

Transcript – Class of 1958

Narrator:

Interviewer: Jane Lancaster

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Track 1

Jane Lancaster: [00:00:00] OK. OK. I'm Jane Lancaster, I work at the Pembroke Center, and this is the annual interview between fiftieth reunion class members from Pembroke, as part of the ongoing Pembroke Oral History Project. We've been doing this for a number of years, and so I'm really grateful for you people to be here today, particularly grateful to [Raya?] Goff for suggesting these names, and thank you very much.

Perhaps as the very first thing we should do, is just go around the table very quickly, starting with Barbara, over there, and say who you are, your name – your name now, and your name then, and what your concentration was.

Barbara Fontaine: Barbara Fontaine. Chemistry major. [00:01:00]

Anne Lowenthal: I am now Anne Lowenthal, and when I was at Brown I was [Rayanne?] Walter! So I've been transformed. And my history – and my major was art history.

Jane Howard: And I'm Jane Howard now. I was Jane Loveless, I was very happy to lose that name, (laughter) And my concentration was in nursing.

Carol Hansen: That's my current name. I was Carol [Jattock?]. I majored in American civilization. A combination of American history and American literature.

Raya Goff: And I'm Raya Goff. I was Raya McCauley, and I am an American lit major.

JL: Well, thank you. And again, welcome. My first question, for each of you, really, is why did you come to Pembroke?

CH: Barbara, do you want to start?

BF: Well, [00:02:00], I – this is going to be, this is kind of long – all right. Never thought of it when I was in high school –

JL: Where were you in high school?

BF: In St. Claire's, in [Wattokit?]. And I had some scholarships to several schools, but they never had the subjects I wanted. So I went to St. Joseph's hospital and got an MT first.

JL: An MT?

BF: Medical technician. And, at the end – and I was doing that, I thought, this is good, but I really want to do more. My father said, “Why don't you go to Brown? Why don't you go to Brown?” And I said, “Oh I can't afford it.” Well, we'll try. OK. So, I went, and I think it was May, almost possibly the beginning of June, when I called, and I made an appointment, and they said the Dean's office, so OK fine, [00:03:00] and I was still in school at St. Joseph's so they got out – we used to go from 9:00 to 5:00, but I got out early, came over, saw the dean's office, went into the dean's office, sat there and the secretary said, “What's your name?” And I said my name, and she said, “Oh. I don't see that. Can't find that.” And she was looking and looking. Then, she said, “What year are you in?” And I said, “I'm not in any year yet.” And she said, “Well, why are you here?” Then I said, “Well, I called for an appointment.” So she said, “You're supposed to be in the Dean of Admission's office.” And they called over, and that was Dean [Tonks?]. Well, she had already gone home for the day. Dean Lewis came out and said, “Who's this sitting here?” And they said, “Well, somebody that didn't know there was two deans, and came to the wrong place.” So, Dean Lewis said, “Well, I'll interview her.”

So, [00:04:00] I was interviewed by Dean Lewis, and I told her that I had all these scholarships, but I didn't go because either I couldn't afford it, or they didn't have the subjects.

So, she said, “Well” – and it went on – she said, “If everything you told me is true, I’ll admit you now.” And I was admitted that way. (laughter) And had I gone to Dean Tonks’ office, she would’ve said “It’s too late!” (laughter) So I was supposed to go to school here.

JL: You clearly were. And you wanted to do chemistry.

BF: Yes.

JL: And that might’ve been one of the reasons they were so willing to have you, because there were very small numbers of women doing sciences in those days. How many women were there in the classes that you were in?

BF: Oh, myself and Jane –

AL: Bertram.

BF: Bertram. And – well, not very many. Not really. Very few. Very few. [00:05:00] Five or six, seven, you know, at the most. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Yeah, Kay [Scherer?]. No, there were – but they weren’t very many. So, weren’t very many at all.

JL: Was it difficult being a female scientist?

BF: No. No, I didn’t think so.

RG: Well, [Posey Parell?] was there, and she was a female scientist. That helped, I think.

JL: Well, we’ll come back to you shortly.

AL: Well I learned about Pembroke and Brown in high school. We had a very dedicated advisor, college advisor, in my high school – which was a public high school in Lake Forest, Illinois. Just about everybody in that school went to college. So that we were all expected to choose a school,

and go off to college. So I did. [00:06:00] I applied to Brown, and to Northwestern. Which was, of course, closer to home, and Brown was an adventure. Would be an adventure. I also learned of Brown through friends who graduated ahead of me and came here. Judy [Corbit?] was one, I think she was one year ahead of me. I was accepted at both schools, and I got scholarships at both schools. But Brown was the more exciting possibility, so that's why I came here.

JL: Why was it exciting?

AL: Farther away. Ivy League school. Not particularly because of the course offerings. Because when I came here, I thought I would be a psych major, and I very quickly shifted gears to art history. So I was really in a kind of fluid state as far as my interests were concerned. Unlike Barbara. I mean you were a scientist [00:07:00] when you came in, and you remained a scientist. And I really changed my interests.

JL: Why?

AL: Almost immediately, I was drawn into the art department here. And it became my home. It was a wonderful department. And I remember the – just the thrill of Tom Reed's courses. Thomas Lloyd Reed. He was then a young professor, fresh out of Harvard. And also George Downing. And it was just – it was magical. In fact, that took place – so, his courses were offered very close to where we are now. Just out on – behind us, on Waterman St. A low building, remember?

AL: And the art department was on Thayer St, not too far away. This was long before the List Art Center was built. But it was a comfortable, supportive, very informal [00:08:00] environment. Just a wonderful place to learn about art. And –

JL: Was Walter Feldman there already?

RG: Yes.

AL: Yes. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Walter Feldman too. Right. And I was never a studio person. I can talk about art and write about it; I can't make it. I've been reminded of that at many points (laughter) when I've tried. But there was more than enough here to engage me in art history.

JL: And did you know Antoinette Downing?

AL: Yes. In fact, early on I remember being invited to a Sunday buffet, Sunday supper, at the Downing's.

RG: At the Downing's.

AL: And that was part of the appeal of the art department. There was an easy social and intellectual exchange between students and faculty.

JL: Thank you.

JH: I [00:09:00] came to Brown because I applied to a number of schools and was accepted, but I really felt that this was the combination that I wanted. I wasn't sure whether I was going to be a music major, or, in the summer before I came I had worked at a hospital. And I decided that indeed I probably would go into the nursing program, which was a five and a half year program, but had the opportunity to do both the premed and a minor in either psychology or sociology, and the Bachelor of Arts, which I really felt I didn't want to give up. And so being able to be a science major as well as experience the arts, and continue music, was a big pull for me. My family lived, at that time, in Rhode Island, and so I did commute for a year and a half, but I was very happy when they moved. And I had to move – because as a science major, we had eight o'clock [00:10:00] classes every day. Including Saturdays. And so that was a big commitment. I had to leave the house at 6:30 in the morning. If I didn't get a ride from my father as he was coming to the [Wetsheer?] Garage on Benefit Street. And I was willing to do it because it was so very, very exciting. Here, I was able to sing in the chorus and still work as a student, and also take those wonderful courses before I went down to the hospital. For two and a half years –

JL: That was two and a half years nursing training?

