

Murray, Constance Postlethwaite, 1909-
Colorado College Class of 1932
Alumni Trustee 1954-57

Greiner, Isabel Postlethwaite, 1904-
Colorado College Class of 1925

CASSETTE ONE - SIDE ONE

FINLEY:

This is tape recording number 21 of the Colorado College Archives Oral History Project. The date is January 16, 1978. I am Judy Finley, talking today with Mrs. Constance Postlethwaite Murray and her sister, Mrs. Isabel Postlethwaite Greiner, at Mrs. Murray's home, 1706 North Prospect. Mrs. Murray is a graduate of Colorado College in the class of 1932, and served as an alumni trustee from 1954 to 1957. Mrs. Greiner completed her CC studies in 1925 as a special student at the affiliated Academy of Fine Arts.

Besides their memories of their own student days, these ladies will discuss their recollections of their father, William W. Postlethwaite, who served as General Palmer's personal secretary, and then as treasurer of Colorado College from 1911 to 1940 and as curator of the CC museum from 1940 until his death in 1955. This is side one of two sides.

Good morning. I'm here today with Mrs. Isabel Greiner and Mrs. Connie Murray to discuss some of their memories of the past of Colorado College. And you certainly, both of you, have a very, very long association with Colorado College, since your father was treasurer of the college for many, many years, starting in 1911. I thought we might start this morning by talking a little bit about your early memories of your father. Now, before he became the treasurer of Colorado, he was associated with General Palmer. Can you tell us a little bit about that, Connie?

MURRAY:

Yeah, in 1911 he--no, that's the wrong date. 1897 was when he first came out, wasn't that right? And he became associated with General Palmer as his personal secretary then. And when General Palmer's accident occurred in 1906, then he became more closely associated, because he had to

more or less do a lot more in business things for General Palmer.

FINLEY:

So he was Palmer's personal secretary?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

What did your father tell you about his dealings with Palmer--can you recall any specific--

GREINER:

He seemed to get along with him, liked him very much.

FINLEY:

How often did he see him, and where did he usually--

MURRAY:

Oh, every day, as far as I know. I remember he used to start off every day, and ride his horse over the mesa, or if it were too bad a day to ride, he would take a bus or something--what--

GREINER:

Streetcar.

MURRAY:

Streetcar, and ride to Colorado City in those days, and get off and [chuckles] wait for the carriage from Glen Eyrie to pick him up.

FINLEY:

Okay.

MURRAY:

And when he went over the mesa, as I say, they had a white rock to mark the road, and in those days we had bad windstorms, and it either blew the sand up off the mesa, or it blew the snow, so it was snowing. And so they fixed these rocks so that he could see the road, and know where he was going, generally.

FINLEY:

Well, that road over the mesa ran up where Cache la Poudre Street is?

GREINER:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Right. Up towards what we call Mesa Road, right.

GREINER:

It went past the old Hagerman House, and past that house on the right-hand side those two women had.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum, uh-hum.

GREINER:

Instead of going around Uintah.

FINLEY:

Now, your father lived first on East Cache la Poudre Street, and I understand you were born there, is that right, Mrs. Greiner?

GREINER:

Yes, I was. I lived there until I was six months old, and then we moved into the house on Wood.

FINLEY:

I see. Now, was your grandmother also living on Cache la Poudre Street?

GREINER:

Yes, my father's mother was there. She and her sister lived on Cache la Poudre, and when Father was married she bought a house across the street, and they moved over there, and then Father and Mother had the house that my grandmother had had, as I remember.

FINLEY:

At 322 East Cache la Poudre?

GREINER:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Yes, uh-hum. And then--

MURRAY:

They also had a Chinese man that took care of them.

FINLEY:

Did they really?

MURRAY:

Yeah, Yi, and Yi was quite a friend of china Jim's. There's a China Jim biography out that somebody wrote here, and I think it's called Calico--something.

GREINER:

I've never seen it.

FINLEY:

What did this Chinese man do to take care of them?

MURRAY:

Yi was a houseman. He did the cooking and cleaning and whatnot, and Mother used to tell us stories. When they moved up to Wood, Yi had a rubber plant that he was very fond of, and he wouldn't let the moving people take the rubber plant, so he walked up from Cache la Poudre to the 1600 block on Wood, carrying this silly rubber plant.

The reason he got fired was because [laughter] Mother saw Yi dampen the clothes by putting the water in his mouth and spitting it out on the clothes! [laughter] It really wasn't what he did. He had a bulb with a--sort of like a syringe, with this spout on the front of it, and he'd suck the water up in that, and sprinkle the clothes that way. But Mother didn't feel like that, so he got bounced. And anyway, he insisted, too, on keeping a black cap on Isabel, and Mother didn't approve of that idea.

GREINER:

He said, "Baby cry if it doesn't wear a black cap!" [laughter]

FINLEY:

Well, now your parents must have built that house at 1604 Wood.

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

This was still during the time when Mr. Postlethwaite was Palmer's secretary?

MURRAY:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

And were you born in that--

MURRAY:

I was born in that house.

FINLEY:

--and lived in that house all your life--

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

--Connie, until, certainly until you graduated from college?

MURRAY:

Yeah. They sold that house when Father retired in 1942, was it, or '41?

GREINER:

I can't remember.

MURRAY:

Along about then.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Do you recall anything about General Palmer's death, or were you too small?

GREINER:

I was five years old, and I remember distinctly the day that Mother and Father went to the funeral, because when they came home, I asked them if they had a good time! That's what I thought you asked when people were going someplace, and to me, it was just a gathering like a party, or something. I didn't understand funerals; we hadn't had any. And then they said, "Oh, you mustn't ask things like that!" But that's all I remember about it.

FINLEY:

You never saw General Palmer?

GREINER:

Oh, yes!

FINLEY:

You did?

GREINER:

He used to have marvelous Christmas parties for the children of all the employees, and I remember, I think, the first movie I ever saw was shown at one of the Christmas parties. Because I remember an animated knife and a fork going around in the picture. But they had a beautiful tree, and they had quite a number of children. It was yearly.

FINLEY:

This was held at Glen Eyrie?

GREINER:

Yes, uh-hum.

FINLEY:

And do you have any personal memories at all of what General Palmer looked like, or anything he said?

GREINER:

Vaguely, I can remember, but I think it's because I've seen pictures of him, but probably the picture is--the way he looked in the picture is what lingers. But I can remember going out there with Father--I don't know how, because I'm sure I didn't ride with him on the horse--and going to see General Palmer. But to me, he was more of a figure in a chair, an invalid--that was the impression I had.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. After his death, Mr. Postlethwaite must have had to settle a lot of his affairs, and retain a lot of interest in Palmer's interests, isn't that so, or what did he do after Palmer's death?

GREINER:

I don't remember anything about that part.

MURRAY:

That must have been the way he worked into the Colorado Springs Company.

GREINER:

Undoubtedly.

MURRAY:

He probably had such a good knowledge of what General Palmer had done.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Why did General Palmer hire your father in the first place--was it some association through his background in Pennsylvania?

GREINER:

I think it was through our grandfather, who was with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and I'm sure that he must have given Father a letter or something--

MURRAY:

Oh, I think so.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

GREINER:

Because General Palmer had started with interests in

the Eastern railroads.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Do you have any other memories of your father's association with Palmer, or with the Colorado Springs Company, particularly?

GREINER:

I don't.

FINLEY:

You were both very young at the time.

