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# Mrs. Ruth Bausman and Mrs. Polly Forwood

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: This is an interview with Ruth Daniel Bausman and Polly Smith Forwood members of the class of 1918. The first class of the Women's College of University of Delaware when it began as a Women's College. The interview is on March 2nd, 1973 in Newark at the home of Ruth Bausman, part of the University of Delaware oral history project.

Ruth, how did you decide to come to Delaware?

Mrs. Bausman: Well, now, I don't lie up. Well, I came to Delaware – you see I went to Chatham, Virginia. And my parents didn't know what to do with me after I finished with Chatham. So, Delaware was opening up, the first – one of the schools in this area. So we came up one day and found that this will be an interesting place to come.

Interviewer: What were your first impressions? What did it look like when you saw the college, when you finally arrived with your suit case?

Mrs. Bausman: Well, it was the most forlorn-looking place you ever saw. It was all mud out in front and we had a boardwalk up in front of the two buildings. There was no shrubbery, no anything. That first night we stayed here, there were about 20 girls that stayed on the first night, and we wondered what in the world we were getting into truly because there was no organization whatsoever. The buildings were so very new; lots of them didn't have even frontier complete in them. And it was -- we were asking ourselves, "What kind of school is this?" So that was my -- really my first impression. It was an unfinished school but it didn't take that long to get started. And the faculty -- we had two young women faculty. In fact, all of the faculty lived right there in the building for the first few years. And our faculty were young, they were interesting, and well, we had a good time out of it.

Interviewer: Was the building completed and what was the name of the building? How large was it?

Ruth Bausman: Oh, there were the two big buildings out there that we always think of as a Women's College. The buildings were complete themselves but there was an awful lot of trash around and with that trash we made a bonfire out of the first year. And that was sort of carried off from year to year and all the men came down to the Women's College.

One of the -- one of the sort of the level of funny things was as we were coming down carrying our suitcase, mine had RC on it. And Mitchell boys -- President Mitchell was president at the time and he had the three sons. And of course, they were very curious, and they were just like the boys. But our RC on my bag, then they began to look up who RC could be. Well, then there was Rebecca Churchman. They looked up her age and then there was Ruth Clandaniel and they looked up her age decided it was Ruth Clandaniel that was coming along. So, it was those funny little things that added to it and the Mitchell boys were always at their merriest. Well, we're always part of the school. They were in and out all the time.

Interviewer: Did you have your dining hall, your residence and faculty of residence in one building and was the instruction on another building? You said there were two main buildings, what were the names of those buildings?

Mrs. Bausman: Warner Hall was the main dormitory building and yes, the dining room was in the lower section. We had that dining room down there for a long time. Also, that's where all the dormitories were -- I mean all of the rooms. The other was Robinson Hall and that is where the lectures and our classes were.

Interviewer: Polly, you spent one year at Wilson College before you came to the Women's College. And how did you happen to transfer? You were probably one the very first transfers.

Mrs. Forwood: We received letters from the girls and the men at Delaware. We compared that life at Wilson with their experiences and we decided that we would have a much broader experience at Delaware. So, we came, my roommate, Libby Jones from Dover and myself came as sophomores. Like you know the old saying like you can always tell a sophomore but you cannot tell her much. And Libby and I came down with the idea of making the most of it.

Interviewer: What about -- you must have had for example...

**[0:05:00]**

Interviewer: ...rather limited kind of opportunities in terms of courses that you could take or plans or compared with what we have today naturally. And of course, you had much fewer numbers of people. About -- all of your classes were separate from the Men's College. Is that correct or did you sometime share your classes?

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, you have to remember that at that time, it was known as an affiliate school. We had the same professors. We -- the men and the women did not share their classes because later on when I was talking agriculture, I had to be chaperoned in the classes that I went to. And it was this time -- but before that, the men came down on the Women's College campus and that was where the classes were held. We did not go up to the men. There was a dividing line very much between the two of -- two campuses but not with the faculty. But we must remember the word affiliated and not co-educational.

Interviewer: What was the feeling in the state when this brave group of young women began your education in their own Women's College?