JH: Yes. Including summers, nights, and p.m.s. Yes. Forty-four hours –

CH: In addition to the four years?

JH: Three years here, to do the other courses, and then two and a half years there, and we also worked in the hospital. And took courses there. It was a very intensive program, but very rewarding, because you can combine all those things [00:11:00], and I think one of the other reasons that it was very rewarding was that I met my husband the day before classes started, when the men came to all the women's dorms. And indeed, I was at West House, which was another thing that was very, very helpful for those of us who were commuters. We could have – we could bring our lunch there. We still had a postal box –

CH: Down in Pembroke.

JH: In Pembroke Hall. And could use the Gate for extra little nourishment. But we were also allowed to have a drawer in a bureau in one of the rooms at West House. And so you could keep your supplies there that you weren't carting back and forth on the bus. And you could sign up for a bed for any night. If you could get there early enough. I think there were places for 12 people. And so I did a lot of that, because we went to all the wonderful [00:12:00] events here at Brown, and it was a wonderful time for us. But it was helped by the fact that my husband was also here, although of course we weren't married until almost five and a half years later.

JL: Right. What was he studying?

JH: He was in engineering, and he was also in naval ROTC. And at that time, all of the engineers in the ROTC had an extra year to accommodate all their courses. So, that was very (inaudible).

JL: Which hospital were you at?

JH: Well, the major things were at Rhode Island hospital, but we did three months at the Lying-In, and three months at the mental hospital in – it's called, Warwick. And three months of visiting nursing. Which was what I really intended to do. But then we moved to South Carolina. (laughter) So I did something else.

JL: So, did you have to live in a nurses' home, for –

JH: Yes.

JL: Where was it?

JH: We lived at [00:13:00] Rhode Island Hospital, or at the mental hospital, or at the Lying-In Hospital. They all had different curfews, you know, and different starting times. Yes, I was a student in that kind of situation for a long time.

JL: What were nurses' uniforms like in those days?

JH: Oh, we just wore the starched – in the morning we had a striped blue and white uniform with attachable collars. They did our laundry, which was very nice – that laundry – and very heavily starched cap and apron. And cuffs, we had to [apply for?]. And when we were visiting nurses, we'd just use the usual visiting nursing uniform that they had at the time, and we worked out of the office on Angel St.

JL: Yeah. Which is condos now.

JH: Oh, yes. And I was offered a job by them, by the time we finished. But I couldn't stay around. It was very exciting. I worked in the very, very difficult area [00:14:00] in Providence, that had been condemned. Because I went to high school in Providence, and we were not able to walk in that area. And then I had to service that area as a visiting nurse.

JL: Which area was this?

JH: It's around the cathedral, and...

CH: The Catholic cathedral –

JH: Yes, yes.

CH: – or the Episcopal cathedral?

JH: And all the area that was making way for the highways. And lots of very low income, but also wonderful people there. Occasionally you had to climb a ladder to get into a second floor. It was a very exciting time, (laughter) second floor residents, to (inaudible) serve with those people. But it was another view of Providence.

JL: Yes, certainly. That's fascinating.

CH: When did you get your degree?

JH: In 1960.

CH: Because you couldn't get your degree until you completed all the whole thing?

JH: Absolutely. And that finished in December of '59. I came back four or five [00:15:00] months pregnant and walked down the hill. We were living in South Carolina then, but it was –

RG: Oh, gosh. All the way back from there, wow.

JL: Wow, interesting. So, Carol.

CH: Well my story is probably not quite as interesting. My father went to Brown, and my brother had gone to Brown, so it was a natural thing for me to think about. But the very dumb, naïve thing I did was to only apply to Brown. And your story, Barbara, about chemistry, and how few people there were studying chemistry, makes me think that one of the reasons I got in was because I said I might major in chemistry. (laughter)

_: That was smart!

CH: Then when I got here I found out about all the labs that took all afternoon. I thought – I don't think I want chemistry. Because I loved a lot of different disciplines. But that may have helped me get into Brown.

RG: Well, your heritage didn't hurt.

CH: My parents didn't hurt.

RG: Especially then.

JL: So, what did you do?

CH: I majored in American civilization, [00:16:00] and I was torn. I was considering art history. I also considered archaeology. I mean, there were so many things that were so interesting to me that I had a hard time deciding on one field. But I'm very glad I majored in – there was a lot American history, I remember – excuse me – remember Professor Hedges as such a tough but brilliant professor. But the interesting history has stayed with me my entire life, and I find it very interesting that in the last decade, there's been more uncovered and written about some of our great founding fathers that we didn't know, because it really had not been researched in the '50s. And so I feel it would be a much more interesting major now than it was then. But it did spark a life long interest.

JL: Where was the civ building in those days? Did it have a building?

CH: I don't think there was an [00:17:00] am.civ. building. I think we had classes in different buildings, I don't remember.

JL: Where did you have classes?

CH: Oh, golly. That's a tough question. (laughs) I don't know, all over the central campus.

JL: So not over on the Pembroke campus.

CH: No. No, I don't remember any classes on the Pembroke campus. But then –

RG: If you took History D1, you took that with – (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: Oh that's right, OK.

BF: And maybe Robinson? Robinson Hall?

CH: Robinson, yeah there were – yes, that's right. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) You know, I'm forgetting names. Now when you mention them, of course that's where we were. But then I went into art big-time. Was sorry I didn't take more art, I took only Art D1 –

AL: Which I think was Feldman?

CH: No. I feel badly that I didn't do that. But I became more and more interested in art, and being an artist – painting – and what have you, and have taken classes for years and years, [00:18:00] and been to the Art Student's League for a couple of years in Manhattan, learning to draw. Which I would tell everybody who wants to be an artist, that's where you have to start. You need to have a foundation like that. And you can't major in everything, but I wished I had taken more courses – I actually considered taking courses at RISD, but at that time when I inquired, they said, to do it, I would have to take a lot of commercial art courses – lettering, and

things that I had no interest in, before I could get to the courses I wanted to take. And if I did that, I would be giving up all of the electives that I had at Brown, like Russian literature and things like that, which, you know, have stayed with me for a long time. So, that was a choice I had to make.

JL: Raya.

