

University of Illinois Student Life and Culture Archives
World War II at Illinois Oral History Project
Bette Nance Terry
Torrance, California
March 28, 2008

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

Chris D'Arpa: How are you?

Bette Nance Terry: I'm all right. How are you?

CD: Good! You are my second interview for today.

BT: Oh, who else have you talked to?

CD: Jean Maury and her last name was Hurt.

BT: Oh. I don't think I know her.

CD: She started in the summer of '42 at the University of Illinois. And was at the *DI* as a copy editor initially, but wound up as a managing editor. Later on, I guess. I think her term was '44-'45.

BT: Oh, ok. I should know that name but I don't.

CD: Well, maybe it's one of those things where if you saw a photograph it would ring a bell.

BT: Yeah.

CD: So, let me ask you, did you get a mailing from me with something called the interview agreement?

BT: Yes I did.

CD: Ok. And did you have a chance to look at it?

BT: Yes I did.

CD: Does everything work for you?

BT: Yes everything's fine.

CD: So you consent to everything that's in both those documents.

BT: Yes.

CD: Excellent! I should have gotten that to you earlier and I apologize.

BT: And when I sign them and return them to you, you have to sign it also, right?

CD: Right.

BT: Okay.

CD: And so let me explain how we're going to do this. I am using our studio at the Library School that we use for online distance education. They have a really nice studio and generously are letting me use it. And we'll tape, or I shouldn't even say tape, we'll record this interview. And we have an undergraduate history major in the Archives who is doing all the transcripts for the interviews I've done.

BT: Um hmm.

CD: And so Dan will do the transcript of our interview. I'll review it after he's done and then we'll send you a copy.

BT: Ok.

CD: And ask you to review it, make any adjustments to it that you feel might be needed. And then the final copy will go into the Archives and be made available to researchers.

BT: Ok.

CD: Sounds like a good plan?

BT: Sounds like a plan.

CD: Ok. So I will start the interview now. This is Chris D'Arpa. It's, I don't even know the date today!

BT: It's the 28th.

CD: It's the 28th of March, 2008.

BT: Imagine!

[laughter]

CD: And I'm speaking with Bette Nance Terry. Who is in Torrance, California. I am here at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the

University of Illinois. And we are speaking via the telephone and recording via computer technology. So Bette, usually I start these interviews by asking folks to tell me a little a bit about their background, their family, their education, and how they wound up at the University of Illinois.

BT: Well, I grew up in Bloomington, Illinois. And several of my friends went to the University and decided, with my parents, that that would be a good place to go. And so I enrolled in 1940. After I graduated from Bloomington High School. And I guess that's the background.

CD: And tell me a little bit about your family. What did your folks do in Bloomington?

BT: Well, my mother was a concert pianist. She graduated from New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. And she had known my dad in Hastings, Nebraska. They both grew up there. And dad went on to go to work and mother went off to college. And I think it's kind of romantic. He made the trip all the way to Boston to ask her to marry him.

CD: Oh, wow!

BT: I think that's so exciting.

CD: He took the train probably, right?

BT: Yes. Oh, yes indeed! And then they were married, June 18th 1913.

CD: Wow!

BT: And my dad was in the candy business, management really. And went from different companies and ended up in Bloomington at the Paul F. Beich candy company. Which I think was eventually bought by Nestle's.

CD: Why, how interesting.

BT: And I don't know whether that still going there or not but one of my fondest memories is going down to visit Dad at the office at Beich. And behind Beich's was the, oh I can't think of the name of the seed company, but anyway they were roasting soybeans. And let me tell you there is nothing like the fragrance of roasting soybeans and cooking chocolate.

CD: Is it a good combination?

BT: It's a good combination! [laughter] I never forgot that.

CD: Oh, how interesting.

BT: I think it was Funk Brothers Seed Company that was behind the Beich Candy Company.

CD: Oh, how interesting. And did you have siblings?

BT: No I don't. I'm an only child.

CD: Ok.

BT: And just grew up with wonderful parents who thought I could do anything.

CD: That's terrific.

BT: It is terrific. They...

CD: So, I'm sorry?

BT: They were wonderful.

CD: What were their names?

BT: Elizabeth Slaker Nance and my dad was Lawrence Franklin Nance.

CD: All right. Well, you said you came to the University in 1940, was it the fall of 1940 or?

BT: Yes.

CD: Many of the people I've spoken to have been starting in the summer but I think they didn't start that accelerated program until the summer of '42.

