

**University of Illinois Student Life, 1928 – 38:  
Oral History Project  
Beth Olwin Dawson – Class of '33  
Champaign, Illinois  
March 19, 2001**

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 Beth Olwin Dawson, a U of I alumna from the Class of 1933. We are at Mrs. Dawson's home in Champaign, Illinois, and the date is March 27, 2001.**

**I wondered if you would start out by stating your full name and birth date.**

Beth Dawson: Beth Olwin Dawson. February 27, 1911.

**ES: Where did you grow up?**

BD: Robinson, Illinois. I went to the Robinson Township High School.

**ES: Were you in a large family?**

BD: No, I had two older brothers. Mother and dad and two older brothers. And my mother was totally deaf, she never heard my voice. But that's all I ever knew. She read the lips. So it didn't seem like anything abnormal to me because that's just the way I grew up. I had a wonderful family. My father was a shoe merchant. And we had a very stable, loving family. I've always been so blessed to realize that I was born into a loving family when you see what goes on today.

**ES: Was education important to your parents?**

BD: Yes, yes, it, all three of us were college graduates. My older brother went to the University of Wisconsin and my other brother went to the University of Illinois. Then he became a doctor. He was graduated and didn't know what he wanted to do and he came back and went to medical school and became a doctor.

**ES: How did you end up at the U of I? How did you choose that school?**

BD: Well, it was just the state university and I really didn't think about, probably. John, my middle brother, had gone here. And, I had had a very good friend that was a little older than I that was here at the University and I used to come up here frequently. I would spend the weekend with her. John and I were very close, he had me up to a couple of dances. As I said, we were very close, and it was just natural that I would come here. I never regretted it. Of course, the school was much, much smaller then. I joined a sorority, I was a Pi Phi. That fall was good. So, it took a while for the Depression to

really take hold. But, even so, the students were pretty well insulated. There wasn't a lot of money, but then things didn't cost a lot either. You could go to a movie for 35 cents, and go out to eat – which, not many people did go out to eat – but you could get a wonderful dinner for 50 cents. We didn't feel the deep Depression the food lines or anything like that.

**ES: Were you aware of what was going on outside?**

BD: Yes, you knew there was a depression. As I mentioned the other night, in 1931 it was in full swing. That fall was when I met my future husband and he had stayed out of school a year to earn money to come down here to school. He had worked Cudahy Packing Company. They told him when he finished school, if he wanted to return to them, there would be a job waiting for him. Well, of course, that was before the Crash. He had worked in the Dean of Men's office as a student. When he went to Cudahy, and they told him that if they employed him that would mean putting a family man out of work and of course they didn't feel that they could do that. So he came back down here. Fred Turner was the Dean of Men at that time, and he and Fred were very close friends. He came back to see if maybe Fred could do something. Well, Fred, bless his heart, gave him a job as Dean of Freshmen. As I said, if it hadn't been for the Depression, we would have never met, so the Depression, as far as I'm concerned, wasn't all bad. [*Laughter.*]

So, in 1933, when I finished school, the thing that we both wanted most was to be able to get married. Hal was making \$125 a month. We didn't feel we could make it on \$125 a month so he went back to Fred, and Fred raised it to \$150 a month, so we got married on \$150 a month. We had a small family wedding at home, but we did have a wedding. He had \$65 in cash, and my dad had given me \$100 for graduation, so I claimed he married me for my money. We took his \$65 for a four day honeymoon. We spent the first night in Terre Haute, Indiana at the Terre Haute House, which no longer exists, at \$3 a night. Sunday as we were going we saw an ad for the Keenan Hotel in Fort Wayne, Indiana, so we pulled up to the Keenan Hotel and a Philippine busboy came out and took our luggage. I stood over to the side while Hal went up to register. He came back over to me and said, "The rooms here are \$5 a night." and I said, "Well, we're not staying here!" The bus boy seemed to realize what we were discussing and he came over and very quietly said, "There is a very nice hotel down the street if you'd like to go down there." So we called the car back. I presume he knew we were newlyweds because of the rice around the car. So we went down there for \$3 a night. Then we went to the Potawatami Inn, up at Lake Pokagon, the State Park in Indiana for the other three nights, and that was \$6, American plan. The American plan is everything, meals and everything. So we came home with money from his \$65. My \$100 we paid first month's rent on the apartment. Staff didn't have to pay tuition at that time, so Hal decided to go to Law School, so it paid for his law books. And it bought draperies for our little apartment, all out of my \$100. So money went a lot further then. But we never really felt the depth of the Depression the way that so many did, we never went hungry or anything like that.

