University of Illinois Student Life, 1928-38
Oral History Project
Anita (Crites) Crawford '35
Champaign, Illinois
October 25, 2000

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

Ellen Swain: This is an oral history interview for the University of Illinois Archives. The interviewer is Ellen Swain. The narrator is Anita Crawford, a U of I alumna from the class of 1935. We are at Mrs. Crawford's home in Champaign, Illinois and the date is October 25, 2000.

Please state your full name and birth date for the record.

Anita Crawford: I'm Anita C. Crawford. I was born August the 6th, 1913, Belmont County, Barnsville, Ohio. My mother was Ida Bowman – Crites, my father was Arthur Edward – Crites.

ES: Now what did your parents do?

AC: My mother was a schoolteacher and my father was a glassblower. Later in their lives my father had a filling station and then later became a, what they called a broker or a gasoline broker, and we had real estate as I grew up. A little later my mother opened up a children's ready to wear shop, and was involved in business with my father, kept the books and so forth. I can remember my first experience when I was entrusted to the bank. I got to carry $100 down to the bank. I was about 9 years old. I was so frightened, I was scared to death because she cautioned me not to stop and talk to anybody. And so I made it to the bank. I was just, I could have dropped I was so tired when I got there, I was so worried about it. So we've been in business with them all the years. So, this was in, in Gillespie, Illinois and later at Hillsboro, Illinois.

ES: I see.

AC: So, what else?

ES: Where did you go to High School?

AC: I went to high school then at Gillespie Community High School. Graduated in 1931. Kind of funny item there. In those days, you know, they always selected the 10 highest in the graduating class, in our graduating class there were 13 or 14 because it was ( ) tied. Well we graduated and got our diplomas one evening. They called off the names who were in the high 10. So that they called them off, alphabetically. And there was a young man who's name was Barney Chesus, who later became Vice President of the United States Steel. And, and, before him there was a young man named Roy Carney, who was, I don't know whatever happened to Roy, but then I was the next one, so it was Carney, Chesus, Crites. And the audience snickered [laughter]. So then I don't know why I went to Lindenwood, mother called me in from the outside one afternoon in late July, maybe it was early August and said how would I like to go to

Lindenwood? And I said, "Oh alright, what's Lindenwood?" So I didn't know what Lindenwood was. So there was a gentleman there, he said, "Well you can come and visit first!" And so that's how Lindenwood was selected. I didn't know anything about it, didn't do anything about college, didn't have any advance plans, I just did what my folks told me. So I went to Lindenwood then for 2 years, I loved it.

ES: Where did you enroll?

AC: What?

ES: What year did you enroll?

AC: In late 1931, uh-huh 1931, August, that class of 35. I was in General LAS at that point, and was an art minor. Then I came here. I had worked on a scholarship part of the time. I was in the library and got to reshelve the books. Introduced to such papers as *Kansas City Star*, *New York Times*, that was just the wonderful thing, because then I went early and I got to read the newspapers before I had to go to work. I worked from about 3, 3:30 til dinnertime, which was 6:00 about every afternoon, and I just loved it, it was wonderful. So--

ES: Now are you're at the U of I, or are you speaking of Lindenwood?

AC: Lindenwood.

ES: In Lindenwood, okay.

AC: So, when I transferred up here, I think I transferred something like 72 hours. Not all of those were accepted however, but then. And then the College of Education with a Home Economics minor was the easiest way for me to get out, because at that point it was '33 and the banks had closed, and we were not yet at the bottom of the Depression, but pretty close to it. My tuition at Lindenwood was $900 for the 2 semesters. And, when I moved up here it was $35 a semester, and my mother sent me $5 a week for my food and if I was careful and shopped carefully I could get, for a meal ticket $3.65 to $3.75 which gave me a dollar and quarter extra. But then that was neat because cokes were only 5 cents. Everybody went down to Hanley's for a coke at 3:30, 4:40 in the afternoon. And of course you could get a brownie a la mode for ten cents, and that was neat. My breakfast cost me ten cents or 12 cents lots of times. I had a breakfast at friends, I had a roll, sweet roll and milk, that was 10 cents, there was no, or sometimes the roll would be 12 cents if I had whatever, so that I did drink coffee in those days. And so it was perfectly good breakfast and I had lunch on the meal ticket and dinner on the meal ticket with some boarding house. There were several boarding houses in the area. The boarding houses frequently would have just men or women. Around the area where I was, there were several. Judge Little, now the late Judge Little, who's father was a representative in Springfield, their house was on the corner, but then there were 2 or 3 boarding house right north of them, on Sixth Street.

So that it was easy. And most of the time I had a meal ticket there. Well of course you always look forward to Sundays because some fella would take you out for a movie in the afternoon and a hamburger on the way home, so that took care of supper you see [laughter].

There were several from Hillsboro, well the Bliss's in law school and Bob, Seymour who, his family owned the drug store; some of those fellows had money you see. And so, I ( ) money of course, but then some ( ) take it to entertain us. I roomed my first year with a girl from Hillsboro whose family owned the hotel and so that, she knew that group of fellows, and so that I suspect that his dad probably sent money to the fellows I'm not just too sure because from there Virginia and I frequently went in the same group for Sunday afternoon. We always walked down to the theaters, the Virgina theaters, that was fun. Sometimes we, on the way home we didn't stop for anything except maybe had a taffy apple which was a big item. I could remember scuffing up the leaves, walking across park there, on west, on Springfield there across the street from what's the name of the park there across from street from where the hospital was, where Burnham was; so that walking through there was a lot of fun. We normally always crossed from the campus when it had always came up that way because I have memories of coming across there when it was snowbound in the spring, so that we walked, of course we walked everywhere. I hadn't walked that much ever. By October I had those little planter's warts in my feet, and, and I, I had to go, there was a chiropodist here in town and everybody went to. It was the Negro doctor, he was delightful and wonderful. He burned those out and I never had any trouble since, so anyway. The campus as far as I was concerned was very different in a way because I didn't ... my roommate at Lindenwood had gone to the University of Nebraska and joined Alpha Phi, and so, I don't know somehow Rhoda got invited to go over for rushing for Alpha Phi, well—

ES: What did that involve?

AC: Well—

ES: What did you do?