BT: Oh, um hmm.

CD: You started in the fall?

BT: Yes in the fall.

CD: And did you know, what was the experience like coming, had you been to the University before coming here as a student?

BT: It seems to me my dad brought me or took me over to Urbana, Champaign for a football game. But that's about my only exposure. Was mainly talking to my friends in high school who talked about the University. After they came back and told me all about it. And it just sounded great! And it was!

CD: So tell me about your first day here, if you remember. Or what your first impressions were as a student.

BT: Well, I moved into some kind of independent house and signed up for rush. And so I went through. Really that was the beginning of the fall semester was rush week. And that was pretty exciting. So, I went to all the houses and visited all the girls and had a wonderful time. I pledged Alpha Chi Omega and so that was really my first introduction to the University was through rush week.

CD: Um hmm. Did the University have any formal orientation for new students?

BT: Not to my recollection. I don't remember it. We probably did but I don't remember it.

CD: Right. And what about your classes? How did you decide which classes you were going to take?

BT: Well, I was trying to think about that this morning. They had a special program set up in 1940 and it was an accelerated, I wish I could remember the name of the program, anyway you took all these courses and it was terrible! [laughter] I mean somebody figured that if we read everything in the history part of this program we'd be reading morning, noon, and night forever. And I think they decided after a year that this was just too much and they changed. In fact, I think they cancelled the program. I wish I could remember. But it didn't last long but it was crazy. It included English and History and Spanish and Social Studies, oh gee, you name it and it was in this program. And we went to school, I did, I went to school all day, everyday, to try to make up grades. It was eh-h-h. I think I ended up with a good enough average to be initiated into Alpha Chi Omega. But it was a temporary thing. It was only half a semester but they initiated me on that sort of temporary grade anyway. But I went through it the first year of my freshman year and was initiated on that temporary grade.

CD: Did you stay... with this program, did you stay with the same people in each discipline and in each class? So you had Spanish and English and History. Were you with the same group of people for each class?

BT: Ghee, I don't remember. I know we were all struggling. It was a terrific undertaking and I got out of it. As soon as the year was completed I said "No more." And I had a lot of credits because of this program. So I went into my sophomore year with a little less stress.

CD: And you were able to choose your own classes that year?

BT: Right, uh huh.

CD: Do you remember what you selected in your sophomore year?

BT: No I don't.

CD: I'm not sure I'd remember myself. Just curious. What about, sort of, the social life on campus. You said that first year, it sounds like you barely had any time.

BT: Didn't have any time at all.

CD: Did you spend time in the library that year?

BT: No.

CD: So you studied in...

BT: I studied at the house. Yeah, they had a nice room. I think it was in the basement. And that's where we went to study or in our own rooms. Social life, not much. Not much as a freshman. Whatever the house was doing, of course, we did. You know, if a fraternity came and serenaded we sang back to them and all that. But not much. We didn't even have, I think we had a few exchange dinners with some of the fraternities, but that was about it.

CD: And what about the transition then because you were here before the war actually started. So you were on campus when the war did start.

BT: Yes I was. In fact...

CD: And can you talk about that?

BT: Yes I'd love too. One of my sorority sisters had an aunt who lived in Champaign and that Sunday the aunt invited us to come over and have dinner with her, believe it or not.

CD: And when would this have been.

BT: And that's when we heard about Pearl Harbor.

CD: Pearl Harbor, ok. And how did you hear, was it the radio?

BT: The radio. And of course the campus erupted, I am sorry to say. An awful lot of students marched to President Willard's house and demanded that the Japanese students who were there either be incarcerated or eliminated or something.

CD: Really?

BT: But there was a terrific feeling. We came back from that dinner and didn't get in on the march but saw it. It went down Lincoln Avenue. Lincoln is where the Alpha Chi

house is. And we saw this big marching group of students marching toward the President's house. Scary.

CD: Yeah. What came of that demonstration? Do you know how Willard responded?

BT: No I don't.

CD: And did this kind of sentiment continue on campus?

BT: Well, no I don't think there was, there was not a big hate feeling at all on the campus. We were all just in shock to think that anything like that could happen. And then a lot of the young men at that year decided they would enlist and so the exodus began.

CD: Did it?

BT: Oh yeah.

CD: Was it striking?

BT: Oh yes it was.

CD: Can you tell more about it? Especially if you were in a sorority, you must have had a sense of it because the fraternities were probably affected.

