

(check notes)

Pauline D. Lawler  
6-12-80  
Mahler

"No, the Miller family didn't bicker. I don't know what they did"

--Pauline Dickman Lawler

July 9, 1985--Interview questions

(they waged Ouija wars)

Pauline D. Lawler  
6-12-80 (w/ Mahler):

- p1 Injunction? what cost GM Job as gov?
- p3 when did Ruskin Movement, as she put it, drop?
- p4 the 2 Japanese men in the college, from CA?
- p5 who was Florida, the piano player?
- p6 AP's wife's main concern was her children's education/ motive behind move to Ruskin--they could stay home & also get education
- could one receive a valid diploma from the College? what about accred.? what criteria for opening a college then? *none*
- p8 unusual lack of children for the population # ; what kind of consideration would this be for prospectives? Mean age of settlers? (and for Homemakers?)
- p10 what kind of county government? payment of salaries--schools
- p11 music at Ruskin; also: who was Mrs. O'Hara? (feminist speaker)
- p12 voting age/property ownership--at what age, legal age, etc. also: was Hockman (?) the one Uncle was taken in by?
- p13 was there any spending, monetary, etc. system created by GM? in terms of socialist background& personal views?



Interview with Pauline Dickman Lawler  
and Carol Mahler 6/12/780



Taped interview with Pauline Hawler with Carol Mahler

Side 1 Tape 1

Carol: I've listened to the tapes that you made with other students, and <sup>Mac</sup> mac and things. I've picked up a few of your comments and wanted to ask you about them further, okay?

A couple of times you mentioned Mac's grandfather, George Miller?

Pauline: Yes, George Miller.

Carol: And you said that he was a socialist and you thought he was way ahead of his time ~~like~~ like with his idea of how to do for the Ruskin community. and what have you.

Pauline: He was a Christian socialist, he wasn't ~~one~~ one of the run of the mill socialists. He based the socialism on the Bible and he got the ~~word~~ word "common good" I think it <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~ Act, when Paul said, "These Christians are together for the common good of them all."

Carol: Okay. You also mentioned that <sup>you thought</sup> he was an idealist. He thought everybody was honest and that it didn't turn out that way most of the time. Do you think that got him into trouble or got the community into trouble, the fact that he thought everybody was honest?

Pauline: Well, I definitely think that it got him into trouble because people, there's a lot of people, that do things that I think are not honest but they think are honest.

Carol: Can you think of any particular instances when he trusted somebody maybe that ~~didn't~~ didn't, that something went wrong?

Pauline: Well, I was just a kid so I don't remember any particular instance.

Carol: Okay. You went to Ruskin College, right? Did you get a degree? What was your degree in?

Pauline: Well, it was <sup>just</sup> a general education. The first World ~~war~~ war, the college was doing very nicely when the war broke out, and my twin brother and myself and some others were in the first class. The boys had to go to war before they finished so the college gave them degrees ~~before they~~ their work. They were in the last year and I had more or less majored in Home Economics.

Carol: Okay.

Jim: : Give that to Mac. Tell him to research that. That is the church that his grandfather worked for at the time that he was trying to get the injunction against ~~the~~ . This church was socialist. It finally cost him his job as the governor.

Carol: All right, I'll give it to him.

Jim: That's where he can look it up partly. Third edition, the Columbia Encyclopedia.

Carol: Okay.



Carol: Okay, you got your degree in Home Economics?

Pauline: Where was I?

Carol: You got a degree in Home Economics.

Pauline: Well, I never did use it because at the time the war started. The boys were volunteering or were drafted. The professors that were too old to go to war got jobs elsewhere. Many of the girls got jobs in Washington. But it so happened that we had a co-operative store near Ruskin and we had one bad egg that got in there and before they knew it, he had used his credit to buy material then used the money for his gambling. The man that was running it got a war job and there wasn't anybody to run it so they turned it over to me. I ran the store until I finally sold it, and I paid off all the debts.

Carol: I remember hearing about that in your other conversations. Now, ~~the way~~ from what I can tell, you went to Ruskin College you went to school in the morning and you worked in the afternoon. Is that what you did? Did you have classes in the morning?

Pauline: Well, I never worked outside the home. I worked at home but the boys <sup>that</sup> came down to go to College, that was their routine, they went to school in the morning and worked in the afternoon.

Carol: Okay. Now, how about the girls? You said you didn't but did the other girls who were in the College did they work in the afternoon?

Pauline: Well, those that had to work... One was a stenographer. She was a little older and she was a secretary to Mr. Miller or Dr. Miller and his son, she was secretary <sup>for</sup> to them. Another girl worked in a dining room. I lived at home so I didn't have to work, but in the dining room and in the kitchen. They did a woman's work but they didn't get out and you know.

Carol: I was also wondering, did you have any girl's sports teams and what other, like tennis or basketball or anything.

Pauline: We had a basketball team but ~~the girls~~ the girls didn't do any. The boys did but the girls didn't. But we did make a trip around the state and played and I don't know whether we went to Gainesville <sup>and</sup> but we had a route <sup>anyway</sup> to ~~be~~ made. <sup>I think,</sup>

Carol: I was <sup>reading through</sup> looking at the Annual Ruskin Catalogue ~~1960-1970~~ 1916 to 1917. Mac has a copy.

Pauline: The what?

Carol: The Annual Catalogue of Ruskin College. It's <sup>the</sup> a school catalogue they put out. In there it said that the entrance requirement that you had to have a testimonial as to your good moral character. Did you have to have anything like that or do you know what the other kids used?

Pauline: Well, the Millers' and the Dickmans' families, I had a friend that said what do you want to bet, but the ~~xx~~ were <sup>high</sup> principled but very high moraled. But none of the Dickmans/ smoked or drank and my father 's worse cuss word was "gosh." And Dr. Miller, the Millers didn't smoke or drink and I don't think that Uncle <sup>ever</sup> swore, I never heard him. But one of the , I don't know whether it was a law or a law here in Ruskin, that they couldn't sell cigarettes or sell liquor here in Ruskin. And Of course that was very unpopular.

Carol: Do you think that turned some people away when they found that out? I mean did people come down here to Ruskin and find ~~find~~ it out..?



- Pauline: Yes, after the Ruskin Movement dropped, I mean just finished, Dr. Miller died and my brother came back from the service, my twin brother, ~~and~~ came back from the service and went into the real estate business. He found that he couldn't even sell land with those two restrictions in it. So while he himself didn't smoke, he <sup>did</sup> partake of a cocktail once in a while, but I don't think he did then, but anyway he had the restrictions taken out because he couldn't sell any land with those restrictions.
- Mahler: Now, getting back to the <sup>testimonial</sup> question of "good moral character." Did you have to have any such thing to get into the College?
- Pauline: No because I was one of the original.
- Carol: The Founders.
- Pauline: Founders? ~~No~~ I presume that those who came here were looked in to before they were accepted. But I didn't know it at the time.
- Carol: It also in the catalogue it also said that if you wanted to get a loan or scholarship, you had to pass an examination ~~about~~ as to character. Do you know what that was about?
- Pauline: No, I don't know a thing about that.
- Carol: Okay, fine. Who made the decisions ~~of~~ who was going to get in to the College and who was going to get out? Or who couldn't come?
- Pauline: Well, as far as I know, the faculty did that but I presume that it rested mostly with Dr. Miller and Mrs. Miller. They, I know they wouldn't have accepted a criminal -type of
- Carol: Oh, yes. Okay. Now, you said that there was you and your brother and Mac's father all graduated the same year, <sup>you</sup> all got your degree the same year from Ruskin College, right. Was there any other people then?
- Pauline: What?
- Carol: Was there anybody else that was graduating in that class or whatever?
- Pauline: Yes. I've forgotten who they were but I think that there were about ten of us in the class.
- Carol: Well, Mac showed me, he had a small announcement of the graduation. On it, your name was not on it, your brother and Mac's father's name was on it, and an Oriental-looking name was on it.
- Pauline: Oh, , he was Japanese.
- Carol: Japanese. Do you remember his name?
- Pauline: was the last name. I don't know what the first name was.
- Carol: How did he get to Ruskin College?
- Pauline: I wouldn't know. I have not the remotest idea. We had two Japanese boys here. They didn't enter into the social life particularly.
- Carol: Did you talk with this fellow at all? Do you remember?
- Pauline: Well, sure we ~~we~~ conversed with him. He spoke English. They both spoke English but they went to school.
- Carol: That's really ~~interesting~~ <sup>interesting</sup> ~~xxx from Japanese people~~ that you had two Japanese people there.
- Pauline: Well, at that time we had a friend that had nothing to do with the college but he had lung trouble. He was one of the best read people I've ever known. He read incessantly. But he had to work out of doors ~~because of his~~ <sup>on account of</sup>



health. You might say he commuted between Ruskin and California. I remember that he came back one time and, he was Mother's and Dad's age, and he was talking to Mother and he said, "Aunt Rose, we're going to have to fight the yellow race." He said they were absolutely taking over in California. Now that was back in the teens that he said that. And they were immigrating from China and Japan.

