

Maureen and Mike

# Mansfield Library

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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Mansfield Library, University of Montana

Missoula MT 59812-9936

Email: [library.archives@umontana.edu](mailto:library.archives@umontana.edu)

Telephone: (406) 243-2053

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**Interviewee: Arthur Deschamps**

**Interviewer: Annie Pontrelli**

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Annie Pontrelli: This is Annie Pontrelli interviewing Arthur Deschamps on August 5, 1991. Arthur, why don't we start out just by your stating the years you attended the university and we'll just go on from there.

Arthur Deschamps: Well, [after] I graduated from Loyola [high school], my first (freshman) year I received a scholarship to Loyola Marymount in L.A. At that time, it was Loyola Marymount. It wasn't co-education, and [it was] in Delray, and there were only about 200 students—all boys. It had a marvelous faculty, all Jesuits and scholars, very, very fine. I had a beautiful freshman year, for which I'm grateful, very grateful. So that's that. Then, I came back with my brother Ed, who went on to Montana State University [Bozeman], and I came here to the University of Montana, and that was in 1930.

Times were hard, believe me, there wasn't any money, and I've often wondered looking back, how in the world we ever managed to get by on 400 or 500 dollars a year, which included books, tuition, and what entertainment you can afford...dates and all. Four bits just about catch you (unintelligible) on the weekend; we were lucky that we could do that and have dates. Of course, the University of Montana, in my mind, I think is comparable to what Kipling said about the University of San Francisco—or rather, the city of San Francisco, I'm sorry—that among other things, it was remarkable to think about the beauty of its women. I must tell you, that at the University of Montana, and I think that's still the case, there are very fine looking ladies there at the U of M. So, we had fun.

What happened those first years—'31 and 1930—I would go in my brother's willow post. We would go winter quarter—we would have to stay out the fall quarter to help on the ranch—and then we'd leave at the end of winter quarter and go back out and help again. That took a time to get to be, at long last, a graduate from the University. Finally, in 1936 I graduated from the School of Business. George Finlay Simmons was our president and he gave me my diploma—among others. I must tell you, of all the days, occurrences, and the memories as I go back across the years to think about the University, that was probably the saddest day of my life, because I knew that it was over. I knew that the fun was over, I knew that it was a old cold world out there and I would have to go out there in it because there wasn't enough out on the ranches to keep us there. That's true today as well for so many.

I left the University with a degree in business and went to work for the American Crystal Sugar Company, and was with those people for seven years. An interesting experience. I was tied into the job there because sugar was strategic during World War Two, so I never got into the armed forces. They froze us on the job. We received orders from our general offices in Denver that all

those employees who were occupied within the production department of the sugar beet company were to stay there in the production department because that was very important to the national effort. So, that's the way it was.

Then, I went back on the ranch after that. I decided to go back to the ranch and take on part of the property there that was offered to me. That was a good decision, because we reared our family there, and that was good. Among other things, life favored us, and we were lucky enough to pay some mortgages, and finally at long last, to leave the ranch after a rather viable sale, that has served us very well with investments since that time. Again, we're very grateful for all of the things that life has blown our way. We're grateful indeed.

To get back to the University, I must say that one thinks (I know I do certainly) about those people who were in the classroom and who taught us, or tried to instill something into our heads, because we were (I know I was) preoccupied with other things; which wasn't all that bad because if I had to do it over again, I don't think I would alter or deviate very much. There was too much to do out there, there were too many things that had to do with fun and acquaintances, and all of those things that go with a university experience.

Some of the teachers (that I was grateful to be under their wing) were outstanding. During the '30s, to my mind there was a ferment out there, particularly in the Liberal Arts Department, in the Literature, in the English Department; there were marvelous people out there, and in the School of Business and Economics. In that department there was a fellow by the name of Harry Turney-High who was a Phi Beta Kappa and a graduate of the University of Louisiana...simply delightful, brilliant, and what a teacher! He would always excite us in the classroom with anecdotes and experiences (he'd been widely traveled.) I never forgot that, he was so good.

In the English Department, there were such outstanding people [like] Dr. H. G. Merriam, and then of course, Rufus Coleman, and Brassil Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald would come into the classes, (I took a Shakespeare course from Brassil), and there were times when he would come to the classrooms and he would be fairly electrical, scintillating with greatness. He would get into the plays and he would describe these plays and the characters of MacBeth, for example and Hamlet and King Lear, and so on. We'd sit there with rapt attention and listen to this fellow give off beautiful (lectures). How lucky can one be to be exposed to that kind of dynamics? It was so wonderful. I've never forgotten that either. It's interesting I think, to think, to contemplate, or to go back across the years retrospectively and think 'what was it about those people?' to which you would cling in a sort of desperation to the memories.

