

8-29-2005

UA1B2/1/3 Oral History

Paula Trafton

Mary Sample

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Western Kentucky University
UA1B University Wide Committees/Events
Series 2/1 Anniversaries Western Kentucky University
Item 3 Mary Sample Interview

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Biographical/Historical Note:

Records regarding anniversaries celebrated by the university includes founders day, 75th and centennial celebrations.

Description: Interview conducted by Paula Trafton with Mary Sample regarding her time as a student, College High teacher and executive secretary to Dero Downing from 1957 to 2005.

Dates: August 29, 2005

Formats: 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 mp3 file

Subject Analytics:

Anniversaries	Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011
Audio recording	Home Economics Building (WKU)
Bowling Green Business University (KY)	Pioneer Log Cabin (WKU)
Centennial celebrations	Residential facilities
Class of 1957 (WKU)	Schneider Hall (WKU)
College High (WKU)	Western Kentucky University
Dormitories	

Accession Information: These records were transferred to the WKU Archives upon creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Preferred Citation: UA1B2/1/3 Mary Sample Oral History Transcription, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Transcription by Suellyn Lathrop, 2013.

Oral History Recording List UA1B2.1.3 ~ Records

08/21/2013

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	1	00:00:11	<p><i>PT: Today is Monday, August 29, 2005. This is Paula Trafton, instructor in the History Department at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Today I will be interviewing Mary Sample as part of an oral history project for Western's centennial celebration in 2006. This project focuses on those persons who have a special knowledge of the growth and changes Western Kentucky has experienced since the 1930s. Mary and I are sitting in the Conference Room of the College Heights Foundation in the Foundation Building. Good afternoon Mary.</i></p> <p><i>MS: Good afternoon.</i></p> <p><i>PT: So exciting to interview you, especially when I hear that you were a student here and longtime administrative secretary, is that what your title was?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Yes, ma'am, I think so, at one time.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:05	<p><i>PT: Okay, so we'll begin this interview just talking about what first brought you here to Western.</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well, when I was in high school I had four younger sisters and my mother was a wonderful mother and wonderful homemaker but I decided that having been the oldest of five children and helped with them that I didn't think I wanted to do that right away. So I decided that I'd like to do something else. Maybe got to School of Pharmacy or maybe teach school or some other profession at least for a while.</i></p> <p><i>PT: So you decided to go to college.</i></p> <p><i>MS: So I decided to go to college. It was not a very rough decision about what college to go to because the only ones that I had heard about were Western Kentucky State College and Lindsey Wilson. I had a cousin who had gone to Lindsey Wilson during the summer and for just a few hours of credit then she could begin teaching school in the fall. This was back in the late 40s and early 50s. So I really didn't know where Western was except that it was in Bowling Green, Kentucky because I grew up in Monroe County in the little town of Gemalie. And we came to Bowling Green maybe once or twice during my lifetime, came to Bowling Green to shop or that was about the only that we did. And actually I didn't know where the school was when I came here. When they brought me then, we found directions on how to get here. And we went to the office in the, I guess it was in Cherry Hall to find out where we should go for a dorm. And then I was delivered to the dorm, from there then I registered. Everybody in those days registered on the same day whether you were a beginning student or an upperclassman. We all got up early in the morning and we rushed up to Cherry Hall because that where we got our registration forms. And then we would go in as quickly as we could, get a packet of cards, and we probably had an upperclassman show us what classes we might take the day before. So we'd fill our cards out very quickly and we would take them to the different instructors whose class we were signing up for. And they would sign it and then we would go through the pay line and then we were through.</i></p> <p><i>PT: And that was all done in Cherry Hall?</i></p> <p><i>MS: It was all done in Cherry Hall.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Was it called Cherry Hall then?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Yes, it was.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:04:20	<p><i>PT: Just step back a little bit. Did you take a car or a train here?</i></p> <p><i>MS: In Monroe County there are no trains, there were no buses, so we had to come by car. And that's interesting too, because we couldn't go home every weekend. Like everybody always talking about it being a suitcase school, well for some of us it wasn't because there was no transportation. In my family we had one car and my father needed it to work. The only way I could get to go back home was if we had a neighbor that they could hire to come down and pick us up or if we knew somebody here who was going home that we could pay a little bit to get to ride home with them. Then my parents would usually bring us back, bring me and along with whoever else in the community wanted to come back on a Sunday afternoon. That wasn't a problem, but getting home was a problem.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:05:26	<p><i>PT: So you would go home Thanksgiving?</i></p> <p><i>MS: We'd go home Thanksgiving. We'd go home for long weekends. We'd go home Christmas, of course. And I was a very, very homesick. I very much disliked being away from home. I was the oldest, as I said of five children and we didn't travel much. We would go on family visits to Louisville or maybe to Tennessee but we didn't go away to camp or anything like that. So it was really a rude awakening to be away from home, I would think every day, if I</i></p>

