AD: That's true, but, I'm just trying to get information from any source I can, and you'd be surprised, how often sketchy their stories about their own parents are. They just don't remember. I was trying to get actual dates, and I was having a very hard time. And Maryann told me that you know lots of stories. She says you just don't talk a lot.

JM: No, I don't, I don't particularly. Willard's the one with the remarkable memory. He remembers stories that the rest of the family didn't remember at all. I guess because he was the youngest, and probably saw things from a different light. He doesns't remember dates particularly well, he transposes them and all. I was briefly here for my honeymoon in 1928, and for a couple visits after that. I didn't come back here to live until 1941, just before Pearl Harbor. So, of course, all my impressions are rough, and from those years, are some stories that I had heard.

AD: What I was hoping that you would be able to do, is tell me something about Adaline. I was wondering when she was born, if you know that

JM: No, I can't give you those details, because, she was my mother-in-law, you see, and I can get them for you, if you want me to, from family records, but I don't have them in mind right now. My impressions of her, she was a, had a very dominant personality, and was a very strong woman, in her beliefs and convictions. She could maintain a conversation because she was very well informed, well, being a ? woman.

AD: So you know how many children were in her family? Not that she had, but from the family that she came from.

JM: Well, Willard could tell you that, because he, of course her family was McQuhard, I know maybe some of them, but not nearly all, it was a large family.

AD: Would you happen to know where she came from?

JM: Iowa.

AD: I was wondering if you remember anything she did, what the stories were, how she was with the children. Was she a very affectionate mother, or was she. . .my mother was just not overly demonstrative.

JM: My impression was that she was not particularly demonstrative. But then of course you have to realize, that my impressions have come more or less from my husband, who was the youngest in the family. The eldest was 17 years older than he was. I suppose that by the time he came along, his mother was preoccupied not only with the other children, the older children, and the college, and the keeping of the house, so that he has said that his sister Aurora, who was ten years older than he was, really was more of a mother to him. Now, I don't mean that in a derogatory way toward the Millers, because that's what happened in large families, the sisters who were ten to twelve years older thana the younger children, more or less took over. So he feels, and always felt, very close to her. She was a very difficult woman, I might say that.

AD: What do you mean by that?

JM: She had capabilities in many ways. Well, she painted, for instance. You wouldn't think a busy woman like that would have time to paint, but she did. And then after, when Willard and I were married, I took her out evry morning to a lovely little park, and I took her out and left her there, and I would go back and do my work. She would paint the landscape, and at that time she was almost 70, which is awfully older than it is now, because now I'm 70. I'll be 71 this December. Well, she thought she could do anything, and that anyone in the family could do anything. And besdies the painting, and the teaching English in college, she also wrote (although I don't think she ever had anything accepted) she did. then, she had mechanical ability. She would ask Willard about the details of this, and if she saw it, I think she'd try to

invent a washing machine--this is all for giving women liberation from mundane. That's the impression I had very strongly of her. (141) There may have been some other advantages that she tried to have.

AD: What kind of articles would she write?

JM: I can't tell you that. I think it was religion.

AD: When you first met her, how old was she?

JM: She must have been over 60.

AD: And what year was it when you met her?

JM: I was married in 1928, and I met her then, so I think she was probably about 60.

AD: And in 1928, women had just gotten the vote. Was she very active in that?

JM: Yes. She in her, I don't know just what her activities were here, because this was a more or less isolated community, but she was much more active in Chicago, they had the college there, you know, you've probably read all about that, and Willard was named for Francis Willard, who was really a moving star in the ?

AD: But was she very ardent in saying, you've got to get out and vote?

JM: Oh yes, oh yes. Very strong. In front of all her children she participated in community affairs.

AD: Would she be active in the Commongood Society too?

JM: Oh very, yes. Organised the Ruskin Women's Club.

AD: What was her motive in starting it?

JM: She thought that women should go on, better themselves, take an interest in world affairs. that was her idea.

AD: So the Women's Club was a forum for all sorts of lectures.

JM: It was one of the early ones in the state.

AD: where wuld they get the lecturers from?

JM: I think they would largely depend on their own resources, and Pauline could

tell you about that, because she was in charge of that. And one day she got someone ? She always felt that a cup of tea would act to bring people together, much more so than just sitting around doing nothing. The meetings of course at that time, that was a home, they met in her home, and they gave her a feeling of intimacy that one doesn't get from meeting in a public place.

AD: Was she the sort of woman who could manage. . .she writes, she taught, she was incredibly active, was she also able to manage her home, to keep up on the cooking?