Coleman was the fellow that got us into Bret Hart. Bret Hart wrote some marvelous things about northern California, stories about the 1849 mining days of northern California. Those were "down home" beautiful stories, and when you have a highly trained professional who has that mystique [enabling] them to explain in his lectures about these books, and the experiences of the people in the mines in early California. Such a wonderful experience, again.

Dr. Clapp was there when I first went to the University that first year in 1930. He was our president. There were seven kids [in the Clapp family]. One of [their] daughters, Lucy, was a close friend of my sister and they spent a great deal of time together out at the ranch. We got to know all of the Clapp family very well, aside from Mrs. Clapp, who was a wonderful, wonderful woman, almost saintly. [She] talked so much of the students and so loved the University that one could never forget her. Dr. Clapp was a fellow that was a geologist by discipline and professional training. To my mind, I think that Dr. Clapp probably knew more about the geology of western Montana and the northwest in general than anybody who has been here before or since. As a matter of fact, if you go into Main Hall, you'll see this huge geological map on [the] wall there; that's Dr. Clapp's.

There was a fellow by the name of Sawyer who taught a foreign language—German. Dr. Sawyer was an elegant fellow. He had a twisted mustache and was always dressed in an impeccable manner, everything was just really nifty. [He was] an outstanding fellow in his field. He was national president of the Sigma Chi fraternity for many years. He was idolized, not only by his fraternity brothers on campus, but by everybody (in general) who was on campus.

Dr. Schreiber [who] finally got the name changed on the old men's gym was a delightful fellow. [He was] head of the Athletic Department, Physical Ed. Everybody knew Dr. Schreiber and he always knew almost everybody by their first name. The campus and the university was much smaller so there was much more rapport, much more closeness, enabling us to get this very special kind of comradery. Maybe it's not so likely to happen [today]; we're not so big by national standards or population-wise but we do have far more students than we had in those days. The campus was more accessible, you could drive all the way around the campus, the Oval wasn't closed off, but with the passage of time and coming of more students it became necessary to do this. President MacFarland closed the campus. Bob Pantzer, who I know very well and am very fond of, was also instrumental in doing things here on campus between the University Center and the Mansfield Library.

At any rate, it was quite a time for us all. Dr. Merriam got into a program that had to do with northwest writers. It was called *Frontier and Midland*. It's still available at the University of Montana Library, as well as the county library. It was a series of stories, an anthology by various authors who wrote stories about the northwest and about the west, not unlike but not as comprehensive as *The Last Best Place* that we have now. To my way of thinking [that book] is really outstanding; it's a remarkable piece of work. *The Frontier and Midland* was the original of that sort of thing. Now, some of those writers are no longer with us and I can think of Grace Stone Coates [who] wrote poetry and stories. Those were very good. I can't think of any more names of the authors, but that got a great deal of circulation throughout the northwest. It really set us up; we got a great deal of recognition for a small university and I think that has always been the case of the U of M. We really get a great deal of exposure for things that we do, at least on a regional basis. I think we do and I'm grateful for that.

Anyway, time marches on and there certainly have been some changes. Some of them not for

the better. I think that it's not too far afield to say that nationally higher education is in trouble. Let's face it. What the outcome will be and how long [it will be until] the problems that beset the university system throughout this country are finally resolved, we'll just have to wait and see. We're in some kind of a watershed or period of transition that may bode for the better. I think that we should feel that way, rather than to feel that things are going to be terrible and worse and all of that business. We have to look ahead, and by doing that, there's enough dedication, enough intelligence, and enough graduates from the various universities that will "rise to the occasion" and take care of what needs to be taken care of. I don't know what else to say to you. We still have our problems with the legislature and that will be ongoing. But, on the whole, if one goes through the background of the legislature's affiliation or interest in University funding and high school funding, generally, (when it comes to funding of education in our state, Montana), the people of the state have done a reasonably good job of funding education. I think we have, but you can always do better. You always want more and all of that. Nonetheless, if you look at the whole picture, it hasn't been all that bad.

I started to tell you a little while ago about the things that we did on campus...all of those activities—co-ed formals and fireside dances at the fraternities, the Forester's Ball (they still have that), the Barrister's Ball. I don't know whether that is still in existence or the Sadie Hawkins formal.