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			<i>can just get through this day. And I remember sitting on the step. The first major I decided to take was in, we called it Home Economics then, we call it Family and Consumer Science now. I was sitting on the steps wishing I could be home and talking to the maid. She was so kind sitting over there listening to me wanting to be someplace else. And it was almost a full semester before I ever got reconciled to being here. And I remember people saying, "Oh, you'll love it, when you get used to it and one of these days you won't even want to leave." Well, that's true. It's like 52 years later and I still don't want to leave. But you couldn't have made me believe that at the time.</i>
Tape 1	1	00:07:09	<p><i>PT: Did you write home often, then? Or did you call?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Probably, probably once a week would write home, but . . .</i></p> <p><i>PT: Would they write you letters back?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Sometimes, but not very often because they were busy too.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:07:23	<p><i>PT: Now you said you were sitting on the steps. Which building were you sitting on?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well that building is not there anymore. It was over behind the Industrial Arts Building.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Okay.</i></p> <p><i>MS: And it's no longer there.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Do you remember the name of that building?</i></p> <p><i>MS: It was, we called it the Home Economics Building. It was a white building with two stories.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Okay.</i></p> <p><i>MS: As I recall it was a wood building.</i></p> <p><i>PT: So what buildings were on campus? Can you remember what was here when you . . . ?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well, of course Cherry Hall was, and Snell Hall and Ogden Hall and the dorms there were McLean Hall was brand new the year I came. West Hall, which was West Hall, then is now Schneider Hall and Potter Hall was here. Football was played on the grounds of the Fine Arts Center which was the Colonnade. And basketball games were played in the arena, it wasn't called the arena, where the library is now.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:08:38	<p><i>PT: What does it feel like when you go back and see those buildings there?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well, it feels, it doesn't feel very strange for me because except for two and a half years since 1953 I have been on the campus. And it's just evolved and I guess I never think about it unless somebody asks me about it.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:09:03	<p><i>PT: Most of your classes were in which building?</i></p> <p><i>MS: In Cherry Hall.</i></p> <p><i>PT: In Cherry Hall.</i></p> <p><i>MS: And if you had a science class, of course, it would have been in Snell or Ogden.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Okay.</i></p> <p><i>MS: And those were down where the Science Complex are now, where the Thompson Science Complex are, and of course Snell Hall is still there. It's under discussion.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Yes. Okay, we won't go into all that. What, where was your dorm?</i></p> <p><i>MS: My dorm was West Hall which is Florence Schneider and it was a wonderful place to live. I don't suppose, y'know, maybe by today's standards it would have been, but it was just right, I thought because we had suites. We had two rooms that had two girls in it and we had bathroom and then we had a room that had two girls in it. So there were four of us that got to be real close, got to use the same bathroom and we had, and it was somewhat private because the doors connected to the bathroom on each side. We had a huge study hall on second floor so if you wanted to study you had ample opportunity to do that and a place to do it where it was quiet. Because in those days, unlike what I hear it is in some of the dorms now, we had a dorm mother who saw to it that it was quiet after 7:30 and we were not to be making loud noises or banging doors or doing anything that would distract from anybody else's study. If we were in some other girl's room, as long as we were quiet it was fine. If we were causing a disturbance, then she came to take care of it. And of course, we had to sign out every time we went out of the dorm at night. After the dinner hour, if we went out, then we signed out, our name, the time we signed out, and where we were going and approximately what time we expected to be back. And there were certain other rules and regulations about,</i></p>

