

Transcript – Class of 1956

Narrator:

Interviewer: Jane Lancaster

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Track 1

Jane Lancaster: I'm Jane Lancaster. I'm the archives consultant at the Pembroke Center, and today, which is May the twenty –

_: Fifth.

JL: Fifth? (laughter) May the 25th –

_: Sixth.

JL: Sixth? Sometime in May, (laughter), 2006, I have the great pleasure of interviewing seven members of the Pembroke Class of 1956. And, I'm going to start off by asking any one of you to start. And the first thing I want to know is why you went to Pembroke in the first place. Who would like to start?

Margaret Devoe Gidley: My mother went to Pembroke.

JL: Oh, can you introduce yourself, please?

Margaret Devoe Gidley: Oh my name is Margaret Devoe Gidley, known as "Dazzle." My mother went to Pembroke, and I remember seeing the dorms built by – I know [00:01:00] I remember seeing Andrews Hall built. There was a big tea party. And from then on, I wanted to go Pembroke. (laughter)

JL: All right. Jane?

Jane Hamlett Malme: I went to Pembroke because –

JL: Introduce yourself, please.

Jane Hamlett Malme: I'm Jane Malme, Jane Hamlett Malme, and I went to Pembroke because they had a coordinate education program, which I thought was very important in the '50s, and secondly because they had an English major that you could branch off into dramatic literature and English expression; it wasn't just all one thing, and I thought that I wanted to major in English expression.

JL: Thank you.

Barbara Perrino Piscuskas: Well, I'm Barbara Perrino Piscuskas, and I went to Pembroke because I really wanted to go to college, and no girls in my family had ever gone to college. I was the first one. And the only way I could go was to go somewhere where I could live at home. So that let URI out, which [00:02:00] was perfect in retrospect. (laughter) And, that's how I ended up at Pembroke.

JL: Where did you live?

BP: I lived in Cranston.

JL: You came in on the bus?

BP: And I came in – yeah, and then I later drove, yeah.

Gretchen Gross Wheelwright: I'm Gretchen Gross Wheelwright. I came to Pembroke for a similar reason. I grew up in Minnesota. I wanted to go east to college. My mother had gone to

finishing school, and she said you're not going to do that, but her cousins had gone to Wellesley and Harvard, so I was to go east to college, and I didn't want to go to a girls' school, so I ended up here. Great choice.

Margie Jenckes Fleishmann: I'm Margie Jenckes Fleischmann. I went to Pembroke because I – really, I had gone to an all-girls school. I went to Wheeler School here in Rhode Island from the age of four until I graduated. And I wanted to go away, but I couldn't really afford to do so, so I thought, well I'll go to Pembroke for one year and then transfer. Well I was here a week, and here I stayed. [00:03:00] (laughter)

Jenifer Morgan Massey: And I'm Jiffy Morgan, Jenifer Morgan Massey, known as "Jiffy," and I went here because I'd been to a girls' school, and I decided I needed to go to co-ed school to clean up my language, and (laughter) in order to be employable in the future, and I chose Pembroke because it wasn't just a co-ed college. We were a separate entity, and it allowed us to have – the women could be president of student council. We had our own student council, our own newspaper. We had our own athletic organization; we had our own honor council. So as a result, women could have class offices, and have an opportunity to experience leadership, which they don't have today as much, and I think that's a disappointment. I was in Africa when they decided to merge, so they didn't ask me. (laughter)

Geneva Whitney Courtright: I'm Geneva Whitney Courtright, and I had an English teacher in a boarding school that I went to for three years who thought Pembroke was just the best place in the world. She [00:04:00] had gone many years before. And my parents wanted me to go Mount Holyoke or Connecticut College for Women, because they were really nice girls' schools, and I was accepted there, as well as at Brown, and my parents thought that I was going to Mount Holyoke, and overnight I decided I was going to come to Pembroke, and didn't tell them for a month. They were horrified. (laughter) They thought I was going to Mount Holyoke. It's never – since the day that I've stepped into this college, I've never had a bad moment. It was an absolutely fabulous experience. I just loved every minute of it.

JL: I'm interested in several of you talking about, it was like a women's college within a mixed community. Can somebody sort of address the amount of mixing that went on?

GWC: Well, all your courses at Brown, except for freshman comp. They felt that you could express yourself there if you weren't in class with them. And you had your own newspaper, and also we had the Brown course, which was co-ed. And it was also the Pembroke – [choir?]
[00:05:00] did they call it?

8: Ski club.

JMM: Speech.

BP: All of our classes were, at Brown. Or I mean, they might have been in Alumnae Hall, but they were with Brown.

MJF: I think our degrees say, Pembroke College in Brown University.

BP: In Brown University, yes. Our degrees are from Brown.

GGW: They don't even say – it doesn't say "Pembroke" –

JHM: No, not on the diploma.

GGW: I mean, there was Pembroke College, and there was "the College." The men were the College, and the women were Pembroke College. And they were both part of the university, and coming from the Midwest, I always told people I went to Brown because nobody knew about Pembroke much back in the Midwest. So, but then they knew Brown better, so, I don't know. I never felt we were that separate.

JHM: But we weren't academically, and in many ways, I mean we were all part of the Brown – but the experience at Pembroke was so unique because of this opportunity that we had to develop

our [00:06:00] leadership skills, to develop a sense of community, and it really, it's what makes us all come back here and have these wonderful friends that we've had for a lifetime, as well as all of the things that it did to launch us into a new world.

GWC: There was also the freshman dorms that gave us a sense of identity. A lot of schools didn't have that. They just had a big dormitory, freshman dorm. And we didn't have sororities, but Brown had fraternities, and it was just the ideal situation, I think, for women.

MDG: I think it's great we didn't have sorority.

GWC: I do too.

MDG: No – nitpicky.

JMM: The freshman dorms were terrific because they were very small, and for kids who were scared to death going away from home for the first time, you could deal much better with a group of, say, 20 people, and then enlarge – knowing more kids in your class. But I don't know, in the dorms, the freshman dorms were just like a big house. So it felt [00:07:00] like you – it felt really homey, instead of some of these humongous dormitories like Andrews where you walked down corridor after corridor, you know. This was just much cozier to start.

GGW: They literally were big houses. And –

JL: Where were they?

JHM: All scattered around Brown Street.

MDG: Where the medical school is is one, and where – in the back of the medical school was another one, Bates House, and then along Angell Street where there's a parking lot was another. Corner –

GGW: I lived in the Sharpe House, which was on Angell Street, I think – it was the English – I don't know if still is the English department – now it's the English department, so.

BP: And there was also a house for commuters.

MDG: That's right, it's called West House

BP: We all – it's called West House, and it's still there. It looks very sad right now. And maybe it's not going to be there forever, but that was a really great place, because we had a little home away from home, and we could stay overnight if we needed to, and just – you know, a place to hang out and get to know our classmates.

JL: I'm interested in the difference between the City Girls and the not City Girls. [00:08:00]
Between, can you tell me about that?

MDG: Well, I had a lot of friends in the dorm. Because I made up my mind I couldn't afford to go away to school, so I wasn't going to meet just everybody from Providence only, so I got very involved in the course, and was involved in a lot of things.

MJF: Student government.

MDG: And I had friends from the dorms, but then I – and so, particularly when they didn't want to come in by eleven o'clock. (laughter)

BP: I think in some cases, maybe we were envied a little bit because we had home cooking. (laughter) But you know, I definitely think you miss something not having that dormitory experience. But you know, I think West House really helped a lot in that regard.