Carol: They were bringing them over to help with the railroad.

Pauline: And to California. So it's not surprising that these two got down here. But I have no idea how they got here.

Carol: Could you give me like what your typical day was when you were going to school? Like you got up in the morning and went to classes then when you came home, what did you do on different days? What happened?

Pauline: Well, our classes lasted until noon.

Carol: What time did ~~it~~ they start?

Pauline: I presume they started about nine. I believe that Paul and I were within walking distance. My home was up near where Mrs. Miller lives and the college was, oh, about a quarter of a mile from it. So we always walk to school and would walk home. And I could smell mother's bread on baking day before I got in the house. We would have lunch. I helped Mother with work that she had to do because Ours was the only good house in Ruskin at the time and mother had to keep the VIPs and sometimes it got kind of heavy because the house wasn't built for a boarding house but we would have ~~the~~ as many as ten people around the table. When she had people, I had to help with the cooking, ~~washing~~ and wash dishes. Fact is I ~~did~~ did an awful lot of cooking when I was a kid.

Carol: Did you enjoy it?

Pauline: I presume I did because I've always liked to cook. There was times when I'd rather go out and play tennis <sup>AND</sup> ~~or~~ go swimming but...

Carol: Who did you play tennis with?

Pauline: We had a family whose father was a socialist in Chicago. The name was . They had three boys and four girls, I thing it was. And Papa , as we called him, came down here. And his family and kids were just about our age, older and younger, and they were very atheletic. They were tennis champions back in Chicago. And they were also good swimmers. And I was, I'm usually a strong swimmer but I had learned it mostly by myself and one of the boys kind of took my under his charge and was teaching me how to swim and dive and play tennis. He was a good player but they were all good players. In whatever they did they were good. There was only one girl who didn't come down, the rest of them came down here.

Carol: Okay. Let's say you went to school in the morning and <sup>you</sup> would come home and eat lunch. Did you get to go play tennis and swim or whatever or did you have to ~~do some~~ help do some chores around the house <sup>AND DID YOU HAD TO BE</sup> or did you have to cook dinner? ~~BACK TO COOK dinner?~~

Pauline: Well, I'll tell you. It's too warm down here to swim or play tennis right after ~~you eat~~ dinner. I'd usually do what I'd have to do then do my studying, start studying because I had to do an awful lot of studying.

Carol: More so then everybody else?

Pauline: What?



- Carol: More than everybody else did the same amount of studying? Like what about the kids that went out and worked? When did they study? Like in the evening?
- Pauline: They had <sup>to</sup> study at night ~~mind~~. I don't think they worked after four, ~~they'd~~ ~~quit~~ I believe they'd quit at four. They studied some before supper and then studied after supper. I wasn't around the dormitory much so I don't know what their routine was.
- Carol: So did you just sort of hang around or be friends with this family, the \_\_\_\_\_ and some other people that lived around you rather than the other kids who were coming to school and living in the dorms? Like as far as out of school activities?
- Pauline: Did I hang around them?
- Carol: Yes, like were those the people you associated with socially?
- Pauline: We were pretty restricted in our social activities. We had to be at home and we couldn't date except over the weekends. I mean we <sup>were</sup> ~~wasn't~~ supposed to. I dated a boy that didn't go to school so what they didn't know didn't hurt them. But the students couldn't date during the week and on Saturday nights we had two places that we could dance with a Victrola or we had one girl <sup>who</sup> that was an excellent piano player for dancing. Poor Florida, I felt sorry for her. She ~~was~~ would play and play and play and never get a chance to dance. But anyways, over the weekend you could date. And some of us that didn't live in the dormitories, oh I guess we were kind of mean. There were about four couples of us and we would get together and <sup>the boys would go</sup> get oysters, and they would check the oysters and the girls would fry <sup>them</sup> and we would have these oysters ~~frys~~. There were a lot of <sup>times</sup> ~~right~~ ~~right~~ across the end of here and what was called the \_\_\_\_\_ . And the people in the dormitories couldn't come because they could be observed. Oh, we did a lot of things. The one \_\_\_\_\_ that didn't go to the dormitories had chicken \_\_\_\_\_ . I don't know whether you know what that is or not.
- Carol: No.
- Pauline: We would ~~be~~ <sup>either</sup> take chickens from our homes or take them from our neighbors then we would go out and \_\_\_\_\_ them and we would have rice and salt.. In a pot, we would boil that chicken and put rice in it and have chicken \_\_\_\_\_ . You would sit around, you know, while they were cooking. Then, ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> other thing, stealing watermelons was a favorite pastime.
- ~~Pauline~~  
Carol: So in other words, you got away with a lot of things because you weren't living in the dorms?
- Pauline: Yes, because I wasn't at the dormitory. Paul and I were <sup>always</sup> together but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ but Mac's father, of course he was right there at the dormitory so he and his brother were left out. They were very hurt about it but you know young people are very thoughtless. Their two sisters were left out of <sup>the</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>too</sup>. They were more or less like preacher's kids. They had to set an example.
- Carol: And you didn't have to set an example?
- Pauline: No.
- Carol: What kind of classes did you take at the College? What things did you study?
- Pauline: Study. Well, we studied the usual things like the different histories and the different . . . Englishes and in my economics they had an economics teacher and I wasn't very impressed with her. She was teaching the rudiments of home economics and how to sew and cook. And heaven, I had been doing that anyway so . . .
- Carol:; You were way ahead of the class?
- Pauline: I was ahead of the <sup>class</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ . My mother couldn't sew, I mean she could not sew. You should have seen her stitches. Back in those days



you couldn't buy ready-mades like you do now. I had two aunts and a cousin that taught me how to sew. I was doing the ~~the~~ sewing for both mother and myself when I was fourteen. But mother spoiled me and

. She was so happy that I could sew that she would pick up after me. So I got into the habit of when I got through with a pattern just throw it down on the floor. I'd go ahead and sew and mother would pick it up. Well, that went on all my life while mother was living. She would pick up after me. In our house, there was a room upstairs that wasn't used, it was a bedroom, I used ~~it as~~ <sup>that was</sup> my sewing room, so I could make any kind of, leave any kind of mess I wanted to. And mother would clean it up. After I got away from mother, of course, I had to clean up myself. But I still do that when I sew. I throw my patterns down on the floor and keep on sewing.

Carol: Just some other questions I had from the Ruskin Catalogue. There was, they listed several ideals <sup>of</sup> for Ruskin College and one of them was sex equality, and I wondered what they meant by that.

Pauline: Now state that again.

Carol: In the Ruskin catalogue for the college, they listed ideals of the college and one of them was sex equality.

Pauline: Oh, sex equality?

Carol: Yes, what did they mean by that?

Pauline: Ruskin, in the beginning, <sup>you see</sup> the women didn't vote.

Carol: In the beginning?

Pauline: No women at that ...

Carol: Right.

Pauline: vote. I think it was 1921 before they got the vote.

Carol: Right.

Pauline: And here in Ruskin, the women had equal rights with the men in voting. Their voice was ...meant just as much as a man's voice. That was the ~~sex~~ equality.

Carol: It didn't extend to other things. Like if you had wanted to study maybe agriculture, they wouldn't have let you. You would have had to study say the Home Economics and what have you.

Pauline: Well I don't know. I never tried it.

Carol: Okay.

Pauline: No, I believe if a ~~woman~~ woman wanted to study something in a man's domain, they could have studied it.

Carol: How about vice versa? ~~How~~ How about if a man wanted to learn how to cook, would they have let him?