Mrs. Bausman: I think the feeling was very mixed. Many of them felt that probably the Women's College would never get off the ground because we had had a problem here some few years before that. They've tried women attending classes with the men and just didn't seem to work out. But when they -- when the women's club got back of the -- back of the forming of the new school, and there were good men and very able women during that. Mrs. Adee Warner was one of us one of them, that the thing did get off the ground and there were men who were big enough to see that we had to have a Women's College here in the State of Delaware.

Interviewer: Do you remember any of the men who were important working with Mrs. Warner and also what was the problem when you say there was a problem when they try to begin having women in classes?

Mrs. Bausman: **[Laughter]** That is a very difficult question to answer. I think that one woman was found -- or one of the girls was found climbing out of window one night. And I forgotten just the details of it but in that day, you must remember you didn't -- find a woman climbing out of a man's dormitory so there you are. Things have changed.

Now, I think that one of the things we should have is -- speak up, is the ones -- both the men and the women who really were the first to start with the organization there.

Interviewer: Was there a special group of people who worked together formally to form the Women's College?

Mrs. Bausman: Yes, there is what we called like a commission. And they were the ones who worked with the plans and construction and equipment. And on that commission, at the first commission they had, was Charles R. Miller who

was the governor of Delaware. George David Marshall, he was a president pro-temp of the Senate, Chauncey P. Holcomb he was speaker of the house of representative, George D. Tipayer **[phonetic] [0:08:22]** who succeeded Henry Hayward, representing the State Board of Education, and then there was Samuel J. Wright representing the trustees of Delaware College. Now, he was -- lived in Newark and Mrs. Aide Warner representing the State Federation of Women's Club and it was Mrs. Warner who pushed and pushed until the men just have to get on the ball and do something about this college for women at the university.

Interviewer: What kind of a personality was Mrs. Warner when she came down to visit? Did she get to know the girls? She must have been very interested in them.

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, yes. Mrs. Warner was a very strong personality. She missed nothing. And she was very generous, a very human person and she knew what was going on. She missed nothing at all.

Mrs. Forwood: I would say she was a real friend, not only of the college but of the individual girls. I remember her chaperoning me to Washington one time, which was a very important thing to Dean Robinson. We mustn't overlook Dean Robinson at this point because Mrs. Warner and Dean Robinson were very close friends and they collaborated well in getting us off to a good start.

Mrs. Bausman: Polly, do you remember when Dean Robinson came. Dean Robinson really was a very remarkable person.

**[0:00:10]**

At that time, it was unusual for a woman to hold the many degrees that she held. Of course, her field was botany but she used to liken things of the girls onto flowers because the field was **[inaudible] [0:10:11]** and she just had to have flowers around her all the time. She was a very slightly built woman, she always wore long skirts, and she had a very keen sense of humor. But she inspected us when we went on to a dance, she would line the girls up and inspect them to see that they were properly dressed. And if she didn't approve of what they had on, they were sent back up to their room to change their clothes.

Do you remember one instance, Polly, where you came down with an -- with a nice -- what were those things that you pasted on your cheek?

Mrs. Forwood: No.

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, yes you did Polly, and Dean Robinson said...

Mrs. Forwood: ...thinking about their own thing.

Mrs. Bausman: ...you just get right back and take that off. Oh, yes you did, Polly. They were beauty spots at that time.

Mrs. Forwood: It was something else. This is Polly. I would like to refresh Ruth's memory about that incident. I had been up to the University of Pennsylvania to their prom the weekend before. And the girls were wearing little marine caps which came down over their eyes and fanned out in the back. So, on the next weekend when I attended some dance down here, I came down with my little cap on and Dean Robinson did not approve.

Mrs. Bausman: Dean Robinson realized that of feeling of the state show -- she was a very strict person when it came to chaperoning. We never went to a ball game that we didn't have a chaperone. We never went to a dance that we didn't have a chaperone. We didn't walk down the street with the man with -- alongside of us. He can walk six feet back of us, six feet front of us but never right next to us. But if you knew all the conniving that went on you would get a kick out of it today because it really *[inaudible]* **[0:12:19]** we had a lot of fun out of it because it was so absolutely absurd. And no one can believe today what we went through then. We were asked down to Warner Hall this past year with some students to find out what went on when we were there. And when we told them some of the funny things that we had to endure, and I mean endure, why they just couldn't - - they couldn't believe us.

