

University of Illinois Student Life, 1928-38
Oral History Project
Audrey Moore Stewart – Class of '32
Lexington, Kentucky
May 19, 2001

START OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

Ellen Swain: This is an oral history interview for the University of Illinois Archives. The interviewer is Ellen Swain. The narrator is Audrey Moore Stewart, an alumna from the class of 1932. We are at Mrs. Stewart's home in Lexington, Kentucky and the date is May 19th, 2001.

Could I ask you your full name and birth date?

Audrey Moore Stewart: My full name is Audrey Anita Moore Stewart and my birth date was April 21st, 1910. And, I was born in Montrose, Colorado, the tenth registered birth in Montrose County.

ES: Is that right? What did your parents do? What did your father do for a living?

AS: My father, at that time, was operating a ranch. In the long pull, he was in the building material business with originally, basically Johns-Manville Company. They sold roofing insulation, pipe coverings and things of that sort. He was a salesman for them in Chicago and then they moved him down to Champaign. And so we lived in Champaign from the time I was eight until 1962.

ES: I see.

AS: That's where I lived.

ES: Did you have brothers and sisters?

AS: No, I was an only child.

ES: How did you become interested in the University of Illinois, or why did you choose to come here?

AS: Of course it was there where I was living. I graduated from high school in 1928. In that fall, I had my freshman year in college at Ferry Hall, Lake Forest Illinois, which was a boarding school for girls, for high school years and two years of college. I was there for one year of college and then I transferred to the University of Illinois.

ES: I see, now did you do that for financial reasons?

AS: No. I just wasn't all that happy away from home. My father was able to support us well.

ES: Was education important for your parents?

AS: Yes, because neither of them had had anything like the education I had received. I don't believe my father even graduated from grammar school, as it was called in those days. His father died when he was, I think, 12 or 14, (somewhere in there). And, everybody had to get busy and work because there was no money. My father was really a well, self-educated man. My mother I know attended high school, but I don't think she graduated, as far as I know she did not graduate. And of course, the University being right there was just an obvious.

ES: You didn't look at other schools?

AS: No, I didn't look at other schools, except, as I say, I was in Ferry Hall for one year.

ES: Which high school did you go to?

AS: Champaign High School.

ES: Did a lot of the students go on to college from your class?

AS: I don't know the percentages, but many did. Some of them did, but not for the full four years. And then, for one reason financial or another reason they had to leave or maybe they flunked out, I'm not really sure, but some didn't finish. A few local people did complete their degree.

ES: Did they live at home then usually?

AS: Yes I believe many did. I lived at home. Although I belonged to a sorority, I lived at home.

ES: You started school in 1929—

AS: Yes that's when I started at the University of Illinois.

ES: At the University, right. Did the Stock Market crash have any effect on your family?

AS: The Stock Market crashed right about that time. But it did not affect my family particularly. My father and mother had been very frugal and my father had worked very hard, and my mother stayed at home. We were very lucky and didn't suffer during the Depression.

ES: When you went to college, did you, well, did you want to go to college?

AS: Oh yes. They had college prep courses in high school.

ES: What did you want to do with your degree? Did you know when you started?

AS: Well, I didn't know what I was going to do with my degree, but I knew I was interested in Journalism. I received a bachelor's in Journalism in 1932. And then because the Depression was still on, my father did not want me to take a job, he said that other people needed to work more than I did. So I went on to school and I had three units toward a masters after my BS. Then the man who was President of the University, (his name was Daniels I think) kicked me out of graduate school. He said I wasn't graduate school material. But I had the three units. I went on and got my bachelor's in English [February 1934].

ES: Why would he say that?

AS: Well, I was majoring in English, and I had a terrible time with old or ancient, or whatever, English. I didn't flunk it and the rest of my grades were okay, but he said, "you're not grad college material." In those days, I was very placid and took his word for it. I went on in college. I got my bachelor's [B.A.].

ES: You got a second degree. You were in Journalism. Did you have any favorite professors?

AS: Oh yes. Professor Laurence Murphy was head of the school and he was one of my favorites. Fred Seibert was another. Charlie Allen was another. They were all in Journalism.

ES: How did they influence you or why did you like them?