BT: Yeah, devastated. I would think so. Well, we just went along in our normal school activities and I had started working on the *Daily Illini*.

CD: Now how did that happen? Did you have to volunteer?

BT: Well, no. Well, yes. We just went down and I think they were glad to have volunteers. And so I just went into the office and said, "Is there anything I can do?" And, of course, there were a lot of things you could do. So my life really centered around the *Daily Illini* and my sorority and just campus life.

CD: Right. What year was it that you went down to the *DI* and started working and volunteering?

BT: During 1942.

CD: '42. And do you remember what your first tasks were? What your first job was there?

BT: No I don't. No I don't. I think it was probably covering some dumb thing like the ballet or the theatre guild or something. No I don't remember. Whatever was assigned is what I did.

CD: But it sounds like you were writing stories.

BT: Well, yes. That's when I started writing and submitting stories, yes.

CD: Oh terrific.

BT: And that's what sent me into the School of Journalism. I realized then that I wanted to be in that college and not in this other crazy system that I was in. So I got out of that after my freshman year and then got into the School of Communications.

CD: Communication I think, yes.

BT: It was the School of Journalism. And that is where I spent my time.

CD: And what were your classes like? Were my they classes? Were they taught by faculty? Were the faculty...

BT: Yes the faculty taught the classes. And they were wonderful. Those people in the Journalism School were outstanding. Wonderful classes.

CD: I'm sorry?

BT: Wonderful classes.

CD: Did you feel that you could really apply what you were learning in your work at the *DI*?

BT: Oh indeed. Yes indeed. In fact, by the time I was a senior, I enrolled in a thesis program like some idiot. But anyway I had to write a thesis my senior year along with everything else.

CD: Oye.

BT: And it was not, I mean, you went in and talked to your teacher, your instructor. And I don't even remember his name. And he would sort of just say, "Well how are you getting along?" Well, you can imagine if you could put off doing a thesis you did. And by the time I was ready to graduate I was tearing my hair out trying to get this thesis. I still have it, if you can believe that. But it was accepted and helped me graduate.

CD: What was the topic?

BT: The theme? Positive press.

CD: Oh.

BT: The positive press. Which I still wish we could do.

CD: Yes!

BT: Sorry to say but I think the media has left us in a very negative state.

CD: Yeah. Well, tell me more about life at the *DI*. In particular, how you advanced through the various stages of work there. In particular, because you were an editor eventually with Millicent and...

BT: And Carol and June Boe.

CD: And Carol, ok.

BT: Well, the men were disappearing and so things that they would usually do were turned over to us. And we were really quite a team. All very interested, of course, in the war news but in campus news. And I think we did a very good job of covering, well, a lot of things were disbanded because of the war but a lot of other things were going on. So we just scurried around the campus covering these things and writing them up. Hurrying back to the *DI* sitting down at the typewriter and writing out our stories.

CD: Do any stories stand out that you remember? Anything about what was going on, on campus? Were there any controversies? Did you cover the presence of the soldiers on campus?

BT: No there was, I think, a big group of NROTC. Navy recruiters or Navy, or whatever.

CD: Right.

BT: And I remember them being on campus but as far as covering things. The thing that shook me up the most was covering the Engineering Department. What did I know about engineering? Nothing. But they sent me there. And I visited often with some of the instructors and got some good stories out from the Engineering Department.

CD: So that was your beat? The Engineering Department?

BT: Yeah part of it. And also theatre guilds.

CD: Oh! That's pretty diverse.

BT: Yeah.

CD: Yeah.

BT: Yep. I loved it. I loved the theatre guild.

CD: Were there productions on campus?

BT: Yes there were. Yes there were.

CD: Did you attend?

BT: I attended and covered them.

CD: And they were student productions right?

BT: Yes. In fact a dear friend of mine, she is also from Bloomington, was in a lot of those productions. She's a year younger than I but she went on to New York and has done a lot of theatre work there. And we keep in touch and it's kind of neat that she started there in theatre guild in Illinois.

CD: Do you remember the training of soldiers, the transition from there being very few males students on campus to there being these soldiers on campus who were being trained?

BT: Well, it was kind of a small group Chris and no I don't remember ever bumping into them. Or seeing them at football games as a group or see them march around campus.

CD: You didn't see them?

BT: No.

CD: Oh, interesting.

BT: Maybe I was just too involved with other things.

CD: It could be in. It was a big campus even then so.

BT: Well physically, you know, it's a big campus.

