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Interviewee: Charles E. "Mike" Hardy

Interviewer: Annie Pontrelli

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Annie Pontrelli: This is Annie Pontrelli interviewing Mr. Mike Hardy on July 31, 1991. Mike why don't you start out by telling me the years you were here, in what capacity, what led you to the University of Montana or more specifically Missoula, and we'll just go from there.

Mike Hardy: For the record, for the university, my name is Charles E. Hardy, but I've been always been known as Mike ever since I was tiny.

AP: How did you get that nickname?

MH: I don't know. There are two or three stories. One of them was that I was named after my two grandfathers. They sort of rang on which one should be first. My grandmother (unintelligible) was Charles, but just to avoid too much conflict, they decided to call me Mike. So everyone called me Mike thereon, for the rest of my life. Which leads a little bit into my first coming here in 1934. I was a freshman in the school of forestry. I had written letters to all over the western forestry schools.

I debated which one I should go to. I was raised in Southern California. At that time, in high school, you took either a vocational or an academic curriculum. If you got through high school with academic curriculum you were qualified to go to Berkley. Of course, that's not the case anymore. Be really tough (?) (unintelligible). That, and certainly the other schools had summer camp in sophomore and junior year and I'd had to drop out of school to go to (unintelligible) summer school. So it boiled down to Oregon State University and the University of Montana (or Montana State University at the time). I wrote a letter to the dean of each of the schools. From the Oregon school, I guess it would be (unintelligible) sent me an answer, perfunctory answer. I got a very interesting, informative letter from the dean of forestry here, Tom Spaulding.

So I said, "Gee whiz, that makes a difference to me. I think I'll go to Montana." So after (unintelligible) Fourth of July, my dad brought me up here. He wanted to be sure I found my way, I guess. I walked into the forestry school office to tell whoever it was what my name was, where I was from, and what I wanted, what I needed was a summer job. I didn't have anything until about the tenth of July I guess. I walked in the door, the dean secretary said, "Well hello Mike, welcome." I thought, "Gee whiz." I had forgotten that in the application, you had to have a picture. You had to give your nickname, which was on the university application. I had written saying that I was coming up and I'd forgot about all that. But I was very, very welcomed. As it turned out, the secretary was Mary Wilson. She was the one that had written the letter, had the dean sign it along with a whole bunch of other things. Anyway, so I was always indebted to

her. And I got set up on the right foot from the very first day. I wound up in Missoula. So that's how I got here and that's why I came here. And I've never been sorry.

AP: So you were a student from 1934 to...

MH: Unfortunately until 1939. I had one three-quarter course in my senior year. I didn't quite make it through the whole quarter. So I decided that I'd stay another year, which was okay because we did not have winter jobs at that time, very few of the fellas did. (unintelligible). So I got to pick up quite a few other courses and a few across campus that I didn't have the chance to have before. So it wasn't all that bad.

AP: What were some of your favorite classes?

MH: Oh I can't tell you exactly. I know my least favorite was forest economics, which I did very poorly the first time and took it over correspondence. I just didn't ever catch on to that. I enjoyed well most everything. Some of them were stupid. Not getting into relations with some of the professors and so forth. If you want (?) to get into that. Well, for instance Dean Spaulding was a quite a politician. He waxed eloquent and had grandiose ideas and thoughts and so forth. He taught the survey the forestry. We got into the subject matter of (unintelligible). He returned about setting up a fire camp and all of that.

He said that when you put the food out for the crew to come through, put the bread and the cake and the pies and all of that down, the inexpensive stuff at the front of the line. By the time they get to the meat and potatoes they won't eat so much of that. He was gone the next day. And Ray Clarke (unintelligible) came in. His first remark was, "I think I know what the dean talked about yesterday. Forget it. Put the meat and potatoes up in front and let the guys get something that they can work on." That was just sort of indicative of the two types of prof that we had.

AP: How many teachers were there at the time?

MH: I've got some of them listed here. I've got most of them. There's Ray Clarke who taught forest management and that kind of thing, Dean Spaulding, Jerry Ramscale who taught dendrology and timber mechanics and the physical properties of wood. I. W. Cooke taught logging engineering and so forth. Charlie Bloom, he taught similar kind of subjects. There was the dean of medicine that taught (unintelligible) to begin with, and when I was a sophomore and junior, Mel Morris came on board. He was one of the most well thought of professors there ever have been. My favorite I think was Dr. Waters, who taught pathology in the natural science building to begin with and then transferred to the forestry school faculty to teach silvaculture and (unintelligible) and management of the timber products and so forth. He was really good. I think those were about it. Well there was only 2,000 in the university, which was another nice feature of the school. You got to meet and see the same students throughout the year. It's huge now over 10,000?

AP: Did you live on campus or off?

MH: I lived on campus the first week. I was in South Hall in the bullpen, during freshman week.

AP: And that's where Elrod is now?

MH: I think so. This was North Hall and that was South Hall, yes. Then I got a job stoking furnace over on East Pine Street for my board. From then on, I always lived off campus.

AP: Are those places still there?

MH: Oh most of them. At one time, I had a list of every place I've lived for (unintelligible) for my work. I had a terrible time because they'd added or taken off porches and altered the houses and some of them I couldn't even remember that I'd lived there. I bet I spent about half a day just driving around trying to figure out some of the addresses that I'd lived. It seemed like I moved a few times a year (unintelligible).