RG: Well, I grew up in the Midwest, in [Innuck?] went to New Trier High School, which was a [00:19:00] rival high school of Anne's. But, I wanted to come east to school more than anything. And my father said, "All right. You can come east to school; you may not go to a women's college." It sort of sliced my options right down to nothing. So, fortunately, I was going out with a guy who is now – who, eventually ended up in our class, Bill Lane, and his mother had been to Pembroke. So I was moaning around about where was I going to apply. I didn't want to go to Radcliffe, Jackson didn't sound very exciting, Barnard, I didn't want to be in New York, and so – and I had never heard of Pembroke, actually. And so she said, "Oh, I've got the perfect place for you. This is where I went to college, this will be wonderful. And Bill's applying, won't that be good." And, you know, "Well, that will be fine." So, my father was persuaded. Although I must say, his instant reaction was, "I don't like Brown men," and I said, "You don't even know any." [00:20:00] (laughter) We were not getting along too well. So, anyway, I came out here and never really went home. And I never intended to.

JL: Right. And did you major in what you intended to major in?

RG: I don't even remember that I considered what college was going to be about, or about studying. Except that I (laughter) – that's really grim, isn't it – but I always liked English, and I'd taken a lot of wonderful great books courses at New Trier. So I just sort of drifted in to the American literature major, and considered a creative writing major, which at that time was an honors major. And Jane Albertson [Weingarten?], who was a class ahead of me, said, "Look." By this time I had my to-be husband, whom I met on the first day of my freshman [00:21:00] year. She said, "Look. If you're going to – if you have [BG?], and you're considering an honors major, it's not going to work. One of them – you're going to lose one of them." So I thought,

“Well, I certainly don’t want to lose my boyfriend. Good heavens, no.” So I said, “OK, we’ll scratch creative writing.” Which, now, I wish I had done, and went back to American literature.

AL: That’s a very interesting comment. That you’ll lose one of them.

RG: But she said – “I looked around, and” – she was trying to take an honors major – and she said, “Nobody else in my classes has a boyfriend.” She did, you know, Chuck. So she said, “It is just not a working thing.”

CH: And you listened to her.

AL: Do you think that would’ve happened? Do you think she was right?

RG: I don’t know, if she was right or not.

AL: I think you could’ve done both.

RG: Well, maybe, but I was so malleable. [00:22:00].

AL: Sure. And inexperienced.

CH: We all were.

RG: And totally inexperienced. And I never really went to any career – or, not career counsel, but curriculum counselor, to say look: “I could do this, or I could this, and what do you think?” That didn’t occur to me either.

CH: Were there such people?

RG: Well, I don’t know, were there such people?

CH: I never heard of one.

RG: I'm not sure.

CH: I think we were all very naïve and open to suggestion, when we were here.

RG: And pretty ignorant about what the possibilities were. I took a lot of art courses, and I had an art minor, which I loved. And a studio art course, which was fun, but... Not really too much guidance. I think it's probably better. From when my children were here, it was definitely better.

BF: Didn't you think the catalog was like, the biggest banquet table you'd ever seen, and you could only pick this many, and you wanted to pick two or three times as many, and the hardest thing was not picking some things?

RG: Well, and juggling the time. If I take this, I can't take this, this, and this. [00:23:00] I mean, you can only be in one place at once.

BF: And a lot of labs, of course, eliminated certain choices. But I still took Art IC, so that was two semesters of art, and I took music – two semesters of music, so – and I took linguistics. So I did, you know, some other things.

RG: That elective program was great. Because you did get to shop around.

AL: Of course we did have to satisfy requirements in other disciplines.

RG: The distribution.

AL: And Math D1 almost sank me.

RG: Right, I didn't take it until I was a senior, and then I had a tutor in BG's fraternity to get me through it.

AL: I had a tutor in Math D1.

JL: What's D1 mean?

CH: Everybody had to take it, and it was scary because it was really a course in math-logic, and when you got to the end of it –

F2: Permutations, combinations, and probability.

CH: The beginning of it was easy, as I remember.

AL: About a week.

CH: About a week? Oh, well –

AL: Then things got harder. [00:24:00]

CH: But I remember being told that it's pretty easy in the beginning, and I didn't have any trouble with it, but getting towards the end, there's this one problem that you had to be able to solve – one concept – and everybody was talking about it on the campus, because it was so difficult. And you had to understand it, and I remember when the light came to me, and I could figure it out. And then I aced the exam. But everybody – but you had to get it. You'd – you know.

RG: You had to get to it. And it was so hard.

JH: I think the math satisfied a science requirement as well. And so those of us who took a lot of sciences didn't necessarily have to take that. But I was always looking for the arts, or another something else, as my extra course, which we were very limited in doing, since we had to do everything in three years. But, I especially liked going into art. And Professor [Jordy?] was just –

AL: Oh, Jordy, of course! (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) [00:25:00] And [Lurky], yes.

JH: Just so wonderful. And of course, we were so – at that point, you could just walk into RISD at any time. There was no admission, or checking. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) And so I spent a lot of time at the museum. It was just a very lovely opportunity for us. And I already did music here. Singing in the chorus was a very, very big part of my life. It was a lovely experience; we were really quite good, and did a lot of lovely things. Operas, and big masses, and things here, and with other choruses, and at the University of Connecticut, and with big stars. And so it was, you know, very exciting as well.

JL: What sort of things did you have to do for the distribution requirements? Or, what other requirements were there?

CH: Weren't there 12?

JH: Arts. Arts and science.

AL: I think it depended on – in part – on whether you were [00:26:00] in the IC program.

JL: What's IC?

JH: Identification and Criticism of Ideas.

RG: Were we all in it? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: It was mentioned. We were one of the first classes. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: I think the second. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: And these courses were two semester courses, so that affected the distribution program requirements, because distribution courses were single semester courses, isn't that right.

RG: And then Art D1 – I mean, History D1 and D2? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BF: But I took History IC 1 and 2. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: And you could take two IC courses.

AL: And the IC courses were seminars. They were small classes.

CH: Which was the big difference. Because suddenly you were not in a class of 200 people, or 100. You know, big lecture hall. It was a very different concept. [00:27:00] It's so accepted now, but it was exceptional then.

AL: Well, it was unusual for freshman and sophomores. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: I didn't realize how young they were, then. But they must have been just starting out in English. It was [Blisstein?] and [Capstein?], and you know.

CH: They were just starting?

RG: All those guys.

AL: And I had [Workman?] for classes, and Tom Reed for art, which is what determined my future.

BF: Jane, were you in the Bio IC?

JH: No, I – probably my most memorable bio course was with Professor Montaigne. Who was a marvelous teacher – yes, comparative anatomy – and we had a very effective lab. And my

partner in lab was someone who had come from the Korean war. Quite different from this. We were sort of tracked, and very few members of our class – although you are one – who had been to another experience. But if somebody who was [00:28:00] a doctor's son, and wanted to become a physician himself. And we were very lucky – we had animals to dissect, of course – and our cat was pregnant. And so we had a wonderful – you know, there were other animals, too, but – and he was very meticulous. So, we used our cat for all kinds of things. But that was a very demanding course. But very rewarding, because the professor was very charismatic, and very effective. And we all got the message. This was serious stuff.

CH: Medicine.

JH: Yes. But this course was really, kind of, a basis for a lot that we were doing. Biochemistry was not a big thing at that time.

BF: But I still can say “epiphyseal sychondrosis”!

