

00:00 - 05:11 Coming to the PLU, atmosphere

Doris Schnackenberg-Bohman, who is married to a professor of history at Pacific Lutheran University and who has been at PLU at various times since 1942. The interview is taking place in Doris Bohman's home on October 5, 1994. My name is Cheston Ringdall and this is tape number one. Why did you come to PLU?

Because Dr. Tingstad came to our apartment during the first year of our marriage and asked Schnack if he would consider coming to PLU in the position of Dean of Men. And he asked me how I felt about it and at that time I said, "Oh, whatever Schnack would like to do is just fine with me." And so shortly after, a month or so after our first child, Ann, was born, we went to PLC.

What was your first impression when you came?

Well, I must say my impression was that I was a little disappointed because I had had such a buildup about Parkland that I thought that it was nothing but trees and beautiful flowers and everything that the name Parkland implies.

So what did you find?

Well, it was a nice, friendly community and we were required to live in Old Main in a rather strange apartment.

What did the apartment look like? Where was it located?

It was located in the south end of the building and we followed, I believe we followed either the Akres or the Karls, I forget which. And it was a huge living room. I can't imagine how big it was. It must have been like 50 feet long.

Really?

Maybe not that big. And the ceilings were like 16 feet high and it was kind of an improvised apartment with a very strange kitchen with none of the amenities that you would hope to find.

What didn't it have?

It didn't have anything.

Did it have a stove?

It had a sink but no stove but we found an old stove, one of the old varieties with a raised oven on the side and I don't know where we found our refrigerator – somewhere –but there was really nothing, there was a sink.

So who else was at PLU then? PLC, I should say.

You mean in...

Who lived at Harstad – in Old Main then other than you?

Well, Grace Blomquist was the Dean of Women down at the end of the hall and I think we were the only ones who lived there other than students.

How was it different then from what it is now?

Well, I haven't been in Old Main for quite a while but I think it was considerably different. We had a huge, as I told you, a huge living room and a funny kitchen and a bedroom that was divided from the kitchen by just an open door and then the bathroom was downstairs and away. You went down a long flight of stairs and back through another empty room to get to the bathroom which was as big as, it was probably 8 by 12 feet, the bathroom.

Was that just for you or was that for anyone?

Well that was for us.

That's for you. So you had to go that far to get to your own bathroom?

Yes.

What about if you gave Anne a bath or something in the evening? You had to go all the way down there?

Well I bathed her in the sink.

That makes sense. What about if you had to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night?

Well in those days we didn't have to.

Strange kind of interview to talk about that. Well I'm trying to think what else, how was it when you came? What was the one with buildings that they had then?

Well on Garfield Street Dahl's Grocery was one of the big items and the Post Office was in a store on the right hand side of Garfield but I kind of forget it's so long ago.

What was the atmosphere of the school at the time?

It was a very friendly kind of a homey place where everyone knew each other well and people were very friendly and helpful to each other and we had very little in the way of remuneration, but still we didn't feel deprived because everyone was so nice and so friendly.

05:11 - 13:02 Presidents, faculty, students, life in Harstad Hall

Now Tingelstad was President when you came. What kind of a man was he?

He was really a very fine man. He was an intellectual, very humane kind of man, friendly and understanding and I think he must have been a real asset for PLC. Although I understand since perhaps he didn't have the fiscal abilities that were necessary at that time and he probably was not fully appreciated for all the good qualities he had.

How did things change when Eastvold came?

Well it was kind of a new day and he came bursting in there, you know, ready to change everything and he was very friendly and vital and it was kind of an exciting time in its own way, too.

How was it like, did you spend like holidays and everything at Harstad – or Old Main – or did you get it changed?

It was very interesting because when school was out during all holidays they turned the heat off. Here we were living in that apartment with a little baby and there was no heat. We had a fireplace of sorts with very little wood. I don't know just how we did it but it wasn't what you could call very comfortable.