JM: Well, frankly, of course she have had to do that when her children were small, but as the girls grew up, they have told me that they took over the management of the household to a great extent, particularly Aurora and Georgadda, because they were the two right there. Zoa married and left, but Aurora and Georgadda handled, the cooking . . .It wasn't a question of her not being able to do it, but when she had the opportunity, I imagine she must have preferred to do the other.

AD: As far as actual questions, that's about all I had. I was just looking for stories, for anything that you might remember, just little things that might have happened in the day, that sort of thing, that was typical of her character. Did you ever hear her teach?

JM: No, I never did.

AD: do you think Willard had ever heard her?

JM: I'm sure he had

AD: You see, I'm trying to information about four women, Aurora, Adaline Dickman Miller, Rose Dickman, and Harriet Orcutt.

JM: well, now, I Can't tell you about Harriet Orcutt at all.

AD: I don't think anybody can.

JM: Willard would know, would remember, Pauline would. Maybe Paul. Did you ask Paul?

AD: Paul didn't seem to remember very much about her. Maybe I'm looking for

more than really people can remember.

JM: I know that Miss Orcutt came at the start of the college, that she had a home on 41, that she gave her library to the Women's Club. That's the extent of my knowledge about Miss Orcutt.

AD: Mac has that scrapbook, you know that scrapbook that you gave Mac, which is just fascinating, apparently she wrote it from ? Mouth?, and she was just really interested I wrote a letter to Mr. Eddy Walker, to the lawyer in Columbus, GA. I got back a letter from him. At first, I got this letter. This is the first one I got back, which was, I think the day he got my letter he wrote back. Isn't that lovely? And then he did, he was true to his word, and I got a very long, very thorough letter yesterday, fufll of stories, information.

JM: His impressions would be more of Ruskin itself. I think probably the college closed before he would have been old enough, because Willard was in the last graduating class, and it closed on account of WW I.

AD: What he was able to add, were his impressions of Aurora. He loved her, he elaborated on it, in fact, he must have an incredible memory, or else things really impressed themselves, because he remembers specific instances, where, like, he was having a bad day in school, and Aurora. . .for example, this huge thing about, he apparently was quite a hellion, and he was grinding a piece of chalk on the floor, he'd made a mess of it. Aurora didn't say anything, and then it was recess, and she came up to him, and said, Eddie, here's a wash rag. I'm sure you want to clean up the chalk that you put on the floor. She didn't yell, she didn't even ask him. And he said, it made such an impresion on him, that she ws so kind, and he went and did it. (307)

JM: He was very, very fond of Aurora.

Ad: Really a delightful letter, really very long. I was so pleased that he had taken the time. And he said that he had written to his brother, who had been here, to see what impressions he might have. And he said it might be interesting, because they were really outsiders to the community, sos it wuld be interesting to hear what an outsider had to say. I'm just really happy that he's doing that, because I'm sure that if I just wrote his brother, his brother wouldn't be as interested in answering.

JM: Now, I don't know whether that family belonged to some of the ones who came here because of the college, whether he was a Yankee. There was quite a bitter feeling among the natives, I'm told .

AD: In his letter, he said he had to argue with his father to go to school, because his father hated the idea of all these people coming.

JM: they thought they were Yankees and treated them as such. They did anything to discourage them.

AD: Aurora was married to a man named Ray Edwards, is that right?

JM: Yes. She had one son.

AD: and what was her son's name?

JM: George Alfred Edwards. . . . His father had been connected with the movement up in TN. And now Willard may be able to give you the details connected with that.

AD: How did he and Aurora meet?

JM: I'm not sure, but I think he came here to teach.

AD: what were your impressions of Aurora? did you know her?

JM: Oh, yes, very well. When we married, she was living in Washington, D.C. She was so lovely, too.

AD: Did you meet in Washington, D.C.? Your husband.

JM: My mother was an ardent member of the D.A.R., and so many of my class were that. So I was selected along with four other girls from Indiana to go

to Washington, D.C. to the convention in April, you know, it's an annual thing. and I went as a page to that convention, and it was while I was there that I met Willard.

AD: What was he doing?

JM: He was circulation manager of the Washington Post.

AD: And how did you run into him?

JM: I happened, he had gone over, it was a big thing, he had sold a lot of extra papers, people mailed them back home with the pictures and all that. And a boy from Indiana, whom I didn't even know, worked for him, and the two of them went over to look over the benefits at the convention. They wanted to see, as young men will. . . And I had met this boy at the ? Ball the night before, so he arranged for me to have a date with Willard. And that was it.

AD: So how did you decide to get married?

JM: well, we were married two years after that.

AD: and did you go back to Indiana?