Mrs. Forwood: I'm interested to hear that Ruth because by the time I arrived at the beginning of my sophomore year, things had mellowed a little and you might walk down Main Street side by side with a man but not after sunset.

Mrs. Bausman: Also we had to be in the dormitories otherwise, Harrington would lock us out. And Harrington was the custodian of the buildings and he was the custodian. And he knew every girl in every room in the dormitory.

Mrs. Forwood: Of course, we all knew when Harrington was approaching. His way of telling us was, "Watchman on the third floor."

Mrs. Bausman: Well, we all enjoy Harrington. He knew to collect all the crash and all the garbage and, you know, there was no road. And so there was a little old

wiggly between the two campuses and he went between the two with his little old wagon and horse for years and years. I just -- the college wouldn't have been same without Harrington.

Mrs. Forwood: Whenever we questioned Harrington's authority, the invariable answer was, "Them is the dean's orders."

Mrs. Bausman: Well, Harrington was a character himself in that, he was sort of a chubby man, reddish complexion, and took his time on all occasions. He certainly chaperoned those girls day and night. He was in and out of that building. You know one of the odd things -- and leaving Harrington a minute, was I was rooming on the first floor and my roommate and I were sitting there one evening. There was a lady outside the window. And I heard this terrible scream. My roommate had dropped out of her chair and ran out of the room screaming at that time. What happened was one of the families had boy who was just not all there mentally and he had come on the ledge, stuck his head in the window, right beside my roommate's bed. And this is what caused the hysterics.

**[0:15:00]**

Mrs. Forwood: Ms. Churchman entered the scene about that time, not in the same incident, but she was very good at handling Peeping Toms. She -- at one time came up behind one of them, quietly, and gave him a good beating with the broom.

Mrs. Bausman: You know it might be interesting, at this time, you know, with the school so new. We had a lot of very young men professors. And they were interesting but we had to be chaperoned when we were out with them. Of course, I was taking ag and having to go out to different judging classes. I always had to have a chaperone. One time, I was just judged at the Devon Horseshow, had to have a special chaperone with that. Ms. Winslow who was the art teacher had to go up with me.

These are the things that we realize now that when you carry a special chaperone with you to a dance or anything like that, and even as a judge yourself, why you wonder just how far the chaperoning was going to go. But we took it for granted I supposed. And one of the things in our junior year also, we had an overflow with the dormitories, so they opened up what we call the annex. And they were two houses that were -- that were double houses and they were on South College, about where Hullahen Hall is now.

And they asked some of us if we would go down there at the room. We said yes, we would but we were going to pick the group that we went down with, which we did. We had an awful lot of fun. I think there were 16 students down there. Polly, you want to say something about that because you were one of those, you led, you remember?

Mrs. Forwood: Well, first of all, we had a very good time. We didn't get outside Harrington's orbit of interest. He took care of his on the outside but there were -- we were a mixed group; juniors, sophomores, and some freshmen. We had one faculty member Ms. Rich living with us who was there part-time and we felt very independent and free but we also felt some responsibility about the younger girls.

Mrs. Bausman: You know Dr. Mitchell was the president of the college when we came there. The first year and was for several years. Now, the Mitchells lived in a little house, a little white house almost opposite -- it was on College Avenue, South College Avenue but almost opposite Robinson Hall. And since then it has been torn down. He was a true southern gentleman, so was Mrs. Mitchell. And they asked the girls over there from time to time for dinners and meals.

At one time, as he was walking down -- we called it depot road then, which is now South College Avenue. There was a family that had a great many packages. I think they were Italians but they had a great plenty of packages and Dr. Mitchell was a very gallant sort of a soul. So, he offered to carry some of the packages. Now, he thought that when he got to his house that they will take the packages from him. No, they didn't. He had to walk clear and down to the Pennsylvania station carrying their packages and traveling along with them. Now, that is Dr. Mitchell for you. The Mitchell Hall is name for Dr. Mitchell. The family, were very interesting family and was a family that we all enjoyed. In fact, Mary used to come back to the school and I think she even felt like she was one of the students herself.