AP: After you got your Bachelor's, did you continue your studies?

MH: Not for a long time. There was still no, very few permanent jobs there in the late end of the Depression. So I worked summer times and then went down to southern California and worked in a glass factory and (unintelligible) and an oil well survey company and I don't know what all (unintelligible). Then it wasn't until 1942 that I got a permanent job at (unintelligible) for the Navy. Then when I got out, I (unintelligible) permanent position. It wasn't until 1948 that (unintelligible) in forestry, then I came back to Montana and northern Idaho and to this region.

AP: So you worked for the Forest Service?

MH: Ever since.

AP: Are you retired from the Forest Service?

MH: Yes I've been retired for 17 years. I retired the December of 1972. (unintelligible) all the real hot shots and the top of the line. One person that I went back there primarily for was (unintelligible), which was supposed to be renowned man in forest management. He died three days before I got there. So his assistant took over. That was one of the fortuitous things that could have happened because John Carol said, "Fellas we're in this together, let's see if we can work it out together." And so we worked everything out as we went along and ordinary students would (unintelligible). Some of the other students were almost the exact counterpart of some of the old codgers that were here. Some of them were old fuddy-duddies. One of them, they called him (unintelligible) taught fire control. He was relating his whole fire control according to his experience in 1923 on the Clearwater National Forest and so forth. One thing

he did do was have other students come in and give a talk on some pertinent subjects. So I had (unintelligible) sequence of everything (unintelligible). Two people came up afterwards and one of them said, "Gee I was in that real hot section that you were talking about. That's the first time I knew what really went on in the fires." One of the other fellows came up and (unintelligible). He said that it was the best lecture of the whole season. He didn't mean that mine was good, but the whole group was so old and so (unintelligible). So we all have our fine people and lesser ones too. But the staff was pretty good at the university.

AP: What were some of your observations about Missoula and the University when you first moved up here? You mentioned a couple of things as a personal touch and the friendliness.

MH: Well it really disappointed me when I first came into town. We drove up. We went on Highway 93 on the map. So we took that. We stayed over night in Soshonee (?) and came over a pass. What's that big ski area?

AP: Lost Trail?

MH: No, down in Idaho.

AP: Sun Valley?

MH: Sun Valley, yes. Ketchum and so forth. There was no Sun Valley back then. From Fairfield on it was all gravel, except where it was dirt. All along the Salmon River, we were traveling on dirt roads that were being improved. It was probably going to be two lane rather than one lane with turnouts. And we thought, boy we're really getting in the hinterland. We finally got to Hamilton and stayed over (unintelligible). The next day we went.

I was expecting to see this entire valley fully of trees like I had seen in the Redwoods and in central and northern California. Here it was just an open valley with trees on the mountainside. I thought, "Gee what happened to all of these trees anyway?" Okay one last thing; there was a man in town, Don Hoon, of Dixon and Hoon Shoe Store that was a friend of, a mutual friend of my granddad's in southern California. I looked him up. He sort of took me under his wing for a few months. I got to stop in and visit and he'd make me feel a little contact of home that way. That was a pleasant experience. I got to see a lot of Missoula right after I got to town. (unintelligible) looking for a job. I went door to door in, I think, the entire south side and every person in the north side trying to find a job stoking furnace or whatever I could. I didn't find a thing. But I sure met a lot of people. Most of them were pleasant and sorry that they couldn't do anything for me. Somebody was coming back from last year. So I went around Front Street and we found a, no this was before school started, and found a place where I could board room for a few days before school started. After the freshman week, I went back there. He said, "Well...doing our furnace this week, or this winter, isn't coming back. Would you like that job?" So I did that for a year and a half.

AP: How much did it pay?

MH: It gave me my board, which was about 30 dollars a month. I had to pay for my room, it was a dorm room way up on the third floor of a brick building. It was big enough for a bed and a desk. (Unintelligible).

AP: What was the campus like? What buildings do you remember and what was the (unintelligible)?

MH: Oh yes. There was Main Hall and the Forestry School and Natural Sciences. There was the Chem/Pharmacy building, which is long gone. Which was next to the math building which was around the oval. Here's Main Hall and the Forestry School and then the old Chem/Pharm Building, which was old at that time. The next one over here was the Math building - somebody's name.

AP: The math building is still there. Then there used to be the Venture Center...

MH: The Chem/Pharmacy turned into the Venture Center. My wife had her office in there for some time. She was on the social work department faculty. Then you'd come around this way and you'd see the Natural Science Building. This isn't going to show up on the tape. Then the Law building, which was, I don't remember.

AP: Social sciences.

MH: I guess Social Sciences was there, social work anyway. The old...

AP: The Fine Arts building? The old one with the University Theater?

MH: No. So it was Main Hall, which was the first building around the oval. It was a small building.

AP: The Botany?

MH: No that was the Natural Science Building.

AP: Oh I know, the Psychology building.

MH: Okay yes, that was the Law School until they built the new one over here. Then the library...

AP: Which is now the Social Science Building.

MH: Yes. I don't remember whether there was the fall that I came here or the following fall that they broke ground for the student union building.

AP: Which is now the old University Theater.