AC: That would have been my sorority of course and they didn't want anybody unless you lived in the house. I can't remember now what, what it was, but it must have been some place between $80 and $100 a month to live there, and my mother said, "I'm sorry!" Well, I lived on the $28 a week, plus or $20 a month she sent me, and $15 for the, for the room and so I had, no, I should have $20 for the month and the $15 for the month, so I had $35 for the month, is what I lived on while I was here. And I had my shoes repaired out of that, and I did have to have shoes repaired, because I was wearing them out like crazy. So, those days you washed your hair yourself you know, you didn't have any items of that sort. I, we had to dress of course, and we wore stockings and if you got a runner in your stocking, you could bring it down to New Mode downtown and they had a little gadget that they'd mend the runners. It would cost, oh I don't know 10 or 15 cents sometimes to have a pair of hose repaired, but you frequently did that because a new pair of hose would be a dollar, a dollar and a half. And you, we shopped at Lewis', the building's still there. There were some lovely little dress shops that we always looked into, but we never bought anything. Nearly

everybody bought at Lewis', and I had a little charge account there. And that charge account I kept for many years afterward, long after I was married. So, I shopped only at Lewis'. In the house where I lived was Mrs. Henly, who's mother's friend, there were 5 girls, and we, there were, I guess, 4 bedrooms, and Jean Henly and Mary, the 2 daughters of Mrs. Henly slept in the dining room, and Mrs. Henly, I don't know where she slept, she maybe have slept in the living room after we all got in. But it was crowded, because there were boys upstairs, there were 6 or 8 boys upstairs.

ES: So this is how she made enough money in the Depression to make ends meet?

AC: Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh, her daughters, her daughters were finishing taking ... Jean had her Doctor's degree and then Mary of course was on campus, and was very popular, very popular girl, she and a young man that she was engaged to had an accident out in west Champaign. Somebody hit them broadside and killed her, and so I didn't get to know her very much; she died in November of that year, that first year. Her sister, however, was much older of course, as she was in the College of Music, and she had a very beautiful contralto voice, she knew the Cohens, Saul and the other one who played, the one who played the piano and the other the violin, earlier here. And so that we always got invited then to those parties and those receptions, and that was nice. Jean Henly later married, a fellow by the name of Ruttinghaus, who a, a chemistry Ph.D. from Germany, which was fascinating. And of course Mary Virginia, who was my roommate.

I'll tell you that little story because it's fascinating and in a way. When Virginia married a young man who was in law school here, Al Emo, and they moved to New York. And of course the last all of us had ever known was that Jean lived in New York. So the first, and Al of course was with the FBI. So Mary Virginia spent long hours calling all of our ( ) were in the New York telephone directory. And Al came storming one evening, and he said, "Jean what are you going to get me fired!" She said, "What are you doing?" Well of course you know, J. Edgar Hoover was on his back, because there was his wife calling a registered alien, who was a Nazi [laughter]. That was, that was circulated forever. We had one girl from Southern Illinois, from Benton, I don't remember who the others were, except, in the second year there, Mary Virginia, the girl whose family owns a hotel, joined a sorority and left us. So, then that year my room mate was Poppy Swain from Alton. And, that was interesting because during my father's early years he had, had been a glassblower at Alton, and, then, still later when I married Walter Smith, his family had been W. S. D. Smith. Dr. W. S. D. Smith had been one of the founders of ( ) College. So that, Poppy and I had a long, long acquaintance after that, I remember I visited her later, many times. We had lots of fun together. She was a wonderful, wonderful cook. I might mention that, Mrs. Henley, died. The second year, Jean, her daughter, operated the house and we had another house mother. But that year we didn't, I didn't have to buy a meal ticket, we cooked at home. And so I had breakfast, lunch, and dinner there. Well, Poppy was the very best cook we had, so she did most of the things, and of course we all took turns with the food, washing and drying the dishes, setting the table and all that, doing the shopping, etc. There was a wonderful little grocery store on the corner there called Schrumpf's, I don't think there still there, I don't think so anymore, anyway, with the

corner of Sixth and let's see the second or third street down from Green, well right in there, there was whole little nest of, it was right next to where Panera's Bread place is.

ES: Okay.

AC: Right on the corner there. So that's we bought our groceries.

ES: Now where was the Henley home?

AC: It was on the street ran into, well it was right back of the [laughter], of the Theta house. The next street down. The corner where the YMCA is.

ES: Great, either you lived on Chalmers or John; is it Chalmers?

AC: Chalmers, Chalmers, it was 608 Chalmers, I believe, so back at Judge Harker's house right there on the corner.

ES: And this was just a private residence close to campus?

AC: Private residence, uh-huh.

ES: What was the physical, what did the campus look like back in 1933?

AC: Oh well I'll tell you it was sparse by the looks of things now. There was cornfields south of the Alma Mater [laughter].

ES: Which was behind Foellinger then?

AC: Oh that's right, that's right. And, the Engineering Building, was the last building down there, the new Bevier Building wasn't there, at all. But the Engineering Building was, I had lecture down there. I also had lecture in the Physics Building, which was on the north side of Green Street, and you just had to run like crazy to get to that lecture, down at the new Engineering Building, which was tough. I guess they only gave us 10 minutes. I guess you still just get 10 minutes, don't you? Well anyway, it was a tough run. We had a lot of classes in Bevier, that's where they, the girls' physical education was too. I had a PE minor, with my Home Ec degree, and of course I had all my Home Ec classes there. They used to have a little cafeteria there, and when you walked up and down the Broadwalk, you could smell the food cooking in, for the cafeteria there, was interesting. You could always smell the onions cooking. And, so, I remember one time, we had receptions for honor students to honor instructors and things of that sort, and we used the parlors that were in Bevier, they were lovely parlors. They were 40 to 50 feet long, and I remember one of them had an absolutely gorgeous rug, and somehow or other, two people walked in with uniforms on and rolled up the rug and took it, that was gone. Well, we had a Dean of Women who always said that if we had a date, we always had to have one foot on the floor [laughter].

ES: This is Maria Leonard?

AC: That was kind of fun, and of course, if sometimes you could stay over night at fraternity, or sorority houses, and sometimes after 11:00 when everyone was in, sometimes the girls would sit around and talk about everybody's dates, and give everybody a bowl popcorn, if she went out with crock [laughter]. Well, ... we had a wonderful time socially as far as that was concerned.