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			<p>you could have, if you were a freshman you were more restricted in the time you could have out. I think almost everybody could be out until about 9:30 because that be after the library closed. And then maybe one night a week you could be out until 10:30. And then on Saturday night you could be out until 11:45 but that gave you time to get in your room before Sunday morning. You were supposed to be checked in before 11:45. And you felt safe and secure. And you didn't mind because everybody else was doing the same thing. There were no telephones and of course there were definitely no cell phones, but we had one telephone in the office and if a girl got an important call or an emergency call, they could leave a message with the girl who was working the desk. And she would put a little note on the bulletin board so you could check it if you were out and just came in. If you were in your room, they'd run up to your room to see if you were there and if you weren't you got a note put on the board. And you could use the phone to make local calls for three minutes. That would be the limit.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:12:52	<p>PT: You were talking before about how many students there were. You don't remember the first year, but your second year?</p> <p>MS: 1,684 was what was listed in a report that I saw and I thought it was possible to get to know everybody on campus, if you really wanted to.</p> <p>PT: Who was president at the time?</p> <p>MS: When I started in 1953 Dr. [Paul] Garrett was president. Of course, he was the second president of the university. Dr. Garrett passed away and Dr. [Kelly] Thompson was interim president from March to maybe October 1955. Dr. Garrett passed away in '55 and then Dr. Thompson was named president in late 1955 and was president until 1969.</p> <p>PT: Did you know him at all?</p> <p>MS: Yes, as a matter of fact I worked in his office as a student worker.</p> <p>PT: You did?</p> <p>MS: Yes. Not the whole time I was a student, but part of the time. And then part of the time I worked for Frank Cain who was the resident architect on the two men's dorms that used to be East and West and I can't recall what their names are right now, but they were the two newer dorms down there and I don't think that they are men's dorms anymore.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:14:22	<p>PT: Working for the President.</p> <p>MS: Well, just in his outer office. No, Georgia Bates was secretary to Dr. Thompson and he had an outer office where the mail was sorted and at that time departments didn't have secretaries all their own at least a lot of them didn't. And so in the President's outer office they provided a service of typing tests and things like that for the different professors if they wanted that done. And they hired students who were responsible and one of the things that I did was to run off some of those things on the mimeograph machine, which was, we had no copy machines or that sort of thing then.</p> <p>PT: I remember using them. We're glad they're gone, right?</p> <p>MS: Right. And the mail was all sorted for the different departments and they would come and pick up their mail. Of course, it wasn't like it is now, there weren't nearly that many departments and there were no colleges because the institution was a college so there were only departments. And if you get to know all the professors there were fewer than 100. Seems like there were ninety something professors. That's fulltime faculty. And they didn't have that many part time faculty. We didn't have night classes. And if you wanted, if you were a teacher and you wanted to come back and take some classes you could do that on Saturday mornings because they had Saturday morning classes.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:16:16	<p>PT: What did you do for fun?</p> <p>MS: Well, we didn't do much for fun at least I didn't. There was always a lot of studying to do because it was, I was determined I was going to do well. Nobody in my family had ever gone to college before, except I do have a second cousin who as I said went to Lindsey Wilson for a summer and then started teaching school and then would come back in the summer. But I had a great aunt who had been superintendent of schools in Monroe County and she was an encourager, too. But I wanted to do well. We had basketball games to go to, football games not many other sports. Or at least not many that we knew about. There were dances, I mean, like the Sadie Hawkins dance, the military ball, homecoming dance. There were movies downtown if on the weekend if you got the opportunity to take a break from studying or from work because a lot of us had to work to go to school. Because there were no scholarships at the university, there were no federal programs, there were no loan programs. The way I got to come to school was in my family we had a little bit more than we had to live on and so we made this agreement that the first one who went to college would then when they got out would pay back what they had used, and so the next one could go to college, and the next one. And that's what we did. Three of my family went to college, one went to business school and one went to beauty school.</p> <p>PT: Wow!</p>

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MS: My sister is Dr. Martha Jenkins who was in the Consumer & Family Science Department for many years. And my brother-in-law also went to our little Gemaliel high school and he was in the Biology Department and head of the Biology Department for several years.

PT: Oh, and who was that?

MS: Jeff Jenkins.

PT: Okay.

MS: So, for entertainment, sometimes we would, when we got a break go to a movie downtown. There was one at the Princess Theatre that you could go to for twenty-five cents.

PT: Twenty-five cents.

MS: Yes. And of course, hamburgers were ten cents apiece then and colas were five cents, but, of course you didn't make very much money, if you worked in the dorm, you'd maybe make twenty or twenty-five cents an hour.

PT: So you'd walk all the way down [town]?

MS: Oh yes, because nobody had a car. There was no parking problem, because nobody had any kind of vehicle.

PT: Well, I hear that sometimes when it snowed students had fun on the hill. Did you ever participate in sliding down the hill?

MS: No, I didn't.

PT: You weren't one of those?

MS: I wasn't one of those. I wasn't one of those. Mostly we had our own little groups that we talked or we, like I said we might go to the movie or to the basketball games or some of the things on campus that didn't cost anything but I guess I wasn't adventurous enough to go sliding down the hill.

Tape 1 1 00:19:53

PT: How about, where did you eat on campus?

MS: We ate at the cafeteria or . . .

PT: And which . . .

MS: Which was located in Garrett, Garrett Conference Center . . .

PT: Okay.

MS: . . . in the basement level.

PT: So where it is now?

MS: Right, but it was new then. That may have been either the first or second year it was open because before that, I understand that it was in Potter Hall.

PT: Do you remember anything about the food.