Every year along about the middle of May all of the high schools would send the University their best track athletes. That was quite a deal, because the University was really full. Some of these high schools, they'd come from up on the high line, and they'd come from the eastern part of the state where the climate wasn't nearly as benign as our dear Missoula climate, so we were in full bloom compared to some of the other parts of the state where the altitude was higher, like Beaverhead country, possibly. It was quite an eyeful. Then we'd put on some parties and programs that the attendants could partake in. The faculty would take off and do so much. The fraternities and sororities would doll up their houses and put up signs, inducements by way of displays, attempting to encourage those people to come back to the University when they graduated, to be part of our student body. It worked very well.

Well, I must tell you, we lost that. There was a fellow by the name of Dr. Rowe who was in the Department of Geology, in charge of that for many years. At long last we lost it because the pressures became so intense to write this up and not give it to the University in its entirety because of Montana State. What happened was that some of these people had aspired for some time to acquire university status rather than Montana State College, they wanted to be called Montana State University and that happened. We finally had to take on or put up with—well that sounds too rash—Eastern, [Eastern Montana College-Billings]. As those people became more prominent, the pressures increased and they wanted a part of the higher education picture...Billings and Bozeman. So, we lost the Interscholastic.

We've lost other things too. Because of the changing temper of the times, it became necessary to pro-rate other parts of our departments to Eastern and to Dillon, which is now part of the

University of Montana system, and Montana State University. We always referred to Bozeman in those days—of course, I'm a traitor to my own class—as the "Cow College". That didn't sit too well with a lot of people, but it was all right. I can understand the irritation.

What we lost with all of this was the "flagship" status at the University of Montana. As I look back retrospectively across the years and see how things have been diluted. We have our very special status—liberal arts—but we are no longer a "flagship." That, for us old guys, that's a bitter pill. That hurts. We've always liked to think that we were the head of the state university system, that we were the ones that led the parade, that had the kind of status and the faculty and all of those things that make for a fine university, even though a small one.

I don't know what else to say to you, Annie. There may be questions there that you may want to ask, and I will do what I can to answer them for you.

AP: Now, were you from here originally, Arthur?

AD: Well, yes, going back about five generations.

AP: Okay, I guess the reason that I asked that question was to make sure that you were a Missoulian, because I know that you went away for your freshman year, but you came back.

AD: Yes, we were born and raised here. We go back about five generations.

AP: Okay, that answers my question of what led you to the University of Montana, you were here. Some of these you've already answered, but other thoughts might come to mind as I ask these: what were some of your observations about the University when you first attended? Certainly you have commented on some of those things, but maybe you can expand on some of the buildings, and the way it was laid out, and whether you stayed on campus, or whether you were in Missoula.

AD: I stayed at the SAE [Sigma Alpha Epsilon] house for a while, I'm a member of that fraternity. I was initiated in 1931. Most of the time I stayed with friends. We had cars to go home. As far as buildings are concerned, of course, when we were there the old library, I think they have offices there now or something.

AP: Let's see, the old library is now the Social Sciences building.

AD: Well, that was our library. The Law School was in that building right on campus there—on the oval.

AP: That's now the Psychology Department.

AD: That's the Psychology Department. Main Hall, of course, and Craig Hall, and North and

South Hall—which is now Brantly Hall, North Hall. South Hall has had additions onto it and there have been additions as well to Corbin Hall. Corbin was built in 1927. Brantly and South Hall were built in 1923. Corbin was built a few years after them, but not many, four or five I'm guessing. Where the old University Center was...what did we have there now?

AP: The old University Center is now the Fine Arts building, the brick building where the University Theater is?

AD: Yes, that's right...the University Theater.

AP: Right.

AD: Yes. That was the University Center. There was a ballroom on top. I don't know what's happened to that ballroom; I haven't been up there in a few years.

AP: You know, I haven't either. Somebody else mentioned that too, and I don't recall a ballroom there.

AD: That was a huge ballroom. Some of those big name bands would come through...Perione's. On campus a lot of that went on...dances. I don't know, I haven't been up there. Other than that, before we had the Fine Arts building, we had what was known as "The Shack." That was back up against Mount Sentinel, there was just an old brown thing and that was where the student store was. It was pretty minimal. It was just a little, old, square, clapboard, wood building. That's where we'd go to have our Coca-Cola or whatever. In 1935 or '36 we got this new building. That was the year I received my diploma.