Mrs. Forwood: They -- the Mitchell's performed really the double role of being also neighbors to us. We met them coming and going constantly. When my roommate Libby Jones and I first arrived on campus, Dr. Mitchell had a problem with our names. He couldn't get Libby Jones and Polly Smith straightened out. Sometimes, it was Libby Smith and Polly Jones. Finally, Mrs. Mitchell took over and straightened out that situation but it was always just a neighborly give and take when we met them on campus.

We haven't mentioned Ms. Mascrup and Ms. Brady *[phonetic]* [0:19:39]. They were, I think, freshly out of their own colleges when they came as

faculty to our campus. Oh, they served as chaperones as well as friends. They dated the young professors on campus.

**[0:20:00]**

We enjoyed them very much. In fact, to the point of forgetting that they were there for chaperonage purposes. Do you remember Redman's Grove?

Mrs. Bausman: Of course, I do. **[Laughter]**

Mrs. Forwood: Our campus was sort of a mess for the first two or three years. When it came time to have May Day, it wasn't an appropriate background for the May Day celebration. So we borrowed Redman's Grove that was the beginning of our attachment to the place. I think we had every May Day program over there. It was also a nice place to stroll around if you had a date. It was a nice play to entertaining, to walk around in Redman's grove. It had quite an atmosphere. The building -- is the building still there?

Mrs. Bausman: Yes.

Mrs. Forwood: Oh, it is still there.

Mrs. Bausman: It's used for a school.

Mrs. Forwood: Oh, and is now used for a school.

Mrs. Bausman: **[inaudible] [0:21:05].**

Mrs. Forwood: It was -- oh, I suppose built in the 1800s; a very interesting building. For a while it was used by a fraternity.

Mrs. Bausman: Yes.

Mrs. Forwood: Is it still?

Mrs. Bausman: It was recently a private home. The Muhill family, Spear family.

Mrs. Forwood: Uh-huh. It still is. I don't remember much about the inside, although we did go there occasionally to visit the old man who lived there.

Mrs. Bausman: During the war years, or the last part, there was so much land around the Women's College buildings that we thought that it'd be a good project to

have a vegetable garden, which we did. And we had a potato cutting party one night. Really we had to show them how to cut the potatoes and I was supposed -- taking eggs and I knew all about it. And I had to block my way through on potato cuttings but at least we got it done and the potatoes were planted and I think they were harvested. I don't know whether they ate any at Women's College or not. We should have, after all that work but at least it was quite a project to have a garden during the war years.

Mrs. Forwood: I didn't participate in the planting and harvesting of the potatoes. However, I do remember the knitting that we did. There was someone in-charge of it, one of the faculty members and she kept a schedule. We had to have so many socks done, so many sweaters, et cetera and et cetera and she checked on these things. Dr. Syfford *[phonetic]* [0:22:51], who was head of the English Department at the time, came out with an ultimatum. We were permitted to knit in class if we held our knitting needles down low where he could not be annoyed by them. I think this is called the German method of knitting but we used it anyway because we were so pressed to get that knitting done that we knitted almost day and night.

Mrs. Bausman: Do you remember Polly the -- well, Mr. DuPont was the one who had a train take us from Newark to Wilmington and then we got on trolleys and went down at the playhouse. And it was his treat for the whole university both men and the women.

Mrs. Forwood: It T.C. DuPont, wasn't it?

Mrs. Bausman: I don't remember. I think it was T.C., wasn't it? Dupont. But we did that for some two years and then they stopped it, and I don't know why. But it was one of the most enjoyable things because it was quite a party going in on that, and then going to playhouse. And of course, we practically took over certain sections of the -- of the playhouse.

Mrs. Forwood: I remember...

