

University of Illinois Life 1928-1938
Oral History Project
Jean Francis (Peabody) Taylor '35
Monticello, Illinois
January 23, 2001

START OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

Ellen Swain: This is an oral history interview for the University of Illinois Archives. The interview is Ellen Swain. The narrator is Jean Francis (Peabody) Taylor. We are at Mrs. Taylor's home in Monticello, Illinois and the date is January 23, 2001.

Could I ask you to state your full name and birth date?

JT: My full name? Jean Francis Taylor.

ES: And when were you born?

JT: January 17, 1914.

ES: And you said you grew up in Urbana?

JT: Yes. I wasn't born in Urbana, but I grew up there. I was born in a little town east of Urbana called St. Joseph. And, I had the two older sisters, and that time they were ready for high school, they were 9 and 10 years older than I. And we lived in this St. Joseph which was, I don't think they had 4 years of high school, I'm not sure. But anyway, my parents wanted them to go to a larger high school. So they moved to Urbana, and so, they were in high school and I started in the 1st grade [laughter], there at Urbana. So we had all went to schools there, and my sisters, as I told you, were 9 and 10 years older than I. So I attended a school named Leal, Leal School. It didn't look like it does now [laughter]. And then Urbana High School. Well first I went to Junior High School which was about 2 blocks north of my home, and we only attended school about 2 months when they condemned the building, and so we had to, we had to go out to the high school for our junior high, and I think the high school went in the morning and we went in the afternoon. And, then I went to Urbana High School, graduated, and of course I--.

ES: What year did you graduate?

JT: 30 - 31. And of course, as I said I had no choice about college, I was within walking distance, which was pretty good distance from where we lived. We lived just a few blocks west of Lincoln Square. My first classes were always at the Commerce Building, which at time was about the farthest building on campus. Of course, there are many farther now, but that's where most of my classes were, was the Commerce Building.

So I, I just went there 4 years and got my degree. And I thought I was going to be an Accountant. One of my sisters was a CPA, and I admire her so much, and I thought that's what I wanted to do. So I took all Accounting courses, and about the beginning of

my last year I didn't want it, I didn't want to do that, and I had I never thought about teaching, it had never entered my mind. But just out of the blue I decided I wanted to be a teacher. And, so at that time, I couldn't get a teaching degree from the University, they didn't have it set up that way. So I went ahead and graduated, and then the summer after I graduated, I took practice teaching at University High School, which was a real break, because that was a high, very high rated school, and excellent kids there. I mean I really had real bunch of kids, they were smart, you know? From my experience and wonderful teacher there who supervised me, I was very fortunate. So I went there in the summer time. I just knew that I had found my place, I loved it.

So then [laughter], finished that, then the next thing was to find a job. And that was in 1935, and oh they were scarce. I mean, teaching jobs were pitifully scarce, and very low paying. So I started out, I had a lot of applications out, and I got, I think I went through the University and finally called the Employment Officer, and they had my records and anybody that was interested in hiring me, could check with them, you know, see about that, and anyway, I had this 3, there were just 3 opportunities. They were just very scarce teaching positions that year. And so I went to 2 different ones and I didn't like either one [laughter]. And, then I went to the third one and I wasn't exactly impressed, but I thought that, I was impressed with the principal, because he took me around, had to go around and meet all the board members, and things like that, you know, which was terrible to do. Anyway, he was so nice to me, and so I got the job there, and that was a little town called Hume. And that was a lucky, lucky break for me, because they didn't have a Commercial Department and I got to set it up, just the way I wanted it. I got to buy the equipment that I wanted, he just gave me complete authority, and I just did what I wanted to. I was really lucky there, got \$100 a month. Well, I thought I was rich, you know? The times were really bad back in the 30s eventually, and my folks were not wealthy people at all, and I thought I was just doing great to get \$100 a month, actually save some [laughter]. Sounds funny now. And but anyway, I was very fortunate, I got a great bunch of kids there, and a wonderful superintendent, and I stayed 3 years.

Then I got a letter from the principal of Villa Grove wanting me to come over for a conference. I don't know why, I don't know how he got my name, I don't know why, but anyway. So he asked me to come over for a School Board meeting, and it was so easy, that it's hard to believe. I had to go in where all these Board members were and they asked me questions and wanted to know more about me. The principal took me up to the Commercial Department, showed me around, and explained to me a few things, went back downstairs and signed a contract. And of course it was the best move I ever made. Well [laughter], I got a little bit more money there, it wasn't a great deal. But anyway, it was nice.