MH: Yes. Let's see... there was the women's gym, which was between Main Hall and the Natural Sciences building over just back toward the hill a little ways. Of course Dornblaser Fields was the back of all that.

AP: That's where the library is now.

MH: Yes. Back between Main Hall and the Forestry Building, back next to the hill were two buildings. One of them was- they were built for the military use during World War I. One was Simpkins Hall, I believe. It had a little theater and certain classrooms at the time. I guess the theater is now Performing Arts (unintelligible). Then next to that was Journalism Building, over where they had all their publishing and printing and the whole deal.

AP: The old men's gym which is now Schreiber Gym, was that there?

MH: That was "the" gym. Yes and the extension was a swimming pool. It was a good pool. People had to schedule their classes because women used to, sometimes, but mostly the men, we did not wear swimming suits. Sometimes they got classes mixed up in the Schreiber Gym. I never did, but it happened a few times.

AP: What were some of the...

MH: Let's see... what other buildings? Of course the dorms, there was North Hall and South Hall. Then there was Corbin Hall, which was hooked on the other one. Then they built New Hall, which was, Knowles Hall now? Yes. That was about it. The President's house was the first house on the corner of University and Arthur.

AP: Right across the street?

MH: Yes.

AP: It must not be there now.

MH: I think it may be. I'll have to look when I go out.

AP: When you had mentioned about swimming and making sure that the men and women were segregated, what were some of the rules and regulations that were on campus, said or unsaid?

MH: That was sort of interesting. It was a different day in the philosophy of people. We had very active Bear Paw organization, which was the men's sophomore group. We were trying desperately to make the campus (unintelligible) halfway decent.

AP: Were you a Bear Paw?

MH: No. We didn't have time for those things. We had classes all morning and lab classes in the afternoon and field work in the afternoon. We didn't have time to do much of that cross-campus stuff unfortunately. But to try to keep people from cutting across the lawns and to stay on the sidewalks or the Oval or whatever, the Bear Paws carried paddles, fraternity paddles. Anyone caught in making an infraction, cutting a corner or something, they'd get paddled. You wouldn't see something like that now. There'd be a court case. They'd make national headlines and it was a effective. The Bear Paws were, most of 'em, a pretty good size. In fact, I forget what the qualifications were, if you had to be an athlete or not, I don't know. (Unintelligible).

AP: So they were kind of the disciplinarian on campus?

MH: Yes. There was a comparable women's organization, The Spurs. Those two organizations kept up the spirit and the speed of (unintelligible). I think this would be a good time to mention Aber Day. It wasn't all that (unintelligible) at the time. It was named after Daddy Aber who was a (unintelligible) natural sciences. He was doing all these (unintelligible) keep the campus up and (unintelligible) so the people would be conscious of their surroundings (unintelligible). So this Aber Day was named after him and it occurred either on a Tuesday or a Thursday some time in the spring. We never knew when it was going to be. It would be all planned and if it rained it was deterred for another couple of days or a week.

So we never knew until the Main Hall bell rang at seven o'clock in the morning that it was Aber Day. So there were no classes. Then everybody, just about everybody turned up doing something: trimming, raking, maybe doing some reseeding and whatever they could do to fix up the landscape and maybe trim some of the trees. They might have done work on, cleaned windows in the buildings and I don't remember exactly. Then at noontime we'd have a big barbeque out on the oval. And they held a sort of mock court and people that were sort of notorious and they got panned. So it was sort of a roast, is what they'd call it now

AP: Of a professor or...?

MH: Oh yes they liked to get on professors. The one, this Economics prof, I forget what his name was, Hampton, Snip- they roasted him and called him Hampton You Smell. He was a good guy so he took it alright, I guess. But such things as that.

AP: Do you recall any of the traditional holidays or just traditions that campus held during your years?

MH: Well there were special dances and so forth. On Aber Day in the afternoon, of course it wound up into serious keggers all over the hills and in the canyons and so forth (unintelligible). One particular Aber Day I recall especially and there was an article about it in the *Kaimin* two or three months ago, the building of the "M." There had been several M's. That article brought up some things about it I didn't know about it.

AP: What were some of those things?

MH: Oh a bunch of old M's that had been up there. The one that was there was sort of long and stringy. It didn't do justice to the university. So the Forestry Club, two or three weeks before Aber Day redesigned it and we went up and cut out notches all around the outside and then put in large boulders around the perimeter. Then on Aber Day we had built a hole, not a hole but a (unintelligible) two people could handle (unintelligible) carry rocks from all over the hills over to that and then fill in the entire M.

AP: Just a second, you climbed the trail then with the boulders?

MH: No we just found them all over from the sides and up above. We fortunately didn't find many down below. Gee there must have been 50 or 60 of us up there doing that that day, laying the M and so forth. Then when we got done in time for the barbecue, I think this was around 1937, although I can't verify exactly, we all came down in a long string, came down not the zigzag trail that's there but the regular trail, a long stretch and then a switchback or two and came back down to the campus. We all thought it was quite impressive, and I think the whole campus did too. So that was a contribution the Forestry Club made in the mid-Thirties. Then it was later and it was whitewashed and it was whitewashed every couple years by the freshman for years until they finally put concrete. I don't know whether they still do or not. There were certain dances that were prestige dances. The Fraternity Ball and...

