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HOWARD KENT PRESTON
RETIRED PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Interviewed by:
John Gauger
August 30, 1966

Transcribed by:
Marie McNulty

HOWARD KENT PRESTON

INTERVIEWED ON AUGUST 30, 1966

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

Born in Trenton, New Jersey

1909 - Graduate of Lafayette in Civil Engineering

1910 - 1912 - Lafayette College, instructor in mathematics
and drawing

Summers - draftsman for American Bridge Company

1912 - Delaware College teaching engineering and mathematics

Brief period in industry during World War I in
Tennessee

1920 - Return to Delaware College as professor

1928 - Chairman of the Department of Mechanics

An inspector on construction for Evans Hall, Mitchell
Hall, and the Women's Gymnasium

Several summers as business administrator for Delaware
College

Fall, 1944 - July 1, 1946 - Acting Dean of Engineering

Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers,
the American Association of University Professors,
Alpha Chi Ro, Phi Kappa Phi, and Tau Beta Pi

1954 - Presented a certificate of service from the Delaware
Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

January 31, 1955 - Retired

This interview is with Professor Howard K. Preston, retired engineering teacher at the University of Delaware. The interview was conducted on August 30, 1966, by John H. Gauger.

Interviewer: Professor Preston, where are you from originally?

Professor: Trenton, New Jersey. Do you mean what's my home state?

Interviewer: Yes.

Professor: Yeah. (cough) Trenton, New Jersey.

Interviewer: Then how did you come to Delaware?

Professor: Well, Trenton, New Jersey--after I graduated from high school, I went to Lafayette College. Then after I had graduated, I went to Syracuse, New York, with the Lackawana Railroad. I was there for a year and a half, or something like that. I guess it was--because I came, I went down to Lafayette in the mid year--in February. I forget the date. I graduated in 1909, 1910, it must have been 1911, I guess. Then I got married. My first wife--she died later--we came down here as bride and groom. That was in September--in September, 1912, before the opening of college. I think I was here a week or two before. My wife's father had died, and we were bringing her mother with us. (chuckle) I guess some of it was rather amusing. The two of us stopped down here on our way from Washington where we had spent our honeymoon to see

about getting a place to rent. I went to the Newark Trust Company--there were two banks here at the time--the Newark Trust Company, and right across the street was the--that's the Farmers' Trust Company now--and right across the street was the Farmers', which is now Wilmington Trust. There's been quite some confusion about that. So they--their real estate department--he became a very good friend of mine, Lawrence Singles (?), he was the secretary who handled those things. He said: "You know there's hardly a place to rent in this town," and as soon as a place is empty why somebody picks it up--somebody is waiting to come in." But he said: "I'll let you know." Oh, he did tell us about one place. He said: "There's one place right here around behind the building on Delaware Avenue." There's a row there of--I think there were four duplex houses, two houses together, four twins. A couple of them have been torn down lately on account of they were right behind where the Methodist Church is, you know.

Interviewer: Uh, huh.

Professor: So he said: "I don't know whether that will suit you. It's only \$14 a month, so I'll give you the key and you do down and look at it." So we did. We went in, and it wasn't too bad except for one thing. Of course, at that time very little of the homes in town were connected to sewers. They all had outdoor privies, you know, and a man come around and cleaned them up. On the outskirts, they had cess pools.

So we went on down and looked at the place, and it seemed to be pretty--my first wife's mother was a paraletic, and she couldn't get around too much, and it was quite a jaunt for her to go out way down to the end of the yard to the toilet. So we went upstairs, and there was a bathroom, sure enough, with a tub and no water. If you wanted water, you filled up a bucket down there in the kitchen (chuckle) and brought it up and dipped it out to get rid of it. It wasn't even connected to the outside. So, that was the kind of a thing that we had. And so I said: "Well, that's the only thing here, and we gotta have a place to live." They had given up their house up in Easton, Pennsylvania, where they lived. So we took it.

A couple of weeks later--right after the college had opened, I remember very distinctly this was before my wife and her mother arrived--they had a lot of things of selling out their property up there and one thing and another--there was a knock on the door. I was teaching a class there, and there was a Mr. Barton. They called him Hazel Barton; he was a character. And he said: "Mr. Singles wants to know if you would let him have the keys to that house of yours down there on Delaware Avenue. You said you would like to rent it.

In the meantime, I had rented another place and I was going to pay the rental for that up to March 1st if I had to because I had signed that lease. I said: "I have the key right here." I never heard any more about that. He

rented it right off. Apparently somebody else was in the same boat that I was; they didn't have any place else to go. (chuckle) I never did find out who it was.

So, we had another nice place we rented by Tillie Thomas. She was the wife of Jakey Thomas. Those were the names we had for them. We didn't call them Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Everybody knew everybody else by their first name, you now--except the teachers. They were all Professor. So, they owned the paper mill which was where the Hollingworth place is. You know where Hollingsworth's is?

Interviewer: Yes.

Professor: Well, there use to be a wall paper mill there. At one time it was an organ place, and then Mr. Thomas took it over and made it into a wallpaper place. So the college carpenter--I was boarding with him for the two weeks before my family came down--and he said: "I think there's a nice place over on Prospect Street, much better than the one that you have over there and that's only \$15 a month and that has heat in it." It still had an outside toilet, but the cellar was dry and it was comfortable. So I said: "All right, I'll take that." And I went around to Mrs. Thomas and I told her my predicament. She said: "Well, you go over there and take it; and if you have to take the other place, it will be all right. Just tell me. Just take it month to month, that's all." Well nothing could be better than that, so we took it. And that's the way we came.

Incidentally, I didn't tell my wife about this at all. I put down the carpets, and I had everything, and I had the kitchen stove going, and I had potatoes boiling and everything when they arrived. At that time there used to come down from Main Street a bus--it run down from Main Street down to the Pennsylvania Railroad to meet the trains. There would be something like ten or fifteen trains a day there, and four or five more over on the B&O so there was a lot of----. Of course, the bus service was not---- So I told Mr. Widdows (?)--Widdows, he ran the busses--he had two or three things that he did in horse and buggy times--so when they came, we went on up and my wife looked kinda funny at me when we went by the street when we were at Delaware Avenue because she remembered where we had gone. However it wasn't too clear in her mind. Maybe we had gone around the block the other way. So we went on over there. When we pulled up to the house, she said: "This isn't the place we rented." I said to Mr. Widdows: "Don't you know where we live?". (Laughter) He said: "Well by gosh, I don't know. This is the only place you told me." (Laughter) Then we got off, and she had a pleasant surprise because she had seen the other place, you know, and I know it didn't sit well with her. So that's the arrival.

At that time-I have a note here--that the population was about 2,000 altogether. There was a sign on the road from Wilmington somewhere. Incidentally, we didn't come in under

the railroad--you know how you go from here out to Wilmington--we came over through Lumbrook. You know where Shep's place is out on West Main Street, you go by the turn, by the A&P place, and by the fire house and go on out there a quarter of a mile, I guess, and there's a country road that went from there down over the railroad tracks. There wasn't a sign, there wasn't even a bell ringer to tell you that the train was coming. That was over the B&O tracks. We went down and around that way. There was a sign somewhere that said 2,000 population, and I don't remember what else was on it, maybe something about the University. I don't remember. So from about 1912--I got some actual figures from the catalogue, I don't know whether you have seen the 1912 catalogue--if you go back you can find out some things.

There were 169 students here then, and a faculty of 28. That includes the people who were in the agricultural extension. They were teachers, too, mostly teaching some. That totalled to 197 people. That includes the president and all the way down. So it was a very very small place, but they paid a better salary than my own college paid.