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Okay. Well, now, in 1911, your father became the treasurer of Colorado College, and from then on, you certainly got to know the people at the college closely as you grew up, and heard your father talking about them. Do you recall, Connie, at all, President Slocum?

MURRAY:

Well, always, as Izzie says, I think you're apt to remember the pictures that you see nowadays. But I remember him as a sort of a portly, very dignified person. And I remember--the only thing that I remember about Mrs. Slocum was her hats, which always seemed to be so big and floating. And she was sort of large, too.

And then, as I say, I remember they always had these yummy receptions for the graduation, on their lawn in front of the president's house, for years. And that's about all I remember of the Slocums. Izzie was older, and maybe you remember more.

GREINER:

No, I have no other memories than that.

MURRAY:

Those receptions impressed us both! [laughter] We must have always gone. We probably were those small children running around that people used to--[laughter]

FINLEY:

Well, after Slocum left, Mr. Duniway became the president of the college. Do you recall any of the controversy surrounding the departure of Slocum and the hiring of Duniway?

MURRAY:

I don't, at all. I've always been interested in reading about it, because it's just news to me. And also about Duniway, because I don't remember, I wasn't old enough to remember all the controversy that went on about him.

GREINER:

I don't remember the controversy, but I remember Dr. Duniway. He was tall, as I can recall, and they had Christmas parties for the faculty children, and then after I was married and had a daughter, they continued them, so they had them for a good many years.

MURRAY:

Faculty Christmas parties.

GREINER:

Uh-hum. And I think they--I've forgotten, who was it that lived in the Stewart house--didn't somebody live in the Stewart house?

FINLEY:

It must have been P. B. Stewart.

GREINER:

No, I mean the college--oh, I think the college had the Clotworthy house, on the corner?

MURRAY:

No, they had the house just north of there--the old Quackenbush house.

GREINER:

Oh, I'm mixed up on the house.

FINLEY:

Where is the old Quackenbush house?

GREINER:

That's the one the president--the present president's house.

FINLEY:

I see. And that was still a college house at that--

MURRAY:

No, the Quackenbushes owned it then.

GREINER:

Yes, but later on, speaking of the college having Christmas parties for the children of the faculty members, it was continued over a long period of time, and I think--I

can't remember who the president was, but I remember taking Debbie to several of those parties in the Quackenbush house.
MURRAY:

I remember why you're thinking of the Clotworthy house, because for a time, Thurston Davies rented that, and that was--sort of before they got the Quackenbush house, I think the president lived--

GREINER:

I think that's when they had the Christmas parties, when the Davies were here.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Well, where is the Clotworthy house that you're speaking of?

GREINER:

It's the old Hibbard house, right there on the corner of Uintah Street and Wood. It's just south of the present president's house.

FINLEY:

Oh, yes, oh, yes. Well, now, the president's house on the campus certainly must have served as the president's house for a long time. Did it serve some other function that caused the president to move out?

GREINER:

No, I don't know. They wanted that land for something else, I think. Wasn't that the reason they moved the president out of the president's house?

MURRAY:

I think they did.

FINLEY:

[all talking at once] --Loomis Hall.

GREINER:

Well, they tore that one down, and they tore down the house that the Hersheys lived in just east of there. Then, you know, they tore down the old field house.

MURRAY:

I think they used the president's house for faculty, didn't they?

GREINER:

After a while.

FINLEY:

To use?

MURRAY:

To live in. I think they used it for living quarters. Now, I'm not sure it was for the faculty or for the students.

FINLEY:

But Mr. Duniway certainly lived in what was known as the old president's house?

MURRAY:

Yes.

GREINER:

Yeah, uh-hum.

FINLEY:

But you say that Davies, then--

MURRAY:

I don't think the Davies did.

GREINER:

Oh, I think they--I'm sure that I remember them in that house on the corner.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Well, as treasurer of the college, your father--perhaps he didn't talk so much to you about the problems of the college. But do you remember the people that he was most associated with, and what things were on his mind that you recall?

MURRAY:

Mostly collecting money from the students! [laughter]

FINLEY:

I gather from my own reading that after Slocum left, the college did enter a bit of a period of decline, and had some financial difficulties, particularly, of course, in the late twenties, and during the Depression. Were the major problems just collecting the tuition, or did he have to go out and do fund-raising too?

MURRAY:

No.

GREINER:

No. The president did the fund-raising, mostly. And sometimes that was one of the reasons the college had such--they weren't experienced in fund-raising in those days, and

they didn't know how to go about it.

FINLEY:

Well, your father must have had other interests, too, because I have seen pictures of him looking very much like an archaeologist, with a pick in his hand, and a great big hat.

GREINER:

Oh, yes!

FINLEY:

Typical type hat on, in Chaco Cañon. Can you tell us a little bit about his interests-- [all talking at once] -- interests in archaeology originated?

MURRAY:

I can remember the first year he went down, but I don't remember what year it was.

GREINER:

I don't remember, either.

MURRAY:

But the first--he had a friend called Reggie Fisher, who was head of the Archaeology Department at the University of--Arizona or New Mexico?

GREINER:

New Mexico, I think. I'm not sure he was head of the department.

MURRAY:

That's the way he became interested in Santa Fe. But the first summer he went down there, he used to go down on his vacations, which gave him about a month at this summer school for archaeology, where he would--I think he taught, supposedly, some phase of the archaeological--

GREINER:

He was a very good friend of Dr. Hewett in Santa Fe, who was head of the museum, I think, in Santa Fe, and they had a long period of friendship.

MURRAY:

Who was that other one that he was interested in, whose daughter later married one of the Pattersons here?

GREINER:

[pause] I have no idea.

MURRAY:

But this first summer he went down, he brought the pith

helmet, and took down several bottles of snake-bite medicine [laughter] and flannel shirts, and some puttees that he used to have, so that the snakes wouldn't bite him through the puttees. And as the years went on, he took less and less of these things, as I recall! [laughter]

GREINER:

Well, he was always so annoyed by bugs--you remember how he was almost afraid of bugs? So I could never quite reconcile his desire to go to the digs with that hate of--dislike of bugs.

MURRAY:

And he liked to eat, and he always fussed about the--they always called it mutton, but he was sure it was just pure old goat that they used to feed them when he went down there in the summertime!

FINLEY:

Well, he had no formal training in archaeology--

GREINER:

He just picked it up.

FINLEY:

He just got interested in it. Now, did he make some original discoveries at the time they were excavating Chaco Cañon?

GREINER:

No, I don't think so. I think he just went along, and did more or less what they were preparing to do. But he did spend one summer with [extraneous noise; can't understand] West, and I don't remember whose ranch that was. And I imagine--what, Connie?

MURRAY:

Was that over at Lake City?

GREINER:

No, I always thought it was down in New Mexico someplace. But this kid came to college from this ranch, and he said they had mounds on the ranch. And so this one summer his family asked if Father would come down, and he and Dobb West and Frank Wolf--the Wolfs' Shoe Store?

FINLEY:

Could be.

GREINER:

Went down and did some excavating on this mound.

That's where a lot of those shards and stuff that we--

MURRAY:

Patched up?

GREINER:

--patched up came from. And for quite a while, the college had this as an exhibit. I don't know what ever happened to it.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. He must have collected quite a number of materials through those years, that later went into the college museum.

GREINER:

Well, at this one particular time, he brought home--oh, sacks full of these shards and my sister and I were occupied for quite a few years [laughter] mending them into pots! You just spend all your days trying to match up all the pieces!