ROTC had their own building. That was a brown-type building too, just a plain lump. But, those buildings are all gone now, and they have been off the campus for so many years, the memory of them even become hazy. I just have the faintest memories of those buildings because they were so small and insignificant that they really didn't make much of an impression on anybody. We deserved better than that; we finally got better than that too, fortunately. The University Center now is a far cry from those old days.

AP: What changes have you observed over the years! You've certainly commented on the changes of the physical layout of the campus, but have you noticed any changes in students, social attitudes, and just some of your insights that perhaps you'd like to share?

AD: Social attitudes? I think when one gets into that area...

[End of Side A]

[Side B]

AD: It's not fair, really, to talk about how it was then as compared to what they're doing now on campus. You didn't dare walk on any grass, no way, because we had the Bear Paws. You don't see Bear Paws these days. I don't know when they faded out of the picture, but they were quite an elite organization. They carried around paddles and if you were caught off the sidewalk you ran the risk of being told to assume the position. You could get one or two rather unpleasant swats, depending on the temper of the fellow that was delivering the swats. I got more than two.

AP: You did? [laughter]

AD: Yes. We had to wear green caps as freshman. That didn't last too long. I wore a green cap for a while. That was so comical and ludicrous that I think that ASUM got to be a little bit ashamed of that and we didn't have to wear green caps anymore.

As far as the dress code. It was far better then. You didn't slop around in jeans. We wore sweaters and coats, and we also wore corduroy pants and trousers. I don't think you'd have been caught on campus with a pair of overalls (blue jeans). There were elevations there that had to do with social norms that have left us. Why? Well there have been things that have happened. We've had incidences world-wide that have discouraged people from paying too much attention (not only on campus, but throughout the town) to things like that, because there were far better things to concentrate on.

I must tell you something about an occasion, an incident that happened during the Kent State affair. I don't know, Annie, if you are familiar with that business. At that time I was president of Friends of the Library. I had to be on campus because that day we were getting ready for our annual spring banquet during Library Week. The Kent State tragedy had just occurred, so when I got to campus, I wasn't aware of the tension at first. When I finally got to the library there was an awesome stillness about this whole community. So I said to Earl Thompson who was our librarian...No, it was Casey Campbell who was librarian. I said, "Casey, what's going on?"

He said, "You know about the incident at Kent State?"

I said, "Yes."

He said, "Well, I don't know, Art, apparently you're not aware of the magnitude and significance of this terrible tragedy. This thing has rubbed off on everyone, and things aren't good here at all, not good."

"Hey man, maybe this is kind of a bad thing we're going to do here. We're confronting them."

The students were almost in total and a percentage of the faculty were so incensed and so

aroused because of that thing at Kent State (that shooting) that they wanted to close her down—shut this place down lock, stock, and barrel. Shut her up until we resolved this before something else happened. We were going to show these people, the National Guard, a lesson or two! That was the thinking, that was the mentality, and I want to emphasize that.

There were a number of people downtown in the business community who wanted to call in the National Guard because this thing was going to erupt—vandalism, fights, and that sort of thing. Bob Pantzer was president of the university, and let me tell you, that was his finest hour. He stood up to this thing, this event, this tension, this anger and he told the downtown bunch, "There will be no National Guard on this campus! No way, as long as I'm in Main Hall." He came out on the steps of Main Hall and he told the faculty and he told those students, "I'm your president, there will be no National Guard here." (That's what they were waiting for was the National Guard. That would have blown it wide open. Pantzer stood his ground and to his ever-lasting credit that was indeed his finest hour, and I have never forgotten that.

AP: I interviewed him. He's a great guy.

AD: I don't know whether he told you about Kent State. Probably very little. He's a shy and self-effacing fellow. But I can tell you, Annie, that was a rough day, really. It brought to mind, I think, just how closely campuses are really integrated. When that sort of a thing happens, how quickly there is a coming together. I don't know on this if there are other questions that you want to ask?

AP: You talked about who some of your favorite teachers were, what about some of your favorite classes?

AD: Oh the English classes were delightful, and the economic classes, the School of Business. There was a fellow by the name of Mattheus Kast that taught economics in the School of Business, Harry Turney-High taught us economics, Dean [Robert C.] Line taught in the School of Business, and there was a fellow by the name of professor [Emmett R.] Sanford who taught accounting. Professor Sanford was quite a fellow; he was a gentleman: benign and kindly old fellow. He was what you would envision as being a typical old-time college professor who was quiet and easy and took kind of benign patience that it required to handle kids in an accounting class. You know, that's a frightfully dull business, this accounting thing.