**ES: How did it affect your family?**

BD: Well, as a matter of fact, my last year in school, I told Dad, there wasn't much business in the shoe trade then, but Dad was an excellent business man, and I said, "Dad, I don't have to go back to school." He said, "No, you've gone this far, I want you to—." He said, "The boys have gone and I want you to finish school." He had figured \$1,000 a year for my education. That was living in a sorority. So I came back to school and my last year I'd cut back enough that it was about \$800. So my education, if you can believe it \$3800. Now you can't go one semester for that. I feel like I've been a bargain.

**ES: Tell me, what did you major in? What did you want to do when you graduated?**

BD: You didn't have the choices that you do today. I said I just got culture. I majored in English, minored in History and French. But, I never worked. At that time, if you were going to work, you went to Chicago, unless you had definite training, went to Moser, which was a business school, and then you got a job as a secretary. I never worked, and there wasn't much that I could have done other than clerk or something like that. So I always just said that I got culture. I think you could get to know your professors a lots better then, so I made it a point to get to know my professors. We had some wonderful, wonderful professors. I know it didn't hurt me any. I took Milton, I took two Shakespeare courses, Tennyson. I really got into the literature. And, I have never regretted it. When I entered the University I thought that I'd go into Home Ec. I wasn't cut out for science. I had had Chemistry in high school, but I just didn't care much for science. You had to take certain courses that I didn't think I was too good in, so I switched over to English.

**ES: When you first started, was there a career you were thinking about?**

BD: Home Ec., and then I would have taught. But I didn't take education so I didn't teach. I was just a "housewife."

**ES: How were students and faculty close? Did you do things with them outside of the classroom? Did they have you over to their house?**

BD: Yes, some. Not a lot. But, every Wednesday was the guest night at dinner at the house, and you could invite a professor, if you wished, to be your guest at dinner. You were never intimate with any of them. But, you got to know them and they knew you. You weren't just a drop in the bucket in the University. If I had been here in later years, I would have taken Speech Therapy, I would have liked to have been a speech therapist, but that wasn't offered at the time I was in school. So, you really didn't too many choices, everybody either taught or was a secretary. There weren't too many professions for women.

**ES: What do you think the main strengths or weaknesses of your education were? The main strengths of your academic—**

BD: Well, I really think it was just giving me a background for living a good life. I really think that because I did get to know my professors, and had a good relationship

with them. I never felt that I missed anything by not working out of the home. Hal, as I said, entered law school. Judy, our oldest child was born in '36. When he finished law school, had he gone into law, he would have had to pay an established law firm to work. No way could we have afforded that, because he had an established family by that time, So he stayed with the University. And then, he went over to Liberal Arts College as Assistant Dean of the Liberal Arts College and worked up to Associate Dean of the Liberal Arts College. And that's where he was up until the War. Then when the War came along, they had set up what they called the College V 12 Training Program that wanted University Personnel. They couldn't go to their own school, they had to be sent to another school, but he volunteered for that. And was sent to Purdue, so we spent two and a half years in the Lafayette, Indiana in the V 12 College Training Program. When he returned to the University, he was made the Director of Placement, he was one of the founders of the Midwest College Placement Association. That's no longer its name, but it's grown into a big group of college men and women. Then in 1954 he left the University and went into the Insurance business. So he was with the University for 22 years, and then he went into the Insurance business, but we stayed here, in Champaign. Actually, I've been here since 1929 because I went here for four years and got married and just stayed on. And its been a wonderful place, I think, for a family.