CD: Right, right. So was most of your time in the *DI* building?

BT: Yes, yes.

CD: It was. When you weren't taking classes.

BT: Taking classes and the *DI*. That was my life.

CD: And did you attend concerts or?

BT: Oh yes, yes indeed.

CD: Do you remember where they were held?

BT: In, what is the, not the auditorium. What is that?

CD: The Union?

BT: No, the other end.

CD: Foellinger?

BT: What?

CD: Foellinger?

BT: No, you know, the old...

CD: The round building. It's sort of a round auditorium.

BT: Yes.

CD: I think it's called, I am so bad I should know this, but it's something like Foellinger Auditorium.

BT: I don't know. I know that is where we graduated.

CD: Is it?

BT: Because it was such a small class of us. But it's at the other end of the Union.

CD: Right. That's the building.

BT: You know.

CD: That's where the concerts were.

BT: That's where the concerts were.

CD: And were these student concerts?

BT: No, they brought in outstanding celebrities. I can tell you. Marian Anderson was one of them.

CD: Oh my goodness!

BT: They did whoever was Star Guild or something like that. I think the name of the group that ran those concerts was Star Guild. Now I don't know.

CD: And did you all have to pay for these concerts?

BT: Oh yes. You paid one fee and then you got a ticket. It admitted you to all the concerts.

CD: Oh! Well, that's nice.

BT: Yeah it was nice. Very nice.

CD: What are some of your fondest memories about working at the *DI*? In particular, were the four of you working together? Because what Millicent said is that you made a decision to work as a team and sort of make decisions together. I think she said that you even sort of decided on editorials together.

BT: Uh huh. That's exactly right. She's one hundred percent right.

CD: But that would have been very different than the men were doing it, right? Because there'd be an editor in chief.

BT: I think we were just all named associate editors or something like that. And I have good memories of working together. We really, you know, had a camaraderie that, well, is promoting the *DI* and I think we did. We worked together to sort the news, write the news, put it together, and working as a team. That's my fondest memory.

CD: How did you decide which stories to run? Did you talk?

BT: I think whoever was, Millicent was really kind of in charge and I think it was her decision. We all had input but I think she was the final decision person.

CD: And did you cover the war?

BT: No. We got the Associated Press wire stories.

CD: Oh ok. That is right. I didn't ask that question properly. The *DI* ran those stories from the AP?

BT: Um hmm.

CD: And did you have a sense that students were interested and engaged in following what you wrote in the *DI* about the war?

BT: Yes. We tried to make it important but not upper most. You know what I'm saying?

CD: Yes.

BT: Because as a college newspaper it's supposed to be covering the college. And I think we tried to. Of course the war was on the front page and that was it. But we tried to emphasize good things that were going on, on the campus.

CD: Did for instance, did the *DI* cover that demonstration to Willard's house?

BT: I am sure they did but you see we weren't associated with them then.

CD: Then.

BT: And so I am sure that all the guys who were running the *DI* were right there with the marchers and wrote it up, I'm sure for the *DI*.

CD: Now did the University Administration try to influence your editorial decisions at all?

BT: Not to my recollection. No, there was not a thumb print on all of us to do this or that or emphasize this or that. No we had, I think, a governing board of faculty that probably oversaw, oversaw is that a good word?

CD: Um hmm.

BT: Oversaw the *DI* but I never felt pressured that we had to do it one way or another.

CD: Right.

BT: No, not at all.

CD: Do you remember any contact with Deans or people in positions in the administration?

BT: No I don't.

CD: Well that's good. I guess. I mean what am I saying that's good?

BT: People were trying to think about the war and all those things and did not fool around with women who were running the *DI*. [laughter]

CD: And was there a very strong sense of the war, sort of in a daily way, on campus? Did you talk about it in classrooms and at the sorority?

BT: Oh yes. Yes, there was, of course. Really underlying feeling with everybody what was going on, where the fighting was, how things were going.

CD: Did you have a sense that you were vulnerable?

BT: What do you mean by vulnerable?

CD: Well, you know, that we were in danger.

BT: No. You know I didn't get that feeling. I am sure here in California they did because they thought maybe they were going. If they could take Pearl Harbor they could take California. And I think there was a feeling here at that but not in central Illinois.

CD: No?

BT: No. I mean we were cautious and we were concerned but I don't think we felt we were going to be overrun.

CD: Ok. And did you have friends and family who enlisted in the war?

BT: No. My husband's two brothers were in the war but that was the only connection that I've had.