About the time that school was about to start, I got an offer from Pekin High School, which was a big school. And, I didn't know what to do. I thought, you know, that really is a big promotion for me to go there. But anyway, I didn't know what to do, and it was only about a week or so before school was about to start in Villa Grove. So I, I didn't know what to do. My older sister just thought, I must take that job at Pekin, because she knew the principal at, and oh it would be so wonderful for me to work for him. But I didn't feel right, you know I just didn't feel right. So I didn't know what to

do, so about four days before school opened in Villa Grove, I went to Villa Grove to see the principal to talk to him and I told him my predicament, and then I said, "I don't know what to do," and I said, "It is a big promotion for me at a big school." And so he said, "I really can't tell you what to do, it wouldn't be a great advancement for you." He said, "We hate lose you," and I thought, here it is, just a few days before school opens, that's not very nice for me to leave and put him in a spot like that. And just as I was leaving his house he said to me [laughter], he said to me, "Well we had another teacher here, a Commercial teacher, who was, who went to Peking High School from here." He said, "I hate to tell you this, but she said she would have given anything if she could have come back to Villa Grove," she didn't like the set-up at Pekin. And my grandmother about had a fit when she, she thought I might go to Pekin. Oh she said, "Honey, that's not a nice town," she said, "They have a lot of river rats there" [laughter]. I thought that was so funny, but she was concerned for my safety.

So anyway, I, I made the best choice of my whole life when I stayed with Villa Grove, I thought it was unfair to leave anyway, just a few days before school opened. So there I was, loved it, loved every minute of it. The first summer that I was there, after school was out, I went up to the University of Chicago and took some courses. I didn't like it up there. But I just thought it would be good for my, you know. So anyway, I just was very happy at Villa Grove, and of course, I met my husband there, which was extra special, which never would have happened if I had gone to Pekin [laughter].

ES: When did you start at Villa Grove?

JT: 1930. Oh, Villa Grove, 38.

ES: And you were there?

JT: Three years.

ES: When did you retire?

JT: As soon as I got married in 41. I just taught three years in Villa Grove then, and I would have taught some more, but my husband said, "No!" He didn't know want me to, and I'm glad I didn't, but I hated to give it up. I really loved it, I just did. I loved the kids and they were... The thing that's so nice about it is, I've had contact ever since with so many of them, that they remember. We had some good times. Now when they have this reunion at Villa Grove in the spring, you know they have what they call it the, "Nifty Fifties." And, they always want me to come back for that luncheon, and I just love it. I mean I get so much loving and, I almost missed last spring. I did go, I wasn't very, doing very well physically, but, somebody took me, and then the girls that were some of my best students, in that one class in particular, they just treat me like a queen. I mean they're just wonderful to me. I hear from them all the time, fact one of them called me just a couple nights ago, talk for about 30 minutes. I just think that I was so fortunate, a per--, a, the kind of work that I really enjoyed, and I've had, I don't know, I just think I was real lucky.

ES: I think, I missed it, what did your parents do for a living?

JT: Well they were farmers originally, and then my dad just retired from farming, and that's it.

ES: How were they affected by the Depression?

JT: Well just like everybody else. It was, they had some hard times, yes they did. But they had prepared for the future after they had. I remember one thing about it, after we moved to Urbana, or a while after that, my Dad decided to sell their farm. He still owned the farm. And, at the same time, my mother wanted to buy a piano. My dad thought that was not necessary, and he didn't, he didn't know whether any of us had any ability or not. He just thought it was foolish, but she didn't give up. I don't know why she was so sure that she wanted to have piano. And, anyway, when the people came to sign the papers, to sell the farm, after they moved to Urbana, my mother had to sign the papers too, and she wouldn't sign them, until my dad promised to get a piano [laughter]. And so I thought, I thought, that was kind of funny. She just can't believe that I heard that, I was just 5 years old, but I heard that. She said, "You didn't hear anything like that." I said, "Mother, I heard every bit of that." And I remembered it. And so, [laughter]—

ES: Was education important to your family?

