Annie Pontrelli: This is Annie Pontrelli interviewing Es and Vince Wilson on August 26, 1991. Vince, I know that you have some information there that you'd like to share, so why don't you go ahead and start and we'll get this going.

Vince Wilson: Thank you. I have some information that I've titled, "The University of Montana's Physical Therapy Programs, 1942-1981".

After obtaining my Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Physical Education at the University of Montana, I was employed as an Assistant in Health and Physical Education with, among other things, responsibility for intramurals on campus. I received my appointment as an instructor in the Health and Physical Education Department in 1943. From 1945 through 1947, I had a leave of absence to enable me to obtain my certification and master's degree in the field of physical therapy from New York University. To my knowledge, there were only two University of Montana students who had pursued certification in this kind of program prior to that time.

After becoming certified as a physical therapist, I started to interest students in this profession. At that time, there were many women but very few men who were pursuing this field. Also during this period of time, about the only people considered for admission to physical therapy programs were those with nursing or health and physical education backgrounds. In addition, for many years, therapy schools imposed an age limit of 35 on physical therapy students.

Until 1965, the great majority of U of M students going into physical therapy had to complete all requirements needed to obtain a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. They had to take methods of teaching courses, coaching courses, elementary games coursework and so on. This was a disappointment to those who knew they were only interested in physical therapy.

Starting with the 1965-66 academic year, various emphases were established in health and physical education, such as PE for men, for women, coaching, dance, health, recreation leadership and pre-physical therapy. This enabled our students to avoid courses not needed for this kind of a program. It might also be of interest to note that in 1971 an emphasis on athletic training/adaptive physical education was added. Also, it should be noted that from 1942-1981 the University was at times officially called the University of Montana and at other times the Montana State University.

In 1967, the Board of Regents authorized the University of Montana to offer a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy. The student took three years of academic work, including certain required courses on the college level. The second and third years had to be taken at the University of Montana. The required professional training was taken at recognized physical therapy schools.
accepting students on this basis. Upon completion of the coursework at the therapy school, and eligibility to become certified as a physical therapist, the work taken at the physical therapy school was considered to be equivalent to the senior year at the university, and the student was granted the degree. Non-degree-granting physical therapy programs at that time, such as Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, California, plus several degree-granting schools—Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and Northwestern University's program in physical therapy at Chicago, Illinois—accepted students on this basis. Over the years we only had two students who obtained degrees in that way, but it did enable us to get our foot in the door as far as a unit of the university system that would eventually have the Physical Therapy program.

In 1967, an Allied Health Professionals Basic Improvement grant enabled the University to hire a second faculty member, Norah Steele, now Norah Steele Everett, and to provide a physical therapy training and treatment complex on campus. Norah had a great deal to do with developing the program with the physical therapy complex. Another grant from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1970 enabled further development of the complex and expansion of services to those needing physical therapy treatment. We, at this time, contacted the American Physical Therapy Association regarding the possibility of establishing a fully accredited program, but did not receive any encouragement.

We later found that the reason given for not considering us was not valid. Norah Steele Everett retired in 1975 and Mary Jo Lucine, then Mary Jo Stevenson, a former student fresh out of Mayo Clinic, helped us out during the 1975-76 academic Year. Richard Gadaczek followed Mary Jo in 1976. In 1977, the pre-physical therapy program was transferred from health and physical education to the School of Pharmacy in Allied Health Sciences. A problem created by this transfer followed those students who had been working toward a degree in Health and Physical Education with an emphasis in pre-physical therapy. Because of the administrative change and the fact that we did not know at that time whether our plans for a full degree in physical therapy would materialize, students planning to attend the University of Montana for four years were concerned about obtaining some kind of a degree. We, therefore, obtained permission from the Board of Regents to offer a Bachelor of Science in pre-physical therapy, which enabled our students to graduate without having to take a great deal of additional coursework to qualify for another degree.

The next step was to work vigorously for a full accreditation of our program with the assistance from Dean [Philip] Catalfomo and strong support for our program from President Bowers. Many hours were spent in going through the necessary steps required to realize this goal. We decided that we would meet necessary standards and accept the first class of professional students in the fall of 1979. A third faculty member Janet Hulme was hired. The students in the senior level of the program will be graduating with a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy after they complete two six-week clinical internships during the summer of 1981. Also, the American Physical Therapy Association accredited our program in March of this year. This was a very necessary step because only those students completing their therapy training at an accredited school are eligible to take
the state licenser examination which is required by every state in the nation.

Over the years, close to 300 of our students have become physical therapists. We are especially proud of the fact that not one of these students admitted to various programs throughout the country have ever failed to successfully complete the program requirements.

AP: Great. Did you put that together?

VW: Yes I did.

AP: That’s wonderful.

VW: So we’d have some kind of a record of the history of the program as it evolves.

Esther Wilson: (unintelligible) because for years he was the only one. He did it all himself after he came back from New York University. For years and years. He didn’t get anybody until he got Norah Steele. He’d already sent an awful lot of students into physical therapy before that because, after he went to New York University, he sent several of his students back to New York University and also to (unintelligible). It was hard. Tell her how hard it was to get those students into those schools.

VW: It was very difficult. A lot of the students who really should have been accepted to programs were not. Today, they say that it’s more difficult to get into a physical therapy program than it is to get into a veterinary school program. Yesterday, August 25th, there was an article in the Missoulian about physical therapy and a particular student who decided to stay in Missoula. Physical therapy students, last year, their average starting salary right out of school was over 30,000 dollars a year. Other than pharmacy students—and the pharmacy program is a five-year program—they are the highest salaried students right out of the University of Montana.

AP: Is that the main reason that there’s such a difficulty in getting into the program? Because there are so many that want to get in and you can only select a few?

VW: There are so many and the American Physical Therapy requires a certain ration of faculty members to students. This is one of the big limiting factors as far as that is concerned. Of course, as you well know, there is a tremendous shortage of physical therapists in the nation. Our daughter-in-law, who is a former student of mine, was formerly director of the physical therapy program at (unintelligible). She waited eight months to a year sometimes in need of a physical therapist.

AP: Is that right?

VW: People are getting older.
EW: —physical therapy program too. Christie Ann graduated in the pre-physical therapy program and then she was accepted to Stanford after she was married to our son. She was down there two years and came out with her master’s degree. Now she’s director of the outreach program at (unintelligible). She’s got a tremendous job. So there are other facets of therapy besides just physical therapy. There are other things it can involve.

AP: Especially now. It seems like there are a lot of service oriented types of programs that come together.

EW: People are living longer. There are so many older people that need physical therapy, just like that rehab center out here. It’s just fabulous what they do out there. How many therapists do they have out there?

VW: They have 23 physical therapists at the rehab center at Community Hospital. It’s considered to be the best rehab center between here between Minneapolis and Seattle.

AP: Is that right?

EW: A lot of them were Vince’s students.

VW: What?

EW: A lot of them were Vince’s students.

VW: Previous students.