Pauline: Oh, I imagine so.

Carol: Okay. Do you know of anybody that was doing that?

Pauline: No, I don't. But we had men cooks at that time so cooking wasn't a domain of the woman particularly. Fact is, and still is, the big chefs ~~are~~ are men.

Carol: ~~Oh~~ Oh sure, sure. Okay. Also on one of the tapes you mentioned that you thought that Uncle George's wife was the backbone of the community and that she or that the women held the community <sup>together</sup> more than the men did. Do you still feel that way? Who do you think the important women were that were in the community that helped keep it together?



Pauline: Well, one was Mrs. Miller. She kept the family together. She kept everything together.

Carol: Were there bickerings in the family or something?

Pauline: No, I don't mean that. No, the Miller family didn't bicker. I don't know what they did. But I don't believe the Miller family quarrelled like other families. Now, after we came down here, the two girls were older than the two boys and they were past the bickering age. Usually that's teenagers. I know that <sup>used</sup> to quarrel about things they had to do but they did them. But I think that there was very little bickering in the family.

Carol: Then what do you mean "she held the family together." She made that everybody wanted to ~~stay~~ stay in Ruskin or that everybody was happy or what?

Pauline: No, she didn't try to make everybody stay in Ruskin. I don't know just what I do mean. The family pulled <sup>together</sup> under Aunt <sup>direction</sup>.

Carol: Okay. If you had to compare the two, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Miller, would you say that she tended to be, to take a personal interest in people and that way maybe ~~that's~~ when he was more concerned with the thoughts of the whole thing?

Pauline: Aunt <sup>was</sup> practical and Uncle <sup>was</sup> not practical. Now that's the best way I can explain it. He would get way up here in the clouds and Aunt <sup>was</sup> down here holding a fork.

Carol: Was he like that way most of the time, I mean up in the clouds and not concerned with his day to day reality?

Pauline: I don't....

Carol: From just what you can remember I mean/.

Pauline: That was pretty much Uncle <sup>and</sup> <sup>brothers</sup>. Now my father, there were three brothers and Uncle <sup>and</sup> a brother-in-law. They formed a Ruskin Homemakers Society which had nothing to do with the College. And in that group, my father was the one that held them together.

Carol: So the other three tended to be dreamers more or less?

Pauline: Now//, not the Dickmans~~men~~, <sup>were</sup> the Dickman men tended to be practical men. Now, Uncle <sup>was</sup>, he got out and worked too in an emergency. He was getting the College together and the rest of them were ~~planning to~~ <sup>trying</sup> to get Ruskin started. You couldn't possibly picture <sup>it</sup> but this was all palmettos and it all had to be drugged out by hand and trees had to be cut. There was a sawmill and they sawed their own lumber. The Dickmans did that. They ~~had~~ hauled their own logs. I mean, while Uncle <sup>was</sup> was trying to get the school together.

Carol: Do you think then the work or whatever needed to be done wasn't evenly distributed? I mean that it was unfair almost of Uncle <sup>to</sup> to be sitting there planning the College while all the three Dickmans were out working?

Pauline: No, I don't think anybody ever considered that to be particularly unfair. because every darn body was doing what they could be and what ~~had~~ brought the Dickmans down here, now the only thing that brought mother down here and mother was Uncle <sup>and</sup> sister was the fact that she was so crazy about Paul and myself, her twins as she called them, that she wanted us to have an education above everything else in this world but she didn't want us to leave home. And if we stayed in Missouri, we couldn't get an education and stay home. And she figured that coming down here, we could stay home and <sup>get</sup> an education. That's the only reason that mother ~~come down when she came down.~~ <sup>consented to come down.</sup>

Carol: So originally when they first proposed moving down here, until she figured out that there would be a College and that you guys would be able to stay at home.



- Pauline: Well, she had full confidence in her brother and her sister-in-law, Mrs Miller, of course they were both educators so she was perfectly willing to leave our education to them., and keep Paul and I at home. The rest of the families had younger children. Now, I felt sorry for those kids because the war came along and as I said the boys had to go to war and the professors left and the College broke up. Aunt <sup>tried to</sup> keep the younger kids interested by teaching them but of course we had a primary school then but we had no high school. She was trying to teach them some high school things but they eventually ~~did~~, two families moved to Tampa with their children so they could get the kids could go to high school.
- Carol: What about the other families with younger kids that were high school age? Did she continue to teach them?
- Pauline: Well they were the only two families, there was just Paul and myself ~~and~~ in mother's family and we got our diploma. There were no other children. Aunt <sup>and uncle</sup> moved to Tampa and <sup>uncle</sup> died and Aunt <sup>moved into</sup> Tampa to get her kids into high school. She worked in there for years and years.
- Carol: Okay. The war was ending in 1918 or around there and Uncle <sup>was</sup> going around trying to get more people and everything to start the school, more students, new teachers, whatever. ~~Was~~ Was anything happening in Ruskin when he was off, I forget where, ~~if~~ he was recruiting or whatever?
- Pauline: He was on a trip. The war was over. His son, O.D. Miller, was then in Europe about to be sent, maybe he <sup>was</sup> sent home, I don't know which. Now Mac's father never got into the war. He got in to <sup>anyway</sup> he was in the <sup>building</sup> effort in the east. So he never got into the service and I think he always felt bad about it. Anyway he didn't. Uncle <sup>, the war was over and Uncle</sup> started out to find professors and students to start the College back and he died in Ohio. The government sent <sup>that is</sup> home so that he was home for his father's ~~funeral~~ funeral. Willard, of course, came home. The College just collapsed and Aunt <sup>didn't try to carry it on.</sup>
- Carol: And <sup>at that point</sup> there were no <sup>professors</sup> and <sup>no</sup> their students ~~were~~ were at the college at all? And it had been completely empty or whatever?
- Pauline: That's when the <sup>, that's about the time the Dickman's</sup> moved into Tampa to get their kids into high school. Some of the kids had, some of the girls, had boarded themselves out in Tampa. One of them named <sup>stayed in this home and to go to high school and returned for baby sitting at night and</sup> <sup>other</sup> chores around the house. But the family were kind of social <sup>family and they had children</sup> ~~but she could not study and babysit at the same time~~ and she babysat for them and she could now study and babysit at the same time. So, then her mother moved into Tampa and she stayed at home but <sup>, the other</sup> Dickman, they bought a little car and they drove to Bradenton and now the drive to Bradenton is not like it is now, that was just a shell road but they drove <sup>ONE YEAR</sup> down there and went to school. Not long ago, I met somebody down there that remembered them.



Carol: Oh, really! What was it like when you were going to elementary school before you were going to the College?

Pauline: Well, Paul and I went to a one-roomed school <sup>in Missouri</sup> and there were thirteen pupils in this school. Seven of us were in the same class. Three pair of ~~twins~~ <sup>twins</sup> and one \_\_\_\_\_ .

Carol: That's amazing! Three pair of twins in one school room. Out of seven people no less!

Pauline: Paul and I were the youngest, the next were two and a half years older and the next were ~~the~~ some morons of fifteen. And the little maverick, he was a little fellow, he was a bright little fellow. He was the odd one. But we had to walk a mile and a half through the woods and cross a creek that could rise very fast and go to school but that was back in Missouri. ~~But~~ One spring day, a storm came up. Paul and I should have started home but we didn't. When Dad ~~came for us~~ got there, when he came after us, he came with a wagon and he had a tarpolin that he could put over us. There was four others going our way. We were running around the school house in the rain. He said, "Why didn't you start on home?" Well, the kids weren't going to start on home, you know. Anyway, ~~we~~ he loaded us up and we started on home and that creek ~~had~~ had swollen until, now Paul and I stepped on stones across it going to school, but <sup>at</sup> the time we had gotten back there, that was about an eighth of a mile wide and the water came up to the bed of the wagon. He just got us home before the creek got too high.

Carol: Okay, my tape is done here.