Depot Street, that's what they called this South College Avenue. I think you will find it on an old map. I have an old map, 1888 or 1868. That was just about in line with the Pennsylvania Railroad.

I have something here that I have already mentioned. There were two people who ran busses, Al Stolks was another one and Charles Strayhorn (?) was a third one. Strayhorn was the first one, I think, to get an automobile bus. These other busses I was telling you were horse drawn.

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Professor: They were just little, they looked like black marias with four people on each side. They would go down and meet the trains and your baggage would be in between. It was quite a---- Once in a while, some people would decide to walk that mile and that was dirt road. There wasn't any sidewalks or anything then.

Interviewer: That Al Stolks would be Pete Stolks' father?

Professor: Yeah, Pete Stolks' father, that's right.

The streets were all dirt road, hitching posts on them here and there, watering trough at the college entrance up there just on the other side of where College Avenue runs into the college there. There's sort of a fence up there where you go in. Well, there was a watering trough right in front there. That's where they used to dunk the freshmen, you know. (laughter) It wasn't always full; sometimes they had to fill it themselves. (laughter) Later, there was a stone trough--this trough here was a metal one, a great big one. I imagine it was about a yard and a half in diameter and about so deep. It was quite deep. There was nothing but horses around here in that time. Then later on, one of the Curtis sons, Walter--maybe it was the two of them--gave the stone one down in front of the Academy, and that's now on the Academy grounds, inside of it. It's right on the grounds. There came a time when they prohibited filling them because hoofing mouth disease was going around. They claim that if one horse would drink in there a hundred horses would get the disease. After that, they were never filled up.

Then there were very few crosswalks. Occasionally, somebody had some stones left over, or putting in new curbs, and they would use them to build a crosswalk. And this was any place where they happened to think about it. They were large granite, I think granite, slabs; and I have it here they were two feet wide and four or five feet long. They were about six inches thick too.

There were many trees outside of the curbs. You see, the curbs came along, and they put those in. Well, it had been just a country road at one time, for years and years. That road goes back to sometime in the 1600's I think, or very close to that road at least. It was the Queen's highway, or the King's highway, I forget which, that went up there. I remember later on when I lived over on West Main Street there was a depression in the back of the houses on the west side, that is, on the south side, where the people said that used to be the old King's highway or whichever it was that led out to Fair Hill and on to---- There was a crossing on the Susquehanna River way up there--that's the way you use to go to Baltimore from Philadelphia. One way. It looked to me as if it had been the way the excavation was shaped.

Interviewer: The trees were actually out on the street?

Professor: These trees that went along there--well, they had put the curb in the back--later on they widened the street, but they didn't cut down the trees. They waited till finally some of them died and they came down. Oh, they were a long, long while. If I can remember correctly, there used to be a

a lot of bumps, but they refused to cut those trees down. They wanted shade for the horses and one thing. So there was one up West Main Street, I recall very well, where the commerce began getting automobiles as they were coming in then. They were reckless boys, had old jalopies. They, I guess, bought them second-hand just the same as they are doing now days and souped them up. One time some of them came through there and didn't see the trees on the side of the road and ran into them. I think killed two or three of them. It was nighttime. Well, if you could see some of the lamps, lights, they had on the front of the cars. They were all right for other people to see the car coming, but they didn't show any more than 8 or 10 feet ahead of the road. They didn't have the glary kind of lights they have now. They were made of-- acetylene gas, that's what it was, and some of them were just oil lamps. That doesn't seem so long ago, but it was.

Now there were a few houses for rent, as I mentioned; and we never moved in that one.

The elementary school was on Main Street, and that's where the (pause)

Interviewer: Administration Building?

Professor: Education Building is now. Yeah. I don't know when you came here, but they just put a new front on the thing or added to it. They added on to the back of it too a couple of years ago.

Interviewer: Yes sir.

Professor: It was much smaller than it is now. And then the grammar school was on the southeast corner of Delaware Avenue

and Academy. That's across the street from the fire house. You know where the fire house place is down there?

Interviewer: Right

Professor: The old fire house?

Interviewer: It's a parking lot now.

Professor: That's been torn down as of fairly recently.

In 1924 the junior high school in Newark--No, no, wait a minute here. This other time the grammar school was in, I mean the high school, was in the Newark Academy Building. That was a high school when we came here.

Interviewer: The college wasn't using that any longer then?

Professor: The college never did use it.

Interviewer: Never did?

Professor: You know where the Academy is now?

Interviewer: Right

Professor: Up on Main and---

Interviewer: It never did use it?

Professor: No, the college--No, no, they claimed that the college originated up in New London, up the New London road there. I remember Doctor Hullihen---- There was quite a stir about when you had a procession of some kind, inauguration of a president of a college or university or whatever it was, they lined up according to--well, Harvard was first, and so on was second, and so forth, depending on when they were founded. And Doctor Hullihen, the president, one time, about the early 20's, he discovered what he believed was the beginning of the university here, and that was up in New London

where they had a school. Some minister had a school up there, about a dozen students, or something of that kind. One or two boarded in and what not. I never knew the exact history. However, William Lewis' book--I suppose you know something about his book--tells something about that. I don't know if he got hearsay about that or not. But Doctor Hullihen claimed that that put us about 1700 and something when the university began. Of course, it was Delaware College when I came here. And then when Doctor Hullihen came, why he said that this should be called an university, not from the point of view of Oxford, which is a collection of numerous colleges, but we do have numerous departments: the department of engineering, the department of argiculture, the department of arts and sciences, and so on. And also being--what did he say--the headstone of the educational system in this state. They always called that an university. So after that, the trustees adopted that name.

Interviewer: So Doctor Hullihen started that?

Professor: Doctor Hullihen, that's my recollection that he's the one that brought that about. From my own point of view I thought he was stretching things a little (chuckle) because this was about 1920, maybe 1922. I forget when it was Doctor Harder resigned.

But I was speaking about the high school was in the Newark Academy building and there was some kind of a connection there. This one became a place of---- I think it superceded the one in New London road. But I don't know any dates about that.

They had one class in the grammar school while the junior high was building. In other words they had come back again from the other high school. Now, I have a date here that says 1924 the junior high school was in the Newark Academy. Well, that was not the whole high school in there. I was talking to someone just last spring who said that they were in the last class in the Academy Building when it was a high school. So there's some confusion in my mind there as to how much was high school. The senior high school could have been--must have been--in there too. Really ramshackled place. I suppose you have read that sign, have you, on the front?

Interviewer: Yes

Professor: Tells you about, I think the most important thing was that Edgar Allen Poe spoke there one time. (Laughter) You know he did speak there one time, somewhere. I don't know if at the college or not.

But in the meantime, the college was going on. Of course, I suppose you have the dates about that. About the college building which was a (pause) Is that two wings? No, the middle part was the original one, and the wings were added on later on. The middle part was--when I came here you went up the steps and into a room there which was a chapel. We had chapel there at that time. We even had chapel after they built Wolf Hall. They used to have chapel down in Wolf Hall.

Interviewer: Oh?

Professor: I don't know if it was two or three times a week. It used to be every day up to the old place. Then they had

to change that into a dining room. Then they had the chapel exercises----that was when Wolf Hall was built. I remember the dining room was right under the chapel there. Of course, I suppose there were only about 25 or 30 students who dined there at all. The rooms were up over the chapel.

I'll bet you another thing that you wouldn't know. When they remodeled that in 1916, along about there, when they remodeled that building, Mr. (pause) One of the---- What's the name of the dormitory on the right hand side up here?

Interviewer: Harder?