JT: Oh, very much. Yes. St. Joe, where they lived, for after they moved from the farm, to St. Joseph, they only had a three year high school. And, so they wanted them to have a four year high school, so then they moved to Urbana, and—

ES: How were they able to put you through school?

JT: We worked, we worked. I did very well in high school in my commercial subjects, typing, shorthand even, and bookkeeping. In the summer time, after I was out of high school, I worked, oh at I don't know how many different offices at the University of Illinois. I worked in the Business Office, and I just can't remember all the places I worked. I only worked one place where I got, I fell down on the job, and that was the Animal Husbandry Department [laughter]. I couldn't get the dictation, of course, at that time we were doing shorthand, and I didn't get it. That place, I was not happy with at all. No, I worked every summer, and I worked in the, what was the name of that Business School, I can't think of the name of it now. I worked in the office there, I worked Cap and Gown, I worked at, I don't know how many offices around the University.

ES: Is this while you were in high school and college?

JT: No, after I was out, in the summer. I did, while I was in high school I worked some in the summer time, but most of it was after I was out of high school, between years in college.

ES: So during the school year you didn't have a job?

JT: No. And, my two sisters, my older sister, there used to be right in the main back of the campus, right in the middle of that main block, there was a tea room. My older sister, while she was in the University, she went there everyday at noon and was a cashier. And my other sister graded papers for the professors. My sister, Ruth, was a brain [laughter]. And she graded papers for the professors. I don't know how many places I worked in the summertime. And I worked over here, in Monticello for one summer, for my brother-in-law, who was the judge. And, I had a lot of experience with different kinds of people, which helped me be a better teacher, I know a lot of information, that I could get across to my students. And so that's the way it was and then I graduated. My sister Ruth, she was just a brain. She, she, she passed the CPA exam her senior year in college and she was also a very popular gal. She had all the honors, she was Bronze Tablet and all that stuff at the University, you know.

ES: Your major was in Business?

JT: Uh-huh.

ES: How did you get interested in that? How did you choose that field?

JT: It was just like it rolled out of the blue. Here I was beginning my senior year and thought still I was going to be an Accountant. One day I had just come out of my Accounting class, and I was standing by the front door of the Commerce Building and it was just pouring down rain, and I lived clear across town and I thought, oh jeepers. My professor of accounting, happened to come up behind me and he said, "You're stranded?" And I said, "Well yes I'm trying to think how I'm going to get home." He asked, "Where do you live?" and I told him, he said, "Well you know, I don't live far from there, how would you like me to give you a lift?" And I thought that was real nice, and during the ride there, he said something about my sister, and he knew, and telling me how brilliant she was, and I said, "Yes, I think I better not go into accounting as a profession." He said, "Well," he said, "I don't think maybe, that you're going to equal your sister's ability." Well I knew that myself, he didn't tell me anything I didn't know. So I don't know, just out of the blue, I thought I'd believed I'd like to be a teacher. That was hard for me to believe, because I had always been shy. And the thought of standing in front of high school kids, well, I thought I'd be scared to death, you know. And but anyway, so right away I investigated and found I could practice teaching at University High School, that summer, and I thought, well I'll never get a better deal than that, because those are brilliant kids. And so that's what I did that summer.

ES: Were there many women in Accounting?

JT: Oh yes, quite a few. Not like there would be now, but I think an awful lot.

ES: Did you have any favorite professors?

JT: I can't remember really. I had one I was scared to death of. I had to take a course in, some kind of foreign trade or something like that, and oh it was so difficult. One of the economic courses, was just way, way hard. I struggled through that a lot, but I managed. And then I had to take a foreign language in my curriculum. I had to take two years of Spanish, which I thought was easy as pie. And, I don't know, I just have had a lot of experiences. But I got so much knowledge from working in the summer time, that I could transfer over to my students. The nother break I had, I guess I told you that, I got to set up my first class room. And then another, I hadn't been on my first job very long. This was in a little town, no way to get out of town, except by automobile for freight train [laughter]. I was so homesick, oh I was so homesick. And I think that was the coldest winter I could ever remember; ice and snow. I couldn't get home and I was just so homesick. I thought I was going to die for sure. And I had a room with a lady who had lived right across from the school, didn't have to walk far. The street out in front of her house was not paved, and it had sort of a hump in the middle and when we had ice and snow, trying to get from her house to across the street to the school was awful, I couldn't get over the hump of the ice. And I looked up and here's a whole bunch of my students looking out the window of the school, watching me trying to get across, and laughing. Well, I didn't think that was very nice, but I found out later it wasn't very long until Suzy saw me coming, they ran out and helped me across [laughter]. Oh I had some experiences.