Tape 1 Side 2

- Pauline: , she was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. I mean physically, in ~~every~~ every way, she was the peacemaker in the family. Everybody loved her. When they started a school, the public school, she became a teacher for thirty-five dollars a month. that was up at the still or up at the \_\_\_\_\_ camp. You had to have thirteen attendants to keep the school going. The natives didn't want the damn Yankees here. There was a bachelor by the name of \_\_\_\_\_ He used to come and sit out on the stump in front of the school, <sup>and count the pupils</sup> to be sure that there were thirteen present. But she was a teacher. She was the kind of teacher that I would work my ~~my~~ fool head off just to please her.
- Carol: Those are the best kind.
- Pauline: What?
- Carol: Those are the best kind of teachers.
- Pauline: And everybody else would do the same. She was so beautiful.
- Carol: Who paid her salary?
- Pauline: The county.
- Carol: The county. So at that time, at least the school was not under the Common Good Society in Ruskin? Like they didn't take that over, that was still part of the county?
- Pauline: No. Then that was up at the \_\_\_\_\_, about a mile from here up the road. Then after we moved down here, the school is where it is when you come over and see all those buildings. They built a school and that became the center of the community's activities. There was a baseball diamond out there and tennis courts were up at the College. Basaball figured a lot in our fun in the early days. At that time Ruskin played Parrish and RIVENVIEW and \_\_\_\_\_, Palmetto once in a while but they licked the socks off us. That was a community baseball team, that wasn't a college team.
- Carol: Was it mostly the younger people who played in it anyway? Or ...
- Pauline: What?
- Carol: Was it mostly younger people that played in the community baseball team or did you get some of the older people?
- Pauline: It was just everybody, anybody that would play. My two uncles would play, they were younger men. But the whole community would turn out to watch the ball game.
- Carol: Terrific!
- Pauline: At that time, a whole community turned out for everything. At the college, Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ had known some outstanding lecturers and we got them down here to lecture to them, to the College, <sup>and</sup> then invited the community. They had lectures that were far superior to some that you see now.



Carol: What kind of subjects did they talk about?

Pauline: We had , Dr \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the lecturers and \_\_\_\_\_ was another, she was ~~another~~ socialist. Mostly, some had to be on the socialist trend. Some were on sex equality like ~~Miss~~ Mrs. O'Hara ~~///Mrs///O'Hara///~~ who was a feminist.

Carol: Like what did she stress when she was talking? Did she say that men should be able to do women's jobs and women do men's jobs or just that they should have an equal ~~pp~~ vote and an equal say in things? What was she pushing when she talked about se~~x~~ equality?

Pauline: No, it wasn't a case of men on one side and women on the other. She was trying to tell women to be aware of men.

Carol: To be aware of them?

Pauline: To beware of them. I know one mother who was very upset because ~~her~~ daughter heard Mrs. ~~O~~ O'Hara speak. Anyway, she was speaking the truth.

Carol: She was?

Pauline: Yes. She was just telling women that men have the advantage, and they always will have the advantage, so just beware.

Carol: Okay. What did Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ speak about?

Pauline: His was about socialism mostly. He could lecture on the Bible to some extent but Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ did most of that on the Bible because he was a Hebrew student and a Latin student and he could take the original scriptures and change the interpretation ~~at///will~~ little.

Carol: What do you mean change the interpretation ~~at///will~~ little?

Pauline: What?

Carol: Do you mean change the interpretation to be something that he wanted? In other words, if I wanted to read this paragraph and get out of it that we should all eat meat on Sundays, he could do that even though it might say that or might not?

Pauline: No he stuck to what he thought the real Scriptures was saying. Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ was inclined to change the words to things. Like the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Wait. What's the last line? "died to make men free." He changed it to "live to make men free."

Carol: Speaking of songs, did you all do any ~~singing?~~ singing?

Pauline: We had lots of music. Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ had a beautiful tenor voice and we had others, we had a double quartet which is eight voices. And \_\_\_\_\_ played the piano beautifully and also sang alto. Yes our music was outstanding. Then, <sup>there</sup> ~~there~~ were two professional violinists in Ruskin, one was \_\_\_\_\_, the other was \_\_\_\_\_, <sup>both of them</sup> an excellent violinist. Well, \_\_\_\_\_ had played for the crown, for royalty in England.

Carol: Wow! Did Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ ever give you all songs that you had to sing, like when he changed the words to ~~songs~~ ~~different~~ different songs?

Pauline: We have a Ruskin song called "The way We <sup>HAVE AT</sup> Me ~~out~~ of Ruskin, The way We <sup>HAVE AT</sup> Me ~~out~~ of Ruskin" and so help me , I can't think of the words. It had ~~verse~~ verse after verse.

Carol: Who wrote it?



- Pauline: I presume that Uncle wrote it. I wouldn't know. To my knowledge we just sang it.
- Carol: What was it called now?
- Pauline: "The Way We ~~We~~ ~~out~~ ~~of~~ ~~Ruskin~~ Have at Ruskin"
- Carol: "The Way We Have at Ruskin." Was it <sup>to</sup> a melody that you already knew from another song or was it a new melody?
- Pauline: I think it was an old melody but I don't know what it was from.
- Carol: Okay.
- Pauline: I think ~~that~~ <sup>they</sup> just put ~~new~~ words to an old melody.
- Carol: To an old song. That still goes on today. My sisters do it all the time. Let's see what else I have. I wanted to ask you did you ever vote in the common-good society?
- Pauline: Oh, yes!
- Carol: When did you start or did you always do it?
- Pauline: I don't think there was any age limit. I think you could vote at fifteen or sixteen.
- Carol: What was your requirement then to get in to vote? Was there any? Did everyone in the community vote?
- Pauline: You had to ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> a piece of land.
- Carol: Then did you own a piece of land at fifteen?
- Pauline: Folks saw to that. I think you had to have land to vote, I believe. I wouldn't swear to that but I think you had to have land.
- Carol: Do you remember any of the things which you would discuss at the meetings?
- Pauline: Well, I tell you. My memory is so dim on one thing that I hate to ~~go~~ ~~to~~ ~~into~~ it. ~~Y~~ We had a man by the name of ~~that~~ ~~Uncle~~, this is a case of Uncle taking a man at his word. Mr. came in and he was going to do this tremendous selling job and Uncle believed everything he said. My father didn't. The fact is that Dad didn't believe anything he said. ~~but~~ But anyway, he would have taken over the land that the Dickmans owned. Uncle would have let him done it. But Dad wouldn't let him. I remember that. That was a tremendous fight.
- Carol: So this is what they were discussing in the Common-Good, . . .
- Pauline: What?
- Carol: In the Common-Good meeting. This is what they were talking about there? Is this where they argued it out? Was Mr. ~~that~~ there while they were discussing? *talking?*
- Pauline: Oh, yes.
- Carol: But he wasn't allowed to vote or anything. He was an outsider, right?
- Pauline: No, he wasn't. He had a vote because he had land. He had bought, all you had to do, you could buy a piece of land for ten dollars.
- Carol: Did any of the students that <sup>came</sup> ~~came~~ down and ~~we~~ went to school, did any of them buy land? Or stay on after ~~graduation?~~ *they graduated?*
- Pauline: No, those that went away, that came down here from other places and they went to war, they didn't come back here. Not until years later. One of them is a big farmer in Ruskin. He came back and married one of the local girls. But he was a tremendous worker. He was a carpenter and he



always made money ~~app~~ <sup>carpentry</sup> ~~carpeting~~ and working and somewhere along the line my brother came back and he acquired land and he was trying to sell it. The depression was on then. All people just couldn't get jobs, you know. Paul would let them have the land without anything down, and he even let them put a mortgage on it so they could get fertilizer and seed and equipment to farm. And ~~this~~ <sup>Mr.</sup> was one of them, ~~///is the/~~ that is his brother-in-law. Paul married one sister and ~~the~~ <sup>she</sup> married the older sister. Clarence came back and Paul helped him get started by letting him have the land. Now ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> is one of the big landowners. He is a very wealthy man, now.

Carol: I guess that's what you do you go...

Pauline: What?

Carol: I guess that's what you do, you go in the early days and you buy <sup>up the</sup> land when it's cheap and you hold on to it. You also mentioned on the other tapes that there is no way for a girl to earn money in Ruskin, therefore she probably would stay there.

Pauline: No there wasn't. When I was a kid, I just never had any money. You babysat for nothing. I made dresses for nothing. And ~~I~~ <sup>she</sup> gave music lessons for nothing.

Carol: Well, you didn't really have any ~~place~~ <sup>place</sup> to spend money either, right?