AS: Well, Fred Seibert was totally entertaining [*laughter*]. I had the most fun in his class than any other. The others were very competent, and Prof. Lawrence Murphy, in addition to being a good teacher, was head of the department. I could never learn to swim. In those days, (I don't know about now), you had to learn to swim to get your diploma! I had tried in high school and I had tried in college. I had tried and tried but just I could not swim. So, I said to him, "I'm sorry, but I cannot swim. Can I still graduate?" He said, "I do not see what swimming has to do with your graduating in the first place." So, I graduated.

ES: It seems like kind of a funny rule.

AS: Yes it was.

ES: How many students were in your classes? How big were most of your classes?

AS: Well, with Charlie Allen, it seems to me that we had quite a few students. I believe it was a large lecture course. I remember a large lecture room. So I don't know, a hundred or sixty, but I know there were quite a few. The other classes were reasonable. When I took a course under Bruce Warrick, that was after I went back for my second diploma. I'm sure there were no more than 25 or 30 students in the class.

ES: Did you feel like you knew your professors?

AS: Not intimately. They were the professors and I was the student. I didn't feel on close terms with any of them.

ES: Did students socialize with professors at all or were there any outside the classroom activities?

AS: No, students in my era didn't socialize with the professors, and I don't remember there being any "outside" activities.

ES: In the English Department.

AS: Uh-huh. Except Warrick, Professor Bruce Warrick. He taught Creative Writing. And he was a character, to say the least. I wasn't awfully fond of him, but he amused me.

ES: What kinds of things would he do.

AS: For one thing, he was a very unusual man. I'm not sure why, but I kind of think I do know why. He would have his individual conferences with his students in his apartment. The boys came in one or in numbers and he always insisted on the girls coming in twos. So— *[laughter]*

ES: *[Laughter]* The Journalism School was very new at that time.

AS: Yes, I think it was. It was not called Communications or any of that, it was called the School of Journalism.

ES: Did you make a close association with other students in Journalism? Some fairly famous people came out of the school.

AS: I'm sure they did. The only one I knew very well was Kathryn Hansen. I knew her well because we were in the same sorority and we are still close friends.

ES: But you didn't know Scotty Reston?

AS: No. I had known of him for many years, but I don't think we were in Journalism school at the same time.

ES: What do you think the main strengths or weaknesses [of your education] have been looking back?

AS: Well, I just found satisfaction in going to school. I enjoyed that until 1934 when I graduated in February and I decided I had had enough. I never objected going to school, I enjoyed it. As far as strengths and weaknesses, I suppose they were the ones that most people receive from education.

ES: You were happy with the University of Illinois?

AS: Yes. I was very happy with the University of Illinois. I never had any regrets about going to school there after that one year at Ferry Hall. I enjoyed Ferry Hall, also, but I was a just little on the home sick side.

ES: Could I ask you about rules for students now? What kinds of things were—?

AS: Rules. Well, of course, hardly anyone had cars. I traveled by bus or street car. Whatever it was, I think maybe it was a street car in those days. My father, well, would maybe take me to school in the morning, but coming home I used the street car. And of course, no smoking on campus. You were just supposed to behave yourself. That's all I can remember.

ES: What were the penalties?

AS: Well, going to the Dean's office was one of the penalties, which I didn't have to do.

ES: Do you remember Maria Leonard?

AS: Oh yes.

ES: What were your impressions of her?

AS: Well, I thought she was a very dignified, handsome, fair-minded woman.

ES: Do you think other students felt that way about her too, or was that the general impression?

AS: Well, I really don't know because I don't remember that we ever discussed her.

ES: How visible was she among the student body. You knew her name, but did you see her?

AS: Yes, I met her. It seems to me that I went to see her once, but I can't remember why. It was not disciplinary, because I was never in need of that kind of discipline in college or much of any other time. She and Dr. Maude Etheridge, who was head of the health department for women, were housemates. I just had a very positive impression of her.

ES: Do you remember Thomas Arkle Clark?

AS: Oh yes.

ES: You probably didn't have much dealing with him, but—.

AS: I never met him, but of course I knew of him from day one.

ES: Did the students, how did they students feel about him?

AS: I think positively. Again, I never heard anything negative. There probably were negative things, but I didn't happen to hear of them.

ES: Had any of your friends been disciplined?

AS: Not that I knew of. If they were, they did it on the quiet.

ES: Do you remember his death? He died in 1932. Was there a reaction on campus?

AS: No, I don't remember. It may have been while I was at school, but I'm not sure. I don't really think so.