At the University of Montana there was too much to do: fun things, happy things, good things. I don't believe I ever put in over 60 percent of my potential in my classes. I don't think so, maybe 65.

[Florence] couldn't get this business of accounting and so finally it came time for the final exam, and she took her papers up to the good professor [Professor Sanford] and said, "Mr. Sanford, I can't get this stuff. Why don't you just give me an 'F' and let me get out of here." (laughs) She says, "You know, I cheated."

He said, "Well, let me tell you something. They all do."

That kind of helped. So, she turned in her papers. She couldn't handle this business of accounting and he did give her a 'D'. That was Professor Sanford.

We had a fellow by the name of Hampton Snell who taught money and banking. A rather dour fellow, but really was a fine professor. He was a thorough scholar and wasn't all that tough either. Some of his exams and quizzes...you had to be on guard because he'd spring these quizzes, and he'd always have one or two real "loopers" in there, you know, that would throw you. If you didn't do a reasonable amount of homework, well, he "looped" me a time or two. I remember I got better than a 'C' out of that class. He was a good teacher nonetheless.

Some of my favorite classes were in the English department with those gentlemen that I mentioned. Those were delightful. Some of our history classes were good. There was a Mr. [Edward E.] Bennett who had a physical affliction, he had difficulty walking. He was rather dry but taught English history. Then there was Professor Paul Phillips who taught Northwestern [history], a thorough scholar. Paul Phillips was a fine, fine scholar who wrote a two-volume work of the fur trade out there. That's probably the finest thing that was put together for the fur trade. It goes clear back to the days of Renaissance in Europe and then out on through the Northwest companies: the Hudson's Bay, the American Fur Company, and John Jacob Astor. The whole thing is there, laborious reading, but a scholarly work. We had classes from Dr. Phillips. His wife, Mrs. Phillips was a dear lady that loved birds. She and the doctor would come out to the home ranch. There was a warm water slough that [ran] through the property. The doctor and Mrs. Phillips would sit there and try to count the birds, like blackbirds and then they would make a notation. So, we would see him there from time to time with Mrs. Phillips. They left some wonderful books—the Phillips-Curtis Collection in the library—that had to do with the Indian tribes of the United States. I think there were probably about eight or ten volumes with wonderful pictures. They are under lock and key.

We have a lot of things in the library that people are not aware of that people have left us. I don't think it's too farfetched to say that librarians generally don't like private collections. They don't like Special Collections because they're really a pain to take care of—they take room. But they are there, and there is something there for people who are interested in the Indian tribes of North America. My God, it's all there, all written up with beautiful photographs. I don't know who wrote, but it's the Curtis Collection. That's just among other things that we have in our Archives there at the Mansfield Library. Incidentally, I have made a tape for Dale Johnson for my time when I was president of Friends of the Library a number of years ago. He has a copy of it there, and if you would care to go over that, well certainly you are welcome to do that. Maybe you can get some information about the Friends of the Library. To give you more about the Friends of the Library would certainly be redundant today with what you are after. It would just be a re-hash of what's already been done. If there's anything more, well, that will be fine.

AP: Again, you may have answered this somewhat, but who were some of the people that you remember best or made the most impact on your life, for whatever reason?

AD: University people? Well, those people that I mentioned before, well, I've never forgotten those folks. What happens when you have had the rare privilege of being with people like that in classrooms—in my mind it certainly did rub off—is that you realize that learning is an ongoing thing. Just because you were at the U of M for a number of years, that was just the beginning. The memories and the influence that those people had on us left their mark to go on and do more about the subjects and other things in general. They set you up and gave you kind of a start and an awareness that basically you just don't stop. They gave you such a send-off with their marvelous lectures that you are induced to keep on learning and reading, and that has been my good fortune.

AP: You can't think of any more people?

AD: No, I can't think of any more people except the students themselves. We were there during the throes of the Great Depression and those classmates, school mates, fraternity brothers...My, I can't begin to tell you, Annie, how rough it was. There just wasn't any money. It was so difficult to get through things that happened in the way of being so impoverished. Luckily, we didn't realize just how poor we were and we didn't realize how tough it was. I didn't then, but I do now. So many of those people, some of them lost their lives in World War Two. We lost wonderful people from our fraternity, as others, not only ours. There was one boy by the name of Benton from Butte that was lost in the "Death March" in Bataan.