Pauline: Oh, girls can always spend money.

Carol: Oh, I know that. But

Pauline: If you got it.

Carol: If you have it. Did you have a movie house where you could go see movies or a store where you could buy things at?

Pauline: No, we made our own shows.

Carol: What kind of shows?

Pauline: We put on beautiful shows. We thought they were, we had a wonderful time. We would make up, or perfect a show and take it over to Riverview and take it over to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup>, and take it down to Palmetto.

Carol: Did somebody write these or did you use plays...?

Pauline: No, no. We got like ~~Charles~~ <sup>Charles</sup>, maybe that's it. But we put on some ~~Shakespeare~~ <sup>Shakespeare</sup> but as a rule we didn't take Shakespeare out. We always chose comedys.

Carol: Those are the best.

Pauline: That was after we had gotten married and we were trying to raise money for Ruskin. There were a ~~app~~ <sup>app</sup> nucleus of us of four couples and you could always get additional people to enter in. We had a lot of fun.

Carol: It sounds like it. And you made all the costumes I'm sure.

Pauline: Yes.

Carol: What ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> other things did you do for entertainment? Like when you were growing up and going to college. What did you do when you went out on a date besides the oysters and the chicken and all that?

Pauline: If you went out on a date, it was usually to a ball game or a Sunday afternoon ride. One of the favorite things, was to go out to Big Cypress and go down into the Cypress and at that time there was a railroad down in there.



Somebody had built a railroad. You could walk down this railroad, this would be in June, you could orchids, there were wild orchids. But there just wasn't much to do. We would have picnics. Then, after we got automobiles, this was a while afterwards, on Fourth of July and Labor Day, we would go to the beach. Then, I was grown, I ~~couldn't~~ <sup>couldn't</sup> hardly wait to go to the beach. I love the beach.

Carol: It's very beautiful. Well, let's see what else I've got on my paper here. You probably know that I was going to ask this just because the community was named Ruskin. When you were a young child what did you hear about John Ruskin if anything?

Pauline: Do you want to know the truth about the matter?

Carol: Yes ma'am.

Pauline: I never read Ruskin, I always heard about him. He had this socialistic ideas. Now I wonder why in the world Uncle and Aunt took up with his ideas.

Carol: What kinds of things did they tell you, talk about? I mean you didn't read him but what did they tell you about him?

Pauline: His idea of working together, living together and doing everything together but the more I've read about him, he's not that kind of a man. Have You read any of him?

Carol: Yes ma'am.

Pauline: Have you read any of his personal life?

Carol: Some of it.

Pauline: Well, I just can't imagine why Uncle and Aunt took up with him. Because he did things they didn't approve of.

Carol: Certainly. Well, did they ever...

Pauline: Bring that out? No.

Carol: Or did they ever... Well, like when did they talk about him? Did they talk about him in class or just informally?

Pauline: They never made an issue of Ruskin, I mean the man Ruskin.

Carol: So, it was more or less that Ruskin, the name for them, was more ~~excess~~ the town and the college ~~than~~ rather than the man himself.

Pauline: No, no. The man, just some of his ideas. They accepted what they wanted and discarded the other.

Carol: The rest. Well, don't you think that that is a feasible idea?

Pauline: Well, that's what we all do.

Carol: That's for sure. Well, do you think some of his ideas, like the school that he wanted to set up over in England, and his ideas of a community, and every thing, don't you think those were good enough ideas and by trying to take the good parts of this man, they could have come up with something good?

Pauline: Well, that's what they were trying to do. I think his idea of going to school for half a day and working half a day, I think that got back from Ruskin. But, I took a, Jimmy and I took an adult course last year. Not that you're going to write a book and have it published, but just write your memoirs for your grandchildren. Well, I don't have any grandchildren.



Anyway, somebody said why don't you take it and write what you know about Ruskin. So, I took it and I wrote up some of the things. I wrote up about the women in Ruskin, that was the early women--my mother and Aunt and Aunt Elizabeth and <sup>AUNT</sup>

I was telling a friend about it and I told you that the Ruskin men were very high principled <sup>and</sup> morals. And I said the men never <sup>stepped</sup> out on the women because it was just unthinkable as far as Ruskin was concerned. And this friend said, "What do you bet?" I said that I'd stake my life on that. Well, in the first place, the native women weren't the type that would attract any men anyway!

Carol: Did you have any problems with the natives? I mean, when you moved down here and set up this whole thing, did they want to go to the College, did they want ~~to~~ anything to do with the community, did they hassle you?

Pauline: No, the natives never entered into the college at all. Some, few of them would come to a lecture or something but not many.

Carol: Did they socialize? Come to your ball games or anything?

Pauline: Very little.

Carol: Did they do anything mean? Did they vandalize things?

Pauline: Oh, yes. They, I know one time, the men cut firewood and cordwood and had it stacked up along the river ~~and~~ to put on a barge to take to Tampa. And the natives set it on fire. I know one time they went out expecting trouble but they never carried a gun. Fact is, I don't think any of them had a gun.

Carol: Any of the Ruskin men?

Pauline: Yes. But some of the natives were vindicating <sup>very vindictive</sup>.

Carol: Did they try to hinder you in any other way? I mean, as far as..

Pauline: Did they what?

Carol: Try to hinder ~~you~~ Ruskin in any other way, the community?

Pauline: Not that I know of politically. At that time, the political power was up in Riverview. . . Going to Tampa, there was no bridge to cross over by. We had to go to Riverview. It was years before we got a ~~the~~ ferry. We thought that was wonderful to have a ferry out there in Gibbstont. But at that time, the commissioners lived in Riverview. And each one ~~when~~ when they went in, they would get a road built around his house. And Ruskin just didn't get anything ~~xx~~ for a long time. But we finally got a road and Ringling Brothers moved down to Sarasota. Hillsborough County, they were going to make their last show <sup>in</sup> in Tampa, and there was no~~t~~ road, the road wasn't finished going to Sarasota. So Hillsborough County made a tremendous effort to shell the ruts. Do you know what shell is?

Carol: Yes.

Pauline: Well, they shelled the ruts about this wide. The night before the showing in Tampa ~~and~~, it started to rain. Just one of these drizzles. Well, I was up at Mother's and my bedroom was on the east side facing the road. We were about a block off the road. But I woke up in the morning, just about daylight, and the cars were going across there bumper to bumper and it was raining. Sarasota was going in there to buy into that last showing. They went all day, and Sarasota was <sup>went</sup> going in there and when the show was over they started home. That road was ruined in one day! The car would hit a mud puddle and wash that shell out.



- Carol: Now, as far~~x~~ as roads in Ruskin, the way I understand it~~is~~ is, that when a piece of land was sold, a percentage of that was put into an account or whatever to pave roads or whatever. Is that the way it is?
- Pauline: I think it ~~is~~ was ten percent. That was what they were fighting about~~over~~.
- Carol: Who was fighting?
- Pauline: The community. The Ruskin Homemakers when they sold a hundred dollars worth of land, they'd put ten dollars in this Common Good Society to build roads and bridges and what have you. And that towered up to quite a sum at one point. And that's what the community was fighting about.
- Carol: They wanted to not spend the money on roads?
- Pauline: I don't know. Everybody wanted this money and they wanted roads for their place. Oh well, it's just the usual political thing.
- C: Okay.
- P: At one time, you won't believe this, but at one time, Ruskin issued script. So if you contracted to grub one acre of land, I don't know just what it was, but they paid you in script, and I think so much of the other, but you couldn't spend this script except in Ruskin. You spent it at the co-operative store. Now, we couldn't buy anything in Tampa with those script. But anyway, in the common-good records up in the library, there's a notation, now this sounds pathetic, this man left Ruskin and this is when stamps were two cents, and he wrote back<sup>and</sup> said that he had a script for a dollar and a quarter and he needed it very badly. That's a dollar and a quarter and he needed it very badly. You kids can't understand that kind of hardship.
- C: No.
- P: You throw a dollar and a quarter <sup>AWAY</sup> without ever thinking about it.
- C: You're right. You're really right. So could you spend regular money at the common good store?
- P: What?
- C: Could you spend regular money at the common good store? Like...Or could you only use script there?
- P: Oh, no. no. They wanted money.
- C: They didn't want the script?
- P: Well, they had to take the script. But this man that run the store in debt would spend the money in Tampa gambling. Now, nobody knew that he was a gambler.
- C: Well, I don't understand why they ever started script in the first place. Why didn't they just pay people money for working the land then they could have spent the money at the common good, then the common good would have never, the store would have never?..?