ES: How did the fraternities and the independent students get along?

AC: Pretty well, pretty well. There were lots of fraternities and sororities too. The, I was never much involved in that, in that. I worked with Arepo, and helped put on the operas, the operettas. And the, the musical things, I got extra-curricular points for that. We had wonderful big social events. There was always the Armory Ball and then the Seniors Ball, big dance bands came.

ES: And those were open to all students?

AC: What?

ES: Those were open to all students?

AC: Oh yes, uh-huh. And then the tickets were rather expensive, like $5 or $6. And, but that—

ES: Could people afford that during the Depression?

AC: Oh yes, the fellas did, and then you got a corsage. And, then wonderful bands, Jan Garber, Kay Keiser, somebody in these red nickels and his ten pennies, or whatever, and I don't remember all the names, that slips my minds. But anyway, there were 2 or 3 big dances in the year, then there were always the dances down at College Hall every Friday night and Saturday night, and I went mostly to that. Lots of people, lots of the kids at the house played bridge. I never played bridge, I just went dancing. So, but the campus, there were scarcely any buildings north of Green Street. Same little gray house was there on the corner next to where the Astronomy Building is now. And the girls were in Smith-Hughes Home Ec had to have practice, they had to live there for 6 weeks, I think, or a month to practice all the things they had learned in housekeeping and how to plan budgets and how to plan food and shop for food and cook it and all that. We went there for a class in art class, as I remember, and to learn how to arrange furniture, how to arrange table tops and so forth don't look at mine, and that sort of thing, it was kind of a neat building, but it was kind of sterile looking [laughter] I thought. Anyway, we did that. I had wonderful art courses down in the School of Architecture, and then of course that was all of that was the first year. And then the second year I really had to hustle to get enough credits to graduate because I knew I couldn't go another year for anything. I had high hopes when I first started the Home Ec courses because we shared most of the Home Ec courses, especially the Foods and chemistry courses that were required. We shared those with the Pre-Med students, and

the courses were fascinating, and I would have loved to have gone on as a medical student, but I didn't make it. Mother said I best get something I could do and that was easier than College of Education that I could get a teacher's certificate, which I did. And, then of course over the course of the years I was a high school principal, I was a grade school principal, I was a home economist, home economist. You did everything after you got out of school, just like you knew what you were doing. So it wasn't until much later, of course, that I went to law school. I couldn't afford it then, so. Of course, what else do you want to hear?

ES: What kind of classes did you take for Home Ec, what did they teach you?

AC: Oh, required courses for Home Ec? Chemistry: organic and inorganic; and organic quantitative; physics; and kinesiology; let's see what else? Botany and zoology, foods, I guess there were 2 or 3 foods classes. Then there were also clothing classes, textiles and constructions, constructions I and II, then the art courses, on how, designing houses, styles of houses, the styles of furniture, interior decorating. Oh, and there we had, in Textiles we had a really, high powered teacher there. Recognition of yard goods, textiles that were in clothing and how to buy all kinds of clothing, men's clothing, women's clothing, and how to check the, and she, I used her as a reference to go into one of the May stores in St. Louis as a buyer, but somebody else got the job, so I didn't get that. I began to teach school, country school.

ES: Is that what most of the Home Ec students did? Were they trained to be teachers?

AC: No, many of them went with the airlines, as preparing foods for services on the planes. And that, that was pretty exciting. And the Foods and Nutrition, I guess we had, oh, Dr. Julia Outhouse was there, oh I don't remember some of the others in the department, but she was there.

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ES: Okay you were speaking about some of the Home Ec professors that you had?

AC: Uh-huh. The names escape me at the moment, but one of the women who I liked very much taught Fabrics and Textiles and so forth, her husband was in the Dean's office. And the first year I was here I guess, Dean Arkle Clark was still here. I don't think he was here the second year. There were much changes in the second year. The President's house was built I believe. And then there was a women who went out and sat in his living room all the time, in the President's living room, and she had complained about the high cost of the building, and she said taxpayers paid it, she was entitled to sit in his living room, so I guess she did from time to time.

ES: Was it open to the public?

AC: What?

ES: Was his living room open to the public?

AC: Certainly not.

ES: She just came?

AC: She just came, because she was a taxpayer. Well, we all giggled about that. Then of course you know where Follett's is now, well of course across the street from that was the Health, Health Center. A big, old, rambling wood – frame building, you had to go over there to take your physical. And of course on that first week in September when everyone was over the parading around over there with no clothes on except those white things they'd slip over on you while you had to take your physical. And they took your physical right there too, boy. And everybody had to learn, had to know how to swim, so that you could get in, if you didn't know how to swim you had to take swimming. So I don't know whether, do you still have that or not? Do you still have to do that?

ES: I don't think so.

AC: Well anyway registration was always a big item. You got a big long list, you had the cards like 3 x 5, or maybe they were 4 x 7 or something like that, but pretty good size cards and they were about 10 or 11 of them all of them in one string, and they were fastened. You had to take those around to, I don't know how many tables that were set up in the Armory, and there was a horrible crowd. Had to go there and then you had to go to the offices where the classes were. I remember how hysterical I thought it was, you know that you had to have your name, address, and sex, and one of the fellas said, "Occasionally." I thought that was funny [laughter]. Boys were a new experience for me, I was here straight from a girls school, you see. So, well anyway, we got through registration [laughter] and of course, a lot of our, a couple of our people worked on the *Daily Illini*, which was a big item. And it was housed you know in the building right across the street, across the street from old YWCA Building, just north there. And, my husband, Walter Smith, had stayed in that building when he was here. He graduated in '34. I graduated in '35. I didn't know him when he was on campus. He was one of those people who played bridge all the time. So we didn't circulate all the time.

ES: Was that because people didn't have money, that was a cheap pastime?