Professor: Well, no. Harder was the first one up there, but this is the one this way. Oh well, it's a very, very common name. I'll think of it after while. Anyway, he gave them the money to---- The old building was falling apart, and he gave them---- There used to be wooden steps going up there instead of concrete steps as there are now. They built a concrete wall on the inside of the building. You can see the iron S's, I think something like that, on the outside to tie the brick work to this concrete so as to keep it. It was getting pretty weak. It could be, from my point of view, that some of the brick that they used was not too strong, and apparently had lasted twice as long as anybody expected that it would in the first place. All those brick, I think, were made down here in town at Johnathan Johnson's brick yard, down there where the shopping center is now, the Newark shopping center.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah.

Professor: That was a brick yard down there, and he made----

Oh, you see all these brick houses around here. I imagine most of them---- He made all kinds of brick, you know. When they make brick, there are the good ones and the little bit not-so-good and the other ones that are only half baked. They're the ones they put on the inside to put the plaster on. So that building was tied in by (pause) What the devil was his name? A prominent name like that go by---- Well, anyway, they changed that thing all---- Now, of course, anybody that was here in 1912 would look at that place and they would say that it wasn't the same building at all because they put wounds(?) in it, torn out, made two or three rooms into one, and one thing and another.

Interviewer: Did you say students had roomed in the Old College building before this dormitory was built?

Professor: Oh, yeah, they had rooms up over---what is now--- well, maybe there is several rooms up there. I haven't been up there. It used to be as you go in there was a room there that would hold the whole student body, a couple hundred students. That was what we called the chapel. They used to have all sorts of exercises in there. Well, the commencement exercises, opening of college, and everything that could be held inside. Usually held them outside if the weather was all right, but they could go inside for a number of years before they had to do something else. And then on the wings, on the lefthand wing, that's looking at it this way, that would be the west wing, they had chemistry in there and biology. On the one on the right, the east wing, part of it became the

Faculty Club. I think one or two of the other departments of the college was in there. I didn't have much to do with it in those days, 1912 up to about 1918.

Interviewer: Which building were your engineering classes in?

Professor: Well, in Recitation Hall. That's now the art school building, isn't it. They put the columns on the front. Did you ever see it without the columns?

Interviewer: I haven't been in it since they redecorated it.

Professor: Oh.

Interviewer: Yeah, I saw it before that.

Professor: Well, then the testing work was over in what was called Mechanical Hall, and now Athletics. That was turned over later when the Engineering building was turned over. It was turned over to the Athletic Department. And then the little brick building in between Recitation Hall that was the State Public Health Department. Herbert (pause), state health man, he lived down there on College Avenue, his house then was about where the mathematics and physics building is now. There were a couple of buildings in there, and he lived there. He was the state, head of the state health, which wasn't very much. I think the first use that I had of that was when they had a typhoid epidemic here.

See, they didn't have sewers all over. Some of it drained out into the gutters (chuckle) and some in cess pools, and some a little of each. They didn't drain sewage, but they drained washings and sink things. If the sewer ran downhill as it did ~~when~~ later I moved up on West Main Street, up over the railroad--what they call Quality Hill--I know ours went out

there diagonally down, so that it was lower than the house, to a place where it was perhaps the level of the cellar, because we had water in the cellar, too. So those were some of the----

Interviewer: About when was the typhoid epidemic?

Professor: (Pause) That was something I never did (pause)----

Interviewer: Well, you had a flu epidemic in 1917, wasn't it?

Professor: Oh, yeah, I wasn't here then. I was down in Tennessee. I had a year and a half or so I was away from the college. I went down there on a powder plant, a government powder plant, during the First World War. We had that flu down there. I got back here after the flu was over quite some time.

Well, it must have been about 1913 or 1914 somewhere along in there when that flu, I mean that typhoid, because I know that one fellow was living here who had a milk run. He had to give it up because he was----They made a test, and he was a carrier. Of course, they didn't pastuerize the milk. We would get the milk right from up in the country. You know, the farmers who raised the milk came down and never heard of such a thing as pastuerizing. Then was when they finally decided they better put in better water mains and sewers, which they did. Of course, they emptied the sewer in White Clay Creek.

Interviewer: Oh they did, huh?

Professor: Untreated. It was up to you not to use it, that's all. (Garbled) swimming there, and I never heard any particular trouble about it later on. Ultimately, the town built an

Imhoff---put some tanks in down about where MacDonald's place is, back in there. They used to have some Imhoff tanks in there, and that purified the water perfectly. The only thing was it was very limited to the amount it could take. The town gave that up two years ago. They had added some extra tanks, but instead of getting more, they just joined in with the county sewer system. Now all theirs dumps in the sewer goes into Cherry Island up in Wilmington and is disposed of there. I just saw just a day or two ago a picture of this new construction that is going up on Cherry Island in Wilmington. They take care of the whole county now.

Interviewer: I didn't know that.

Professor: New Castle County. So, that's quite a long jaunt from what we had had in those days.

Interviewer: I wonder what you thought of the teaching facilities here when you first came? Were they adequate for teaching?

Professor: Facilities? Not too much. No. My room was right the first room as you go in Recitation Hall, the room on the right. Practically all of my courses were in there. On the left was the President's secretary, and back of her was the President's office. Then in back was a long corridor along both of these rooms. On the left as you go in was what they called the English room, which was where the English Department held their classes. lectures, and whatnot. Occasional times in between anybody could use them who wanted to if they found out they were empty. Then there were two small classrooms. Then on the right was the physics laboratory and

classroom which Doctor Harder, the president of the college, used. He taught those.

Interviewer: Oh, did he?

Professor: Then let's see, at the right at the end of the hall, at the far end right behind that, was the college--what did they call him--he's the business administrator. They had a different name for him at that time, and his secretary. Of course, it was just a small room and both of them used it. They didn't have separate rooms. They kept the books. Everything was on that side. That's the campus, those three buildings. Well, the Taylor gymnasium was there, not the swimming pool, just the righthand portion of it. There used to be a track around---- You know the balcony? There used to be an indoor track around there, about so wide. They could run around it, you know, and get up speed. I don't know if they ever did any racing up there. There wasn't room enough. The whole room was about as wide as this is long.

They used to have dances in there, and the lookers-on sat up there. They had chairs up there on the track. It wasn't very comfortable because the track was elevated at about, I think about 30⁰, going around the curve part of it. Anyway, we made out.

There was a good spirit there between town and gown. Some places it was not too well thought of.

The boys themselves were mostly, I think, very well poised. Some of them would get in trouble once in a while. There were stories about they went down from the college and got a cow, a young cow, and put it up on the belfry. (laughter)