AP: I have a couple of really good friends that work at Community.

VW: Have you?

AP: Barry Olson, Jill Steinbrenner.

VW: Sure. Barry’s was a student of mine.

EW: So was she.

VW: Jill?

EW: Jill, yes.

AP: Jill’s one of my closest friends.

VW: Good.
EW: All those years that he sent those students to those big schools like Columbia, New York University, (unintelligible), Los Angeles. He never had one that didn’t graduate at the top of their class. No one ever flunked out. They always said that when they got there that they’d had so much work from Vince that they were better off and they thought that they were way ahead of other students from bigger schools.

VW: Now you’re bragging.

EW: Well, I am bragging, but that’s true.

AP: Probably because you won’t brag about yourself.

EW: He won’t brag, so I have to do it for him. But it’s the truth.

VW: Also, it might be of interest to note your band relationship with the university.

EW: She hasn’t gotten to me. We’re still on physical therapy.

VW: Are we?

EW: We’re sticking with that for a while. It was hard those years. Terrible.

VW: A lot of students were turned down that really deserved to get into a program. That’s a sad situation. Even today, they have around 80 pre-physical therapy students and, when they get to the program, they can only accept 22. There’s a tremendous situation. The academic average of the students last year was 3.25, with chemistry, physics, courses in biology, and courses like that.

AP: Have you noticed a lot of changes with the students over the years? I’d love to get some observations you’ve made about the students.

VW: I know there’s been a lot of changes as far as physical therapy is concerned.

AP: What are some of those?

VW: The approaches and so on, the use of different kinds of machines, and the development of different kinds of machines. That’s where the biggest change has been, I feel. When you go into physical therapy, you’ll have to like people because it’s so people oriented. We work with paraplegics, stroke cases, and amputees. It’s a real interesting field. I’ve never regretted one day teaching of the 39 years at the University of Montana. I enjoyed what I was doing very, very much. I was lucky I found my niche. Sometimes my wife’s figured that I spent more time up there than at
home, but I still enjoy it. (laughs)

EW: She asked you about the students, Vince. I think you should tell her about your students, starting way back with the first students you had. You started with those first two or three boys.

VW: The big change, I think, is there has been a much greater increase in the number of men going into the field. When I went in, I would say that 95 percent of the physical therapists were women. Today, that is much, much different. A lot of physical therapists are also combining adaptive physical education, athletic training, and obtaining work in degrees in sports medicine. Basically, other than the equipment we used, some of the approaches are about the same. When I first started out, I took some of my clinical training in Bellevue Hospital in New York City and so on. Polio was an epidemic problem. We used the iron lung a lot with these patients. Today, of course, that’s all in the past. They no longer use that approach. Of course, we don’t the problem with polio like we had at that time.

EW: You’ve always had wonderful students. I think you should talk about your students. She should hear about the wonderful students you had. All of them were just practically top notch because, in the first place, they wouldn’t have been in the program.

AP: Have you ever had any problems with any of your students? Any incidents?

VW: No there never was any, whether it was physical education, therapy, pre-med, pharmacy, or what have you. I was lucky I never had one incident in 39 years of students becoming a problem in one of my classes. Maybe it’s because I didn’t have fine arts students, I don’t know. (laughs)

EW: Also, you didn’t mention that you taught the nurses in the nurses’ program at St. Patrick’s Hospital. When they had that school down there, he taught all the nurses. We go up to the hospital and they mention…Every time we get down, somebody walks up to him and says, “Oh, I had you in school. I know who you are.” They’re always so nice.

AP: That’s great. What years did you teach?

VW: I started at the university—

AP: And at St. Pat’s.


AP: Are you from here originally or are you from—

VW: I’m from the state that Montanans talk about. I imagine you know.
AP: North Dakota?

VW: North Dakota. My father decided that I should be a forester. I went to the University of Idaho for two years. I was on a lookout west of Missoula, around Alberton, for several summers, while I was going to the University of Idaho. I decided to transfer to the University of Montana. That was in the fall of 1939. I didn’t know one individual on campus, but I belonged to a fraternity. I moved right into the fraternity house. That quarter, during the first week, the University of Montana was playing Montana State in Butte and there weren’t very many people on campus. We decided to have a fireside at this fraternity I belonged to. One of my fraternity brothers lined up a date with my present wife. It was her last quarter. She robbed the cradle. (laughs)

EW: Yes, I did.

VW: It was her last quarter at the University of Montana and my first. We eventually got married.

AP: That’s great. What a great story.

EW: He didn’t mention that I was engaged to somebody else when I met him. I didn’t really want to go out with someone from who found out I was a Phi Delt. He didn’t want to go out with me either. Sigma Nus did not like the Phi Delts very well. Anyway, they couldn’t get anybody else. Finally, as a last resort, I went because I was the only one at the Delta Gamma house, except some of the town’s girls that didn’t live at the house. So we went out on this date. That’s when he told me that he just hated forestry. He didn’t want to be a forester. I said, “Well, great. If that was me, I would just change my major. If you don’t like what you’re taking, take something else.” I didn’t know I was going to marry him. Then, he changed his major and started all over again. He had to go almost four more years.

VW: That’s why our graduation dates—

EW: We didn’t get married...then I didn’t marry this other man. Then we couldn’t get married until he graduated in ’43. By that time, the war had come on, but they wouldn’t take him in the war. You better tell her about that too.

VW: I went back to Fort Snelling twice and I was turned down both times. I ended up at the University of Montana, teaching college community army students’ physical activities: going up to the M against time, teaching gymnastics, teaching calisthenics, and so on. But they wouldn’t take me in the army.

AP: How did you like doing those kinds of classes?

VW: I did a lot of that because I got my basic degree in health and physical education. I started out, for the first several years, teaching a lot of activity courses and things like that, moving into anatomy and so on, especially once I got my degree in physical therapy. At that time, the terminal
degree in that particular field was a master’s degree. There was no doctor’s degree until 15 years later. They figured that if you wanted to go that long and put that much effort that kind of a program, you might as well get an M.D. degree. That degree was a terminal degree. It isn’t now, of course.

The UM Physical Therapy program, this year, has been granted additional space and so on. For a while, it looked as though all the years I worked with developing a fully certified was going to go down the drain because they were talking about eliminating it. Now, I think that it is quite strongly entrenched. They say there’s about an 83 percent shortage of physical therapists in the nation.

AP: Is that right?

EW: That article, Vince, that you took out of one of the magazines about the salaries and how physical therapists ranked and what it’s going to be ten years from now is interesting.

VW: *Good Housekeeping*—I think it was a year ago in September—had an article about the real upcoming jobs in the nation. They predicted, by the year 2000, the average salary of a physical therapist would be 63,000 dollars a year.

AP: Maybe I’ll sign up.

EW: You went to school out here. Why didn’t you do physical therapy?

AP: I don’t feel like I have much of a science mind.