What were Schnacks duties as Dean of Men?

Well he taught, I forget what classes he taught but also, there were very few men there actually, most of the guys had gone off to the service. So there were a few there and there were not many problems, but we had a lot of contact with the students.

What types of contacts?

Well they were in and out of our apartment and we enjoyed them a lot and there were all kinds of friendships that remained through the years. Corrine Fosso and Anne Nelson –

Who's Corrine Fosso?

Corrine Stuen now.

Oh really? I didn't know.

And she and Anne Nelson, Anne Toelfeld used to babysit Anne. And Mary Olson who is now Mary Cook was about 10 or 12 years old and she was fascinated by Anne who was a baby. And she would come in and play with her and ask if she could take her for a walk and things like that. It was very nice. Everybody was very friendly.

Which faculty members were there then, Cliff Olson obviously?

Cliff Olson was there... Gee, who all was there? I guess I kind of have to think about that a little more, I'm trying to think. It was, you know, it was a pretty small.

Were the Leraas there?

No, they were away. They were back in Michigan.

What about Bob Olson?

No, that was before their time.

Xaviers, were they there?

Xavier's, I believe were there and Ronning, Harold Ronning, and Hauge, and there was a fellow named Barofsky, do you know that name? And let's see.

But you were the only ones who lived in Harstad hall.

We and Grace Blomquist, I think that was all.

What about this Laura Kreidler, was she there then, or was that after her time?

Gracie followed Laura Kreidler.

So how was things, I mean, did you eat with the students in the dining room, or did you eat on your own?

No, we ate in our own apartment, but...

How was it? Was it kind of, I mean, you never heat at times, but how was it otherwise? Was it fairly comfortable, or was it really old-fashioned, or was it...

Well, it was nice. We didn't think about hardships in those days. I had a baby, but no washing machine. I did all the washing by hand, which sounds pretty primitive, I guess.

Do you remember any kind of funny anecdotes about Harstad Hall, any funny things that happened?

After Eastvold came, they started tearing things up, you know, to remodel the building. And so they started opening walls, and as a result, mice and rats were in profusion. And if we sat in the living room, we could see in the kitchen, there was the refrigerator and the sink were not too far apart. We could see a mouse darting across from the sink to the refrigerator.

But one morning, Anne was probably a year old, and she was in her high chair sitting there, and I had just fed her her breakfast, and I opened the door, which was under the sink, and there was a rat in there that had been caught in a mousetrap that Schnack placed. And it was stunned. It just sat there looking at me, and I was absolutely frantic. And I shut the door, and I ran down the hall, and he was in a faculty meeting, and I went darting in there, screaming that there was a rat in the kitchen.

So what did he do?

He came, and I think he hit it over the head with something to kill it. But you know, it was pretty spartan, really.

Did you have to bring your own furniture and everything, or was it furnished?

And we had a rather sporty car, but the battery was always down, so we had to park it on the edge of the hill there, so that we could get started.

What kind of socials did they have at that time?

Well, there were a lot of social things. People would invite you over for coffee. People like the Stuens and the Hauges and the Ronnings, and all those people were very thoughtful and very friendly, and it was a nice place to be.

Did it have a lot of Norwegian or Scandinavian influence at that time?

Well, I'm sure it did, but I don't think people were quite as conscious. I mean, it was there, but you didn't make a special effort –

You didn't have to learn Norwegian or anything.

No, I didn't have to do that.

What about now you were there for a while, then you left, and then you came back again?

Well, we were there for two years, and while we were there, Mary was born. So Anne was a year and a half when Mary was born.

Was she born at Harstad Hall?

No, she was born in Tacoma, General, and Schnack's mother came over and took care of Anne, and when I came home from the hospital, after being in confinement for 10 or 12 days, I was so weak I couldn't walk, he

had to carry me up the stairs if you can imagine, you know, these days when girls get up the next day and go home and take care of the baby. But now, what were you asking me?