ES: And then Fred Turner took over.

AS: I'm not sure about Dr. Clark.

ES: How would you characterize the moral code on campus?

AS: Oh, generally speaking, very high.

ES: That was regulated by the Deans?

AS: It just came naturally to most people I think. Of course, I knew mostly the girls in my sorority. With one exception, that I can think of, they were all above reproach.

ES: Were there rules about dating?

AS: Oh yes, we had to be in at such-and-such a time. I think 10 o'clock on weeknights and 12 o'clock on other nights. Unless it was a prom or something, then we were allowed to be out until one.

ES: Was there any resentment about that?

AS: No, everyone just took it for granted. People of that era did not revolt against rules and regulations. They just accepted them and lived by them.

ES: Did religion on campus figure heavily? Were people involved in the foundations?

AS: Well of course, there were foundations. There was McKinley and Wesley and so on. I don't know, I think most of my friends went to church, at least sporadically. Which is what I did, sporadically. People just. . . maybe they did things that we didn't know about, but to the naked eye, people did what they were supposed to, almost always.

ES: Also, you mentioned Daniels. Did you have impressions of the President when he was there? Was he someone who figured—

AS: Well it seems to me that he had been Dean of some school before he came President. And I don't think he was President for too long. Of course, I had a low regard for him after he told me I was not graduate school material. I don't know whether I was or not, but I didn't like being told that I wasn't.

ES: Do you remember President Chase at all in the early 30s?

AS: I lived in Champaign when he was there, but I wasn't in school when he was there.

ES: He had the President's house built at that time.

AS: Yes, and it's beautiful. Some of my parent's things are, or were, in the house. My father donated part of my mother's antique collection, to the Moore section of the Krannert Art Museum. My daughter was visiting in Champaign after the donation and asked about the whereabouts of the Chinese garden seats that my parents had in their sun room or were in the garden room. She found out they were in the President's house in their bedroom.

ES: Was there a reaction in town when the President built this?

AS: I don't think there was any resentment or any negative thoughts. I just think, again, people were very accepting of the idea.

ES: You were in a sorority?

AS: Yes I was.

ES: Can you talk about that. How you became involved in that and why and what sorority it was?

AS: My sorority was originally called Alpha Delta Theta, it is now Phi Mu. They merged with Phi Mu in 1939. Well, I was not allowed to belong to a sorority in high school by my parents. But, when I went to the University, it was okay with them, so I rushed. One of my best friends, and still one of my best friends, Anita Washer Clay, was a member of Alpha Delta Theta, so I went Alpha Delta Theta. Mostly because she belonged.

ES: What was involved in rushing? How did you do that?

AS: Well, you were invited to. It's not like it is now, or it wasn't when I lived there in later years. You were invited to A O Pi, say, usually for dinner or lunch or tea or such, and you were rushed, you know, or you weren't. Sororities had very stringent rules. For instance, at meal time, no one sat down for lunch or dinner until the house mother was seated. Then the rest of us could sit down. It was a kind of a middle-class man's finishing school, living in a sorority then. You were taught quite a bit about table manners if you didn't already know them. You were just taught pretty good behavior. And, the house mother was pretty important to the whole set up. It was a good experience. Most of my best friends were my sorority sisters and have been for many years.

ES: Did you live in the house?

AS: I lived in the house for one month before I was initiated, that was required. I didn't live in the house, generally speaking I lived at home. I went to the house for lunch often and for house meetings and things of that sort.

ES: Did you socialize then with the other members?

AS: Oh yes.

ES: So you were over there for quite a bit?

AS: I was over there enough to be acquainted with all the members.

ES: Were there sororities that were looked on as better than others?

AS: Oh yes, oh my goodness yes! The Theta's, the Pi Phi's, later on after I was at school the Chi Omegas, Alpha Gam, Delta Gam, AD Pi, Alpha Chi Omega. And, Phi Mu has always been in kind of the middle sector.

ES: Were you involved at all in the national, not the national, the Pan-Hellenic Council?

AS: No, I never was. One year I was treasurer of the chapter and I didn't know one blessed thing about figures. I was terrible at math, but anyway I ended up being treasurer. I was never actively involved in Pan-Hellenic, as such.

ES: How did the Greek members on campus and the independent members get along? Was there much interaction or—?

AS: No, I don't think so.

ES: You didn't socialize with them?