MURRAY:

And more days holding them so they'd stick together! [laughter]

FINLEY:

So you were introduced early to his interest in archaeology. Did you ever accompany him on any of these--

MURRAY:

Oh, no! Heavenly days! No!

GREINER:

This was his vacation to get away from us! [laughter]

FINLEY:

I see.

GREINER:

I can remember one of the first pieces of Indian pottery he got. Remember, he dickered with that woman over at the Hidden Inn--Hidden Inn used to have Indians that came in the summertime and lived around there, so that people could see how Indians lived, and sell their wares. They made pots, and I suppose, jewelry and whatnot.

But this one particular day, Father fell in love with a water jug that this woman used to pour the water out of to make her pots, form her pots around the outside. And she tried to sell him all the pots that she was making, and not the water pot, but Father finally got the water pot out of her, and that was our scrap basket for many years [can't

understand]

FINLEY:

I see.

MURRAY:

Oh, yeah.

FINLEY:

Well, now, he retired as treasurer of the college--

GREINER:

1940, I think.

FINLEY:

1940. And then he stayed on and became director of the museum, almost until the day he died.

MURRAY:

Well, that's because they discovered that he was not on the rolls in the Carnegie Pension Fund, and so he had to stay on, and--I think it was the pension fund, or that was just as Social Security came in, I'm not sure which. But he had never been carried on the rolls as a faculty member, which is mentioned in some place--oh, in this one. And so for several years, he taught an archaeological class at the college, and was treasurer of the museum, so he could get on a pension fund.

FINLEY:

I see. And he really revived that museum to some extent, didn't he, after the war, a little bit?

MURRAY:

Well, yes, sort of, because then they started concentrating on the Indian things there.

GREINER:

Making more of an exhibit.

FINLEY:

He received many accolades from his co-workers. There was a dinner in his honor in 1941, I noticed in looking through the files. Maybe you don't remember?

GREINER:

Oh? Maybe it was '41 he retired, then. I noticed that Mr. Smith came in '40, so I decided Father must have retired in '40 or '41. Well, they gave him--his office gave him a beautiful cigarette box, with Indian silver, and made with a huge turquoise in it. And it was inscribed underneath, so I've always thought that when they took it out of my house,

they must have melted it!

MURRAY:

Oh, probably!

FINLEY:

That was one of the things stolen from your house-- that's too bad. Well, what do you remember of your father in his old age? He was still plugging away as an octogenarian at the museum. What do you remember of his later days?

MURRAY:

Well, by that time he wasn't with the museum any more, but he did seem to keep busy with lots of papers and things.

GREINER:

Oh, yes. He was always writing a paper for that--what was that group that they met--oh, you know what it is, Judy-- a man's group that's made up of college people.

FINLEY:

The Round Table?

GREINER:

Yes! And it seemed to me he was always writing a paper for the Round Table, or entertaining them.

MURRAY:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

What were some of his other interests and hobbies during his life?

GREINER:

Well, he was interested in the Winter Night Club.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

GREINER:

And . . . Indians seemed to take most of his time.

MURRAY:

In his later years, he sort of concentrated on Indians.

GREINER:

They were quite good church-goers, as I recall.

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

GREINER:

Presbyterian Church--he was an elder, I think.

MURRAY:

Yes, I think he was.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Of course, I remember him. I recall him very strongly. I think that unless you have any further points to make about your father, that we'll go ahead now and talk about your own associations with Colorado College. Both of you are Colorado College graduates, and I think I'll start with you, Mrs. Greiner, because you graduated a bit earlier--

GREINER:

Yes, I did!

FINLEY:

--than your younger sister!

GREINER:

Quite a bit! [laughter]

FINLEY:

You graduated in 1925.

GREINER:

'25, yes.

FINLEY:

And you said that you were an art major. Can you describe what the art department consisted of in those days?

GREINER:

It consisted of Miss Charlotte Leaming and her sister. And Charlotte had a studio up in the top of--second floor of Perkins Hall, and her sister taught over in Perkins, because I used to go over there for art appreciation. And there were quite a few students--not quite a few, but there were a number of students taking art courses. Some of them just took the art appreciation courses, mostly, and weren't actively painting. But I remember we had two Chinamen who were in classes. I can't remember their names, but one of them was really very good.

MURRAY:

Were they the ones that lived at Hagerman Hall?

GREINER:

I think they did.

FINLEY:

And they actually came--they were students from China?
GREINER:

Yes. But they weren't there t the same time. One came earlier, I think, and then the other one came while I was there. But then we had--I would say perhaps we had ten or 12 students in the art department. Some would come regularly, or somebody would come just once or twice a week. It was spasmodic.

I remember I used to answer the telephone, and I was telling Connie that I would sit down and--nobody called much, so I'd sit down, and sit on that fence, that brick fence that went around Perkins Hall. And then I'd run upstairs when the telephone rang, and it could be for the music department or the art department.

FINLEY:

Was this a job for you when you were a student?

GREINER:

Yes.

FINLEY:

You say people came to classes rather sporadically--weren't you required to take the regular liberal arts curriculum?

GREINER:

Yes, yes. But what I mean is, they weren't--they wouldn't come every day to paint. We had painting from the nude, and a lot of design. I was more interested in the design end of it. And also, we had--oh, what would be called graphic arts now.

FINLEY:

And this was all taught by--

GREINER:

By Miss Charlotte.

FINLEY:

--by Miss Charlotte Leaming.

GREINER:

And they used to drive a great big--in those days, it looked like a--oh, I don't know what make of car it was, but it didn't have any doors on it. And you'd ride in the back seat, and they'd just drive as fast--it seemed fast then, and you'd hang on for dear life! [laughter] Traveling around, and that was one of the sights! And Miss Leaming would go on and wave, and say, "How do you do?" and all the students

would wave to her! [laughter] She was quite a character around the college.

FINLEY:

Quite a character, you say. What other incidents do you remember about her?

GREINER:

Oh, well--she was typically--what is the word I want?-- uninhibited! [laughter]

MURRAY:

Was this Susan?

GREINER:

No, Charlotte!

MURRAY:

Charlotte was--

GREINER:

--the younger one, yes. She used to--well, she was a great person, I thought. They lived north of us, in the Cool house.

FINLEY:

On Wood Avenue?

GREINER:

An apartment. And I guess we probably saw more of them for that reason, probably, than we ordinarily would. She started to paint a portrait of Connie and me, and we kept getting older and older, because it took a little longer to finish it! [laughter] She never did finish it!

FINLEY:

How long was she at the college? Was she still around at the time of the Broadmoor Art Academy, and--

GREINER:

Oh, yeah.

MURRAY:

I took a history of art course from them when I was in college, so they still were working there, and that was about the last period that they were there, because you remember Susan got the--they finally got an art school down in Pueblo?

GREINER:

Oh, yes, and she went down there.

MURRAY:

And they used to--Miss Charlotte I guess stayed down there most of the time, and Susan commuted between the two cities to teach this art course up here. And remember she had that stroke and--

GREINER:
Yes.

MURRAY:
Father went up and found her unconscious in her bed up at their house. It wasn't too long after that that they shut up the shop and both retired.

GREINER:
Well, by that time the Broadmoor Art Academy, I think, was going to a much greater degree. And I think they weren't--I suppose they had some kind of interchange of credits, but I don't--I think that the Colorado College art department as such sort of petered out.

FINLEY:
And the art students would have been involved with the Broadmoor?

GREINER:
Yes.

FINLEY:
I see.

GREINER:
And of course, the Art Center was built, and--

FINLEY:
Right.