AC: Probably, probably, probably. And so, he, he belonged to a little group of fellows there, that I guess were just buddies from the time they entered, you know their freshman year. So that he came up in '30, the year before I graduated. So he was here four years in the College of Commerce. So, I got lots of stories from him about what those fellows did too. But I didn't know anything about those that didn't because as I said I didn't play cards at all when I was here. But, lots of time we picnicked around, we packed a lunch and we'd walk, especially in the fall we'd go to the park in Urbana. Early in the spring, we went swimming over there. I came up two summers, after I was here, and stayed in the same house, and there were lots going on that had not happened when I was here. There was still

the streetcar here. Part, I think only part of the year, I can remember riding the streetcar every once and a while. It ran down Chalmers. And it would ride downtown, but I think it was a nickel, or something and most of the time we walked to save that nickel. Then ( ) still ran from Danville, I remember going home at Thank--, one year, the first year, I went home for Thanksgiving. The second year we didn't have money enough for me to go home for Thanksgiving, and I had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Little, and Roger. Roger was still only 9 or 10 years old; he later became a judge, you know, here. I used to tease him about being at the dinner table at Thanksgiving and he didn't even remember, yes he did, so I don't know whether he really did or not, anyway. Mrs. Little was very nice to take in all the stragglers from Mrs. Henley's for Thanksgiving, so we had a place to go. Didn't have money enough to ride the trolley home.

ES: So how did the Depression affect your life at school and other students' lives?

AC: You know, careful with your money, very careful with your money and pennies, pennies were very important. We had our shoes half soled, you were very careful with your shoes. I know, we all polished our shoes, and we were very careful not to get them wet, that sort of thing. And of course, we had our hose re-mended, in those days I had rarely ever had things purchased new, I made most of my clothing. When there were sales of course we all went downtown, Lewis' and at Willis'. Willis' is where the *News Gazette* Building is now. That building was the Willis Building, it had been remodeled into the *New Gazette* Building. So there were those two. Mrs. Weaver who taught the Home Economics, some of the Home Economics classes, sold gloves down there. I guess nearly all of the staff had extra jobs around. She was lucky to have one there selling gloves, because she taught also at the University and she had been there for years, she didn't have enough money to live on so she had an extra job, and I expect lots of the men did to. So, well, anyway, those two places downtown we shopped, and of course, but no, then there was another place downtown that we all, lots of times we came down for lunch because it was especially on Saturday. It was a Walgreens downtown here now, let's see, you know where Hillyard Lines is the brokerage house down here at the corner of Neil and Church?

ES: Okay.

AC: There was a big, big, big Walgreens drugstore there on that corner. And there was a luncheon called, AG, "Always Good." They had a bowl of not canned cocktail, fruit cocktail and two slices of raisin toast, 25 cents. Lots of times we came down there for those. I guess, when you said, "What was the effect you didn't over eat very much [laughter]." And so, of course, no fried foods and those things at all. There wasn't even a Steak and Shake here.

ES: Did students have jobs?

AC: Oh yes, lots of them. They had, they had jobs waiting tables in the fraternities and the sororities, especially the boys had that. My first year I had a scholarship with Dr. Adams [Dr. Roger Adams, Chemistry Department Head] and of course he had expected me to have some knowledge of chemistry. Well, I had had high school chemistry and the

chemistry that he was talking about was way over my head, so he was very pleasant and said that he thought it probably wouldn't work out. So that year I worked down at Prehn's on Oregon and sold cosmetics and took the cleaning in for Garvers. I did that for two semesters. Then the second, last year I didn't work any place. That was '34, my folks had had recovered slightly, so that I had just a little bit more money and I didn't have to work, I didn't have to work.

ES: What kind of sacrifices did they make for you to be able to go to school?

AC: Well, I was always surprised at the sacrifices that they made. When I got home they'd always be these big cans of, big tall cans of grapefruit juice. And other cans of food that my father had been taking in at the filling stations, that was traded for gasoline. And so we had lots of that at home. And, then I still sent my laundry home in one of those laundry cases, those brown things about that long and about this tall. It was only 18, 19 cents, or so to send that home, and mother, when mother would send that back to me, she'd send me cake, or cookies, or brownies, or popcorn, or fudge, those things that she had made at home that I we couldn't afford to buy here. So, I always looked forward to sending day laundry home or always would arrive like Thursday, Wednesday, or Thursday, certainly by Friday. And that was really very helpful. She'd send apples sometimes, and of course I said he was taking those in to trade for gasoline. Of course gasoline was sometimes on 9, 10, 11 cents a gallon, so. It's $1.69 or something like that to ride home on the Inter-Urban. My family moved from Gillespie to Hillsboro at the end of my spring, in the end of '34. So that in '35 then I lived in Hillsboro. But then the folks would drive up and get me to come home. I went home at Christmas and that was the only time that year, and then the family came up for me, I think it was for me to come home in at the end of, in June. So, yes, I'm not sure that other students lived as frugally as I did, but the folks in my house did. I'm sure the boys did too. So, but you see there was a crowd of us there. Twelve or 14 people living in that one house. Course we didn't have supervision by the city as to say as how many people could live in the house and they didn't examine ... there were only, as I remember, there was only 3 bathrooms in the whole place, but that didn't seem to make difference. Bath on each floor, and a stool, and a basement, so that apparently that, and of course no washer, dryer, any place in the building. So, as I said we sent the laundry home.

ES: How many did you share a room with?

AC: The room was small, just a double bed and two desks and you had to walk side wise to get around the bed. I [had] just the one girl and we shared a small clothes closet about the size of that double door there.

ES: Could you talk you talk a little bit about rules particularly for women? What you were supposed to do?

AC: Oh yes well, everybody, you know most of the time during the week it [curfew] was 10:30, and of course on the weekends it would be 12, except for very special things it would be 1:00. But that was, that was most unusual. You couldn't drive a car unless you had special permission from the Dean of a college, Dean of Men or Dean of Women. Your

folks would come up to get you in the car, of course, and you could drive and it would be simple to drive them around off the campus, but you couldn't do that, unless you special permission. Then only special permission was given to people who were incapacitated or handicapped in some ways. So that they got special permission to drive a car, but there were no cars on campus, none. And come to think of it, not very many bicycles, because bicycles were expensive too, and so we walked, we walked. I was in my senior year, Poppy and I were in an intercollegiate rifle team and every evening, five days a week, we had to walk 5 miles to keep... I fired but she stood. I don't know if you've ever fired a gun, and so you lay on your stomach and you hoist this up here and the gun butt is here. Well, they had to be sure that when the gun butt banged, you'd be still. And so it was breathing, so we walked the five miles that whole semester starting long about the first of September, second week of October, end of September, first of October, every night about 8:30, 9:00 we walked, but we didn't have to have special permission for that, just our house mother's permission to come back. But we had to walk that five miles in an hour, so there wasn't much of Champaign-Urbana I didn't see at night. And so—

ES: Did you feel safe?