GWC: I had a triple, and one of my roommates was a commuter. But she – she was Phyllis Rannacher Dyson. And she lived in with me that first freshman year, and then after that she was out as a regular commuter and living outside, but it gave her a real sense of entity to be part of a

dormitory her first year. And it was an experience having a triple, I want to tell you. There were only about four on campus [00:09:00] and I don't know why I got one. (laughter) We were quite different – one of us. (laughter)

BP: Well I was saving up to board my senior year, but then I decided to get married instead, so the money had to go elsewhere. (laughter)

GGW: One of the most peculiar things about the dormitory situation, I don't know if people realized this was, that they paired up roommates by religion in those days. Yes, and I mean at least that was a part – yes, it was a part of it. And I don't – you know, and that was very strange, because my religion was not an integral part of who I was, and – particularly, and I had very little in common with my freshman roommate. I mean, we survived the year, but she was never a close friend. And I just thought that was an odd thing, but you know. Fortunately, because the dorms were smaller, there were plenty of opportunities to meet other people, it [00:10:00] didn't matter who your roommate was.

JL: Did you pick for your next year?

GGW: Yeah, sure, sure, right.

GWC: Now it makes sense. (laughter) Now it makes sense. Now I figured it all out, why I had those roommates. I never – well Phyllis, I just loved. We're still very good friends –

MJF: Do you know she's been ill, and that's why she's not here?

GWC: Yeah, yeah. I talked to her recently. Now we're very good friends, but now it makes sense. Thank you for the explanation. (laughter)

BP: Well now they still try to pair people up by their interests. One of my sons said he was interested in music, so he got a roommate who was in band and all that, but that was not the kind of music my son was interested in. (laughter)

MDG: Was it in rock? (laughter)

BP: So that did not work at all. But they tried. (laughter)

JL: So, were you in dorms – except for you Barbara, when you got married, for the whole four years.

MJF: I was the same as Barbara (inaudible).

MDG: I was too, I (inaudible). But I lived on Prospect Street, so I was [00:11:00] around campus more.

GGW: No, we all moved up then to either Andrews, Miller, or Metcalf. So then, after sophomore, junior, and senior year, people all lived in those dorms, and we all ate in Andrews dining room. Now we ate there anyway, even in the freshman dorms. But then, people mixed up – that's when our groups broadened out much more than they had as freshman, so – because people found themselves on floors with other people – I mean, not that people didn't in the freshman year, but much more so, as they progressed through the other years.

MDG: They had a special dorm though; they had the Bates House where they cooked for each other. They didn't go to the main dining halls. It was coops; it was cheaper for them. It was kind of like a scholarship, wasn't it? They lived there.

JL: Tell me about eatings.

JMM: Carrot and raisin salad was the worst. (laughter) But I remember Jell-O fights. (laughter)

GGW: Well I think the worst meal [00:12:00] of the week was Sunday night, because it was “the week in review.” And it was a buffet, and it literally was every dessert from the whole week laid out there –

JMM: Friday night was the worst. That was undercooked or overcooked fish.

GGW: Oh yeah, that was the true, because – for the Catholics, I guess, they had fish. And, the food was horrible.

JHM: Well, I think in an institutional setting, it's the one thing everybody can talk and complain about. So whether it was good or bad, we were always complaining about it. "A train wreck" was my favorite.

GWC: Train wreck was my favorite.

JMM: There were two train wrecks. And I remember that there wasn't seconds enough for the whole table of eight, so you had to eat really fast to be able to have seconds.

GWC: Jane, explain what train wreck was.

JHM: Well it was hamburger and tomato sauce, or tomato, and onions and so on, all mixed up.

JMM: And the other one was Swiss steak, and onions, and tomatoes.

JHM: But do you also remember the – what was it, was it Wednesday night, where we all dressed up, and we had [00:13:00] faculty guests? Oh yes, we had to. We had to all dress up.

GWC: Candlelight dinner.

JHM: And candlelight dinner.

JMM: Something other than our raincoats.

GGW: I think we had to wear nylon stockings –

JHM: Yes we did, and skirts, I think, yes.

MDG: I don't think Jane realizes we couldn't go off-campus with shorts. Even going down to the fieldhouse, we had to have a raincoat over our shorts. And so if you went to the library, you had on shorts, Bermuda shorts were very popular then, you had to have those raincoats on. (laughter)

GWC: The hardest thing for the freshman was if they had on shorts, and they'd been studying in the library, and then they had to go back to their dorms and change, freshman doors were way off, some of them. And then you had to turn around and take ten to 15 minutes to get back to the dining room, and if you didn't get in, the door shut, and you were locked out. You didn't have any (inaudible).

BP: That's why The Gate so popular.

GWC: So we went to The Gate and had to order –

BP: We had a little café-like place called The Gate.

MDG: And Toy Sense.

GGW: And Toy Sense.

JMM: I remember in the snowstorms, when we would steal all the trays [00:14:00] out of both, the Ratty, the Ratty, and finally, there were so few trays they couldn't serve anybody at Brown or Pembroke for dinner. And so then they said, OK, if you guys don't bring the trays back, we're not serving you any more meals. So you should have seen the trays that came back to the Brown Refectory. They were so bent they couldn't use them. (laughter)

GWC: Now what did you do with the (inaudible) tray?

JMM: We slid down the hill, and all the football players would wait at the bottom to catch us and sling us off to the side so we wouldn't go straight across and be run over by fire trucks and taxis.
(laughter)

GGW: This only happened a few times though because we didn't have that much snow. There were a few bad storms, though.

MDG: Oh there were – I had some pretty good storms. Very bad storms. It was up to my waist.

GWC: Your waist? It rained most of the time. We had slickers and, they came in in pastels, instead of just the yellow ones. We had pale green, we had aqua, we had pink, all these different colors, and it rained so much that we had to have a different slicker every year. [00:15:00]

JMM: What do you mean we wore those ratty old Burberry things that just, that were absolutely not waterproof.

BP: Well I remember you particularly had a ratty one. (laughter)

JMM: I remember applying to transfer, because I'd spend the night on rollers, sleeping at Angell House, and I was in such agony; I never really got a good night's sleep. That's probably my excuse for why I didn't do better in school. And I would go down to the dormitory. By the time got there for breakfast, my hair was straight as a string, and I said, all right, that's it, I'm transferring. (laughter)

JL: But you only had to dress for dinner once a week. The rest of the week you could wear your shorts.

JHM: Well not to class, oh no, oh no.

MDG: Heavens no, we had to wear skirts.

GWC: We couldn't wear shorts to dinner, no.

GGW: No, I think we had to wear – we couldn't wear, I can't remember, I think maybe lunch you could, but no, it was just, you really had to dress up. And then, there was the part when, you know we had – there was not the same, but sort of similar, about having [00:16:00] to go to Chapel, and we were required to do that. And, when you're a senior, you had to wear, on one day, was it Friday, I can't remember which of the two days for Chapel we had to wear our caps and gowns every – once a week.

BP: I didn't have caps, but we had to wear the gowns with the white collar.

GGW: Yes we did.

BP: Yes we did. Those were choir robes. But we had to wear them.

GGW: They were meant to be symbols of our – the fact that we'd achieved senior status somehow, but –

JHM: Yes, we were, the word “gracious living” was on everybody's lips. (laughter) Yes, remember gracious – but the interesting thing, and in going back and looking at doing the yearbook and looking at the Pembroke records, [00:17:00] is that there were smokers all the time. People were out on the corner giving away samples, you know. And, half of the ads in the Pembroke records were pictures of attractive co-eds with the sophisticated look with their cigarettes. It was absolutely astounding when you look back on that.

GWC: I used to walk around the tables Wednesday dinner and find the table that had the kind of cigarettes that I would like to smoke. Because, you know, sometimes the Kools had just come out, and I thought they were horrible. But they had unfiltered, they had filtered, and they had menthol, and you'd walk around –

JHM: But Lucky Strike and Chesterfield were the two popular –

GWC: Yes, those were the big ones.

JMM: Pall Mall was there.

JHM: Pall Mall, yes.

JMM: Kent.

MDG: See, I was the only nonsmoker in the group, I think. And my dates had a fit that I wouldn't have a cigarette. And I said, well you can have a cigarette if you want to, but I had one cigarette in my life and I thought I was going to die. My lungs were on fire, so I was very lucky that I didn't take to it at all.

