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Dr. John Munroe

[0:00:00]

Dr. Munroe: On the 20th, I was a student and I finished high school in 1932 so I can't say much about coals in the '20s at all. In the '30s, I can because I finished college in '36 and it seems to me that the average student in the '30s was far more vocationally minded than the average student as now. It's hard to get a job. The student had to prepare himself for the job.

And I may have said this already, it seemed to me like a – like a remarkable thing that one fellow I knew majored in English without preparing to teach. I wonder what in the world he was going to do with it. I was sort of had like to have the leisure or the ease to think of doing something like that.

Interviewer: Okay. I was just wondering because the depression – well, you said they were more vocationally oriented.

Dr. Munroe: In the '30s, I think.

Interviewer: Yeah? Was there a change towards the end of the '30s?

Dr. Munroe: No, I don't think so. Not that I recall at all. But all of us were trying to opt the end *[inaudible]* [0:01:19] and the question of being able to support ourselves and everyone in our families.

Interviewer: Did you have a radio *[inaudible]* [0:01:29] in the family?

Dr. Munroe: Our family? Certainly. Yeah. I think everybody, but I think we had a radio that I knew. We probably had one radio. We were a one-radio family I supposed. As I recall, radios weren't as cheap and then as they are now. When I bought my first automobile in 1936 for my prosperity as a teacher, I taught the last term of my four years in college with a full time so I really only spent 3-1/2 years or a little less in college.

When I bought myself a car, I never thought of having a radio in because of course it would cost more money. But, yes, home, we had a radio *[inaudible]* [0:02:17].

Interviewer: Do recall what you're listening to *[inaudible]* [0:02:22]?

Dr. Munroe: Well, I recall listening to Orson Welles.

Interviewer: Really?

Dr. Munroe: In 1938, he has his Mercury Theater. I'm reminded of this because I read an article by Pauline Kael a New Yorker three months ago on Citizen Kane. But in, I think it was 1937-'38, the Mercury Theater, it was Welles and some other people had a once-a-week broadcast in which they dramatized the famous play.

And in the year 1937, 1938, I was an English teacher in high school and of course I told my students to listen to that evening broadcast and I listened – I listened to the War of the World knowing of course what I was listening to and...

Interviewer: Of course you had heard *[inaudible]* [0:03:10].

Dr. Munroe: Yes, I knew about it and tuned it on purposely. I listened every Tuesday night or whatever night it was to Welles' program and I particularly listened to the War of the World since he was dramatizing the H.G. Wells' novel.

Interviewer: Was this advertised beforehand that he was going to do that?

Dr. Munroe: There were more than the big advertisements in the program. It certainly was – I mean, in the paper, but certainly it was programmed beforehand, the whole series that they were doing for the year. I don't recall how far ahead of time. That is whether one only new week by week or whether one new a month ahead what the programs for the whole next month were, but it was well-known.

I recall after it was over that – didn't I told you the side of feeling that I have – I recall after it was over that my mother was terribly frightened. I hadn't realized that she had been sitting in the next room, our radio was in the sort of a reception in the house and I was sitting by it and for this season, it was only half hour program, maybe one hour and she was sitting in the next room and she had heard it. I hadn't realized she was listening to it and she hadn't said a word.

But when it was over, I discovered she was scared to death. She thought something really had happened because they didn't do it in the form of radio news broadcast. Of course, I knew exactly what it was and I say, would I tell her then. But it was quite striking example in my own house at what happened to lots of people listening to radio.

Interviewer: Can you recall *[inaudible]* [0:04:45]?

Dr. Munroe: I can't say at what age I listened to what. That becomes very difficult. It certainly, there was a time when I listened to Amos n' Andy and the whole family did at a certain hour, 6 o'clock or whenever it was in the evening when Amos n' Andy were on.

[0:05:01]

And it seems to me that either preceding or following then came a new broadcast with a – with Lowell Thomas and I think before Lowell Thomas, Floyd Gibbons had been on. I remembered when Amos n' Andy advertised Pepsodent product.

I cannot remember specifically other program, that is I will remember Fred Allen and supposed I listened to Fred Allen. I remember I hear a new when there's a class in college when we asked a History professor about some of the comedians who were on the radio, then I remember particularly someone asking about Joe Penner who was famous for a line, "Do you want to buy a duck" something like that and our professor had never heard of him.