AC: What?

ES: Did you feel safe in the evenings?

AC: Quite safe there was nothing that went on. We scarcely ever heard anything about things on campus. We didn't lose very many girls to pregnancy either. That was scandalous, you didn't do that, no. If you went to the library to study, and too many things were going on down there I scarcely ever went to the library to study, but the bell rang at 10, and you had to be out of there by 10. And so most of the time then, you could go get a coke and you'd be home at 10:30. Well, now the second semester of course, you know beer came in, and that 2% beer or whatever it was, then all of a sudden the fellows were drinking and some of the parties at fraternities got out of hand. I didn't drink, so more of the time I didn't go with anybody who did, so those were off bounds for me. I didn't smoke.

ES: Did many women smoke?

AC: You don't-- Not very many.

ES: That was frowned upon?

AC: No, we used to say at Lindenwood you don't drink, you don't smoke, you go with boys who do, what do you do, you know [laughter]? Well, any way, I guess I was one of those. I have also often thought that I was kind of immature after having been to two years of school and then I came up here and it was as a whole new world. Anyway, I had lots of dates. I scarcely ever, I scarcely ever had to go anywhere by myself, as a matter of fact, I never did anything by myself we were always in a group. And as I said the group of fellows from home took us and so then there were fellows also who lived in our house. Most of the time those arrangements were made by our house mother. We wanted to go to

a dance something here or there, she just fixed it up with the boys upstairs, and so we never had to go mooching for dates or whatever, and it was nice.

There was lots of building went on that last year I was here. The new Engineering Building, the old Health Services was torn down and that new building was put up there on the corner, kiddy corner from, well straight across the street from Follett's. That building was new. There was a new Chem Annex over on the east side of the Broadwalk. We had some of our classes in the old Ag Building, the one, where they used to have the railroad tracks came in and the steam engine came in. There was also a butcher shop there. My second year here we bought all our meat over there, it was butchered by kids learning how to be butchers and how to raise livestock and how to prepare them for the trade and so forth, and that food was relatively inexpensive. The meat was beautiful, just gorgeous. We bought eggs and meat there, which was really awfully nice. I enjoyed that because it gave it us all an opportunity, for me anyway, to learn to use of of the principles that I had learned in the meat cookery and feed the folks at the house. So that was kind of nice [laughter].

One Sunday afternoon, in February, March I guess it was, we cleaned up the kitchen and Poppy and I, it been kind of warm during the day like February sometimes is, and we had raised the window in the pantry. The pantry of course was cool enough to ... we used it as a kind of extra, extra refrigerator because we didn't... The ice box was there also. So, but it was I want to say 40 to 45 most of the time, quite suitable. I remember ketchup and mustard and those things had been used and the tops were on kind of gently. And all of a sudden we heard this bang, bang, bang in there, and some little old squirrel had opened up the screen a little bit and got in there. And he was having a wonderful time and his tail was flipping around and he hit ketchup and he'd hit the mustard, and he'd hit some of the pans that were on the shelves, you know, oh he made the awfullest mess, and Poppy, by George, was so mad, she went right in there and that poor little thing was all gooped up with ketchup and mustard and he'd dumped off bean salad and I don't whatever else, and I guess vegetable soup and the whole thing. She reached at that poor thing and rushed us out and banged him against the wall and I said, "Poppy you're gonna kill him." And she said, "I mean to [laughter]!" Oh my we had, Poppy made the most marvelous apple pies. Ten years later after we were both out of school I visited her, she lived out in Ohio, and she had made strawberry shortcake, and her strawberry shortcake was out of this world. She baked the a special biscuit dough and on top of that biscuit dough she put a hard sauce with rum, the strawberries and then the second layer and then more of the hard sauce, the strawberries with whip cream, and that was one of our very specials. I'd learned to make the hard sauce in Home Ec of course [laughter].

ES: What was her major, was she Home Ec?

AC: No, she was history and math. She had some pol sci and that sort of thing. But she taught math when she left school. She married early too. So, well, there's just lots of fun things that went on, that I was so naïve that you just remember those things were you were just so totally embarrassed that you never would mention again [laughter]. You have another question?

ES: Well I was wondering, getting back to the rules, I was wondering if you had any experiences with the Dean of Women or the Dean of Men, or how did students view them, were they--?

AC: Well they were obviously parental figures as far I was concerned, and the people in our house had no problems either. And with the boys upstairs and the girls downstairs, it was a co-ed house. And there was no problem, there was no problem. We didn't consort at all. If the boys took us to lunch or to the theater, they were upstairs and we had been in our quarters, so. There's really no ill confrontation about, to the Dean. Oh I suppose there were some, some things that didn't work out right, but—

ES: What was her role?

AC: What?

ES: What was her role?

AC: The Dean?

ES: Uh-huh?

AC: Disciplinary I guess, primarily. And maybe I think too the houses where we stayed, she must have had meetings with for the house mothers, I know she did. And she saw the quarters where we lived, because when we came we got the list of available housing from the Dean's office, and we went over then, picked up those lists. And I suppose that was the same for men too. I might say too, while I'm saying, Uni Hall was still here, when I came, owned Uni Hall, now of course the old Union Building there. I remember I had one class over there my first semester. The steps were so worn that it was treacherous to walk up and down the paths and those wooden steps. And you had to be very careful and hold the rails to get to the second floor, and I had one class on the second floor. And we, of course the Illini Union was printed in the basement over there. The building was always in, had a lot of activity over there.

ES: The Union was in the basement of University Hall?

AC: Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh. And the Illini Union was printed down there. So that was kind of the all together now,

START OF TAPE 2, SIDE A

ES: Okay, I wanted to talk to about different groups on campus and how they got along or whether there was discrimination of any kind that you're aware of?

AC: Both Jean and Mary were involved in Cosmopolitan House, which was, of course, was over on John Street. On the same block, I think, or maybe it was the block farther west, but was in our same neighborhood, and Jean knew several of the people over there from India, from the Middle East. She was going with Hans, the German. So, but those people were always included and people made a really special effort. I know when I went for Thanksgiving at Mrs. Little, we had a young man from the Netherlands and a girl from England. And on the weekends, the holiday weekends, and lots of weekends, special effort was made to entertain those people so that they wouldn't get homesick. And apparently they didn't object to coming to houses for Sunday dinner. They were ( ) at the churches to bring foreign students home for Sunday dinner. We frequently had people. Just our little group did. And people who were regular church goers, and the Presbyterian Church and others in the Baptist group.