MS: Well, the food was fine. It was just ordinary food. You would go through the line and you paid for your food as you went through or you could get meal tickets and they were detachable. They were a little book and they were detachable. They had different amounts, different denominations in there. As I recall it wasn't very expensive, but I guess it was comparative. We used to go sometimes to a little place that's down on the corner, catty-corner to where the Log Cabin is on the lower part of the campus. It was called the Western Inn and you could get a spaghetti meal there for a dollar. In those days we didn't have much trouble staying thin because we had to watch the money that we had and probably not everybody did, but knowing I was going to be paying mine back, I did. We had, you could have food that you would bring from home you could have for breakfast. And then you could bring things that you might have for a snack. Of course, if you didn't get to go home very often, y'know, you were limited in what you could have. I remember that we had cans that were sealed that you bought at the grocery and they were date rolls. A roll of date bread is what it was and you could keep those on hand and you could open that up and slice it off and that was a pretty good little snack. We had colas and snack machines in the dorm, but if you had one really good meal a day that would probably do you. And so, if you went down and had spaghetti, you could have spaghetti, bread and a salad and it was less than a dollar or around a dollar. So that was a good meal for the day.

Tape 1 1 00:22:50

PT: So any grocery stores or anything around Western's campus?

MS: There was a grocery store across the railroad track which was an IGA type and I don't remember if that's the name of it or not. And then there was a little establishment, it was a row

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			<p>of different kinds of stores that had a laundry in it and a grocery store and two or three other types of stores. It was, I believe it was just this side, it's about the area where what the students refer to as the Egypt parking lot, along that, there was a little strip along that highway. And you could go up there. And about laundry, we used to do our laundry and hang it up in our bathroom, y'know, especially our socks and things like that that we could do that didn't take up much room. Or we might have a folding, one of the folding hangers that expands to make drying space. Those are the only two places I remember that were within walking distance. Occasionally somebody who was more, I guess more endowed with things would have a car in our group and they would be allowed to bring it for the weekend and we might, once or twice we went to Nashville to do some things there. That was really a big trip for us and an enjoyable one. I remember we went to the Parthenon and to the Belle Meade mansion and had dinner in one of the restaurants in Nashville one weekend.</p> <p>PT: That sounds like fun.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:25:00	<p>MS: Then there were several veterans coming back from the Korean War at that time. And one of the people, well, my first husband was one of those, so I met him the first year I was in college. So, after I met him, of course he had an automobile so I was able to do more things.</p> <p>PT: So he came back from the Korean War and started taking classes.</p> <p>MS: Right.</p> <p>PT: And that's how you met him. Did you stay single then or did you get married during the . . . ?</p> <p>MS: No, we didn't get married until after I had graduated and I was already teaching.</p> <p>PT: Okay.</p> <p>MS: But he had been to Western two years before he went into service. So he just liked a couple years.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:25:52	<p>PT: So how many majors then did you, were you thinking about?</p> <p>MS: Well, at first I had thought about pharmacy, but that didn't work out very well or at least when I pursued it a little further it didn't work out very well. I didn't think it would because high schools didn't have chemistry and our school didn't have physics and those are important things. We had, I think we had when I was in high school we had eighteen credits offered and you had to have sixteen to graduate and the two that I didn't take were agriculture and the two that the boys didn't take were home economics. So, I was pretty limited, but I came to school well prepared in that I had learned to work and I had learned how to work and I'd learned how to study and I'd learned what was important about dedication and stick-to-itiveness and that sort of thing. So I decided I might just major in home economics, but I found out that that wasn't what I wanted to do. And after the first year I went home and I thought during the summer what would I most like to do that would be more like play than it would work? And I decided that business was more fun to me than anything I knew of so I came back and decided to major in business education. Western didn't have a business school then, but they had an agreement with the Business University that students who wanted to have a degree in business education to teach school would take all of their general courses and their education classes at Western. And we would go up and down the hill to the Business University and take our business classes, typing, shorthand, bookkeeping, general business accounting, all those things. And so that's what I did. So I ran up and down the hill. Basically, you had most of the first two years at Western and then some of the other classes you had at Western during the next two years, but basically most of them were at the Business University.</p> <p>PT: Which was located . . . ?</p> <p>MS: At the foot of the hill where the towers are now. [the block bounded by 11th, 12th, College and Center Streets]</p> <p>PT: The towers?</p> <p>MS: Yes.</p> <p>PT: Okay that's a big difference as well, isn't it?</p> <p>MS: Right.</p> <p>PT: Now the towers, did it look like it does today, or . . . ?</p> <p>MS: No, it was an entirely different building because it burned. It looked like an old castle, is what it looked like. And the teachers there were very good. They knew their material and they were very strict and high expectations.</p>
Tape 1	1	00:29:16	<p>PT: How about the houses along like College Street and State Street . . . ?</p> <p>MS: Oh, they really haven't changed all that much except that they've just been redone.</p>

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PT: Did any students live or did most students live on campus, rather than . . . ?