[Laughing] but he was certainly out of this – out of it, but at the same time I rather admire him for it because we didn't think much of Joe Penner's program either. I think that was a fad for a very brief time. Once *[inaudible]* [0:06:07] they have obviously heard something that was good and the rest would listen for a while but then tire of it.

But, of course, I did listen. I – there was a series of original dramas for the – for the radio called the First Nighter, I think and they started it since we've done and *[inaudible]* [0:06:27] was a star and they started the program off with a – with a fan fair or Broadway opening because each time it was new price.

I said I remember Fred Allen, but I remember a variety teams that I would hear on different programs because of a program that would have guest on just *[inaudible]* [0:06:57] on television. I rather suppose that I heard the radio then more than I would hear television now.

Interviewer: Did you ever *[inaudible]* [0:07:12].

Dr. Munroe: Oh, Franklin Roosevelt, oh, I certainly imagine that I'm listening to them, all of them, some – if I wasn't somewhere where I couldn't and I remember other in political speeches. I remember hearing Senator Borah

once when he was running for president train to get to Republican nomination. I listened to Price Fight *[phonetic]* [0:07:37] on the radio. I listened to a lot of sports, I think baseball game on the radio, that, I can remember going back into 1920s.

I remember listening the World Series and Price Fights as a boy on the radio.

Interviewer: Did Father Coughlin *[inaudible]* [0:07:55] since it was mentioned *[inaudible]* [0:07:59].

Dr. Munroe: Oh, I must have heard him, but I didn't like the nature of his broadcast so I doubt that I listened to him very much because people that I didn't like rather upset me to listen to them so I doubt if I would listen to Father Coughlin. It seems to me I have heard Jewey Long *[phonetic]* [0:08:27] on the radio making a speech on something like the Asian rather.

Since I was interested in history, I would make some effort to hear things that were historically significant.

Interviewer: Have you gone to the movie before?

Dr. Munroe: Oh, yes, yes. My friend and I, it seems to me, went to the movie a good bit. When I was in college, I believe that that was sort of a Saturday night thing to do, go to the movies – or maybe Saturday afternoon. But not every week but many weeks and probably most weeks I would go to the movies.

Interviewer: Are there any films that's sticking you by since the *[inaudible]* [0:09:14]?

Dr. Munroe: No. Citizen Kane does right now because I have just been reading about it, but – I remember liking Carole Lombard, liking William Powell and comedies as the Dashiell Hammett character of the Thin Man and Myrna Loy.

I remember William Powell, it seems to me, earlier in mystery stories that were written by a writer with, I believe, a pseudonym of S. S. Van Dine. He wrote a such and such murder case like the Canary Murder Case and so forth. And it seems to me, William Powell was the character then.

As a boy in the '20s, my hero was Douglas Fairbanks. His athletic adventure films like the Thief of Baghdad and Zorro and Don Q, Son of Zorro and Robin Hood. Those were really very great thrills of Douglas Fairbanks pictures of the '20s.

[0:10:11]

I remember Charlie Chaplin. Oh, I love Harold Lloyd who was a very favorite of mine. I remember in high school when Harold Lloyd was a great favorite of – a favorite of ours say, in the 9th grade. I remember seeing Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford playing together. And I think the only film they made together which was the comedy by Shakespeare, the Taming of the Shrew in the motion picture, little stuffy as I recall but that was – I went to see it because it was culture.

In the '30s, I remember enjoying the musical comedy songs when I was in college. We could go rather cheap on Saturday afternoon which is one reason that we often did and the musical comedies like the Fox movie Don Foleys *[phonetic]* **[0:11:01]** that I recall or a series of musical comedies that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer made with the choreography, I believe, by Busby Berkeley who has made a come back and has – and put no known in that.

I remember Ruby Keeler works extremely well from those days of the early 1930s because she was very attractive dancer. And like – I'm hoping to see them that time. I didn't – I went to see Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy who played in the rather stogy costume musical comedies.

I don't think I like them quite as much as more lively than it wasn't rather the drama set the music, always very still and *[inaudible]* **[0:12:00]** heroine being pursued by the villain and stop and they sing a song in the finishing, see the operatic style.

Interviewer: Anything you talked about that because in the way I grew up with them also only on television, all of them.

Dr. Munroe: The things sent me back. So I had the great pleasure just a Sunday of seeing a Marx Brothers film that I haven't seen, that was a favorite, too. I do remember though the standing in line to get into a Marx Brothers pictures. It was really hard on me because we have a long line sometimes.