There was no confrontation that I knew about, none. I guess in many cases we felt sorry from them because they were away from home. There was no antagonism, as a matter a fact, a protest group would had have been unheard of or it would absolutely been scandalous. You just didn't do that. Of course I'm sure there must have been some injustices some places. But I heard the fellows say there were a couple clothing stores on campus, men's clothing stores on campus. I've forgotten now, the names, well maybe I'll remember as I go along. My brother-in-law or actually he was a cousin of my husband worked on campus: Johnson, Seeley Johnson. And in the sports, in the sports thing. Seeley had a cigar box in the back and if somebody needed $5 to go on a date you just went back and got he $5 out of the cigar box, and then you put it back. You left a little note and said, "I've got $5!" and you put it back. And, Miles says, "they never had any question, total honor system." If that was at Seeley Johnson's, I'm sure it must have been going on at some other places to. Well the fellas had a kind of place where they could make a small loan and they could pay it back. Anybody who worked there could do it, or even if you had worked there before and you still knew Seeley you could do it. So it's a, it was a kind of a un ... un-local fraternity, where they helped each other, so that, but he organized protest and that sort of thing, it was hard in some ways to get kids to come to even to do the things that had needed to be done. I know I sold tickets lots of times before Arepo things, worked on the stage, scenery, painted, carried on, did costumes. And we always were short-handed—

ES: Why do you think that was?

AC: Well there wasn't that community kind of volunteer thing. People stayed at home, they just did.

ES: Do you think people were more serious about their studies?

AC: Uh-huh. Much more, you had to account to your family if you didn't shape up. Families were making sacrifices, big sacrifices. They didn't talk about it very much, but you knew, you knew.

ES: Did you know why your parents sent you to school, did you get, why did they think it was important that you go?

AC: Well of course my father had never finished grade school and mother had, she was a good student and that was the first thing. She was the last of the children, she was the youngest of 4. And, I said a good student. She was teaching school when she was 14, and she went one summer or two over at Lincoln, now there's still a small college over there, I don't know whether you know about it or not, but there's a small college there. When ( ) went there, I think for one whole year maybe when she was 15 or 16. Then in the summer time, Blackburn College had teachers institute, what they called teachers institute in Hillsboro, and it was 6 weeks and mother went there, and that's how she got her education for her teacher's license. She taught about 10 years before she married my father. She was 24 or 25, maybe it 26, but anyway, it was late for her, because most girls were married earlier than that. But of course father was about 6 or 8 years older than she also. I never knew why they met or where, or the circumstances about it, she never told me. She wasn't pregnant, cause I didn't come along until about 16 months later [laughter].

ES: It was important to them that you went to school?

AC: Yes, when I was a freshman in high school we had to write a thing on what I want to be, and I said that I wanted to be an attorney. And, Bryan [William Jennings Bryan] had written across the globe and was involved in the Scopes Trial down in Tennessee or wherever it was; I thought he was marvelous. I didn't know what an attorney did, but that's what I wanted to be. So, got to college of course, there was no money or anything, so that was just out of the question. Then before I was married, my husband had also wanted to go to law school, course he pushed it off and came out of the College of Commerce. We hadn't been married very long until the War came of course and he had a congenital heart defect and I had ... I went to a dentist when I was about 12 years old with my buck teeth and he was going to put braces on them and managed to crack all 4 six-year-old molars, and so they had to come out. So when I made application to the Navy, they said I didn't have enough teeth, so I was rejected. So we both were rejected, so that's when we went to law school. I changed careers totally there.

ES: What year was that?

AC: That was 1941. I taught school up until then.

ES: So then after you graduated, did you go through Commencement ceremonies?

AC: Yes, yes.

ES: What was that like?

AC: Oh, hellishly hot day, just awful, and we were really risqué, we had taken off our dresses, and put the robes on. And we were walking around in our slips and then putting on these robes. The College of Education followed LAS, and we walked from the Armory over to the gym, old Huff, which was then new. And that's where we were seated

on the floor of Huff, chair after chair, chair, chair. Families were back in the bleachers, up on the second story there.

ES: How many were in your class do you think?

AC: There were, I think the University total graduation that year were about 4,000. The total population of the University was about 12- to 13,000, maybe a little more, I don't know. But we had 4, about 4,000 graduates, and I think there were about 3, between 3- and 400 in the College of Education. There was a young girl on crutches who insisted on walking. And so she held us up and we were about 10 or 15 minutes late in getting into the gym. Little did I, I didn't know her then, when I got to law school, guess who was sitting next to me? Janis Grider. I loved her and we sat next to each other for 4 years of night school while we went to law school.

ES: Did you go to the U of I for law school?

AC: Law school, no I went to Lincoln College of Law at nights, in night school Springfield. Janis had a job as a secretary. And she came ( ) in crutches. She had been raised in a little town down near Effingham. And you know we all wore bloomers while we were growing up, and mother made all my clothes. And we had elastic around our waist to hold those panties up you know. Janis had a big growth back down here [lower back], and she was only 6 or 7. Her mother took her because that was always getting in the way of the panties. And she took her down to the doctor, and he said, "I can take care of that." He did a little surgery right there in the office, and he cut the spinal cord. The spinal cord was coming out of the, between the, the vertebra, and that's what the knot was, and he cut it. Her poor feet were loose like that, and she never grew anymore, her legs never grew anymore. So there she was, an adult from here up and those poor little skinny legs. And she absolutely refused to give them up, and she just walked on two crutches. She later went over to State Farm Mutual and became an actuarial. She worked their contracts for life insurance and so forth. She was Phi Beta Kappa, she was order of the court, she was everything; she was a brain. I loved her and we sat next to each other all through law school, but that was strange, because we graduated the same year.

ES: Now this graduation you're talking about, was just for the College of Education?

AC: No it was everybody.

ES: It was everybody, all 4,000 students were seated in the gym?

AC: Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

ES: Did you have an outside speaker, or the President spoke?