JM: Oh, yes, yes. I was ? And I wound up thinking of him, and he wrote me every day. And ? ? vacation, I would come down there. And the August before we were married, I went to Washington and stayed with Aurora. But Aurora was a lovely person. She ws the kind of person who is well iked by both men and women. And it isn't every woman. You know, many times, there will be some woman that will attract just men, or some that only women thank, but Aurora was well liked by both sides. she was very , very beautiful charming girl.

AD: Was she physically beautiful?

JM: Yes, she was. she had a face that was more or less like Willards, although of course in a feminine way, you know, unlined and always powdered. One little thing, to show you how pretty she was. One time, some member of the family had made this statement, "Where Aurora sits, there is the head of the table." She dominated, not in a dominant way, but the strength of her personality was such that she did dominate every gathering, where she was.

AD: Did that hold true for, let's say, did she go to the Commongood meetings or things like that, and would she be active and all that?

JM: Oh, yes, yes. Yes, her husband, Ray Edwards taught in the college.

AD: How did she get to Washington, D.C. from here? (396)

JM: after the school closed, her husband went to Washington. I don't know what he was going to do there, but he became ill after that. she taught public school in Washington. He died there, and the little boy was just a few years old.

AD: And did she come back here?

JM: No, she didn't. She stayed there and taught and met her second husband up there.

AD: Did she ever come back to Ruskin?

Jm: Well, she came back to visit

AD: Right, but she didn't live here.

JM: Every once in a while she would have a yearning to return to it. Something seemed to draw them back here.

AD: How old was she when she came to Ruskin?

JM: I can't answer that accurately.

AD: But she wasn't born here, was she?

JM: Oh, no, no. She was in her late teens. Is that close enough? She might even have been twenty.

AD: did she ever mention how she felt about leaving, they left from Chicago.

JM: Yes.

AD: Leaving a big city where I'm sure she was meeting lots of people and going out. Did coming down here unsettle her?

JM: No, she never did make any complaint about it, but Georgadda, the other sister, did. Of course Georgadda lived here, and I've heard her say that she couldn't understand how her father could have come down here to this undeveloped country, bringing these girls, the family, you know, and these

girls I guess of course were not ready for college education, all that.

AD: was it unusual in those years for women to be even considering college, or by the 20's were more and more women

JM: Oh, yes, I think more. . . Aurora stayed on, after father and mother Miller came down here, she stayed on in , and then brought Willard and O.D., kept Willard and O.D. up there, and then she brought them down here. they came down by train.

AD: How long was that trip?

JM: I don't know, Willard could tell you. I imagine it was probably close to 48 hours. There was no diner, they had to stop and eat at restaurants. The train would stop

AD: Was she active in any of the women's organisations?

JM: Aurora? Do you meana here?

AD: Well, here, later on, any time. Because what I'm interested in, with these four women, is a total life picture, not necessarily just the time

JM: well, you'll have to ask someone else about her years here, because she was here in her late teens, and married, I imagine, soon after she got here. so that, her activities were not that concerned about it. But in Washington she organised a little theater group.

AD: What sort of a theater?

JM: well, it was an amateur group. President Wilson's daughter was in the Coffee? movement. well, he and Willard were into that a little bit when they were in Washington in the early years. willard can tell you about that. He worked with her. they put on one-act plays anad district competitions and all that.

AD: did you ever meet Harriet Orcutt?

JM: No. She died before I was married.

AD: did she die young, or was she that much older than, say Aurora.

JM: I think she was Mrs. Miller's contemporay.

AD: Oh, I had this whole misconception. I thought that she was Aurora's contemporary.

JM: oh, no. Now, she did inherit from mother Miller, I don't know how much, but my impression was that she was teaching in the college, and therefore was more near Mother Miller's age.

AD: what was Aurora's husband? Ray Edwards.

JM: I never met Ray Edwards. My impression is that

AD: I was wondering if she was the stronger member of the family.

JM: I think you'd better ask Willard about that.

AD: Do you wnat to read that letter?

Jm: the part having to do with Aurora is interesting. (Letter to Paual Dickman, Previously quoted on at least two Pauline Dickman tapes.)

AD: She sounds like she was just this incredibly serene person.

JM: She was.

AD: Even at a young age, which is so unusual. I mean, I cana accept someone attaining serenity as they get old, but you know, I'm so erratic, I just can't imagine anybody being actually that serene.

JM: She was always like that.

AD: I wonder what it was

JM: she, again, was a very versatile person, she had love of her home and afa family, and yet her interest in community affairs, and then this little theater movement. She was the director of this group for a number of years.

AD: You said she had one son. (521) Did her son stay on in Washington, D.C.?

JM: Yes he did. He was working and then he went into the war in 1921, and he came back and was and executive for a hat company for a number of years. He went to law school, but I'm not sure that he finished. They were having a depression about that time in real estate, and, anyway, he did stay with the hat company, and then, just about a year ago, he retired from that and had his own business merchandising, and a large rental, whole supplies and

distributors, and stuff like that.