VW: This is rather amazing to me too because...It’s rather interesting. My son has his doctor’s degree in International Politics. He got his bachelor’s and master’s here and went to Washington State on a fellowship. Today, his wife is making more than two times as much as he is. He’s teaching at Eastern Montana College.

EW: (unintelligible)

VW: The teaching profession isn’t the best paying profession. Despite that fact, (unintelligible).

EW: He didn’t mention that, when he came back from New York University, he was the only registered physical therapist in the whole state of Montana. He was. They had one down at Western Montana Clinic, but they claimed she was a physical therapist, but she really wasn’t. She was a lady, I guess. She didn’t have a degree in physical therapy. He was the only one in the whole state.

AP: Do you just get your degree and then you have to go through a certification process?

VW: That’s right. American Physical Therapy Association puts out each year an examination. All the
states in the union require their students to take this exam. Maybe Montana might require 70 some percent average to be qualified in Montana; could be that Washington might require an average of 82 percent to be qualified. That varies somewhat, but we have a tremendous number of students, for example, working in Spokane right now. Of course, a lot of students in the state of Montana. You have to take this exam and you have to pass it.

I’m going to brag a little bit. The year I graduated...my first class was certified in physical therapy, our students were in the upper five percent of all those that took the exam nationally. We feel that Missoula’s quite a medical center. It’s a good place for a school of physical therapy. Montana State University tried desperately to get the program, so we had to fight to retain it here. We, eventually, won out.

AP: I know there were several accomplishments that are certainly noteworthy of the years, but what would you estimate as your greatest accomplishment?

VW: Do you want me to mention to you any of my awards?

AP: Please do!

VW: All right. In 1970, I received a 1,000 dollar Standard Oil award for being the Outstanding Teacher of the Year. I’m the recipient of the Robert Pantzer Award and the Silent Sentinel Award. This last year, in September, during Homecoming, I received the Distinguished University of Montana Alumnus Award. Those are some things that I am proud of.

EW: That was really a proud moment.

AP: Which one?

EW: This last one.

VW: The Distinguished Alumnus Award.

EW: They’ve given those awards for years, but they always give them to people like the man the year before who leave and then you never see them anymore. They’ve only given it to one other teacher who graduated up here at the university and that’s taught at the university. He’s only the second one that’s ever gotten it. It really was a real honor. I’d wished for so many years that he’d get it and he finally got it. I was so thrilled. I think you should mention—and I’ll show her—what the students did when you graduated. I’ll get the...You tell her about it—

VW: They had a special pin developed with the University of Montana logo and so on and Physical Therapy program. They gave me a gold pin when I graduated.

EW: The students did that. They did whole logo. Then they took it and had the pin made for him
when he retired.

VW: My students, they still have the pins for sale.

AP: Do they?

EW: And they hang them up. This is the first time they had ever done that.

VW: So, I’m kind of proud of the fact that I established a program at the University of Montana.

AP: You should be.

VW: I have no regrets at all as I’ve stated before in regards to what I decided to do for a living.

EW: He got hitched to a strong Montanan is what happened. We didn’t want to move. I was born and raised in Montana on the other side of the mountain. My family all lived over there. We just didn’t want to leave. We’re not sorry. Look at you: you left and then you came back.

VW: I could have made a lot more money going into a private field as opposed to teaching, but I was born a teacher, I guess.

AP: As to what brought you to the University of Montana: you’re from Montana, but—

EW: I think, for one thing, my brother...my dad thought we all should—my brother and me—should have a college education because he didn’t really get one. He grew up with an Irish family that didn’t believe in any education. They lived on a big ranch out of Augusta, way up in the mountains. Dad, even then, believed in education. He left home and went out on his own. He worked for the Forest Service. He did a lot of things. Finally, he came over here to Missoula and went to the Business College and got a Business degree.

He ended up owning a store in Augusta, but he still said that we had to go to college, ever since we were small. In a small town like that, in those days, when things were really tough, it was something to be able to go to college. I’m sure my folks, as I look back, struggled to send us down here. My mother was a marvelous seamstress and she made me beautiful clothes, which I still love. It was nice. My brother belonged to a fraternity. We were lucky. I belonged to a sorority. We had all those nice things.

I really didn’t do what I wanted to do. I was a teacher, too, but I never liked it. I didn’t want to be a teacher, but, in those days, there wasn’t a lot. I wanted to be an interior decorator and I wanted to be a merchandizer. I wanted to buy clothes for big stores. At that time, the home economics department didn’t have any of that. My cousin came down here later and she got to do that. She went to the university and got her degree in merchandizing back there. I really didn’t want to teach. I taught, but I didn’t care for it. It was tough in those days. You had to teach everything.
When I taught, I had to teach…I had two years of Home Economics, I had two years of English, and all the girls’ PE.

AP: High school?

EW: High school. I left that and did some other things. During the war, I lived out in Portland for a year. That was before we were married. I was down in California for a while. I guess I was in Portland, wasn’t I, when you and I decided to get married? Actually, I should have been teaching in the years when we first got married. I had a chance to teach down at Hell Gate, but he never wanted me to teach. Then, we just had the one son, so I stayed home. But I’ve worked: I’ve worked up at the university and I worked in the public school office for a year.

AP: Where did you work in the university?

EW: I worked in the book store for a long time, about ten or eleven years. In late years, I’ve been helping out at the registration, which has been kind of fun. Of course, I loved sports too because I had a minor in PE. When I was in college, we taught classes. So I taught a lot of classes at the university. I taught soccer; I taught some swimming classes; I taught some tennis. My love was basketball because I played basketball in high school.

VW: I’m going to brag a little bit about that. She played in a girl’s tournament and made 106 points in three games.

AP: Good for you. That’s great.

EW: That was hardly anything because it was half-court basketball. I wish I could play like these girls now. I would have loved it. We thought we were tall, but—

VW: She was center.

EW: I was center, but when I stand by these girls now…We have a girl up there who’s related to some of my relatives in Augusta. When I stand by her, I just can’t believe it because—

[End of Tape 1, Side A]
[Tape 1, Side B]

EW: —from then on the war started and it was never the same. It was never the same after that. The students were never the same. It was never the happy-go-lucky—

AP: I was just going to say, elaborate on that: some of the changes that you witnessed.

EW: We didn’t have a lot of cars, for one thing. We did our own things, like we had those tea dances at the different sorority and fraternity houses. On Sunday, we’d get all dressed up—we even wore hats—and go to those dances. Just those nice things. We’d have those beautiful dances up in the old Student Union building. We had two lovely ballrooms up there.

VW: We’d go to those rooms and they’d have big name bands come in.