JL: People smoked in class didn't they?

MDG: No.

JHM: Oh no.

JL: Well later they did then.

GGW: No, they could only smoke in the Hay in a certain smoking room as you came in. But you could smoke in the dorms, I mean the dorm rooms, we smoked in our rooms. [00:18:00]

BP: And the other thing about Chapel, just to go back to that, you had assigned seating, and there would be somebody come along and take attendance.

JMM: I remember, now you're making me think about, remember we had open house on Sundays, and you could have men up in your rooms, but you had to have the door open and at least one foot on the floor? (laughter)

GWC: I didn't think we could have men in our rooms ever.

JHM: On Sunday. Oh yes, that's one time. It was a set – yeah, Sunday afternoon.

GGW: It was, but I think it was maybe like our junior or senior year when that came in. That was a big new thing, I think. I know it wasn't freshman.

JHM: Oh no, no freshman, no, no.

GGW: And when we were freshman, you had so many lates a week or a month. I can't remember if it was – and you could – otherwise you could stay out till ten, but you had so many nights you could stay out till 12:00 or 12:30; I think it was 12:30. Oh it was, you know.

GWC: Now let's discuss the honor council. (laughter)

JMM: Because I remember being accidentally past 12:00 a couple of times senior year, and I spent my last semester [00:19:00] senior year on probation. I had to be in at 8:00. That was a really wonderful way to exit. (laughter)

GWC: One of my final recommendations in my senior year was get rid of the honor system; it does not work. There were many, many times I sat in a fraternity at Brown, and they had – we had a double system, and double standards. They could have girls up in their rooms, and we couldn't have boys. And I would sit downstairs in the lounge with my date, and I wouldn't go upstairs, because I was on honor council. And everybody would be going by me that I knew. (laughter) They'd say, "Hi Geneva!"

GGW: That's right. We were not allowed to go upstairs.

GWC: I know. We were not allowed to go upstairs. All the Wheaton girls and everybody else were going upstairs. We thought that was cute. And so, it really didn't work. The honor system

didn't work. It did get us into the rooms at ten o'clock at night. We had two lates, I think. But other than that, I mean as far as not going upstairs or something like that, it didn't work.

JL: What else was governed by the honors council? [00:20:00]

MDG: Well, you were supposed to report if people cheated, and I can remember – I remember seeing –

GWC: Report, report other people.

MDG: I remember seeing the star hockey player in front of me being fed information on his exam, and there was no way I was going to report him. (laughter)

GWC: No, of course not.

MDG: No, of course not.

GWC: I mean, that's the problem. If I had reported him, I would have been death on this campus. Ostracized. (laughter)

GWC: I wasn't going to report all my friends going upstairs. I mean, how could you do that?

JMM: I remember being the only one left dancing downstairs, and wonder where everybody had gone. (laughter)

GWC: I remember you going upstairs. (laughter)

JMM: I never went upstairs, not once. (laughter)

GGW: There was another little piece of that that was pretty funny, and that is, you couldn't go above the first floor, but there were rooms on the first floor. And, if you happened to go out with

someone who either had one of those rooms, or could borrow one of those rooms, then you got to go into the room. I mean, it was all very crazy.

JMM: Oh, look at her face brightening. (laughter) [00:21:00]

GWC: But all they were doing is playing cards, and looking at slides from Europe on their – oh, I'll sit down.

JMM: You mean ones from Amsterdam. (laughter)

JL: Tell me about Nancy Duke Lewis.

BP: “Gracious Living” personified. Would you say? Very southern. Yes, I was very intimidated by her.

MDG: She was very stern. She was very gracious.

BP: Charming.

JHM: I've looked back at here, because we were all a little intimidated with her. She was the iron hand in the velvet glove, if there ever was one. (laughter) And yet, I've looked back at her and saying, here was a woman who had a doctorate in math, very unusual for a woman in those days, and was the woman that was in this whole fraternity of men. All of our teachers, all of our professors were men. So she had to stand up and, for herself, and for [00:22:00] her profession –

BP: And for us.

BP: – and for us, and I think she did. I think she did.

GGW: We also had this woman, Gretchen Tonks, who was kind of the softie. And, so she was not very attra– I mean, Nancy Duke Lewis was a beautiful woman. I mean, she had a beautiful

figure, she dressed beautifully, and she was elegant. Gretchen Tonks was kind of a down-to-earth woman, and she was very nice, and very friendly, and all that, but when you ask about Nancy Duke, I had a roommate who left in the middle of our sophomore year to chase a man overseas, and she wanted to come back after that, it didn't work out, the chasing, and they wouldn't have her back on campus. She crossed the line, so she graduated from Northwestern, which I always feel bad about, because she is a really good friend of mine still, and I mean, they should have let her back in. You know that, to me was silly.

BP: One of our friends had a roommate who got married [00:23:00] her senior year, Jane – Bouton, and Nancy Duke was not going to allow Julie to room with her anymore, because now she was a married woman, and Julie was, you know.

MDG: And you had to leave campus if you were married. Even if your husband was in the Navy. Her husband was in the Navy. She was a year ahead of us.

BP: Her husband was, and she wanted to, yeah, come back, and live in the dorm, and they wouldn't have that.

MDG: You got married, they lived in that apartment.

BP: We were very protective.

MDG: The apartment at Bowen Street, in the corner, Bowen and Brown Street, they all lived across there, and the girls would be going over to visit them. (laughter)

JHM: Well that was an era where they felt very responsible for all morality, in all sorts of ways, and probably, the times were changing, but they felt very responsible to our parents, I think.

GWC: You have to remember Nancy Duke Lewis also was a southern lady. She came from Lexington, Kentucky, where my mother came from, and when I first came up for an interview, we went in to see Nancy Duke Lewis, and all of a sudden, I'd never seen my mother so animated

when she found out – and Nancy Duke Lewis [00:24:00] also, the demeanor relaxed. The two women started talking animatedly together, and their southern accents just started coming out like this. And it was – I always felt very warm and comfortable with her because of that. I wasn't awed by her. I respected her tremendously. But she had had that relationship with my mother, and I just thought that was beautiful.

GGW: You know, you mentioned the accent, but this is rather funny. I came from the Midwest, and they kept trying to put me in classes to correct my pronunciation. I mean, seriously, to correct me, because obviously I didn't speak correctly because I came from – I mean, they had a standard for the way things were supposed to be, and –

MDG: I never heard of such a thing.

GWC: We took speech. We all took speech.

JMM: (inaudible) and I were the last ones – we were never excused. We had to go the whole year. (inaudible) she got out after one semester.

JHM: And when I came to Brown [00:25:00] I wanted to continue being in plays. And so one of the first plays, of course was a Shakespeare play. Well they hardly wouldn't – they just wouldn't let me in the door. They said that, well, whatever accent you have is not right for Shakespeare. (laughter) I had to wait for my starring roles till my junior year, Ibsen. (laughter)

GGW: You see, they have these classes for things like that. We didn't get credit for it. You didn't get academic credit; it was just, you had these hurdles you had to go through. PE was, and physical education was something else; we had to do that. I didn't stand up quite right either. And I found out much later I actually had scoliosis, and – no, but anyway, you know, they had these standards for us, and we had, you know, you just accepted it.

BP: I remember, there was sort of a bit of scandal a few years ago about this posture picture business, well we had to do posture pictures, we did. We had no choice. I mean, we were like

sheep. They said, here's your appointment, you go and [00:26:00] you do it, and we did. Like we didn't question it at all.