**ES: You said he graduated in 1931?**

BD: '31.

**ES: Now tell me what his relationship with Thomas Arkle Clark was?**

BD: Thomas Arkle Clark was his great uncle. He became well acquainted with him when he came back to school. On his salary, he really couldn't afford to pay room and board. "Uncle Arkle" as he called him, never had children. Hal did live in the fraternity for a little while, but then Dean Clark asked him to come and live with them, which he did. We were going together by that time. Tommy Arkle was a great person, just a great person. I hadn't ever known him until I started going with Hal. There was a Vice Versa dance and the gals were to take the men. Two other couples and I were taking our boyfriends and when we went to their house to pick them up, one of them had shaving equipment. He said, "You carry this." So then they all waited outside while I went up to get Hal. Tommy Arkle invited me in and offered me a cigar. [*Laughter.*] But he had a wonderful sense of humor. I don't know whether this was known on campus at the time, but he loved to crochet, and that was therapy for him. He made afghans, that sort of thing. He was a wonderful person. A lot of people thought he was strict, but he was as fair as the day was long. He was just a disciplinarian, but he was always fair.

**ES: How do you think students viewed him? Were they afraid of him, or—?**

BD: The ones that knew him were not. He was held in awe. Of course, he was the Dean of Men. I had a picture of him which I gave to Stewart Howe, he has that picture that we had of him. And then he died, and was greatly respected, greatly respected. And so was Fred Turner.

**ES: Do you remember when he died? How the campus reacted?**

BD: No I really don't. He was as respected as anyone on the campus, I think. He was a wonderful person. His wife didn't participate in campus activities or anything. She was quiet, retiring, very sweet. Women's roles just weren't as active. The feminist movement hadn't started.

**ES: Was he very accessible to students or visible on campus?**

BD: Yes, oh yes. He was in his office every day and he was accessible. He was, I suppose, if somebody was strictly discipline, they might have felt that he was too strict. The general student body respected him greatly.

**ES: Do you remember some of the rules on campus?**

BD: I don't know, do you know the Gettysburg Address, it's on the floor in Lincoln Hall? You couldn't, it wasn't that you couldn't, but you just never walked across that, never. Of course, there was no smoking on campus, and people just lined up. The Pi Phi house was across the street from Lincoln Hall. Between classes or anything, students were just lined up on Wright Street smoking, because they couldn't smoke on campus. Then, of course, the freshman wore what they call "spots," little green skull caps. You've heard about the freshman cap burning? Every spring, after the initiation in the fraternities, they had this freshman cap burning out on the drill grounds, that was always their big affair. Well, this particular one, I think it must have been in '31, they had a mud fight. They had a hose, and they had this mud fight; everybody was just covered with mud. Some of them were stark naked, just covered with mud. They came down on campus, Prehn's on Daniel and grabbed a pork chop off of a plate, and then they started up Wright Street up to the sorority houses. Somebody at the Theta house said that they were coming down and said to be sure and lock all the doors. They came down and they climbed up to the peak of the house and tried to get into our window. A couple of the pledges had been out and they came back with their boyfriends. We had this little side porch, they were huddled in there with these boys trying to protect them, and finally when the naked ones left, they got into the house. I can still see one of them, one of my dearest friends until the day that she died, but she was sitting on the stairs crying. She was just a freshman. And she was sitting there saying, "For eighteen years, I've tried to be a good girl and now this happened." [*Laughter.*] Well, that was the end of the spots. No more.

**ES: Was that just for fraternities boys?**

BD: Just fraternities boys. When they were pledges that indicated that they were fraternity pledges.

**ES: And were they all green caps?**

BD: All green, just little green skull caps. And they'd get demerits if they were caught without wearing them. The fraternities demanded that they wear them.

**ES: They wear them all the time?**

BD: All the time on campus, and all the time they were outside of the house. Now, they didn't have to wear them for dates and that sort of thing, but daytime, they wore them. It was quite a time.