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, yes, the playhouse. I think that was about the time and that's the reason that probably Mr. DuPont was doing -- sponsoring it to get people interested in going and going to the DuPont Hotel. I remember one time, I was asked to go there with one of the men I was going with. And they didn't think it was a good thing to go down on the bar. That we must stay away from the bar. And we did. It was something about the chaperoning at that time, and the DuPont Hotel, it wasn't quite the thing you have to

do. The girls just didn't go at the Hotel DuPont. That was all. But it didn't take long for them to start going.

Mrs. Forwood: Ruth, you remember at the service flags that we had on our doors in the dormitory of each girl who had a...

**[0:25:00]**

...boy that she used to date or was dating put a little flag with the star on it on her door. And at that time, the boys were beginning to thin out. There were fewer men all of the time. It comes to my mind that at that time, there was a darling little colored boy who came to the campus, and he seemed to be destitute. So the boys handed him up an old uniform that one boy had discarded. And we called this little boy the jiggydier bannerol *[phonetic]* **[0:25:36]** because he really could jig. And we used to go up to Rhodes Drugstore in the afternoon and the jiggydier bannerol would dance for us. Do you remember that Ruth?

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, yes. Oh, yes **[Laughter]** I do. These are the things that you look back on and say without -- did anything like that happen today, do you think that possibly the girls were getting on something like that. I don't believe they would have as much fun out of it because there were so few of us that have enjoyed each other so much. One of the instances that came to my mind just now was in our Greek class. I took Greek for with Professor Conover and he was really quite something. Well, the other one in the class is Margaret Cook. And Margaret Cook love to eat. She always brought a bag of candy and sat between the two of us. And one time, she looked up and here was Professor Conover looking down, and she said, "Professor Conover, would you have some candy?" "No, Ms. Cook. No, Ms. Cook, but Ms. Cook you go right on and if it quiets your nerves."

Mrs. Forwood: Connie was a dear, wasn't he?

Mrs. Bausman: *[inaudible]* **[0:26:45]**.

Mrs. Forwood: Mrs. Conover was a semi invalid but that did not interfere with their entertaining. Connie used to invite us up there to tea in the afternoon. He made the tea, and served it, and got great pleasure out of it. And so did we, because we loved him. He was a dear.

Mrs. Bausman: **[Laughter]** You know, we used to have straw rides and then at the straw rides, Connie always went. It was always a bunch of girls, probably several, but Connie just felt that was part of his duty. He got a lot of kick out of it. You know he was not an old -- a young man at all. He was an

older man. And it was one of those things that the girls all just took Connie for granted.

Mrs. Forwood: Do you remember Ms. Mascrup's gym class? How we were? Our long bloomers and our midis, which were -- well, sailor costumes, I guess. Long black stockings and black shoes. Of course, there was no gymnasium for the women and we couldn't use the gymnasium up campus, so we had our gym classes down in the basement of Robinson Hall.

Mrs. Bausman: We try to leap over the horse but we could never leap, we were always falling over the horse. Then most of it was trying to teach us to dance. And, you know, there's nothing worse than a bunch of girls who really can't dance, and being tried to the make dance. So, that was about the -- some -- we all hated gym. There was no pleasure we got out of it but we have to take it. You couldn't graduate unless you did take it. So, that was that.

Mrs. Forwood: And speaking of dancing of course, we shared the dances with the men up at -- oh, at College Hall. They were held in Old College, a beautiful old place. We had the -- an intermission at the middle of the dance. And we always look forward to that because Libby Jones' caterers served a wonderful supper; chicken salad, hot rolls, ice cream, cake, fancy cakes, coffee. We sat on the old stairs that led up from the first floor to the second floor. In those days, we had programs and the boys made up those programs weeks ahead of time, getting their partners lined up for the dance. We had some dances too. I think we gave -- what -- about one a year, was it Ruth?

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, yes. Oh yes.

Mrs. Forwood: At the Women's College. Of course, they were held in our own hallarium. We followed more or less the same program. We had a supper, an intermission, and I think we girls worked on that supper, too. Didn't we?

Mrs. Bausman: Let me tell you. Let me you something about the supper one time. The chicken salad didn't arrive. It was set-up from down in Maryland. And then it had to come up, instead of taking it up at porters, they had a little station there...