EW: We wore the long dresses and all that. It was really different. After the war, there wasn’t...that all went. Of course, in the ‘60s it was bad with all those changes, the students’ unrest and all that. They missed it. Our son, Craig, thought he had a good time in college. He did, but to us it wasn’t the same because I thought we had it a lot better. The sorority and the fraternity dances, we made a big thing out of those. I was the house manager at the Delta Gamma house. It was my job to make out the programs. We all had programs. We’d have these big, huge sheets of paper, everybody’s name down in everybody’s program, and how we’d change dances. It was a big thing. Excuse me—

[Doorbell rings; Break in audio]

In those days in the sorority houses, we had to be in at ten o’clock at night on the weekdays and, on Friday and Saturday night, it was 12 o’clock. Or the doors were locked and you were locked out. Then, they turned your name in to this committee, chosen from different sororities on campus, and they doled out what would happen. I got “campused” for two weeks for being late in the dorm. We went out with some fellows. We had to walk home. We left and we had to walk home across the tracks and down there by Van Buren Bridge and we didn’t make it. The doors were locked and we had to ring the bell to get in. We got “campused” for two weeks, all three of us.

AP: What does that mean, “campused”?

EW: You couldn’t go out for any dates or go out on the weekend or anything. It was the same in all the sorority houses. Now, it’s so lax. They can move out; they can go out on the weekends; they come back and nobody even pays any attention. We used to write, but it didn’t do us any good because those were the rules. Those were university rules and they were enforced. If something happened to a girl, and it was against the principle of the university, they just kicked them out. That doesn’t go on now, which is a lot better in a lot of ways, but, in some ways too, I don’t think it hurt us. Ann Pantzer and I were talking about that and Bob and I were laughing about it. It really didn’t hurt us. Maybe if they had some of those rules back now, it might be better. I don’t know.
AP: I don’t know that anybody would pay attention to them.

EW: No, they wouldn’t because it’s a whole different thing. They’re different in high school.

VW: There was no such thing as a co-ed dorm.

EW: No. A co-ed dorm? That would have been just unheard of.

One interesting thing that I did at the University, Annie: I was one of the first girls to play in the university marching band. Before that, it was an ROTC band and it was all just men. The year I was a sophomore, they switched over and said that girls could play too. So there were six of us that played in that band. I think there about 42 boys and there were six of us girls. That was a really fun experience because, every spring, the university hired a bus and we’d go around a group of small areas in Montana and play in the band. It was fun, especially playing with 42 boys and six girls.

AP: I bet. What year was that?

EW: That was in ’37 and ’38.

AP: So you attended from ‘34?

EW: I was a freshman in ’35 and I graduated in ’39.

VW: So she was one of the first six girls to ever play in the university band.

EW: I already have an announcement, a letter from this year, to want to know if I don’t want to march at homecoming in the parade.

AP: Good.

EW: They started this about two years. They honored me...Was it two years ago, they gave me a little plaque? The first banquet that they had for homecoming, they gave me this little honor because of being one of the first six girls. I have not marched...I can’t even play that horn anymore. I wouldn’t even know how to play it. I suppose I could have marched. I laughed the other day. I said that Evan would have loved that last year, our little grandson, if I would have marched in that band because he was so excited about his grandfather getting that award. I went over to the Sigma Nu house. They had a flag draped across the front of the Sigma Nu house: “Welcome Homecoming Grads and Congratulations to Vince Wilson.” Evan thought that was just the neatest. I still love the band and I have a real warm feeling for that band. When that band marches this year, you’ll have to think of me being out there. I would never do it.

AP: You’ll have time to practice for the band (unintelligible).
EW: It would be fun.

VW: Or you could just march and fake it.

EW: Yes, I could march and fake it, I guess. I could play the clarinet. I couldn’t play anything else. It’s been years.

VW: You were second chair once (unintelligible).

EW: We had a wonderful band in those years. We had wonderful band people. We had Clarence Bell and Mr. [Stanley] Teel. They were both just great. It was fun. It was real fun. I can remember marching out there. The first year, we girls had to wear skirts. You can imagine! We had those skirts out there. It was cold. It was the first year we’d ever marched. I knew a lot of people on campus. Somebody yelled in a big loud voice, “Es Cunniff, you’re out of step.” I can still remember that. And I probably was. We weren’t very good at marching because we’d never done any of it. The next year, we got a lot better. We could form a few things. It was fun.

AP: What were some of the other activities, traditions, and—

EW: There were lots of traditions in those days. Just lots of traditions. There were lots of organizations that you could belong to; there were lots of academic organizations. I think they made a lot more, then, of Spurs [National Honors Society] than they do now. Do they still have Spurs up there?

AP: I don’t know that they do. I think they were combined with—

EW: They were chosen—

VW: They still have Silent Sentinel, I know that.

EW: I don’t know if they still have Spurs. Probably, boys can belong to it too. Then, it was just an all-girls thing.

VW: I’m not aware of the Spurs at the present time.

EW: I think they made a lot more of Mortar Board, which is that honorary senior organization. They made a lot more of Mortar Board. Mostly, they were picked because of their grades. It wasn’t just because they had been in so many activities. I think it was more of a grade oriented thing. Now, I think probably it’s an overall...I don’t know if they still have it.

AP: Yes, they still have it.
EW: I think the biggest changes are probably the parties on campus that they've been having. The Sigma Nus had that Sigma Nu dance that was just fabulous. The boys all wore—

AP: What was that?

EW: Vince can tell you about that because that’s his fraternity.

VW: They just really went all out. They had flowers for all the girls and they had flowers for all the men. Chaperones—we’ve had some very interesting experiences chaperoning over the years.

EW: After we got married, we chaperoned. I’ll tell you about that.

AP: I’d like to hear about that.

VW: We were at one dance, chaperoning a dance—

EW: That’s my story. I want to tell that because it didn’t happen to you; it happened to me.

VW: All right.

EW: The Sigma Nu dance—all fraternities. I had a Phi Delt, so I didn’t go to a Sigma Nu dance until after Vince and I were married, I don’t think. They just did it real well. They did let them serve (unintelligible), but you couldn’t have drinks. That was another thing: they didn’t let you drink in sorority or fraternity houses at all.

VW: Why don’t you tell her about her the...

EW: About the Sigma Nu barn dance. That was another thing: the Sigma Nus had this big barn dance every fall. They hauled in hay and everybody went in jeans and plaid shirts. It was fun. It was a big dance. This happened after we were married. We were...Where was that dance? It was over here in that big place that used to be a roller skating rink, right over here across from the old...

AP: Across from Dornblaser? I do remember that.

EW: The last one that I can remember, I was one of the chaperones. This girl and I were sitting on a bale of hay. We had jeans and all of this stuff. This good looking kid came up and said to me, wouldn’t I like to go out in the car and have a drink with him. I said, “Well, I might, but I think you ought to know before I go with you that I’m one of the chaperones.”

He says, “Oh my god!” (laughs) We’ve laughed about that for years. I’ve been teased about that. I’ve said I really missed my chance not going out with that kid. It just floored him. It just absolutely floored him. By that time, then, they started having liquor. We knew, of course, that the kids had liquor, but (unintelligible). Things had started to change then. That was after the war, and things
had started to change then. They didn’t drink inside the building, but they all had liquor outside. Of course, they started those beer picnics, which they had, I’m sure, when you were in college. We had those when we were in school.