GWC: We didn't question, get in a dress, now you turn around, now drop the drape. (laughter)
We had to turn backwards, and then the picture was taken, supposedly of our spine. (laughter)

MDG: Well for instance, most schools give you credit for music, being the course and things like that. I went on to Yale Music School after Brown, and of course you get credit in everything. You teach at the community college, you get credit for being in the course. And we didn't get any credit of all. And I studied the piano, and finally, Arlen Coolidge, who was the chairman of the department, decided you should get half a credit if you performed at the end of the year in a jury, half a credit. So I ended up my senior year I was ahead a credit, so. (laughter) I took a three course (inaudible). But it was a lot of work. I mean the others weren't practicing a couple of hours a day to get ready of these recitals. But I must say what I loved about Brown is I was probably one of just a handful of pianists, and I get to play the Grieg and Schumann concertos with Brown orchestra, for two years, junior and senior year, and then [00:27:00] I got to play with the Rhode Island pop orchestra. It was really the Rhode Island Philharmonic; they're all the same people, they just changed the title. And so I had a lot of experience performing, and I (inaudible) the course, that when I got to Yale, people would say to me, "Why aren't you nervous?" I said, "I'm terribly nervous." "You don't act it." I'd say, "Well, I've had a lot of experience." And it was very different, when you're in music school, you perform, yes, but not as much as I did.

GGW: Now one of the things that hasn't come up in this conversation is the academics. I mean, this was an extremely rigorous school. People want to talk about how Brown has, you know, emerged as this fabulous intellectual institution. It was fabulous when we went. And we had to take 32 classes, not 28 classes. And we had to pass comprehensive exams, which were very tough. It was at least two days of examinations in our area of concentration, and there were people who actually did not march, and did not graduate because they didn't pass, [00:28:00] even though they had passed all their classes. This was not just something you went through for the fun of it. I mean, and we studied extremely hard.

BP: Oh, I remember going to look at the list to see if you were on the list that you passed. It was a scary time.

GGW: It was very rigorous. I mean, it was a fabulous education. I don't know, some of the other people, I mean I was well-prepared when I, you know, got two more degrees, and I was very, very well-prepared here. It was absolutely outstanding.

MDG: Well I think Brown is harder to get into today, but I think it's easier to stay in. We had no pass-fail. And you couldn't have more than three [cat?] courses without going down, and I'll never forget, I had a temperature of 102, and I went to the professor, and I said, "May I take this exam next week? I'm really sick." He said, "You may take it in March." Well in March we had [4R?] exams. There's no way I could study for two finals and 4R exams, so I took it, went down both of them. It was French and biology, and went down a grade in both. [00:29:00] I mean, I had a raging fever. I don't remember which one it was. But the other thing is, I think that these distribution courses I think are wonderful. And I'm sorry they dropped it, because I would never have taken four science courses if I hadn't been required to take four science courses. I ended up loving psychology, and I wouldn't have taken the math courses I was forced into taking; that's not my field.

JMM: And I will take the opposite. I'm ever so ungrateful that I wasn't here for when they did away with those distribution courses. I would have given a lot to not have taken math, bio, and some other – and astronomy, just because of Professor Smiley. But, the thing I'll say one thing, another wonderful feature I think about our experience here was the size of the university. It was, maybe not the smallest, but it certainly was far from the largest. And we got to know [00:30:00] a lot of people, not only the ladies, but all of our class, and other classes. And I felt really a part of a wonderful family.

BP: It was a very intimate community at that time. Which it's not now.

MJF: And that's carried over, I think, too. I think that has carried over to use today, as to why we have all worked so hard together on this reunion, and what we were 50 years ago, and what we are now. And we haven't changed have we? (laughter)

MDG: Well we look a little grayer.

GWC: We're girls with grandmother faces, don't you think? (laughter)

GGW: One of the interesting things, and this totally sort of shifts it to the current time, but a lot of my best friends in the class now were not my best friends in college. And I think that is a really interesting thing that, there are people that for whatever reason I have kept up with, either because of geography, or because we had mutual friends, etc., and it's really wonderful [00:31:00] because I am very close to most of the people sitting in this room, and none of us were in the same freshman dorm, or you know, we have City Girls, and Margie and I were in California together for quite a while, and I saw Geneva once in Mexico City, and we've kept up, her first husband's family lived in a town where I lived. And you know, it's really wonderful, because you make these connections with people, and I just – it's been really wonderful. My husband keeps looking – he came with us, and “You know so many –” You know, I mean he can't believe that we're all still – we know each other. And I think it's a real tribute to the quality of the school we went to, and that we're here.

JMM: And the people they accepted.

MJF: I have to throw out one thing, Dazzle. I've known Dazzle since we both were four years old, and we were together when Franklin Delano Roosevelt died, and we were rolling down [00:32:00] the hill. Do you remember that hill – put it in your memory bank. (laughter) We were rolling down the hill and we heard that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had died, and we were, let me see, how old?

MDG: Seven?

MJF: No, more than that, he died in '45, so we were 11. Ten or 11, yeah, 10 or 11.

MDG: Margie looked like a Dutch little girl. She had these blonde pigtails.

MJF: Yes I did. (laughter) I don't know whose idea that was, my mother's, I guess? (laughter) I had to tell you, Geneva, I was accepted at Connecticut College of Women too, and that's where I thought I'm going to get out of Providence and I'm going to go there. Well I'm serious to say that one week, or even one day after being here at Pembroke, I decided, forget that. I wanted to stay right here.

GWC: Did your parents want you to go to Connecticut?

MJF: Not really. My father was deceased at that point, and my mother – I lived on Governor Street, so I wasn't very far, but West House was absolutely terrific. And I don't know if they have anything like that now for the people. There probably aren't that many [00:33:00] people that commute anymore. You have to live on campus now?

JL: I don't know, but tell me about West House, what went on there?

MJF: Well we had rooms; you could sign up and stay overnight.

BP: And you could keep food there. You know, if you just wanted to stay for dinner, you could keep food there and cook, and we had a house mother, Carol Morse, at the time.

MJF: Yes, and we had rules (inaudible).

BP: We had rules, and we had officers, Marjorie was president for a while.

MJF: And that's how I got to know all of you at that point, was because of (inaudible).

BP: Right, right. Yeah, we were represented.

MJF: And we also started, TV dinners came in right about then. So, we would eat the TV dinners in the kitchen. Honestly, Swanson TV turkey dinner, we were the first people to eat it. And we would have that, and then go down to the (inaudible) to study, and then we'd have to go into that little room and have our cigarette. You know, you study about an hour and a half. And we went in there, when you and I were doing the archives, and all I could think of was sitting in that room, and it's now archives, [00:34:00] that little room.

GWC: Did you have an honor system in there where you had to be home at a certain time?

MJF: Oh yes, there were people, yes you did, yes you did, yes, yes. I was in loose house.
(laughter)

GWC: (laughter) I didn't mean that.

MJF: No, I know what you mean. (laughter)

BP: I worked at Pembroke Library, which is no more. It was on the top floor of Pembroke Hall, very sweet little library, I loved it. And I worked there, and lots of time I worked at night, my shift was at night. So I would have to stay for dinner, and that was a great place to do it.

MJF: I worked there too, Barbara, didn't you know that?

MDG: I had the ideal job. I was in the music department checking our records, so I had all this listening I had to listen to, so I was doing my homework as I was working. It was the perfect job for me.

BP: But the best thing about working in the library at that time, being part of the library staff, so to speak, was that you got a stack pass. Now at that time, the John Hay was so overcrowded that books were stacked up on the floor, and you couldn't just go and look for a book, you had to look it up in the catalog, and write it down, and turn in your chit, and somebody would go

[00:35:00] and get it, but if you worked at the library, even if you worked at Pembroke, you had a stack pass, which was fabulous, because you could go in and get your own stuff.

GGW: Well we could get stack passes though, if you had a certain grade point average, which fortunately I did, we could get a stack pass, and so then you went back in, and that worked well. Yeah, one of the things that hasn't been brought up, but I think [this was an?] enormous tribute to the university, and to the quality of the people who came, was what the members of our class had done with their lives. I mean, it's really been exceptional. Jane's an attorney. I mean, we have several attorneys. We have people – you know, we were not brought up to pursue those things. But, you know, once you let the genie out of the bottle, you educate women, they're not going to sit around and drink tea. And we had many people who are quite accomplished in our class amongst the women.