JH: Very good.

JL: What does it mean?

BF: That's a [braid?] in the elbow. Jane, you can tell.

JH: It's a problem with [00:29:00] your syncovial syndrome.

BF: Yeah, right here.

JL: Well, I learned something.

BF: I just liked the way it sounded – (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JL: Somebody talked about expectations of, you know, women in the '50s.

RG: Get married.

CH: I might've said something about that. Because I felt that I was 10 years too old. That if another decade had passed, I would have had so many more options open to me that I would've been interested in, but I felt I didn't want to teach, I didn't want to go into retailing – which was a very typical profession, to become a buyer in a major department store – and I had done that one summer when I was at Brown, greeting would-be Pembroke attendees at Lord and Taylor.

RG: Oh, you were one of those college people.

CH: One of those (inaudible), and we wore these little red dresses. This is so '50s, it's hilarious. [00:30:00] And you would help people coming to Altman's buy their wardrobe for college.

F3: Because you knew what it would be like.

CH: But that was interesting as an experience, because I got a taste of what the buying life in a department store was like, and it was very cutthroat. And these women were all after every sale they could get, and it was not nice. So I didn't want to go into retailing, and I didn't want to be a nurse. So, I thought, what's open to me? Well, I was going with – I'd been dating my husband since we were in high school, and so we got married. And then I, you know, I didn't work after that, but I studied a lot and learned a lot, and did a lot of volunteer work.

JH: I didn't expect to meet somebody here. I had been to a girls' school, and I thought, you know, I just didn't really expect that. So that was kind of a bonus for me. I really expected to work, or do something beyond – [00:37:00] but our circumstances at the time sort of prevented me from doing that. We went to a newly formed base in Monk's Corner, Goose Creek, South Carolina, (laughter) and we had our first child – and I was, again, able to do some nursing there, just Red Cross nursing. But it was a full life. The officers' wives were responsible for a lot of social things –

CH: I was an officers' wife also.

JH: – and social things.

CH: White-glove tea parties.

JH: Yes. And we were saluted wherever we went. It was really amusing. And then we came to Cambridge for graduate school, and we had twins – Raya and I were expecting twins at the same time in Cambridge – (laughter) and I had a lot of family commitments, in addition to our family, and I had a fourth child later, and for 22 years I took care [00:22:00] of people with Alzheimer's disease in my family. And the nursing really came in very, very handy, then. And I still do a little nursing, but it's a community kind of – healthy community program. And a little bit at MIT. So, I never – I didn't really expect to just get married right after that time. But it certainly hasn't –

RG: No, I think the expectation outside of you was – it wasn't my expectation either – but there was a lot of, go to college and find a husband.

JH: Well you know, I remember my –

CH: Well, you certainly did!

RG: Well, I know, I didn't intend to, either!

JH: I remember my father saying to my husband, when he said we wanted to be married, which was at the end of that time – “But she will finish, won't she?” And of course the answer was, “Of course.” So that wasn't one of their expectations either.

_: Not everybody did.

JH: So I wasn't pushed to do that in [00:33:00] any way. But...

JL: Now, actually, if I can interrupt a second; I noted on the list of your class, a lot of people didn't finish.

RG: Well, a lot of people didn't finish at Brown. A lot of them finished elsewhere, they got married to people who were older, and then finished at other places. I think almost everybody in the end got a degree from someplace.

CH: Really, really? That's good.

RG: I think so.

BF: Because there's several here this weekend that ended up somewhere else because they were married, and the husband was somewhere else, so they finished somewhere else. But they still are a member of our class, and they still come back, so...

JL: But it was possible to be married and finish here?

JH: But not to live in the dorms.

BF: But the only one which was married (inaudible) – Lucia [Tragget?]

CH: I was married.

JH: No, but she entered as – she's referring to women who –

BF: Entering as a married person. [00:34:00] I think she's the only one. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

_: Lucia Tragget. Yes.

BF: I don't believe anybody else was married when they –

CH: Certainly not the norm.

JH: It's quite different from what it is now.

JL: Actually, that brings us on to life in the dorms.

CH: Ah, life in the dorms. That's great.

JL: We've already mentioned something about West House. You were at West House –

JH: Just for a year and a half, yes.

JL: – and you're from northern Rhode Island, did –

BF: Well, after my first year, I used West House quite a lot. And it was getting difficult, so I thought, well I'd like to live down here. But I couldn't afford it. So I knew that graduate students were living on Olive St, right across from the movie theatre. Very inexpensive place to live. So I asked [00:35:00] Dean Lewis, again, if I could live there. She said, "Why don't you live in the dorms, why don't you live in the [cope?]" And I said, "I can't afford it." So, then she said, "I was thinking of having a graduate student live in my home and help take care of my mother when I'm away." But she says, "I can't have a babysitter, because my mother wouldn't allow that, but if a student was living there, that person could do the same thing without having it noticeable." And she said, "Do you think that you could live there and keep my privacy?" And I said, "Yes I could." And then, so, the last three years I lived with the dean.

JL: Where did she live?

BF: On Brown St. One hundred Brown St. And I lived there, and most people didn't even know I lived there, (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: What a story! That's amazing!

BF: It [00:36:00] was wonderful! I was almost across the street from West House anyhow, and it was lovely. Her mother – southern lady, and so it was quite interesting. They're part of the tobacco people, and so her mother told me all about the south, and this and that. So it was a very wonderful place to live, and sometimes there were – a luncheon or something, and I would be part of the family, and so I could go. I had lunch with like, Robert Frost, and people like that.

JL: You fell on your feet, then.

BF: Found out what he did with all his honorary degree things: he had quilts made.

AL: Robert Frost did?

BF: Yeah, because you have all those hoods. What do you do with them? So, yeah, well, good New Englander. You can make [00:37:00] lovely quilts. (laughter)

CH: I'll never forget that lecture, when he lectured, and it was packed – standing room only.

RG: Oh, I remember that too.

CH: (inaudible) Probably hanging in the rafters. I mean, everybody knew it was an opportunity to hear Robert Frost –

BF: Oh, it was absolutely wonderful.

CH: – and that he wasn't going to be alive for much longer. I think he died like the next year, or two years later.

RG: Yeah, he did.

JH: We had Ogden Nash, ee cummings, Eleanor Roosevelt. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)
Yes, her blue velvet dress.

RG: And then we had musicians. Dave Brubeck, and –

JH: Ellington.

RG: – and Brad Keith. We’d get those people. It was fun.

JL: So, were these Brown or Pembroke lectures?

JH: Well, we were together. You know, our classes were together. They were always at Alumni Hall, mostly.

CH: Yes. Ogden Nash... (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JH: We just had so many wonderful opportunities.

BF: One interesting lecture I went to was Niels Bohr. And he was [00:39:00] speaking twice – once in German, and once in English.

JH: In the same morning?