ES: I wondered if you could tell me the main strengths and weaknesses of your academic career at Illinois were?

JT: Weaknesses? You mean with my subject manner?

ES: Or—

JT: Well, I don't really know. Of course it wasn't like I had always had high grades, I was 3rd in my class of a hundred some students in my class. I was tickled to death, I missed being salutatorian by just a smidge of a percentage, and I was tickled to death because I didn't want to make a speech. And I don't know, I loved school.

ES: You were happy with the quality of your education?

JT: Oh yes, yes, very much so. Urbana High School was a super school, with super teachers, and [laughter]. I got put on the spot, with so many things that I had never done before. The very first day that I taught school at Villa Grove, there was a bunch kids who came around in the morning and said they were having a football game the next day and there was going to be a Bonfire and Pep Meeting that night. They said the new teacher always has to make a speech. I thought, what in the world will I do, I was never was a speech maker, and I was about 50% shy at that time, well how am I going to live through this. I thought, well, I've got to do something. Of course, it was the first day of school

and I was pretty much involved with that, but thought of a little something that I could say. So I go out there behind the school and there they've got a big bonfire, they've got a wagon sitting there, a wagon bed. They came along and hoisted me up on that thing and everything got quiet, and I had to make a speech. I thought I would die, but I to buy with it, you know they thought I was good sport, so that worked all right. Oh shoot, I should write a book there's so many funny things happened to me.

ES: What's your earliest memory of the U of I?

JT: Well, I was scared [laughter] because the way, I think the first day I had to go register, I didn't think I'd ever live through that. I thought that was a horrible experience.

ES: What was that like?

JT: Well—

ES: What did you have to do?

JT: Well, I don't know how they do it now, they have a better system. We had to go here, and go there, and go some place else and get in a line, get in a line here and go someplace else and get in another line. I thought I'd never get through there. Well, I think they've improved on that.

ES: Did other classmates from Urbana High School go to U of I with you?

JT: Oh yeah.

ES: You had friends were out here?

JT: A big, big percentage of my class went to the University of Illinois. We had a very good class I thought, and we were together from the 1st grade on, I mean, we all went through together.

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JT: In the summer I took organ lessons at the University, pipe organ lessons. That was a good deal. I took piano lessons from the time I was 5 until I was 18, I had really a fine teacher. But after I started the University I didn't have time for that. I had enough it's been the pleasure of my life since because without my music, I don't know what I would do, it saves my life now. And I like, I play down for the residents here, because they like music. And, so I feel like I'm doing a little bit of good that way.

ES: Were you involved in musical groups when you were in school? When you were at the University?

JT: Not at the University, no. In high school, we had wonderful new talent there and when I was, I don't know what year it was, we did the "Macado." Do you remember that? Operetta, the "Mecado?" Which is Japanese. That was a wonderful experience and we had a marvelous director, and I did that. And while I was teaching at Villa Grove we did a lot of musicals. Donna Lawson was the director and she and I worked together on all of those.

I've had music all the way through, and I loved my mother forever for starting me with piano. She had no idea whether I would do any good or not and my sister Ruth started the same time I started. I was 5 and she was 14, and she didn't take to it at all, she quit. Mother made me keep going and oh I'm so grateful to her, because it's so important to me now, always has been. I think that's part of the reason I got husband, so that he had somebody to play for him.

Oh, and that was interesting too, I didn't know what the kids would think that they would find out that I was dating in Villa Grove, you know, I thought, I wonder what they think? Of course, they all respected him as a professional person. But I was curious when I started going with him, and once and while we'd go to the picture show downtown. I knew that I was being seen with him. And, of course, everybody in town knew him. And I wondered what they were saying behind my back. Well anyway, it just happened, right now, I mean, what do you call it. Anyway, it was very sudden, and very strong. I thought the kids would tease me, when they saw us, but they didn't. And, we started going together in November and he gave me a diamond at Christmas time, and I thought, now do I wear it to school after Christmas, or do I not. I thought, well, I just might as well get it over with, and I just put it on and wore it. And I just acted like, you know, they weren't talking about me, but I knew they were. But the funny part was, they all seemed to be pleased, I mean they were good. I sure was glad that I went to Villa Grove. Uh-huh. Yeah.