AS: You pretty much socialized within your own sorority.

ES: Was there much socializing with other sororities?

AS: Other sororities, no, in those days there was very little interaction between the sororities and, or with the sororities and the fraternities, that has happened since.

ES: There wasn't a specific like fraternity that you did things with or—?

AS: No.

ES: Do you think it gave you a higher status on campus to belong to a sorority, than if you had chosen not to?

AS: Yes it did. However, somewhere along the line, while I was still living in Champaign, the independent groups had more things going for them and they indulged in activities similar to ours.

ES: Was it expensive to belong?

AS: Well of course today, I could definitely say no. But at that time, it was moderately expensive.

ES: But it was something your parents could afford?

AS: Yes.

ES: And were willing?

AS: Oh yes.

ES: They were in favor of you—?

AS: Yes, they were in favor of my joining.

ES: Tell me what kinds of things you did for fun with you had free time.

AS: For what?

ES: For fun.

AS: Of course, that was way before TV. We did have radio. I read a lot in my free time. Mostly frivolous stuff you know, novels and so on, but I read a lot.

ES: What was popular at the time? Do you remember?

AS: I don't remember what was popular at the time. I think mostly people, mostly women, at least, read fiction, novels. But, I can't remember any specific one of that period. Scott Fitzgerald came along somewhere in there, but I was never a particular fan of his. But, I know he wrote somewhere in that period.

ES: So you liked to read when you had a moment?

AS: Yes, I still do.

ES: Where did you go?

AS: We would go for coke dates or to the movies, occasionally a dance. In those days, in December was the Senior Informal and in January was the Freshman Frolic. And then sometime between then and June was the Sophomore Cotillion, the Junior Prom and then in June or late May would be the Senior Ball. And of course, the Military Ball, the Ag Dance and I think there was a Fine Arts Ball but I don't remember ever going to that, but to the others. I met my husband at the Freshman Frolic.

ES: What was his name?

AS: His name was Charles Edward Stewart. He was born and raised in Chicago. He was a pledge in a fraternity, Theta Kappa Nu. He was at the Freshman Frolic with one of my sorority sisters, Pauline Degan, and I was with my cousin, Elmo Travis. My cousin was a freshman, and so he took me to the Freshman Frolic. I had taken him to the Senior Informal or something. At that time he was living with my family. He was from Kansas.

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AS: He was living with my family, so that's how it happened that we were doing these things together. But anyway, Chuck, my husband was with Pauline Degan and she had been at my house for overnight the night before. And so, we said when she left the next morning that we'd see each other tonight at the Freshman Frolic. So, I looked for her and she looked for us. She said to Chuck, "Oh here comes another one of my sorority sisters." And, Chuck said inwardly, "Oh no." But the four of us sat in chairs talking during part of the affair. He and I found ourselves leaning over her and having a big old chat. So she said, "Would you two like to dance?" Chuck said, "Yes" and I said that was fine, so we did. In those days they had a punch bowl and punch glasses somewhere or other. We went to the punch bowl and danced and so on for half an hour. When we got back to our original dates, they were both furious because we had been gone so long. That was on a Saturday night and the next Saturday, I think, Chuck called me for a date. I called Pauline and told her that he had asked me for a date and did she object. Oh no, she didn't object. She had told me the night before I met Chuck that he was just a interval in her life, nothing serious at all. So I assumed it would be okay but I had decided that I didn't want to do it unless she said it was okay. She said it was okay and so we started dating and we had been dating ever since until he died in July of 2000.

ES: Was that your senior year that it happened?

AS: Yes.

ES: What was his major?

AS: He was in the School of Commerce.

ES: Did you have to find a new dress for all of these dances?

AS: Well, sometimes yes, sometimes I wore the same one to two events. The chances of seeing people who had seen you at a previous event were kind of dim. So, I didn't always have a new dress, but I often did.

ES: Was that financial. . . ?

AS: No. My father did very well financially. As I say, he built part of Krannert Museum in his later years. No, we weren't spend thrifts, he wasn't a spend thrift, neither was my mother. They had gone through a lot of hard times earlier. But everything was rosy from the time I was eight years old I'd say, eight to ten years old. When I was eight years old, they bought their first house on Healey Street, in Champaign. They lived there for twelve years, from the time I was ten to the time I was 22. I guess that would be 12 years. Then they moved to 908 W. Healey into a much bigger and nicer home.