MS: Most students lived on campus, I think or they lived in town or they commuted. Not from any [unclear], but maybe from Butler County or surrounding counties they might. The Business University students though, a lot of them lived in boarding houses that were some of the older bigger homes in the area where the towers are located now. And we found it a little bit different and a little bit more difficult to go to two schools at one time in that the terms for summer school at the Business University were ten weeks whereas the term for Western was eight weeks. So for the two weeks that we didn't have a place to live we either had to find somebody to live with for those two weeks or we rented a room in one of the boarding houses to finish out the two weeks. I went to, I attended school during the summer a couple of summers because I graduated in three and a half years and in order to do that I had to go to school during the summer for two times. We did our student teaching at College High. I did one term during the summer when I taught typing and one term during the regular year when I was in the bookkeeping and the shorthand sections.

PT: And what building was that?

MS: That was in the building that is the technology building, the one that's on the corner across from the planetarium.

PT: Okay.

MS: Not the Environmental Science & Technology, I believe that's the newer one, but it's the technology building.

PT: Okay.

MS: I'm not sure what its name is now. [Science & Technology Hall at the time of this interview, now called College High Hall, 2013]

Tape 1 1 00:31:37

PT: Did you ever go to Lost River Cave or anything?

MS: No, no, I was not a very daring person.

PT: No, but they had dances there.

MS: Yes. I didn't go.

Tape 1 1 00:31:50

PT: You got out in 3 ½ years so that means as soon as you got out you got a job and started paying off . . .

MS: Right

PT: . . . paying your parents back so the next child could go.

MS: Actually, the semester that I got out I had been working part time for the architect on these two dorms and I continued to do that and he asked me if I would work for him full time. Although I was looking for a teaching position I accepted his office because I needed to work and it was in the middle of the year and most schools are not hiring. It was in December when I graduated. But . . .

[32:37 end of side 1]

Tape 1 2 00:33:15

PT: Okay, Dr. [Dero] Downing?

MS: Had called the office where I was and asked if I would come by and see him. And he was the principal at College High, the Training School. And immediately I wondered I had finished my student teaching there not very long before and I wondered did I do something wrong. Did they have a complaint or why is asking me to come in? And so I went and he said, "I want to talk to you about a teaching position." And I said, "Well, what teaching position is that?" And he said, "the business education teacher at College High," that Mrs. Holman who had been there a number of years and who had been my supervising teacher was going on maternity leave and wondered if I would be interested in coming back. And I said, "I don't even have to think about it, I will." Because I was already looking for a position and you just, and that was just the best of the best to me. So I started teaching there in November of '57. I taught for five years and then my husband who graduated at Western in agriculture became a soil conservationist. And we, well actually prior to the time that he became a soil conservationist he was the adult vocational agricultural teacher for rural development in Butler County and we moved there and I commuted back and forth. And then later, when he was assigned as a soil conservationist to western Kentucky I had to resign so that I could go there. And then while I was there I taught for a couple of years and then he passed away with lung malignancy when he was 35 so I came back to Western. And that's strange because I was teaching. I didn't come back directly to Western. I was teaching in Muldraugh, up near Louisville finishing out a year for somebody who had retired in February. And Dr. Downing called and wondered if I would be interested in coming back to work for him. He was then Vice President of Western and I told him that I would think about it. Because I had to think about whether I could live on