GREINER:
--that made a difference.

FINLEY:
Right. The Broadmoor Art Academy was located in the same--

GREINER:
There was a barn down there in--

FINLEY:
--location as the Art Center, wasn't it?

GREINER:
Yes, I think so. It was--

MURRAY:

Wasn't it the garden part of the Penroses' first house here?

GREINER:

I guess it was. I can't remember who lived there.

MURRAY:

Was it Mrs. Curtis?

GREINER:

Mrs. Carpenter? Maybe it was Mrs. Carpenter. I can't remember. I'm not just sure. I'm sure there are lots of people in town who would remember.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

GREINER:

But that was where the Kappas held their initiation when they installed a chapter here.

FINLEY:

Oh, I'm going to ask you some more about that later. Remind me to come back to that, because that's something I want to ask you quite a bit about. Now, you, of course, graduated in 1925. What professors do you remember besides Miss Charlotte Leaming that made some sort of an impression upon you?

GREINER:

Oh, I remember--oh, dear, I can't . . . we're wasting your tape.

FINLEY:

Not at all.

GREINER:

I can't think of any, at the moment. I know I had to take--oh, it's been so many years ago, I can't possibly remember right now that you ask me.

FINLEY:

That's all right. What do you remember about the social life of the college during the twenties? Were you a member of one of the literary--

GREINER:

No, I wasn't, because I wasn't really a bona fide--I wasn't taking a regular course.

FINLEY:

Oh, I see. You were more--

GREINER:

I wasn't eligible. But I remember the fraternities used to have a dance a month at their houses. I don't know whether they do that now or not.

FINLEY:

I don't think it's that regularly. Can you describe what the dances were like--were they fairly orderly and formal, or were they rowdy?

GREINER:

No, they weren't rowdy. As I remember, they were a lot of fun. They usually had an orchestra, a small orchestra, to play. And I'm sure they got over before 12:00--I think 11:00--the girls had to be in the halls by 11:00, and they began about 7:00. Sometimes they were formal, and most often, though, they were just house dances--you wore informal clothes. And I remember going to an awful lot of dances, so they must have had a good many.

FINLEY:

Did you always have dance programs that you signed?

GREINER:

Uh-huh, yes.

FINLEY:

There was no such thing as a dance without a dance program?

GREINER:

No! Not until--no, I think we always had a dance program. There were a lot of dances at San Luis School, which was on the southwest corner of Cache la Poudre and--

FINLEY:

Nevada, right?

GREINER:

Yes. We had subscription dances a lot, and all the fraternities would get dates and bring them over.

FINLEY:

What was a subscription dance?

GREINER:

Oh, a subscription dance was when you'd go and pay, and get your program. I'm sure they weren't more than a dollar,

probably, per two--a dollar a couple. Yeah, and anybody could have them, apparently, if you'd just rent the hall, and then you'd ask a lot of people if they wanted to come.

FINLEY:

I suppose the subscription, then, was to pay for the cost of the dance? It wasn't--

GREINER:

Oh, whoever--well, no, in those days, whoever put them on took what was left of the money. And there wasn't much, by the time you paid for the--they used to decorate with crepe paper. It was always decorated, and--people went to a lot more trouble in those days!

FINLEY:

And the dances were always chaperoned, weren't they?

GREINER:

Yes, they usually had a faculty couple. The fraternity dances were always chaperoned, maybe one or two faculty couples came.

FINLEY:

Some of them, you say, were held in the fraternity houses. It must have been fairly small quarters to dance in?

GREINER:

Oh, no, they moved out all the furniture, and you danced in the hall, and the living room, and the dining room--all over. It didn't seem to me it was crowded!

FINLEY:

And there was always a live orchestra?

GREINER:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Do you ever remember a phonograph being--

GREINER:

No, I don't.

FINLEY:

--playing any role whatsoever in--

GREINER:

No, that wouldn't be a dance. You had to have--you could dance to a phonograph record at home, but if you went out--

FINLEY:

Right! The days of the disco had not come in yet! Well, Connie, of course you both grew up around Colorado College so much that you had memories long before you became a student. You said something to me earlier about a horse that you remembered on the campus.

MURRAY:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

What is this horse you're talking about?

MURRAY:

Well, as I say, I think his name was Joe, and he was sort of--oh, when it snowed, and they had to have the walks plowed, he'd pull the plow. During the war when they had corn on the campus, he'd probably plow the rows of corn.

FINLEY:

This is World War I?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

They had corn on the campus in World War I?

MURRAY:

Yeah, they plowed up all the grass, and put fields of corn in. I don't know how successful they were, but that's what they did. I don't know whether they did it more than one year or not.

GREINER:

I don't know who ate the corn, either, do you?

MURRAY:

No, except Joe! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Well, that's very interesting, because during World War II, of course, they plowed up the campus for the victory gardens--

MURRAY:

Yes!

FINLEY:

--and I hadn't realized that they had the same concept in World War I. This horse must have lived on campus, huh?

MURRAY:

Oh, yeah, he lived in the bottom of Cossitt. They had a garage for all the physical plant things, back of Cossitt, in that experimental building for TB that they used to have. And Joe lived down in the basement of that.

FINLEY:

In the basement!

MURRAY:

Underneath. Then they also had a dog that you've probably heard about.

FINLEY:

No.

MURRAY:

Well, the dog was called Dean, because I can remember somebody said they never knew what dean he was named after. But Dean lived between Cossitt Hall, where they served the men's meals, and Hagerman Hall. Remember, he always used to come over and--he was a real nice mongrel. And Dean finally died, and he was buried with a headstone right north of Hagerman Hall.

FINLEY:

Hmmm. That probably got dug up when they took down Hagerman Hall. Now, what was Dean's span--about the same time as the horse?

MURRAY:

Yeah, I would say so, yeah.

FINLEY:

World War I?

MURRAY:

And a little later, maybe, because we used to eat down at Cossitt when I was a little girl. They had an alcove that they allowed the faculty to eat in, and people from Hagerman Hall, and that's how Perry and [can't understand] used to--

GREINER:

They worked on the--Perry was the one that took the money for the--

MURRAY:

Oh.

GREINER:

--meals from the students.

FINLEY:

And you ate there as a child, eh?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Frequently.

MURRAY:

She always wanted soup, and there was talk--every time we came, they all laughed about how that was all she'd eat, soup. She had numerous bowls of soup! [laughter] That was a great joke among the waiters.

FINLEY:

Did your mother come down there, too, to eat?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

She must have enjoyed the atmosphere of not having to cook, or did you have servants?

GREINER:

It was the maid's night out, that's why we'd come on Thursday.

FINLEY:

I see, of course, of course, you had servants. On Thursdays.

MURRAY:

And when we first went there, there were two women that ran it, Louisa Blovelt, and-- what was the other one's name?

GREINER:

I don't remember.

MURRAY:

And then Hazel West ran it for many years.

FINLEY:

This was the only place where men would eat on campus, correct?

MURRAY:

Could eat, yeah.

FINLEY:

They did not eat in the fraternity houses?

MURRAY:

No. And then Bemis was just for girls. And I don't know why, but the faculty never seemed to eat over there. At least, we never ate there.

GREINER:

Oh, once in a while we did. Father ate there one time when you were gone, because I remember hearing about it. He sort of looked forward to it. He'd eat at the head table, wherever that was--the dean of women--I don't remember who, but with a raised dais.

FINLEY:

Hmmm--the head table!