VW: Sure.

EW: I remember those. Those same three girls that we’d got “campused” for, we got invited to go on this picnic with these three guys that we didn’t know. In fact, I think they were three football players. We thought that was great. All three of us had come from little towns. We couldn’t wait to go ice skating and do all that stuff. We thought we were going on a picnic. We went up the Rattlesnake, up through the Montana Power Park. We got up there, and they were doing was drinking beer. Some of them disappeared too.

VW: And a few potato chips—

EW: I had a few potato chips and all that beer. We didn’t drink and we didn’t know what to do. I poured mine out on a log. I can’t remember what the other two girls did. That was a real eye opener because we’d never been on a beer picnic before. Later, we did know, but that was the first—we were freshmen. That just about shook us to death. We didn’t know what to do or anything else. When some of them disappeared, that was even worse. That was fun.

We had some funny experiences like that, especially coming from a little town, when you had to be so careful what you did. My dad was business. We had big dances in Augusta. We used to go and we had a wonderful time. Even then, they used to go out in the car and have a bottle out there. I’m sure your folks would remember that in (unintelligible). I’m sure it was the same thing. I was worried if I ever came out of that dancehall and sat out in a car that would be it. I wouldn’t go to any more dances. I didn’t even think about it.

My mother always knew. She didn’t exactly trust me too far what I was going to do. They always said I was going to marry somebody, but they didn’t worry because I was always dragging somebody home.

AP: Is that right?

EW: I had a guy in California from Dillon. We came home on the train together. I took him home with me. They were nice guys. I had lots of fun. That’s why I didn’t get married for a long time. Vince, I don’t think, has ever...I think that’s partly why we’ve had such a good marriage. I’ve done a lot of things and had a lot of fun, and he had too, before we got married. That was very important.

VW: I want to say, too, that...I don’t know whether this is appropriate for this kind of an interview. When I transferred from the University of Idaho to the University of Montana, I didn’t know a soul on campus, but I was a member of a fraternity. I walked into a fraternity and immediately was accepted. It helped so much to become acquainted and so on. That I think is a plus for a fraternity.
EW: I think that’s another thing. Fraternities and sororities were really big when we were in college.

AP: More so than they are now?

EW: Yes. There were more of them and more people belonged to them. It was a big thing to belong to a fraternity or sorority.

VW: Phi Delt has gone off campus; Sigma Kappa has gone off campus; Alpha Chi has gone off campus. At that time, when the enrollment was in the 2,000 area, all those fraternities and sororities were existing. To think that today, with the enrollment around 10,000... there aren’t nearly as many fraternities and sororities today as there were at that time.

EW: A lot of people just don’t want to belong to it. It doesn’t mean that much to them anymore. I didn’t realize it until I came down here to college that I always felt lucky that I had been chosen to join a sorority. It was a real experience. That’s a carryover for the rest of your life. Like Ann said when we were down in California, we had a marvelous alum group right in that area. I can go almost any place in the United States and have somebody that either Vince went to school with and lived in the house with or I did. Even here in Missoula, I’ve been an alum all these years and it’s just nice because you stay...you get to meet all those young girls.

I can say one thing. I really think, in a lot of ways, these young girls—maybe it’s because I’m older—I think they’re really intelligent. I think, in a way, they’re smarter. I think with us, in those years that we were in college, a lot of it was fun. I could have gotten a lot better grades if I had studied a lot harder, but I was too busy having a good time. I think they take it a lot more seriously now. I go to those things for the Delta Gammas and those girls get up and make those talks. Those girls are smart. They’re all way over 3.0, most of those girls. Besides that, they’re classy. They’re really a classy bunch of girls. They’re good looking; they’re intelligent; they have their feet on the ground. Many of them go on now into professions.

Not a lot of us did back in my day. They didn’t. You look back at our group and I bet most of them did teach school and things, but not for very long. They got married. In our day and age, that was the thing to do, if you got your cards right. You met guy a college, you graduated, and you got married. They don’t do that. Just like you. They don’t do that a lot anymore. A lot of these girls...I’m saying girls because I grew up in the sorority they live in. They’re oriented to get another degree or go on—

VW: Make a career.

EW: I think that’s wonderful. Because you don’t know what’s going to happen. I’ve always said that you should have your college degree because it’s just like having an insurance policy. Even though I didn’t teach that much, I always knew that, if something happened and I had to raise my son, I
could go back to teaching. I did other things, so I was prepared to do something if something had happened. I think that’s good. I think sometimes maybe, even though we grew up that way, with certain habits, we’re lucky the war changed us all.

AP: I’d have you talk more about that because you’ve referred to those war years several times.

EW: Those war years...by that time we were married. It was really bad here at the university. All of the fellows were gone. It was just lots of girls. They didn’t have any dates. There wasn’t any social life. The ones that went to school those four years after us, especially starting about 1941—things were never the same at the university after that, socially or anything. A lot of those girls went with fellows who were killed in the war. That changed a lot of people’s lives. There weren’t a lot of fellows left on the campus, just the young ones, up here in those first years that Vince started teaching. It was hard for sororities and fraternities to keep going. They didn’t have enough people. It was a struggle.

After the war, things got better. A lot of those people came back, like Bob Pantzer. A lot of them were married and came back and went to law school. Vince lived in the fraternity house with a lot of these fellows. After the war, they were going to school with him—

VW: They came back as my students.

EW: As his students.

VW: It’s just amazing how many of my former students have returned also. (unintelligible)

EW: Those years were sort of fun, after the war, for us because by then we were all married. We didn’t have any money. That was one thing. None of us had any money. The Pantzers and I could just go on and on and name all of the ones that came back and went here. It was just great. We’d get together—

VW: —have big parties.

EW: We didn’t have any money. Ann and I were laughing about it. We didn’t have any money, so we’d all chip in and we’d buy a fifth of bourbon or something. That was the extent of our partying. Those kids there didn’t have any money because they were going to school on the GI bill. Vince was teaching and he wasn’t making very much money, so we didn’t have any money either, but we had really good times. We sort of went on from our college years. That sort of picked up, but it was never the same, I don’t think, at the university for the sororities, fraternities, the independents, or any of them—or the ones that lived in the dorms.

They started moving out the dorms and living in apartments. They didn’t have that closeness that all of us had when we went to college. At that time, with 2,000 students, we knew almost everybody on campus. We all knew one another. We were in classes...I got to be friends with girls...
just from being in classes with them. We’re still friends. Maybe we didn’t do the same things socially, but we were just good friends. There isn’t that closeness anymore. I work up there and I can see it. Everybody goes their own way. You don’t get that. I think Vince even noticed it in his classes too.

VW: (unintelligible) I think that’s the reason for that. I have usually around 150 people in anatomy classes. They’re so huge—2,000 versus 10,000. I retired in ’81, so there wasn’t as many—about 8,000 then. I agree that things were quite different after the war.

EW: And through the ‘60s.