It was easy enough getting it up there, but the thing was getting it down. I never did hear how they got it down. Then one morning they plugged up the keyholes in all the buildings with cement. The funniest thing about it, we had a man who was superintendent of grounds and buildings. He did all the work cutting the grass. He had two or three people, hired people, and it was his job to manage them. He was always up and around early in the morning, 6 o'clock, I guess. I never knew what it was, but we all found out about it. It never stopped anything because he got up and had the keyholes all cleaned out. (chuckle) I guess the boys never found out who did it. It was just one of those things. That's just one of the things that I think every college in the country the boys used to do. They did it in my own college. But it always seemed that the current issue of students didn't have sense enough to know that all of those things had been going on for years, and they were always ready for them. (chuckle) I don't think at any one time, even when I was in college, that they had to shut down the chapel for anything. Like that, crazy things. Another time, I remember this one myself, they had one of these big ox carts. I don't know if you have ever seen them. Big sides on them, wheels on them, I guess about five feet in diameter. It would take three men to lift one of them, you know. Darn if they didn't have that on the platform for everybody to see. We did see that. They didn't get that cleared up by the time chapel opened. Of course, what they had done, they had taken the whole thing

apart down at the farm. That's where they had found this thing, I think, and hoisted it up there. How they ever got it up there! Of course everybody was asleep (laughter), and they put it together up there. Then another time there used to be right across the corner---- Let's see, the B&O Railroad and Main Street, this would be on the southeast corner, was the tombstone man, the man who made tombstones, Thompson his name was. Of course, he had all these tombstones out. Some of them were partly carved with the wife left out. There was very little he had to do, and he could do these things when he wasn't rushed to get things out. Then at the bottom maybe he would have some piece of poetry or something. Well, the place was full of all kinds of things ready to go. One morning he woke up, and they were all up on the campus. They had a different name, a different professor's name, on each one. (laughter) That's one I had never heard of before. I think it cost the student body maybe \$50 or \$100. Some of them got chipped or something. Anyway, it used to be if they didn't find out who did it, why the whole student body had to stand for it because they took it for granted the student body as a whole knew about it. (chuckle) Another time, right after they built Harder Hall up there, some crazy duds tried to run a Ford car down the steps. Beautiful blue stone steps. Of course, as it went down, the crankcase hit the step-- not too hard--but it would take a chip off of it. Well, all right, they knew who did that, and they paid for it. It was just one of those stunts.

A little bit out of times, when they built Mitchell Hall over there, Mr. Sharp--that's the name I was trying to think of, Sharp Hall--well, Mr. Sharp had gone down to South Carolina or was down there, and saw the beautiful boxwood trees. I don't know if you have ever seen them, maybe higher than that lamp there. I think he paid something like \$600 a piece for them. Then he had to have them hauled up here and put them in front of Mitchell Hall. He liked Doctor Mitchell very, very much.

Interviewer: Who was Doctor Mitchell?

Professor: He was president, let's see, before Doctor Hullihen, two or three years.

Interviewer: Oh.

Professor: However, that would appear in the catalogues. Yeah, I'm sure Doctor Hullihen followed him.

And some boys got liquored up a little bit, and then they thought they was going to try to jump them. You can't jump over that. They ruined a couple of them practically. So they caught them, and it cost the parents \$500. Of course, they broke off parts of it. I think it's about covered now, but it took a long, long time. They had to pay the damages. Over a series of years it was a very small amount relatively. Oh, people was burned up about it. I was too at the time. But when you stop and think about it, all colleges have something like this. I don't know, it wouldn't be a true university history if I didn't have some of it in there. Looking back on it.

Interviewer: Who was Mr. Sharp?

Professor: Mr. Sharp was a---- He's still living.

Interviewer: Oh, is he?

Professor: He's been on the Board of Trustees. He married one of the duPonts. He's been a great benefactor. I think he did a good deal of the financing of some of the dormitories up on this campus. Of course, you know there was a time, up to a relatively short while ago, that the college couldn't build dormitories. They had no money to build them with. The state couldn't build them. It didn't have enough money to go around, to take all that money to build something for these students when their secondary and elementary education was suffering from lack of funds. So it was up to people like Mr. Sharp and his wife, of course, who were very, very wealthy to help out. I'm just taking them as an example. There are a lot of people like that. I believe that Mr. Sharp had some influence with other people, and he could impress upon them the importance of these things. I think, I think he contributed some to the ones on the other side, the west side of the campus, up there by Main Street. But he's done so many of those things that I couldn't begin to tabulate them. And I don't think it is necessarily advertising for him. He didn't care anything about it.

Well, he built Mitchell Hall. He paid for Mitchell Hall. He had left in his will, the way I understand it, he had left in his will, I think, something like \$200,000 to build Mitchell Hall. But it was to be done after he died. You can imagine how far that \$200,000 would go. He's still living. This was in 1930 when Mitchell Hall was built.

So he says: "Well, I don't know, why not give it to them now. I would like to see it." And I think it cost him \$250,000 to build it, before these additions have been put on to it, and numerous changes have been made on the inside. Those he didn't have to give. I don't know anything about that. Except that I do remember that statement came from somebody, I don't know who, whether it was the President or not, about his saying that he thought he better give the money now and see the building rather than let the money accumulate and so on. I don't know him well enough; but if I saw him now, I would like to say: "Well, Mr. Sharp, I admire your intelligence in having this thing done when you can do something for a dollar that it takes \$10 to do now. And also I think you probably didn't have a very good idea of how long you were going to live." Now in 1930, that's 35 years. Of course, that \$200,000 would have amounted to something too by this time, that's another thing. He's a very, very fine man and no fussing about it at all.

Now, we were talking about these different things that they need. Somebody did give them the money for the mathematics and physics building, I guess, but these dormitories that have been going up--Gilbert, that's one of the last ones, isn't it, the one that goes across the campus down there, and these others over there, Harrington, all of those and this new one over there on the other side of the railroad--I don't think anyone has contributed anything to those, but they got the Legislature to pass a law allowing the college to issue bonds for--what do they call them--self-liquidating, which is

a sensible thing to do. To get the income from the ones who use it. And from that I have an idea it would be a pretty funny business if they didn't put down not only the cost of the janitor service but heating and light and water, if they didn't put down the interest on the money that they are paying, and also whatever they have to set aside to pay them off. It would be kind of funny business if they didn't do that. I'm just guessing, but I hope they did. I've never seen anything about bond issues in the paper, but anyway they borrowed the money. That's the way I understood that's what they are doing. Maybe you can check up on that. (chuckle)

Interviewer: I think that's right.

Professor: So, now the next thing on here that came to my mind---- Now this is my first draft of this thing, understand it. The Opera House. I don't know if you knew where the Opera House was.

Interviewer: Across from the Academy Building?

Professor: Yeah, Williams Real Estate is in there, and next door--- That was the Opera House at one time. And then the Post Office was in where the ticket office was. Finally the Opera House, they gave up this opera house. All they had in the Opera House that I can remember was silent movies, and then the college had the commencement exercises in there for a while when they couldn't use the one on campus. In those days they had to have the boxes in this ticket office; there was no delivery of mail then. You had to call for it. It was used for college commencement when it rained on account of the chapel having become a dining room.

The basement there of the Opera House was used for annual church suppers and bazaars and one thing and another. Most of the churches didn't have room for those things. There was a lot of that going on. It was pretty busy.

Then with the stores----- There were two or three general stores. Motheralls', that's where the placement bureau is now. It was called Motheralls'. Two Motheralls' brothers. They were both bachelors. Such a place! You could buy anything you wanted in there if you liked it. (chuckle) On one side they had groceries.

I don't know if this about these stores got anything of interest to you. There's some other things there.

Interviewer: Sure.

Professor: These two bachelors. The whole thing was divided into two parts where you could go through from one to the other. And over on the other side was dress goods, and all kinds of things, shoes, and all things of that kind. I was going to say hardware too. They had some but not much. That's now called Raub Hall, I guess--where the placement bureau is now.

Then there was Pete Sherwood's place. And there was another one. That was down----- Oh, who would be there now? Oh, down somewhere along the area where--on the south side of Main Street where the Card Center is. You know where the Card Center is? Next to the Wilmington Savings Fund. Right along there, that was Pete Sherwood's place. That was Sherwood's General Store. And he had the newspapers there. He had boys delivering the newspapers, or you would go there and buy them.

Poor Pete, he wasn't a good businessman. How he ever lived, I don't know. When he died they sold out his place, and then they found hundreds and hundreds of dollars that people owed him that never was paid to him.