CD: And did you know your husband here at Illinois?

BT: Yes I met him at the University.

CD: Oh really?

BT: At the *DI*.

CD: Oh! Well, tell me more.

BT: Very romantic.

CD: Tell me more!

BT: Well, I was sitting there copy reading something in the evening and Bob sat down on the table next to me and we just started to talk. And I was sizing him up because I am five feet nine, ok?

CD: Ok.

BT: And I thought, "He's going to be shorter than I am." Anyway we talked and he walked me home to the Alpha Chi house and we're the same height and weight if you can believe that. Anyway that was 1942 and we were married in 1944. So it was just, Bob

did not continue at Illinois. He just dropped out and got a job, in fact, on the Urbana *Courier*.

CD: Oh, so he was also in journalism.

BT: Yes. He was a writer. Always was. Wrote things long after we were married too. That was nice.

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CD: So did you both wind up as journalists? Because I know Millicent and her husband were both journalists of sorts.

BT: Well, no. I kind of dropped out of journalism and became a mother. But Bob continued not only working for newspapers but also radio stations. And so he was pretty involved.

CD: Here in Illinois?

BT: No, in Springfield, Ohio. We were in Urbana when we were married for a short time then moved to Springfield, Ohio. Bob got a job with WIZE in Springfield so we moved to Springfield.

CD: Did you stay in touch with folks at Illinois while you stayed in the Midwest. Because you left here in '44 you said?

BT: Yes. Well, yes because I'm still in touch with Millicent and June and Carol Olsen. And unfortunately she passed away I think she married a doctor and lived in the South somewhere, Georgia? I'm not sure. But kept in touch with those folks. Isabelle Marvin and those folks and a lot of my sorority sisters. I've kept in touch with.

CD: And what about with the University perse. What kind of feeling do you have about Illinois and your time here?

BT: Greatest four years of my life. I loved it. And I still do and watch everything. In fact my daughter is also a graduate. She graduated in '79 and two of my sons bought us tickets to the Rose Bowl game this year if you can believe. And we had also attended the one, I think it was twenty four years ago. And we're big Illini boosters. Believe me we love it. And of course the football game was dreadful! We lost, it was awful.

CD: Yes.

BT: But just seeing the band again and the cheerleaders and the flag wavers, it was wonderful.

CD: Did you have those things here, I guess they call them pep rallies? Did you have those on campus?

BT: Yes, yes we did.

CD: Where did they hold them?

BT: Mainly on the Quad, near the Union.

CD: Really? And everyone would just gather?

BT: Yes. Just gather and cheer and carry on.

CD: And this was generally the day before a game, is that right?

BT: Yes. And then we usually all marched together to go over to the Coliseum for the game. And it was great.

CD: And the Chief? Did we have a Chief in World War II?

BT: Oh yes we did.

CD: We did?

BT: Oh indeed we did. In fact, Idelle Stith who was the only women Chief for the University. I knew her well. She was a Pi Phi. And it was kind of thrilling to see her take part as the Chief because that outfit, you know, weighs over fifty pounds and to see this little Idelle Stith with that headdress and swinging around out on the field was thrilling because she was the only women Chief.

CD: And how did she get selected, do you know?

BT: I don't know. I imagine they had tryouts and picked her. But I noticed in the Alumni News that she's passed away. But it was kind of exciting to know the only female Chief.

CD: Did she enjoy doing it, do you know? Did you ever talk about it with her?

BT: I did talk about it with her and she did enjoy it. She said it was an awfully hard job to carry that headdress and do it but she loved it.

CD: So it's sounding like you also went to football games as a student. And they were accessible. I imagine you had to pay something to go to the games.

BT: Yeah. I think you got a, it's like theatre guilds, you got a ticket that you paid for once a year and they stamped it or I don't know. Anyway it let you into all the games. But there wasn't a special section at that time. You know, the cheering section.

CD: Yes.

BT: They didn't have that then. So you just went and sat wherever you were going to sit and watch the game.

CD: Well, it sounds fascinating. Really fun. Tell me again when you left the University.

BT: I graduated June 4th, 1944.

CD: '44. And what else do you remember about the war in particular during the period you were here?

BT: Well, I have to tell you the highlight, for me, I was president of Mortar Board and that was when Mortar Board was just ladies. Ladies only. And we didn't know the word failure. It was not part of our vocabulary. And we decided to put on a Mortar Board Mardi Gras thing. And when I think back on it, what a nerve! But anyway, we contacted the officials at the University and told them what we wanted to do. And they underwrote us. And had a lot of booths from fraternities and sororities. We also even had an auction and auctioned one of the faculty members to have dinner with somebody. I mean, it was...