**[0:30:00]**

...it went on Wilmington. And we hunted and hunted for the chicken salad. No chicken salad could be found. So, finally, someone who knew more about the ins and outs, went into Wilmington, rescued the chicken

salad, and brought it out late that evening, but we had to add chicken salad dinner but it was very late. Do you remember that put it all that was down? We held the dance, and all the supper, and the fireplaces were going down and mock what was in the dining room.

Mrs. Forwood: Uh-hmm.

Mrs. Bausman: Well, I remember because I was chairman.

Interviewer: What was your music? Who was your favorite orchestra leader?

Mrs. Forwood: Oh, George Madden. Yes, George was playing then. And I happen to -- speaking of music, the battalion up at the Men's College use to drill every Monday morning. And they came down the road past our dormitory, led by -- oh, he lives in Newark or did live in Newark, Willie -- what was his name?

Mrs. Bausman: It was Bill Martin.

Mrs. Forwood: Yeah, Willie Martin.

Mrs. Bausman: No, Bill Martin.

Mrs. Forwood: Yes, he led the band and that was a thing -- that was a big deal to stand out there and watch that parade **[Laughter]** and the band. I can still remember the marking -- marching song that they played.

Mrs. Bausman: When we were down in Bill Martin thing -- but Bill was a quite short and Warren Newton, they both were fraternities KA and Martin Newton was very tall. And I remember they had bought the coats. Those long coats that they wore. And Bill Martin said one day we both pay the same price. He got more out of his and I did out of mine.

Mrs. Forwood: And the music -- we haven't mentioned the Shakespearean Festival that we had on campus. I think that was our junior year, wasn't it?

Mrs. Bausman: I think it was.

Mrs. Forwood: We had -- it lasted for three days and culminated in the Shakespearean play -- what was it?

Mrs. Bausman: By the way, nobody remember the name of that Shakespearean **[inaudible] [0:32:18]**.

Mrs. Forwood: Oh yes. I was in it but I didn't think of it now.

Mrs. Bausman: But I have...

Mrs. Forwood: What's the play that Viola and her brother -- Twelfth Night, my goodness.

Mrs. Bausman: Twelfth Night.

Mrs. Forwood: How could I forget that? **[Laughter]** Yes, we went up there to rehearse, and we rehearsed, and we rehearsed, and we rehearsed. But we had a lot of fun. Of course, our chaperone always went with us. Dr. Syfford was, I think, the chairman of the whole shebang. He was also one of the coaches of Twelfth Night. Do you remember that race?

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. It isn't hard to forget that. I mean to remember that day.

Mrs. Forwood: Yeah. That was I guess about the biggest thing that we...

Mrs. Bausman: ...that production.

Interviewer: Did everybody the Men's and the Women's College work together? Was it the three day festival plan weigh in advance and was it the nature spring event? Was it in the spring?

Mrs. Forwood: That year, that was the major event. And yes, the men did participate in it very actively that we had on Saturday afternoon, I think it was, dances in costume, and the member all in costume and so were the women. And the townspeople also took party in that even the little children in costume participated.

Interviewer: Where was it held?

Mrs. Forwood: Well, it was held up on Frazer Field but we also paraded down the street.

Mrs. Bausman: It was up on Depot Road or South College Avenue.

Mrs. Forwood: Outside where the South College Avenue -- oh, yes, townspeople participated very much and supported us in every way.

Interviewer: If that was your junior year, then that was a very important war year, were there many men left on the campus?

Mrs. Forwood: The men at that time were thinning out definitely. The thing that we noticed most was -- well, for partners at dances. And we were -- my class was in its senior year during that war. So most of the senior men had already departed and we finally got down to the bottom of the barrel and we were going to the dances with freshman men. Ruth, you were lucky. You had a boyfriend...

**[0:35:00]**

...who was a member of the faculty. So, he outlasted the war, I think. Didn't he?

Mrs. Bausman: Yes. Oh, yes. But I was chaperoned with him as well. **[Laughter]** Also, he was faculty or part of it. These things you wonder how in the world they come about, don't you?

Mrs. Forwood: I might like to add that Ruth married this young man.

Mrs. Bausman: **[Laughter]** Well, I guess I did. Paula says I did.