BF: No, the [same?] was in the afternoon or evening. And so I went to this one, and first I said, “Oh my gosh, I went to the wrong one.” And then somebody said, “No, he is speaking in English.” (laughter) So it took a while to get on to – he certainly did have a large accent, but it was wonderful. I felt so silly, but I couldn’t understand him at all at first.

AL: On the subject of dorm life, I have to tell you about King House. The freshmen at Pembroke lived in houses that were scattered between the Brown and the Pembroke campus. And most of them were quite close to Brown. Meeting St, I think, and (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

King House was four blocks beyond any of the others, on Barn St. And we did feel like leftovers, in a sense, because there was such a sense of community among the houses that were close to the campus, and then there was King House. And the result of this was that we developed terrific spirit. And, in fact, this weekend, so often you'll meet somebody from King House, and we'll say, "King House!" Because we all remember how we bonded as a result of our being apart from the other houses, our classmates who were in the other houses.

JL: How many of you were there in there?

AL: In King House? Probably about 40. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Could it have been 40?

RG: Could have been.

AL: Could have been that many.

JL: So you shared rooms with how many people?

AL: Typically a double or a single. In fact, my first year at King House, [00:40:00] I was in a double, but then in the following three years, I had a double with another friend who had lived down the hall, Sandy. Sandy McFarland.

CH: Then you were in Andrews, weren't you?

AL: Then we were in Andrews. Well, Mary Woolley, second year (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: Well, we were in Mary Woolley. Were you? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: But second year you were in Mary Woolley?

AL: Second year, and then junior and senior in Andrews.

JH: We were all given junior sisters before we came here, and so that was a very nice introduction to the campus as well, who were sort of the buffers. The easers and pleasers for the process.

CH: We looked up to them so much.

JH: And they were very, very helpful.

RG: The junior counselors. And when we lived in Mary Woolley, and – with sophomores, which was unusual for freshmen, but it was because the junior counselors were all, wherever they were, in various houses, and then at the end of the first semester they returned [00:41:00] and we –

CH: We moved out.

RG: We moved out. So I moved to [Allison?] house, which was second only to King, as far as being far away. And then we didn't get back together until sophomore year. And then we had our suite.

BF: Was Allison House the one with the ballroom? Which one was the one with the ballroom? Was that on Prospect ST?

RG: Oh, yeah. But I don't think that was a freshmen house.

BF: No, I don't think it was, either.

RG: And I don't think it was in the beginning, either. Wasn't that Mrs. Sharp's house?

BF: I think so, yeah; it had a gazebo, and it was lovely. I mean, I used to go over there and sit there and study, sometimes, where it was so quiet and peaceful.

CH: She had a nice garden.

JH: But those of us who were commuters were assigned – each of us had one junior. Who sort of shepherded us –

RG: Oh, you did!

JH: Oh, yes. Yeah.

RG: We just had two juniors –

JH: I had Marjorie [Jantz?], who was very connected to Providence, and her mother was an alumnus. [00:42:00] And it was lovely for me, because that was another introduction.

AL: Well that was the equivalent of a junior counselor.

JH: But each of us individually had them.

BF: Didn't we have seniors –

RG: It's interesting that you got so much junior counselor attention.

JH: We did! It was lovely. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: I always felt sorry for the kids who didn't live on campus. And I thought, that's a hard way to be here.

JH: Well, it took a lot of time, and I think that was the problem. But I was very glad when –

CH: Wasted. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JH: Right. But when my parents moved, it was easy for me. I had a single in Andrews, and later in Miller. And dorm life was very lovely.

CH: Dorm life was fun.

JH: We had a –

AL: We had a great time.

JH: We had a house mother in each area, who was fun.

RG: And that wretched little dog. Mrs. Macpherson's. (laughter) What a yowl-ly little thing he was.

JH: And we ate, you know, three meals on campus.

RG: The food has improved.

JH: But nevertheless, it [00:43:00] was there. You didn't have to think about preparing it.

CH: It was heavily starched, and it was mystery meat.

BF: It was gracious living.

AL: We still reminisce about the food in Andrews Hall. The swan meat, and the – train wreck. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) We had names for all the –

JH: Train wreck was an onion, tomato –

AL: I still make train wreck.

JH: Onion, tomato, and hamburger casserole that we had on lunch probably once every, at least two weeks. But you know, we were served. We didn't have to think about that.

CH: But we also – at least, I gained 10 pounds that year eating –

JH: Did you?

CH: – because I was not used to having dessert every night. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: And there was also the banana cream pie at [Toy Suns?]. (laughter) Toy Suns, right next to the theatre.

RG: To the [Ava?]

AL: The Ava, yup.

JH: A cheap Chinese restaurant. Ninety-nine cent –

AL: Very good banana cream pie.

JL: Very Chinese.

RG: Very Chinese, yes.

BF: Since I lived off campus, that's where [00:44:00] I ate a lot. And what was funny is, with some other people; they always had peas, beets, and coleslaw. That was the only things. And after a while, I got sick of that. Since my chem lab was right there, at Metcalf, I decided: the thing to do is get some frozen food, and I cooked it. Put it in a thing, and came over – and I'd bring it over. So we'd be eating this, and some people would come over, and they'd say, "Can we have the mixed vegetables?" And they had to say, "Well, no, they brought them." So they added a couple things because we kept bringing our own.

CH: They let you bring your own food in there?

BF: No, just the vegetables. Because peas, beets, and coleslaw were too [current?] so we brought extra things. Broccoli, or something.

JH: We had dorm associations.

JL: What did they do?

JH: Well they just reinforced the rules. And Wednesday nights [00:45:00] was a dress dinner. There was a –

CH: Coffee was served in the lounge.

JH: In the lounge afterward.

RG: And it was considered a bad thing not to go.

JH: And also, Sunday noon was a special dinner. And I think that people wore something called Wednesday nights, and those are what we now call knee stockings, that were nylons. We were supposed to wear a skirt –

CH: Stockings, yeah.

RG: Well, and you couldn't go to Thayer St. in Bermuda shorts. So everybody, rain or shine, was down there in their trench coats.

CH: Over their shorts.

RG: Over their shorts.

CH: Why weren't we allowed to wear shorts?

RG: I don't remember. You know, gracious living doesn't include knees.

CH: There were so many rules. There were so many rules.

JL: OK, rules. What else can you remember? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: You had to be in at 10:00, but you could have three lates per semester. And I can remember parceling these out very carefully.

CH: That was freshman.

RG: Yeah. Well, no. It was still on [00:46:00] in Andrews.

JH: Well it was 12:00, or 12:30.

RG: But one of the grimmest things was if you were down at Brown, you know, watching the clock, and all those lovely imports from Wheaton, RISD, Smith, and so forth – no curfew for them. So the party would just be going, and you were saying, "I have to get home, I have to get home!" By midnight.

AL: That's why they brought in those other girls! That's one of the reasons!

CH: No fools, they.

JH: So you ran back to the dorm.

JL: And what exactly are parietals?

JH: That's what that was.

RG: That's what they were.