GREINER:

Right at the south end of Bemis Hall, the dining room as it is now, they had a raised--oh, it was raised about a foot--platform, where all the seniors and the dean of women ate. And when you got to be a senior, why, you could eat up there.

FINLEY:

Well, of course, the student body population was fairly small and cohesive in those days. I guess it was still possible for them all to sit up there.

Well, now, Connie, when you were at Colorado College, it was--I always think of it as sort of the end of the Flaming Twenties, and of course, and this is due to the stereotype I had of life during Prohibition and all that. Did you find that CC was quite a lively and swinging and radical place at all, during your years there, or was it--

MURRAY:

I don't know what you call--

FINLEY:

Was there lots of partying, and short skirts and drinking, and this sort of thing, or not?

MURRAY:

Well, I wasn't really too--as I told my sister, I didn't go out too often with dates, and so my knowledge of the social life is a little limited. But I still remember, they still had the sorority and fraternity dances, that you always went to.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

MURRAY:

And the formals at the end of the year, which they used to have--oh, in different places [can't understand]

GREINER:

With favors.

MURRAY:

With favors.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

MURRAY:

And as to the drinking, I don't remember much until my senior year, and then I think--I remember we had quite a good time! [laughter] And along about that time I learned how to make gin from alcohol.

GREINER:

In the bathtub.

FINLEY:

Bathtub gin! Sure, this was during Prohibition. Did students really manufacture their own?

MURRAY:

I don't know about the other students, but I had some friends, and one summer, we used to make bathtub gin in their house. And one of the boys that lived up the street came down one night to see us, and kept smelling the gin, and we weren't about to give him any. So he stayed so long, he finally announced that he smelled we had made gin. And you could smell it all over the house. You put juniper--somehow you'd distill the stuff with water, one gallon of alcohol would make ten gallons of gin, I think, as I recall.

FINLEY:

You put juniper berries in?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum. You put juniper berries in it. Some liked [can't understand] distillation tube from the bathtub faucet--that's how they called it bathtub gin.

FINLEY:

Oh, I always thought it was just a bathtub full of-- [all talking at once; can't understand] [laughter] --take a bath!

MURRAY:

--siphon it out if you wanted to drink it! [laughter]

FINLEY:

But you must have made it in large quantities and stored it in bottles?

MURRAY:

Yeah. Pickle [?] bottles.

FINLEY:

Hmmmm. Sounds lethal.

GREINER:

Everybody lived through it, I guess.

MURRAY:

As a matter of fact, Isabel's brother used to buy me my gallons of alcohol, because he maintained--he knew an honest bootlegger that sold honest alcohol, so--

GREINER:

Husband.

MURRAY:

Yeah! Did I say brother? I didn't mean brother!

FINLEY:

You had to get the alcohol through a bootlegger? You couldn't just buy it at a drug store?

MURRAY:

Oh, no. You didn't buy it at a drug store.

FINLEY:

And where did one find the bootlegger?

GREINER:

Oh, they were around, under the leaves, I think. I don't know where Perry ever contacted this man, but he was in the car repossessing business, and I think some of the customers might have been his source.

FINLEY:

But there was no special secret place downtown that you could--that everyone knew about?

MURRAY:

No, oh, no.

GREINER:

No, no.
MURRAY:
No, I think everybody had their own bootlegger, as I recall.

GREINER:
Yes, I remember ours used to come to the back door when we lived on the alley, there in my grandmother's old house, and he would come to the back door, and the transaction took place there.

MURRAY:
I never heard of anybody getting arrested for patronizing a bootlegger in those days, did you?

GREINER:
No.

FINLEY:
Well, was plain old alcohol the only thing you'd buy from a bootlegger?

GREINER:
Oh, no!

MURRAY:
Well, no, we bought wine.

FINLEY:
Uh-hum.

MURRAY:
Which I never have liked, since then! [laughter]

FINLEY:
He probably made his own wine someplace, huh, the bootlegger?

MURRAY:
Oh, yes! I think they had stills, and a lot of Italian people were bootleggers then.

FINLEY:
Was there much discussion about the effects of Prohibition on people's social attitudes--do you recall?

MURRAY:
Oh, we didn't ever think about--

GREINER:
Well, no, we didn't pay any attention to it. And then

when they repealed the amendment, bootleggers just disappeared, I guess.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. But it wasn't the big central fact of your daily living--

MURRAY:

Oh, no.

GREINER:

No.

FINLEY:

--it was just sort of taken for granted?

Connie, what about the sorority life on campus? Now, there were still the literary clubs when you came to Colorado College, and I understand that you had quite a part in creating the first sorority.

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Now, can you describe that transition, and how it came about, and--I know there was some antipathy to forming sororities. Tell me all you know about this, because we don't have anything written down about it.

MURRAY:

No, I'm a little hazy myself on that, but as I recall, Lucille Esmiol was very prominent in getting the Kappas to come in, and they had--Mrs. Fauteaux and, I suppose a group of the faculty, had decided that we could have the Kappas--they wanted on--the Thetas, and Delta Gammas.

And when I was a freshman in school, Lucille Lennox, who was very--Mrs. Loring Lennox, who was very prominent among the older families here in town, had gone to DU, and was a Gamma Phi, and she thought she'd get ahead of the game, and put in a freshman organization which would become Gamma Phi when the sororities came in. But unfortunately, it came in as a two-year group, so that your second year you could go from Crescent Club into a society, so that you were pledged to a society while you were still in Crescent Club. And when the sororities came in, most of Crescent Club's members, who were also in societies at that time, went to the sororities that the societies became, and poor Crescent Club was left out in the cold. So she had to organize it with just freshman girls on campus. And it took the Gamma Phis quite a while to get started.

FINLEY:
Uh-hum. But Kappas and Thetas came in about the same time, right?

MURRAY:
Uh-hum.

FINLEY:
And Delta Gammas?

MURRAY:
And Delta Gamma. They were the first three.

FINLEY:
Now, where were their club houses? Were those sorority houses built about that period?

MURRAY:
The quickest one that comes in is the Kappas, and their west room that they have now was the original house that the society had. You know, that west room?

FINLEY:
Oh.

MURRAY:
Then they built on all the rest of it, from around that.

FINLEY:
You said they had met at first, though, in the Broadmoor Art Academy?

MURRAY:
No, no. That was when they were installed, when they installed the Kappa sorority.

FINLEY:
Oh, I see. Just the first formal--

MURRAY:
Yeah. No, Hypatia--all the societies had houses. Now Hypatia had its own house. The Contemporaries were in the contemporary--

GREINER:
I thought it was in the observatory.

MURRAY:
The Contemporaries were in the observatory.

FINLEY:

Well, they became--

MURRAY:

And they became Thetas, I think. And then the Minerva society had a club house of its own, right between the observatory and the--there was some sort of a superintendent's house next to the observatory, and then the Minerva house. And then the Crescent Club had a house there, but the Minervas became Delta Gammas, and were in that house until they enlarged theirs, too. And then the college finally took it over.

FINLEY:

They were still in that house when I was in school, I believe, the house on Cache la Poudre.

MURRAY:

I think probably, uh-hum.

FINLEY:

That was before the new Delta Gamma house was built. Now, the Thetas, you say, or Contemporary, that became Theta, were in the observatory. Wasn't the observatory at that time used for any astronomical observations?

MURRAY:

No, that had been gone by the boards many years before. I think somebody just hopefully built it, because I don't ever remember it being used as an observatory.

GREINER:

It was just sort of a vacant house on the campus.