ES: I wondered if I could ask you about what kinds of things did you for fun when you were at the U of I?

JT: Well, about all I did was date. I mean I went to dances.

ES: You were in a sorority?

JT: I belonged to a sorority, but living in town I didn't live at the sorority house. Yes I did, and that was a mistake. I did--, I shouldn't have done that, I didn't get the good out of it, that you do, if you live at the sorority house. And if I would do over again, I wouldn't do it. But—

ES: How did you get involved in—

JT: Well, when I was just ready to start the University, they had what they called Rushing, and I was invited. I was invited to a lot of different sorority houses. I just know that it was a mistake for me, because I didn't have the money to you know do all the things that they did. I regret that I even went into it, I actually do. I made a lot of friends

there, and I still you know have friends that belonged there at the same time. But if you don't live in the sorority house, you don't, living in town, just going in, like the evening or something, I used to go there every Monday night for dinner and a meeting. But I didn't get the good out of it, outside of making some friends, if I had to do it over again, I wouldn't do it.

ES: Was it because it was too expensive to live in the house?

JT: Well, I didn't want to. I mean I had my home, with my mother and my father, and I didn't want to live there. Yes, it would have been very expensive for me, and I didn't have that kind of money then. And, I didn't regret not having the money, I just, it would have been tough on me. And I didn't think that I should put that onto my folks, just you know. But anyway—

ES: Do you think that it was important for people to belong to fraternities and sororities? Does it give you a higher status, or how were they viewed.

JT: I don't know, I don't really know. I think some of them felt that way, that if you didn't belong to a sorority, you were just nobody, but I didn't feel that way. I had lots and lots of friends that didn't join and they were very happy and contented. As far as social life was concerned I had enough to do that I didn't, I mean I didn't have to belong to sorority to get a date, you know.

ES: How did you meet people?

JT: I don't know, it just, things that just happened, you get invited some place and you meet somebody through friends. Somebody will say, "I'll get you a date," you know, or something like that. I found a lot of the boys that were away from home and in the University, liked to date hometown girls. For one thing, they didn't have to get in by the certain hour. You know? And they got invited to dinners and things. Now my sister, Ruth, when she started the University, she was always popular and dated a lot, and awful lot. And at the end of the first semester at the University, my mother told her, "Now Ruth, you've been going an awful lot, even through the week sometimes." And she said, "We'll just see now, we'll see what your grades are at the end of the first semester, and then we'll talk about this." Well, what happened, end of the first semester, she comes home with straight A's, so mother didn't say anything then.

ES: Where did you go on a date? What did you do?

JT: Oh most of the time, they went to movies, you know the theaters. They used to have, what used to be the Orpheum theater, they used to have stage shows. And that was the place to go on a Saturday night, go to the stage show. And then dances, there were always dances. My mother made a thousand formals, I think, for my sister. And I thought, oh boy, my sister special person, I really loved her more than I can say. She was smart, she was pretty. There was, when we lived in Urbana, there was, next door, the

lady that lived there rented to male students at the University. There must have been a half a dozen of them in there, and every one of them wanted to date Ruth. It was kind of funny. My older sister was more subdued, she didn't do so much of that. She graduated and she got a job here at Monticello High School teaching, science; Chemistry, Physics, Math. The second year she was here, she met, a lawyer here, and they were married. She had never dated, and she met him and they just clicked right now. He was a wonderful man too. A judge there.

ES: Were a lot of the women on campus, did they become teachers? What fields were women in?

JT: Well I don't know, some of them, I think a lot of them were teachers, but there were accountants, I really don't know, I never thought of that. Some, a lot of them just took social subjects, I wonder what they did do with it. I suppose some of them became teachers. I don't know.

ES: Did the Depression curtail your activities at all?

JT: Oh sure, sure. Absolutely. You had to watch your pennies. You want to think about something, you'd think can I, can I really do that. And the guys didn't have the money to take you out a lot. Gosh now they always get their dates go out and eat and go to a show, and we, we couldn't do that. And, guys I dated at the University, they never had money. They were on short strings all the time. So, oh well.