Of course, I know two or three people myself that they had to stop using business. They went to Wilmington, you see, and paid their cash in there because nobody---- They didn't know them. They got all their credit used up here, and then they would go to Wilmington. That was about the time the busses began to run. It was easy to get into Wilmington and out of Wilmington. Isn't it funny some people live that way?

Interviewer: Sure is.

Professor: Many of them---- One of them I know was trying to keep up with the Jones'. They couldn't do it. He was teaching at the college too.

However, apparently he got enough out of it to keep his wife and her sister, I guess it was, in a little four-room place over on Cleveland Avenue in fairly good comfort.

At the corner of West Main and New London Road, that's where Linden's Restaurant is, Linton's, was. Is it still?

Interviewer: I'm not sure.

Professor: That was Richards' store. It had been another store. There were a couple of general stores in there that (garbled) Back of them was where Robert Jones is now was Chapman's. They sold dress goods and notions and all kinds of things like that.

Well, I have down here something---- It says over the tracks. That's on the other side of the tracks. That's

Quality Hill. A good place to live. There was a doctor right up there. There's still a doctor in that house. What's his name? Well, anyway, Doctor Blake it was when I lived there, and then Doctor Downs came. You remember Downs? There was a school named after him. Now the doctor that succeeded him is there. Across the street from him was the minister, and then this dry goods, and the groceries, these two stores on the corner. Then there was a boarding house next to the doctor up the hill, right next to this doctor place up the hill. And then there's the undertaker, the tombstone man, and there was a mason in there somewhere, I forget his name, and the dentist. Within, you might say, a hundred (garbled) of course there was Doctor Harder and myself, and across the street was Professor McHugh, or Dean McHugh, he was the dean of the agriculture school later, and Doctor Penny who was head of the chemistry department. So there was about, I don't know how many, college people lived up there. That's how it got the name of Quality Hill. (chuckle)

Interviewer: I guess the doctor who is there now is Doctor Armstorng. Is that right?

Professor: Doctor?

Interviewer: Armstrong?

Professor: No.

Interviewer: No.

Professor: Is there a doctor up there now?

Interviewer: Yeah, there's a Doctor Armstrong up there.

Professor: No.

Interviewer: That's not the one you mean?

Professor: No. I'm thinking to this time when all of these things were there. You see the tombstone man isn't there any more.

Interviewer: You're saying Doctor Blake lived in that house?

Professor: No, it's not Armstrong. What's his name? Oh, he's quite a doctor for the ladies and babies.

Interviewer: Doctor Mencher?

Professor: Yeah. Mencher. Did Mencher have his place? Well, where does Armstrong come in?

Interviewer: He's on Main Street someplace. I'm not sure.

Professor: Oh. Well, I just don't happen to know about him right now.

Well, I think that's a good place to be. You didn't have to go far for any kind of help you wanted. (laughter)

Doctor Harder, he lived in the house---- I lived in the house later on right next to Doctor Harder. (Pause) I can't think there was any more of us. There was Doctor Roans(?). He was the Presbyterian minister, he lived right across the street. No, no, he lived down where young Robert Jones-- across the street from Jones' Funeral Parlor. That white house where they have parking space--right next to the parking spaces that they use for funerals. That's Bob Jones' son. And then farther up there was Eban Frazer, he was the mayor of the town. He was the one that gave Frazer field in honor of his son, Joe. That's marked on the brass plaque on the gate as you go in. However. I think Joe really provided his own because he became

a very wealthy engineer. He graduated from college and went down to South America--I think it was in Argentina--but anyway, down there he made a lot of money building railroads down there. And he, I think he got pneumonia and died there and left his money to his father. His father left this field; nothing was said about having to do it or anything. Belmont, that's up there where the President lived before he came down here; that's a dormitory of some kind now for graduate students now I think, and that's where Eban Frazer lived.

Interviewer: Oh

Professor: And then I have a note here about Quality Hill. It's sort of amusing in a way. One time a man came selling vacuum cleaners, and he tried to sell us a vacuum cleaner. We already had one. Anyhow we let him give his speil. He use to tell us about all these things, and he said somebody sent him up here----

(AT THIS POINT SIDE 1 OF THE TAPE RAN OUT.)

Professor: I have here a list of people who lived over the railroad on Quality Hill about up to Oak Road or Corbett Street, up that way, up somewhere within that range. Dean McHugh, Argiculture School, dean of argiculture; Arthur Whittier, he was in the Argiculture Experiment Station; Doctor Harder, the president of the college; Doctor Penny, head of the chemistry department, Doctor Reed, he was a biologist; Doctor Roan(?), Presbyterian minister; and there were the Springer girls. I can't think of their names now. Joseph Hossinger, he was the business administrator at the college for a while before they got Wilkinson, A. J. Wilkinson;

Vensingers, I think the parents have both died and the children are both married; Mr. Houpt, he was the Episcopal minister. He lived up just right on the other side of Doctor Harder. Frank Cooch, he's the father of the present postmaster; Alfred Curtis, he left another place that the college owns up there, the big stone place that sets back just before you get to---- Well, it's right next door to Belmont. He was the owner of the Curtis paper mill down here; Professor Short, he was in the engineering and mathematics department the same as I was. He had been here quite a while, and he was a graduate of the college too. And Professor Houghton, he's still living. He's about 90 some years old. He retired 15 years or more ago, but his son Ferd is in the Department of Biology over there.

Interviewer: That's his son?

Professor: Frank Collins, he was mayor at one time. He lived up there in that large brick house right across the street from the new Presbyterian church. I can always---- That great big oak up there, it's about this big around down at the bottom, I always said I would give \$2,000 to have that on my lawn. (laughter) I could have bought that lot up there for \$10 a foot.

Interviewer: Oh no!

Professor: Only I didn't have the \$10.

And then the minister from the Head of Christiana Church. You know where Head of Christiana cemetery is?

Interviewer: Yes.

Professor: Well, the minister of that church down there, he lived up there just this side of the water tank. Right next

to the water tank on this side. That water tank wasn't there either, during the times that I'm talking about. That came later.

Interviewer: That minister, I can't think of his name, there's a room named after him in the Student Center. This minister, Head of Christiana Church? I can't think of his name? Vallingham? Was that Vallingham?

Professor: No. Oh no. I don't think he was a minister. At least of any church here. I used to see him once in a while when he used to come up and visit. He would use the Faculty Club room there in the east wing of Old College. The Faculty Club used to have a room in there they used. Now I think the French class meets in there. He used to get up there; I'd see him writing. We had two rooms, I guess, and the large entryway. One of them was a Billiard room, one of them was a reading room and meeting room. This Vallingham, Ed Vallingham I think his name was, used to come up frequently and visit the college. And, of course, he wrote two or three books about Delaware.

Oh, I have down here, I added this over, ten college people, three ministers, one banker, and one industrialist amongst all these people. You can see why they call it Quality Hill.

Interviewer: Right.

Professor: Then the different churches that we had there were the Methodist, and the First Presbyterian, which is the old church. They call it the Stone Church down there now. That

was built, I think in 1868. Up near the peak at the front there was a stone. I think you can make it out, 1868. That was started off as I understand, they built the basement and the floor overhead formed the roof. Then it was some years later before they got it to where they could put the roof on. Then there is St. John's Roman Catholic Church. That at one time was a Presbyterian church. Do you know where that is?

Interviewer: The corner of Chapel and Main?

Professor: Of course, now the principal part of that, they are now out on ---- Oh, out over on the road that leads to DuPont Corners up there.

Interviewer: Right

Professor: I forget the name of that road up there.