**ES: Do you remember Maria Leonard?**

BD: Yes, oh my yes.

**ES: What were your impressions of her?**

BD: Oh, Maria was lovely. And Dr., oh gosh, I can't think of her name [Dr. Etheridge], they lived together. But, Maria was very strict, she had her ideals and they used to tell that she never wanted a girl to sit on a boy's lap, and she didn't want them to wear red, because she thought that inflamed them. But she was delightful. She happened to be a sorority sister – she was a Pi Phi. I got to know Dean Leonard very well.

**ES: When did you learn these rules? Did she address the women on campus?**

BD: You just knew. There were not rules. These were just things that the students told that she—

**ES: They were just rumors?**

BD: That's right. They were just kind of describing her character. These were not actual rules, but everybody knew them.

**ES: And you think she was fairly well liked?**

BD: Oh yes.

**ES: Did the rules for men and women differ?**

BD: Women's hours were 10:30 on weeknights and 1 o'clock Friday and Saturday nights. We had to sign in and out at the house, it wasn't anything like it is today. [Men didn't have to observe hours].

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BD: Drinking was not tolerated. We had two gals that came in one night and had been drinking and their pins were lifted, that was not tolerated. The men had bathtub gin and

that sort of thing, but nothing like today. Drinking was not a problem on the campus back then. There was drinking, but it wasn't a problem that it is today.

**ES: Was there drinking at parties?**

BD: No, no liquor at the houses, none whatever. Our social life was dancing. The sororities and fraternities each usually had a couple of dances each year. They'd have a pledge dance in the fall and they'd have a formal in the spring. Bradley, College, and Park were the three dance halls on campus. Bradley was above, I think what is now, probably a book store on Wright Street. Park was on Green Street above one of the stores, and College was down, I think it's still called College Hall, it was down further. They had good bands, local, but good bands. Then we had Freshman Frolic, Sophomore Cotillion, Junior Prom, and Senior Ball. They had Senior Ball two nights, they'd have two bands. I mean, *everybody* danced. Every Friday and Saturday nights were dance nights. Then besides that they'd bring in name bands like Duke Ellington and Ben Berney, they'd have special dances. Everybody danced. They had Robeson's Roof, that was wonderful, Robeson's Roof. Then even in the winter, the third floor of Robeson's was a furniture store. They would even move all that out and would have Wednesday night dancing on the third floor of Robeson's. That was the entertainment. There were some wonderful dancers. It was even before jitterbug or anything, it was just nice, lovely dancing. Friday and Saturday nights, you didn't usually go to a movie, you'd dance. We were dressy. We wore long dresses, frequently, and it was dignified and all.

[Tape cuts off.]

BD: Really, I wonder how men and gals get attracted to each other today. They just look terrible. Cut off shorts and no make up. We tried to look our best. I just don't understand some of the things that go on.

**ES: Was going to the dances expensive?**

BD: No, no it wasn't. I think it was \$2 and a half or something like that. It wasn't very expensive for the big dances. There was a dance supervision committee that I was on my senior year. And, the ones on that committee got passes to all the dances, so we had had a great time. That committee went by the way side, of course, they don't have any of those big dances anymore.

**ES: Now these are the campus dances that you're talking about? You also had fraternity and sorority dances?**

BD: Most had at least two a year. They had a pledge dance in the fall to introduce their pledges and then they had a spring formal. The girls wore formals, beautiful formals. They always had a live band for those. They were in the houses.

**ES: How did you decide to join a sorority? How did that come about?**

BD: Well, as far as I was concerned, my older brother, who was eight years older than I had a friend that was a Pi Phi. She visited and I was a very innocent and naïve young girl growing up in a very small town in the Midwest. I was just so impressed that she was a sorority girl. Then my other brother, who was at Illinois was going with a Pi Phi. So when I came to school, then they invited you ahead of time and there was a house party. That was the big one. You went on Sunday night and stayed over night through Monday afternoon. And then you had other invitations. If you were invited back to preferential dinner that was a pretty good indication that you would be invited to join the sorority. I went to some of the other sororities, but there was never any question in my mind that I wanted to be a Pi Phi. And so I was a Pi Phi.