FINLEY:

I see.

GREINER:

It did have a domed effect.

MURRAY:

Well, I think they intended to use it, but I don't know why, nothing ever happened. They built it before they needed it, I imagine, and then never needed it.

FINLEY:

I see. Why was there any opposition to the formation of sororities in the first place?

MURRAY:

I was afraid you'd ask me that, because when you mentioned it, I couldn't remember. I think it was because

they didn't want the girls to live--they had to have revenue for Bemis Hall, the girls' dormitory, and that, as I recall, was the main--

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. They didn't want them to live in--

MURRAY:

They didn't want them to live in sorority houses.

FINLEY:

--sorority houses.

MURRAY:

That's the reason that we became lodges, and there are not too many schools who have lodges.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. Well, that must have been a deal made so that they could--

MURRAY:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

--be chartered, provided they would not live in the houses. Okay.

Now you were a Latin major, of all things, and your sister was an art major. Who were your Latin professors?

MURRAY:

The Mierows were the most [can't understand] and Miss [Elinor Dorothy] Breeze, who is Mrs. Bartlett now, Landell Bartlett. And that was the Classical department, practically.

FINLEY:

Now, C. C. Mierow was the president of the college at the same time. Did he also teach a full load?

MURRAY:

No. No, he didn't teach. His brother taught, Charles.

GREINER:

Herbert.

MURRAY:

Herbert, Herbie.

FINLEY:

So C. C. Mierow was not teaching at all then?

MURRAY:

I don't believe he was. Then afterwards, when he left the college, he taught in the Classical department, or was head of it, at Carleton College. But I believe when he was president, he didn't have anything--he was just too busy.

FINLEY:

Did you also study Greek?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum. Two years of Greek, and that's Miss Breeze--I think Miss Breeze taught that.

FINLEY:

Didn't Dorothy Bryson, before she became Mrs. Hulbert, didn't she teach in the Classics department at CC?

MURRAY:

I think she did. She may have taught--she was married to Professor Hulbert when I was in college, so I don't know.

GREINER:

I think she did, though. I think she came her first year out of college, it seems to me.

FINLEY:

To teach in the Classics department? Did you ever have Professor Hulbert for any course? Do you remember him?

MURRAY:

No.

FINLEY:

No? Who were some of your favorite professors?

MURRAY:

Oh, golly!

FINLEY:

Or any that you have [can't understand] --either way!

MURRAY:

Well, Amanda Ellis is one that I have strong memories of! [laughter] And Herbie Mierow, and--there were so many that would be here for a year or so, and then go. I don't remember--oh, and Mr. Knapp, and Mr. . . . oh, who was the man that I read, I used to read short stories in his class all the time?

FINLEY:

In the English department?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Not Albright--no, he was--

MURRAY:

He was--no,

FINLEY:

He was--

MURRAY:

Oh--Mr. Rose!

FINLEY:

Oh, Mr. Rose. Yes.

MURRAY:

He gave me a D because--or a C or something, because I insisted on bringing blue books to class, and reading them because class was so boring.

FINLEY:

You read other stories during his class? Well, now, you say you have strong memories of Amanda Ellis? Can you describe her for people in the future, who never knew her. What was she like?

GREINER:

She wore a big hat!

MURRAY:

And little shoes! And always looked a little top-heavy. [laughter]

FINLEY:

And what was she like in the classroom?

MURRAY:

I usually enjoyed her classes. I had a class on short stories-- [some interruption] Maybe Izzie can fill you in on--

GREINER:

Miss Ellis? Of course, she was after my time, but I remember those hats, and sort of remember that she was firmly-- [chuckles] --she was impressed with her ideas! That was my impression of her in the few times that I had seen her--she was pretty--I can't think of the word.

FINLEY:

She felt sure of her opinions?

GREINER:

Yes, I think so. She thought they were pretty good. And I'm sure some of them were.

FINLEY:

Well, now, while Connie is out of the room, let's take a moment and go back to your own career at CC. Did you meet your husband while he was a student at CC?

GREINER:

Yes. He was a Phi Delt.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. And then you were married right after you graduated from college?

GREINER:

No, it was about five years. He worked long enough so he could pay off the college the money he owed them for his tuition.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. In those days, I guess most students helped pay their expenses with--

GREINER:

Yes, they did.

FINLEY:

--jobs of some sort.

GREINER:

When he first came to school, he tended furnaces for Dr. Neeper, who was an eye specialist, and that was hard work, because he'd have to get up awfully early in the morning and fill the furnace, and then go back two or three times during the day, and at night. So that kept him pretty busy. Then he had other jobs. He was the manager of the dining room, I guess you might say, at Cossitt for several years. He got his meals for checking up on the boys, and the waiters, and taking the money.

FINLEY:

When you say taking the money, did people have to pay with each meal, or didn't they have a meal ticket?

GREINER:

Oh, I think they paid by the month--I'm not sure.

FINLEY:

I see.

GREINER:

And they used to have a football table in those days, and sometimes they got kind of raucous. I remember one time they tell about getting mashed potatoes and putting them on their forks, and pulling the handle, and spatter mashed potatoes all over everything. But they were usually pretty orderly, I think.

FINLEY:

And did the football players get special--extra calories?

GREINER:

Yes, they had a special table. The football table was a special table.

FINLEY:

Do you remember that athletics played a big role in student life?

GREINER:

Well, yes, the football games were always pretty popular, and the basketball games, too. Baseball, I don't remember. I don't believe they had a baseball team. I think the basketball and football teams were the most--and I believe football was the most popular. I mean, there were more people went to the games, and they used to have--I can't remember cheerleaders, but I'm sure they must have had them.

But I sat through many a game when we were so cold we thought we'd never live through it. Weather seemed to be colder in those days than it does now! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Was there always a good crowd at those football games?

GREINER:

Yes. And they'd very often have dances after the football games, and the football players managed to come.

FINLEY:

Where were those held?

GREINER:

In the houses, fraternity houses.

FINLEY:

Right after the games?

GREINER:

Not right after, but--

FINLEY:

Same day. How about homecoming? Was this well-developed?

GREINER:

Oh, yes, everybody in those days--they don't have floats any more, do they, and parades?

FINLEY:

No, no.

GREINER:

Well, we always used to have floats and parades, and all the fraternities used to have their floats, and they'd work awfully hard on it, and they had prizes.

FINLEY:

How about pep rallies?

GREINER:

Oh, yes, bonfires on Friday night. Those were always well attended, and then there'd be a dance someplace afterwards. It sounds like we were awfully social! [laughter] Well, I guess we were!

FINLEY:

Well, I guess the college education was really the privilege of a few, rather than of the majority as it is today. But it does sound as though you were quite [can't understand] [laughter]

GREINER:

Well, people seemed to graduate from college, so I guess they worked sometime!

FINLEY:

Do you remember much hard studying at all, or examinations?

GREINER:

Oh, yes, I remember studying for exams, just probably average college life. Probably I didn't remember the studying as much. I remember when the fellows used to cram--stay up all night cramming. I guess they do that still.

FINLEY:

Do you recall ever going out to Stratton Park as a student, or any time for social events?

GREINER:

Well, I remember Bruin Inn. We used to go up there often--we'd walk. I don't suppose anybody would walk nowadays, if there is still a Bruin Inn, but we used to go to the end of the car line, and then hike up to Bruin Inn and have parties. The fraternities had dances up there, too, some of the time. You wore sort of--well, hiking clothes, and had dinner, and danced. That was a popular place to go.