13:02 - 21:20 Return to PLU, Harstads family

Well, I mean, how, why did you come back to PLU?

Oh, well, then at the end of the '43, the war was really in full session, and Schnack decided he should enroll in the Navy. He asked me what I thought about that, and I said, "Oh, you know, whatever you think." I was very docile in those days. So he went down and enlisted – or signed up, I guess he did, because he went to Officer's Training School in New York. He was in the Navy for two years, and we were, at that time we were living in Spokane, I was living with his parents in Spokane, and then the second year he was stationed in New York after sea duty, and we lived in Tarrytown, New York, for a year, and then after the war was over, we came back to Spokane, and he went to graduate school at Gonzaga and taught there, and then we went to Washington State where he got his PhD, and we lived in student housing and all that.

Well, PLC had always been eager for him to come back, but when he graduated and finished, there wasn't really any place for him at PLC so we went, we were offered a position at Augustana in Sioux Falls, so we were there for two years, and while we were there, Dr. Eastvold started agitating for him to come back to teach at PLC. Well, this was really his first love, where he always wanted to be, and so, of course, without hesitation, we came back.

Where did you live when you came back? Let's see. Did you live Harstad Hall again?

No, no, no. We lived, we rented a house from Toppy and Elvin Kylo, and I think it was 120th, and then we started building a house on Wheeler Street, but it wasn't finished by the time they came back from wherever it was, Guam or somewhere like that, so we lived in student housing, and that was pretty spartan, too, I'll tell you.

But anyway, by this time we had three children, and Dikka was born in Sioux Falls, and we lived there until our house was finished on Wheeler Street, and that was a pretty exciting day when we moved in there. Yeah, a nice house.

What did the student's rooms look like in the house, that hall, when you were there for the first time? I mean, did you go into student rooms and stuff?

Yes, but, you know, in those days, we were also used to things being rather plain, and we didn't think much about it. I don't think we thought that it was particularly bad or anything, but I'm sure from today's standards, it would be pretty awful.

What did they look like about, in other words, that they have like a bed and a chest of drawers and stuff?

Maybe a bed and a chest of drawers, and if you were lucky, a desk, but it wasn't, it wasn't very fancy.

What about like receptions and stuff like that that you had in the reception room or the social hall?

Oh, those were quite proper and quite fancy, you know.

What happened? What kinds of receptions were all there, and how were they?

Oh, on different occasions, there would be, they were kind of in the form of teas in those days, and someone would pour, you know, someone wearing a hat, and we would have cookies and pretty little cakes and things.

Would Grace be presiding there?

Yes, sometimes. She was always...

What about you as wife of Dean of Mean? Did you have to do anything like that?

Well, yeah, I guess I did, but of course, you know, one doesn't view yourself that way. I don't really know. I guess on occasion I poured and did all the things that people do.

So how did they, did they have that one reception room downstairs?

We had that room that was kind of the fancy room in Old Main down at the end of the hall. But there weren't so many occasions, but I guess there were some.

[TAPE CUTS]

But there were people in it, like Priscilla Price.

A birthday club, you said?

Yeah, we called it a birthday club.

What was the purpose for the birthday club?

Oh, we just had parties for our birthdays. Rhoda Young was in it, and Naina, let's see, was it Naina? Naina Larson? I'm just trying to think. Well, Priscilla Price ... and Norma, Norma Price. They weren't students, they were married, I think. Gertrude Haasie, Gertrude Anderson Haasie, you know her? And, gosh, I can't, I can't think of all the people. It was, but there was really quite a bit of social life. And when we left PLC, they had a very nice party for us, the women faculty people, you know, had a party, and they gave me an oil painting by Holmes.

Oh, really? You still have it?

Yes, I do. I don't know where it is.

Did you ever meet Mason Holmes?

No, he wasn't around then.

Because Mark talks about him, that he remembers him. And there's not very much written about him.