ES: But, he had done some work for the University?

AS: My father?

ES: Uh-huh.

AS: Well, in a sense. He had sold to the University some pipe covering for some of their pipes and things. But he had not actually worked for the University.

ES: Was there any other kinds of things that you did for fun? Where did the students hang out? Did they, was there a place they would go?

AS: You see, there was a lack of money on the part of a lot of people in those days. And so there wasn't a lot of, we went to Prehn's and we went to Kammers and, I guess that was mainly it. Occasionally other places when we were on dates. People, more or less, entertained themselves when they weren't studying or in class or so on. I don't think they depended so much on entertainment as much as people do now.

ES: You don't think there was as much offered by the University? Like programs?

AS: Yes. People were anxious to get an education so that they could get a job because jobs were hard to get.

ES: So they were more focused on their studies?

AS: Yes, I would say so.

ES: You were also involved in some organized activities—The *Daily Illini*. Tell me about that. How did you get involved in that? Did that come from your Journalistic—

AS: Yes. When I was in the School of Journalism, I was assigned the University High School beat. When I got there I was referred to Alice Harnash, I always forget her maiden name. She

would give me news that she thought was suitable about University High School which I printed, wrote up for the *Daily Illini*.

ES: Were there many women on the staff of the DI?

AS: No, not so many. Well, you know, I'm not sure, but I think they were mostly men.

ES: Was there any competition between the men and women?

AS: No. Well, if there was, I wasn't aware of it.

ES: You were mainly in charge of the High School news that went into the paper.

AS: Yes, that's all I did.

ES: What other kinds of organizations were you in?

AS: I sang in the Woman's Glee Club. I also took private singing lessons at the University, which was paid for privately. Let's see, what else did I do? I think I mostly, those are the only things that I can think of particularly that I did.

ES: I copied your *Illio* page. It says the Jamesonian Literary Society.

AS: Well, okay. [laughter]

ES: Do you remember that? What was that?

AS: No, I've forgot. There may have been a literary society, I don't know. Wait a minute. The University Choral Society. I frankly don't remember about the Literary, I don't remember a thing about that.

ES: That's okay. I wanted to ask you about athletics. Did people go to the sporting events? Did you go to the sporting events?

AS: Yes, yes. I went to basketball games, some football games. Baseball, I really liked to watch. My husband and I would go to the old Illinois field and watch baseball, have peanuts or something to eat. And anyway, those were the main things that I was interested in. But I went to basketball games and football games.

ES: Who were the sports figures or student athletes?

AS: Oh, Red Grange!

ES: Sure, but actually he had left by 29, right?

AS: Maybe so, but I certainly saw him before I was in college at the University of Illinois. My father bought tickets for his customers, and usually there was one for me too. I went to games, football games for years.

ES: Were the student athletes on campus looked, revered or did you know who was on the sports teams?

AS: Mainly, those who rose above the crowd like Red Grange and people like that. No, I wasn't acquainted with them, I probably didn't even know the names of some of them.

ES: Talking about sports, what was required of women students?

AS: You had to take PE for, I think, one year. I was rotten, just rotten [*laughter*]. I was not athletic, never was.

ES: You had to learn how to swim?

AS: I never learned how to swim. To this day I don't know how to swim.

ES: It seems like a funny requirement. What kind of things did you wear? What was the fashion?

AS: Oh, when you went, for instance, to a rush party to a sorority, you wore gloves and maybe hats, but you certainly wore gloves, white gloves. And of course you wore whatever was the mode of the day. I really don't remember the clothes. During the Depression, clothes were long and were supposed to go with the economic trend. If the clothes are long you're in the Depression and if the clothes are short, then money is not so tight [*laughter*].

ES: Where did that—

AS: I don't know where that came from but that was what people said.

ES: What did you wear to class? What would be common?

AS: Absolutely no pant suits and absolutely no tennis shoes. I usually wore a dress. My mother would get me six dresses each season while I was in high school and in college. I would have at least six dresses to go to school in. I would wear them Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and then the next Monday was the sixth dress. Then on Tuesday I would start with number one dress so that they wouldn't get tired of my clothes in my classes. I had a sorority sister who had one dress. I'm not kidding. She wore it day in and day out for months. It was during the Depression and her father was hurting. She wore the one dress and it was always clean. I don't know how she kept it clean, but it was always clean. She wore that one dress during the winter season. I can't remember about the warm weather.

