they got a very well-trained, competent nurse, and ran it with a housekeeper. They had a physician in attendance, at least. That was a great step forward, because there had been nothing.

FINLEY:

What was the nurse's name?

McNARY:

Well, the first one--now there were other nurses before her. When I first came, the infirmary was located in the north end of McGregor, which is where the head resident now lives. They had a dispensary, and an infirmary, and a physician in attendance.

Before that, it had been located in the ground floor of Ticknor, the wing that extends out to the back, and there were four little bedrooms, which had been arranged there for it.

Then before that, it was in what we called Room 19 in Ticknor, which was up on the third floor of Ticknor, and it had been--it was strictly, though, one sex. It was only for women. The men didn't have any infirmary--if they got sick, it was just too bad!

FINLEY:

Was this true even after the new infirmary on San Rafael Street was opened?

McNARY:

After the new infirmary on San Rafael Street was opened, then they had a facility for men. They had men on the first floor and women on the second, and that was all right. But in the days when the infirmary was located in McGregor and Ticknor, they only had bed care for women.

They had some dispensary care for men, I believe. Katherine Ryan was the nurse then, and before that, there was Ruth Irwin Montgomery--I don't know whether you ever heard of her, but she then married--lived out in Broadmoor--married a retired Army officer. She was, I think, a great asset to the college at the time that she was working here.

FINLEY:

Let's go back to the period after the war, when President Gill was appointed president following the departure of Davies. Can you recall any incidents about President Gill as a person?

McNARY:

Well, I don't know that I recall so many specific instances, but General Gill was really one of the most upright and honorable men that I think I ever knew. And he had a great--well, he had that quality where he always stood behind his own people. As long as they didn't do anything illegal or immoral, he was behind them. Just because they made some mistakes, or used bad judgment, or something like that, that wasn't a capital offense.

But he was--there's the old story which I think everybody has heard--about being late for one of his staff meetings, and it may have been I who said, "Well, I think my watch was wrong," and he said, "You better get a new watch!" [laughter] You've heard that one, haven't you?

FINLEY:

No, I hadn't!

McNARY:

Hadn't you ever heard that? [laughter]

FINLEY:

No. [laughter]

McNARY:

We had a staff meeting every Wednesday morning at 8:00, and everybody had to be up around that conference table at that staff meeting. Of course, he operated in a manner consistent with his training, which was military, and one often expects that to be awfully rigid.



But it wasn't, at all, and he was almost pathetically devoted to his wife, who was a very--to me, was a really very lively, funny, or amusing, attractive woman--to me. She was--you know, he's make lots of fun of some of the things she said, and maybe some of her pretensions, but nobody could have been ever more devoted--a more devoted husband than he was.

FINLEY:

How was he as an administrator of the campus?

McNARY:

I liked him. I think administratively he was excellent. He understood the lines of authority better than lots of other people, that are not trained as administrators, I believe. But that was his Army training, you know. Now, it's possible that he didn't understand the educational process as well as somebody else, but he certainly understood administration.

FINLEY:

Did he get along well with the faculty?

McNARY:

I think many of the faculty were scornful of him, just because he was not a--he didn't have his union card, as it were. I think that was an unfortunate part of his administration.

On the other hand, he--it was the time of the McCarthy--the witch hunt, and I have always felt that the college was very fortunate to have had him at that time, because nobody, without making an idiot of himself, could have accused him of being a Communist. They could accuse almost anyone else in the college of being one, if they chose, but not General Gill.

And of course, he knew that these people were not, and therefore he was able to stand up to some of the people who were most critical. I think that was a great service at that time, because those were awfully unpleasant years for teaching faculty. I don't think anybody really realizes how bad it must have been for some of them.

FINLEY:

There were lots of personal attacks, weren't there, by the local newspapers?

McNARY:

Yes, uh-huh. And General Gill--I think he was a protection to these people. Then, of course, Louie Benezet came in, and he, too, was a fine administrator, and a

remarkably astute man.

Going back to General Gill a minute--you know, he loved dogs, and he loved--I think he liked hunting. I always think of the time that he gave Roger Jordan, who was our black house man, in the residence halls, two ducks, which Roger treasured for a very long time! [chuckle] And raised, and fed, and everything, because I guess General Gill had no place to keep them. I don't know whether he actually gave them to him, or whether he just rented them out, sort of, or farmed them out to him [chuckle] so that they would be taken care of!

But he was interested in all the little people as well as the big people. I think that Mr. Benezet was too, and I think that was one of his charms, and one of his strengths.

FINLEY:

There were quite a few changes on campus when he arrived--new buildings being built, and more faculty being hired?

McNARY:

Well, Slocum had already been built.

FINLEY:

Yes.