AC: Yes the President, Willard, gave the presentation, and mother and I were over at dinner one time over at Mrs. Burns. Mrs. Burns head of extension here, I was at the

University for a while on extension. She had Dr. Willard over for dinner for an evening, and took mother and she was seated next to Dr. Willard, and mother said, "And do you remember when you did my daughter's ceremony, you said, 'something or other, something or other,'" and she quoted a sentence or so from his speech and he looked at her. And I said, "Mother, I don't think he'll remember." But she did and it was kind of embarrassing at the dinner table, because Dr. Willard didn't remember either, you know well why should he, he done those things, what, a thousand times? Made millions of speeches. Well anyway that was mother's mind; she was smart. Well, anyway, he did the presentation, I still have the invitation.

ES: Did the students like him as a President?

AC: Well, yeah. Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh, I think shortly after that we had another fellow who was of the University of Chicago, which was kind of exciting and that was the first time I think that the students ever participated. I think some people here didn't like him, but so, maybe students, but students liked Willard. And of course, I guess, this was when Huff was still, George Huff was still around, and I guess he was still here one semester before we got Ray Elliot, Elliot, of course was a graduate from Illinois College and his name was Nispikov, and he changed it to Elliot before he came over here. So, but he was here most of the time when I was at school.

ES: I meant also to ask you about sporting events. Were they a big a deal when you...did students go to the football games?

AC: Not really so exciting, well of course we had Red Grange. My husband had driven up from Southern Illinois and was in the stadium in 1924 when Red Grange put on that big show, because Emma was here, you see his sister was here. And so he always remembered that. But there was lots of activities, there was always the big bonfire, there was the big Homecoming show, and all the Homecoming things. The houses used to decorate oh so beautifully and such fun too, enormous decorations on the houses, and then there was the big parade on Friday night to go around and see the houses. They were still doing that when I came back, on extension and that was 1958, they were still doing that. But we loved that, it was lots of fun, and of course the little houses where I was, just boarding houses, we didn't do that, but the big houses did.

ES: Did the Depression affect that?

AC: Not much.

ES: Not much?

AC: Not much, not much. They, the bonfires were always fun, oh the only thing is, it was always cold [laughter]. So, you know your feet would get cold, hurry home.

ES: Do you remember an Interscholastic Circus? What that was?

AC: I remember we had it, but I didn't participate in it. Uh-huh. You see I was an independent. But the independents weren't organized at all. So, it was just that we didn't have money enough to d--, we would have all joined the sorority or fraternity if could have, probably.

ES: I see.

AC: We didn't [laughter].

ES: But you didn't feel--?

AC: Deprived?

ES: Yeah, or--?

AC: No, I didn't.

ES: Did you have a higher social standing if you belonged to a Greek organization?

AC: Well I know that, they took care of each other as far as that's concerned, the houses always exchanged dances and we were, folks like we were rarely ever invited, however, I was more likely to be invited to the fraternities. I was never, of course, invited to the sororities, only once or twice. Chi Omega, my roommate had been over there and once or twice she had invited me to do something with her and I could bring a fella. It was not, it was just kind of special thing she did.

ES: Most of your friends were independents?

AC: Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh.

ES: And that was primarily for financial reasons?

AC: For what?

ES: Financial reasons.

AC: Oh yes, that's true, that's true, that's true.

ES: How aware of national events were you when you were going to school, of what was going on outside of, there weren't ( )?

AC: Except for the repeal, the repeal on the beer that came, I don't suppose many knew who was President.

ES: Really?

AC: Because it was Roosevelt of course. Elected in ‘32. Now, they, they didn’t participate, they were old enough to participate in local elections, but nobody ever did.

ES: You didn’t have political groups on campus? The Young Republicans group or a Young Democrats?

AC: Couldn’t, I’m sure they were there, but they weren’t important. They couldn’t drum up attendance. Or at least I didn’t notice that they could. And I would have known I think because the Littles down on the corner were special friends of Mrs. Henley and Mrs. Little was involved in politics all the time and so were all the kids. Didn’t hear about it. Nothing like, no.

ES: Yeah, yeah.

AC: Maybe that’s good news, bad, I don’t know.

ES: So after you graduated you went through commencement, what did you do, right after you graduated from school? Did you have trouble finding a job?

AC: No, not really, there was a placement service in the College of Education, and I ( ) of course. The little country school called, Oaks, my mother had taught at that school, and so I, along with Joann still didn’t have a job. And so I went out and of course some of the board members [laughter] knew my mother, so I got the job. And so opening day I went out, and I think I was there maybe two days and then they got a notice that there was a job offer in Raymond, Illinois, which was just about 15 miles from home. And I went over on Saturday morning I remember, and was interviewed. And the principal was so pleased because he had already been a week in school and no home ec teacher, and so I got the job. And so then, all that busy that weekend, and had to go out and see if the board members would release me from the country school. And so I was getting paid $45 a we--, a month from the country school and I went, and the high school was going to pay me 90. So I started then in 1935, ‘36 at $90 a month. And so I stayed there 2 years.

ES: And where did you meet your first husband?

AC: Not until I went to Murphysboro [Tennessee] which was ‘38. I went down to Murphysboro, I still again to the placement service. And then it was much larger school. Very interesting in many ways because there was a section of Murphysboro that had, Negroes could live. And there was a place, and then of course, they were all confined to the second floor of the school. They had their lunch up there and they could come down classes, and then they had to go back upstairs; that was the first year I was there, that was ‘37 and ‘38. No, ‘38 and ‘39, ‘39 and ‘40 they got to join us on the first floor. So that, that was the end of the segregation there of that chu--, of that school. So, and that was very interesting that I was married then in ‘40, for the first time.

ES: And then you went to law school?

AC: Yes, see that was 1940 and of course the War was starting in December of that year, 41. No, late 40, that's right, that's right, December the fifth of late 40 [Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941], that's right, the Japanese thing at Pearl Harbor. Then by 41, we'd both been up to see the draft board and tried to get in the service and then we weren't. My father died in '41, '40. My mother was then alone with both the businesses to take care of and my husband had been a teller at the bank and so he said, "I think we ought to go live your mother and help her with the businesses and so forth," and so that's what we did. We sold our little house and moved, to Hillsboro. And then the war effort was in full force of course, and we had, we had trucks to haul milk to the creamer at Litchfield and my husband helped with the business. And so, it, but it was terribly difficult we were losing drivers all the time to the service, and by '43 and '44 we had an opportunity to sell it, and sell the business. And I said, "Why don't you do it, and then let's go to law school while, before you, before you do anything else."