Well, you know, Harold Ronning was married to a woman named Gudrin, and she had been a singer, she'd been a musician in New York, and she had been a soloist at some of the big cathedrals in New York.

Harold Running, he wasn't the doctor? Harold Running. Was he the doctor who drove around in the horse and buggy?

No, no, no, no. He was academic. He wasn't a medical doctor. But anyway, his wife was quite dramatic, and she lived in the corner down from you on about a 120th over there. The house that Esther Davis used to own. The Ronnings were living there then.

And I remember when, this is strictly for us, we came to see them one day, they had a new baby, and she came out, and she says, came out, just as though she were making an entrance, and she says, "Oh, Harold, Harold, guess who's here? The Schnackenberg's are here. Oh, do come in, you know." She was so dramatic.

When you were PLC earlier, were there any Harstads around then, or were they just sort of all staying away from PLU?

Well, there were, of course, Isabelle was a student. Yeah. Isabelle, and I think Luther if I'm not mistaken. I think Luther was around, if I'm not mistaken, I forget. But anyway, Isabelle was a student there. And there were Harstads up on the hill there, you know, but I didn't really know them.

There was no connection to PLU and PLC and Harstad at that time?

Well, not that I knew of, but there may have been, you know, I didn't necessarily know.

21:20 - 44:05 Harstad layout, campus, friends, social life, Hinderlie family

How, from your vantage point, from having been there earlier on, and then being gone, and then coming back, how do you think, like, Harstad Hall or Old Main, has it always been sort of the same for you, or has it changed any?

Well, you know, at the time we were there, all the offices and many classrooms were in that building.

What did they have in the basement?

That was the food. That was the dining hall. The kitchen and all. And I think the students used to take turns helping with the dishes, if I'm not mistaken. And I remember they used to, on Sunday morning, they got these

wonderful butterhorns, I think, from Frisbee's Bakery. And we'd always go down and get some for our Sunday breakfast.

So the dining rooms in the kitchen were down in the basement? What was on the first floor then?

That was where we were.

But you didn't live in the whole place.

No, we lived down on one end, and then there were the offices and classrooms.

Where was the library? Or did they have Xavier then?

I'm trying to remember. I think so.

When did you come, 40s?

We came in 42.

Then they would just have the new library. Did they have the old gymnasium?

Yes.

What did that look like?

Oh, that was a kind of a nice old building. That was just kind of a big open building. And we used to go over there and play badminton. Trying to get back in shape after a new baby.

And of course they had chapel.

Oh, it was required. Heaven forbid that you should not go to chapel.

Hell and damnation. Did you then have chapel in that little building?

That chapel that was out by Old Main there.

Yeah. Between where the Library is now and the Old Main. That was even there when I came. It was the old Art building. I remember that building.

But the old church wasn't there when you were there, was it?

No, I've never seen the old church. Were you there when Crown Prince Harold and Martha was there?

Who?

The Crown Prince of Norway. I think that might have been earlier.

No, that was earlier. I was living in Spokane at that time. In fact, the Crown Princess came to Parkview Girls Club where I was living. It wasn't at a time when I was there, but she did come.

So, where was the library then, you think, in Old Main?

Wasn't the library built then?

Oh, that's right. That's right. I mean, before that?

It had probably been an Old Main, I would guess.

I was just wondering if it was in the first or basement or where.

I don't know.

Elizabeth Stuen and John Stuen was there. I'm going to talk to him on Saturday night.

They will be much more enlightening than I am.

You're really fine. But because you didn't have the kind of focus on PLC, you had a focus as being a wife and mother, all the time. Right. So, that makes a big difference. But so, no, this Ronning, what did he teach?

Isn't that terrible? I can't remember exactly what he taught. Harold Ronning, I guess we'd have to look it up.

Yeah, I can look it up. And the Akres were there that early on?

Akres were there, uh-huh. And Magdalyn was always kind of a flashy, exciting person that she still is today.

Who was in charge of music at the time? Edwards?