AD: Still in WAshin9ton, D.C.?

JM: Yes.

AD: Did he ever come back to Ruskin?

JM: Oh, yes, he came. Of course, see, Aurora, after her husband retired from the real estate business, they came to Florida and built a home over at Ormond beach, alon9 the river there. Do you know Ormond beach at all? Well, it's a very Pretty Part of Florida, the old Part of Florida, and it's very lovely. So she lived there and Geor9e would come down there, and they'd come down here. He's been here fre9entlY.

AD: Does he come back now?

JM: He hasn't come back now for a few years.

AD: Do you have anythin9 else?

JM: Well, do you have Aunt Rose's name there? She was here when I came, not only when we were on our weddin9 triP, but also when we came here in 1941. and was a very out9oin9 Person. she had been ? for over 30 years. And ea9er to have a bond with youn9 PeoPle. They liked her, they would come back to see her, here, you know, after they were 9rown and away from Ruskin, always to see her.

AD: sPecifically to see her.

JM: Yes, yes. and Mac has very fond memories of her. She seemed to be able to talk to youn9 PeoPle, and more imPortantly, to 9et them to talk to her.

AD: that is 9ite unusual.

JM: Yes, an unusual trait.

AD: What was she like on a dav to dav basis? by the time you came down here, did she stoP teachin9?

JM: No, she still tau9ht classes after we came here, althou9h she did stoP a few years after that.

AD: So was she active durin9 the days, durin9 the week, with the Women's Club

and things, or was she

JM: Her Porch, well, she always went to meetings and such, but her Porch more was her home, I think.

AD: She had two children, Paul and Pauline. Oh, and did they live in this house? (Yes) Do you know when she died? And which Dickman was she married to what were his initials?

JM: She was married to A. P. Dickman.

AD: I have a hard time discerning the difference between the Commongood meetings and the Women's Club meetings. (578)

JM: Well, the Commongood Society meetings of course took in both the men and women. While the Women's Club was strictly, just women. And their objectives were different. Now, I can't give you information on that Commongood. You'll have to get that from Paul or Pauline.

AD: Did the Women's Club have a lot of interest in civic improvement?

JM: Yes.

AD: It's amazing how long-lived it is. How many members do they have?

JM: About 100.

AD: wow. I think Ruskin is bigger than I think.

(They talk about the extent of Ruskin geographically)

AD: Have a lot of people come to Ruskin, just families who had never lived here before?

JM: Yes.

AD: Where are they from?

Jm: some are retired people, others are brought in for the industry

AD: And do a lot of these people take part in the Ruskin clubs?

JM: they seem to enjoy coming in. and our club is very democratic, not restrictive, although, by that, I don't mean that we necessarily have colored people coming in. but it's just that, anyone who wants to join and work is welcome. and we find that anyone who doesn't fit in, drops out.

AD: I'm all through. (626)

END OF SIDE ONE

WDM: She taught languages, specifically German, more than any one thing. And after the college was established down in Ruskin, she came from Michigan with a group of people called the Wheelers, a large family, they came down in a Stanley Steamer automobile, and it took them about almost three weeks to make their trip down, because it was about 1911 or 12 and the roads weren't good. And she lived in the dormitory to start off with and taught German and French. which were the two outstanding modern languages that were taught. She was very interested in the movement of, the cooperative movement also, and because of her qualifications, she was made the secretary of the Commongood Society, which she remained as that secretary for many years, I don't know just how long. She finally died of a fever, about 1924 or 25, I'm not certain. That's about, that about covers her as far as I know. The Wheelers were also interested in the cooperative movement and had about two girls and two boys, and so they came down here with us, we were down here also.

AD: was there a reason she never married?

WDM: No, she never had married. If you'd known her, you'd have known why. She was not the most attractive person in the world. She was very capable, but not the most attractive in the world. I imagine she was just around the same age as Addy.

AD: I know that she used to write a lot of articles for other magazines. Mac was showing me that scrapbook that she had compiled that you folks had gotten.

WDM: I don't remember that particular scrapbook. As the secretary of the Commongood, she probably kept everything that was written about Ruskin that she could. She was kind of a pack rat like that.

AD: Oh, one thing I wanted to ask you about. I was reading a meeting of the Commongood Society and there was a motion made, I think by your mother, to have somebody go over to Harriet Orcutt's house, and do something about the garden. did she not take care of her garden?

WDM: Well, she wasn't much of an outside Person. She was more sedentary than she was anything else, well, Probably because she had no husband to help her out, that was why. She was given a Piece of land, or bought it. I'm not sure which, and built a house over where the Shell station is at the Present time. That was Harriet Orcutt's, and it was very close to our home. Adaline Dickman Miller of course was my mother,

AD: Do you know when she was born?

WDM: I do not have her birth date on the tiP of my tongue. I suPPose I have it somewhere in my records, but I don't know. Of course, it's on her tombstone.

AD: And do you remember how many children, how many brothers and sisters she had?

WDM: there were 11 in the Dickman family, and she was the oldest of the 11. There were 2 girls and 9 boys.

AD: Do you remember by any chance, the names of her Parents?

WDM: Jacob was the father, as I remember. Now, I haven't any recollection of him because I was very small child, but the grandfather's name was Jacob on that side, and it would seem to me, that Minerva was her mother's name, because her mother's middle name was Minerva, and it could have been that that's where it was.

AD: And do you remember where your mother was born?

WDM: NO, I don't have that,

AD: No, but, in the state of Iowa?

WDM: It would have been in the state of Iowa, yes, as far as I know. That was the site of the Dickman homestead. it ws near, oh my, somewhere uP in that area. But I didn't know too much about that branch because we weren't, we didn't, before I came down here, see I came donw here at about 8 yrs old, so I wouldn't have known too much about the homestead. I have been back to it

AD: Mrs. Miller ws telling me about a washing machine that your mother once

tried to invent?

WDM: Well, she had a notion she could do almost anything, and she was a, she had invented for three different things. It wasn't a washing machine, now as I recall it, but the outstanding thing that she tried to invent, she had a notion that she could do almost anything that nabody else could do, and she wanted originally to become a writer and write books, but she never quite got around to it, to that part of it.

AD: did you read any of the things that she wrote?

WDM: Only letters. She didn't write anything that was published as a book.

AD: Are there any samples of anything she may have written, any old letters

WDM: I tell you, when you have moved as much as we have moved, you don't take care of all the memorabilia. You simply say, I'm done with this, and throw it. Mother was the oldest of the children in the family, as I said, which was a very large family of course. And she was educated at Avalon college, and I don't know exactly was located at that time, somewhere in MO, and that was of course where she met my father. He was going there at the same time. But they would work one year, and then go back to school one year, and this was the only way that they could do it. That was one of the reasons why, in strting the college, that they wanted it worked out so that the students could work and geW the tuition, not just have to have a blank in their education while they were getting enough money for their second, or their next year.

AD: How did she feel about moving down to Ruskin? (220)

WDM: Well, very seldom does a mother talk to an 8-yr-old on the subject. Of course it was, whatever father wanted to do in the matter, she was with him in wanting to get the school started uP again. And the cooPerative movement, she was always very active in forward movements. And she was leading women's suffrage, Probably before it was PoPular, and she

AD: when you say far before it was PoPular, do you mean far before it was Passed, the amendment was Passed, or far before it was

WDM: before it was Passed.

AD: Do you remember her doin9 a lot of active work for the Passa9e of the suffra9e amendment?

WDM: yes, she did active work for women's suffra9e, and went to a lot of meetin9s, I suPPose out in the West, I don't know much about the Western trek that my folks made, because I wasn't in the Picture at that time.

AD: So, she came down to Ruskin in what year? 19 ?

WDM: she came down sli9htly in advance of when I came down. I came down in, I ima9ine it was about 1905 when she came down. Father came down in 05, and I came down in 06. I came down with my sister.

AD: And then she stayed, and immediately be9an to work with the colle9e. .?

WDM: No, there wasn't any. The colle9e wasn't here at that time. We settled down at the mouth of the Little Manatee River down here, on that shell mound. Father had 9otten in touch with the PeoPle that owned a considerable amount of land down there, that was mostly swamP and overflow, excePt for the shell mound. It wasn7t under shelter, no colonization at all, and the ? was on the 12000 acre line to the east of that. So we had to have somePalce to live, so we lived in that hotel for a while, and then in another home down there.

AD: Was she try in9 to write fiction books for children, or fiction books for adults, or were they true stories?

WDM: All I said was, she had a notion that she wanted to

AD: Oh, she never actually did.

WDM: she just had a notion that she could invent, and she Probably did invent the washin9 machine, some PeoePle have a better memory about that than I have, but she wanted, she never had learned to drive an automobile at all, and when she was in her late 60's, she fi9ured she wanted an automobile so she could 9et around, but we didn't think that was such an awful 9ood idea because of her a9e, so she never did 9et around to that. But she was very interested in

her garden and keeping up the place. We had some 14 or 15 kinds of different fruits growing on our place up there at that time. I know, because that was one of the things that I had to do, was to take care of the outside equipment. She was a great organizer, and she always knew what she wanted you to do, and she always saw that you did it.

AD: did she do a lot of the work, or did she mainly give it to you?

WDM: No, she did a lot of the work outside, as well as the supervision. In the school, she had a doctor of letters and it was given her, I don't know by what, it was an honorary degree. but she always signed with the Doctor of Letters in behind her name. And she took care of a lot of the literature teaching in the school. And she taught such things as courses in Emerson and psychology and things of this type.

AD: When did she become the postmaster?

WDM: She became the postmaster, I would say in about, it would have been around about '11 or'12. I'm not certain just when the post office came in, but we had to get our mail from Wimauma, which is 7 miles to the east, close to the railroad. and they allowed 7 hours for the man who picked up the mail, to go over and pick it up and come on back. That was longer than it needed to be, but a horse and buggy, and 7 miles over and 7 miles back was not too much, and they didn't hook up the horses. She remained Postmistress for a number of years, I imagine about 6 or 7 years, and finally passed it on to someone else.

AD: That was in addition to her teaching in the college?

WDM: Yes. (329)

WDM: She had a pretty large family, and we would, we all did some of the work in the post office, handing out letters and things of this kind. It wasn't a lot of

AD: did you ever hear her teach or hear her lecture?

WDM: Yes, I took a number of courses under her. I know that she was a very excellent teacher.

AD: Could you tasalk about what kind of a class she had? Was there lots of discussion, just what was it like?

WDM: Well, I don't know. You can't think back, say 65 years and. . .She had a very good teaching presence and was a very good disciplinarian, which means a lot in keeping your class together. And she was very interested in it, she did a lot of research work on it, and assigned a lot of homework that you had to do when you were reading, I remember. I think the only course that I ever got 100 on was one of her courses in Emerson. She was very fond of Emerson and made that one particular course because she was interested in the transcendental movement around Boston, which was going on at, or had just about gotten done at that time, because Emerson wowuld have been a little older than she was, but he was still very much talked about in her life. And she was interested in spiritualism, and she was interested in other, yogi and different religions. She and father were interested in the spiritualistic movement and I remember we had room there, in what is now the Clubhouse, that they called it the Silence Room. It just had a door and a very small room, one window in it, and they put the table and chairs, and she and father would go in there every Sunday afternoon and they would use a planchet. Do you know what a planchet is? I've seen a great deal, a great many things can come up, they believed that they were getting in touch with some of the philosophers, Greek philosophers and things of this kind. Of course, the hand on it would come and write handwriting.

AD: Would she encourage a lot of participation in the class? Would students

talk a lot too, or was it more of a lecture?

WDM: No, it wasn't a lecture. It probably was more of a lecture than another word for it. She did more class participation than he did. Father was particularly good on his lectures because of the fact that he was kind of a master at the, he was able to outline. He would put the subject over here, and then this off-shoot over here. It's quite an art to be able to do this, break it down to its particulars. that made it very much easier in his classes in order to, you could take down the outline, then you coculd remember much of it when you got done.

AD: Sounds like she was a busy lady.

WDM: She was a very busy lady. She saw that everybody else was just as busy as she was. And I think that that is one of the things that is the matter with me at the present time, though I'm presumed to be retired. One of her favorite quotations was, "Count that day lost to the low descending sun, seized from thy hand no worthy action done." And she intended to see that everybody saw that when the low descending sun got done, why, you had done your work. A drive of that kind does not particularly lend itself to retirement. And I know that if I go up and work on something of mine, I've done quite a lot of air pollution work, but this is something that I've got to get out, my December issue now, I feel better if I've put in maybe tow or three hours on that, than if I have just put her off and done some reading or relaxation or something of that kind. But the driving spirit, it gets in you, and you think that this is what you've got to keep on doing, and you can't hardly let up on it.

AD: Would you say that she was the stronger one, between your father and your mother? Was she the one who controlled the family more?

WDM: She controlled the family much more than father did, but that wouldn't mean to say that one was stronger than the other. It was a pretty even balance. Father had all of the work of the Colony around his neck, he had to finance all the buying of the land and everything of this kind, and getting

the college started. And he had more than he could do, and he was not good at working outside or doing anything of that nature, so the house and the family were mother's particular forte, and he had his forte, so they didn't interfere a great deal.

AD: You mentioned financing. do you remember which banks your father approached?

WDM: Most of the financing was done through the St. Petersburg Bank. I don't know what the name of the bank was, it doesn't stick in my mind.

AD: did he do any in Sarasota county, do you know?

WDM: No, because Sarasota had no banks at that time. Sarasota was a very small village. Of course we didn't have any contact with them a great deal, because we went to Tampa by boat or rail, by going over to Wimauma you culd get in by rail, or go over to St. Petersburg, and you could get t St. Petersburg by boat. He would have to, the financing was quite something on that, and I don't know just exactly how it worked then, because I was too busys with my schoolwork and around the house and garden to pay too much attention to it at that time. My older brother, though, Admer, he had business courses by doing them up in Ruskin College in Glen Illyn, and he married and brought a wife by the name of Clara. She was a Cushman, and they had been friends of the family. Married her, and he lost his first wife. She was the first one to be buried out in the cemetary. Then he married his first wife's sister later. aNd they had a family of about four.

AD: I was hoping that you would talk to me about Aurora, your memories of her, because it seems like, she probably had a lot to do with you.

WDM: Well, she did, because she was. I was the youngest, and she at the time was about 11, about 10 years older than I was. Mother didn't have much time to take care of me, so I used to, my sister, if she went out to play or anything, I was carried on her hip and we went around. that's the way they used to do those, they didn't have Playschools that you put kids in and went

around and left them. You took them with you when you went.

AD: What was your trip down to Ruskin with Aurora and O.D. like?

WDM: Well, that was something that stuck rather in my mind because I hadn't ever had a long train trip. I was born in IL, and it was after mother and father got back from the West coast. They went out to Oregon in an early day, and the three girls were born out in Oregon. And he had charge of a school out there, and then they lived in the San Joachin valley. (489) And then when they returned to, came back into IL, father had a law degree and he was going to be a lawyer for the city of Chicago at that time. Father was very interested in the temperance movement, as was mother, and that's where I got my name from, from Francis Willard, because she worked with Francis Willard in getting the WCPU started.

AD: Do you remember Aurora's birth date?

WDM: No, I don't remember her birth date. My wife could probably give you that better than I could. My memory is not quite as good as it used to be.

AD: You remember more about 50 yrs ago than I remember about last week.

WDM: Father and mother had gone down, and had set up in that old hotel down on the river. My oldest, had a sister Zoa, was married, and my younest sister Georgadda was living with my brother up in Chicago, and she was teaching music. And O.D. was going to law school and working (he means Admer). And so Aurora took my brother and I, and we came down on the train from Chicago. This was before the days of Pullmans, I suppose there were such Pullmans on, but Poor People didn't ride on Pullmans. you just, you went in the big coach and you stayed in the big coarch. I remember it took almost two days to get down on the railroad at that time, two and half days.

AD: That must have been quite a responsibility for Aurora.

WDM: Well, it wasn't too much, because she'd had the responsibility of us ever since we'd been born. And she had, except that my brother Wendell, who was killed in an accident, had taken care of my brother O.D. and myself. (525)

WDM: . ..in a large measure, until the family hit a debt? and Aurora had to take over. But she, we needed money very badly there, because there wasn't anything that father could do to bring in too much money, and he still had to eat. So, but it wasn't that he wasn't working, I don't mean that, but there wasn't such a thing as being employed or anything of this kind. You had to create whatever you did. He needed a school on this side of the river. There was one on the other side of the river over in Gulf City, which was older than anything on this side, because that had been a fishing village for a number of years. And so Aurora, she was 18 at that time, sos she was about 9 yrs older than I was, she took the examination for a public school teacher. she got a total suam of $18 a month for doing the teaching. She often used to tell about the fact that, going up to take her examination, and the boat that we were using to go to Tampa at that time, they had engine trouble, and one of the fishermen said that he would take her up in this, in what they called a yawl, a small fishing boat with a sail, and they got up and rana into some bad weather and had to go in to McKay bay, because that was the only waya they could get out of the squall that was coming on. And they ran into a sand bar, and the fisherman had to carry her over into what was then the Port at Ybor city, and still is now. And she had to walk up there and get the street car and go in to the examination room. On her teaching job, she started with about, Oh, I'd say 8 or 9 pupils, and they grew to be about, I imagine they had about 15 or 20 pupils by the time I started in in the 2nd grade and went through the 5th grade, 4th and 5th grade, under her there.

AD: I understand that she married Ray Edwards from TN. did your father know Mr. Edwards senior?

WDM: Well, we knew him when he came down here.

AD: But he didn't know him in TN?

WDM: He didn't know him inTN. He might have known him in TN, because they may have been in contact with each other, as they probably were. But I never had

a very high opinion of Ray's father. He came down here to live for a number of yrs, sponging on my sister and her husband when they were living, he was just kind of a Pest in his old age. I guess a lot of us get like that.

AD: You and Aurora were together in Washington, right?