Interviewer: Possum Park Road?

Professor: Possum Park, yeah, Possum Park.

I have down here in the corner about Alice Kerr, that's K-E-R-R. They pronounced the name Carr, not Curr, and Bill Houghton. Bill Houghton lives over in one of these apartments over here. I have down here that its a recollection that they were in the last class of high school that graduated from down there. I wouldn't want to say that that's actually true, but it comes to my mind as I was making this thing out. I was some place where I was trying to get this information, and when I got home I must have written this down.

Then about the town layout, the town boundaries, that is one thing I was going to describe. The town boundaries ran from about Corbett Street out to this place I was telling

you--Lumbrook. It was almost identically a mile. I mean from what you can gather from the map. And then the southern boundary of the town, there's a monument from---- Let's see, if you walk across the street, directly across the street from the walk on the north side of Mitchell Hall, you know there's a building there they have for the French students, walk down about fifty feet or somewhere to the little brick building along side of that, right in the grass there if you scratch around for it--I uncovered it there a few days ago-- is a stone about so big. That was a stone--a line ran from there right straight across almost due east to a point in front of the Continental Diamond Fibre Company, it was then, it's now the Budd Company. That was the southern boundary, and Cleveland Avenue was the northern boundary. That was about a quarter of a mile, maybe about three-eighths of a mile. Now I remember making this statement in there somewhere, on that other sheet I had, that the area now, without the additions that have been made since last October, were twenty times the area of what it was then. You see, then it was about one half a square mile roughly, between one quarter and one half a square mile was the total area in the town. I lived in a house where Mitchell Hall is now, and I was outside of the city. (chuckle) Then they extended the boundaries down to the railroad, and now I guess it goes pretty nearly down to Howard Johnson's place, down that way somewhere.

Interviewer: Yes sir.

Professor: And all around here, all of this stuff, its going down over the hill, and up on the other side beyond the Christiana Creek out there. And of course, along about now

I don't know what the population is now, but it's somewhere around--I can't figure out or find out very much about it--12,000 people?

Interviewer: About that.

Professor: And about 20,000 within about right next door here. You know, there must be 5,000 or 6,000 in all these different apartments.

Interviewer: Surely

Professor: That's the different thing. You don't have to say: "Well look, there are so many houses here. You can't have that many." The population in this one down here, I bet there's 700 or 800 of them in just that one area. And I see now that the town voted to bringing in 47 or 43 acres more of some development company. I don't know where it is, but it was in the paper.

Interviewer: Yeah

Professor: Now there was some other interesting things there; and of course there was, we called it a center, down here. You know where the (pause) Catholic Church is, and then there is a shopping center, and then the railroad. There's one railroad track goes across there. Well, that used to be a railroad track that if you wanted to go to Harrisburg or points west you would get on. That was the Newark Center Depot of the Pennsylvania Railroad. That line runs down and still connects in with the railroad down there. And so it ran along up the Christiana, I mean the White Clay Creek, right on up into Pomeroy, it was called. It was called the Pomeroy

Division at one time, I think. And it ran on up there. You could go up there and change cars at Pomeroy and get on the main trains that left Philadelphia for the west. That's gone by the board years ago. There used to be a ticket agent there too. The buildings are still there used by the Agway people.

Interviewer: Oh, that building.

Professor: And then we had hotels, the Deer Park Hotel, which was at one time a women's seminary. Did you go back that far?

Interviewer: Yes

Professor: I think Bill Lewis mentioned that in his book. There's some place where that's written up. And then there's-- to tell the truth, the B&O Railroad hasn't been there too long. Somewhere in the early 1900's or maybe 1890's when the railroad went through there. I know the Pennsylvania Railroad, they wanted to come through the town, but somehow or other they got a law passed that they had to be a mile from the town. (chuckle) Of course, those trains in those days used to make quite a racket. And then the other is up there by the Washington House. That was pretty much the way it is now. That was owned by Wick Willis (?) and he was a former pitcher on the Pittsburgh Pirates, I think. Or one of the big teams, he was a pitcher there. When he had to give that up he came and bought this place down here. He ran it for a long, long time.

Of course, another thing, we used to have a railroad you could go to Delaware City on the train too.

Interviewer: Oh, there was?

Professor: Uh. That used to be quite a train. A lot of people, a lot of traffic between here and there. They finally got down

to a one-car train, and that's been given up now. I don't know if they still have not dug up the tracks or not. They run up to Bear, or at least some place. I've been up out there. Right now there's some concrete mixing outfit staying there.

Interviewer: Where did that start? Where did you board that train?

Professor: You boarded the train at the regular Newark station.

Interviewer: Pennsylvania Station?

Professor: Pennsylvania Station, yep. They went out, and then there was a big curve around there, turned, made a right angle turn. Of course, the Pennsylvania Railroad runs what-- northeast--and this other road run out toward the southwest to Delaware City.

Then I have now about the horse racing on Main Street. When I first came here there was horse racing on Main Street on times when the businesses was closed, Sundays and holidays. Many of the prominent men of the town owned horses, and in wintertime, it was quite a time, you know. You would see these horses race up and down between the two railroads. That was from railroad to railroad. Right across the street from-- they have it all torn out now--right across the street from the west end of Old College. There was a house there. Tysons. Mr. Tyson, he was a trainer for a number of horse racemen who owned horses, you know. I forget where the stables were. Then he had a couple of horses of his own. I don't know as ever he raced any. I don't know much about it--whether he

raced any of his own or not. But he had some nice horses, I suppose that he got reasonable. So that was his business. I never saw any racing except with the stage, but Mr. Houghton tells me they used to race carriages too. Two wheel buggies. There was only room enough---- The horses would have to go this way, they certainly couldn't go more than three or four abreast at the most.

But downtown, the trees were out in the street, you know. I often wondered how they got away with that. (chuckle)

Interviewer: There was a picture of the sleigh racing in the paper last winter.

Professor: There was?

Interviewer: I don't know whether you saw it.

Professor: I didn't know they ever had pictures that they could take.

Interviewer: One picture of the surry(?) racing down Main Street.

Professor: Did it show more than one?

Interviewer: There were two horses abreast.

Professor: I was just wondering if they were standing still when they took the picture. You know they used to have to take time exposures mostly. I don't know---- What paper was that in?

Interviewer: The Newark Weekly

Professor: Oh, oh, I see. Well, I would like to see that. All of that was going on when I first came here. It wasn't long, however, before it died out. This Joe Hossinger, he was one of them; and the fellow who was a magistrate, Thompson,

Mr. Thompson had one. Jimmy Thompson, the head of the Newark Lumber Company, his father. And one or two other people I've met. We would talk about old times, and he would say: "Oh yeah, my father had a horse. He used to race down there."

Then there was the football field. When I first came here, that football field up there was being built--the Joe Frazer field. That's where they had played football, but it wasn't developed very much. Very rough, I understand. So in the meantime, they played in a field right across from the Women's College. On this side of the street from the Women's College where the Episcopal Church is. They had a field there about 150 yards long, I guess all together. It didn't have any stands, but they kept up their schedule there for one or two years, I forget what. I know it was one season. Of course, there's houses all long there now, and a doctor's office.