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			<p>what they were able to pay, because teaching paid more. And I finally decided that I would because it was what I had always wanted to do. Because during the summers I would work for him in his office and the Registrar's Office while I was teaching school during the regular year and it just, it was always just more fun than it was work so I told him that I would come. And I was changing 9 months for 12 months work and a reduction in salary, but I, it was what I really wanted to do. So I came back in 1966, June 13th, three days before the school became a university. And he was Vice President for Administrative Affairs at that time and I was hired as a staff assistant in his office. And then in 1969 he became president and he asked me if I would continue to be his secretary which I was glad to do. And then I was later, and while I was secretary in the President's Office, part of the time I was also secretary to the Board of Regents. And then when Dr. Downing retired he asked me if I would like to come here [College Heights Foundation] with him as the executive secretary-treasurer. And that was my job for over a good many years until Alex Downing came as the president and treasurer. And then I retired in 1998 and have been the executive secretary and secretary to the [College High Foundation] Board since then for the last seven years, going on eight.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:38:16	<p>PT: So you are obviously part time . . .</p> <p>MS: I'm part time.</p> <p>PT: You come in how many days a week then?</p> <p>MS: Two.</p> <p>PT: Two. So you can't get away from Western can you?</p> <p>MS: No, and I don't really want to. Don't really want to. I think sometimes that this is, the campus is so much like my home, y'know, you feel at home everywhere on the campus and every place has special memories. And you think about different things that happened when you were here, there, somewhere else on campus. So it's been a wonderful life. And Dr. Downing is such a wonderful person to work for. And you just, he's well, the epitome of what I think a Christian should be, always kind, considerate, and it's just been a great opportunity.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:39:28	<p>PT: What's it like to work for the president of the university?</p> <p>MS: Well, it was very busy, very, it took a lot of time there really wasn't a lot of personal time left. Your hours were, the office hours were from 8:00 to 4:30, but when I first started working for Dr. Downing, we tried to keep our office open some on Saturdays as well. And then, but we sort of worked out of that. But during the time that Dr. Downing was president from '69 to '79 there was, that was the period of student unrest. We didn't have so much here on this campus, but you always had to be prepared and you might, I wasn't married then and had one child and we lived on or near the campus most of that time and so if we needed to have something done on a Sunday afternoon, then we worked on Sunday afternoon. Or if we needed something done on a Saturday we worked on a Saturday. In order to get ahead for the next day, we might, I might take some dictation in the evening at home on the phone, I might, and I had a typewriter at home, I might type it before I got to work the next day. So it was, it was not much different in a lot of ways than working with the vice president except that where there might be one or two projects there might be ten or twenty projects; and where there might be three or four people coming in to have a conference there might be ten groups of people during the day. You would see people from all walks of life come parents, students with problems, faculty with proposals of different kinds, problems that had to be taken care of, construction and just a variety of things. It was really not, the work was really not that much different than what it was in another office for me, but it was a constant thing and it spilled over into the evenings and to the weekends.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:42:23	<p>PT: What building were you in, or did you move around?</p> <p>MS: When Dr. Downing was Vice President for Administrative Affairs we were in Van Meter.</p> <p>PT: Okay.</p> <p>MS: And then when Wetherby was constructed we moved there. And Dr. Downing was the vice president when we moved there, but shortly after we moved there he was named president so all of his years were in the same office that Dr. [Gary] Ransdell's office is.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:43:00	<p>PT: Okay. And you talked a little bit about the unrest. Can you, do you remember any specific incidents?</p> <p>MS: Well students they might have some problem they didn't like the decision that was made on or it was just a general feeling that, on campus, that you never knew what was going to happen next.</p> <p>PT: Okay.</p> <p>MS: It was a time in history where it was the thing to do on college campuses to protest about this or that or something else. Protest about the way the cheerleaders were selected, or about the yearbook cover or some other thing that, y'know you might not even consider very</p>

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			<p>important, but it was just the atmosphere that college campuses had at the time.</p> <p>PT: Was there much protest during the Civil Rights movement kind of in the '60s or '50s when you were here as a student?</p> <p>MS: I don't recall that there was. We had a few black students who came later, but when I was a student here in '53 to '57, I have thought, tried to remember and couldn't remember if we had a black student. But I understand that when the first black student came that it was not a problem on campus.</p> <p>PT: So pretty uneventful, then.</p> <p>MS: It was pretty uneventful as far as their not being accepted.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:44:56	<p>PT: Can you remember any time when you were in the President's Office, I mean can you remember a story or two about when you were in there that sort of you remember, "Oh my goodness, I remember that thing happening?" Or does it all kind of . . . ?</p> <p>MS: I don't remember a story in particular right off. I do remember that Dr. Downing had an open door policy and anyone who wanted to speak with the president whether they were a student or a parent or a faculty member. We always made an appointment for them if they wanted to. Sometimes they'd have to wait, but if there was an opening, as soon as there was an opening on the calendar Dr. Downing would see them, would meet with them. Because we never turned down anybody who wanted to speak with him that was his policy. And the door to the outside office was never closed. It, well at night it was, but I mean during the day the door was, the door itself was open physically.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:46:16	<p>PT: Change over time. What are some of the major changes that you've seen occur?</p> <p>MS: Well, I think the number of course of students is a big thing.</p> <p>PT: Okay.</p> <p>MS: The buildings. There are a lot more buildings on campus than there were. All the dorms that were built after McLean Hall in the way of dormitories were all new. And down on the lower part of the campus all that is new. And when I came as a student we used to go down on the Kentucky Building grounds and study and of course that's all covered with dormitories now. As far as the, I think the economy of course is different because nobody had a lot of extra money when I came.</p> <p>PT: And the scholarships and . . .</p> <p>MS: And there were no scholarships.</p> <p>PT: No financial aid.</p> <p>MS: No financial aid. And I think there are more academic programs now than there were. And more opportunities and I think students have more freedom, more freedom in their dorm life. I think that students earlier tried to complete their degrees in four years. I think that it takes longer to complete their degrees. And then there's a lot of diversity in faculty and there's a lot of diversity in student body which we didn't have it was more like a local school or regional school, maybe the state, but not so many foreign country representatives.</p> <p>PT: So that, those are big changes that you've noticed.</p> <p>MS: Yes.</p> <p>PT: And you're talking about social customs, do you think social customs have changed?</p> <p>MS: I think so.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:48:33	<p>PT: Did you have much contact though with faculty when you were a student? Do you think you had more contact with them than students now?</p> <p>MS: Oh yes, we had much more, I think we had much more contact maybe it was a matter of whether or not you sought out the faculty to ask questions or but the first class that I had was with Dr. Gordon Wilson, Sr. Dr. Wilson was an extraordinary person anyway, but he had so many interests ornithology, speech just lots of things besides teaching the classroom but he did a wonderful job doing that. But he was so energetic. And he could tell what part of the country you were from by the way you spoke. And he got to know his students. He'd come in and he'd have given a test and he'd start passing out your papers and he'd know you, knew you by your name. He could look at the paper and knew where it went and tell how many A's he had, how many 100s he had, how many people passed and how many didn't all the while he was passing out the papers. But if he met you on campus he would call you by your name and I don't know whether students are called now by their first name or their last name, but we were always by our last name, miss or mister. But and he would know two years later when my sister came and I would see him on campus, he would know I had a sister here, this sort of thing. Now not all the professors were like that, but they would all get to know you in the class</p>