But we didn't have much money when we were in college in the '30s and the movies was a species of entertainment that we could afford. I didn't dance. I couldn't afford dates except to go in a group which we often did of boys and girls, young men and young women in a group. We go to things but we gathered in house as a good bit.

We played bridge a lot. I did, starting in about myself more year in college. And so one thing that we might do would be on a Saturday afternoon, go to the movies, and then Saturday night, sit down with three friends and play bridge and that was a wild weekend.

But on school nights, I rarely went out, very rarely went out. I commuted to college from my home and the normal procedure was after dinner to get to my studies and spend about two hours at my work.

Interviewer: Rather the movie in '20s, '30s had come up with – come against the law of critic, calling them *[inaudible]* **[0:14:00]** never playing and singing that role down. During that depression, the people needed something like this to make them forget their troubles. Do you think that's true?

Dr. Munroe: Yes, I certainly do. I'm surprise that they don't know. I do. I rarely go at the movies now. And in the '30s, it was a great source of pleasure and enjoyment to me. I was interested. I'm sure that then I might have thought that they weren't significant enough. But some of the significant documentaries which were greatly entitled that were not seen by people while they went to see the Marx Brothers.

[0:15:10]

Well, entertainment, it seems to me, has a purpose. And I knew what was going on and enjoyed it. Incidentally, I also went to the theater from my boyhood in the '20s and '30s. We were very fortunate in Wilmington because we had a legitimate theater, the Playhouse, and play has come there much more free from the good they do now. And the Playhouse winner, I supposed the Playhouse had probably eight professional attractions, just guessing.

Well, in those days, it certainly would have had 16 or 25 or 30, there were just many more road come *[inaudible]* **[0:15:49]** now. Most weeks, there would have been something there I think. And we go on a Saturday afternoon, that time, it was quite cheap we go there. I've forgotten for sure but I imagine 50 cents or 75 cents and one for getting the peanut heaven and that's what we called the top balcony.

It was called the gallery then. The middle floor was the balcony and the first floor stalled and the one was the orchestra. It still named the orchestra but now the middle one is the mezzanine and the top is the balcony. I think gallery stands too cheap but it isn't cheap now. They're all expensive.

But in those days, the gallery was quite cheap particularly on Saturday afternoon. And so we could go there and see different stars. I remember seeing William Gillette. He made a farewell appearance I think almost every year as Sherlock Holmes.

And I remember seeing – who was the great Cyrano? I can't think of his name, Walter Hampden, it seems to me, was the great Cyrano and I saw him several times. I saw Ethel Barrymore there. I saw – I saw the stage play, What Price Glory. My father took me to see it when I was a little boy I remember and he was quite embarrassed because of the rough talk in What Price Glory.

I recall that in the program, it was a note apologizing to the audience for the rough language in the play and explaining that it was soldier's language and it was done in an attempt to be real and not the shock but to be realistic. And I remember that my father was very much embarrassed.

He told me about it beforehand and he said that this is going to be a funny soldier's comedy, he thought. It was, but he was terribly shocked by it. Just he and I went. And I wasn't shocked at all. As a matter of fact, I didn't get the rough language. I wondered where it was because I think I didn't understand the word they were using and they passed completely over my head.

It wasn't that I was sophisticated and then I was – I imagine 12 years old or so. Since I was born in 1914, I don't know what year What Price Glory was on the stage but about 1926, I would guess. And it wasn't that I was sophisticated, it was just that I was so ignorant that it – that there was no shocked effect whatever, only with my father.

Nowadays, I think when I am shocked at things and I have my children there is that they have heard that they used too often and I haven't heard it. But my father was then in the position I would be in now but I was not – but that was great. I love to go to the theater.

And we would see things also I remember when we were in high school, a great night, a group of us we'd go the Mask and Wig Company from the University of Pennsylvania. There was a student group, all men, some of whom impersonated girls. They'd do an original musical comedy every year and there would be a chorus line who would be men dressed up like women.

And the one that I recall which must have been – and was probably in the winter spring in 1932 during my senior year in high school, was Ruff Neck, the Ruff was R-U-F-F and it was a play about Queen Elizabeth's time. And, of course, the ruff referred as the costume neck adornment. And we had a great time with that.

I – we could not do as students would probably do now, think of having dinner together first. We couldn't afford of something like that so that wouldn't have occurred. And undoubtedly, we went there by trolley car, but we would have gathered somewhere I think because it would have been mostly a neighborhood group and have gone by trolley car to the theater.