CD: Was it a fundraiser?

BT: Yes it was a fundraiser for the war effort.

CD: For the war effort.

BT: Yes.

CD: And where was it held, do you remember?

BT: Well, all over. But mainly in the Union. And we kind of, since I was also at the *DI* I could, you know, talk about this thing in the paper.

CD: Sure!

BT: So everybody would know what we were doing. And everybody would come. But I got a little scared about spending all this money to set up all these things and thinking, "Oh, what if we don't make enough money to pay back the University who underwrote us, oh boy." But we did. We made enough money to pay back the initial investment and to send money off for the war effort.

CD: Oh, terrific.

BT: Yeah, it was really something but I think back and think, “Holy cow, what nerve!” To think that we could do something like that, imagine.

CD: Was it one of the journalism professors that you auctioned off?

BT: I don’t even remember.

CD: You don’t remember.

BT: Isn’t that awful?

CD: Well, no. No.

BT: I don’t remember but it was somebody and that was sort of a highlight of the Mardi Gras.

CD: Oh, it sounds wonderful. So it was a big celebration in the Union that extended beyond that particular moment.

BT: Yeah.

CD: And do you remember how the money was presented to the war, you know, how you made the contribution to the war effort. Who you sent it to?

BT: No I don’t. All I know is that we made enough to pay back the University sponsors and also send off several thousand dollars for the war effort.

CD: Wow!

BT: But who we gave it to, I don’t remember.

CD: And you said, in describing this you said, I didn’t quite catch what you said. You said from the fraternities you had booths?

BT: Booths. They set up their own booths. Different fraternities, sororities set up their own booths. Either sold food or kisses or, you know. Just booths.

CD: Ok. And so were there others, since you were at the *DI* and saw they had that AP wire coming in everyday, does anything stand out? Do you remember any days were the reporting from the war really kind of struck home?

BT: No I don’t. Everyday seemed to be some kind of disaster.

CD: Really?

BT: Somewhere in the world.

CD: And what was the relationship like, did you have a connection to the communities of Champaign Urbana? Especially, wasn't the *DI* a morning paper?

BT: Yes.

CD: It circulated beyond the campus itself, didn't it?

BT: Probably. Isabelle Marvin would know about that.

CD: Ok.

BT: She was on the business side. And of course would know about the advertising and the circulation. I don't know myself.

CD: Now, did you get letters to the editor? Did people write to you? Did students contact you say, you know, "What was that editorial you all just did?"

BT: Now that I don't remember. I know there was a gossip column and we had a guy that was not drafted and he used to do that kind of a gossip column. An Ann Landers type thing only it was kind of a gossip column.

CD: And did he invent the questions? Or do you think he got real questions?

BT: I think he got real questions.

CD: Oh, good for him.

BT: Yeah, right.

CD: So again it's funny because as I've spoken to four of you, I think. Only one wasn't affiliated with the *DI* but it sounds like with each of you and even the woman who was not affiliated with the *DI*, that your lives were somewhat compartmentalized. That you had maybe two to three places that really you concentrated your attention here. Maybe another way to ask this question is, did you feel like you had free time?

BT: No. And between going to classes and working on the *DI* I don't remember having much free time.

CD: Yeah it does sound like you were very, very busy all of you. It's impressive.

BT: Yes we were.

CD: And you kept long hours at the *DI*.

BT: Yes and I was thinking back about that. When I'd work at night I'd walk home from the *DI*. You know it was in the basement of that building, and I can't think...

CD: The Y? The YMCA on Wright Street.

BT: Probably.

CD: That's what others...

BT: The *Illio* was upstairs and we were down in the basement. But I'd walk from there across campus to Lincoln to my sorority and it was always kind of late at night. And I thought back and you know with so much going on today I just think, "Oh that would never happen today." That'd you'd walk safely. In fact, my house mother gave me a key to our house because I was always late.

CD: Did they lock the houses at night?

BT: Yes. We had a lock date, I think it was 10:00 p.m. The doors were locked.

CD: And did many of your sorority sisters have brothers and relatives who were in the war?

BT: Yes and fiancées.

CD: And did they correspond with their brothers? I mean were you part of conversation and hear what was going on in Europe or in the South Pacific in that personal way from people you knew who had relatives?