ES: What kinds of things did you wear?

JT: Well, my mother made most of my dresses. And of course the women, girls didn't wear slacks then. My mother was a very fine seamstress and she made our clothes. And I liked that, because they were unique. And, I remember my sister, I said, my sister, Ruth, went to so many dances, and formals, and mother made all of her formals. And she made most of my dresses too. She had a knack with it, I don't know just what it was, but she do something unusual to a dress that just made it look different from anything else. She sewed a lot, an awful lot. I never was any good at that.

ES: Let's see. Do you remember the Dean of Women? What was your impression of her.

JT: Helen, Helen, what was her name?

ES: Maria Leonard.

JT: That isn't the one I'm thinking of. Pearson, her name was Pearson, that's the one I remember. She was a sorority sister of my sister's, they were friends. Yeah, I remember her. She married a man over here, who was in charge of the Allerton Estate. You've heard about the Allerton Estate, yeah, she married him. Yeah, Ruth was a friend of hers.

ES: What were student impressions of the Deans, the Dean of Men and the Dean of Women?

JT: I don't have any idea. I had no contact with them.

ES: No contact?

JT: No.

ES: Do you remember some of the rules that were in place for students?

JT: No, I don't think I do, it's been too long I guess. I just don't remember. I don't know, maybe I didn't pay too close attention, living at home, I don't think I was probably involved—

ES: You didn't have a curfew or a—

JT: Oh no, no.

ES: Did you study at home, or did you study on campus?

JT: I studies at home, unless I needed to go to the library to look up some info--, but mostly I studied at home. Yes, many a night until, half the night. That's when I first started drinking coffee. I never did drink coffee and I found out that it did keep me awake.

ES: Was smoking prevalent?

JT: Not too much, no. Not at all.

ES: Did you have much contact, or were students aware of the President of the University? Was he very visible?

JT: No, I didn't think he was. The only name I can remember now is David Kinley, and that was way back. And the later ones, I knew who they were.

ES: Chase, and Daniels, and Willard?

JT: Yeah, uh-huh.

ES: Okay, could you talk about the student make up? Were there blacks on campus, black students?

JT: Not as prevalent, though as they are now. Well, I kind of was experienced with blacks because there were quite a few blacks in Urbana High School, and in my class there were, I suppose as many as six. And I never gave that a thought, about them being black. Where I lived in Urbana, some of them from the north part of Urbana, where most of the colored lived, they would walk to school and a lot of times they walked right by my house. And heck I went out and walked with them, I didn't think anything about it. Took swimming lessons in high school with the blacks and it never bothered me, one bit. After I graduated and we had class reunions there were a couple of those girls who came back for the reunions, my gosh they looked like millionaires, they were so attractive and they had done well. It never, it never gave me a thought about a colored person at that time, it's just, it's odd. Never thought a thing about it.

ES: Were you aware of discrimination in town?

JT: No, not, not then. Not then. Never even occurred to us.

ES: What about at the University?

JT: I don't know. I guess I wasn't on the campus enough to understand that at all, what was going on. I was never prejudiced at all, because I figured if there was a bad dark bad, there was probably a bad white one too. And I've not been prejudiced. I know so many times when I've been some place where there's been a colored person who was working, I found them just as pleasant and nice. I was in the hospital, a long time once with a broken leg. And, the best service I had, was from a colored lady and a man. I've never been that prejudiced. I did one thing, one time, later years, that was so ashamed of myself. I was in the store in Champaign, Roberson's store, and I was standing waiting for the elevator to take me up to the second floor and I when door opened for me to go in there was just this one colored man on the elevator, going up. And I don't know, I was so ashamed, I just thought, I can't do it. And that was because at that time there was a lot of trouble in Urbana with the Negro population on the north side, and I backed out, I said, "Oh I forgot something." And I didn't go up in the elevator with him. It probably would have been perfectly alright, and I was ashamed of myself for that. But, I don't know, outside of that, I don't think I've been terribly prejudiced. There's bad white ones as well as bad black one's, you just hear more about them I think.

ES: What about Jewish students?

JT: I'm not aware of them at all, nope. Don't know much about them really.

ES: Were there, were there divisions among Catholics and Protestants?

JT: Not that I know of.