JL: Well that was one thing I wanted perhaps to go onto, is that [00:36:00] you're the '50s generation that was supposed to get married and raise some nice children.

BP: Which we did.

JL: Which you did.

BP: But we did other things too.

JL: But you did other things too. So how did you negotiate that?

MDG: With whom, your husband, or what?

JL: Yourself? Because you were expected not to do that.

GWC: Well I wanted to work in a publishing house more than anything else in the world. I was an English major, and so I wanted to work in New York City, and so I started gathering a couple of people around me to have to share an apartment, and Jane was one of the roommates that I

shared, and we had five of us in New York City that shared the rent. And we had fabulous apartments. And we put in five dollars a week in the kitty, so for \$20, or \$25 a week we had all of our food that we needed. And we moved from one apartment to a little bit better apartment, to finally right across from Carnegie Hall. And we were all dating, but nobody was rushing, you know, to get married. We were trying to rush to get a better job. [00:37:00] Really, to raise ourselves up a little bit higher in our work situation. And I did work for *Life Magazine*, and I loved it. But that was fun, having an apartment in New York. None of us knew each other really very well at the time, and we've all stayed very good friends.

MJF: So Geneva, it was you, and Jane and –

GWC: And Sid.

JHM: And Dian Mergentime.

GWC: Diane Mergentime. And Pat [Pace?].

MJF: We've seen her, she's here.

GWC: Yeah, she's here.

JHM: And we were a very different group of people, in a sense, and yet we had the most wonderful time together. I still remember, we went to *West Side Story* when it opened, we went to the opera, we went to the museums. We really enjoyed New York. We really enjoyed New York, and that was liberating in itself. And then I had an opportunity with my senior roommate [00:38:00] from college, we went to Denmark to study for a year. And that was a real eye-opener, because they had co-ed dorms already. (laughter) And a lot of other things that were very different from Pembroke. So that was very liberating too. (laughter)

GGW: I think the stereotype of the '50s woman has been overdone. I get upset today with the younger women who complain about how they have to manage children and a job and this and

that. We did it all and nobody – I mean, you know, nobody complained about – I mean, different people did it in different amounts, I understand that I never worked until I had a child, and I did not like staying home with a child at all, and I already had a graduate degree, and I – that was when I decided I'd go to work, and I worked the rest of my life. And I just, this idea, it was never [00:39:00] plain to me that I was supposed to stay home and do nothing else but stay home.

MDG: Oh, I was criticized for teaching. I had a neighbor on Weymouth Street that got back to me later. I taught from the very beginning. Luckily, I taught in a boarding school after I graduated from Yale. And then after I got married, I started building a studio, and I didn't start teaching until three o'clock in the afternoon when kids got out of school, and I taught until about 6:00. I wasn't allowed to teach after that, my husband wouldn't let me. And a neighbor said, "Look at Dazzle. Now she's not taking care of her children." And my mother was, you know, she came down to help me, because, keep them out of my way, and she said, "Really, she's baking all the time, she cooks for them. What isn't she doing?" And this is typical of a lot of people in the '50s that I was 20 years ahead of myself. I looked back, and now they were all doing, but I really got mad. I never really liked that person very well. She didn't know I knew about that.

JMM: There's book right now about that, that same issue is hot, about the difference between, and I just read an article in the *LA Times* [00:40:00] the other day about how they're actually thinking now that children are better off with mothers who do combined work and motherhood and homemaking than the mothers who just stay home.

BP: I think that children are much more independent.

MDG: Well I think one child didn't mind it. The other one did. I didn't teach on Thursday; that was the day for me to do things with them, and I didn't teach on weekends, so I taught four days. So I wasn't out from 8:00 to 5:00 and just rushing through dinner. I don't know. So you'd be surprised at the feeling I got with a lot of people, because I got very involved in politics too, and I got involved in a lot of things. That was just my nature to get involved in the community.

JHM: I think times were really changing in the '50s. And I remember that there was not any sense of when we went to Pembroke that we were necessarily preparing for a career. We were being educated as people, and when I got out of [00:41:00] college and went to New York, I don't think I had career goals at all. I think I probably thought at some time that I loved to learn, I loved culture, and all of that sort of thing, but at some time I was going to get married, and my mother and father certainly hoped very soon. (laughter) They kept wondering what I was doing.

GWC: But on the other hand, we didn't go to Pembroke to get an MRS degree. And my husband who's nine years older than I am, keeps talking about the '50s women, and how they all went to get an MRS degree, and we didn't do that.

JHM: No, no.

MDG: No, I can remember being in high school, my friends saying, they were going to get married by the time they were 20, and I said, "Well I don't think I can get married at least until I'm 26." And they said, "Why's that?" So, I said, "Well, after college, I'm going to music school to see what that's all about. Then I want to teach and I want to make some money for myself so I can spend some money on myself. And you know, I can't see that – I don't want to be closed in right away." I was ahead of [00:42:00] myself in that way, because nowadays people get married later, and by the time I got married, three of my friends were already divorced. (laughter)

JMM: I think, I remember leaving Pembroke and going to New York City, and interviewing with five television companies, because my father had worked in television, and then didn't get a job there because I couldn't type 60 words a minute. (laughter) I also then interviewed at four ad agencies, and because I couldn't type 60 words a minute, I couldn't get a job there either. And I kept thinking myself, I wonder if they're asking all my Brown graduate colleagues if they can type 60 words a minute. So we were somewhat limited in those days, and not exactly, but there were not nearly as many job opportunities as there are for today's young women. I mean, library, secretary, nurse, teacher, were the classic easy-to-get jobs in those days, but I remember going to banks, opening accounts, and there were all these stuffy men with books here and three-piece suits, and they looked like you, like, [00:43:00] "Oh Chicken Little, just go back and take care of

your little chickens. This is a boy's game." You know, now I'm so thrilled when I go to the bank, all the presidents of the bank, vice-presidents are all women. (laughter)

GGW: That was, my whole career was fighting that battle. When I became a high school teacher, 70% of the high school teachers were men, 70 or 80% of the high school teachers were men. Then when I wanted to become a high school administrator, I was told that coaches made principals, not women. And I had to get a PhD to over-qualify myself, and then I got a job as an assistant principal, and my superintendent said, "A woman can never do a principal's job." And I finally found someone, you know, a job where they were enlightened, but it was a huge battle all the way.

GWC: The glass ceiling. [00:44:00] There was a glass ceiling.

GGW: There was a glass ceiling, and I mean that was in a field that you might consider typically female, because it was education, but in fact, that was for like elementary education, maybe middle school. But even high school was out of the – you know. And it had not necessarily been that way always. My high school principal was a woman, but it had really gone backwards after the Second World War. And so, we really had a huge challenge to get anywhere in this man's world.

JHM: And it wasn't just the '50s, when I did decide to go to law school when I was 40 years old, it was, one of my first job as a coop, Northeastern University School of Law program, which I went, because it was coop, was to help set up a women's rights offices in the Civil Rights Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General's office, and the first thing [00:45:00] we did, which I was of course doing a lot of just the scut work, you might say, was to bring suit against publishing companies, who said – women loved to go into publishing; they never got to be editors, because you had to be a salesperson, and they only had male being salespersons, in Houghton-Mifflin, and in several of the other big companies. And so there was quite a settlement and changes in laws that resulted, and that was in the mid-'70s.

MDG: You can speak to many people in my age group, and if they're on committees, the men may be the head of committee, the women's always doing all the work. It's true.

GGW: But I think that younger women today honestly do not appreciate what some of the people in our generation, and maybe before [00:46:00] too, and after, did to provide them with the opportunities they have today. And they take it so lightly, like it's some huge burden that they have to live through, that they feel somehow torn. We're all torn in life, you know. That's part of being human.