And I've seen it, enjoyed the views, lead in by trolley car and gone to one of the girls' homes and probably have stayed there till 1 o'clock and then gone home. That would have been a real big evening plan, of course, beforehand. I still remember, if you see us being an extremely pleasant one. We had a lot of fun. It's funny that the line that I've remembered we particularly like was from the Queen Elizabeth who was, of course, a female impersonator, when he fell down one time and said, "I maybe flat on my tummy but I'm still queen of England."

[0:20:14]

So first, we were repeating it for a long time and after he was speaking that was very funny.

Interviewer: Did they have – did they have shown any WPA theater there?

Dr. Munroe: No, not in the Playhouse, but there was a WPA theater in the '30s and I did go there. It seems to me they have a whole over top on the top floor, the Knights of Columbus building or some fraternal order building, some building like that.

In Wilmington around 1010 West Street and they performed Julius Caesar in modern dress everlastingly. When they did a play of course, they would do it again and again and again and again. And when I went to the night, I went to see that one in particular. I think I was one of the six people in the audience and we'd had to pay about 25 cents.

There was also a WPA symphony which similarly played to nobody most of the time except if they would give concerts in the park I think in the summer and they would – they would have, I believe, a good audience.

The dramatic *[inaudible]* [0:21:18] always largely unappreciated except for shock effect.

Father Tucker of St. Anthony's church protested because Julius Caesar was made *[inaudible]* [0:21:30] in modern dress and Julius Caesar looked like Benito Mussolini and he's an Italian parishioner who followed Tucker, who had started the Italian church in Wilmington. The Italian parishioners and parishioners working solid at the fund that was being made Mussolini's late Joe Colombo's Italian-American protector *[inaudible]* [0:21:51] now, you know, except I do not mean that Father Tucker with Joe Colombo.

And I think the Italian council protested. But it went on, I think. It went on just the same. And, of course, it really was good fun. We – I perfectly well understand that one doesn't like to have this co-patriots *[inaudible]* [0:22:14] but now, that it's all over and I'm sure the – that the descendants of the – what was the Italian colony in Wilmington in the 1930s but I think that Mussolini was a good figure to both *[inaudible]* [0:22:36].

Interviewer: And I think these last questions was sort of speculative questions. Well, I just – I just thought it but *[inaudible]* [0:22:52] possibly a good story in that. In the sense of – it's a history of something about the future, let me ask you *[inaudible]* [0:23:02]. Do you think that there could be another depression?

Dr. Munroe: Certainly.

Interviewer: Okay. *[inaudible]* [0:23:11].

Dr. Munroe: Certainly.

Interviewer: I think that most people don't think so.

Dr. Munroe: Well, I do but it seems to me that just looking at the whole process of society, we become more and more interconnected, interrelated and complex and that when man is completely independent, he can – what happens to one man doesn't necessarily affect everybody else. Their society gets more interrelated, I think, that what happens to one man does affect everyone else.

Now, I do not believe that the depression would be allowed to proceed for long without governmental measures being taken to try to take care of the people. I think that the government which bring in and try to do

things – so I don't think another depression would take the same course as the last one, but I think it's quite possible that the economy would fall.

I think that the one thing can be sure of is that men don't have to do everything and can't meet every situation that we can be positive about. And also, the same thing doesn't often happen in exactly the same way. We might have a depression and I call it the depression. Thinking of 1984 and double talk, for instance, we might call it prosperity and it might be a depression.

[0:25:00]

Interviewer: Okay.

Dr. Munroe: To know that the 1984 wasn't the secretary of the army and the president's cabin called the secretary of peace. Well, it's quite possible, for instance, that sometimes peace in the world are dire. I think a terrific impression and don't realize it. I mean, after all, it's partly a state of mind, if the people are employed as they were once Roosevelt became president, remember. The people were taken care of.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Dr. Munroe: Weren't they – you know, weren't they living better than the people in China, for instance, right now?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Dr. Munroe: In other words, it's quite possible if we develop our society into a more governmentally dominated society than we have and it seems to be the trend of the future. Taxes continue to go up and life becomes more expensive, then we would have a depression and not know it.

Now, quickly, before I seem to be speaking with great alarm, let me say that the things in some ways are pretty bad in England as I saw them when I was there two years ago. The people in England, they're very happy and they seem to eat well and to be on the whole well clothes and to be – I say, *[inaudible]* **[0:26:26]** well housed because their housing certainly would not suit an American. The English professor's house wouldn't suit an American professor. It's so much – it's so much meaner than the American's house.