Then over on Cleveland Avenue, there's something that was very interesting. People named Brittingham who lived---- You see the railroad used to be a grade crossing down there. That bridge wasn't built until the 1930's, I guess. There used to be a grade crossing there at South College Avenue, the Pennsylvania Railroad, and there was a house on the southwest corner. It would be on this side of South College Avenue, and on the other side of the tracks. People named Brittingham, and Mr. Brittingham was interested in automobiles. He developed---- He never got

anywhere with it---- a steamer, something at the time like the White, and--what was the other steamer? There was two steamers. I know Doctor Blake had one. I forget now which one it was. Over on Cleveland Avenue where this engineering company----

Interviewer: Yes

Professor: That was where he had the plant. I don't know as if he ever developed, if he ever got a car out. He may have done trials, but I never knew about it. The first thing I knew it was the local Veterans of Foreign War or somebody took it over and made a bowling alley out of it. Now he was a salesman for---- It runs in my mind it was fancy goods, like lace and things of that kind, but his mind was on steamers. Isn't that funny? (chuckle)

Interviewer: Were you at Delaware College when the Women's College was begun?

Professor: Oh yes, that was started in 1918, I think.

Interviewer: Did you have any responsibilities for that?

Professor: No, no.

Interviewer: I know some of the men teachers did have to teach in the Women's College.

Professor: Well, I did go down there when Professor Short left the college to go to--he went over to the Continental Diamond. You see, his wife was one of the Wrights, Sam Wright's sister, and Sam Wright, of course, was one of the owners of the Continental Diamond. Practically, before it became a stock-

holding company. Of course, it was somewhat smaller than it is now, but when he went over there, it was in 1920, I think it was. I can't be sure of that, maybe 1921.

Interviewer: But you always thought you would rather teach than work in industry?

Professor: Well, I meant---- You asked the other question. When he went I finished the term down at the Women's College, the classes he had down there, one class in trigonometry, I think it was. Of course, I didn't mind. I had a full course up the other place, and then they would say: "Oh, you can do that." As much as to say what difference does it make if you have four, eight courses, it doesn't make any difference. (chuckle) But I didn't think it that way. When I first came here, I thought I knew something about teaching. I knew how I had been taught. I thought I got the works. The classes we had in mathematics, I was thinking about particularly; we got the works on us. If you didn't know it, you didn't pass that's all there was to it. You had to know something about it. But I found out when I came down here that there were a lot of students who came down late in geometry. They didn't know too much about algebra. I'd say: "How'd you pass?". "Oh, so and so, he passed us all right. He's a good fellow." (chuckle)

Interviewer: But you always preferred to teach rather than to into industry yourself?

Professor: Oh, yeah. I had been teaching, and then I went into engineering in the duPont Company until the war was over, and they stopped work on the plant down there. That was the

place. My golly, they did things down there. They didn't even own the place in February. In July the 4th, they turned out the first powder. Mind you, all this stuff they brought in there, sulfur from Texas, and everything. Of course, this wasn't a new outfit. They put their best men from the plants they had at different places. You see, they took a man from here and a man from there and sent them down there. And they got \$1 a year. However, they did agree, I think, to something like \$1.75 or \$1 a pound for all the powder they could turn out, which I don't think they made anything much on that, but they didn't lose anything. And, of course, the government paid all the salaries.

But when I went down there in May, they had surveyed this place. It was a mile and one-half long and three-quarters of a mile wide, and such wild country. There was 30 miles of railroad in there, at that I mean standard gauge railroad. How many miles of this narrow gauge stuff, I wouldn't know. They worked 24 hours a day. Of course, we didn't have to work 24 hours a day, we had three shifts, that's all. But I got up 5 o'clock in the morning, living in Nashville, and I got back at 8 o'clock at night. That's a pretty good day. (chuckle) We worked from 7 to 6. When the whistle blew that was 7 to 6, and the rest of the time was getting out there. We went out in cattle cars with holes cut in the sides and wooden benches for the seats. That was our parlor cars. We called them the 40 and 8. Do you know what that refers to?

Interviewer: No.

Professor: The forty and eight was the forty cars--it had something to do with the war (pause) forty and eight---- made for 8 and held 40, something like that. That's the way the GI's had to go over in France, you know. They called them the 40 and 8, something crazy like that. That's what they called these things.

So when that closed up by December, I guess, I got another job with the State Highway Department. I was resident engineer over there on the route from Staten Island to Manasquan (?), I guess, down over the seaside highway. I (garbled) quite some concrete road over there, and then I got a telegram-- it must have been some time before the second term began-- wanting to know if I would consider coming back to the college. So, I liked the place; and my wife did too and New Jersey was in a certain way. They couldn't pay the wages because as soon as anybody was free, industry took them up you see. Of course, state governments like that, they have to have legislation to pass on increases in salaries and so the way they did it we were doing pretty well over there. They had our salaries, but they finagled some way or other that they could pay our living expenses too. Pay our board and room, too, which wasn't a small amount either, because we had my wife's mother, and we had a boy by that time. He was about four years old, I guess. But anyway, we made a date to come down to see him. Doctor Mitchell was president at the time. Before going to see him, I went to see a couple of these fellows who suggested maybe getting me back because somebody was leaving, you see.

So I went to see N. V. Smith; he was, you might say, the dean. He was acting dean, I think, of engineering. The regular dean we had had gone up to New Brunswick. I went to see what this was all about, how it had come about and one thing and another. Well, they said: "Yeah, Doctor Mitchell had come to them and said did they have anybody to suggest that might (garbled). Well they said "I think you ought to get Preston back here if you can'." So they found out my address somehow or other, and that's how I got the telegram. It had made a date that if I was agreeable to come to meet them on Sunday, I think it was. So I went to see these fellows, Professor Thompson, he was in the Ag--he was acting dean, he was acting in charge of something, I don't know--he was another one who recommended me, and Professor Kerber(?), he was here in electrical engineering. All three of them apparently had given me a pretty good recommendation, and so Doctor Mitchell said: "That's fine. I'll try and get him to come down here."

So I came down and went to see him. He had a guest for lunch. He invited me to come to dinner, Sunday noon, and he had another guest there. So we talked and visited one another and the fellow who had taken over my job when I had left. I think it was he and his wife and a couple of kids. So we talked and chatted. As we were going out, Doctor Mitchell said: "Have you made the decision?". And I said: "Well, everything hasn't been talked about that might be." He said: "Well, we didn't talk about your salary. Your salary is \$2,700 and a full professorship." Well, Dean Smith and Professor Thompson had told me, had said: "Don't forget,

the salary is \$3,000 for a full professor. (chuckle) Apparently that had been talked about. They said: "Well, I don't think you can get him back for less than \$3,000." Poor Doctor Mitchell, I suppose he was between the two D's, you know, not having money to spend and trying to get somebody and trying to get back because this other fellow was leaving to go to the same place where the dean was going. The two of them were quitting at the same time. Of course, you could get on without the dean, but you couldn't get on without this fellow that had the heavy classwork. Well, he said \$2,700. "Well," I said, "never mind considering. I wouldn't think of coming back for less than \$3,000." Really, I was practically getting that where I was; and if I could hold out a little bit longer, I knew I could get something that I wanted. But I did like the idea of coming back here. By the time I got home, back over in Red Bank--no, Asbury Park I was by this time--the telegram was ther "\$3,000 OK." (chuckle) They had come on.