MJF: Well she's co-chairman of the (inaudible). I'm surprised it hasn't gone off sooner.

JL: I have a question which is perhaps going back a little bit to your Pembroke days. It reminded me when you talked about the death of FDR, I was wondering how much in those years, '52-'56, when you were students, knew about what was going on in the big wide world.

MJF: A lot.

MDG: A lot.

JL: What did you know about?

MJF: Well, what I knew, and I will never forget to this dying day, was when General Douglas MacArthur resigned, we were in school, [00:47:00] and we had to go into the dining room and listen to his broadcast when he resigned, and so it was always, my entire education has always been involvement, or knowing about the world and politics, and what's going on in town, or in the state, or whatever. And that has continued to this day. And it started way back then, and I think we did, at Brown. We used to have a newspaper.

BP: We did. But I don't think – my recollection anyway is that in class, I don't think any of the professors related what we were learning to what was going on today, which happens all the time now, obviously. My recollection is not that. We stuck to the material; we stuck to the syllabus.

And if something, a real moment was going on, it may be mentioned, but I don't think there was a lot of discussion in class to relate what was going on then to what we might be learning. That, I don't recollect that [00:48:00] very much.

MJF: Poli. Sci. class did though.

MDG: I didn't find too many people were interested in politics. I mean, yeah I grew up in a family that was very political, and my grandfather ran for governor in 1910. And both my parents were very interested in politics, and we were always listening to the news, always discussing things at the dinner table, the whole time growing up. But I didn't find that at Brown; I found it more at Yale.

GWC: I found Henry Wriston was one of the supreme statespeople in my life, and I was awed by him, much more so than Nancy Duke Lewis. He was an excellent speaker, and I do remember him speaking in Sayles about current events, and things that were happening that related to our lives here, and telling us how important it was that we get a good education and go out into the world and make a contribution. And he was among the very few male figures that I remember at Brown who did relate to the outside world for me, because he was always being asked to speak [00:49:00] someplace. He was a grand statesperson.

JMM: Well I remember that Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson spoke right down by the Biltmore Hotel in the center of downtown. And I remember going to those rallies and being thrilled to pieces, and I remember, because I was able to vote, that I stayed up all night in Angell House waiting to see who won, Eisenhower or Stevenson.

GWC: Yeah, it was terribly exciting, yes it was.

JMM: I was thrilled to pieces to finally be able to vote.

GWC: And MacArthur, McCarthyism, you know, our senior year, the televisions were going all the time in the lounge.

JMM: That's right, and I watched all of that. Roy Cohn, and all of that.

MDG: They all used to come to Providence.

JHM: I think we were very interested in current events, and what was going on, very conscious of it. It was not a time of political activism, as it became in the '60s. So it was a different, it was a more interest and discussion, and so on, rather than activism.

JMM: Well we were accused of being [00:50:00] "The Quiet Generation," and the music that we were most known for was bringing back the Charleston. (laughter)

MDG: I feel that Brown was more a homogeneous society. We didn't have many foreign students in our class. I know, we had one boy who's back again, he was from the Middle East, and he was from Singapore, I saw him last night. But I got to Yale, there were so many people from all over the world. I can remember when one boy that had gotten out of France because he didn't want to fight in Algeria. And he told me, he said, what do you think is going to happen – and he's been in an out of Cuba a lot, he was in America, and he said, "What do you think is going to happen? Are you going to invade?" I said, "We're training them to invade. We're training the refugees to invade, and we're training them in Guatemala." "No, you're going to do it." I said, "How do you know all of this?" He said, "Because I'm (inaudible), you'd probably call me a communist."

BP: We had very few minorities. We sort of had our token minorities. Two. [00:51:00] Two, yes.

JL: I've looked at your yearbook pictures, and there were no black faces.

JHM: There are; there are some.

BP: Marcia Chapman.

JL: She had a picture in that?

JHM: Yes.

MJF: And she's here for the reunion, I think.

BP: Yes she is. But you're right, one or two.

MDG: And all the other, the boy a year behind us, he was head of orthopedic surgery at Beth Israel, oh what was his name? Gus White.

JHM: But was he in our class.

BP: No, he wasn't in our class.

GGW: There were more black minority men, and we did have some, there were some foreign students from South America, I remember that. I can't remember them now, but they were from South America, but you know, at that time, they wanted to send their children to school up here, and they sent them to the best schools they could get into. They were the wealthy South Americans.

GWC: Well I dated Art Joukowsky and I thought he was a foreigner. (laughter) He wasn't at all. (laughter) [00:52:00]

MDG: He was born in China.

GWC: No?

MDG: His father was an [AIG?], his father was a white Russian. You go into his house, and you get things [from the Shah?]. (laughter)

GWC: I was just a freshman; I didn't know.

MDG: He grew up in China.

GWC: I didn't know that.

JL: What did you talk about?

GWC: (laughter) Not that. One of the most fun experiences I ever had, I think, was watching the Brown bear, a real bear cub. We had a bear at the time. It was only two months old when they got him from a zoo in Maine, and I was dating a boy at Brown whose responsibility, along with [Noah Field?], was Peter Philippi was to groom the bear for our football games. And we shampooed him. He lived under the stadium, and he had a lot of hay, and they fed him every night.

_: Until Yale stole him.

GWC: (laughter) Yes.

MDG: I do remember that.

GWC: But we washed him with Breck shampoo, and he would smell so good, and oh, he was just adorable. But he got big. And at the Harvard-Yale game, which is one of the last games, [00:53:00] he was so big. You know, he had claws like this, and he started going, *rawr, rawr*.

MDG: So they had to give him away?

GWC: No, and then he went, then that was the end, after the Harvard-Yale game, he went back to Maine, and he was three-and-a-half months old, and he was gone. I think it was just a few more years they had a mascot, didn't they? Then it was the end of it, a real bear.

JL: So they had a real bear several times?

GWC: Oh here, (inaudible) we had a real bear.

JMM: No, but he kept getting stolen. That was a big thing.

BP: Yeah, the other schools would come and steal him, you know, we'd go and try to steal their mascots, and that kind of stuff.

MDG: Well Yale would have the bulldog, so that's not going to bite you.

GGW: The social life was quite wild. One of the things that happened – I can't even – I mean, it just came back to me, but freshman, we arrived a week early for freshman week, and the various fraternities would invite freshman dorms, the whole dorm over, for [00:54:00] a cocktail party, and they would serve – I was 17 years old. They were serving us martinis out of punch bowls, and Manhattans, and things like that, really – I mean, not a little glass of white wine. (laughter) I mean, they (inaudible) getting this hard stuff. And then later on, you know, when you'd go to football games, you weren't supposed to take liquor in, but everybody did. And they'd carry their raincoats over with (inaudible). (laughter) And then we would come back and these fraternity parties were really quite – there was a fraternity party in every fraternity. And it was the Wriston Quad then also, you know, because fraternity members knew people from other fraternities, so you wouldn't just maybe go to his party, you'd go to several. And then you'd go out to dinner, and then you'd come back, and then you'd have to start partying all over again. I mean, it was really quite – and the drinking age [00:55:00] was 18 then, so the university didn't try to particularly control it. They didn't want people having – you know, they didn't want anything, because there were stories about really bad things happening, like rolling kegs of beer down in those hallways between them, and they were very careful, they didn't want dangerous things to happen. But it was really quite OK.

GWC: We had to learn to drink, actually. We had to learn, and nobody was there to teach us.

GGW: I mean they were really, it was really something, and see, the fraternity, the upperclassmen came back, that the men came back to look over the freshmen. And so, and that was their way of doing it, was invite each dorm – I mean, it was quite interesting, really.

JHM: We had smokers at Pembroke too, you know, let people come visit us. We'd call them smokers, no drinks, and no drugs.

GGW: No, we weren't allowed –

JHM: No, we weren't allowed to have drinks.