- P: Oh, don't ask me! I was just a kid but anyway we had the script.
- C: But of course you never got paid in script for anything you did? Or Paul didn't?
- P: No, my brother got wise right fast. Jimmy likes to tell this~~/~~. I don't know if I got it right. He got ~~it~~ a mule. I don't know where he got a mule but a man was paid say a dollar and a half a day, and a mule and a worker was paid four dollars a day. So, Paul got himself a mule.
- C: That was smart.
- P: No, you don't know what hard times are.
- C: Well, even though the hard times were, times were hard, you had a good time when you were growing up, wouldn't you say?
- P;; Well ~~it~~ I'll tell you, I'm a little like Eisenhower. I read a biography about Eisenhower. In it, he said they lived on the wrong side of the tracks but he didn't know it. So we were hard at but we didn't know it. That is, we kids didn't know it. We went on having a good time. Now, our parents were aware of it but they come from a farm and they were used to it.
- C: Now, you said you wrote those memories or whatever about the women in Ruskin, do you think that they really had a big role in what happened in the community?
- P: Oh, yes.
- C: Like what did they do exactly? Do you think they just kept things happy or...?
- P: ~~Well~~ Well, they could be president of the Common Good Society, they could be president of anything.
- C: Were they?
- P: Yes, they were. As time went on, well I'll just tell you this one thing. This was back in the late forties. Ruskin had come out of the Depression and my husband had died and I was pretty much, I had my finger in pretty much everything that was going on, but back somewhere in the thirties or the forties, the businessmen had started a businessman's organization. <sup>the businessman's organization.</sup> Well, I didn't try to get in to that. There wasn't any particular reason. But they did some good things. They put up <sup>Christmas</sup> lights at Christmas time and a Christmas tree ~~up~~ out in the park. They got lights started for Ruskin. You know, things like that. <sup>I don't know what</sup> My brother had kept the Chamber of Commerce alive for years by paying dues but they had a good Chamber of Commerce back in the boom days here in Ruskin.
- C: Back in the twenties?



- P: Back in the twenties. Well, he had kept it alive and he said to the men, "Why don't you change this over to a Chamber of Commerce. A Chamber of Commerce has got <sup>more</sup> pull than a businessman's organization." So they changed it over to the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce instead of the Ruskin Businessman's ~~Club~~. It went on for a few years, then it stopped. I have forgotten why it stopped but then it stopped. <sup>pretty good</sup>
- C: This was the businessman's
- P: The Chamber of Commerce. Somebody came to me and said "Polly (?) why don't we start the Chamber of Commerce? You could start it up by getting petitions." I said, "Well, it's okay by me." So, we got a petition up and called a Chamber of Commerce meeting and we had a Chamber of Commerce building at that time that could hold, if you packed them in there, you could get a couple hundred in there, I'm not sure. But anyway they had to pack the meeting that night and my brother was there. The funny thing about Paul, he kept everything going but he never took a job as President of anything, that is ~~public~~ public like the Chamber of Commerce. So, they wanted to elect a ~~Parliamentary~~ permanent president of the Chamber of Commerce. So, they put up one name and then somebody put up the name of <sup>at the time</sup>. That was my name. It looked like everybody was going to elect me when Paul from the back of the room said, "Mr. President, we don't want to elect Sis as President, this is a man's organization." <sup>CHAIRMAN</sup>
- C: Well, that wasn't going along with sex equality that's for sure.
- P: I withdrew my name right fast but I think that was the only time there was discrimination made as far as sex was concerned. Well, they elected a man and he did a nice job and they could only hold office for two years. Then they elected another man and he wanted something and the Chamber of Commerce didn't go along with it and somebody said, "Well if they don't go along, I'll bust it up." So, they didn't meet in the summertime. ~~and~~ So, September came and he didn't call a meeting. November came and he didn't call a meeting. Some of them came to me and said, "Let's get this Chamber of Commerce going off the ground again." So, we called another meeting and this time they did put me in and I ~~stayed~~ stayed in for six years. But I had a little secret to my success as leader. Not anything personal to me but this is just a little hint you can take if you ever want to be a leader. ~~It~~ If you want to be a leader, feed them!
- C: Okay!
- P: Because we started the Chamber of Congress and we always ended up by coffee and doughnuts.
- C: And everybody came?
- P: And I have discovered that if you want to put anything across, feed them! I've had committee meetings down here now. We've ~~fed~~ <sup>built</sup> the library up there. You give them refreshments and you can get anything passed. I'm not kidding you. Unless of course it's something tremendously serious and there's a big division, but if just a touch and go thing, <sup>why</sup> you feed them and you'll get it across.



C: Did people use that in the beginnings in Ruskin in the Common-Good Society?

P: They never fed them.

C: They never did, uh?

P: No, that was one thing about Mother. Mother loved company... Well, I'll tell you one reason for it, in the other days you had a wood stove. And you wood stove to heat water for tea. Besides, it would heat up the house. And I mean warm up the house. A wood stove could build, So ordinarily we had a good dinner and ate left overs for supper, and didn't ~~start~~ start <sup>up</sup> the fire. Didn't have

C: You ~~said~~ said before

end tape



Tape 2 Side 1

Pauline: And Mother got her church.

Carol: When did she get her church built?

P: Well, there was a Methodist Church over in when we came here.  
 Ruskin became, what did they call it, what did they call it? Anyway it was  
 a branch of the Methodist Church in . I think they only  
 preached every other Sunday over here, something like that.

C: Then the other times you <sup>All</sup> went over to ?

P: No, we were very fortunate in the early days. We had some perfectly  
 magnificent preachers come to Ruskin. They would fill in. Some wonderful  
 preachers, and they would fill in in between. But Mother wanted, Mother  
 had been an United Bretheren ~~which was~~ but she settled for a Methodist over  
 here. But Aunt never did join it. She held on to her new-~~spun~~ thought  
 idea.

C: What do you mean by this new thought?

P: You haven't heard of that?

C: No, ma'am.

P: You've heard of Christian Science?

C: Yes, ma'am.

P: Well, Aunt oldest son had ~~had~~ a tremendous healing in Christian Science  
 so he was a Christian Scientist. But Aunt wasn't. There was a movement  
 going in thought, some of them called it Unity. They have some churches  
 around now, the Unity. It is just broader, not as... broad as Christian  
 Science, I mean, you can't accept the things that Christian Science claims, but  
 it was a broader view of religion than the Methodist have.

C: What did it entail that it was different from...like, you say Aunt had  
 this so she couldn't, didn't, join the church because she had this other. ~~sp~~  
 So, like, you know...

P: I can't tell you.

CC: Did she ever give you ~~mother~~ a reason? Did they ever sit around and talk about it?  
 Did either one of them try to convince the other to go her way?

P: That's a funny thing. I never knew ~~that~~ Mother and Aunt to quarrel in any  
~~xxxx~~ sense of the word. Yet, Mother could go to Aunt meetings, and  
 enjoy the new-thought meetings, Aunt would have them up in her house  
 and she would have speakers come out, and Mother would go up there. But Aunt  
 didn't go over to the Methodist Church. I don't know ~~just~~ what Aunt  
 objections were really. just

C: Did your mother take you and Paul with her ~~when she~~ <sup>went to</sup> ~~was at~~ the Methodist Church  
 or to the new thought or did you all stay at home?