JL: *Very loco parentis.*

JH: Exactly, yes.

RG: And you had to sign in and sign out. Sign out when you left to go out –

JH: And where you were going.

RG: – and where you were going.

AL: But then we – sorry.

RG: And I don't know if you could say anything as general as Brown campus. I mean, probably not. I mean, they really wanted to know –

CH: Exactly where you're going to be.

AL: But then I remember Sundays, when the dorms were open, we had visiting –

RG: Four feet on the floor. (laughter)

JH: And [00:47:00] maybe twice a year, at the most.

RG: Doors open!

JH: No locks on the doors. No locks on the doors.

RG: Oh, no. No locks at all. You could go in and out of anybody's room.

CH: And people were wandering around. Counselors, and what have you, would check periodically.

RG: Oh, on Sunday. Yes.

JH: But no locks during the week.

JL: But you didn't have nearly as much stuff in those days.

JH: Oh, no. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: No computers!

JL: What stuff did you have? What did you bring?

JH: A radio!

RG: You couldn't have plug-in appliances.

AL: Phonographs.

BF: Phonographs.

AL: And a very huge [Webcorp?] phonograph that I brought back and forth between Illinois and Providence.

RG: But they didn't like plug-in coffee pots.

JH: There were no such things.

RG: Oh, Janet had one. But that's, I think, why we ended up with so much tap water – hot coffee and tea.

CH: We used to make a tea bag go for seven people. Pass it from one to the other. Tea bag got a lot of mileage.

JL: That's awful! [00:48:00]

RG: I know, it's kind of dreadful, when you think about it.

JH: People had typewriters, but not everyone. And some would have a sewing machine. I remember Jill [Hertz Scoby?] had a sewing machine, and so that was helpful for me because I –

RG: She must have been the only one.

CH: What did she sew?

JH: Oh, she still sews.

RG: She sews everything.

JH: She sews – I did a lot of sewing, and I remember being able to repair, or – whatever, do things at her sewing machine. But not even – everybody did not have a typewriter. So the professors had to deal with our handwriting. And lots of papers, still.

RG: No, they liked it if you would get it typed.

JH: Oh yes, yes.

CH: And certain papers they requested. Certain long papers, I remember. They requested it.

RG: They requested it? I think they required. There were women – mostly women – who typed, I don't know, anyway, so...

JL: So, you had a phonograph, and maybe a typewriter.

JH: And a radio.

CH: An alarm clock.

JL: Were there televisions in the lounge, [00:49:00] or anything?

JH: No. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: There wasn't much on television in the '50s that was making you think you had to have a TV. We never watched TV, that I can remember.

RG: No, we didn't.

JH: Only at the fraternities.

RG: The fraternities had TV. But mostly for sports, and things like that.

JL: And, telephones?

JH: In the dorm.

RG: In the telephone booth.

AL: One telephone per house.

CH: And nobody phoned then like we phone now. I remember, I phoned home once a week, on Sunday night, and my father was probably looking at the clock, you know, so I didn't talk too long, and that was how it was. You just didn't – it was expensive. It was one of those big expenses. You didn't spend a lot of time on the phone. No. Even if you had a boyfriend like I did, in Ithaca. I mean, we talked on the phone, but not often.

JL: There was a mail room in Pembroke Hall, wasn't there?

BF: Yeah, in the basement, yeah. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JH: Little cubbies. Opening cubbies.

RG: Next to a little bookstore. [00:50:00]

CH: But we never felt deprived because we didn't have any of these things. That's what everybody had.

RG: Yeah. It was just part of life.

BF: Television would've spoiled the bridge games anyhow! (laughter)

JH: There was a lot of bridge. And knitting. We were knitting in the elevators. I mean, we were all making ourselves socks, and (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) –

AL: And in classes, sometimes!

JH: I wasn't able to do that, but I certainly did in the elevators.

CH: I also remember a couple of years when some of the cigarette companies were giving out free cigarettes. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Remember, you got these little four-packs of

cigarettes, and they were all over the place. They were trying to get us all to smoke. And they succeeded, with a lot of people.

RG: L&Ms and Lucky Strikes. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: That's something that would not happen now.

RG: It's amazing.

JH: We also had compulsory gym. We could skip one semester. But it was very interesting – you could take modern dance, and several sports.

CH: It really interfered [00:51:00] with your day, though.

JH: But you had to wear this ungodly –

CH: Horrible uniform.

JH: – uniform, and so you had to have it on under your classes, you know, because if you were, usually in the other campus, you had to either come back to the little field over here, that has the building with the, what is that called – the [gang?] showers, and the field house, or you had to run up to Pembroke gym.

CH: And you didn't have time.

JH: In your either brown, or white, outfit. Underneath your –

CH: Wasn't it a one-piece?

JH: But with shorts underneath it.

AL: I've repressed all of this.

JH: I have some in a trunk upstairs, because, I mean, they're just such vintage uniforms.

CH: That's great, to have saved it.

RG: I got hepatitis, when I was a freshman. From [Toni Gosling?]. I still remember. I guarded her in a basketball game, and was just coming with it, so she retired to the infirmary for three weeks and then was sent home. The day [00:52:00] she was retired from the infirmary, I was put in it. And, three weeks later, I was sent home. But, what made me think of it is, I had to make up sports. (laughter) Along with everything else.

CH: Was it Ms. [Rudmand]?

RG: Rudd. Rudd. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: She was tough.

JL: But you guys devoted, or dedicated, your yearbook to Bessie Rudd.

JH: I think she was retiring that year.

RG: Yeah, I think there was a good reason. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) If she had not been retiring, I'm not sure she would have gotten it –

JH: But you have on your lap, the '58, but we got the previous books as well. So, all four years. And one was dedicated to Gretchen Tonks, I think.

RG: There were some surprising dedications.

JH: We also had compulsory chapel twice a week. The men had it once. In Sayles. But we had it twice. And one was religious, or [00:53:00] quasi-religious, and the other was more civic, cultural. And –

CH: Was it early in the morning?

JH: At noon.

CH: It was at noon, that's right.

AL: And we had to wear caps – or, gown, didn't we?

JH: Only seniors.

RG: And they took attendance. You had an assigned seat, and so your attendance taker could look down and say, "Oops. She's not there." And there were chapel cuts. You could have two chapel cuts.

AL: President [Riston?] occasionally spoke at chapel.

JH: We had lovely speakers.

RG: He spoke a lot at Brown. And I thought they were incredibly lucky, to be able to listen to him.

BF: Well, you could've been in the chapel choir. We sang in both places. So we could go twice a week. (laughter)

JH: Three times!

CH: Three times.

BF: Three times.

JL: If people here were not mainstream Protestant, they couldn't not go?

JH: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Oh no, everybody went. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: It was part of – you came, you were accepted, and if you're going to [00:54:00] go along with it, you've got to do it.

JL: Because it was still a Baptist college then?

JH: No, no. [Kinney] might've been the first non-Baptist –

JL: I think he was, yeah.

JH: Well, I don't know. But the chaplain lived on the Pembroke campus. Record.

CH: That was one of the things that nobody questioned. You went to chapel if you came to Brown.

RG: Most things that nobody – I mean, if somebody has said, "Go out and murder someone," someone would've said no. But really, if Dean Lewis said, "Do this," we pretty much did it. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BF: I think there was – and it was probably our senior year – because of grace, at meals. Because it was the doxology – "praise Him from whom all people" – OK, "praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost," and the Jewish students said, "We really don't want to sing that." [00:55:00] (laughter) And I think that they – I think it was our seniors, it was dropped, as that being the whatever was sung at – yeah, at the evening meal. Wasn't that evening meal?

RG: Did we say it all the time, or just on Sundays and Wednesdays?

BF: I don't know, since I didn't live there, but I was there often enough to know that.

JL: So, on Wednesdays, you had to get really dressed up?

RG: For us, yes.

JL: What do you mean, for you?

RG: I think it meant stockings.

JH: You know, that's not –

RG: Stockings.

JH: Stockings were, you know, gartered, and had seams. They had – (overlapping dialogue; inaudible).

CH: We did have pantyhose.

RG: And they had runs, and that was not so great.

BF: Did they have sherry on Wednesday, too, before?

RG: We did what?

CH: Sherry? I don't think so, I don't remember that at all.

RG: No alcohol on the Pembroke campus.

BF: Never?

CH: I thought I remembered that. You know, that might've been sherry served on some special occasion, or in the lounge on Wednesday, maybe a couple of times. [00:56:00] I don't think they did that routinely.

BF: Oh, OK. I thought I remembered... Yeah.

RG: Or at a professor's house, if you went for dinner. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: That's right, well you probably had it at Dean Lewis's.

CH: But many people who came to Pembroke in those years had never had a drink of anything in their life –

BF: No, it must've been something special.

CH: – including my roommate.

RG: Ah, yes. She had us in some pretty grim states.

CH: Well, yes. I mean, she went to a football game, and people were feeding her spiked drinks – she didn't know anything about it. She passed out. She's this lovely girl who was sin-free, really.

RG: Yeah. And innocent, too.

CH: And totally innocent.

JH: Who was this?

RG: Katie. Longheart.

CH: Katie. And my husband, who was visiting from Cornell, came down – and we were all at the football game – we came home, but, I don't remember quite the situation, but we were in this car, and Katie had passed out, and we had to get her back up into Andrews Hall.

RG: Without anyone knowing.

CH: Without anyone knowing. And so we went into the back of the building, where there was a door, but it was always locked.

AL: And she was out cold?

CH: She was out. And so we got somebody [00:57:00] to open that door from the inside – sent somebody around – and then Dick carried her up three flights of stairs, and everybody was frantic that he would get caught, and she would get caught. But it didn't –

RG: It all worked out.

CH: It all worked out. But that was a memorable – (laughter)

RG: It certainly was memorable. Fortunately, she didn't remember much about it.

JL: Poor thing. Probably felt terrible the next day.

CH: She never was a drinker. That's probably why it happened.

JH: But we also went to the football games, which doesn't happen now.

RG: That's right, we went to football games in heels –

CH: In high heels.

RG: – and wool dresses.

CH: And in our suits!

RG: And we looked dressed up, then.

AL: And we had banners, or Brown scarves, or Cornell scarves – (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: – wore coats and ties.

JH: And it almost rained at every one.

CH: I was going to say! Because my big outfit for freshman year was a suit, and shoes that matched. I'd never had anything like that. I remember going to this game, and it was pouring rain. The shoes were ruined, because they were just totally water-soaked, [00:58:00] and –

JH: I just remember (inaudible) had some kind of big, big hat, that was rainproof, and I just felt so happy that I was able to put this hat on, because we were always drenched. And I remember bringing our kids here, years later, and the same thing happened.

AL: We got umbrellas, for our fiftieth reunion gift. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: Our forty-fifth reunion, it poured. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) Our forty-fifth.

BF: Saturday, under the tent, and the water was flowing into where we were.

JL: Let me ask you about Pembroke Hall. You know, if you've been up there, it's being renovated at the moment.

RG: What are they doing to it?

JH: Well, I went to the lecture yesterday, so it's quite exciting. They're preserving the exterior. And the interior will be [00:59:00] influenced by light. And so it won't be dark. And they're not going to have that central staircase; they'll have two staircases – because they have to have another one. But they'll be offices and some research efforts, I think. And everything will be interiorly lighted and glass.

RG: Does it belong to a department, or is it an administrative building?

JL: It's going to be the humanities center, plus the Pembroke Center.

RG: What would the humanities center be?

JL: Well, it's a fairly new thing. And they do humanities. You know. It's a cross-disciplinary –

RG: So, people who teach in there? This is professors' offices?

JL: Yeah. Offices, some teaching rooms, I think.

JH: And they'll preserve the library arches, and so forth. But it will still be a much more – a big space for special occasions, I guess.

JL: But, I'm interested in what memories [01:00:00] you have of being in that building in the '50s. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

RG: Well, you could sign out to the Pembroke Library. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) The library was nice.

JH: Limited, but nice. On the top floor, we walked.

RG: But it had a fireplace, and comfortable chairs. And people sleeping. (laughter) And, you know, here you are, Sunday afternoon, all this reading to do, and I can remember falling asleep in any number of cases. But it was much more fun to go down to Brown to the (inaudible). But my husband – my not-then husband – would meet me in the Pembroke library. To see him. But...

JL: So the Brown students used it.

RG: Yeah, they could use it.

AL: The admissions office was in Pembroke Hall, and I worked in the admissions office for at least one year, responding to requests for information. So I had a [01:01:00] little desk, with cubbies, and I would take papers out of the cubbies and stuff them in the envelopes, and then go down to the basement and wrap the catalogs. Great stacks of catalogs, to be picked up. So I got to know Dean Alberta Brown, and, that was (inaudible), and Bigelow, Dean Bigelow, as I worked there, and it was very gratifying. And I occasionally would give a tour as part of my job.

RG: Did you tour just the Pembroke campus, or the Brown campus?

AL: Just the Pembroke campus, as I recall.

RG: Yeah. But the tours thing was not like it is now.

JH: The alumni office was in lower Alumni Hall, and the Gate, and the bathrooms, and the gracious room upstairs that we entered in for tea –

RG: The Crystal Room, wasn't it?

CH: Oh, that's right.

JH: And the staircase.

JL: But that's next door [01:02:00] to Pembroke Hall. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

JH: And Howard Terrace had been built about the year before.

JL: I don't know what Howard Terrace is.

JH: That's that group of steps that used to have a name that (inaudible) wonderful, and my husband's name was already there – of course, it had nothing to do with him – but his parents had gone to Brown, too, but it had nothing to do with them. But they were very friendly, the alumni office. I had been introduced to Brown by a woman in the class of '37, which was probably one of the reasons I was most interested in coming here. And I remember being interviewed there for a scholarship – I did not get the scholarship, but I was interviewed there by the Alumni Association.

JL: So that was in Alumni Hall?

JH: Yes, they give one scholarship.

JL: Not in Pembroke Hall?

JH: No, that was in the Alumni – yeah, in the alumni section of that –

JL: Of Pembroke Hall, or of –

JH: Alumni Hall.

JL: I was in [01:03:00] Pembroke Hall last year, year before they started doing this work, and there was one room with this marvelous sort of frieze of Greek goddesses or something around it.

RG: Is it up on the top?

JL: Not the top, it's the middle floor.

CH: It's the middle floor, yeah.

JL: Do you remember going in there?

RG: It must've been classrooms, don't you think?

JH: I guess there were a few classes held there, because you would see people come in – I never had any class there.

JL: And the basement?

RG: The basement was the mailroom, and the little bookstore.

JH: I don't know about any –

RG: Sort of a criss-crossy place.

JL: The bowling was in the gym. Is that what you said?

JH: Yeah.

JL: Over in what's now Smith Buonanno. It was the Sayles gym. So, soon we shall bring this to a close, because you probably need your lunch, and I need my lunch, too. But, perhaps we can have a closing thought about, you know, [01:04:00], whether you were pleased you went to Pembroke. Whether it has been beneficial for the rest of your days. Or what would you have done a little differently. Anyone would like to start?

RG: I loved Pembroke. And two of our children have come here. And our eldest grandson is graduating from Brown on Sunday, so I would certainly do it again, and I don't know if I – I don't think I really wasted it, but I've become more aware, as the years have gone on, about how much I really got out of it. I certainly didn't think I was getting that much. I didn't think about it. But a lot of the things that I've done in my adult life began at Pembroke.

CH: I would say that, for me, it really challenged my thinking, and – I was always very interested in learning, but I became even more so. My only regret is that I don't remember [01:05:00] everything that I learned! But I would definitely have come here again. I thought it was a very exciting place. Intellectually, it was just very exciting. My regret is that I was going with a guy from Cornell. And with that we were so far away from each other, and that was difficult, because for two years we did date other people, but that's sort of an awkward situation. And I wouldn't wish that on my children.

RG: No. But you would've liked it a lot better if he had been here. And I'm sure he didn't want to come to Brown. He wanted to go to Cornell.

JH: I'm very glad I came here. It was a lovely experience. We don't always see each other, but it's just so exciting to be able to see people again. I love the classes, I loved the pattern that we got into where you would go to extra things, because they were offered. It wasn't just the coursework, it was all the other things that [01:06:00] came with being here. And I also am a parent of someone who was here for a very long time, because he got all his degrees here. And it was very exciting to come back and see things through his eyes, or at that time. And I'm always recommending people to come here. I have two daughters who applied, and they were not accepted, but I think they regret that they didn't come here, because we did teach them all the songs in the car (laughter) on various trips, and they had grandparents who had been here, too. But it's been a very enriching thing. I welcome coming back here.

AL: It was also a wonderful place for me. As I said, I didn't come here expecting to be involved in the arts, but it was an ideal environment for that. I either took or audited every course the art department [01:07:00] offered. And I had the good luck to fall into a small group of students who

went regularly down the hill to the RISD museum, and we had a kind of casual seminar with the director, John Maxon; helped to install exhibitions, went to the museum ball. That was enormously enriching. And it was part of my larger experience of being here. I also loved being in Providence. And, like everyone here, I made deep friendships which continue today. Couldn't ask for more.

RG: You couldn't.

BF: Well, I was very, very happy that I went to school here. I met a lot of interesting undergraduates, and the faculty was great, but I think that a wonderful thing that's happening now, [01:08:00] is having people who don't have a lot of money being able to go to school. I had to work 40 hours a week while I was going to school. I worked 20 hours in chemistry, 20 hours in physics, because you weren't supposed to work more than 20, but – each department didn't know. Only the payroll department knew I worked that much. And I remember one of the people – I guess during the summer I sometimes did more – so one of the people on the payroll said, “You make an awful lot of money!” I says, “I work a lot! I work more than you do!” And she said, “Oh, alright.” But I mean, it was really very difficult and it would be wonderful now to just work – one job would've been enough, you know.

JL: So, do you think you were unusual?

BF: Oh, yes.

JL: That most people were not from the same economic sector as that?

BF: I didn't know anybody else who worked 40 hours a week –

JH: I worked part-time while I was here. I [01:09:00] worked here in the chemistry labs. And I remember I had to go home and wash my hair before dinner because it was so stinky, and in that organic chemistry, it was awful. And I also worked vacations. I paid for all my expenses. I didn't

have to do that, later. But I did do that, at that time. And I don't regret that, I mean, I just managed to –

RG: I think we all worked (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: I was on full scholarship.

JH: Were you? (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BF: The advantage was, you get used to that, and when I went to graduate school, I thought it was easy because you didn't have all this other – and I went to law school when I was teaching full time. And I went to law school, but I'd already done it, as an undergraduate, so I thought, I could do it again! So I did.

RG: But you were a little older.

BF: I was a lot older.

RG: So that might've sabotaged your energy a bit.

JL: I'm wondering how you managed to fit in 40 hours' work.

BF: A lot of late nights. Weekends. [01:10:00].

RG: Yeah, you must not have had any sleep.

BF: Saturdays and Sundays. Physics particularly. Because we had a key to Wilson Hall. Which helped, actually, at campus dance time, because all the people that worked there, we'd go in about two o'clock in the afternoon, work, and by campus dance, we'd just walk out, because we never paid for a ticket at all, because we were on campus already. We figured they owed us that much.

RG: I think they did. I think that's a reasonable assumption. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

CH: Why did you go to law school after all this chemistry education?

BF: I only went to law school in 1977. Then I graduated 1981. So –

AL: So are you a practicing lawyer now?

BF: Oh, yes. Mm-hmm. Part-time, now.

RG: Not chemistry?

BF: No. I did that for 22 years!

RG: Is this your second –

BF: It's time for something else. I was teaching chemistry and physics, and –

CH: You sure didn't waste your education.

BF: No, no, no. And, when I came [01:11:00] – I think it was five years ago, but it might've been 10 years ago – someone asked me, what was it that I really would like to do? And I said, “Oh, I would like to take up violin.” And I did. It's my second year playing violin. I'm taking violin lessons, so. It was something I always wanted to do, and I finally thought, well, it's not going to – I'm going to get any younger, so I might as well start. And I'm having a wonderful time.

JL: That's terrific.

RG: You just keep learning.

JL: I think you must be sort of the epitome of a Brown student, you know. It's terrific. Well, thank you all so much. This has been great fun for me to listen to you all, and very, very interesting.

CH: And fun for us, because we're stimulating our memories. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

AL: I've learned a lot.

JH: It's reinforcing so much of what we experienced.

JL: Well, thank you, thank you. (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

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