AP: Tell me more about the ‘60s. I know—

EW: Our son graduated from high school in ’66. Then he went to school. He started at the university that fall. He didn’t drink or anything. He also lived in Sigma Nu. It was a real worry by that time. Drugs had started to come into the campus. We had that worry. Although we never had any problems personally, there were boys in those fraternities and girls in those sorority houses that did do drugs. That was a real, real problem. It was a problem at the Nu house. They came up and they cleaned out the fraternity. They just cleaned all those floors out—

[Unintelligible, both speakers talking at same time]

VW: It was just awful. The numbers, the drugs, and so on. Our son was at that house then. He was eminent commander of that house.

EW: It was really bad.

VW: We didn’t know if they were going to have to shut down or not. It was real, real bad.

EW: We didn’t have any of that in high school. Craig was great. He was (unintelligible) He rarely even played hooky, even when he was a senior. In college though, it got bad. That was tough. It was tough for kids that were like Craig that you expect not to do that sort of thing, but they did. It was a worry to us and it was a worry to Vince teaching. He never really had any trouble with any of his students into drugs. He never did. If they were doing it, he didn’t know it. They weren’t ever kicked out of school or every showed any of that in his classes. He never had anything like that, but they did in other classes.

AP: Did you notice a difference in social attitudes during those years?

VW: Very different.

AP: How so?
VW: As I stated earlier, because of the kind of students I had, during 39 years of teaching, I never once had any student give me a bad time in class. Never once in 39 years. So many of my other faculty friends talk about some of the problems they had...well, in the liberal arts area. Some of these students were real activists and things like that in civil rights. I always think I was lucky I missed that because I can recall a number of students, when I was primarily in health and physical education, who went out to do their practice teaching after going through four years...after they got through with that, they couldn’t discipline the kids, so they said the heck with it and just completely dropped off after spending four years with the intent of going out and teaching. Some of these high school kids gave them such a bad time; they said that’s not for me. They just didn’t want anything along that line. I can appreciate the fact that I was so lucky in not having to contend with that.

EW: I think one thing too...Vince was in charge of graduation ceremonies between four or five years or something like that. That’s such a wonderful thing. It’s such a—

VW: We were pretty formal.

EW: It was a formal thing then. It was made a lot of. Vince, primarily, kept it that way. He had rules, sheets of rules, and they were passed out to the seniors that were going to graduate. They wore the caps and gowns. The caps were put on their heads straight. They were told how they were to march in and how they were to do this and all of that. It was a beautiful ceremony. The first time he went up there, about two years after he had quit teaching, we were just appalled. They came in with stuff on their caps. Somebody walked in with a bottle of champagne. Just the whole thing. They just had completely changed in that couple years. They’ve done away with all the formalities. Now they just graduate from their own school. I think it’s sad. It was a wonderful ceremony. It was a wonderful thing for people to finally come and see their children graduate. They made so much of it.

I think that was sad. They all marched in. They all looked the same. The Forestry School came in and they had cut-out trees on the back of their mortar boards. The girls had those mortar boards sitting on the back their heads. Some of them...somebody marched in one year and didn’t even have a mortar board; he had some sort of a cap or something. They just seem to have dropped a lot of those things. I think that’s really sad. It’s bothered us, especially about graduation: why they didn’t keep it that. You still see the big schools in the east. They still have the formalities. A lot of it—

[Unintelligible, both speakers talking at same time]

VW: One thing in regards to graduation...During my early years as chairman of the graduation program, the students...graduation was before final exams. I can name a number of instances when families would come in from the East or California or what have you. The student went through graduation and didn’t successfully complete all of the courses for that quarter. Their parents were there and they didn’t graduate. It’s been changed now. You’re given your degree,
providing you successfully complete all your coursework. There were times when parents were here and kids would go through graduation because of that policy. That’s a real sad situation: coming all the way and then your son or daughter didn’t make it. That’s when they made some changes there.

AP: Yes, excuse me.

VW: I think that’s about all I have to say in regards to that.

AP: I was going to say, for the centennial in 1993, I know there’s going to be a lot of traditions occurring during that year. That’s one of my goals: have things either been lost or changed over the years? I would be interested in finding out some of those formalities with graduation and maybe seeing a rule sheet if you have that.

VW: No.

EW: Vince, you have all of that stuff. You saved a lot of the stuff for graduation.

VW: I know it was a real problem. Also, have you interviewed Emma Lommasson?

AP: Yes.

VW: That was interesting, wasn’t it?

EW: She’s wonderful and such a wonderful person. She worked with Vince on graduation. He was in charge of it—

VW: She eventually took over.

EW: Then she took over. She was his assistant and so good.

VW: She was an Assistant Registrar. She could be more specific on that problem and how we finally resolved it. I think it would be worthwhile talking to her.

EW: She’s already talked to her—

AP: I’ve interviewed her, but as far as—

EW: She could talk to her about graduation.

VW: That’s what I mean.

EW: I decided one year that the stage looked way too bare. They had three big baskets of flowers.
They had those only at the front, and that’s all they had on the stage. They would march in, the president and all of them. They would get up on that stage. It was just terrible. I said that I don’t like that. I’m sure something could be done about that. We’re friends with the Caras family and Jim Caras always did the baskets of flowers for the graduation. I said to Vince, “I’m going to go out and talk to him.” I went out and talked to Jim. We went up to the university and looked at the stage. I said, “I wish we could have some green or something in the back. We need more in the front.” That’s one thing that evolved out of that and I’m going to take credit for that because the stage has been just lovely ever since then. He brought those potted trees and he put them in behind. He had the greens all across the front with the flowers. It turned out to be really nice. Vince did have the plan to ginger it up. They’re still using that same plan. We haven’t been up there now for two or three years. I don’t know what they’re doing.

VW: We were up there for your 50th.

EW: For my 50th. Yes, I forgot—

[End of Tape 1, Side B]
EW: What was I talking about?

AP: Graduating.

EW: My 50th? When you have your 50th graduation anniversary from the university, and 60th, they have full caps and gowns, which is just really wonderful. They really made a big thing out of it. We all went up to the university in vintage cars. They took us all up there. We all marched in ahead of the undergraduates. We all marched in first. All the ones with the gold gowns sat on one side. I think there were ten or twelve in their 60s. A couple of them had canes. One woman had crutches, but they were there with their gowns. They honored us first. They had all of us stand up. They gave us a diploma. We got another diploma. It was a wonderful thing. They still do that. I don’t know—

AP: They did it this year—

EW: Are they going to do it again this year? They did it last year.

AP: Yes, they did it this past year.

EW: It really is a thrill and it’s an incentive for people to come back too. I wrote Bill a letter afterwards and told him how wonderful it was. I was on the committee and they always worry if they’re going to have very many or what they’re going to do. People don’t realize what a great thing it is.