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

[Tape 1, Side B]

MH: ...then there was that (unintelligible) and I wasn't a fraternity man until my last year here (unintelligible). Of course there was the Forester's Ball and we held that in the men's gym, the old men's gym.

AP: What were some of your memories of the Forester's Ball?

MH: Well that could be a whole session. Decorating it, it's a wonder we didn't kill a bunch of guys, including me. Because the whole rafters (unintelligible) in the building, when we put wires from one end to the other crosswise and completely overlaid that with bottles. So we were up there walking those girders and the angle pieces weren't quite cut close enough together that you could hang on to one without letting loose of another to move on. We got all the bottles placed in and (unintelligible). It was really terrific. We used to have what they called the Ranger's Dream. We converted the wrestling room into rest area. And the Dean, a woman, Mary Elrod Ferguson, was the daughter of Dr. Elrod. I don't remember if he was president (unintelligible). Anyway she walked in there (unintelligible) and the next year we didn't have any. So I was in charge of special features. So we built a bunkhouse. It had to be somewhat open-sided.

AP: So when you say rest area, that's where the couples normally went?

MH: Yes they sure did.

AP: The Ranger's Dream, how was that?

MH: There were just a lot of trees and bushes and you could sit on the benches and hold hands. I guess I can claim the credit for having the first blue snow at the last dance. I don't know if they do it anymore or not. I haven't been to the Forester's Ball for many years. The last dance we had box after box of blue paper cut up into quarter inch squares. We'd go up and drop that down from the rafters during the last dance. 'Course the blue snow, that's one of the things in Paul Bunyon's stories, in the winter blue snow. So another fella and I spent days and days cutting up ream after ream of that in the old Journalism building on the huge paper cutter, cutting it into little bitty squares. One year, see this was a money maker for the Forestry school, Forestry Club's (unintelligible) fund. One year, they went way out, I think it was 1938 I think, Bill Wagner, who was the owner of Wagner's Furniture, was Chief Push that year.

See the Chief Push was the first person selected each year. Then after his name was drawn, then they'd go about getting (unintelligible). But he was the top dog (unintelligible). He (unintelligible) a band from Portland. I forget what outfit it was. But it was a terrific band. That was before we had local bands like (unintelligible), terrific dance bands. But at the end of this year, I think we netted three dollars, or maybe we lost three dollars, I forget. It cost us a lot, and the tickets were only three bucks a couple. But the (unintelligible) hasn't gone up as much

as admission. One time, too, Bertie (?) Miller the dean of men and Tom Spaulding, this is hearsay, they were over in the forestry school office, and they put on a celebration there, the two of them celebrated the Forester's Ball I guess.

AP: Just those two?

MH: Yes. I don't know if it was then or the year before I guess that we sort of got beans, baked beans (unintelligible). And there was a little tiny kitchen under the stairway of the forestry school. And the guys got little careless and let the big kettles of beans burn. And the forestry school building was (unintelligible) for weeks after that with an awful burnt bean smell. We didn't serve too many beans, but we had quite a few. Of course we had soft drink (unintelligible) and, if you were in the know. there might be a little bottle (unintelligible)...get your Coke or whatever, you could go to the right guy behind the bar and just put a little dollop of strengthener in it. They talk about the Forester's Ball being (unintelligible) part of the tradition. Forester's Ball was a program dance at that time. Everybody had a meeting place to trade dances.

AP: What do you mean trade dances?

MH: Each couple had a program. You'd fill out your program. Like Joe and Jane would have dance number five with Jim and Janell. So you'd meet at Ranger's Dream or John Inkslinger's Desk or Paul Bunyon's statue or the bar or at the west entrance or wherever. So there was a place on the program for a meeting place. We had 400 couples, which is a lot of people in that old gym. Half of the time you could never quite make it. Didn't have good dates or didn't have much of (unintelligible). Putting, to bring the ball together, we'd started in the fall, in fact probably the spring before. (Unintelligible) like building the bunkhouse and John Inkslinger's desk and a couple other things. I had a crew that was cutting all the pieces, sort of pre-fabbing so the day that we put the ball together we'd put things together (unintelligible).

AP: What was Johnny Inkslinger's desk?

MH: Johnny Inkslinger was Paul Bunyon's secretary. So they were just old-fashioned looking desks only the bottom edge of it was maybe five feet high. And I guess we had a huge pencil there or something. I don't remember now.

AP: So it was just for decoration?

MH: Yes. We had a good time. One time, of course it's held in January and February and everybody had their hooded coats and they had rack after rack of coat racks in the locker room made out of wooden poles and tripods. Half of them all went down once. And that was quite a scramble for everybody to try to find their coats (unintelligible). Those were the highlights other than Forester's. (Unintelligible). It was a fun thing. (Unintelligible) That and the Barrister's Ball.

AP: That was the Law School. Did you go to those?

MH: I never did. I didn't have enough money.

AP: Were they expensive?

MH: I was one of the more fortunate students, but I still didn't have enough. It was several dollars and according to this little list here, I got some (unintelligible). I spent 60 or 80 cents on a date, and that might have included the bus ride. I don't remember. So we had quite an ongoing rivalry between the law students and the forestry (unintelligible) They were a bunch of stuffed eggheads and we were a bunch of hicks from the sticks. They were probably both right. We had Bertha and of course the library at the time, a big moose on the wall. Almost every year Bertha would show up missing, usually not too long before the Forester's Ball. But it always returned some way or another. The law students would go in and take it. I don't know how they ever did it. One time, one of them, there might have been a couple others with him, learned that it might be lost to the students and they went up there to ask them politely if they could have it back. The law students (unintelligible). This is hearsay too, because I wasn't with them, but these guys were pretty reliable but we were told that. So we didn't get it back that day. I don't know whether they do that now or not.

AP: I know there still is that rivalry. (unintelligible).

MH: It's good. I mean looking back on it it's a really huge.

AP: Do you recall some of the other traditions that were on campus?

MH: Well one was a very nice thing was singing on the steps. We had that on special occasions.

AP: Just on special occasions or were they set times?

MH: No just on special occasions. I guess the choir or the chorus or whatever it was, I don't remember what the occasions would be. Homecoming and maybe for a football game, they'd get on the steps of Main Hall and sing. The whole campus was on the oval and we'd all sing (unintelligible) Montana, Montana, Montana. Spirit-raising songs. That was fun. We used to have a bonfire before a few games, especially Bozeman and Idaho. Gee we'd have a pile of debris and whatever, oh, it must have been 15, 20, 25 feet tall. It was huge. We'd have that and a big rally and so forth. An awful great percentage of the campus turned out to those. It might be that the men's senior group, besides Sentinel, what's it called, primarily athletic people engineered and promoted that (unintelligible) traditions on campus. I can't remember what else. Oh the Motorboard of course was the girl's swimmers (unintelligible).

AP: Did you meet your wife on campus?

MH: Yes.

AP: How did that come about?

MH: This is a long story. Where (unintelligible) park is now they used to have a little skating rink down on the edge of the river and my roommate and I were over there and I don't think I even had skates. He saw a couple of gals skating there. He was talking to one of them. One of them was sort of heavy set and one of them was (unintelligible) gal. Ralph would never introduce me, he never introduced me to them. But I remembered that person. And oh about three or four years later, I was introduced to her by same fellow's fiancée (unintelligible). The reason for that was, at that time, the Forest Service had a (unintelligible) dinner dance. They would invite the Chief Push of the Forester's Ball and the Forester's Club President and their dates as guests. Well it was between (unintelligible) and I, I was Forestry Club president and I didn't (unintelligible) I can find some gal to go out with. So she did, and that was the same gal at the skating rink almost three years. (Unintelligible). That was it.

AP: So did you get married after college?

MH: Oh it was whirlwind romance. Two years later we were married.

AP: That's great.

MH: Not too many dates either. I worked out of town on the summer times and went to southern California in the winter. She was here and Great Falls. She went to graduate school at Northwestern in Chicago. So we probably only had 15 dates. It took anyway. 'Cause we just had our 50th anniversary.

AP: Congratulations.

MH: Yeah, I think she deserves it.

AP: Okay some of these questions that I have written down are applicable for teachers. I know you've mentioned some of these Mike, but again I'll ask this question. Who were some of the people you remember best of the people who made the most impact on your life for whatever reason? I know you mentioned Mary Wilson and some of the other....

MH: Well two of the faculty members. Ray Clark for one, he taught forest management and forest administration and so forth. Even though he flunked me, he had a tremendous work process of doing the job and doing it right with reasonable accuracy according to the situation. And Fayette (?) was one that got the Montana Druids organized way back in 1924 or '27, I don't remember. We had quite an initiation ritual was held up at Pattee Canyon, we had our station where we ran candidates, elected candidates for initiation. (Unintelligible). It was quite

meaningful. The one thing that I'll always remember was the Druid motto, and that was give full measure of service regardless of compensation received. That's old fashioned now, but I think it had a deep impact on me and an awful lot of (unintelligible). And the Druids were the ruling body of the Forestry school. It was made up of both faculty and students. I guess all the faculty were members. We decided that (unintelligible) sort of ran the show from behind the scenes. It was a good influence. (Unintelligible). Fay was a real character. He sort of liked his alcohol. Once in a while, I remember one time, he came into class at eight o'clock in the morning and always smoked a cigarette. He started talking and writing on the blackboard and sort of swaying a little bit. After about five minutes, he said, "Oh no. Let's call it a day." So he (unintelligible) into his office. But they also had a (unintelligible). That was a seven o'clock class. That was no credit, but we had to take it, we had to pass it 'cause so many of our tests (unintelligible). The prof that I most respected of all was Dr. Waters. I don't know if I've ever mentioned (unintelligible). I'll go back a little bit. I had the good fortune to have known Dr. Leo Hitchcock who was in the Botany department and taught Botany and (unintelligible) education and so forth. He had come from a town about three miles from mine (unintelligible). I got on as a student assistant. I worked with him in the lab classes and reading all the lab work and the tests. From that I was able to (unintelligible) lab classes and somebody else in botany, I forget who it was. And I worked with Dr. (unintelligible) in wood technology and timber mechanics classes as a student assistant. Sometimes it was (unintelligible) it was under NYA funding, which was the (unintelligible) National Youth Administration student help.

We were limited to 15 dollars a month, I think at the rate of 30 cents an hour. Finally I got on the regular money where I got 35 maybe 40 cents an hour with a limit of 20 dollars. 'Course you'd run through the (unintelligible) dollars by the middle of the month. But we kept doing our thing anyway (unintelligible). But Dr. Waters was just a fine person. His personality, ethics (unintelligible). I think you can say that for Mel Morris too, although I didn't take but maybe one of his courses. But he became a model for people (unintelligible) to this day. In fact- and a man out of Polson had just sold his cattle ranch. I don't know what his background is, he went to Cornell. He is building a big retirement home right now right next to our little cabin up there. He was asking me a couple of days ago, "Did you know Mel Morris?" So Mel Morris had national, international status. He was a charter member and one of the promoters of establishing the National (unintelligible) Society, which was (unintelligible). It seemed like a (unintelligible). So we had some really outstanding profs.

AP: Tell me about some of the activities or organizations on campus? You've mentioned some of these already but, more specifically those kinds of activities you were involved in. You may have already answered them.

MH: Well the two sophomore organizations and the senior ones.

AP: The Bear Paws and the Spurs, the (unintelligible) and Druids.

MH: And the (unintelligible) Sentinel. There was a performing arts group, the...

AP: Troubadours (?)?

MH: No. Anyway (unintelligible) there were a lot of people on campus that participated in the plays. Looking back on the caliber of acting and (unintelligible) in those days with the (unintelligible). Compare that to what you see here in the New Montana Theater, it's just a (unintelligible) difference, a fantastic difference. There are sort of (unintelligible). We went to them because it was a cheap date. That was about it. (Unintelligible). They were really not impressive at all. I shouldn't say that in front of my wife. I think she's going to be here tomorrow. Because she was in with them, but more in the backstage. She can tell you. For one thing, basketball was a (unintelligible) sport. We had a league I guess. You know how big the track is from up on the balcony there? The seats there (unintelligible).

AP: (Unintelligible)?

MH: No in the men's gym.

AP: Oh yes.

MH: It wasn't very often filled. Baseball was a greater passion than basketball.

AP: When did baseball end?

MH: It was after the war because they still have the university baseball game, I'm pretty sure at the field (unintelligible) south of Higgins. (Unintelligible). Before 1950. I couldn't tell you. Ask Ty Robinson because he was at a law firm (unintelligible). He could tell you exactly because he was a baseball star. I don't remember what position he played, but (unintelligible).

AP: There was baseball, basketball, was football going on?

MH: Oh you bet.

AP: Was that kind of the big draw?

MH: Yes. That was a big deal. When we were here, we had a champion football team. In fact, (unintelligible). We thought we had a chance to go to the Rose Bowl. That sounds ridiculous now. We had an import of a bunch of fellows from (unintelligible) high school in Chicago: (unintelligible) and a fabulous fellow from Butte. I forget his name. (unintelligible) the coach, (unintelligible) got him from that high school. And they were a formidable bunch of people out there. There were very few foresters that played football, because they didn't seem to have the time to practice and keep up their studies, lab work and so forth. One thing about those the guys, they didn't have a training table all the time (unintelligible). Two of them boarded where I boarded over there on Davis (?) street for awhile (unintelligible) good food there. It was family

style. I happened to be seated between (unintelligible) Smith. No matter which way our platter came, it was empty when it got around the table. I almost starved. They were good guys, but they were almost strictly here for football. I guess they graduated, one of them (unintelligible) citizen in the Chicago area, jewelry business, I believe. He was the one that I would least expect to have ever succeeded at anything except football. We had that whole rivalry game with Bozeman every year. We would meet on neutral grounds at Butte. So the trainload of students came from each school to Butte for the game. I never did go over to it but (unintelligible). The field wasn't really grass. They called it gravel. I guess it was a dirt field. That was sort of rough because they didn't have the padding (unintelligible), big deal, that and Idaho.

AP: Did Idaho come here normally?

MH: We didn't... (unintelligible).

[End of Tape 1, Side B]

[Tape 2, Side A]

AP: Well this is quite a record that you have, Mike. (Unintelligible)

MH: It's sort of fun to look at. I don't bring it out as an example of how I got along in poverty, because I didn't. I had sons that lived in squalid, squalid situations in order to get by. Probably you equate the dollar values and he probably got by cheaper than I did. (Unintelligible)

AP: This is your son?

MH: Yes.

AP: This shows winter quarter of 1935, '36 and spring quarter of '36.

MH: A lot of the people in the Forestry School and on the whole campus were just on a shoestring. One fellow lived in the back end of an old pickup. One couple lived in the back end of a pickup.

AP: Just for the tape, to give an indication, I'm amazed at some of these prices and just looking at your fees for the quarter. It was 52.25 dollars...

MH: All told, it amounted to...

AP: Sixty dollars and sixty-seven cents. Then room and board—18 dollars. The bus was ten cents. A date, you spent a dollar. Nose drops, 50 cents. Color pencils—ten. Forester's Ball ticket—three. A show was 40 cents. A haircut was 50 cents. Gum was eight cents. Paper was ten cents. You spent 35 cents on Valentines. Overshoes were three dollars. Now what's a rooters cap?

MH: In that day it was a little beanie kind of cap. I don't know. I can't imagine my ever having bought one.

AP: You spent 75 cents on it. Ink was 15 cents. Show—was that a play?

MH: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is what it was.

AP: That was kind of expensive. It was 80 cents. Basketball games, 40 cents. Light socket, 15.