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			<i>before the semester was over. And I can recall if I had questions I could go to the professor after class or go by their office because they had office hours when you could go by and talk with them or ask for extra explanation so I don't know, I don't know how that works now. I don't know whether faculty and students still have that same kind of relationship but knowing the number of students and knowing the mindset of a lot of students I would say that the students are not seeking out faculty the way we used to do.</i>
Tape 1	2	00:51:15	<p><i>PT: How about the style of dress?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well we wore skirts and blouses and sweaters and bobby socks and shoes. I see some students now who even go to class barefoot and certainly the dress is different than it was then. Our dress was more formal, it wasn't, it didn't have to be a shirt and tie and all that but we wouldn't think about going to class with a pair of shorts on.</i></p> <p><i>PT: How about the faculty members? Did they all have suits?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Most of them I'd say did. If they didn't the men would have sports shirt, jacket. The women wore suits or dresses, high heels or whatever heels they preferred and hose. They wouldn't come to class with a pair of shorts or a pair of cowboy boots or that kind of thing.</i></p>
Tape 1	2	00:52:40	<p><i>PT: How about the administration. How do you think that that's changed over time?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well we have a lot more than we used to. I don't really know that much about the administration. I think that perhaps when the school was smaller, that the president and the vice president had a bigger hand in the decision making than they do now. I think they have more support at different levels in bringing ideas and presenting them for consideration. And maybe through committees they have more influence on the decisions of the administrators than they used to. I think the maybe the administrators had more decision making power and used it more to the exclusion of input from committees and other faculty members.</i></p>
Tape 1	2	00:54:03	<p><i>PT: Okay. Did you change Western, do you think?</i></p> <p><i>MS: I don't think so. I don't think so.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Did Western change you?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Definitely, I think it did.</i></p> <p><i>PT: How?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Well I think it gave me more freedom. It gave me an opportunity for education to expand my horizons the way I look at things and opportunities to learn things that I would not have had, had I not come to Western. I could have gotten them somewhere else probably, some other school if I'd have known where one was.</i></p>
Tape 1	2	00:54:44	<p><i>PT: Let me we go back just a minute. I just remembered something you said about living on campus. Where did you, after you came back and started working for Dr. Downing, did you say you lived on campus?</i></p> <p><i>MS: When I came back, I was a widow and I had one child who was about a year old. And in order to get back at the beginning of the start of school they had some on campus housing. So I lived in Bates Runner Hall. There are a couple of apartments there. I think maybe Dr. [Richard] Troutman was one of my neighbors. He and Merrell Troutman . . .</i></p> <p><i>PT: I didn't know that.</i></p> <p><i>MS: . . . they lived in one of the apartments there. And one of the professors who was in education, in education lived on the other side of me there. And then the house that is behind the Kentucky Building which is a log house, which at one time, it had had different purposes, but at one time a curator for the museum Mr. Carpenter had lived there. Also, Mr. Howard, Dr. Howard Carpenter and his wife and John Carpenter, the director, had lived in that house. And just before I lived there a Dr. [Louis] Beck, I believe his name was, he was in one of the departments on campus, maybe sociology, he and his family lived there. And then when it became available they asked me if I would be interested in living there so I did. And that's one reason I was so accessible to the work at the time of the position that I had in the President's Office because it would only take a minute or two to get to the office. So it made it possible run up if something was needed on a Sunday afternoon or Saturday. And that's where I lived for ten years I believe.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Ten years. Well that's a big difference between you would never even picture a faculty member living on this campus. They would want to get as far away as they could.</i></p> <p><i>MS: A lot of the faculty members in the years I was a student here and even later would live within walking distance of the campus. That way they didn't need an automobile and we had fewer parking problems.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Than we do today. Do you have a special parking space?</i></p>