FINLEY:

Where was the end of the streetcar line?

GREINER:

That was at Stratton Park. It used to go around the pavilion that was there, and start back again. But everybody would get off at the pavilion. I don't know whether that's still there or not.

FINLEY:

No, not at all. You don't remember how long it would take you to hike up and hike back down?

GREINER:

Oh, I imagine it would take about an hour--maybe not--45 minutes. It wasn't too awfully far.

FINLEY:

Did you come down in the dark, then?

GREINER:

Sure, with flashlights, and--well, then, later on, when cars were more available, we used to take cars up--go up in cars. Big crowds would go up in cars. I remember walking up, mostly. I don't know whether that was in high school or college, but I hiked an awful lot to Bruin Inn!

FINLEY:

Did Perry Greiner have a car when he was in school?

GREINER:

No, not when he was in school.

FINLEY:

Did Hartley Murray have a car?

MURRAY:

No.

FINLEY:

Students--most students didn't own cars, did they?

GREINER:

We always just went on the streetcar. We always used to go on the streetcar to go to movies.

MURRAY:

Oh, and we used to go out to the dances at--the Broadmoor would have a tea dance--did you ever hear about those?

FINLEY:

My mother has mentioned them now and then.

MURRAY:

Well, when I was in high school, why, somebody would get their family's car and we'd go out--oh, three or four couples of us. And we all paid our own way--it was 75 cents--and we had yummy tea and good little cakes, and danced. They had an orchestra.

GREINER:

My memories are going on the streetcar out there. [chuckles] But you went out to them, too.

FINLEY:

Yes.

GREINER:

So you see, they must have gone for many years.

FINLEY:

For many years. Well, you got around town, I take it, throughout your youth, mostly walking and on the streetcar, or did your family hop in the car and take you places?

GREINER:

No, we didn't have a car until--did we?

MURRAY:

Oh, yeah, we had a car when you were about fourteen, because, remember, it was the last summer we were practicing up on the mountain.

GREINER:

Oh. Oh, yes, I remember that. I don't remember going--I remember the Brunetts, who lived next door, took me to school when I was in high school.

MURRAY:

Well, we had carpools when I was in high school, and as soon as we were able--our families would take us, and then when we were able to drive ourselves, we still had the carpool.

GREINER:

Well, I don't remember that. I mean, that didn't happen in my--

FINLEY:

But when you were in high school, you did get your driver's license, eh?

GREINER:

Yeah, you got them when you were 15.

MURRAY:

I got mine when I was 14.

FINLEY:

Oh, the same as now, there must have been quite an interest in learning to drive?

GREINER:

I can't remember that it was such a thing to drive. I remember it was a help.

FINLEY:

You know, I think we're just about running out of our one side of the tape here, and I'd like to take a few more minutes, if you would, about 10 more minutes on the second side of the tape. Let's just keep talking here until it runs out.

I wanted to go back, because you had left the room, Connie. You were talking about Amanda Ellis, but I wanted to have you describe also the other professors that you mentioned. Can you tell us a bit about Mr. [Lewis M.] Knapp? Did you have him for English courses?

MURRAY:

Yeah, I had--he was a most interesting man, but he was a typical college professor--the most absent-minded one I think you could find. He and Mr. Smollett were conversing, I think most of the time, instead of being in the present age.

FINLEY:

Do you remember any specific instances of his absent-mindedness?

MURRAY:

Oh, no. I don't remember particularly.

FINLEY:

He just had that reputation?

MURRAY:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

Even when you were a student?

[FINLEY:

We're now on Side 2 of tape recording number 21, and I'm continuing my interview with Constance Postlethwaite Murray and Isabel Postlethwaite Greiner.]

We were talking when the tape ran out about some of your professors, Connie. You told us about Mr. Knapp being absent-minded. Can you tell us a bit about Mr. [Milton S.] Rose--he was in the English department, right?

MURRAY:

Rose was in the English department also. He was a very quiet little man, and most boring. His classes were not one of the ones that would vitalize anybody. He had a very soft voice, and as I say, I thought I was getting by with reading books [can't understand] in his class, but I wasn't, evidently. He could see more than I thought he could [chuckles].

FINLEY:

Did you ever have Mr. Gilmore as a professor?

MURRAY:

No.

FINLEY:

You never did take a biology course?

MURRAY:

No. He was supposed to be a real great teacher, though, and evidently prepared people for pre-med pretty well.

FINLEY:

Yes. Well, it sounds as though you were very much concentrated on English and--did you ever have to take any math courses?

MURRAY:

Well, yes, I did struggle through math. In those days, you had to take math your freshman year, and took a math course, an English course, history course, and then I took a language--then you took a language course. And the math was Dr.--or Mr. Gordon Parker taught, and he also taught me on the side, so I could get through!

FINLEY:

Sort of tutored you?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

That must have been a sort of a special favor, since he knew your father! [laughter] Did you ever find that it bothered you that your father was associated with the college, and you were--

MURRAY:

Well, yes, I think it did, particularly socially. I think most of the--lots of the boys were scared of you because your father was sort of gruff about the matter of paying bills.

GREINER:

And if they owed some--

MURRAY:

Yeah!

FINLEY:

Well, paying bills must have been quite a problem. You had been talking about the jobs that most students held to help work their way through college. Did you ever hold a job, Connie?

MURRAY:

Well, we didn't pay any tuition.

FINLEY:

Oh, that's right. You got in free!

GREINER:

We got in free, so we wouldn't have to work.

MURRAY:

Except for the art part.

GREINER:

Connie had to pay for--[both talking at once] --earned my tuition by answering the telephone the last year I was in school. That was for the music department and everybody.

FINLEY:

What kinds of jobs did girls have? The boys were tending furnaces, and then serving board tables and so forth. What did the girls do?

MURRAY:

The first thing a girl did that lived in the Halls was to hash--

GREINER:

Hash at the--for meals. That was the way lots of girls got their meals. Nowadays, I understand that lots of them don't buy tickets; they go eat in the sorority houses--sorority lodges. They band together and have--some of the sororities will let them eat their meals at their house.

FINLEY:

They cook their own, huh?

GREINER:

They cook their own.

FINLEY:

I didn't know that. Did your dad hire college girls to help out in the treasurer's office?

MURRAY:

No, not in the treasurer's office, but up in the museum. They used to keep the museum open, and have girls there that would run the mimeograph for all the faculty members, and that's the way they earned extra money. They would type for Father if he needed typing done, or they'd type for any professor. And then, as I say, they ran off all the tests, which was a great joy to some of their friends, if they weren't really too honest!

FINLEY:

Copies of the test would somehow get out?

MURRAY:

Somehow, they might get out!

FINLEY:

Do you remember some of the names of the gals that worked in the museum?

MURRAY:

Well, yes. Lorna Dairy worked there, and Beth--you want the married names, or--

FINLEY:

Well, give me their maiden names.

MURRAY:

Beth Ritter Koons, and--let's see--June . . . can't

remember what June's maiden name was. Her name was June Smith. June [can't understand] Smith.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

MURRAY:

And . . . who else [can't understand] ? I think your mother did.

FINLEY:

I think she did, for a while. Did girls work in the library, too?

MURRAY:

Yes, the library was quite a spot, because they'd employ students there, both men and women. And they'd mostly be on the desk, or do stack work.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. If they were running mimeograph machines for the faculty, there must not have been regular secretaries for the faculty, the way they have now?

MURRAY:

No.

FINLEY:

None.