- Pauline: Oh my gosh! Sunday morning, you know how kids be outside  
 . Well, we had an upstairs and there were one, two, three, four, four bedrooms. Five really but there were only four bedrooms. Sunday morning, Mother would start banging the doors, "Get up! We've got to get ready for Sunday school. She never would let us sleep in.
- C: Where did you go to Sunday school?
- P: We met at the school house at that time.
- C: At the public school house or <sup>at</sup> the college?
- P: No, the public school.
- C: Who taught?
- P: The college wasn't going then.
- C: Okay. Who taught the Sunday school.?
- P: At that, before we had the Methodist Church, they had church at the public school house.
- C: Who was teaching the Sunday school classes?
- P: Oh, Mother taught the babies for years and years and years.
- C: Do you mean like five, six-year olds or even younger?
- P: Well, from the time the they came to church. After she did, a lot of them came to me and said, "Pauline, the only Bible I know is what your mother taught me in Sunday school."
- C: That's really great.
- P: Oh, she loved children, she loved ~~children~~ <sup>them</sup>. But ...
- C: Oh, I remember one thing I wanted to ask you. All the Millers seemed involved with the college...
- P: Who?
- C: <sup>All</sup> the Millers, seemed to be really involved with the college...
- P: Oh they were.
- C: they both, you know, both parents taught and some of the kids helped out and whatever. Did any of the Dickman's teach at the college?
- P: What?
- C: Did any of the Dickmans teach at the college.
- P: No.
- C: ~~No~~? How did they ... You and Paul went but how about the ~~other~~ / other three brothers?
- P: They didn't go. Now Aunt Elizabeth went to college but Aunt Pearl didn't go to college. But the Millers taught. They were, taught Mathematics and Grammatic. taught Music. Aunt would teach almost anything. I think that taught History, too. But we had Medieval, Ancient History, Medieval History, and Modern History.
- C: Did they get paid for teaching in the college?
- P: What?
- C: Did they get paid for teaching in the college?
- P: They were supposed to be paid. I don't know how much they were paid but they were supposed to be paid.



- Carol: Did you have any art instruction like painting or drawing?
- Pauline: You mean like crafts? We never did have an art teacher.
- C: Did somebody fill in and teach drawing at all?
- P: Somebody taught crafts. One of the crafts they had was tooling with leather. Have you ever worked with leather?
- C: No, I haven't but I have a cousin who does.
- P: They did some beautiful stuff.
- C: Did they sell the things that they made, the students? Like could they take them up to Tampa and sell the leather work that they did? Did they sell it in the community?
- P: I don't know what they did ~~✓~~ with them. I didn't take that.
- C: You don't ever remember seeing it at the store or anything?
- P: ~~✓/✓~~ At that time, we didn't have any bazaars like we have now.
- C: I wonder what they did with it? Okay. Oh, I did want to ask you, you had a newspaper. It was called The Ruskin News. Right?
- P: Back then?
- C: Yes.
- P: It was called The Triangle.
- C: That was the school newspaper, right?
- PP: What?
- C: The Triangle was the school's newspaper. Did you write for it? Did anybody you knew write for it?
- P: I never wrote for it. I was just a kid.
- C: I mean, like when you were in the college?
- P: I had all I could do to learn my assigned lessons much more writing for them. No. I didn't write for them but I don't know who did write for it. But they had that paper and I don't think we had a local paper.
- C: Okay. Another thing I wanted to ask about, you mentioned before that you had a schedule, like a weekly schedule. Monday you would do wash, and Tuesday you would do the ironing and so on and so forth. Did you do that after you got home from school or whatever?
- P: Oh well, that was just homework that was <sup>constant</sup> constantly week after week. Monday was wash morning unless it would rain and Tuesday was ironing. Hopefully we got those things done almost to date. Then Friday was cleaning and Saturday was baking.
- C: What about Wednesday and Thursday. You didn't have anything scheduled for those days?
- P: Not particular.
- C: And Sunday, you went to church?
- P: Yes.
- C: Did you enjoy helping around the house or would you have rather said forget it and gone out and played or whatever outside?



Pauline: Well ~~if~~ I'd never do anything about it <sup>because</sup> ~~because~~ what I did I had always done and I was expected to do it. So I just did it. ~~if~~ I know I had to do a lot more work than my brother did. Because Paul was always in love with somebody and he would always sneak off to see ~~his~~ girlfriend.

Carol: Weren't you ever in love with somebody? Did they ever sneak off to see you?

P: Heck yes.

C: All right!

P: But I didn't get to sneak off like he did. I'd see Dad come in, "Where is that boy?"  
 . Paul never milked a cow. I ~~enjoyed~~  
~~milked~~ them but Paul didn't.  
 milking

C: How did your parents discipline you? Were you sent to your room or did you get spanked or what?

P: We didn't get spanked after we got older. We got spanked when we were little. But I did a lot of things that Dad didn't approve of and the stairways going upstairs ~~is~~ runs into a very little hall. On the left, was my room and on the right was Dad's room. The bathroom was over here. When I used to run away and ~~to~~ go see, have a date with a boy that I knew that Dad didn't approve of, I'd go to bed early and when I'd listen to Dad come up the stairs, I'd see which way he was going to turn. You see if he heard about my date, Dad kept pretty close watch over me.

C: But you snuck out anyway?

P: I snuck out anyway. Yes.

C: Did you have a certain time that you had to be home in the evening?

P: What?

C: Did you have a certain time that you had to be home in the evening?

P: No, there wasn't anything mandatory like that. I mean, what I had to do when I'd get home but no, there wasn't any particular rules about that.

C: So if you had gone off to see some friend of yours, you knew, or you would just take it upon yourself to be back at a certain time or you came back at dark?

P: I don't know why but that didn't seem to enter into it. We went through a period when we were in our teens, I mean I did, most girls played cards. I just couldn't get enough of it but ~~Daddy~~ that was just a phase. You got over it.

C: What kind of games did you play? I mean card games.

P: Well, one game was five hundred and mostly with just two people. There weren't any bridge parties like we have now. I get kind of ~~amused~~ amused at how adults can ~~and~~ and play ~~bridge~~ bridge.

C: Just because you got over the stage a long time ago and these people haven't yet?

P: What?

C: I said just <sup>because</sup> because you got over the stage a long time ago doesn't mean that everybody else did.

PE I play bridge and I run a bridge club. I made up a club house. When I say



I ~~do~~ run it, I ~~try~~ try to keep peace in the family. I see about the refreshments and if I'm needed I play. But I look at those old and I think now this is silly. But after all, that's the only recreation some of them have, once a week playing bridge.

C: What kind of books did you read? I mean, not your schoolbooks but just for you own enjoyment as far as reading goes.

P: What kind of books?

C: Yes.

P: Well, there were certain books we had to read.

C: For school?

P: But I'll tell you what we did read. At that time, you're not even aware of, we had ~~an American magazine The Collier~~ The American Magazine, The Collier Magazine, Ladies Home Journal, McCall Magazine. But some of those magazines carried the best authors. That is, when I said the best authors I mean the popular authors. Like Zane Grey and somebody by the name of anyway they were popular ~~authors and~~ writers and we couldn't ~~wait~~ wait for the next issue to come. They had continued stories. And we just couldn't wait for the next issue. So many of the popular books have read as serials. Now Zane Grey was one of them. Dad loved Zane Grey. He was a very prolific writer but The Trail of the Lonesome, The Rosary, now I read ~~the rosary~~ The Rosary in a book.

C: What was the library like? I mean, did you have a library? For the school, I mean.

P: Yes.

C: Did you have any, like could anybody borrow books, ~~did~~ did you have to be a student?

P: Well, those books in the library were heavier books and I had a problem, an eye problem, and I couldn't read steady or I'd make myself sick. I'd get a headache. So, I got in the habit of reading magazines. I'm like this; I read the Reader's Digest. Well those articles are short enough that I can read one without getting a headache. So, I enjoy that. But I've read Gone with the Wind and another one by, who wrote Cross Creek?

C: Oh, somebody was just telling me the other day.

P: Well, anyway, I stayed up until two o'clock and read <sup>one</sup> of them. I had a raging ~~of~~ headache. You don't do that often when you ~~wake~~ wake up with a raging headache. My headaches have lasted a couple weeks so you just don't do it.

C: Would anybody...Did you study any kind of art? I mean, like did you study the famous painters? Did anybody have any ~~of~~ paintings or sculpture around?

P: Did anybody study art?

C: Yes. Like the history of it ~~did anybody study~~, like the painters, like study Michealangelo, or Van Cogh.

P: No, we didn't have an art class in college.

C: Did the Millers have any collections of art or anything?



Eauline: Well, their oldest daughter was an artist but she was married and she never lived down here. If she had, there would have probably been an art class. But she painted all her life. That picture behind you is hers.

Carol: Oh, okay.

P: I said that I was an artist in rags. I can't draw anything but I made all these rugs.

C: Oh, they're beautiful.

P: I drew them myself but this is the Early American hook rug.

C: It's beautiful.

P: Made out of . . . . But I couldn't draw anything.

C: Well, you had to draw the flowers.

P: Oh, that's different.

C: The only other question that I can think of right now is just before we were talking about all the different women, Aunt . . . . and Aunt . . . . and everybody, did any of them ever, were any of them ever President? You said they could be President of something.

P: Did anyone ever what?

C: Did any one of them, Were any one of them the President of something?

P: Here in Ruskin?

C: Yes. Back in the old days.

P: Millers?

C: Like Aunt . . . . or Aunt . . . . ?

P: Well, Aunt . . . . was President of practically everything that came along but hers was mostly in the educational realm.

C: Like she was President of the Faculty?

P: Oh, yes. I'll tell you how we were entertained mostly in the <sup>early</sup> early days. . . . could play beautifully and Mother always asked her to play. Mother was the type and Mother could sing beautifully. . . . gave readings?

C: What kind of readings? Did she read stuff she had written?

P: No, she memorized it. She actually gave readings like you had in a show.

C: Like what kind of things did she...like things from Shakespeare?

P: What?

C: What kind of things did she memorize and read? Like things from Shakespeare <sup>of . . .</sup>

P: Oh she didn't give Shakespeare <sup>as a rule</sup> ~~you know~~. <sup>Oh,</sup> But she had one reading she gave of a Scotsman. He was getting up in years and he hadn't married so he decided it was time to get married. So he makes out a long list of the women that are available. One has . . . . Another says, "They say her hair is not her own." And he goes down the list and finds something wrong with all of them. Then she gave quite a lot of Negro dialect. Who <sup>was</sup> the Negro that wrote so many stories? Anyway she would give these Negro dialect readings. Then she would give one "I ain't goin' to cry no more!" And a little boy that something happened and he was crying. (Sniff) I ain't goin' to cry no more. He'd go on



and on and end up (crying) "But I ain't goin' to cry no more." Aunt  
 was the kind that was funny. got through it  
 and she said, "Boy, that boy's sick!"

C: That's great!

P: "That boy's sick!" But Mother and Aunt and  
 and made a quartet, a women's quartet. And I  
 thought it was beautiful.

C: It must have been.

P: What?

C: I said it must have been ~~really~~ really beautiful to hear them.

P: Well anything was beautiful to me but it was nice. Their voices blended  
 nicely.

C: Did they perform? Like how? Stage a show ~~and perform~~ or something and perform?  
 Or just when people got together?

P: Well we had a Literary Society.

C: And did they meet once a week?

P: And everybody had to take part. The ladies entered into ~~the~~ that  
 this is when we first came. gave readings and  
 would play and sing. would sing and Mother would sing.  
 They would have debates and I've forgotten what some of the debates were  
 but I'm sure they were very instructive. Which is most destructive, fire  
 or water? That sort of thing, you know.

C: That's great. Did the native people ever participate or were they just  
 always watching?

P: A few of them participated.

C: What did they do?

P: They would get so scared. Oh, they would get so scared.

C: Would they get up and sing when played the piano?

P: No, nobody played the piano. I don't know what  
 playing the piano ~~and some lady~~ on some lady, young man would have <sup>liked</sup> ~~licked~~ was  
 to escorted her around said, "Why I'd give ten dollars if I could play like  
 that." You could get many times ten dollars.

C: That's for sure. Did you date any of the native men?

P: Who me?

C: Yes.

P: I was too young.

C: How about and ?

P: , was like Mother. They could be  
 friendly with anybody, ~~any~~ everybody. But and Aunt  
 were alike. "I'm not going to waste ~~my~~ my time on them." You know, that attitude  
 Poor was left out  
 She hated it here, oh how she hated it!

C: How come she stayed just because the rest of the family was here?



Pauline: Yes. Girls just didn't get up and leave like they do now. But a young fellow came from Kentucky. He was an awfully nice chap so she married him. Then he got sick up in, he had a government job and he was out on a trip and he got the ~~flu~~. It was one of the years that they got the flu so bad and he died. I thought <sup>was going to throw fits.</sup> They had to bring him home and she had no money. But she got a job then after she got things straightened up. She got a job as secretary of the YWCA in ~~of~~ Charleston, South Carolina. And did she hate it! Oh did she... She <sup>was thrown</sup> with a bunch of women again.

Carol: So can you remember just sitting around and whatever and hearing your mother and some of the other women talking about different things, I don't know, what...?

P: No, I don't remember <sup>sitting</sup> sitting around and listening to them. And I said this the other day. I had a group of eleven women for ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> sister-in-law's birthday. And I laughed and said, "These women tell ~~their~~ <sup>risque</sup> case stories now, you know, and I never heard the women, that was Mother and Aunt and Aunt Pearl and Aunt <sup>and</sup> tell a risque story. The nearest risque story that I ever heard Aunt <sup>tell</sup> tell was this lady went to a meeting and she had a cold. She wanted to use ~~her~~ her handkerchief ~~so~~ so she started feeling down in here and she said, "Well, I had two when I left home." That was the worst risque story that I ever heard Aunt <sup>tell</sup> tell.

C: That's really good. So did the four of them get together and do things together, like ~~Aunt~~ Aunt <sup>,</sup> Aunt <sup>,</sup> Aunt Pearl <sup>,</sup> and your mother?

P: Well as I said, when they got together usually it was with music. Those that didn't usually carried crocheting or something like that, ~~something~~ something they could do and use their hands with. Mother never did because ~~she just didn't know how to~~ Mother didn't do that ~~kind~~ kind of thing. She just didn't know how.

C: She cooked?

P: She could make bread. And she could make the best lemon pie you ever tasted.

C: But as far as the day to day cooking, you did most of that when you were growing up?

P: What?

C: As far as the day to day cooking, you did most of that when you were growing up?

P: Me?

C: Yes.

P: Oh, I don't know if I did most of it. I did all the sewing after I got to sewing but Mother always made the bread. I went to Sunday school but I didn't stay to Church.

C: How about Paul? Did he go to Sunday school with you?



Pauline: No, I think I just didn't get to go, period.

Carol: Did you ever go up to your mother and say now why can't I go, they get to  
f go or something?

P: No, I...

C: You just accepted when she said you couldn't go, you just...

~~P~~  
P: No, I had to accept it.

C: Well, I thank you for talking with me Pauline.

END OF TAPE



- Pauline: He went to Sunday school until he got old enough to say that he wasn't ~~go~~ going any more. But Mother would stay to church and I would go home to get dinner. Then Mother would ~~be trailing home~~ bring trailing home two, four, six people to be eating dinner. She would say, "I don't know what Sister has got." But that was Mother.
- Carol: You always had to make sure you had enough.
- Pauline: Yes. We didn't have refrigeration at the time; we had no electricity. So it was a little difficult.
- Carol: How about the trip down from Missouri? What was that like?
- Pauline: What like?
- Carol: The trip ~~down~~ <sup>down</sup> from Missouri to Ruskin? What was that like? When you came down.
- P: Oh, it was on a train.
- C: It was on a train.
- P: We were on a train and we had a big basket like this of food. There was Mother and Paul and I, Aunt and her two kids. I think it took three or four days to get here.
- C: Sounds about right.
- P: Dad came with the furniture and the livestock in a freight train. I don't know where Uncle was but Aunt Elizabeth and her two kids and Mother and Paul and I came.
- C: What did you think when you first saw Florida?
- P: Well, I said this before--I think I was a very ~~stupid~~ stupid child. Whatever my parents did I accepted with <sup>no</sup> questions. It didn't ~~down~~ upon me to say I liked it or disliked it. I wouldn't stay or I would stay. But as far as I know I liked it. I mean, I had playmates. It was the first time I had ever had playmates.
- C: Who were your playmates, besides Paul, who else?
- P: Well, one was a little older and one was a little younger. They were boys though but...
- C: But you all played together?
- P: We played together and I could climb with the rest of them. I didn't get to go fishing with them though. And I didn't get to go hunting. Mother said, "No, you've got to stay home and cook dinner." That was usually on Thanksgiving. "No, you've got to stay home and help me get dinner."
- C: Did the boys ever <sup>NOT</sup> want you to not come with them. Like when they went fishing did they say, "OH, Pauline, you have to stay home."