MH: I don't know why I bought a light socket.

AP: You had your tweed cleaned for 1.15 dollars.

MH: That was my suit.

AP: Oil of salt.

MH: That's when you get a scab like that, and oil of salt is what they use to draw out bad part and help it heal in case it became infected. That's good stuff.

AP: Fifty cents. Candy was five cents. Grizzly emblem—25 cents. Typewriter fixed, new ribbon—1.50 dollars. So it looks like a total...Shoes fixed for 1.50 dollars. So it looks like the total for winter quarter was 35.36 dollars. Fees were 60.67 dollars. Board and room 50 dollars. Books et cetera—9.80 dollars. Incidentals—12.68 dollars. Dates et cetera—10.10 dollars. So you spent a total of 143.25 dollars. That is something. Then the spring report, let me look real quickly if there's other...There are a few unusual additions on this one. Ice cream cone for 25 cents. Easter flowers—1.40 dollars. Drinks—ten cents. Toothpaste—40 cents. Geology books—3.20 dollars.

MH: Then I dropped the course.

AP: Mother's Day flowers—1.25 dollars. Candy and malt—what is that—25 cents. Laundry charge—40 cents. Spring hike—50 cents. Show—40 cents. Refund on a gym locker—four cents. Tracing paper—60 cents. That is something. You went to a lot of work to maintain, that it looks like.

MH: Yes, I don't know why I did it. I don't do that at all anymore. I sort of mentioned earlier that I was one of the most fortunate students. I'd saved up, I think, 300 dollars and then the bank freeze came along. Every bank and building and loan in the country was frozen...I think it was '32 when Franklin Roosevelt took office because everything was going broke. So I couldn't get any money out of it.

AP: Is that what they considered Black Monday?

MH: That was in 1929. It got worse than that. About the time it came, (unintelligible) my dad lost his drug store. He didn't have any lack of business, but nobody could pay their bills. I didn't help that I thought I was going to get help from them. But they were able to supply about 25 dollars per month. Then finally I was able to draw out from building and loan about 25 dollars per month, which lasted about a year and a half, I guess, of school time. Then I worked in the summertime.

I never did "bach." I never did stay in a (?).

AP: You never did bach? What do you mean?

MH: Oh, do my own cooking. Yes. Is that an old term?

AP: I've heard the term "bach," but I wasn't sure if it meant something different.

MH: A lot of the fellows teamed up, two or three or four, and bached and some of them did it in awful squalid quarters. I figured I needed all the time in the world just to study. I didn't manage to (unintelligible). I had at least a heated room.

Some fellows had to go a year or so and then drop out and work a year and then come back to school. That list of expenses and incomes looked pretty paltry, but it was so much better than so many of the other fellows had that I felt good. I got home once a year at Christmas time. I think that was 35 dollars round trip. It might have been 70 dollars. I don't remember. (Unintelligible) got some free meals for a couple of weeks (at home). Everybody was in the same boat. There were a lot of older students at that time. They couldn't find year round work so they thought it would be a good time to go to school. They figured they could make enough money in the summer and at odd jobs in the winter to keep them in school. There were quite a bunch of them and many of them have become very prominent people in the state in the Forest Service and other places.

AP: What did you like best about the university?

MH: I pondered that from your letter there and...I don't know. Of course, I found my wife. I just felt as though I was getting a good education and getting prepared for a long time. I don't know any particular facet of the university that was more important than any other. It was a struggle. Students struggle now too. You just take each day as you can and come along and (unintelligible). I think I liked the fact that it was not a large school. If I'd gone to Berkeley, gee, it was probably 10,000 at that time. I would have been lost in a huge sprawl. But here you saw the same people going back and forth across the campus, met them, and got well acquainted. Then especially when (unintelligible). I guess just what I said is that it's a living expense that was (unintelligible).

AP: What did you like least?

MH: Economics. Well the third year or so of winter was (unintelligible) because I've seen it snow once in my life. Here it dropped down probably freezing and especially the first (unintelligible) tourists and couldn't cross the old Van Buren Bridge. We didn't have school (unintelligible). I didn't have the proper clothing or the knowledge of what the cold felt like. So there were huge drifts across there that didn't get removed for days at a time.

I just figured it was a constant blizzard because the Hellgate Canyon breeze would come every morning. Then I had to go home at noontime to start the furnace and eat and then get back to class and go home and eat dinner and (unintelligible). Half the time I'd have to come back here to school in the evening. Then I'd go back across there. (Unintelligible) if I'd had enough money (unintelligible) southern California and the beaches, the water, sunbathing and so forth. So I guess that's what I'd say I liked the least. Then (unintelligible) sometimes you don't leave until

maybe February (unintelligible) the grungy season in winter or spring and it was just miserable so you were just trying to get out.

AP: What changes have you observed over the years with students?

MH: Gee, my wife would be really good with that since she taught (unintelligible), especially all of the doctorate courses.

AP: Maybe there were some observations you had on some of the social attitudes then?

MH: I think students had a little movement, a good attitude before the War. I had a number of different ones in my life as a student. Of course this was 60 years ago. So it might have changed something. Too many out of the first- when they came out to see about a job, and how much they pay and how good it was. I didn't like that. I appreciated those who came in and wanted to learn something and contribute something. I think most of the students nowadays go that way, but I think they see their parents living in pretty good circumstances, and they want to live that way right now. It's sort of (unintelligible). They want it right now before four years time. Of course, there's lots more in the (unintelligible) scientists and a lot more (unintelligible) significant change (unintelligible) relationships and job orientation and so forth.