**ES: When, did you live in the house?**

BD: Four years.

**ES: All four years?**

BD: All four years. That's another thing. The chapters were small. We had fifty five in the house. Now the chapters are so big, you might as well belong to the Elk's Club. We knew every single girl in the house, and knew her well. And, they have, all through years, been my dearest friends. We'd get together, we'd have reunions and the girls would get together at somebody's home. We were, just dear, dear friends for our lives. Most of them are gone now, I'm one of the last ones. I said, I just have good genes.

**ES: What kinds of things did you do in the house together?**

BD: At noon we would dance. Dancing and records were the thing, everybody danced, and we danced with each other at noon. We had radio, but we didn't have TV or anything. Sometimes, they'd need a fourth for bridge, they'd play bridge. Then of course, always, on date nights, you'd have these sessions after you came in from a date and you'd sit around and chew the fat, so to speak.

**ES: Did you eat all your meals in the house?**

BD: Yes.

**ES: Noon and evening?**

BD: All three meals. Gabrielle Witherspoon had the kitchen, she rented it. Our housemother [Miss Fleming] was the dean of housemothers, she was our housemother for 27 years. She was a maiden lady. And "Gaby," as we called her, was paid a dollar a day per girl for food. And, you had breakfast, lunch, and dinner. And our house bills varied, I think for freshmen they were \$57.50 and then for upperclassmen they were \$55 a month. So, here again, things were and, I can't even remember what tuition was, but it wasn't very much. The main expense, of course was, your living expenses because tuition wasn't very much.

**ES: Did the sorority have financial problems during the Depression?**

BD: Well, a lot did. Sororities had less financial problems than the fraternities. The sororities had alums called the "Corporation" that looked after things. As far as our house was concerned, our advisory board was very effective and they had certain rules that they laid down. We were always in very, very good shape financially. Some of the fraternities had problems. And, I don't know about some of the other sororities, perhaps they did, but I happened to be treasurer when I was in the sorority. I just wrote the checks and that sort of thing. But, our financial advisor kept track of me. I collected the money and I would take it to the bank. But, she checked every month, so we were well supervised.

**ES: So you weren't in any financial danger during that time?**

BD: No, not during that time.

**ES: What other activities were you involved in?**

BD: I was involved in what they call, Woman's League. I was on committees. I was in drama some, in operettas, and Glee Club. And, as I said, dance supervision. I was in a lot of activities. And, I met to this day my dearest, dearest friend, who lives in Seattle, she was a Delta Gamma. It was through Woman's League that I met her. And, we've just been like sisters. And so I really benefited from my college days. Maria Leonard left while I was still in school, and Irene Pierson was the Dean of Women then. I worked with her, did things when I was house president. I have very, very fond, fond memories of my college days.

**ES: Were people who were in fraternities and sororities more active in student activities than independent students, or—?**

BD: Well, generally. But, the independent students that were active were quite active. Not all sororities and fraternities were real active. It's like anything, like in high school where you've got some that are more active than others, the same is true. Jean, this friend, was *very active* and that's how we got to be such good friends because we served in so many committees together. Her husband was here on campus and he went to medical school. I was her matron of honor because I was married at the time she got married, and then she was supposed to be mine but she was in Boston and couldn't get away. After he was through with his medical school in the East, they toured around the country to see where they wanted to live and they chose Seattle, and he became a very well known obstetrician. He was known in medical circles. He died in '98. She's also a widow.

**ES: How did Greek students and Independent students get along? Was there much intermingling, or—?**

BD: The independent students that were active on campus, you became good friends. Not intimate friends, your intimate friends were, generally, within the sorority. It just so happened that this worked out with Jean and me. Then they had a May Queen. I was nominated for May Queen but I didn't make it. They had a May pole and everything. We had activities that were unsophisticated. We were an unsophisticated group. In fact, when we came to school, many of us were innocent as a new born babe, and I was one of them. [*Laughter.*] The children today are exposed to so much that we never had to contend with at all.