Malmin. In fact, Malmins lived down Wheeler Street. And sometimes I always took Ann out for walks every day. And I'd go down the street and see. And I remember one time I went down to Malmins and she was canning eggplant. I remember that.

And you said that was the strangest thing you ever seen. Hauges, was that, now he was, did he have Larry then? Larry and Janet. Were they born then?

Oh, yes. Indeed. And Pfluegers, Mrs. Pflueger. Oh, yeah. They're very friendly and always nice to me. Mrs. Hauge, Mrs. Stuen, Mrs. Pflueger.

And you had to get a lot of tea with them?

Well, they were just friendly and nice to us, you know.

So it was kind of like a small little town you came to, like a small town atmosphere.

Well, it was like, yeah, kind of a family atmosphere.

What did you do on, like on weekends and evenings?

Well, I guess we just lived. I don't know. We didn't do that much. But we went to Spokane for Christmas because Schnack's parents were living there. And then we went to Idaho to see my parents. But I don't know. I don't know what we did, really.

Probably just have, you probably stayed home and read and relaxed.

Oh, the, the Lonos were there at the time. You know who they are?

Well, I don't know the name, but I don't know them.

Mrs. Lono was a Kraabel. And they lived down below the hill in that white house by the creek down there. Do you know where it is? Do you know where Richards lived?

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kind of kitty corner from there.

Oh, okay.

And they were very friendly to us.

Well, Lonos, was that like Etty Kraabel, Etty Lono, was that her?

Who?

Etty Kraabel was the first graduate of PLU, you know.

Oh, really?

Very first one, everyone. And the Kraabels also gave, I think, the bricks to build, or did something to build, to help build Old Main.

Well, Alf Kraabel and Aline Kraabel, you know, Aline taught there later. So it's some relative of theirs, I guess. I remember on many occasions we had Sunday dinner at their house, the Lonos.

How was that when you had Sunday dinner? Was it very formal and kind of?

Well, it was very, it was family dinner. I remember one time we were having Sunday dinner there and we were having something like pot roast and mashed potatoes and a lot of good things. And we were saying how good it was. And Elvita Lono, the mother said, "Oh, it's just plain everyday food." And Luther, her son, said, "Ho ho ho every day in my foot, we don't eat like this every day."

[TAPE CUTS]

Well, I'll tell you one funny thing when we moved into Harstad Hall. There were some people in the community named Raymond, Bert Raymond. And he was an electrician, had been in the electrical business, and he had been a former friend of Schnack's parents. So when we got this electric stove, why Schnack said, well, we'll just call Bert Raymond and he can come and hook it up for us.

Well, we didn't realize that at this time, Bert Raymond was the big time wirer of all the ships that were being built down in the Tacoma Harbor. And he was a real big time operator. And so we called him and he came over and he did it and he didn't say anything about that. And good night! Later we were so embarrassed. That was really crazy.

He was sort of a big shot.

Yeah, he was kind of a big shot by that time. And then he came out and wired in our stove.

[TAPE CUTS]

With a great copper tub and a funny separate motor down underneath, with a big trap. It was really an ancient thing. If you saw it now, it would be an antique. But it was, boy, it was a great step up from doing it by hand.

Who all lived there kind of around the area? The Stuens lived close by.

Yes, they were just right over where Stuen Hall is.

Oh, that's right. They had a little house over there, didn't they? I even remember that, and they built it. The Fire Department came and set fire to it. That's the practice. I remember that.

And the Pflugers lived down on the corner, not far from where you are.

That's right. What about the Haaviks?

The Haaviks?

Were they there then?

No. They were in Seattle, I think.

What kind of person was Stuen? Was running the library then?

He was a librarian, and he was a very nice man. I didn't know him as well as Schnack did, but he was very helpful when he was doing his dissertation. And when he'd come over from Washington State, he always had lunch with the Stuens, and I think even stayed with them sometimes.

Getting back to Harstad Hall, did you ever eat in a dining room, or did you always cook your own meals?