(Unintelligible) jobs out there and working in the field. I've known a number of students (unintelligible). They may be more dedicated for a professional than they are now. That's probably because they had to work harder to (unintelligible). That isn't a very good answer for you. Students are students. Students that were here for the jollies and the good times and just barely passed or maybe not at all. Some of them were smart and had a good time and did a lot of drinking. There were those who couldn't afford it and some did carousing around. We had their relationships but they weren't so open as they are now. There weren't very many cars. Freshman weren't allowed to have automobiles. A few of them had one stashed out at a friend's place or something like that.

We could almost count, between my wife and me, the students that did have cars. There were maybe a half a dozen forestry students. A couple of them were from the east. There was one crippled fellow (unintelligible), but he was able to have a car. A few of the fellows and a few of the girls had cars. There was no parking problem. Three or four people in (unintelligible) had cars. One of their folks had a car dealership and the other one had huge circus descendants. So he didn't lack having a vehicle. The whole standard of living was down, so if you didn't have much, you were just along with everybody else. You didn't see a poor kid, a poor student having to associate with (unintelligible). Most people were more on a common level then they are nowadays. (Unintelligible). I don't know how many students worked 20 or 30 hours a week (unintelligible). We'd share, not just forestry, but everybody else worked.

AP: What do you feel your greatest accomplishments were in your years at the university?

MH: Ability to get along with people, I think. Of course, preparations were a lot of work. Throughout the whole thing, regardless of who the prof was or what his background was, we all got the impression that he did jolly well and outstanding and honest and forthright. I think you can see that in most all of the people that graduate and (unintelligible). Their dedication to the freshman, that may be more (unintelligible) than it is now. Again, that old druid model did the greatest amount of work in regard to (unintelligible). In other words, do the job and hopefully you'll be recognized and given (unintelligible). Do the job was the thing that was (unintelligible).

We got so busy in our own forestry school and later classes and the number of courses we had to take, we didn't have to take near as many across-campus courses, (unintelligible) English writing, debate (unintelligible), than we should have. Because those were things, after you got past the (unintelligible), we found ourselves doing more with people than we did technical work. We came up wanting. Two people were excellent at it, but I think they were nakedly excellent at it. In those days, too, lots of people who were good at managing people and organizing and so forth. And if you were good at debate, they went into law and business. (Unintelligible). That's my personal opinion anyway.

We didn't have as many good people managers as we should have. I think that's changed. Their coursework and so forth requires more across-campus innovative work courses now. It's certainly necessary more and more as time goes on. You can see that in the government Forest Service. Right now, we've been too busy working with our head down to the ground rather than realizing what's going on. That's our job, but (unintelligible).

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

MH: The (unintelligible) if I had my druthers and I'd start over, what I'd do differently. For one thing, I would have- I don't know how you'd find if this accurate. I would (unintelligible) better if I was an architect or I could fly an aircraft and leave my car, because I could never see a reason or justification for it. I built model airplanes and designed them. I designed two cabins and one of them I sold to (unintelligible). I fully enjoyed that. I could have been a good (unintelligible). Looking back in 1933 and '34, who were the architects? Who were the people that were doctors? Who were the engineers working in the metropolitan water aqueduct, digging trenches with picks and shovels and tools so the water could go from the Colorado River to Los Angeles.

That's not a thing to get into. So electrical (unintelligible) good chance that some of them (unintelligible) four years ahead of them and (unintelligible). Other things we need (unintelligible). I'm not sure. I've had beautiful associations my wife and I have outstanding (unintelligible) and contributed something to society, something (unintelligible). What I learned from the profs was both puzzling and negative and (unintelligible) in the negative sense (unintelligible).

AP: If you had the opportunity, what advice should we give to university students? Could you give them your words of wisdom?

MH: I'll say it for the people in the professional schools: take an extra year, get courses outside your major (unintelligible) and manage them (unintelligible) your profession. Study too. (unintelligible). Be a good guy. Be a good person. Be honest. You know how it is. I guess that's about it.

AP: Any other observations, insights, or memories you'd like to share about your years here?

MH: One thing I've enjoyed is living in Missoula. We want to be close to the Forest Service. (Unintelligible) sent all our kids from the first grade down there and one of them to college here. I've enjoyed maintaining a relationship with the university (unintelligible) in its facilities, with the poetry school profs and so forth (unintelligible). Since I retired (unintelligible) some publications and some rawhiding of a historical information and history and in the library and in the archives. I've enjoyed just (unintelligible) of all what's going on in the university (unintelligible). It's probably more than anything else just to be here in Missoula and (unintelligible) a friend at the Mansfield Library and (unintelligible). That was a whole new opening and a whole new work with Mansfield. Missoula is a campus place, the size. Like the farmer's market, it's a meeting place for city friends. Lunch in the park, there's another one. And university functions and all facilities and people in- and it's really a good institution and we're very interested in it- seeing it maintain, being developed, and certainly better planning.

AP: All right, anything else?

MH: No I think that's probably more than (unintelligible) talk.

[End of Interview]