**ES: Were students interested in current events and issues? Political activities?**

BD: In fact, I have a picture. I had my first vote, here, after I was 21. And, they took a picture of me at the polls. We didn't have campus elections and that sort of thing. But of course, in March, of, well, I'm not sure whether it was '32, the year that Roosevelt closed all the banks. That girl that sat on the stairs and said she had tried to be a good girl lived on Long Island. Her dad was Superintendent of Schools out on Long Island. He had sent her a check to come home for Christmas, this was prior to March of course. University Bank was there on the corner where that bank building is now. Hal and I were down on campus in the morning and we were walking South on Wright Street and we ran into Mary Kay coming towards us. We had discovered that the bank had closed. When we met her we told her that the bank was closed, she thought we were kidding and she just started to laugh. We said, "No, it's the truth, they're closed." She had received that check the day before and had gone down and deposited it the afternoon before and they had taken the check. Well, of course, they couldn't tell her that they weren't going to open the next morning. So, she wasn't able to go home, she went home with one of the girls in the chapter. Then, I think it was in March, Roosevelt closed all the banks in the country, I think for about four days. And so there were things that went on, that we were well aware of. But we weren't that affected permanently with any of it. We led routine lives.

**ES: So you didn't feel like the Depression affected your social activities?**

BD: No.

**ES: Or you didn't have to sacrifice?**

BD: No, no. Because there wasn't much to do besides go to the movies and dance as far as social activities were concerned. And so that's what we did.

**ES: Were there other groups on campus? Did you have much contact with black students?**

BD: No, not much.

**ES: Do you remember them being in your classes?**

BD: I don't remember, actually, I don't remember that black students were an issue. sure that there were some on campus, but I don't really recall that, that there were. But, I'm sure that it must have been, but they were just accepted. There was nothing of race, I mean, no race problems or anything like that. That was never discussed or brought up. If they were on campus they were on campus and that was okay.

**ES: How did Jewish students get along? Were they accepted?**

BD: They were, they were accepted. There were Jewish houses. As a matter of fact, when I was a freshman, we had study lists for registration was a nightmare, especially for some who didn't know what was going on. You had to go around a lot of different desks to try and get into a certain class and that class would be closed, so then you'd have to take another section. Once you had done it, you knew pretty much, but I know as a freshmen I just didn't know what was going on. And this nice, young Jewish boy kind of took me under his wing and helped me through registration. I didn't even know him, but he was just kind to me and he got me through registration. But no, the Jewish fraternities were just like the other fraternities. There wasn't the feelings that there is today among the young. Which I think is most unfortunate, things, like the Chief Illini Wek. This is so ridiculous, so ridiculous. And the racism and all. I don't know where it's going to lead to. I liked it the way it used to be.

**ES: You've mentioned Fred Turner, and I didn't really follow up on that. You knew him?**

BD: We were very good friends. We socialized with the Turners. We were very good friends with both him and Betty. After Hal and I were married we chaperoned a lot. In fact, in the spring, we practically didn't have to eat at home on the weekends because we were young and the fraternities wanted young chaperones, so we chaperoned practically every weekend. I never will forget one time. The pledges all had to be polite to the chaperones. This one young pledge came up and asked me if I'd like to dance. I said, "Thank you, but I think I won't dance." He said, "Oh, my mother is like that too." [Laughter.] I wasn't much older than he was. So we had some fun experiences. Of course, we knew so many of the students then because Hal had been in the Dean's Office and I had known so many on campus through activities. And so we had a good time.

**ES: Did being in a sorority elevate your status do you think? Did people aspire to be in sororities?**

BD: I think so, I think so. I would say that your social standing—being in a sorority gave you a little stronger social standing. But, it wasn't, I mean, sororities as far as we were concerned, we didn't make a difference between the independents and the sorority.