McNARY:

Slocum was built in General Gill's administration, and Loomis was in the process of being built. It was a year away from completion. And Mr. Benezet insisted that the architect change the plan in order to get more rooms into it, because he thought that it was costing too much per person--each room, you know. And I've always regretted it, because it does, indeed, mean that Loomis has smaller rooms than would be most desirable. In some instances, it has smaller rooms. But this is a matter of necessity, I think--it was a matter of dollars and cents.

And he was extremely conscious of financial problems that we had, and rightly so--he had to be. And we had very serious ones. And the endowment had been invaded, you know, for current expenses, and all of that sort of thing had to be ironed out. There was almost no detail of that that he wasn't fully familiar with.

That in itself was sort of a shock to somebody like me, who was used to people who didn't understand one thing about any of this. Then he came along, and of course, he knew more than the people who were doing it! [laughter] Sometimes it was embarrassing, if you know what I mean! [laughter]

But he was a fine person, and a fine administrator, and we were all very sorry when he left. Of course, Lew [L. E. Worner] is an old friend of mine, because he worked for me in the days before the war.

FINLEY:

When he was a student?

McNARY:

When he was a student--indeed, he did. And he says that I fired him twice! Well, I don't remember that! [chuckle] I don't remember--as a matter of fact, I remember many incidents where there was trouble with student employees. I remember almost none of their names, if you know what I mean. Because the names are no longer important--all that was important at the time was what they had done! [laughter]

And lots of those boys--any number of them, of course, who worked for us before the war, in the dining halls, are very successful. In fact, I look at them and think there are none of them who were not successful! [chuckle] They had no money then--they were poor as church mice, but they have really progressed in the world a great deal.

I was down helping at the church bazaar the other day, and Betty Lindemann, who was Betty Van Valkenberg, was in charge of serving this luncheon, and I said, "What shall I do?"

And she said, "Ohhhhhh . . . think of your asking me what I shall do!" Because she worked for four years in that kitchen in Bemis, and her husband, George Lindemann, too. He washed the pots and pans--poor George! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Is that the sort of thing that Lew Worner did as a student, also?

McNARY:

Oh, he was a dishwasher, I believe! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Well, when he moved up to the presidency of the college, he certainly had a different view than he did from the kitchen, didn't he? [laughter] He came right in the middle of a great period of change during the sixties, and I'm wondering if you could go into some detail about the movement toward off-campus apartments--what did they call them--off-campus pads? And also the move towards boys visiting girls in dorms, and ultimately towards co-ed dorms.

Could you describe for us some of the changes?

McNARY:

Well, as a matter of fact, I think that Lew [L. E. Worner] held out against most of that as long as he felt he could. In fact, Miss Moon and I both thought that probably we would never have co-educational housing. But it was--the pressure became so great that they had to do it.

But there was one difficulty, and that is that we had, by 1964--by 1963, when Mr. Benezet left, Mathias was planned, and so it opened, and it was built and ready for occupancy in the fall of '66. So it became an economic problem, if you let too many people move off-campus, and many of the students resented bitterly that they had to live in, in order to support that building.

And they still need that to support the--just to make the payments, which are enormous, even though they're FHA. The payments on Mathias are \$72,500 a year. That doesn't change, and as your rates go up, of course, that becomes relatively smaller, but it's still a tremendous amount out of your annual income.

The payments on Slocum, which was built in '52 and then enlarged along about '58, I think, and the west wing was added. But the payments on that building, and it was built when things were a little cheaper, were \$37,000.

Loomis, which was opened in '56, which is just 20 years--the payments are \$42,000, and that is a tremendous amount of money out of your total income.

FINLEY:

So the need to maintain the on-campus housing regulation was very strong?

McNARY:

It was very great then, and it is still very urgent.

FINLEY:

Well, do you think that this perhaps led to the relinquishment of the rules on visitation, and co-ed dorms--

McNARY:

No, no.

FINLEY:

--[can't understand] before that?

McNARY:

No, no. I don't think so. I think that--no, no.

FINLEY:  
No?

McNARY:  
No. It may have had some impact, but it was not the reason. The reason was the national trend, and to me, it was extremely disagreeable.

FINLEY:  
It must have meant quite a few adjustments for you as a residence hall director?

McNARY:  
Yeah. And as a matter of fact, it still is disagreeable to me, because it appears to me, from the standpoint of my advanced years, that if I had to live like that, I would be very unhappy, if as a woman student--or even a man. And I think some of the boys--the men--I shouldn't say boys, but the men--prefer the fraternity houses for that reason. Because they do have a little more privacy.

And it's been interesting to me, since that, that Bemis, McGregor, Ticknor and Montgomery, which are the single-sex buildings, are the only ones that are always full! Because the instant someone moves out of one of those buildings, either men out of McGregor, or women out of one of the others, there's somebody waiting at the door to get in, practically, because they like those houses. I think it has something to do with their being single-sex.

But, of course, they all have visitation. Now there are, I must confess, some good things about this visitation business. They go to their rooms, you know, for their visiting and necking and everything else, whereas it used to be, you fought that in the parlors all the time.