ES: She must have gotten really tired of it.

AS: I'm sure she did. When she was on her own and able to afford things for herself, she really kind of went in for clothes. And I could understand why.

ES: What did you do for laundry? How did you clean your clothes?

AS: My laundry was done at home.

ES: You said the Depression didn't really affect your family as hard as some other people. Did you realize that it was hard for other people on campus?

AS: Yes for many it was difficult financially.

ES: How did that show itself?

AS: Because, again, many were limited in their wardrobes. People just weren't throwing money around like kids do now. In my case, I had street car money, I had money for lunch on campus, very little extra over and above that. My mother did not believe in me having a lot of money. But, I had enough to do the things that I needed to do.

ES: Did any of your friends have to leave school?

AS: Yes. Some of my high school friends had to leave school because of finances. It was a pity in one case in particular. She was a very, very bright girl and she should have had the benefit of attending college. But for some people, the case I'm talking. I think her mother died. Her mother and some siblings of her mother owned a farm near Bondville. When the mother died, the father was forced off the farm that he had been running. Thus no money for her to go to college.

ES: Living at home surely cut a lot of your costs.

AS: Well, living at home was a big economy, yes.

ES: Did students have jobs when they were in school?

AS: Yes there were a few.

ES: None of your sorority sisters had outside jobs?

AS: I don't think so. I don't remember a single one. Well, some of my sorority sisters, in one case, one of my sorority sister's future husband did work as a waiter, I think, in one of the dorms or someplace to get his meals. Because again he came from a farm family and they were very hard hit and couldn't do much for him. In fact, one Christmas he had a dollar to spend on gifts. With that one dollar, he got something for his mother, his father, his two sisters, his brother and his girlfriend who was my friend. One dollar!

ES: Wow, that's amazing. I also wanted to ask you about the make up of the student body. Do you remember black students on campus?

AS: Very few, very, very few. And of course, very few foreign students at that time.

ES: You don't remember—

AS: There may have been. I know in high school, I remember one fellow, in fact, and one girl in my high school class who were black. But I don't remember having any black students in college.

ES: So you don't remember how they were treated or if there was any discrimination on campus?

AS: I have no idea. I had no contact in class or any place else with any of them and I do not know how they were treated.

ES: What about Jewish students?

AS: Well Jewish students, yes, I had a friend from Ferry Hall who went to the University of Illinois at the same time I did and she joined the Jewish sorority, I was invited, one time, as her guest, to the sorority as her guest for dinner. But I don't think they were widely accepted.

ES: In what way, or—?

AS: What I mean is that I don't think that they associated with gentiles in any, to any large extent at all.

ES: Were you aware of feelings against—?

AS: I suppose. I personally didn't have any feeling against them. I just don't think that they were accepted generally except in their own groups.

ES: They stayed together?

AS: Yes.

ES: Were there any divisions among Catholic and Protestant students?

AS: Well, pretty much. There was a Catholic sorority that I seem to remember. I think we had, maybe, one Catholic, one or two Catholics in the sorority, but again that was not the norm to have very much of a mix there in those days.

ES: So normally sororities didn't accept Catholics?

AS: No, at that time. Now they pretty much have to accept everybody as far as race and religion is concerned

ES: When you were in school, how aware of national events were you events going on outside of Champaign-Urbana? Did you keep in touch with the national news?

AS: To a moderate degree I did. Partially probably because I was in Journalism, and partially because I have always been some what interested in politics. Not necessarily in favor of most politicians, but I had been interested in the process. I remember when, in 1932, I think it was, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected.

ES: What was the reaction on campus? Were people interested in the election or—?

AS: I really can't answer that because I can't remember if people were or not. I don't think it was a big thing with most people.

ES: But you did keep track of it?

AS: Up to a point, yes. I would read the newspaper and of course maybe listen to the radio occasionally and get what were presented as facts in those areas. But, I don't remember sitting down and discussing politics with my friends. However, Chuck and I were at great odds during that election for Roosevelt. I forget who he was running against. I was for the other guy and Chuck was for Roosevelt and of course I became quite a fan of Roosevelt myself, in the end.

ES: Did students become involved in campus politics? Student government wasn't—?

AS: I don't think so. I do not remember anybody that I know that was involved in campus politics at all.

ES: Did you have a feeling of what the political ideology among students was? Were they Republican or Democrat?