BT: Yes, right. Yes, a lot of the gals were engaged to guys who went off to fight the war. And to hear them writing back about their, excuse the expression, adventure. We shared of course.

CD: Well, it sounds like it was...

BT: It was an active, kind of, a wild time.

CD: Yes. Did you feel that you could make a difference in the world as a journalist? That you were writing, covering the campus, you were reporting on the war even if you weren't doing the reporting you were putting the AP stories into the paper. Did you?

BT: I don't think I was trying to change the world. I was trying to be a positive influence.

CD: And providing people with information.

BT: Absolutely. And not just negative information.

CD: Right. Maybe provoking some kind of conversation about what was going on in the world and on campus.

BT: I'm sorry?

CD: And on campus, what was going on, on campus as well.

BT: Yes, exactly. And I think we tried to keep it upbeat because there were, it's like today there are a lot of good things going on you just don't hear about them.

CD: Do you remember any of those stories?

BT: No. No I don't. I remember having though that feeling that we all did of trying not to be so negative in our reporting about what was going on, on campus. And of course what was coming over the Associated Press wire was pretty negative but just trying to present it in a not a personal way negatively.

CD: Well, this has been terrific. I'm so glad I've been able to talk with you.

BT: I think it's exciting that you asking about our generation. I do! I think your, what do you do with all these interviews? You put them together and put them in the Archives or?

CD: They will be in the Archives in a number of formats. They'll be as digital content because that's what this recording is. It's a digital recording. So that people, ultimately, the plan is to create within the University Archives web site, web access to perhaps not the entire interview but pieces of the interviews as a way of highlighting the fact that we have this collection of oral histories of the University during the war.

BT: Oh, I see.

CD: So that researchers can come to campus or request copies of the transcripts be sent to them.

BT: That's great. I think it's a great project.

CD: And part of it was that we have many, we are realizing that there are many oral histories about the war itself from soldiers who participated but very little

about the home front. And in particular here at the University we don't have oral histories of people who were students and staff and faculty during that period. And we thought that would be an interesting addition to the historical record to have that perspective.

BT: Well, it's been exciting talking to you too Chris.

CD: You too. The other thing I need to ask is we'd like to have, include a photograph in the Archival holdings for this project. And I can't, well maybe in June, but I can't take a photograph of you from here.

BT: No.

CD: I am wondering if you have one handy.

BT: Oh, I could probably dig up something.

CD: Or if you think of it, you know, and can send one off if you have the opportunity in the next few months. That would really be appreciated.

BT: Ok. In fact, it's funny I got out my *Illio* from 1944.

CD: Yes.

BT: Just to look and see how we looked in 1944 and right there in the spot where the *DI* stuff was, was my graduation program and I didn't even realize that I had put it in there!

CD: Oh, that's great. So you discovered it!

BT: I keep scrapbooks from, oh heavens, goes all the way back. And I thought I had put that in my 1944 scrapbook but I was really glad to find it. But I looked at the four of us and thought, "Well, here we are." Many years later. Oh dear.

CD: Now do you have plans for those scrapbooks?

BT: Do I have, what?

CD: Do you have plans for the scrapbooks that you've kept?

BT: Oh well I've talked to my children and they for awhile kind of made fun of me keeping scrapbooks. But now my oldest son says that there's a way to take pictures of everything.

CD: Right, digitize it.

BT: Get them more compartmentalized. Putting them on something smaller like on microfilm or something. And he said that's what we want to do. We want to keep a record of these scrapbooks and that's what they are planning to do. Because I look at all these books and think, "Who's ever going to want all these books?" But my children do.

CD: Good. And it's something that we have a Student Life and Cultures Archives here that's where this project emanates from. And many alumni donate, especially I guess scrapbooking was a popular activity, but we encourage alums to donate their scrapbooks here which we also digitize. We conserve them. We have a conservation lab here. So we make sure that they will endure both in their material existence. And then we can also digitize them. So it might be something to consider if your children are willing to let them be housed here so that your history of your time here at the University of Illinois could be shared more broadly.

BT: Yeah well I'll certainly pass that along to them.

CD: That would be terrific.

BT: And you know I think I told you that I have bound volume of the *DI* that I've been carrying around with me all these years. I guess I thought I was going to write the great American novel and use those as background but of course I did not do that and will not do that. But when I was talking to my daughter the other day, I mentioned this to her and I said, "I think the University might like to have these *DIs* because they're, it's kind of special." And she said, "No, no, no. I want them."