Others had become very rich and wealthy. Attorneys, doctors, business people who were with me at the University of Montana those years who are today wealthy people. Some in Great Falls, some in Butte, some on the coast—Seattle—that are really not hurting at all. So, looking back to those days, it may well be that the appreciation and yearning for what it takes to live well became so ingrained in the very marrow of our bones so that it kept us on the tried and proven way of success. I'm not talking about in the vein of a Horatio Alger where the fellow marries the boss's daughter or anything like that. So many of those people are doing very well. As a matter of fact, as I was going through, I can't think of any that really did badly. I certainly, without half trying...Of course, I had other things going for me that those other fellows didn't have, because we had property. For me to say, "Well you did pretty hot yourself..." I had help and lots of it. Anybody who would say otherwise in our family had better tell it to somebody else, because I know better. We had a running start, but some of us had sense enough to hang on to it and develop it.

Another thing that we had—again there was a dress code—that isn't possible to do [today] because of the food service, but the fraternities, sororities, and [residence] halls had dinners at night. You had to put on a coat, you had to put on a tie, and this was done with service and with table manners. That is all gone as far as I know. It was very strict then. There were some of these kids that came from places like Scobey, Antelope, Heart Butte, and Lodge Grass

[Montana], well, you know they were pretty rough. Good fellows, great people, interesting, dynamic, full of zip and power, but they were pretty rough. That training and exposure that they got in the halls and the fraternities was good for us [and them], because they learned a few things that had to do with civilization and manners.

AP: You already talked about some of these traditions. What kind of activities were you involved in?

AD: The activities that I was involved in. Well, in those days I was involved in things that had to do with the pledge class. It had to do with the social affairs of the University, I mentioned that. Other than that, I was in no activities.

AP: What were your greatest accomplishments during your years here?

AD: My greatest accomplishments were getting an education, which I appreciate very much, and the association and exposure to not only the professors, but the students and my fellow school mates. Cherished, wonderful memories that's what [I accomplished].

I never went out for any activities, there were too many other things that preoccupied me. This idea of being tied down like some of our kids were, they thought they had to do things. Well, maybe they were right in their way of thinking, but I didn't do anything that had to do with the University activities like getting involved with the library, or various student things like the Newman Club and things like that. I didn't need that stuff. I wanted to just be as free as a bird and be able to take things on. That wasn't my bag. Some people I think felt badly if they didn't get some sort of recognition for something. Well, I guess that's all right if you are going into some area where you could be of service to the University and various departments. Maybe you could help here or there, make an attempt to get into various literary things. But, a plague on all of that!

I'll tell you a story about a certain Dean of Women that we had in those days by the name of Harriet Rankin Sedman. You ever hear of the Rankin family? [They] are an old Missoula bunch as you well know. There were sisters there, Edna and Harriet and their brother Willie who were quite close to some of my aunts. We were going to have a Fireside [dance]. In order to do that, you had to get permission from the Dean of Women because you were calling in the ladies from the various sororities. So I went up to Dean Sedman's office and asked for an appointment. I went down there and cooled my heels there for a better part of an hour. Finally her sister—her secretary—coaxed me in to the chambers. Well, the first thing that Dean Sedman asked me was my name. I told her my name was Eustacia. Did she look me over. Boy, I'm telling you, she had piercing eyes and she looked a hole right through me. I could just see those wheels turning around, I was sure that was what was going around in her head. She really looked me over, not because of the family background I guess. I sat there very uncomfortable for a few seconds; I could feel the perspiration coming up the back of my neck. I wondered if she was going to throw me the hell out of there. Anyway, I told her what my business was. Of course you got the

usual spiel. There would be no drinking or coercing the girls, the ladies had to be back at a certain time, and do have a good time, but remember the regulations. Then she told me good afternoon and that was the end of that.

We had a fellow named Burley Miller. You've probably heard a lot about Burley Miller by this time, so anything I could tell you would probably be greatly redundant, so I don't think I could say anything about him except he saved my hide a few times.

AP: Do you remember specific incidents?

AD: Well, we used to drink. About the time that I was a senior the Volstead Act had been kicked out. There was a time when some of the parties would be on campus. Some of those all-university balls would get pretty wild. Burley Miller was not above taking a drink himself, but he had a great deal of concern for the students, his charges, as the Dean. He was really a very fine man; he was a wonderful man. You know, that's a heck of a job. Here you are in your teens and twenties, all that life and vivaciousness. When I look back, well that's a heck of a job to handle a bunch of students, especially when there was whiskey and beer. It got to the point where it got pretty wild. We did our share, I know I did, but we had a whale of a lot of fun too. We had house parties that got...

[End of Tape 1, Side B]

[Tape 2, Side A]

AD: ...anyway the house parties were fun, but some of them got pretty wild, but they were a lot of fun. Some of those people, so many of them are not with us anymore; they have passed on. I'll tell you a story of probably the first of all house parties that happened that had to do with the University of Montana. In telling you this, I'd like to say that it was before my time. I think it was Sandburg or some old guy who said, "I never had supper with Abe Lincoln or a bowl of soup with Jim Hill, but I've been around for a spell." That kind of fits it for me too. I've been around for a spell indeed, in Missoula, Montana.

At any rate, along about 1901 or '02, there was a fellow by the name of Charles Allard Jr. who had Indian blood. His family was quite wealthy on the Flathead Reservation before the Reservation DeSoto Settlement of 1910. The Allards and the Pablos had a herd of buffalo up there [that] they finally sold to the Canadian government, making them quite wealthy. Charles Jr. was sent to Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I think there was an Indian school in Pennsylvania. He went there for a year and then came to the university. He was a tremendously popular fellow; he was really a social lion, good looking and handsome. It came upon the idea that it would be a splendid thing for him to give a house party up on Wild Horse Island. That was around the turn of the century, and in those days Wild Horse Island was indeed wild. It was a splendid place to have a house party to get away from it all. So, Mrs. Murphy—Aunt Lena, my grandmother's sister—was called upon to be the chaperon at this party. All, or many of the good-looking ladies on campus were invited to this house party with their dates. They were paired up somehow. Allard took care of that. So, he hired the Squaw Special, a band from Missoula in the valley. All the invitees climbed aboard the train, took it to Ravalli, and then they met the stage there—a coach and horses—that took them on to Polson. There was a steam boat there, There was one called the Klondike, whether that was the Klondike, I don't know. They were all asked to climb aboard the steamer and wend their way to Wild Horse Island.

Well, there was food and there was drinking, and there were young, happy people. I don't know what all happened, heaven knows, but it was quite the affair. It got a great deal of circulation down in the city after they got back. Poor Aunt Lena had a difficult time keeping the wraps on it, because some people thought that it was the sort of thing that should be shunned, because young folks could get out of hand out there in the wilds of Wild Horse Island. I suppose there was some reason for thinking this if you were over the hill yourself in age. I don't know. It's quite a story, I thought maybe you should know about that. Back when we had our little parties, as compared to that fabulous party of Allard's, why forget it man, this was the party of all parties indeed. It must have been something. There were other things that were supposed to have occurred there, but they are better left unsaid.

Charlie [Allard], another story about him. He became captain of the football team, I think it was 1901. His picture is in the field house. He was very much involved in the university, and very popular. The town was smaller then and there were all sorts of town parties and those, for want of a better phrase, those "hot-shots" from the university were invited to these things.

Paul Dornblaser—a good friend of my family—he was killed in World War One by a sniper. There was only about a month more to go before the armistice was signed. There are some artifacts down in the Archive department that have to do with his fraternity pin. He was a Sigma Chi, as was my uncle. He used to come out on the ranch and work there during the summer (1915-1916). I was a kid, about five or six years old, but I remember him well, a big hulk of a fellow, but a joy to know. When the word got back to Missoula that Dornblaser had been killed on the western front, it cast a pall over this whole town for a month, and that's a fact. I was just a kid, but I remember it. It was a very depressing experience. There was a host of reasons. He was county attorney at one time. He was a graduate of the first class of the law school.

Anyway, going back to Allard, this is almost legendary, but it's the truth. These things are handed down orally in families. He met a gal from Indiana by the name of Smallhouse...Pearl. They supposedly fell in love and he proposed to her and gave her a big, beautiful diamond ring, about a carat, a huge stone, that got around. There was to be a wedding, and there were parties and social gatherings for a couple of months: showers, socials, gatherings in the various respectable homes of the better upper class. The day of the wedding which was to take place in Judge Knowle's mansion. Judge Knowle's mansion is no longer out there. It's out on Montana Avenue, not far from the Loyola Rams football field, out there in the boondocks. He had a beautiful house and that was where the wedding was going to be, and at last came the day. The bride was all ready, the guests were all ready, and the groom had not arrived. So they waited, and they waited, and they waited. He never showed up. He stood her up, and that was the end of that. She went back to Indiana with a broken heart, unrequited love, end of that story.