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**ES: You were talking about being in a sorority and being elevated.**

BD: Of course, there's always been, as far as sororities and fraternities too I presume, there's always been a certain amount of heart break. Because girls and boys would go through rush and not be given a bid. And that was, but now, I really couldn't tell you what the situation is. Sororities, as I said, then were not very big and everybody had to live in the house, you couldn't live out. It was a very tight knit group. We had 55, that lived in the house. Now, you have to live out of the house as a freshmen. You may live in an apartment now, there's not a limit. There isn't that close knit feeling among sororities today because they can take more members. I know there was some heart break – people wanted certain houses and they weren't invited, and that was too bad. But generally speaking, the sororities were a very close knit group. They were and they did things, there was Panhell, they did things together on campus. But, you were pretty much in your own groups. They were the ones that were close friends.

**ES: Were there dating rules about who you could date?**

BD: I think some of the fraternities encouraged their men to date certain houses. I don't think it was ever a rule.

**ES: Was there a hierarchy among the houses? Were there some looked at as better than others?**

BD: Yes, there were some that were considered "top of the line" so to speak.

**ES: Do you remember which ones?**

BD: Well, the Thetas, the Chi Omegas, the Pi Phis, Delta Gammas, Tri Delts, Gamma Phi Beta. They all had good chapters. Some of the smaller ones, they had lovely members. It wasn't that we were considered ourselves better or anything. Those houses usually got the cream of the rushees.

**ES: Yeah. I have just a couple more that I skipped over. One of them was, how much contact did the students have with the President at the University? Did the President affect your life in any way?**

BD: Not generally. Although, this Jean that I spoke of, this friend. Kinley was the President and she was a Delta Gamma, and she became a close, close friend. She was just that kind of a gal, she made friends really easily. Otherwise, no. As students you weren't intimate with the President, as a rule.

**ES: You didn't have opinions on what the President was doing?**

BD: No, no. Not much.

**ES: How important was religion on campus? Were people active in the foundations?**

BD: Well, somewhat. I had grown up going to church. I mean, I went to Sunday school the same way I went to day school. When I came to the University I went occasionally. But, I didn't go a lot. Most of the churches had a student group. But I don't think any of them had a great influence on what went on, on campus.

**ES: You said you didn't have a job when you were a student?**

BD: No.

**ES: You didn't.**

BD: Now some did. [Many men waited tables in sororities for their meals.]

**ES: Did some of the women in your sorority have jobs?**

BD: No, no you just didn't. Now, after we were married and had the children I had a number of students live with us, back in that time, for room and board. But that went by the wayside too. That way they had their room and board and they were supposed to give so many hours, I think it was four hours a day, we had them mainly for babysitters. They were there at night and during the weekend to baby sit. I don't remember when that went by the way too because now they never do that.

**ES: Did you go through commencement ceremonies?**

BD: Oh yes. I think there were 1,800 when I graduated in '33. There were only about 8,500 on campus at that time – there were many fewer students.

**ES: Did, your parents came to the ceremony?**

BD: Yes.

**ES: How do you think your education and student life experience influence your later life? You've kind of talked about this.**

BD: Yes, well I think greatly, I really do. I don't remember explicitly a lot. I still have some notes that I took in class, I still have some of those. Occasionally I glance through them. I'm amazed that I did such a good job. [Laughter]. I don't retain much of that. But you can't help but be influenced by being exposed to all this. I've been an avid reader and I think I have been drawn to the better things in life because of my background. I think I'm more tolerant than I otherwise would have been. I think it just describes it, that I got culture. I think that describes it. In fact, right now I have a macular degeneration and my vision is becoming somewhat blurred and it distresses me because I do love to read. I couldn't ask for a better life than I have had. I have had a wonderful life. I had a wonderful growing up. I had a wonderful marriage. I have wonderful children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. That's my, over there, that's my photo group. And I've had good health and I have many times said I know of

nobody that has been more blessed than I have been in this life. It's been a long one and a good one.

**ES: Well thank you for talking to me.**

BD: You're certainly welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW.