Project Title: UMW Alumni Oral History Project
Project Principal: Carolyn S. Parsons, Head of Special Collections & University Archives
Interviewer: Carolyn S. Parsons, Class of 1983 (CP)
Narrator: Marceline "Marcy" Weatherly Morris, Class of 1950 (MM)
March 28, 2019, In Person

CP: This is an oral history interview for University of Mary Washington's Special Collections and University Archives. The interviewer is Carolyn Parsons, Class of 1983, and Head of Special Collections. The narrator is Marceline "Marcy" Weatherly Morris, Class of 1950. We are at the Jepson Alumni Center in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and the date is March 28, 2019. Could you give me your full name, date of birth, and your birthplace?

MM: My name is Marceline Weatherly Morris, and I was born in Camden, Arkansas and ——. What was the other thing?

CP: Let's see. I think you got it all. Your date of birth?

MM: September 1, 1929.

CP: Where were you living and what were you doing during the early years of World War II?

MM: I was in, lived in Georgetown, South Carolina. I was in high school and graduated from high school in '46. And that, more or less, was what I did —— was study and go to school.

CP: Did you see with like the local community like people assisting in the war on the home front or did have much impact in your high school years?

MM: Oh yes, we collected toothpaste tubes. People who smoked Lucky Stripe Green packaging had gone to war, so they had that. We sold savings stamps at the local Five and Dime store and on Saturday mornings, that was one of our little things that we did. And we were just very patriotic back in those days.

CP: During that time. What high school did you attend?

MM: Winyah, W-i-n-y-a-h, Winyah High School, Class of '46.

CP: What led you to attend Mary Washington?

MM: The pretty pictures in the book.

CP: You got one of those beautiful *View* academic catalogs that they would send?

MM: Yes, they'd tell you everything that they had. Had a little catalog that they gave all the courses but the pictures were absolutely — It was like a coffee table book. And it was—they were absolutely beautiful and I just fell in love with the place, so I applied and was not accepted. I was put on the waiting list, because I was from out of state.

CP: Right.

MM: So I don't know if there are any other questions about that but there is a fact that I always [remember] on August 8 of 1946 I received my roommate from Agnes Scott College with all the information there, because I had been accepted there and that was in Georgia.

CP: Right.

MM: And my acceptance at Mary Washington came in the same mail.

CP: Oh, on the same day?

MM: On the same day.

CP: Oh, that's fabulous

MM: It was very traumatic, but I knew where I wanted to go so it wasn't a hard decision to make.

CP: What did your family think of the idea?

MM: They liked it, because it was a girls' school.

CP: Well they thought.

MM: Well, it was a girls' school

CP: Yes, until some World War II vets —.

MM: We had about—I guess it was about forty or forty-five male students and some women students who were veterans. And he [Elmer "Juney" Morris] has the letter where he was invited to come there [for an] interim time before going back to [The College of] William and Mary.

CP: That's interesting. So did you find your roommate out in the acceptance letter as well for Mary Washington?

MM: No, because I had to accept the acceptance letter, and I wasn't offered a roommate because I didn't know I was coming.

CP: Sure.

MM: But I did find my roommate. I lived with two other girls, and they were sophomores. I was a freshman, and our suitemates were one junior and one senior.

CP: That's interesting so at that time they mixed classes.

MM: Well the House President was the senior, in our suite and her roommate was the junior and my two roommates were [sophomores]. Three of us in there, and amazingly that worked out well. I mean they accepted me, and I accepted them. And the girl down the hall, Carie Verberg,

who was a Fredericksburg girl, we became best friends. So I had a best friend along with [roommates].

CP: What dorm were you in?

MM: Virginia.

CP: Virginia. Did you stay there all four years?

MM: No, I was there freshman, sophomore [years], and I went summer of my sophomore year to take swimming and biology, because I had not had a science, a biology course. And swimming every time I tried it —freshman and sophomore year—I would get sinus infections from the cold coming out wet. So my parents agreed, and I came to one session of summer school.

CP: Where was the pool at that time?

MM: In Goolrick down in the basement.

CP: That's what I was wondering. Did they—I was just kind of curious—because I know when I came, they would send you what you should pack. Do you remember was there a packing list or anything like that or they just left it up to students?

MM: You know, I don't remember that.

CP: Now they send—you know, "The room is this size and this is what you might think about bringing."

MM: No I don't. I think it was all so quick, because that was about the eighth of August and then we had to be here on, it was I think in the middle of September. So they just left you on your own I guess. I may have had it, but I was so excited I didn't care what I took.

CP: You and your family drive up?

MM: Uh-huh. And that was in the time when you couldn't buy any cars and we couldn't buy gas and it was, you know, during the war and my daddy did not have a fairly new car at the time and so he borrowed my uncle's car and brought me to Mary Washington and we arrived and didn't know where to go. You know we had never been to Fredericksburg before in our lives.

CP: Sure, it's grown so much.

MM: I don't like it anymore. It was much better in the days when we were here.

CP: In the early days.

MM: Yeah.

CP: Yeah. What was your major?

MM: Music.

CP: Music.

MM: Public school music. That has, of course, a story too. That [music] was one of the things they featured in the catalog they sent. Did away with it at the end of my freshman year (laugh). I was left dangling, but we, those of us who were here who were public school music majors, we were allowed to take all the history of music and then do practice teaching. We did our practice teaching at James Monroe [School] in the sixth grade.

CP: So would you still end up with a music—teaching music?

MM: Music degree. Um-hm.

CP: You still would. That's interesting. I see that you were the drum major in the All Girl Marching Band.

MM: Yes.

CP: So can you tell me a little bit about that and how that came about?

MM: Ron "Pop" Faulkner was the Band Director at the time—and he's just a real legend at Mary Washington—and we had tryouts and I was chosen. I had been the drum major at our high school for four years, and so I served as drum major with the marching band for four years and it disbanded after short skirts and women's lib. When women's lib, all that came along, that was not the image they wanted to portray. But Fredericksburg loved us, we played at the dog marts and always marched at the dog marts and in the parades downtown. It was very embarrassing moments all through our first twenty, thirty years of our marriage that people would say, "Oh yes I worked at so and so and everybody would come out of the stores and come watch you girls march down the street."

CP: They remembered.

MM: And they did.

CP: You did a lot of parades in other cities too, right?

MM: Oh yes.

CP: So did everybody travel by bus to those?

MM: Oh yeah, they just put us on a bus and took us. We played for the Redskins games a couple, two or three, during our time, and we played in Richmond parades and mostly they were—oh and the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival, we always went to that.

CP: Yeah, because I've seen photographs of you know the band and ribbons. The award ribbons are in the archives from the band.

MM: Oh really? And we were, we were quite popular and quite sensational. There was no other band like us. Anywhere around.

CP: That's what I read. We have in the archives, there's a photograph— and then someone made small cutouts of each of the players.

MM: Oh really?

CP: Small. There—the picture and then a little wooden pedestal they took from the photograph.

MM: I'm going to have to come to the library one day. I don't even know where it is.

CP: We're in the Library up on the second floor. So if you enter—.

MM: Yeah, but not Trinkle [Hall]?

CP: No, it's Simpson [Library].

MM: See that was our library, and that's on that walk.

CP: This is near Goolrick and the new Jepson Science building, but we're behind Klein and Pollard, so the library's right behind it.

MM: I'll have to come and visit y'all one day.

CP: Yeah, come and see. Because we do have the marching baton of the band—the big one.

MM: Oh you do, the big one. When we had—I had my picture taken with that when they had some sort of commemorative thing at one of the arts celebrations.

CP: It's big.

MM: Yeah, I did not use that one.

CP: (Laughs) Yeah that one's big.

MM: I think that one's been here a long time, longer than I have.

CP: So maybe it wasn't. It might have even been some prior band, I wonder.

MM: Oh, I think it was our band, but my year was not the first year, and I had my own baton from high school which they let me use.

CP: Oh that's nice. Did you have to—did each girl have to buy their own uniform?

MM: No, we had uniforms.

CP: So they were the band uniforms.

MM: Yep.

CP: I was wondering, you know you hear so many notorious stories, of course, about Mrs. Bushnell, who was Dean of Women at the College, do you recall any memories of her?

MM: I lived—She was the Dean Mother, the House Mother at Virginia [Hall], as well as being the Dean of Women. Dean of Students [she] was— she—her boys, her vets, were that, just that, she called them her boys.

CP: Interesting.

MM: They could do nothing wrong. And just having her as the House Mother, we became friends, as well as just knowing that she was our Dean of Students. I did not eat in her dining room in any of the four years. I [was] always in the second dining room, the one nearest to the

road, and so I didn't have the experiences of her chastising everybody for not being properly dressed or—.

CP: So did she have one of the wings of Seacobeck? I often read about it, but I didn't—.

MM: When you go into the main entrance with the foyer there, the one on the left was Mrs. Bushnell's dining room number 1 and number 2 was the other one. And as a senior, we had our own table, and we could invite people to eat at our table. And Gwen Amory, who was Gwen Cummings, now she's a very active alumna and she was a freshman at my table. The others I don't really remember, but I remember Gwen, we're still friends.

CP: Right because by the time of the eighties, it was just the Rose Room and the Green Room. So your time sounds much more interesting.

MM: But did you not have someone in charge of that room?

CP: No you would just—.

MM: Go in and sit?

CP: Tell your friends, "Oh let's meet—you know which entrance—at a certain time," and they opened at different times, so we'd all go over and eat at—.

MM: But there was no assigned tables?

CP: No, there was no assigning.

MM: We had assigned tables and each of these girls, I think there were eight of us at a table maybe six. And each of them were assigned, once they accepted the senior's invitation, well then they were assigned to that table.

CP: One other question—.

MM: It was, it was better.

CP: Yeah, well that was one of the questions I had—What was campus life like in the 40s?

MM: Well the—.

CP: I guess it was right after the war.

MM: Right after the war. Things were still very, very frugal, very stoic, and things were not as elaborate as things are now and of course, it was much smaller. I mean all of this part.

CP: Wasn't here.

MM: Yeah, all this and all these new dorms and everything. But they were all wonder— And we used to have things called—each class had one, every year and it was a production and it was student, student led, and I can't remember the word they used—.

CP: Was it Class Day? That was different?

MM: No that was different, it was, maybe it will come to me. But any way, we the standard joke was you had your trench coat and your jeans or slacks rolled up, because you couldn't wear slacks on campus.

CP: Right, so you could cover it up.

MM: You wore skirts. Uh-huh, and the standard joke on one of the things would be where the pants had unrolled and they would be coming down under that and it was very funny you know because we weren't allowed to—.

CP: Yeah, because everybody would know.

MM: Yeah, we weren't allowed to wear slacks and it was, everybody knew everybody.

CP: Right.

MM: They, the faculty, I mean my music major people the faculty knew me. They knew all of us, but my husband's business major faculty we knew all of them. We had mixers at the beginning of our freshman year particularly that we all went to the Hall of Mirrors on the upper, sometimes [inaudible] of G.W. [George Washington Hall].

CP: Oh yes I've seen pictures.

MM: And the teachers would be there. All the faculty would be there and all the freshmen and we would get to know them all. And so we knew all the professors, it wasn't just ours. But Dr. Dodd—Dr. and Mrs. Dodd—Dr. and *Mr*. Dodd (laughs).

CP: Right.

MM: Because she was, I don't think that he was a doctor. But he was one of Juney's main professors and she taught psychology which I [took and] child psychology which I took. And we just, we just loved her she was—.

CP: That was one of my questions— if you had a favorite professor.

MM: Well she was not only a favorite professor, but she was just a favorite person and friend. She was so fantastic. We were so happy when they named the auditorium for her, the Dodd Auditorium, and she loved Mary Washington just like we did.

CP: Right, that's excellent. Did they end up, I'm wondering because at certain times it seemed like faculty would have teas and different things at their homes for some of the students or is it more joint on campus?

MM: That's more of a new thing. We didn't.

CP: So it was more like you mixed together on campus.

MM: On campus, uh-huh. But if you became friends you were friends, but I guess some people visited their homes. I imagine, in fact, I don't know if you remember Marionette Klinesmith Kelley?

CP: No.

MM: Walter Kelley was an English professor who was brand new our freshman year and which would have been '46, '47. And she was one of Mrs. Dodd's, Dr. Dodd's students and then she married Dr. Kelley and then she taught here. So I'm sure she visited with the Dodds very often. Kind of like their daughter, they didn't have any children I don't think.

CP: Right I know that was the case with the Simpsons too. Some of the alumni have talked like they were almost their adopted children.

MM: And the all of the music professors, "Pop" Faulkner and Ms. Johnsey was the choir director, and I can't remember my voice teacher's name. She was one of the ladies that worked here. I can see her, but you know your memory is not as good when you get to be in your late eighties!

CP: I think you do excellent! Mine's not as great today (laughs). Well I can't let you go without the question of can you tell us how you met your husband, Juney, who was one of the World War II vets on the GI bill? And how did the two of you meet?

MM: Well you know where the brand new Chandler Ballroom in the campus center, they're waiting for somebody to give enough money to name it for them (laughs). Right now it's just the campus, I think campus center or something.

CP: University Center.

MM: University Center. And we, I was sitting with my two roommates from my freshman year and we were sitting at a booth in the C- Shoppe which was in the basement of Chandler Hall. That whole hall they tore down to build the new building was called Chandler. And this was in the basement, and someone tapped me on the shoulder and introduced himself and he said "I was wondering if you would like to go to the Veterans' Valentine's Day Dance, Valentine's party?" This was on the sixth of February, and I very coyly said, "I'll have to let you know tomorrow."

CP: Right. Keep him waiting.

MM: I would have to make—I really don't think that I had noticed him in particular or any, because I wasn't there to find a husband, I was really there to—.

CP: Was this your freshman year?

MM: Uh-huh, it was in February of '47, February 6. And so we went back to the C-Shoppe, my roommates and I the next night, and he was there and he came over and I said yes. I had checked with Mrs. Bushnell, made sure he could be on the list. I checked with my parents to tell them that this had happened, and I was real, it was nice. I thought it would be fun and so they agreed. They had—your parents had to agree to anybody that you dated. And so I told him yes I'd love to go. And so, I think we all went on a bus, all the vets and their dates and I got a—.

CP: Was it a dance off campus?

MM: Yes, it was at Martin's Manor which is right where all that mess at Massaponax is.

CP: Oh okay.

MM: And I think the building is still there. I don't know, I think it's some sort of organization has it now, but that was where we had our first date and that's why I love gardenias, because I got a gardenia.

CP: Because they remind you of the beginning.

MM: Of the beginning. We dated for—until I guess it was '49 that we were engaged in February again, and we went to Washington [DC] to a small jeweler on F Street and bought my ring which is just like it is right, just right now.

CP: Oh it's beautiful. So you went to DC to buy—.

MM: And we went to DC together and picked it out, because he said he didn't know how to pick out a ring and so we went and we were engaged, and we were engaged until, that was '49, we graduated on the fifth of June and got married on the fifth of August. 'Cause when we told my daddy that we were engaged they had met him several times 'cause they came up here several times and by that time he had gone down there too and he said, "Well that's fine. We love Juney, but we want, I want to see Weatherly on that diploma."

CP: So he wanted you to graduate first?

MM: Yeah, and I did. Two months later I got married. We got married. So it's been a beautiful almost sixty-nine years now.

CP: Congratulations.

MM: It'll be August 5.

CP: It's a wonderful story. Yeah, well did you guys have a favorite campus spot when you were dating on campus?

MM: Well the only place you could go—.

CP: You weren't in the same classes? I guess not the same classes.

MM: No we never had a class together. We—The little building right at the gate on Sunken Road, there still is a building there, but it used to be Bakers. It was a little—it had music and food and stuff and that was considered on campus, and so we could go there anytime we wanted to. Betty Lewis Dormitory was across the street.

CP: I know where Betty Lewis was. I hadn't heard of Bakers before. Was it adjacent to Betty Lewis Dorm?

MM: It was across the street. If you came out of that gate and turned left on that street. Betty Lewis would be on your right and Bakers, little place, right across the street and they had a jukebox and they had sandwiches and stuff. But you couldn't go anywhere. You couldn't get in a car.

CP: Right because we have all the student handbooks in the archives and some of the rules and regulations were very, to today's standards of course, very strict.

MM: Well they always said if you survived Mrs. Bushnell's campus and Mary Washington's restrictions that you had it made. You knew that everything was okay. But we did there and then we just walked a lot and on nice days like this we would sit on—they had benches all around Ball Circle and that's where I lived freshman and sophomore year and then the following

summer. So we—he lived right off the other gate the two, twin drive? By GW, where you go out that gate.

CP: Where you go in front?

MM: Yeah he lived over on that second house from the corner across the street.

CP: Because they had to live off campus.

MM: Yeah, they had to live off, nobody, none of the vets lived on campus. I don't know about the girls, because I never knew any of those, the girl vets. I have pictures of them, in fact I have pictures down there with Jinxie's [Barbara "Jinxie" Forbush] pictures. But we went to all the things on campus, we enjoyed—.

CP: Where would you go to movies, would they be downtown?

MM: Downtown, but you couldn't go there unless you had four people and walked. You couldn't go with just the two of us, you had to—.

CP: So you had to go with a group?

MM: Had to have four, at least two couples or a couple and two more girls.

CP: Because that was one of my questions, I was wondering what downtown was like and would you just visit any of the shops, but I guess you had to have permission and go as a group.

MM: Yes, so we really didn't go and really it's hard to imagine now with the multitudes of restaurants that they have, they didn't have any restaurants. There was a Palm Grill which was—You know where the museum was downtown before they closed?

CP: Yes.

MM: Well it was next door to that on Princess Anne Street headed toward Route 1 and I remember we went there one time when my mother and daddy were visiting. And my daddy ordered some sort of a seafood dish. It wasn't a seafood dish like South Carolina seafood dishes (laughs).

CP: You were probably near the water and had good seafood.

MM: Oh yeah, we were on the water and our house was not on the ocean. But the same year we built our house, my daddy built a house on that Pawley's Island which is a beach down there.

CP: Oh I've been down there, it's beautiful.

MM: Have you? And so we still have that. So then we were just on the river. Georgetown is right on the river and then ten miles from the ocean, so it's like being at the ocean. But that seafood was very disappointing. And one year for one of the formal dances, we were allowed to drive and go downtown to dinner with two couples and we went to a drive-in called Eddie Mack's and that was down in the vicinity of 2400 Diner which wasn't there then but it was about a block up from then off of Princess Anne Street and kind of where that Pink Lady place was.

CP: The tea place?

MM: The tea place. Right there. Eddie Mack's was about in that vicinity, and we all had grilled cheese with our formal clothes on (laughs). But you know that's what made it—.

CP: Made it fun. Made the memories.

MM: Made it fun. Uh-huh, if we had gone somewhere and had a nice dinner we probably wouldn't remember.

CP: Right but you remember the grilled cheese.

MM: Yep, grilled cheese at Eddie Mack's.

CP: Well the other thing of course was you were the May Queen in 1950 and served on the court for four years.

MM: Three years before the Queen.

CP: Right, three years before.

MM: Three years before. And that was, we never got to have it, May Day, at the Amphitheater and I think that that's what prompted us to be involved with the restoration of the Amphitheater and have the Morris Stage there, is because we never got—we practiced every year, but it rained every year.

CP: Oh it rained every year.

MM: Um-hm, so we—.

CP: So where did they have it?

MM: GW [George Washington] Auditorium, prior to it being Dodd Auditorium, because that was not named Dodd Auditorium until after we graduated.

CP: So did they have—I know in the early ones [May Days], they had different themes for some years, like they would have the Joan of Arc was one theme.

MM: No.

CP: Just by the time—those were the very early ones.

MM: I guess so.

CP: Where you'll see some of the court dressed and they had pages.

MM: Well we had pages. I had pages. I had flower girls. We had twins in our class, Betty and Bobby Hove, and they were the attendants and then we had, I don't know, maybe they were called pages, because we didn't have little boys on campus.

CP: No, right.

MM: But we—They were still beautiful, and the colors each class would to be. My freshman year I remember, we were all in lavender off the shoulder— one shoulder— which that style is coming back now (laughs).

CP: It is, it is coming back.

MM: And then I don't remember the dresses for the other two in between. I had them all until—

CP: Do you remember how you found out that you were selected as May Queen?

MM: Yes, I remember that very, very well. You didn't know, you know they had a parade of the contestants.

CP: It was a voting.

MM: A voting, yeah. The students voted for them. Which I think was one of the nicest honors, because you were voted on [by] the whole of, the whole campus.

CP: Right, the whole campus and your friends.

MM: And then I think that we were informed later that evening. And my suitemate, we lived on third floor of Ball Hall our senior year, and we were all just so excited. But my suitemate was also in the running, so then she didn't find out until the next day that she had been chosen as the attend—the Honor Attendant.

CP: Oh so you found out before.

MM: Yeah I thought that was pretty special that out of that one little two room suite on the third floor of Mary Ball [Hall], we had the Queen and the Honor— Maid of Honor.

CP: That was the next level—right below right? The runner-up.

MM: Yeah the Queen and then the runner-up was the next one. Helen was the Maid of Honor.

CP: That is special.

MM: It really was, and then you know, I think that the Honor – the attendants every year were chosen by a committee, because there was never any voting for that.

CP: But the students voted for those top—.

MM: For the top yeah. Well I think the first, the first one was the one that got the most votes was the Queen and the one that got the next votes were that. So that was—.

CP: So did you buy your dress locally for that?

MM: I wore my wedding dress. No I didn't, I'm sorry that's wrong. I wore my friend's wedding dress. Because I did not want my husband-to-be to see me in my dress, so there was a friend of mine who was a couple years older than I was in Georgetown and her name was Jane Woodworth and she had had the most beautiful dress I'd ever seen. So I asked her if I could borrow it, and she said she would be just privileged to have it to be [with] a May Queen.

CP: That's wonderful.

MM: So I had that, and Helen had a blue—hers was a wedding dress too—but she had had the train taken off of it and had it put back on for her wedding the next year. But it was blue, I remember that and it was just—.

CP: A special time.

MM: Even though it was, even though it was taken away from the Amphitheater it still was—was memorable.

CP: I guess you wouldn't have known till that week as [to] the weather, you know whether it was going to be in the Amphitheater

MM: We practiced, both places

CP: Yeah and it rained—that would have been special—.

MM: Because they wanted to be sure they had something else. Yeah I wish, I wish we could have had it. It was pretty then, it not as pretty as it is now, because it was beginning to be old then. I'm not sure when the Amphitheater was put there, but I think it was in the early, early days.

CP: It was. I want to say it was very early. I want to say the twenties, but I'd have to check that date.

MM: Yeah I think that that was—But it was the columns were still there and it was useable, because we were ready to go but the weather didn't cooperate.

CP: Didn't cooperate. For graduation, was that held outside while you were—?

MM: No, it was inside.

CP: So that was inside.

MM: No it was inside.

CP: So that has changed, unless it rains but—.

MM: Unless it rains, yeah.. I like it on campus, out on Ball Circle, I think it's wonderful.

CP: Well Ball Circle is beautiful.

MM: I remember that I had been to—I haven't been to a graduation since then, but we were there for three, no two, presidential inaugurations.

CP: And then you've had some family members attend Mary Washington.

MM: Yes, we have quite a legacy here. Juney's mother was here when it was the State Normal School. That was in probably 1917 or '18. And then we were the next ones in '50, and then our daughter who was a JMU graduate. She—I think her only connection is she took a course here one summer when she was going to JMU. But then our grandson, Paul Morris, graduated in 2010. His bride graduated in 2011, and then we have a great grandson who will graduate next year.

CP: So the family connections is coming right back.

MM: Connection keeps going, keeps going.

CP: That's what we're hoping for in my family. That it'll come back. Well one of the last questions I had, I know you and Juney are the benefactors of the Richard B. and Rosemary Hurley Award for Excellent Service to the University. So can you talk a little bit about how you decided to become a part of that award?

MM: I certainly can. Because that was one of the greatest honors that we have had—was to, to recognize them, because I don't know that Mary Washington would be what it is today if Rick Hurley hadn't become president.

CP: He stepped in at a time we very much needed him.

MM: The time, it was in turmoil. I mean, I think students would have been embarrassed to come here for a few years with [Frawley].

CP: We had the two administrations, yes.

MM: I can't ever remember her name—.

CP: President Hample.

MM: Yeah, Hample. I mean both of them were not what you wanted in a president and Hurley stepped in. They had spent a lot of money [on the] search—with researching places to find these people from out of town. And the alumni who knew the Hurleys and he had stepped in two different times and saved us. But then we just wrote letters to the committee and said you know why look further when you have somebody that you know can do this job. Sure, he's not a doctor but he has life experiences and he's been here for—I think he had been here for eight or maybe more [years] than that.

CP: He brought a lot of stability at a time when I felt as an employee it was very much needed.

MM: And that's why we did it, and we announced it to their surprise at the—. It wasn't Virginia Beach and it wasn't Williamsburg, it was somewhere down there where they had a chapter. It wasn't Norfolk. I didn't think I'd ever remember that—I mean forget that. But anyway, they were having their chapter meeting or something and the Hurleys were going and Donna Mejia,

you probably knew her, she's the one I was—we were—working with then. And we went down there on the pretense of visiting my roommate who lived at Virginia Beach. And we were going to attend this meeting and then we were going on down. And instead, she and her husband came up too for the presentation and when they called on me to stand up, Juney usually lets me do all the talking. I'm glad he's getting to 'cause—.

CP: Get to tell his own story.

MM: He's very—he's very passionate about his Mary Washington experience. And so we, I said that Juney and I had decided that we wanted to honor them, because we felt like they had brought stability back to Mary Washington which was so needed and that was the story.

CP: Yes, thank you. I guess just the last thing is there any other events of your time or anything else that I haven't touched on in asking you that you would like to share or you think would be important to future researchers as they look back at the history of Mary Washington or that—.

MM: Just the changes, the changes that we've seen and the feeling at Virginia Hall's 100 birthday. We were all invited to the building birthday, and Rick spoke at that and he announced that Virginia would be closing for a year for remodeling and it would open as a co-ed dormitory. Well you just heard this "aww" (laughs). Everybody that was there, "No, not Virginia!"

CP: Very different.

MM: Because that was Mrs. Bushnell's office there to the left when you first went in. She had a little apartment behind that front office and it was just, it was really a tragedy that we had to—had to think that our Virginia Hall was going to be, was going co-ed, because Mrs. Bushnell I'm sure she turned over in her grave that day and when it finally happened I guess it is open now as a co-ed dorm. I don't know.

CP: I assume so. I know Ball [Hall] is still not co-ed.

MM: Which one?

CP: Mary Ball's still not.

MM: That's a beautiful place. We just loved everything about it, like I said, I lived in Virginia two years and a summer and then I lived in Westmoreland and my roommate, well she was my suitemate, well we all were so close that—She was the student government representative for that dorm.

CP: You were also. It mentioned that, that you were also Class President. Was it junior and senior year?

MM: Uh-huh, yes.

CP: That was an elected position as well.

MM: That was an elected office. That was something that was very prestigious for the time. I mean you were just, you didn't expect things like that. I mean, you hoped that you'd been a friend to everybody, but you found out you were. Then Mary Ball we lived, as I said, on the third floor there with the five of us. And only two of us living now out of the five.

CP: Do you keep in touch with any of your—?

MM: Oh yeah, Billie died last August. She was—she and her husband were married in December before they graduated which was strictly taboo nobody knew it. We were their attendants.

CP: You were their confidants.

MM: We were their attendants in their wedding, and then when we got married in August, they were in our wedding, Billie and Dick Hanes. And he died a year ago in October, that was in ‘17 and she passed away in ’18. And Ann Osborn who was Ann Osborn Cox. She was from Virginia Beach. She was one of our very close friends and she passed away in the year ’17. Then Barbara Booker, she passed away I guess ten years ago. So Helen, who was my Maid of Honor, Helen Hopkins Mizell. I don’t know she got married twice, I think its Mizell now, but anyway Helen Hopkins and she lives in Florida and we live here. And we’re the only two left of our close friends.

CP: But she was probably class of ‘50 also?

MM: Yes. Yeah, we were—we were all Class of ‘50 and just talking to you today—.

CP: Brought back all those good memories?

MM: Has brought back so many good memories, and I'll never forget them because they’re part of—.

CP: Well that’s part of, you know, why we just, we know that you have so many memories and insights about how the University was at that period and how things that are traditions today or were traditions and still part of the University's history. So that’s what we were hoping to get with your story.

MM: We have—we have experienced the leadership of all the presidents from Dr. Combs and on up through the tenth president. I think that those others were before we were.

CP: There were only two, Russell and Chandler and then so and then Combs so

MM: And then Dr. Combs and Dr. Combs had a son who he and Juney used to play tennis all the time. And he came here too, I think, as a student.

CP: That was my understanding then, because he also was a veteran maybe?

MM: Yes, I think so.

CP: I know one of the reasons, I was reading somewhere where President Combs was interested also in getting even more veterans to come to Mary Washington.

MM: Yeah, it's been a wonderful, wonderful ride as we call it. A lot of water under the bridge, and we wouldn't change a thing. Except I wish we didn't have those two presidents that disappointed us. But then, we wouldn't have had Rick.

CP: A little bump in the middle.

MM: And Rick and Rose, that's the first time that the first lady was really a part of the structure.

CP: Yes.

MM: Because the other, even Dr. Anderson's wife, I don't think I would recognize her and that was just very, very right before—.

CP: Because he was the president during my time and I started with Woodard [Prince B. Woodard].

MM: During your time? Do you remember his wife?

CP: No. I started with President Woodard but then quickly—. Well I guess Woodard was more because Anderson, when I graduated was '83, so that was when Anderson was coming in. I think that he was inaugurated in that fall—the following fall. He was the one that gave me my degree.

MM: And we had Simpson [Grellet C. Simpson]. And Simpson, he was wonderful.

CP: And Woodard.

MM: And Woodard. There have only been ten, so one, two, three, four—.

CP: You know there was such longevity for presidents for many years.

MM: Yes.

CP: There was just a very long stay like Combs was here for a very long time.

MM: A very long time. And you know this has just been a wonderful, wonderful experience we love Mary Washington. It's hard for me to call it University of Mary Washington, because it will always be Mary Washington College to me.

CP: Right. Same here.

MM: (Laughs). And so I just forget about either one, university or college, and call it Mary Washington. And I think that's what a lot of people do.

CP: Yes we do.

MM: Yeah (laughs). So I think that—that one of the things that has happened to me. We've had lots of wonderful things. We have two scholars with Class of '50 and our 50th Reunion raised $75,000 dollars which at that time was the most any class had ever raised and we kept that honor for a while until they started combining things.

CP: Right. We have the Giving Day.

MM: Giving Day, and the giving, you can promise to give $100,000 over a period of years and you know that's counted as one year. So we had that distinction for a long time and the Arrington Scholars came from that fund drive because the Arrington—. What's her name?

CP: Oh Arabelle.

MM: Arabelle. Yes Arabelle, was matching all the gifts at that time and she had so much money raised then that we particularly got to have a scholarship, which we still have, and our scholar this year is a very precious little girl. I met her for the first time last Saturday, and then we have given a scholarship for musical theatre.

CP: Oh, that would be nice and it falls within your music interests.

MM: Yeah and we did. We gave that, and then we met first one was this year and she was a lovely, lovely girl [she went on stage with me for the Alma Mater singing]. And then, at the scholarship luncheon Donna and Catherine asked me to lead the Alma Mater, and I questioned it for a while because I do not have perfect pitch. I can't stand up there and say "D" and this is where you start. So I told Donna, "If I can find a pitch pipe I will—I will do it." And so I did, found a pitch pipe. So I said, "Okay I can hit that D on the pitch pipe and start us off." And as I studied that Alma Mater, really learned it, so I was memorizing every word and held this little music session when—. It became just a—almost an obsession that I had to share some of that—some of those feelings. And so I asked Donna when I got there last Saturday. I said "Could I say a couple things?" She looked a little bewildered, and she said "Sure." I said, "It won't be more than a minute and a half or two minutes," and I shared how I felt with it and it was just one of the—one of the proudest things I ever done for Mary Washington, because people—. I had people coming up to me afterwards, especially a lady in the Class of '79 and I didn't know her,

don’t know what her name was, but she said “You know I have been singing that Alma Mater off the back of that program for years and until today I really didn’t realize how important it was.” So that was just one of the joys that I have experienced and knowing all these people here, especially Jan Clark, Ken Steen, and Don Young and Donna, of course, and Catherine. I have gotten to know her [Catherine] more in the last, in this last year. But these people are just so special and they love Mary Washington.

CP: I think that’s the special thing about Mary Washington.

MM: If you're connected with them at all.

CP: It’s a very special place.

MM: You’re a special feeling about them. So thank you for letting us be here today. And Don was just at the door, so I guess he's got lunch ready for us.

CP: Probably set. Well thank you and thank you so much for sharing your memories for the archives and then we’ll have them and what a great way to close. Thank you so much.

[end of interview]