ES: How important was religion to students when you were in school? Were people actively involved in the foundations?

JT: I think a lot of them were involved in, what's the one on Green Street?

ES: Wesley?

JT: Wesley, yeah, I think so. Wesley, uh-huh.

ES: Were you, were you in any student organizations?

JT: No, not at the University. No, I just, I wasn't. You wouldn't think so now, but I was very shy, and I was growing up, I didn't, I don't know, I just didn't. It was kind of hard for me to break into a group of people that I didn't know, things like that. I got over it.

ES: Now you, you went to school, 31 – 35, during those years. While you were a student, were you aware of what was going on outside in the world, national events?

JT: Sure, sure I was. Uh-huh. My family was very, we discussed all those things, uh-huh. Yeah, I knew what was going on.

ES: Were students involved in political protests or involved in elections of Presidents?

JT: Not when I was there, that happened later though, I know, quite a bit later, they were involved. No, I don't remember anything of that. See that's a long time ago.

ES: What was the political tone? Were people Republicans or Democrats?

JT: It was just the same as ever. There were both sides, you could take your pick. I know, I had these two brothers-in-law and when we were having a family dinner at our house and the men would, my dad and my two brothers-in-law, would be having a discussion in the front room and my, one sisters husband was, we didn't know for sure about him, you know, what his thoughts were on politics. And after a while, we kind of suspected he was a Democrat, well we didn't know for sure, but we thought he was. But my dad and my other brother-in-law sure changed him [laughter]. My dad was such a radical Republican, and my brother-in-law, over here in Monticello, so was he. So they converted him, yeah they wanted [laughter]. Now that's something that I wouldn't try to do with my son, I wouldn't try to change him, no matter. I don't really know how he feels about politics. Once in a while, some little remark he'll make, and I'll think, I wonder now. But I won't ask him. And I figure he has a right to his own mind, I don't want to change anybody.

ES: Going back to education: did students have a relationship with the faculty? Did you go over to there houses or outside of the classroom?

JT: Do you mean a student?

ES: Uh-huh.

JT: No, don't remember at all, they do that now I think. No, I don't, I don't think we ever did that, I can't remember ever doing that at all.

ES: You didn't form close relationships with—

JT: With faculty?

ES: With people in authority?

JT: Nope, didn't. It's different now, it's just very different.

ES: Did you go through Commencement?

JT: Sure, nearly melted. At University Graduation they had it in the, what was the old gym. Hot, oh my goodness it was hot, and I had a new white dress. And I wear that old black robe over it, I don't know what they wear now. And gosh we got so hot in there, it ruined my dress. My white dress was just a—Oh, I was mad.

ES: Did you parents attend?

JT: Oh sure, yeah, they were always very faithful to us.

ES: What, what did they hope you would do after you graduated?

JT: Get a job [laughter], I'm sure that's what they wanted. Well, that's what we wanted too.

ES: That was why you went to the University ()?

JT: Well we were, that was the goal of my parents, to get us all three through high school and college. And that's why they, my mother and father and my two sisters, lived on a farm, east of Urbana. And when they moved into this little town called St. Joseph and they, the girls started to started high school. And my dad decided that it was only three year high school, and that didn't please him, so then they decided to move to Urbana, so they'd have a four year high school. And the end of the first year, or I mean, the one sister senior year, she had the highest grades in her class and would have been valedictorian, but she only attended Urbana High School for three years and they wouldn't count her grades at that St. Joseph's High School. So I think she got gyped out of being, they should have counted those grades, but she should have been valedictorian. But, she showed them, she went on, she became an Account--, or got her CPA her senior year at the University, and I thought that was interesting. She had gone to the Senior Ball with her date, and she had taken the Accountancy Exam, CPA Exam, a

few days before that. And one of her professors came up to her while they were dancing, he said to her, "Are you having a good time?" She said, "Oh yes," she was having a fine time. He said, "Would you like to have a better time?" [laughter] Well, she said, "I guess so." And he said, "I just got word that you passed the CPA Exam with the highest grade." I remember that night, because it used to be the custom back then, that after the Senior Ball, they would go somewhere out of town for breakfast, they'd spend the night and have breakfast. And so they came by my home, she and her date, and woke up my parents to tell them that she passed the CPA Exam, before they went on to their party. Oh these things are so fun to remember.

[End of Interview.]