Mrs. Forwood: I just happened to think that Mr. Townsend was governor at that time and his daughter Leila -- pardon me, was on campus. They came up -- Mr. and Mrs. Townsend came up one Saturday afternoon to some event. We're not quite sure whether that was a dedication or what it was, but anyway, they came up and they visited us of course, visited down at the Women's College with Leila and left that afternoon right before dinner. They had an accident on their way home and Mrs. Townsend was killed. That was one of the dark days of our remembrance. Leila continued on campus for the rest of the year but left to become her father's hostess in Washington. She went there; they established a home there. And as long as he was there, she served as hostess and a lot of people in Delaware attended some things that -- some events that Leila hostesses **[Laughter]**

Interviewer: Of course, this was after he became senator when he went to Washington?

Mrs. Forwood: Yes, yes.

Interviewer: And that was some years...

Mrs. Forwood: It just occurs to me that there is one person we haven't talked much about. Although, I did mention Dr. Syfford in connection with the Shakespearean Festival. Probably his name comes to me because I happened to an English major but Dr. Syfford was unmarried. He was a

lovely gentleman and everybody who did major in English, I think, admired him very much, but he was very formal. One day, a little dog came into our room -- our classroom. And of course, Dr. Syfford couldn't bring himself to picking the little dog up and putting it out so he got a long window pole and pushed the little dog gently across the floor until he got it out the door.

Mrs. Bausman: **[Laughter]** Polly that was **[inaudible] [0:38:14]** class that we went to in Math. Howard Preston was our professor. Howard was one of those good-looking young professors, and we decided we'd have some fun with him one day. Well, Helen Barkley had a very high complexion and we thought the thing to do was pet her up a little bit more and have her faint. And then that would break up the class and then we wouldn't have so much time to spend on math, don't you see, which we did. But Howard caught on to it. And you know, it's not long ago that he laughing over the **[inaudible] [0:38:42]**. And turning to us, he said, "I knew what you girls were up to." **[Laughter]**

Mrs. Forwood: I just happened to think that when we occupied Warner Hall there was one telephone. And we had to make that go as far as it would. So Dean Robinson made -- rather suggest a rule that we limit our time on the telephone. After dinner was the time when most of the boys called us on the phone. So of course, every girl wanted at least a chance to have a phone call. My roommate went down to the phone not long after this rule was made. She got this call, she was ready for bed, her face was all cream and her hair screwed up into curlers or something. She had -- we used to call them kimonos that we wore **[Laughter]** in our rooms in the evening. So, Libby went down to the phone and she talked--and she talked to the limit. She was still on the phone well, after the limit.

**[0:40:00]**

So I went downstairs, stuck my head in the door and said, "Libby, the dean would like to see you in her office." The phone booth emptied itself very quickly, Libby dashed across the hallway, cold cream and curlers, into Dean Robinson's office. Dean Robinson of course, not knowing why she had come, and always the perfect lady, welcomed her, "Ms. Jones, it's nice to see you, do sit down." At that time, Marjory Larson whom we called Scotch was in the dean's office getting up her nerve to ask her if she could go home for the weekend. So Dean Robinson and Scotch talked on, Dean Robinson included Libby very nicely in the conversation. And time went on and on, and Libby sat there. And finally, Dean Robinson said, "Well, girls it's about time for the 10 o'clock bell. We've had a very

pleasant visit, good night." Libby came up to the room with -- our room with her eyes glazing. A fine trick to play on your roommate.

Mrs. Bausman: **[Laughter]** I remember that Polly. And didn't we get a kick out of it. But do you remember one of students who was calling up -- us for a dance and no one wanted to go with him. So he would call and maybe he would call, Jane and I would say -- Jane would say, "No, I can't go. I'm dated up but I think Susie would like to go or Libby would like to go," or any of them down the line we went until after he called about 10 to 12 girls. Do you remember him? Because he was always a joke, he always called up, and we always played this trick on him that he could ask somebody else. Do you remember that tall chap? I won't call his name.