I always felt that it was sort of like taking a bath in the parlor, that they often were--even in the thirties--were totally uninhibited. Not totally, but they were always smooching in public! You hardly ever see it any more.

FINLEY:  
That's true; you don't! It must go on somewhere!

McNARY:  
You know it goes on somewhere, but hardly ever do you see it in public, any more than holding hands. So that is a good thing about it. Now young men being what they are--and they have a lot of strength, and a lot of high spirits--they are extremely hard on the property. Any building that they occupy, co-educational or not, usually ends the year much

more badly damaged than any building that the women live in. Women don't kick doors in and change all the wiring, and change the locks, and rebuild the place, the way men do. But that's just part of being a boy that age.

FINLEY:

I wonder how the deans of men and women coped with all these changes in mores and attitudes and--

McNARY:

Lifestyles.

FINLEY:

Lifestyles.

McNARY:

Uh-hum. I think--well, I think that probably all of them deplored it somewhat. Isn't that your impression?

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

McNARY:

Especially, I think--there were two or three things that I think were hardest to get used to. One was the awful, long stringy hair, and the scrappy look, which to this day I find hard to swallow. Although I finally learned to overlook it, in dealing with students. The other thing was their lack of personal cleanliness, which I think is greatly improving. I think they're much better that way now.

FINLEY:

The trend seems to be going back the other way?

McNARY:

The trend is going back the other way, and they also, I think, are a little better groomed than they were. Don't you feel so?

FINLEY:

I feel so. What do you think about drinking and drugs in the dorms? Did this become a severe problem in the early seventies?

McNARY:

No. I think the drinking was--it was not my impression that that was a severe problem in the early seventies. Nor is it my impression that ever at any time did they use much in the way of hard drugs. But you often smelled marijuana, and I don't think it was a matter of if they were going to smoke marijuana--I think it was when. And that virtually all



of them eventually tried it.

FINLEY:

Were there any efforts to--

McNARY:

I think they wouldn't have been--oh, sure! If they were caught with it, they were severely reprimanded, and of course, if they were pushing, they were invited politely to leave. We often, in checking the halls after the buildings closed, like for Christmas and Spring Vacation, we often found marijuana growing.

FINLEY:

I hope you watered it! [laughter]

McNARY:

We took it out! [laughter] But it also got to be awfully trying that you couldn't go in--the student rights prohibited your checking rooms except for hazards to safety, or for fire, and then, of course, at the vacations, we did. But that makes it very difficult to run it properly, and to keep things up, because you don't know--if you never can look at those rooms, you don't know what's happening in them.

I think that--well, your father was the dean of men, you know how he reacted, don't you? And I think that Miss Moon probably reacted much the same. I was always glad that Mrs. Barkalow retired before all of this came about, because I think it would have been--oh, extremely hard on her. I think that very few of the--well, I guess maybe none of those older women would have been able to stand it. It was hard enough on those of us who were a bit younger.

FINLEY:

Are you happy to be retired at this point?

McNARY:

Oh, I am exceedingly happy to be retired! [chuckle] And I'm awfully glad--though I think things maybe are a little easier than they were.

FINLEY:

The pendulum perhaps is swinging back to more normal--

McNARY:

To more normal lifestyles. I hope it is, and I think it is. I know that in the last few years, students were much easier to deal with than they were through the sixties. They were awfully unpleasant a lot of the time. And of course, that was Vietnam, and all of the distractions, all of the worries that they had, I feel pretty sure, now, although it didn't help you much at the time, when you had to live through it.

FINLEY:

Yes. Well, you saw many, many changes from 1934 through 1976.

McNARY:

Through the first half of 1976, I saw many, many, many, many changes.

FINLEY:

Would you summarize, since we are coming to the end of our tape, some of the major contrasts from 1934 compared to 1976? Are students basically the same, deep down inside, or what basic contrasts--

McNARY:

Oh, well, I think people are much the same, and therefore I think students are much the same. But they were much more used to authority in 1934, and didn't question much. There were certain rules and regulations that you had, and you lived with them. You did the best you could, and now, nobody does. Everything has to have a reason, and I think that the personnel deans now have probably the toughest job. I think the food service people have a very, very hard job.

But I look back on the deans of women that I have known, and I think they have really been a remarkable breed of women. I think maybe Mrs. Fauteaux had the best mind, and I think Miss Morgan was the liveliest, and I think Miss Moon was the most compassionate, and the sweetest person, of the three that I really knew and worked closely with. Miss Moon got the brunt of the change, I think much as your father, Dean Reid, did. And they had a very difficult row to hoe, and I wouldn't wish it on my worse enemy! [laughter] But it's over now! [laughter]

FINLEY:

It's over, and your long and difficult row to hoe is also--

McNARY:

Is also over! [laughter]

FINLEY:

I've enjoyed very much talking to you about your career at CC today, Miss McNary. Thank you so much for granting this interview.

McNARY:

Thank you very much for coming.

THE END