That was another thing. I said I don't know where I can live in this place. When we first came here we had a time getting a place, and I said I understand Dean Kelemur(?) is leaving. I think I could make arrangements that he's going to Newark, New Jersey, and I'm coming to Newark, Delaware. I think we can do this if he can make some arrangements. I'll talk to him about it. Stiltz(?) he did heavy hauling, he can take him up to Newark, New Jersey, stop in Asbury Park and bring me over. And it turned out for \$70 a piece, mind you, that's a whole big truckload. What it would be

now, it would be \$700, I guess. So that would work out all right I was sure. But I said: "I want Dean Kelemur's house at the same rate that he's paying." Now this is all part of the thing. And that was \$25 a month, because the college owned the place. It was where Mitchell Hall is now. Right now, it's across the street from--well, it's right along side of the dormitories there--right across the street from Wolf Hall on Delaware Avenue. There are two houses. They were where Mitchell Hall is. They just moved them across the campus and put them in there. So, I said I want that place at that rental. They said that that was all right. But boy there were a lot of people who had their eye on that place. I told them I had to have a place. If there was just myself and my wife, I wouldn't be worried where we were going to go. But I said there's my crippled mother-in-law and my son, and I got to know something about what I am going to have to pay. So, that worked out all right finally. (chuckle)

Oh, poor Doctor Mitchell. He was an awfully, awfully nice fellow. He was a wonderful fellow, but he couldn't do all of the things that he would like to do. Well, I don't know if any college president has ever done that, except maybe Doctor Perkins. He gets pretty nearly everything he wants.

Interviewer: And you stayed at the university from that time on?

Professor: Well, I've been there ever since, yeah.

Interviewer: Over the years do you think of any outstanding students that you had, people who have made a big success.

Professor: Oh yes, yes. I had--I can't think of the name of one of them now. There were both of them--but one was chief engineer of the Hercules Powder Company, just retired a couple of years ago. I can see his face right now. Then the other one was the chief engineer of the DuPont engineers. Then there was Alex Caruthers, he's in a nursing home in Wilmington now. I saw him about a year ago. Paralyzed. He was the one who started the Marine Terminal in Wilmington. Then he went to Philadelphia on the Board of Port Authority of Camden and Philadelphia. They had some kind of a rig up there, and he headed that. Then the war came on, he was over there directing docking facilities on the western shore, I think it was, where these boats were accumulating for D Day. He was one of the directors over there. I don't know to what extent. It must have been a pretty responsible job, to leave Philadelphia and to go over there. I'm not thinking money wise, I'm thinking of the value they had and the idea of it. The government usually got the best people and only paid them half their worth. Still doing that, and paying other people who are not worth a thing. They're the ones who get the money.

Oh, there have been two or three more that I can think about. I was thinking about Alex Caruthers. Now he came here from downstate where at the time--you see he was the class of 1916--so I had him right from the freshman classes all the way through. The boys that came up here we had to help them

an awful lot. They only had two year high schools down there. They admitted anybody, if the superintendent of schools said he was college material. That's all they had to do. They didn't have to have four years. Now where they had four years of high school, of course, they had to have the four years. But I think he came from down there where they didn't have very much. Well, in the early days when I first came down here, there were teachers down there who were teaching school who never had more than grammar school education. We were way down as far as the whole system was. I saw a list of somebody's estimate of the teaching facilities of different states. Naturally, Massachusetts with MIT and Yale in Connecticut and all, and I think Delaware was down pretty near 48, maybe 46. There may have been a couple of western states that were below, but when Mr. duPont, Pierre duPont, got interested in the situation, we soon pulled up. Now I think we're in the first ten. They did pretty well, and a lot of these boys who came here, they were seriousminded. I mean, others were not so seriousminded.

I know one fellow, he was a very smart boy, but he registered a C in my course. And he didn't work for that. He didn't have to work because the whole class as a rule---- He didn't have any competition, so he just lazed along. That's what I told him. So, I think about six months after he graduated, a friend of mine up in DuPont called up and gave this fellow's name. He says: "We got him slated, we want a layout man down in Virginia"--some plant they were adding to or a new plant, I don't know what it was--"and we

wondered about so-and-so. What do you think of him." "Oh," I says, "he's a good fellow, you don't have to worry about him. He's all right." "Well, but you didn't mark him that way." You see, they came down and got his records. "They say he didn't have to work." "I know," I said, "but I'll take the responsibility for him." I saw him here last spring sometime, I think it was. They had a testimonial dinner for Professor Jones. He was leaving, you know. I think he has resigned now. Retired, I think he has retired now. I met him there, and I wanted to talk to him about that; but somebody butted in, and I never got to say anything to see if he remembered how he got his job. (laughter) Of course, he was with the DuPont Company then. It was just a question of whether I thought he would do for the layout, because there is some responsibility in that. They were laying out their plant, and there was a million dollars worth of stuff. It had better be right.

I used to teach a surveying course too. That was one of my things that I taught. Oh, we have had quite a number of funny things, strange things that have happened.

We had one boy, I remember one of his names was in mine-- my middle name was Kent--and I had two fellows the same name. One fellow's name was Preston Kent something, and this fellow-- I couldn't tell them apart, they had the same last name, but didn't have the same first one--well, anyhow, he had freshman surveying and he flunked it. I know it must have been mathematics; but anyway he had to take it over the next year. As far as I was concerned, all I knew about it was he was taking

this course over. I called him in, and I said, "Look here, I don't get this at all. You failed this once, and you are smart enough. Why don't you do it." He said: " I don't want to be a civil engineer." "Well," I said, "what do you want? Why don't you take the course you want?" "Well they don't have that course here, and my father says I have to be an engineer first." "So," I said, "you're not going to be an engineer keeping up at this rate." Well, that's the way he went on, he just made up his mind he was not going to do it. At the examination we had, well there was no need him coming in to get the examination because he never studied, and he really was not interested in the surveying. But he had a picture of me inside the book, a pretty good profile of me, you know, and I asked him what he wanted to be. He said he wanted to be a landscape architect. Well, he had the wherewithal to draw pictures you know, and there were plenty of schools where they taught that kind of thing. But his father wouldn't let him. That's the 1st I ever heard of him, he flunked himself out. Now isn't it funny? There were two or three times I had cases where a boy had to take a certain course because daddy said so. It didn't have anything to do with the boy's qualifications, but there are people like that.

I know my own boy, my older son who is now a manager-- I forget what they call him--of a building company in Trenton for prestressed concrete. (Garbled) its got his third book out. He wanted to be a chemist when he was a freshman. The rule was then that you would take your freshman year all the

same for everybody. Then you would decide in June what you want to be. If you want to be a civil engineer you had to take surveying in summer school, and so on. So he wanted to be a chemist, that's what he thought about. Well by the time that came around to decide he had been using in high school pouring two things together, you know, both of them like water and you get a rainbow color. That appealed to him. They didn't understand about what chemistry was for. So, then he built himself a radio, one of these crystal things. Did you ever make one of those crystal things with a wish (?) around it and a crystal? And a 6-volt battery? Well, he built himself one of those things, and then he wanted to be an electrical engineer. Well, when it came time in the fall you had to decide, the sophomore year, which way you wanted to go, electrical, mechanical, civil, because there was a division there in subject matter. He had gotten a job with N. V. Smith, that's Professor Smith--I saw in the paper that he just died last month--and so he had a job out helping him surveying. Well, that was what he wanted, he wanted to be a civil engineer. Then he went on through, and he finished civil engineering and that has been his job ever since. He was with the roaming people. They were bridge builders. I think they built the San Francisco Bay bridge, cables,--suspension birdges, that was their thing. I don't know how many of them they built down in South America. Then finally Bethlehem Steel and U. S. Steel took over that business. They started years ago going in for pre-stressed concrete, building these great big long members out of concrete already reinforced, you know. They didn't

have to have forms to pour in on a job, they were already done in a big yard where they had the facilities. All they had to do was haul the pieces, put them together, and that was it. A lot of money saved in that. Well, that's his business. That's how sometimes boys get ideas. I never talked too much about it, but he was good in mathematics; and I knew that what way he would go he would find his way. But I didn't try to discourage him any.

(TAPE RAN OUT AT THIS POINT)