We cooked our own meals, but I think on a few occasions we ate there, but not the usual.

How were the students then? Were they very nice and quiet?

Well, they were full of fun, but very harmless fun, and there were so many more girls than boys, of course.

Sure, in the mid-40s.

So they had to cook up their own fun, and I'm sure I didn't even know what was going on.

You didn't have any responsibilities at all?

I didn't as far as the students, but we had some characters around there. We had a guy called Speedy Pete.

Who was that?

I think he was a custodian, and we called him Speedy Pete. Now, I don't know just why. And then the Bungans lived in the Old Main. Do you know who they were?

Well, it seems to me when I came, when I was someone named Wangen, who had a gift store or something, and had a son named Anders Wangen who went to, was a history major, and went on to Norway or something.

No, this is another one. This Wangen was married to Stu Govig's aunt, and they had two children, and she was the school nurse. Yeah, now that comes to me, and he was a kind, he was a preacher, but I don't know if he had a church.

They didn't have that Rynning?

Rynning? No, I don't know.

Was that earlier? That was probably earlier.

[TAPE CUTS]

I know all these people. I've never met them, and I know all these kinds of stuff. I know more about PLU and PLU history than most people, not than everyone, but I know a lot of stuff.

You sure do.

Because, you know, I go through papers and stuff, and I go through everything that's going on, and I read correspondence, and I can, and I've been at one PLU long enough, I kind of make connections.

You make connections, yeah.

So I know exactly how things fit in, and who does what, and who is what, and all these kinds of stuff. So what about these Wangens?

Is this thing on?

[TAPE CUTS]

What about the Hinderlies? Were they there then?

Oh, yes. The Hinderlies were there, and...

Which one of the Hinderlies?

Well, let's see. Ed Hinduli, maybe? Yeah. Ed, I think he worked... Yeah, and Gladys, his sister, worked there, and Schnack used to say she could paint more chairs faster than anybody he ever saw.

Really? No, who was Gladys Hinderlie?

That worked for me, you know.

What was her last name, Gladys? Bergum, something like that.

No, not Bergum.

Yeah, anyway, she worked kind of in a custodian.

So that was Ed Hinderlie's sister?

Uh-huh, and I think her father, Mr. Hinderlie, was kind of generally in charge of the custodian business.

Oh, the Hinderlies were around PLU for a long time. So hang on.

[TAPE CUTS]

–they lived there, I'll tell you.

What kind of furniture and stuff did you have to bring your own furniture?

Yeah, well, you know, the couch that we have up at the lake, that was the couch, and we had a big chair that we had the first furniture we bought. And the bed that's in our guest room here, that was the bed we had.

Well, are any students at the time that kind of you remember that you became close to?

Well, yeah, Corrine and Anne Tollfeld were two of the ones that we became the closest to, but there were many others that we remembered very fondly, too. And I'm just trying to think of the names.

You were pretty close in age to some of the students.

Well, yeah, I wasn't much older than the students, you know. So it was nice for me to get to know those kids.

You and Corrine are good friends now.

Yeah. Yeah, and I remember Corrine's dating days with Bert Bilt. I think Bert was away in the service, but they were, oh, there was, Oh Hardy and Neil Hoff were around.

Oh, really? Was he married then?

Neil? Yeah. No, no. Oh. So they were just young kids. Oh, I see. And Hardy spent a lot of time in our apartment.

There was Hardy, was his brother?

That was Neil's brother, and he was an art student. And I remember he came, he was very hard on furniture. He came leaping in there and I think he broke the springs on our new couch when it was just brand new. But we really enjoyed him. And let's see, oh, there was a Brotten. There was a

Nadine Brotten?

No, it was her, uh, a guy. Uh, oh, uh, she was a good friend of ours.

But isn't there a woman Brotten too? Brotten? There's a boy and woman who lives in California.

Oh, you're thinking of somebody else. This is Brotten, B-R-A-A-T.