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			<p>MS: No.</p> <p>PT: No, you have to walk just like everybody else.</p> <p>MS: I do. I do. I usually park over in what's called the Stars(?) Lot, but some people call it the Pit and I usually park there. Or now that I'm part time, my husband will bring me most of the time and that's one less vehicle on campus.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:58:12	<p>PT: Was your second husband then associated with Western at all?</p> <p>MS: No he wasn't. He was from Louisville and he worked for naval ordinance there so he was not associated with Western. Actually though, he came with some friends of mine to homecoming and that's how, that's . . .</p> <p>PT: How you met him?</p> <p>MS: . . . well actually the friends wanted to come to homecoming and they knew that I wasn't married so they said, "Well we have a friend we'd like to bring down." So it was homecoming that brought us together.</p> <p>PT: So they set up a blind date.</p> <p>MS: Right.</p> <p>PT: And now you're married how many years?</p> <p>MS: 28.</p> <p>PT: How wonderful. Does he tolerate you coming in and still working here?</p> <p>MS: He doesn't mind because it gives him two free days too.</p> <p>PT: So he's retired now.</p> <p>MS: He is, but he doesn't mind that I work. He sort of whatever makes me happy is fine with him. Whatever makes him happy is fine with me, as long as it's reasonable.</p>
Tape 1	2	00:59:22	<p>PT: Reasonable. What do you think about Western celebrating its 100th anniversary?</p> <p>MS: Well I think it's wonderful. I think it's great and I hope they get to celebrate a lot more.</p> <p>PT: What do you think the future of Western is going to be?</p> <p>MS: I think it's going to be here. I think it's going to be greater than it's been before. Of course that depends on the leaders and hopefully the people that really care about the university will be in a position to influence the choice of the leaders and they'll choose somebody who really cares about it. I think that it would not be good if somebody was chosen who is just using it to get to a better position, using it as a stepping stone. I don't think that would, I think that would put us more in a holding pattern than in a growth pattern. But I see so many new things happening, so many new programs coming into existence. I'm sorry that some of the ones that have been here seem to be declining, but I suppose it has to do with what the economy needs. And I think that there should be a great advance in science in that area because I think we have more facilities for it and now we're providing more research opportunities than we did once. That all we can do, I can't speak from firsthand experience, but from people who were involved as far as research was to find out what their unknowns were in microbiology. So I think we do have a lot more opportunities in that area.</p>
Tape 1	2	01:01:29	<p>PT: How do you think we stand in the state?</p> <p>MS: I like to think that we stand about number two.</p> <p>PT: Two, really.</p> <p>MS: Well I think that we are, we're not the state school and we're not the state university as such, but I think we're every bit as good as any of the rest of them.</p> <p>PT: Well said. We're just as good.</p> <p>MS: I think so. And in a lot of ways I think we are probably a little above most of them.</p>
Tape 1	2	01:02:10	<p>PT: How do you think the community likes Western? How do you think our relationship is?</p> <p>MS: I think sometimes they like us better than other times. I think when we're, I think that they recognize if, I think that they recognize that we do a lot for the economy of the area, we provide a lot of jobs and through the students we provide a lot of customers for their goods and services and for their rental places, for their housing. I think that we provide opportunities for</p>

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			<i>entertainment in the sports area and in the plays that we present, in the lecturers that we bring to campus whether they participate in it or not, the opportunities are there. I think that when the university tries to do something that doesn't exactly agree with the citizens of the community then I don't think they're very happy with us. For instance, y'know, you think about the roads that are blocked or the ones that are not blocked or the passage through the campus or the buildings that we might feel that should be replaced or things of that type then I think, but they let us know so that if it's something that can be reconsidered or if there's a way to do it they point that out. So I think that most people here feels, feel it's their university, y'know, it's a part of their life whether they are graduates or whether they ever attend it's still a part of their community.</i>
Tape 1	2	01:04:33	<p><i>PT: Thanks. I hope I have a little bit of time. What's your fondest memory of Western? Do you have one?</i></p> <p><i>MS: Oh goodness, I can't say what my fondest one is. I think of one that brought me the one that brought me the most happiness was meeting my husband here.</i></p> <p><i>PT: Okay.</i></p> <p><i>MS: But I think that outside of that the fondest memory that I have and not a specific one is just the opportunity to be associated with it for such a long time.</i></p> <p><i>[End of tape]</i></p>