CD: Ok.

BT: So she has the first right of refusal. And she wants to keep them

CD: Well, good for her! So...it's not always the case that families want to pass those things along.

BT: No. But I certainly will pass this along and I think they would all know how much the University means to me and how much it would mean to pass along these things if they don't want them. I am sure they know that.

CD: Well, this is great. As I say I'll still be in touch with you because once Dan finishes the transcript we'll send it off.

BT: Ok. And I'll sign these forms and try to find a picture that wouldn't scare you too much. [laughter] And enclose it.

CD: Well, and your children and it sounds like your children are on top of things. They may have a photograph of you that's already a digital image and they can just email it to us.

BT: Oh, well I don't know.

CD: Which ever you prefer works for us.

BT: Ok I'll find something and send it on to you. It's good for chasing away the mice. [laughter] Or good for a good laugh Chris.

CD: Well, I'll look forward to seeing it. And as I say I'll be in touch.

BT: Ok.

CD: And enjoy that terrific weather you have out there.

BT: Oh yes we are. I am spoiled rotten. I'll have to tell you a funny story.

CD: Yeah.

BT: The day of New Years Day when Ann and I went to the Rose Bowl. We got there early and we were bundled up to the nines. We had on scarves and heavy jackets and hats and gloves. And we had blankets over our knees for heaven's sakes. And here came these darling Illini in their shorts and tee-shirts. And we looked and couldn't believe that they were. But we were told that the temperature in Champaign Urbana that day was 19.

CD: Yeah that sounds about right.

BT: And so they probably thought they were in summer! To be out here when it's 50 or 55 degrees and we thought we were freezing to death and they thought it was summer.

CD: And these were people who were in the band or these were people in the stands?

BT: No they were just boosters.

CD: Fans.

BT: They just come out for the game, I guess. And they were walking around like everybody else but they were in shorts and tee-shirts. Imagine that. [laughter] Oh my. We love our weather.

CD: Well, terrific. Well, you take care.

BT: Well, thank you. You too.

CD: Thank you and it's been a pleasure talking with you. I hope to talk to you again.

BT: Have you talked to Millicent?

CD: I met with her. I drove. I had a conference in Ann Arbor and I met with Millicent. I stopped in Lansing and did the interview in person. And she was terrific. We had a great time.

BT: She is terrific. And how about June. Have you contacted her?

CD: June. I think I have not sent her a letter yet or I did just send one. She, I don't have a phone number for, I think.

BT: Right I don't have one either.

CD: Right, she's in Hawaii.

BT: She's in Honolulu.

CD: Yes. So I sent a letter and hope to hear back from her with a phone number.

BT: Oh, good. And Isabelle Marvin is really Zimmerly. Is really another great connection. I knew she could add an awful lot to your archives.

CD: Great. This is terrific. This is a wonderful way to get leads on who to talk with.

BT: Yeah, right.

CD: It's created quite a picture of life here and in particularly at the *DI*.

BT: Yeah. Well, it was a wonderful time and I loved it. And it's been good. And I'm glad you're doing this. I think this is wonderful that you are doing this!

CD: Well as I say, you'll see the transcript and hopefully it won't be too long before we actually have a Web presence. And you can see that too. Log onto the Web...

BT: Oh, my! I don't have a computer but my children do...

CD: Kids or grandkids do.

BT: I am sure they'll look at it.

CD: Yes. [laughter]

BT: Right. Well you have a great day. What time is it there?

CD: Its 3:30, 3:20.

BT: So what's the weather like?

CD: It's actually...Who did I? I spoke with this Jean Maury and she's in Greensboro North Carolina. I spoke with her this morning and their daffodils are dying already. But ours are not. We just have crocus up. We don't have much of anything else. But it's sunny and kind of crisp.

BT: Oh, very good.

CD: Crisp. I mean, you probably remember how it is. It just really depends from which direction the wind is coming. If it is coming from the south it's a little balmier. But yeah, it is not spring yet unfortunately.

BT: Well, the University of Illinois is wonderful. We all should be proud to be connected with it.

CD: I agree with you...absolutely.

BT: Yes, indeed. And it's wonderful talking to you Chris.

CD: You too! I hope we can meet someday.

BT: I do to. And thank you for calling.

CD: My pleasure.

BT: All righty.

CD: Take care.

BT: You too.

CD: Bye, bye.

BT: Bye.