My friend Peggy Fellis, her father was in, representative from our area, and so I asked Peggy if her, she thought her dad could get us a job, "Oh sure," she said. So I went down and talked to Mr. Fellis and Walter went down and talked to him, so he got him a job in retailer's occupational texts thing. So we moved to Springfield and went to law school at night. I taught school in Springfield schools for 4 years and we graduated in '48. And we came home and opened a Law Office. And then cancer raised it's ugly head, and so off and on he was ill. I didn't take the bar until 2 or 3 years later and the passed the bar. By that time, the cancer was really pretty serious. He died then in 56. We were married 16 years. After he died, I moved up here and was in a Home Economics extension for the United States Department of Agriculture. And, my good friend, Gay Neffinberger, who'd been in the same review course I had taken for the bar, course I'd known Gay on campus in 1934 ... Dated Gay in those days and so he said, "My partner is going to run for Ohio State's Attorney's Office," and that, ( ) he said was looking for help with the office and, "would you like to do that?" So I resigned from this extension and went into the law office and was there then 14 years. And then I went to the Attorney General's Office for another 14 years and hung it up. Hung it up [laughter].

START OF TAPE 2, SIDE B

AC: ... then I worked until I was 75, 72 really, 73.

ES: Wow.

AC: So, now I've been retired a little while. As a matter of fact I guess, it's '86, 14 years I've been retired now. And I'll be 88 in August. It doesn't seem possible.

ES: Yeah? Boy, no you don't look 88.

AC: Well I am [laughter]. My mother lived to be 102.

ES: My goodness.

AC: My father had had some folks who lived to be a long time too. But you don't want to hear about my parents, or do you?

ES: Sure.

AC: Sure?

ES: Sure.

AC: My father's family came to this country in about 1620, 1630 along there. 9 brothers from Switzerland.

ES: Wow.

AC: They all lived to be about 100. And so many of those old birds are only in their third of fourth hundred years from the time they came, so that my father had folks who have lived a long time, and so did my mother. Mother's family came from Virginia, they settled in White Hall, White Hall in Jerseyville. Then my grandmother came to Jerseyville, was born 1840 or so, there abouts, her father fought with Lincoln in Blackhawk Wars. But we never had anybody in the War, the Civil War, because the children were all too young, so that war, everybody missed that war. Mother was born then, the last of the children of the second marriage of my grandfather, she was born 1988, or 1888, 1888. Grandfather came to this country, he was much older than grandmother. His first, first of his family came about 1840, 1850. There were 6 boys, all born in Hamburg, Germany. Grandmother didn't want her children to be in Bismark's armies, so she sent them, put a tag on them and sent them steerage to St. Louis. She never saw them again until they were grown. Grandfather came when he was 7. So, talk about a pacifist, iron will. What woman would divorce herself from, () of that many boys, well anyway she did. So, people said to me, "Did your mother ever spank you?" And I said, "No, and neither did my father." But mother set perimeters and I knew that I couldn't step beyond. That was just kind of person she was, sweet and gentle, with an iron fist inside and velvet glove you might say. Well anyway.

ES: What again, was her attraction to the University of Illinois for you?

AC: Well she just, I wanted to come.

ES: You wanted to come? That was the—

AC: I wanted to come, I didn't know anything about it. Except that George Shanaham, Catherine's brother had been here, and Catherine said, "Well when you get there," and Mrs. Shanaham said, "You'll have to go to the Dean's office." And so that's what we did. I drove up in our old 29 Pontiac and we parked on Wright street and walked into the Dean's office.

ES: What were your impressions, your first impressions of school? Was it overwhelming, or--?

AC: No I just thought it would be fun. I just thought it would be fun, I knew I would be in classes, and I knew that Mary Virginia was going to be in the same building with me and you know be my roommate for the first year. And of course mother knew her mother. And so, the people at the hotel, my folks were in business there, and in Hillsboro, they were in business in Hillsboro. I didn't give that a second thought, and I want to know why I didn't. But then Lois says, you know that was one decision I did make, but mother, I guess mother was glad enough to have me decided to go to school instead of doing something else. It never occurred to me to do anything else, never occurred to me [laughter]. Too easily directed maybe, I don't know. Anyway, maybe it was those invisible somethings around me that she put around me that you know there was only one place for me to go.

ES: Yes.

AC: I suspect the latter [laughter]. Well have I answered all your questions?

ES: Yes, yes is there anything else you'd like to add? You've answered my questions.

AC: No, no.

ES: How did the University affect your life? What kind of impact did it have on you?

AC: Well, undoubtedly it throws you into a different group in society there's no doubt about that. You just, you can't avoid it. Your speech, the things that you expect on life, the standards you set you set for yourself. You don't think about those anymore, but they're there and when you are in the public, if you're going to step out a group you have to make a concerted effort to do it, and I don't think that's all bad. I think the same thing is true about ... I often said to young women who are thinking about being attorneys, I said, "You know, do it, because you'll never be sorry, because it lifts you into a different world," or "you will see things differently, you're goals will be different in spite of the fact that you're not step them yourself." You see a community, you see your family, you see everything in a different world. And anyway today, in today's life, I don't see how a women could exist without having a law school background. I just don't. How's she ever going to learn to file her income taxes. You know, take care of her family, solve the problems at school. I just feel sorry for those don't have that kind of background. Can't send them all ().

When I went with the State's Attorney, with the Attorney General's Office for Illinois, which was 1975, 1975 yeah, '74, '75, there were 4 women and 390 some men assistant Attorney's general. When I left almost 14 years later there were 9 women. So you see, we don't progress very rapidly but we are progressing. Of course now, almost

45% of the law school is women. Neat, neat, neat! We've got 2 or 3 women judges, neat. We've got more judges in this county, women judges than any other county in the state, I guess, except Cook. That's wonderful, that's, I don't consider myself a feminist either, but I think, equality has been a hard thing to come by. And it ain't here yet.

ES: That's right.

AC: Sure isn't, it sure isn't.

ES: Well, I thank you very much.

AC: Oh well, I've enjoyed it. I've chatted like a magpie [laughter].

ES: That's great, thank you.

[End of Interview]