As it turned out with Vince and me, we had a couple from San Antonio, Texas. He’s a retired colonel from the army and he grew up in Noxon. He was down here and went to the university at the same time I did. His name is Clayton Curry. He was so poor, and he worked three or four jobs, that he never met anybody socially when he was in college. He graduated, went right into the war, and then he stayed in. When he retired, he retired in San Antonio because this was his first marriage and I think his wife was from that area. Then his wife passed away and, later, he married again. They came back. It’s just been an absolutely wonderful relationship. They made the trip up here for Vince’s award thing last year. We went to San Antonio to visit them. We talk to them on the phone all the time. It’s just been marvelous. Even though Clayton and I didn’t know one another, the three of us still have this thing of going to school at the University of Montana. He just loved coming back. It meant so much to him. Didn’t it, Vince?

VW: Yes.

EW: It still does. I sent him a big University of Montana t-shirt, and he wears it golfing down there with those guys. He wants to tell them that he’s been to the university. Jeanette, they came back and they took in all the things with us. All of our friends and family were invited to take in all of the—
VW: The president’s house.

EW: —all the activities. Our son and daughter-in-law live in Billings, and they didn’t get here until late. They didn’t want to go the president’s house, so we had Vince’s sister. We had Clayton and Jeanette. We had Marilyn and Keith Peterson from Seattle. You know them. Vince had Keith in school. We knew Marilyn and knew her folks. They’re real good friends, even though we’re way years older than they are. We just have wonderful times with them. Actually, they were a lot instrumental in Vince getting that award because (unintelligible).

AP: Great.

EW: We all went. Jeanette and Clayton just loved it. They loved going to the president’s house and all of that—the reception after the program up there that night and meeting all those people. Jeanette just…she looked gorgeous. She loves to dress up with all of her gold chains. They just come back every chance they get.

VW: Another problem we had with graduation was that…when I first took over as chairman, there were not as many students graduating. We had all the students arranged in chairs. We had all their names. We would call their name specifically and they would come up on stage and receive their diploma and then walk off the stage. If somebody didn’t show up, it really fouled things up. The next thing we did is, as a student came up, we had him or her hand an individual his or her name. He would read the name and then they would distribute the diploma. I recall one situation where a girl thought commencement was at a different time than it was and she wasn’t there. It really fouled up the works. Leo Smith was registrar then and he refused to give her a diploma.

EW: Can you imagine that?

VW: Now, it’s different of course. They just say, I confer on—on like the whole School of Forestry or whatever—such and such a degree providing you successfully complete all the course requirements. At that time, they had each individual receive his or her specific diploma.

EW: What year did you graduate?

AP: I didn’t graduate from here.

EW: Oh, you didn’t graduate from here?

AP: I graduated from U of O, Eugene.

EW: You went to school at Eugene?

AP: I started out here—
EW: That’s what I thought—

AP: —and then I went on the student exchange—

EW: —and finished out there.

AP: Yes, I went on the student exchange for a year and then transferred. I graduated from there in ’81.

EW: Vince, that graduation though, that was a (unintelligible)

VW: It was. We had to have specific people in specific chairs in specific order. If somebody didn’t show up or became ill or something, it created a big problem.

EW: Vince, I think you should tell Annie too that you were on the Faculty Senate.

VW: Yes. I was on the Faculty Senate the first year it was instituted. I began planning and my wife said that’s enough. I refused to run again, but I was on the Faculty Senate for many, many years.

EW: Vince is conservative and it got so it wasn’t very conservative up there in the Faculty Senate. He didn’t approve of some of the changes they were making. Some of the professors...some of their ideas and attitudes, he didn’t like. Better he got off.

VW: Some of these faculty members, to be very frank about it, were extremely intelligent. They really know their field, but, if they get outside their field, sometimes I don’t think their judgment is really good. I sincerely believe that. Es and I have been more community oriented because we both graduated from the university. We know a lot of townspeople. I always felt that it wasn’t real good to just socialize for hours with fellow faculty members, when you could socialize with people you went to school with. Very frankly, we weren’t very active as far as faculty members were concerned in the social aspects.

EW: Vince was president of the Lions Club and we belonged to all that sort of stuff. Most of the university people—in later years, maybe they branched out more, but in those years, they stuck pretty much to their little groups. We didn’t and the fact that we both went to school here, too. After the war, all these people came back and a lot of them stayed. A lot of our friends are friends that we went to college with. Our life was different in that respect. I belonged to the faculty ladies’ club for a while. I did put on a faculty (unintelligible) and that was about the extent of what I did. There are a lot of really nice people. I’m aware of them too. Some people that we’ve known and loved all of these years.

Another reason why our situation is different: he was the youngest one on that faculty. Those people were all older. There were people like the Crafts and Leapharts. All those people were still
up there in those years. We’d gone to school (unintelligible). We’d both gone to school with those people. Then Vince was on the faculty. We did have some good times with that group. They had a little faculty groups and dances. In later years, it completely changed. We got a group of people in from all over the United States. Of course, the ideas of the whole world had changed by that time and it was different at the university. Our lives were more—

VW: We went formal dancing.

EW: We belonged to this dance club for 42 years. Just things like that. We had a wonderful life.

VW: We are interested in sports. We’re going over with the basketball team to Hawaii. November 26. I’m sure we’ll enjoy that. I was lucky. I graduated in ’43 and Nick Juneau was hired as an instructor that fall.

EW: (unintelligible) at New York University. That was tough because that was during the war. We didn’t have very much money. He did get a scholarship from the National Foundation for (unintelligible). I worked. I worked for (unintelligible). At first, we lived in Greenwich Village. It was right across the street from part of the classes he was taking at New York University. That was fun. That summer they moved the school, his school, up to the Bear Mountains, close to West Point. We came back and we didn’t have an apartment. Then we lived out on Jackson Heights and we had to ride the subway. We’d come in together, but then he’d go one way and I worked for (unintelligible), which is way down town. I’d have to come home at night alone on the subway.

VW: (unintelligible) at New York Medical School. Es, for quite a while, didn’t know whether she was going uptown or downtown, so there was a problem there. We finally got squared away.

EW: I had a pretty good job and I only got that job at that big company because I had a college education. I took typing in high school. What I knew about business was practically nothing, but I really got a good job. I had a real good job. With his scholarship and with my folks helping us, somehow we managed to get through that year. It was tough, but it was a great experience. He had a chance to stay back there, but, the minute school was out, we got in that little car and came home as fast as we could. (unintelligible)

VW: First we started to drive around New York City in our car. Then we tried getting on a bridge and we couldn’t get on it. We’d be going around and around. Finally, the cop would have to stop the traffic. He said, “You’re from Montana. Go ahead.”

EW: We had some funny experiences. That was a funny experience. The funniest we ever had though—we came back for just a short while and we quit driving the car. We finally decided that that was out. We were going to get on a subway. It was the underground.