WDM: Yes, after the WW, and the college closed up and there wasn't anything to do down here, so that it was necessary for us to migrate or do something, and I had worked in a shipyard up in Philadelphia at ? at the end of the 1st WW, but I ws just about 17, and I had worked down here turning up 18, that's when you had to register for the draft at that time. And I wanted to go badly, because O.D. had gone, he was 18 at the time of the first draft, and so he volunteered and went in, and that's the first time we had been apart since my birth, I guess. And I took the thing hard, you know, that he was going and I couldn't because I was almost as large as he was, and I thought 16 I could get in. but father would say when I was 16, 17 there, if you have to go, well then, you'll have to go, but I don't know how things are going to manage here because I was bringing in about all the cash money. Father was ill at that time. I was at this airload? at the engineering department of the railroad, and running the line down when the Tampa southern came down here, which goes to Sarasota now. I went to Washington, but this was later. Aurora was there before, yes, and she was teaching public school in cook County, no, not cook County, Washington, D.C.

AD: What kind of a theater group did you have there?

WDM: Well, we had quite a lot of Ruskin people up there with us, Esther Dickman, she wasn't married at that time, her name was Crawley, she was up there and working in Washington, and Pauline Lawler was there, and of course Aurora was kind of the center, and her husband, he became ill and passed away while she was there, left her with a young boy to educate. But she later married in Washington, there. but she always was very interested in drama, and she taught elocution and drama at college. Some of the course which they had

for preparatory work, of course they had no high school there at that time, you see. She had to teach many of those particular things. She started up this group, I can't even think of the name of the group now. I will think of it in just a little bit. But community work had, was one of the big things in Wash.

AD: What kind of plays would you put on?

WDM: Well, we put on about two and three act plays mostly, but we had four and five act plays, but we had gathered quite a group around us there, and we used the auditorium of one of the high schools. she was a very good organizer, and she could handle people very nicely.

AD: Was she like your mother in that sense? Were they the same type of character?

WDM: She would organize a little differently than mother did, but she had a very strong and loving personality, she was a very pretty woman.

AD: Was your mother a pretty woman?

WDM: Well, she wasn't as pretty as any one of her daughters. But of course I knew her as an older person. She was a very nice-looking woman, but the one picture that we have of her, a portrait of her, is not very good because it, she had a very sad expression on her face when it was taken, I think she wanted to look serious. But we had the community idea was more or less engineered by Margaret Wilson who was President Wilson's daughter, as you probably know. (645) She started up these community projects in the different schools, so that they weren't high school children that were in it, because they were just used as auditoriums, but that ran ran for aout 5, 6, or 7 yrs., and I recall very well the fact that they had tournaments, play tournaments, where the different groups, and there were some 14 or 15 of them in Wash. at that time, would enter into these things, and then they could choose a one-act play, then they would run it off like they would run off things of that kind. You competed with, say, five groups, or four groups over

here, somebody else closes, and then you have your semi-finals and then your finals. And they got awards for, there were simply honorary awards, no money or anything in connection with it. but then you have the three Plays given that particular night, and that would attract quite a crowd after they had, were runing off the finals. I remember one time we were competing for, we had entered into this particular contest, and I did'nt have a Part in this particular Play, and I had'nt been out for rehearsals or anything about it. And one of the men who had, were taking the, one of the most active Parts became ill, and you had to give this before your own audience to start off with. You had to give your first Play, you couldn't just enter into the competition, you had to give it before your own audience and then you moved on up. Aurora called me at the office one morning, and she said that this, that we had to give a Play that night, and she asked if I'd come in and take the Part. Well, I said I hadn't been to rehearsal, hadn't had anything to do with memorizing or anything of this kind. Well, she said, if you can get off today, come on over here and we can work on it for the rest of the day, and she said I was to go on with it tonight. Well, I had to come in and learn the part and go through it without ever having a rehearsal, I remember that was very hard. It was one of the wonderful things that I was very interested in, and I had hoped that I might come and do something for the movies, I was rather young at that time, you know, and there was a lot of interest in things of that kind around Wash. We won the top award of that group three years running, and then we dropped out of it, because they weren't being able to keep the competition going. We had some ? actors that were living in Washington that came in and it ws quite a Professional thing before we got dne with it.

AD: Do you remember a man, Mr. Cushman and Mr. Dallas?

WDM: Cushman would have been a woman, that would have been Dr. Cushman. And she was a mother of my oldest brother's first and second wife. And she came

down here from out in California, but his second wife had been a graduate of the University of California in LA. And she was a very good teacher also. She taught languages, Latin and Spanish and a couple more languages. Taught some of the mathematical classes and Dr. Cushman was a homeopath, that was, you used water, you drank water if you were sick, and that presumably flushed out your, a lot of the things that were there. I don't know too much about homeopathy, but they did use different kinds of.. .

END OF TAPE (712)

END OF SIDE TWO, END OF INTERVIEW