Mrs. Forwood: **[Laughter]** Yes, I do remember him. He was rather pathetic. It's too bad we weren't more of sympathetic. I guess youth is thoughtless that way but I do remember him. We had a situation at that time that the girls do not have now. There were about, oh, I guess 20 men to every girl, weren't there?

Mrs. Bausman: Yes. Yes, we do.

Mrs. Forwood: So, you had to be, oh, really **[Laughter]** something if you didn't get an invitation to every dance.

Mrs. Bausman: **[Laughter]** Yes, you're quite right. We went to the dances always in a bus. And our chaperone went with us but that's the way we went out. Sometimes, the men came down. They would walk down to campus but we had to go in the bus, and we had to go up. They bought in the last dance, one of big dances was October was in the armory. Now, it's taken over the university but the things were getting larger then.

So, they had this dance at the armory. And what happened was my chaperone went off in the bus and forgot me. And she vowed that I was the one but I was not the one, she was the one who left me. So when I got to come home, there were only -- you see, the town girls do not have to have chaperones. They would go on the cars with the men without chaperones with our students. So, they said, "Well, Ruth, the only thing to do is for you to get in the car with us. We will take you down first," which we did. And even my date went to the door with me, but Dean Robinson was there to meet me, and did I have a time. I had to take a special chaperone to the next dance. A special chaperone not just one but I had to have my own chaperone.

Mrs. Forwood: I'd like to ask Ruth. What were you doing while they were looking for you?

Mrs. Bausman: What was I doing? I was trying to get my coat and trying to find the rest of the bunch. **[Laughter]** I had more sense than that, Polly. When I was in college of course, one of the men I went with was on the basketball team and really he was a very prominent member. And the thing was that we like to go to a dance, and they joined the dance the night before. And the coach said to the men, you are to leave the dance at certain hour while we were having a good time. And you know you can't leave a dance when you're having a good time.

But the thing was we stayed and the coach found it out. And my friend was taken off from the team the next day in the backdoor **[inaudible] [0:44:20]**. Now, our team had always been winning but up to that time when there were members taken off the team, they didn't win. And it caused quite a sensation around and they all knew why. And of course, the girls were the once who really got the black eye because he said, "We should have gotten the men home." And it wasn't right because they should have gotten us home.

Mrs. Forwood: I'm reminded of a football, probably. I was interested in basketball too but I dated a boy who played quarterback on the team at that time. I remember...

**[0:45:00]**

...one time we had a dance one evening and the next day someone met me and said, "Well, how is Fitz? And I said, "Oh, fine, I guess. Why?" "Well, didn't you know his ribs were broken Saturday afternoon in the game?" "Well, I didn't." So, he had gone all through the dance with the broken ribs and never mentioned them. That boy met with a very sad fate early in the war. He enlisted in the Air Corps and his plane was wrecked here in the United States before he ever went overseas.

Mrs. Bausman: I do remember that Newark really had dirt streets when we were here. The amount of **[inaudible] [0:45:49]** is nothing like what we were now. And also the boundary line of the town was a Delaware Avenue. So, you see how we have expanded in the meantime. But one thing interesting things I recall in my mind, one of the families here in town, the McNeal's had a very nice horse and sleigh. And Dean Robinson was shock one day when she found that I had the horse and sleigh out driving down Main Street. You see those things just weren't done. And you just did them on the side and think it was all right but when you were found out, you were

brought in the dean's office, and spoken to, and asked why you did it without getting permission. Well, you never knew.

Mrs. Forwood: When we look at the campus today especially the women's campus and look at the beautiful trees, they forsythia planted along the wall and everything in perfect condition, it certainly brings back all of those tree plantings that we used to have every occasion. We marked by planting a tree. We had to the masons down here and different people, prominent people would come and we would have a tree planting ceremony. And I remember we had one song that we always sang, and when I look at all those pretty trees down there on the campus, I think of us standing around planting those trees.

Mrs. Bausman: Oh, there is one thing that I can't remember just how it went is that stone wall, how it was financed. It seems to me each section was a \$100, and that different organizations or groups or something paid for that stone wall going around what we call as Women's College campus. My memory is hazy on it...

**[0:47:43]**

**End Of Audio**