Oh, okay. I think about Brotten.

Oh, I remember the Brottens. There were two Brotten girls. Yeah. And I'm sure they're flamboyant. They were in those days, too.

One there was like named Nadine, I think, or something or something.

Something like that, but that isn't quite right.

No, it was some, I can't quite remember, but I know that she's come up to the library from time to time, and she's very flamboyant in California.

Yeah, I can believe that.

Now, who were the Brottens?

The Brotten. It was one of those ministerial families that had a lot of people coming up through the ranks. Conrad Brotten, that was his name. And I don't know what he, what he later did, but he might have gone to the seminary.

Did they have campus ministers at the time?

No, they didn't.

Who held chapel then, when they had chapel?

They took turns among the faculty. Different ones would preside.

Whoever happened to be asked? Did you have to go to chapel every day, or did you?

Me? No, I didn't.

Did you go ever at all?

Well, once in a while, but it was kind of hard with the baby.

How was it in chapel? Was it in Eastvold then, or was that held in?

No, it was in that little chapel, in that little building.

Well, any funny things that you can think of that happened when you lived there?

Oh, there were lots of funny things, but what in the world are they?

Did they climb way up high on top of Old Main?

Oh, I'm sure they did. And of course, you know, the Old Main was divided in two, you know, the girls on one side and the boys on the other.

Oh, really? Did they ever sneak into one another?

Oh, I'm sure. But there was somebody who had gotten a hole in the wall there, and there were some kind of communication.

Was it that completely divided that you had to go on the outside to go into the other place?

Well, supposedly. But, you know, I didn't go up there much. I really didn't. I don't know what I was thinking about. You think I'd pay more attention than that.

But you mean so the whole building was divided right down the middle?

Well, no, just the floors, you know, where the kids lived. See, it was only finished up to the fourth floor. Oh. In those days, that was finished later, higher.

Oh, really?

I don't know how many floors there are now. I don't know. Five or six?

Yeah, I think so. So, it was only like the basement and three floors?

Yeah, something like that.

Oh. So, at the bottom were offices and stuff, and then upstairs was for the girls?

The dormitory rooms.

The girls and the one up above was the boys?

Well, I think it was divided the other way, you know. Half the third and half the floor.

So, the boys couldn't get over to the girls?

Oh, I don't know. I just don't know how that was. But they were very strict about those things. Of course, I'm sure the kids were pulling all kinds of funny stuff. But there were birds flying around in the upper floors.

Well, was it completely empty up there?

Yeah, it was just...

What kind of plan to deal with those floors, then?

I don't know. I suppose they planned eventually to have them be used.

So, they had never been used, ever?

Not that I know of.

Were they divided into rooms and stuff?

I don't ever remember being up there, Kris. Isn't that crazy?

But you just heard about that.

I just knew that they wasn't finished up there. So, why would I go up there, huh?

That does make sense.

Isn't that crazy?

What about toilets and bathrooms and all this kind of stuff for the students? Did they all have group facilities?

It seems to me, like the bathrooms, it just... And I'm not sure about this. It seems like they were downstairs in the basement area.

All of them? You and everyone else had to go down?

No, we had our own. But it was just like... It was just a tub and a toilet in a great big room, you know, like from the middle of the fireplace over to that wall. It was that big. It was just ridiculous. And one little toilet in one corner and a bathtub, you know.

Was it like wood floors and things? Was the reception was pretty ornate?

Well, they weren't fancy, but they were sort of nice, you know. They were not ornate, but kind of civilized.

I think it's funny that it wasn't finished up there. And then I saw some early pictures of students –even when Ole Stuen was a young student – up on top of Harstad Hall. It was kind of like up by the cupola where if they could kind of sit up there.

Well, I suppose. They probably were up there. But I'm quite sure that those floors were not finished. So, they probably just climbed up through there. They were probably stairs, you know. It went all the way up. It's funny.

[TAPE CUTS]