I think that England is having a depression and doesn't know it and say, just buy American turn, but they're happy about it. All I'm saying is that I

think it's quite possible you have a depression, but it might not be called such.

Interviewer: There was a depression *[inaudible]* [0:27:03] similar to the depression. How would you treat that the young people today would react that they had this young people who **[OFF MIKE]**.

Dr. Munroe: Well, since we're talking about the future, the present day young people wouldn't be young people when the depression occurred. And you mean that it occur tomorrow.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Dr. Munroe: Well, the – it would be awfully hard on them but it must have been awfully hard on the people who were, say, seniors in college. When the depression occurred then, I wasn't. I – in 1929, I've finished my freshman year in high school so it wasn't so hard for my particular generation getting to a year group to adjust to it.

I think the people who were the – once who were older than I who had been in college in the 1920s must have found it difficult. Supposed one got out of college in '20 – and he'd probably still gotten a job all right then. And in '30, it wasn't as bad. It got bad by '32. It didn't happen all of a sudden I say, except on the stock market or to a few people.

If a man got fired and 70 people got fired yesterday at Hercules, an experimental station according to the paper, then, of course, it happens to them suddenly. But still when the society as a whole has a good bit of money floating around or possibility to doing things. I haven't said much about how the young people of today would, say, I guess the obvious thing to say is that they're spoiled by affluence but actually, I wonder if the group in the '20s were also spoiled by affluence, too. I was too little in my family. It wasn't affluent enough to have to happen to me and that to most of my friend.

Interviewer: Okay.

Dr. Munroe: I suspect though that it came on solely enough that one someone adjust. I just think it does leave a mark on a man for the – for the rest of his life. Incidentally, as to the student added to store things, they could change almost over night.

Well, of course, I very well remember how in the '30s, the university students in England were signing pledges never to – never to offer their

lives for king in country, that they would never fight for their country. And, of course, there is that the same men who died in the Battle of Britain who fought more valuably than most people have for whatever they were fighting. King in country is the expression of it.

So I don't put a lot of stock in the professions at the moment by the people. I suspect that basically people are pretty much the same generation after generation.

[0:30:01]

The surface added to is that the change. But I think one can get shocked into being more security conscious than other people, just as I think the – for generation immigrants would react differently than the – than the 10th generation Boston Brahmin's situations just because they're rare and basic living, of course, they're human being.

Interviewer: Has the depression of the country been a lesson?

Dr. Munroe: Oh, yes, of course we taught lessons, man learned. He just never can learn everything. You can't learn to meet every situation. Of course we can't plan on them all. I think it – I think it taught the country a lesson that society, the economy was so complex. But if it went wrong, there had to be attempts and complex attempts on a large scale to remedy these large scale problems.

I don't think it taught the country what the correct remedies were on the large scale but it did indicate the way in which one must look for, for solutions. Of the new deal, it wasn't a great success in pulling the nation out of the depression, but it was a great success in helping the people to put up less the depression and that, of course, is part of the battle.

Interviewer: Because the...

Dr. Munroe: No, no, no. Because we could all make out with much less than we have really if we had to and be – and be happy about it so that merely the provision of a second radio or a second car or a second television set is large than the first radio or a first car or a first television set, not the old story of the success of mankind in life.

Interviewer: Looking back on the depression, have you seen *[inaudible]* **[0:32:21]** personally?

Dr. Munroe: What do you mean?

Interviewer: Is it time with cars? Is it time with fun? Is it time with *[inaudible]* **[0:32:26]**?

Dr. Munroe: Oh, for me, personally, yes, a pleasant time, sure. My once youth is pleasant. There's not a sad time at all. My time wouldn't have happy, it came through the trial then. There were great many worries which unquestionably were on my parent's shoulders much more than mine and it all went up all right, we made out, we got through it. It's a very – it's a very happy time personally for me to look back. Oh, yes, I have a very happy youth and I see pure relief in spite of the depression.

That's how just the way it's *[inaudible]* **[0:33:14]** they say in relation and I think that's the first to my generation. It doesn't seem to be – maybe we forget they say it's – that a woman forgets labor pains after having a child and so maybe we have a society forget our worst troubles. If so, that's probably fortunate.

Interviewer: Keeping the story, looking back, how do you feel *[inaudible]* **[0:33:45]**?