AS: Well, I don't know what the majority of them were, I was, but I know my father was at that time; my mother, I think, couldn't care less. My father was much more Republican minded. Later he became more interested in the Democrats. I think people had preferences but they didn't much talk about them.

ES: Were there any radical activities among the students? Any kind of—?

AS: I don't remember.

ES: You graduated in 32. Did you go through Commencement at that time?

AS: Yes.

ES: Was that an important event for—?

AS: Yes, that was very important. We graduated in the morning. My future husband to be was there, and my mother and father. After Commencement my husband took me to Sue's Inn, which was a tea room type of place for a memorable lunch.

ES: Did he graduate in the same—?

AS: He didn't graduate, he had senior status. His father died very soon after I met him. And, he stayed in school that semester and he went another semester. He was living in Chicago with his mother. He went to Louis Institute and he accumulated enough hours to have senior status, but he never did graduate.

ES: What does that mean exactly?

AS: Well, it means that he had enough hours to be a senior.

ES: But he just didn't quite get enough to graduate?

AS: Yes, he had not earned enough hours to graduate.

ES: And then you said you stayed at U of I to work towards a masters but you eventually went to get another degree in English? And that was in 1934?

AS: Yes.

ES: What did you do after that? Did you have a hard time finding a job?

AS: No, my father wouldn't let me, this is the Depression remember. He said again, "there are people who need jobs a lot worse than you do and I don't want you to take jobs away from them." So I was at home. I was at home from February '34 until October '35 when I was married.

ES: I see. Did you want to have a job?

AS: I always regretted not having had a job because I thought it would have given me a better sense of worth. But, in those days you did, or at least I did, what your father said. Of course, my mother was delighted to have me at home because I could drive her here and there. She didn't drive but I knew how, so I could drive her here, there and yonder. She was an antique collector and she liked to go antiquing, and so that's the way it worked.

ES: When you were in school did you look towards a career?

AS: No, I'm not sure if I did or not. I think I knew I wasn't supposed to take a job. But as I say, I always regretted that I didn't have that experience.

ES: After you got married, what did you do? Where did you go?

AS: I was just a housewife. After we had been married about five and a half years, we adopted a son, Bruce, he was two months old. Five years later, or almost five years later, a little over five years later, we adopted a daughter, whose house this is, Danita, and she was three and a half months old. We raised them, I was active in AAUW, my sorority alum group, a little bit in the League of Women Voters, but not too much. And, I kept busy.

ES: Until 1962 until you moved?

AS: Then we moved here [Lexington, Kentucky] when my husband changed jobs. By that time my son was in the Navy, in the submarine service, and my daughter was sixteen. She graduated from Lafayette High School here. Then she went to Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky for about a year and a half when she married and had a son.

ES: Tell me, 1935, was still Depression time.

AS: That was very much still Depression time.

ES: Did your husband have a hard time finding a job at that time or did he already have one?

AS: My father offered him a job in his company.

ES: That brought him down to Champaign too?

AS: Yes. He worked in Chicago Heights for my father, in a warehouse. As I say, it was during the Depression. Lumber dealers could not buy car loads of lumber because they couldn't afford it. They could buy smaller amounts. So my father became a wholesaler as well as a sales man for Johns-Manville. He had Johns-Manville, roofing and all the supplies, all the things Johns-Manville made, sent to Chicago Heights to the warehouse. Then the individual customers or the lumber dealers sent a truck and would buy a truck load, but not a car load. And they could afford that. So my husband worked there for six months. And, then about a month or so before we were married he was transferred to Champaign.

ES: I'll ask you one more question. What were your friends' experiences with the Depression as far as finding jobs?

AS: One girl, Anita Clay, the one who I said had been my friend and was the main reason I joined Alpha Delta Theta, was trying to get a teaching job. I think she got one in, it seems to me, in Pesotum, Illinois. I think she was paid \$80 a month. Another friend of mine, Dorothy Saunders, got a job in Hillsboro, Illinois for \$60 a month. And that, of course, had to include board, room, you name it. Yes Illinois had problems.

ES: A lot of your women friends got teaching positions?

AS: Yes a lot of them did teach.

ES: Is that primarily what the women majored in?

AS: Well, yes teaching. Some of them majored (like the one who's boyfriend bought all his gifts for a dollar) in Commerce.

END OF INTERVIEW.