MJF: They'd give you lots of cigarettes. (laughter)

GGW: But one of the things that was, I don't recall, [00:56:00] I could be wrong, but I don't recall that there was any prohibition on drinking for women, and I don't remember anyone ever being dismissed for being drunk or anything like that, I don't remember that. Maybe people were just good and never let it be seen.

GWC: They went before the judicial board for having beer in their room.

GGW: In their room, but I mean, if you just came in, stumbled in, as long as you could stumble to your bed, I don't think it mattered. Am I right?

JMM: Yes, absolutely. How we survived, I actually have – because we would come from a football game and have martinis and Manhattans. Most of us really didn't know how to handle them. Then we would somehow get back to the dorm and have a shower and get dressed for the evening. Then you go out and have dinner and drink more, and then you come back for a fraternity party and you drink until midnight or something else. I don't know how we all managed, to tell you –

GGW: I know, exactly. But, it was really –

JHM: I don't remember doing that.

MJF: But we lived to tell. (laughter)

JHM: (laughter) Myself. [00:57:00]

JL: It's still quite interesting, because I'm just wondering, you know, with a whole group of young people of different sexes together, there is presumably some sexual activity going on.

JMM: Oh no. I would – (laughter)

GWC: Not in this group. (laughter)

JMM: No, no, not in this group. (laughter)

JL: Other people, we're talking about other people. (laughter)

GWC: All the others.

JL: All the others. But people must have got pregnant.

BP: Yes, we had a classmate who did, classmate who did and got married, and she's going to be here this weekend. Well, in fact, more than one maybe, but one that I know particularly. So there was some, but I think we were – well, speaking for myself, my mother was a very strict woman, and my god, I just was not going to step out of line, or my life would have been hell, so. I had my own thing that I was having, yeah.

GGW: My mom would have killed me. There was no way that (inaudible) was never going for that one, I tell you.

BP: Right, and I think we were much more respectful of our parents' wishes, [00:58:00] in those days, at least, this is from my personal experience with my own children. Not their wishes, but I mean you just knew this was the way this was going to be, and if you messed up, boy, you were in real trouble.

JMM: I don't know, yeah, it was funny, different values, because I don't remember getting it from my parents, and I don't know where I got it from. I just had some idea in my head that I was going to wait for a while.

BP: But I was engaged, and my parents wouldn't even let me go off with my fiancé to visit a friend of his in another state. I mean, that's how rigid it was, you know. I had to go along with that.

GGW: I think that in girls who did get into "trouble," who got pregnant, were seriously involved with the man. It was not –

BP: Yes. Yeah, well they ended up marrying, it wasn't –

GGW: The kind of women who went to Pembroke did not sleep around. They might be in really serious relationships that led to something, and so if they got married, it was not a –

BP: Right, yeah.

GGW: It wasn't a [00:59:00] problem.

JHM: Yeah, and I found this very interesting, for two of my years, I was "pinned," that was the thing, to a boy from Amherst, and I used to go to Amherst a lot, which is why I missed all the parties here. Now this was very different; this was – I would worry about this, because the gals from Smith and Holyoke would come over to the fraternity parties at Amherst. And I was taking care of a lot of them. They didn't know what to do, they were in, you know. This was the male

college and female college, and wow on the weekends. They were undisciplined. And I found it a very different atmosphere than when we were all here together at Brown. It was different.

MJF: You know, when you bring up the pin, pinning, being pinned, remember when we were going through the Pembroke records, it was published in our newspaper who was pinned, and then when you got de-pinned, it was also published. (laughter)

JHM: It was one those [01:00:00] pages that they wanted to put in, and several people said, “Well I don’t think somebody would like that,” so we didn’t. We didn’t put it in the yearbook, but I was tempted.

MJF: We were. We all were. We had a wonderful time going through that.

JMM: That is a point, because I heard stories, I didn’t go off campus, but I did hear stories coming back from Brown guys that they had seen Smith girls, and da-da-da, lying drunk at the entrance elsewhere. So, there must have been something about our having the guys around us all the time that we didn’t feel the need –

MJF: That’s probably true.

GGW: I used to go to Dartmouth for weekends –

MJF: Oh god, that place. (laughter)

GGW: – and what went on there was unbelievable! I mean just, I mean, you know, they had – the living rooms just had full of mats. It was just, I mean, my eyes got like this. I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. And I mean, it just never would have occurred to me to have behaved the way they were behaving.

GWC: I think the Brown men tended to go off-campus [01:01:00] if they really wanted that kind of activity, if they really wanted it, and I think they respected us, and I think there was a different feeling. There was a very –

JMM: Maybe they treated us like their sisters.

MDG: No, there were a lot of people there fooling around.

JMM: No, I know.

MDG: Well there were. (laughter)

JMM: But still.

JHM: Well they may have seen the consequences. (laughter)

BP: But, you know, everything was so –

JHM: Seeing somebody in class the next morning. (laughter)

BP: – secretive in those days. I'll back up a little bit and say, there may have been some of our classmates who got in trouble, but it was all taken care of it that happened very quietly, and we certainly, it was not common knowledge.

JMM: And I think something about the Brown men having us around all the time is different than if you were at Dartmouth, which is out in the extreme boondocks, and it was all-boys – male school at the time. And they were like, the wolves, you know? (laughter)

GGW: Yes because a lot of what we had, we would have, like, we'd meet up at the library, go out for coffee with a guy [01:02:00] after studying. I mean, there was a lot of these “coffee

dates,” they were called. And you know, it was really quite natural and relaxed, and all that, informal. So I don’t know. I mean –

GWC: Should we talk about Andrews Terrace?

GGW: Yeah, that was (inaudible) [who came running?]. (laughter)

JL: What’s Andrews Terrace?

GWC: Andrews Terrace is where you said good night because you had to come in at ten o’clock, and there’d be about 100 couples, all in tight embrace. (laughter)

_: There was a terrace in front of Andrews.

GGW: Still there. Andrews Terrace is what’s out in front of Andrews.

GWC: And it was very funny, because then the doors opened, and it was ten o’clock, and then you had to go in, and there are always those ones that linger still in one last embrace before you had to go in, that ten o’clock deadline. And the next deadline was 12:30, if you have a 12, or 12 o’clock. But the whole terrace was just covered with couples. Quite a sight. And we had very few panty [01:03:00] raids. Two, I think, the whole time that I was there. Well, we heard about them.

_: That’s because, none of them wore them; we just had those raincoats. (laughter)

GWC: No, I mean, where they said the boys would come, and they would go in to jump into our dormitories and run up the stairs and grab our underwear. (laughter) We’d hang out the windows looking at them and they never came in. (laughter)

JMM: Yeah, where are you? (laughter) I’m up here. (laughter)

GWC: What we would have done if they'd come in, I don't know. That would have been funny.

JL: Did a lot of your class marry Brown men?

MDG: Yeah, quite a few.

BP: A few did.

JL: You did?

GGW: Not a lot a lot.

MDG: She did.

JL: You're the only one out of –

GWC: Ten percent?

BP: Maybe. You think that might – my husband was older. He had been in the service and come back, so he was obviously ready to get married when we graduated.

JL: And you married [01:04:00] straight after graduation?

BP: Yes, yes.

JL: And you did, you married straight after graduation?

GGW: She did too.

MJF: Are you talking to me? Not much after, probably three months after graduation, yeah.

BP: Well it was two months.

MJF: And I married one of those Dartmouth people. (laughter)

GGW: I actually married a man I met here, but he had dropped out and gone in the service, and we married. I'm no longer married to him, but I did marry someone I met here, but it was sometime after that, I'd already gotten a master's degree.

JL: I don't know, you may have other things you want to talk about that I don't even know about, but I think we've covered, you know, many of your, if not all of your experiences, and some of how you felt afterwards. What else would [01:05:00] you like to have recorded for posterity on this film?

JMM: I think we covered a lot, to tell you the truth.

GGW: We really did, yeah.

BP: Well, I think a lot of us have expressed that it was really one of the best things that happened to us to come to Brown and to be here for four years, definitely.

GGW: Well one of the things, that I think we all came from really different backgrounds.

JL: Can I just stop here? Is this working with that going on?

CREW: No.

JL: We'll have to wait until she stops talking.

CREW: If she could step outside.

JMM: Geneva, we can't continue.

GWC: So sorry.

GGW: You know, I came here, I went to a public school, and I came here, and the kind of learning I'd had in secondary school was not of a very high level. It was mostly rote kind of learning; it was not – I really, I had not developed very many critical thinking skills. [01:06:00] Today public high schools are totally different; I know because I've run them, but it was not like that. And I came here, and it was such an awakening to me, this intellectual awakening that happened to me. I mean that's why I went right out, I didn't go to New York, I went home to get a Master's degree at the University of Minnesota because my father said that he wasn't going to pay for me to go away anymore. But it was fine because the University of Minnesota had a fabulous department that I was going to. But to me it was just remarkable what happened to me when I was here in terms of having – I mean, it made me who I am, and made me want to go on and do what I did in terms of academic achievement for myself, and to help other people to make public schools in this country the kinds of places that many, I could see who had gone to very good prep schools already had when they came to Brown to a large extent. But I didn't have that, and it meant [01:07:00] a huge amount to me to be in this environment of being totally challenged all the time to do critical thinking and all that kind of thing. And it was just, and we have a program that I was discussing with Ruth Simmons when I happened to be at a gathering with her last fall, that she knew nothing about, because they think that these freshman seminars or whatever are something that somebody just thought up. We had this program called the "Identification of Criticism of Ideas Program," foundation program, and I was a part of that. It started our sophomore year, so it was only for that year that I was in it. And it was just fabulous. And we spent like one whole semester studying Aristotle's *Ethics*, and then reading out from it and all that, but just really doing very in-depth, and some other – you know, I took an art class. It was totally different than [01:08:00] these classes where, you know, they just look at slides. It was nothing like that. So to me it was a real awakening, and so that's why I want to say that, you know, the history of this institution as a place that develops people's critical thinking skills and their ability to write and to read and to do all those things goes way, way back. It's not something that somebody thought of with the new curriculum. I mean, it goes way back, so I just wanted to put that on record, that for me that was very important.

MDG: I want to put on record that in the music department, I was very lucky. There were only five of us, and we were giving lectures to professors. One – I was terrified. The first week, we'd write an analysis of something. The second week we'd write a paper in it. And that, I'd wrote a people on the whole history of *concerto grosso*, starting with Corelli going through Vivaldi to Bach. Didn't look at one book. He said, "we're not interested in life; [01:09:00] we're interested in the music." So I took all the musics out of the stacks and started analyzing myself, and putting it together, which is the same type of thing. And then, the third week, we had a week off to prepare our lecture. And all the professors were there, and the other five of us – and I learned so much from that. That was the most challenging thing I had to do my senior year.

JL: Would you like to say something?

BP: Well, I was going to say, I went to one of the best high schools in Rhode Island at the time. It's now two schools, but at that time, it was just Cranston High School, and it was a very good high school, and I did well there, but I just felt like when I got here, I was totally unprepared. I mean, as compared to friends who had been to prep schools. And I then consequently spent all my life in prep schools. My husband was a teacher there, and I worked there, and I see now just how lucky those kids are. I mean, they just are so well-prepared [01:10:00] to study and to research. And, I'm a librarian, so I'm into research, but to do what you need to do when you get here. And you know, I just look back, and I think, I don't know how I survived. But I did, I did.

JHM: I think, adding to that, I never felt, I think, "unprepared," because I had gone to a very good high school. But it opened my mind. When you were at the high school level, you're mainly, as I think somebody said, you're learning things. And you know, what somebody is teaching you is what you're learning. At Brown, because of the different kinds of curriculum, the variety of courses you took, it just opens your mind, and I think that's something that stayed with me through the years, wanting to learn more, thinking it was better to have an opportunity to learn and to think about things than be a cheerleader, or something, [01:11:00] which at the high school level was, you know, who was popular, and who was, you know. And I think at Pembroke, you immediately felt that being a good student, or at least thinking about what was

going on in your education was OK, and that this was a place to do it. And my senior year roommate who was a junior year in American civilization that came here for their junior year, she said to me that was what was so astounding here, that there was a sense that this was an interesting place to be, and that we could be thinking about interesting things, and that the sororities and the social activities were not the center of life here. And I think that was important.

JMM: Well I think of it as an incubator, because for me, I was privileged enough to go to a prep school, so I was better prepared maybe than some, thank heavens, or I probably wouldn't have survived, but [01:12:00] I just finished a Spanish course at a local community challenging to start, you know, cranking your brain again. But I am excited about, I mean at my age, I'm thrilled and excited about the future of what more I'm going to learn, and how more I can give back, because I'd like to become an involved – Gretchen's daughter, Alice is very involved with improving women's lives around the world, and that's been an issue for me, and now that I have a little more free time that I'm finished with this reunion – (laughter) – I plan to spend my spare time in getting involved in that. So I think what Brown should be very proud of us and all of us graduates in that they are really turning out people who are going back out in the world and helping out, trying to make it a better place.

MDG: I just want to say one thing nobody mentioned, we had a pass a composition course learning how to write at Brown. I almost didn't pass it. (laughter) I came in from Hope. and [01:13:00] we had never had to write a paper. We learned, we took exams and we fed back information, but we never had to write a paper. And I didn't know how to organize the whole thing. And so, I'll n ever forget, I was getting A's and B's, but then they gave me all these topics I knew nothing about to write in the exam. (laughter) Women and government. I only knew one, Margaret Chase Smith, and I couldn't write a huge thing on that. And then, artistry and design, I knew nothing about that. Went right down the line, so I took the course a second year. And the first year, they thought I'd do all right. I (inaudible) because there was going to be something in music, but thing is, I didn't know how to narrow it down. So my second year, I decided that I was going to really make the dean's list. Because what would they do if I made the dean's list and I didn't pass that freshman comp? (laughter) Well I finally passed it. But I mean, it really taught me a lot. I got a tutor to teach me out to write, and we really had to. And I know some

people that flunked out of here because they couldn't pass that [01:14:00] exam. I called one to get some money for it. She said, "Dazzle, it was only your years that I remember." But you know me. (laughter)

MJF: I'd like to say that I do feel that what's been mentioned here about how we all had the opportunity to "govern ourselves," and to get that experience that has brought me into my life more, and I also would say I think the friends that we made within Pembroke College are our most lasting friends today, of any people that we've met in the last 50 years. I mean, I feel very close to everybody in this room, and I think that is a wonderful experience to have had. We're all there for each other, which is terrific.

JL: And Geneva, you can have the last word if you like. We're just talking about what you got out of the experience, or what you want to say as closing remarks.

GWC: Well I think the friendships probably that we made here when we were starting at the age of 18 years old, and continued through college, and then expanded [01:15:00] and grew, for me it's been one of the most enriching things in my life. I'd lived out of the country three years my life, and that connectivity with other people kept me feeling close still, and the Christmas cards that kept coming every year. Really, the friendships were so terribly meaningful. I don't know if the kids today have the depth of friendship that we had when we were in school. I don't know if they have the same feelings for a great number of people, not just one or two. So it was a very enriching experience. Volunteerism was something that wasn't drilled into a part of our background here as it is, and it has been for many years here. But I think most of us went on and did a tremendous amount of volunteer work. It was our generation to feel, like Jiffy said, she wants to give back now, and I think we kind of [01:16:00] felt that way, and most of us have done a lot of volunteer work, without ever having anybody say, "You should really give back."

JL: Well thank you so much, all of you. That was really interesting.

GWC: Thank you Jane.

JMM: Thank you Jane.

JL: Now give yourselves a little clap. (laughter) (applause)

(overlapping dialogue; inaudible) [01:17:00]

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