Dr. Munroe: That's not something that I think of a great deal since I concern myself much more for a century earlier than that. Just another trial and another challenge and another problem for mankind. I've been different from others, but I don't know precisely what you want me to say more than that.

It's not something that I have – that I – that I give thought to because I – as you know, I – my interest – my scholarly interest is, of course, are in and mostly in 1750 or 1850. I'm perfectly interested in what happened in the 1930s since that matter in the – in the 1030s, but I'm not working on the 1930, therefore I'm not thinking as much about it.

Interviewer: Do you look at – just one additional question. Do you look at history as a whole – as a – as a matter of challenges to mind and are we built for these challenges?

[0:35:00]

Dr. Munroe: Yes, I do. It seems to me that it is a story of mankind and it has attempts to meeting deal with his environment, the problems we find surrounding, interesting because it always changes and it always – situation always differs. And in learning about it, when learns about man, it seems to me, you can do it perfectly well by studying the Greeks, you can do it by studying the Americans.

You know nothing about it to appreciate the situation and you begin to see how people act and have some understanding of human beings.

Interviewer: It's very cognitive. Well, is that a sort of a road or a passport to go or is it just...

Dr. Munroe: In history?

Interviewer: No. When it comes to the challenges *[inaudible]* [0:35:55].

Dr. Munroe: Well, as far as I'm concern, if there is clear progress toward a goal, I'm not sure what it is.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Dr. Munroe: If it is, I am not – I am also not sure that it is just a meaningless series of challenges and responses. In other words, there way may well be emotion. I think one can see trends in history very clearly. I don't see the laws in history. I wouldn't say that they weren't there, but I don't see them.

There's a very interesting presidential address, the American Historical Association long years ago by a man named Edward Potts Cheyney, C-H-E-Y-N-E-Y who was an English historian and I heard him in his old age when he was in his 80s. He was a professor in Marathas at the University of Pennsylvania when I was there.

And the title of his presidential address had been law and history. And Cheyney spoke to some of his graduate students and said that if – he gave us copies of his – of his book, I remember, that he had and so we read the essay and then he talked to us and said, if he were doing it over, he would – he would call it trends in history. But in speaking of law in history, it was borrowing too much from another discipline.

And in his age, he wished he had done that. He did think if he had not used the word law, he would have been happier with his – with his essay.

Interviewer: Okay. Thank you very much.

Dr. Munroe: Just one thing occurred to me, Byron, that might be interesting to put on tape was that when I went to the – to the theater as a boy in Wilmington, the gallery – the gallery for the Playhouse was the one place that black people went with whites in Wilmington at that time.

Oh, I'm probably misleading you. Of course, blacks and whites used trolley cars in Wilmington together. There were no separate restrooms, or at least, none that I knew of, not in Wilmington and there was no going to the back of the trolley or something else. Nothing like that that I saw on the south, they have separate waiting rooms and stations.

But the movies were for white and there were movies for Negroes. Mr. Hopkins who was a local politician and businessman had a – had a theater for blacks in Wilmington. But in the Playhouse, probably because it was the only one there was, there was a section of the gallery reserved for the blacks.

I think that it swelled or became smaller, according to whether people bought tickets or not. There wasn't anything – there weren't any rooms enough for anything of that sort. But it's just a strange, almost unbelievable picture from my youth that that was so, that up there in the third floor where I sat in that third floor, in that gallery, that peanut heaven.

I think the idea of peanut heaven was that people sat up there and ate peanuts and threw the shells down, but that's from an earlier time and they didn't do that in my day. They wouldn't put out if they'd done it, but that there were Negroes there.

Another great cultural institution in Wilmington in my youth was the Wilmington Public Library, the Wilmington Institute Free Library. I joined the Brandywine Branch at the Vandever Avenue when I was in the first grade, I think. And for the rest of my life, I went to it very regularly.

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The children's – I went to the first room is a date and market streets on the site where John Dickinson had lived. His home had been torn down when the building was built and that building was given up in my youth. I was really young. I've never been there by myself, I think. And the present building was built at – on 10th Street between Martin and King, a very handsome building.

And then I just freaked when I've done a great deal. I said I didn't grab at night. It seems to me, I remember that even in high school, I would sometimes walk in town in the evening and use the library. It's funny now because I didn't – I think people would be afraid to. But – and I remember on a Saturday night when I had nothing else to do, I would – I would go in

the library and I said a boy, the King Street branch, the King Street side of the library had the children's library and that have been a very great deal to me. So the tremendous education...

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