MURRAY:

There weren't.

GREINER:

The president had a secretary.

MURRAY:

He was about the only one that had a secretary. The departments just struggled along as they could.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. I presume some of these college girls then got quite responsible for--

MURRAY:

Oh, they also corrected papers. Lorna corrected papers for the professors. That was another way of earning money. So I imagine they also did, probably, typing for them when they could. But there was no paid secretarial help for the departments.

FINLEY:

Under the tenure of C. C. Mierow as president of the college when you were a student, was the general attitude that the college was doing fine and you just went along blithely, or were people quite concerned about the struggle of the college to stay afloat financially?

MURRAY:

As I recall, they weren't really too troubled about this--staying afloat. They were more concerned about what their classes were going to do, and whether they could pay their bills, but it didn't ever get to a larger scope of whether the college was going to stay open. And that was in the days when they really had to do a little finagling to stay open.

FINLEY:

That probably wasn't known to the general--

GREINER:

It doesn't seem to me that they knew it.

MURRAY:

I don't think I remember--

GREINER:

Well, I don't remember hearing Father be concerned about it.

MURRAY:

No, but I guess he should have been, after--when I was trustee, it sure sounded as if he should have worried! People had sleepless nights over it.

FINLEY:

Sleepless nights!

One of the joys, I know, of Mr. Mierow's term as president was the construction of Shove Chapel.

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

Do you remember building Shove Chapel?

GREINER:

Oh, yes!

MURRAY:

Father was very interested in it, and we used to go down quite often, and as they were building it, we used to be able to go up in the tower that the clock is in now, and that

used to be fun, because you got such a beautiful view of the campus, and the town, and it was very carefully and very well built. It was almost with loving labor, I think you might say.

FINLEY:

Was there any criticism of its architecture, style--remember?

MURRAY:

I don't remember any.

FINLEY:

You never heard it referred to as a white elephant?

GREINER:

Huh-um.

MURRAY:

No.

FINLEY:

I don't know where I got that, that people thought it was such a strange building. Actually, it's beautifully Romanesque and classic, and--

MURRAY:

Well, it was very well researched, and very--I always thought--authentically done. I think they--our class was the first class to have their graduation in it, and I guess that's one reason I've always been particularly fond of it. But they must have opened it to chapel services and we had chapel once a week in it, and they took attendance. And I guess that was the first year they had it open.

FINLEY:

Did you go to the dedication of it?

MURRAY:

Oh, yes.

FINLEY:

What do you remember about that--anything?

MURRAY:

Oh, a blank!

FINLEY:

A blank! I've seen photographs of it. I think Mr. Shove--

GREINER:

Mr. Shove came out and--not like Olin Hall. Olin Hall, I think they dedicated--
MURRAY:

We could jump over this.

GREINER:

Outdoors, but this one was dedicated inside, as I recall.

FINLEY:

I'm going to jump way ahead now. You said that when you were a trustee, you realized the financial condition of the college during the early thirties. You became an alumni trustee in 1954; is that correct?

MURRAY:

Yes, I think so.

FINLEY:

1954. This was about the end of President Gill's--

MURRAY:

You better watch him.

FINLEY:

--President Gill's term as president, and the hiring of Benezet was in process. What were some of the major concerns when you were a trustee? Were you involved in this hiring process?

MURRAY:

Yes. I thought it was most interesting. We had a man come out from California, whose business it was to find jobs for--people for jobs. And I thought he was--to me, it was very enlightening, the way they went about things like that, and the fact that his one premise was that no matter how good a person was, he shouldn't stay at a college more than seven years. You hired them--you hired a person for what you needed at that time, which was the time you were hiring him. And then, his term of usefulness would end in about seven years, because by that time, there would be another problem. And it was the first time I had ever heard that theory presented. And he was the one that--one of the ones that was instrumental in getting Benezet.

FINLEY:

He was a sort of a professional consultant?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum. Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

And his opinion must have carried a good deal of weight. What did the college seem to need at that point, when Benezet was hired?

MURRAY:

They needed--definitely, a scholar was out, and they needed somebody with a good business head and somebody who could do promotional work, and raise money. That was their main need at that point.

FINLEY:

Rather than being concerned about--

GREINER:

A scholar.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. [some talking in undertone--can't make out]

MURRAY:

Another thing I was interested in when I was a trustee was I mentioned the fact that Father should have had many sleepless nights. There was a man as a trustee who was most insistent that they try to technically redo--I don't mean redo, but revise--the fact that during the Depression they had had to go into the endowment fund for current expenses. That was when Father was treasurer, and he just--Mr. Alberman [?] never did forgive the fact that they had allowed the college to do that. He thought the endowment fund was a sacred thing, and should never have been invaded. But it was either that or close the doors of the college. You know, you said--and I didn't know that until I was a trustee.

FINLEY:

Yes. Well, did they in fact change the policy when you were a trustee, so that the endowment fund wasn't invaded?

MURRAY:

It went haggling--they haggled over that for so many years, I don't think they ever solved it. Because there was a definite split on it, in the trustees, as to what should have been done. So they just never resolved it.

FINLEY:

Who were some of the most influential trustees during your time as a trustee? Was Mr. Armstrong, Sr. still a trustee?

MURRAY:

No, he was no longer a trustee.

FINLEY:

No.

MURRAY:

Let's see--a man from Denver . . . Mr. McGallup--no, not . . .

FINLEY:

Not Roberts?

MURRAY:

Yes, I think Mr. Roberts was on for a brief time. I don't remember who they were--I'm sorry, my memory on names is horrible.

FINLEY:

So's mine, so don't worry about it! How did you first meet Benezet? Was he brought in and interviewed by the trustees?

MURRAY:

Uh-hum.

FINLEY:

What do you recall as your first impressions of him?

MURRAY:

Well, he was a very able person, and he talked particularly well; of course, he always did. And he was a very forthright person, and seemed to know what it was the college needed. And I was very pleased to--for me, it was a very interesting period to be on the board, because it was just a--General Gill was going off, having done his best in the military attitude with the presidency of a college, which is hard to reconcile both.

FINLEY:

Gill wanted to retire, didn't he? He wasn't forced out, or anything--

MURRAY:

No, he did retire.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum. And Benezet certainly gave the college a shot in the arm that was needed?

MURRAY:

It was needed--that was definitely--right.

FINLEY:

Of all the presidents over the years, you probably met, at some point, every one since Slocum on through to the present?

MURRAY:

Yes, we did.

FINLEY:

If you had to pick one of them as the most outstanding, just off the top of your head, or the one that seemed to have the strongest influence on the college, which one would you pick?

MURRAY:

I think Slocum, whether it was because he was one of the early ones, or whether it's because he had quite a varied career here. I think he was one of the strongest people they had, and I think Benezet after him.

FINLEY:

Uh-hum.

MURRAY:

You have to put Slocum in some place. I think Benezet, maybe, was a stronger, more forceful person, but he was a different style of president than Slocum.

GREINER:

Dr. Slocum was all right for the times.

MURRAY:

Yeah.

FINLEY:

Yes. And Benezet was certainly just right for his time.

MURRAY:

Good for that time, yeah.

FINLEY:

The college keeps growing and changing, and it's wonderful to talk to people who have had such a long association with it. I really appreciate your taking the time to converse with us this morning.

MURRAY:

Well, I didn't realize it was going to take--I thought maybe it would be half an hour! [laughter]

FINLEY:

Thank you so much, and I've enjoyed it very much.

MURRAY:
Well, that's fine.

END