VW: We’d just got back.
EW: We’d just got back there. He got on, stepped on, and said, “Oh, this isn’t the right train.” I stepped off and the doors closed and he went on it. There I was. I thought what am I going to do? I knew how to get out to Jackson Heights because we had some relatives...They weren’t really our relatives, but they were relatives of my uncle. They were wonderful to us. I waited until the next train came by. I got on and went out to Jackson Heights. I was smart enough to know that. He went off, went up the next stop, got off, went clear over the top, come down on the other side, and got the train going back. When he got back there, I was gone.

We’ve had kind of a fun life. We really have. Those were fun years out at the university because we both really enjoyed it. He loved his teaching; we loved all the sports; it’s been a wonderful experience. It’s been great. I think a prime example are Ann and Bob Pantzer coming back from California after 16 years. They’re so thrilled to be back. They just can’t believe it.

VW: (unintelligible)

EW: They were homesick. He was from Livingston; she was from Butte. They are just thrilled to be back. They grew up with us in those years when it was all so great. It was tough for Bob as president here because of the ’60s. All that.

VW: —all the politics when Bob was president. They can have it.

EW: I said thank goodness Vince never got to be president.

AP: There were several presidents, actually, that you had to teach under over the years.

VW: McCain—

EW: You started under [James Allen] McCain. Then there was [Harry Kenneth] Newburn...No, there was the one that went to New York University.

VW: That’s Newburn. He was going back to New York University as Chancellor. He’s the one that encouraged me to go to New York University and get my physical therapy degree. There was [Robert] Johns. There was [Carl] McFarland, [Richard Charles]Bowers—

EW: Bob Pantzer.

VW: Bob Pantzer.

EW: The last ones—

AP: [Neil S.] Bucklew was after—

VW: Bucklew was after Bowers.
EW: Bowers and Bucklew. Of course, Bowers was the last one when Vince taught. We counted it up one time. It was six or eight.

VW: I taught through that many presidents. Doug Fessenden was the head football coach at that time and George Dahlberg was the head basketball coach when I first started teaching at the university.

EW: Their offices were in the old men’s gymnasium. All the PE was over there.

AP: Schreiber?

EW: Yes.

VW: The women’s gymnasium was a wooden building on campus. The music school had a wooden building, real close to the men’s physical education...the old men’s gym as it turned out. The bookstore was a wooden building in between the two. That was back a few years.

EW: All of that wasn’t there through the years. That had changed even when I came out of college.

VW: The women’s gym was still on campus.

EW: That was, but it was the only one left. The rest of them—

VW: No, the School of Music—the band used to rehearse. I was lecturing upstairs in the men’s gym, and it was pretty tough competing with the band. The band building was still there, honey. The ROTC building was an old building next to the men’s gymnasium.

EW: I know the ROTC building was there. The president’s going to be changing all those buildings, the high rise dorms and all that. We’ve seen all that during Vince’s tenure.

VW: The old heating plant though has been there—still is there. Tall smoke stacks. They’ve expanded some inside because they had the room in the building. Just think, over all those years, the heating plant is still supplying most of the heat to the university and campus.

EW: One of the biggest changes is the field, the football field. That’s just been a wonderful thrill to have that. I’m glad it happened while we were still alive to see it. All those years we kept praying we’d get a new football field. We finally got it. It’s just been wonderful.

VW: Dornblaser Field used to be right next to the men’s gymnasium. In fact, a certain president burned it down.

AP: I remember hearing about that.
EW: That was a heartbreaking moment to move that field. We really took that to heart when they moved that football field onto—

VW: —onto South Higgins.

EW: None of us in the town or the school or anything...We were just never happy with this situation. It was beginning to look like we were not going to get anything better in our lifetime. When we finally got that field, it was just wonderful.

VW: What about the pool house?

EW: (unintelligible)

VW: (unintelligible) in the other direction and so on.

EW: There was a beautiful pool in the old men’s gym which they closed up, which is a sad thing that I fell shouldn’t ever have happened. That was a beautiful pool, I think, partly because we had access to it. Our son practically grew up in that pool out there. Vince’s office was up there and we had access to it. It was a beautiful pool. That’s the only one that was on campus then.

VW: I taught ice skating. They had an ice skating rink developed next to where the present pool is and where the ceramics area is now. They had a nice little ice rink. I was from North Dakota and I taught ice skating. I enjoyed that very much. The ice skating rink became an albatross. They had to do away with it. I do want to say, I guess in summation of the information I reviewed in regards to the physical therapy program, I think you’re probably the only one that has that. That should be of interest as far as the archives are concerned. Nobody else to my knowledge has the dates and the changes.

AP: Is this your only written copy?

VW: Yes. I can get it photocopied, if you’d like to have it.

AP: That would be great if I could have the written copy as well.

VW: OK. I can get that to you. What office do I send it to?

AP: Send it to me at Brantly Hall, and it will get there.

EW: You’re up there with the—

AP: News and Publication.
EW: Through the same office, through that same building with the old (unintelligible)

VW: Oh no. Brantly Hall is right next to that hall. Corbin Hall.

AP: Brantly is the—

EW: I thought Brantly was east of the North Hall.

VW: The front of Brantly Hall faces east.

EW: Isn’t it out there where Bill Justin is. That’s the same building, That’s up there where the Alumni is.

AP: I thought it was the same—

EW: That’s Brantly Hall.

AP: —as North Hall.

EW: It’s North Hall? Because Bill’s office was my room when I went to college.

VW: I thought you were...What’s the adjacent hall?

AP: I think they call that Corbin now

EW: You’re office is up there where they are.

AP: Actually, I’m on the third floor. One floor up.

VW: I’ll be glad to send it up there.

AP: I’d appreciate that.

EW: Or we can bring it up. I like to go up there and visit the people.

AP: Yes, it’s a fun group.

VW: What’s the name of that girl, Marianne—

AP: Marianne Campbell.

EW: (unintelligible) I really got close to all of them. I wonder if they ever got Vince’s picture up.
AP: You can check because I know they have all the photos of Distinguished Alumnus. I’m pretty sure it’s up to date.

EW: Annie, I think you’re just doing a marvelous job with this. I can see why they hired you for this.

AP: Thank you.

VW: You enjoy the job?

AP: Very much so.

VW: (unintelligible)

AP: (laughs) I have to turn off the tape. Is there anything else about the university that you want on tape?

VW: I think that’s it.

EW: I think Vince summed it up. Go ahead, Vince, say again what a wonderful time we had being at the university. Our life was just great. I wouldn’t change a thing.

AP: Good.

EW: We could have used more money in the beginning.

AP: Couldn’t we all.

VW: I met my wife there. I enjoyed what I did. I wouldn’t change anything.

EW: Our son said he was never going to be a teacher, a professor, because they never make very much money. He applied and got in two or three law schools. He was trying to decide which one to go to. It came right down to going. He decided that wasn’t what he wanted to do at all. He got his master’s degree, ended up with his Ph.D. in International Relations, and teaches just like his dad.

AP: That’s great. We need good teachers.

EW: We laugh about it. His wife is a physical therapist. She went to school through Vince. That’s pretty cool. It’s been nice to have you here.

AP: Thank you.

[End of Interview]