AP: He never said anything about it?

AD: No, he just never showed up. People have been known to do that business; it's quite rare. She was mad about the boy, but he fell on hard times. He went into a venture that had to do with a wild west show, copied after Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, with Indians from the Flathead Reservation, with a few buffalo, with cowboys, and stagecoach. He proceeded to travel—I think he got as far as some place in Ohio—and the thing went bankrupt. That was the end of that little venture. In 1915 Allard brought his entourage down from the Flathead for what is known in those days as stampedes. This is quite apart from the university, I don't know if you...

AP: Oh, this is fine.

AD: They had this stampede and rodeo in 1915 or '16. There was an outfit named Drumhellard (?) from Walla Walla, Washington. They had buffalo, and Allard was here with his Indians and his relatives and all of those things. He was colorful to the last. That house party, if you can fathom the detail and forming the social group together to form this, it's absolutely fascinating. We think of things that we do today or did in my time that were so terrific and so different and so unusual. Just think about this and it will bring you back down in time. But, the fellow had the

money, and he had the imagination, and he had the social graces, and he had the good looks, and he put them all together and gave one hell of a party.

AP: That's great. What period of time was your favorite or most memorable?

AD: At the university? Oh, I think 1935 or 1936 when I was a junior and a senior, those were the good years. Those were great years. By that time I had been conditioned to the goings-on at the university, knew my way around, knew people, and had gotten into a routine that I appreciated very much. Those were the golden years or whatever you want to call them. I shall never forget them.

AP: How did the University of Montana affect or shape the person that you are today?

AD: It left me with this wanting to know more and to emulate in what way I best could, those people that tried to teach me a few things at the University of Montana in those classes. That's how it affected me. I'm grateful for that. I've never quite gotten over that. There is always more to know, not only within our city, but there are inducements aplenty to know about the whole wide world. Certainly the things that beset and worry us at the national level and things that have to do with scholarly pursuits.

Case in point, I have been asked by Dale Johnson to give him a tape that has to do with the French-Canadian influence in western Montana. That is going to take some research, and I'm in the process of doing that now. I'm going to have to go back—I'm doing it at the library, mostly at the university and some at the public—to get into some of the things that had to do with the early provinces of the French-Canadians. The provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick and the cities of Quebec and Montreal and those incidences and historical happenings that took place in eastern North America. Not only those two provinces, but also eastern United States: the French and Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, and with the workings and writings of Francis Parkman, who, to my mind, writes beautifully. I like his literature; he writes very well. A thorough scholar, a specialist in French Canadians, and the Jesuits—a whole volume written on the Jesuits in North America, a very learned thing. He writes very well; his writing is very good; he is a very, very fine writer. So, it's not a bore to read Francis Parker, so I'm into that. When we get through with that hopefully, I will be able to give Dale the kind of a tape that will get into the beginnings of French Canada, the beginnings of the yearnings and inducements for those French Canadians who came to western Montana back in the early '50s and '60s [1800s], some of our relatives. So, that's a job, but we want to do that right and we want to get it at the very well-spring of why and what caused them to come here; what were the original impetus' that brought them here; how did it happen and why. So, that will be a while before...hopefully by Christmas.

AP: If you had the chance to go back in time, what would you do differently or what memory or experience would you want to relive?

AD: Well, Annie, I wouldn't do it. That sounds presumptuous, maybe it has an arrogant ring, and I don't mean it that way. No, I wouldn't do it again. It was such a good time, I got so much out of it, and it has served both of us as university graduates so well. It's still rubbing off on us; we're still identified by the university. After all these years we're still university with friends and associations. So, what more do you want? What more could you get out of it? I'm so grateful for that really. So to answer that: nothing! It's been real, real good.

AP: Any other insights, observations, memories, stories?

AD: No, I can't think of any other stories to tell you. Of course there is that tape that Johnson has that has to do with the Friends of the Library. That is quite complete. Other than that, I can't think of anything more to say without becoming redundant. That would just be wasting your tape and mileage. There comes a time when you say, "Well, it was nice knowing you." I have been privileged to be allowed to make this tape for you, and I hope that there is something in there that people can use that they will find somewhat interesting and maybe amusing. All in all, not too bad a piece of work that we did here today on the fifth of August, 1991.

[End of Interview]