W. D. MILLER, OCTOBER 20, 1974, INTERVIEW WITH A. McA. MILLER

AMM: The photo says, taken January of '96 at 25. B. H. Metcalf.

WDM: That was Georgadda's husband. He was a doctor and he joined the Army in the medical corps during the 1st WW.

AMM: Where did they meet, do you remember?

WDM: They met out in Phoenix, AZ. See, Ben had gotten gassed during the 1st WW, and when he came back, he couldn't stand the climate up in boston where he had been originally, and he went out to AZ and was pretty fairly good on his difficulty. Georgadda was out there working with O. D. at that time, and she was living at a boardng house, and he was kind of at a hotel place and he was there too. How they acquainted.

AMM: That one's really hard to see. That's January of '96, I think it's another view of Ben.

WDM: This is Aurora. This was father when he, I don't know. What's the date on that?

AMM: I can't make it out. I think this says. I don't know if that's your father or not. I doesn't look lke it. It says somethin9 McQuargh, and then somethin9-or-other Skiels or somethin9.

WDM: Spiel?

AMM: Somethin9 McQuargh.

WDM: That was a picture from Chicago father made up. It was from Chicago, I feel certain.

AMM: It could be. This says Trenton, here on the

WDM: That's Trenton, cause he put on a mustache about that time. This is Aunt Rose and Aurora. I don't know just where that picture was taken.

AMM: Hard to get at some of those. That looks like that was taken, it looks like a fairly recent picture faded out. It's taken in front of, I think it's taken in front of the house up in Ruskin, it looks like.

WDM: Was it our house? I guess it could have been.

AMM: It could have been that, or it could have been Paul's house.

WDM: No, this is our house because it has the two things right there that were in front of it. These children are in front.

AMM: That looks like a Dickman gathering.

WDM: I'm not certain, is that Georgadda and her husband?

AMM: Hard to tell. that looks like Paul here.

WDM: Probably is. This is Alvin McQuargh in the center.

AMM: In the dark (Yes) And then this is one of the elder Dickmans.

WDM: That must be Uncle Bert, judging from the size of him, and Aunt Rose along side of him. and this would be Don and his wife.

AMM: don, you saya?

WDM: Uncle Don, N.E. Dickman.

AMM: N. E. Dickman on the far right of the Photo.

WDM: Yes, and Pearl, Pearl Dickman (next to him). Aunt Rose, third in from the right.

AMM: that must be fairly far back, cause Paul looks like he's in his 20's or so, maybe early 30's.

WDM: He wouldn't have been in his thirties. This was taken quite a long ways back there. That's Pauline along side of Paul. And I think that they would have been about 17 or 18 at that time, but I think it's more or less a family Photo than anything else.

AMM: A lot of PeoPle in there.

WDM: Yeah, too many. This is Georgadda.

Oak Creek Canyon.

AMM: that's somebody's triP Probably.

WDM: YeP, that's Oak Creek Canyon, where father and I went uP, when we went to visit. That's a family Photo of some sort.

AMM: Six. Somebody's camPing triP.

WDM: That may be Ben's car.

AMM: A trip that Georgadda and Ben took?

WDM: Probably is, because that looks like a buick, Ben always had Buicks. They're too small for me to recognize. That's Ben when he was a colonel in the Army. That's with O. D. I think that was probably his graduation picture. This was Lester McQuargh, that was Georgadda's first husband. What was that say on the side of the envelope? but he taught culture.

AMM: He's standing there in the Palmettoes.

WDM: That's when the Palms, that probably was at the front of our house at that time.

AMM: Did he actually instruct agriculture in the school, did they have classes?

WDM: Yes, he did that, was Georgadda's first husband, he had graduated from Georgetown up in TN.

AMM: Georgetown University up in TN? (YES) so he might have had something to do with the TN

WDM: No, I don't think so. I think he just took his degree up there. I think we've identified pretty nearly everything, haven't we?

AMM: right, pretty much. I had one here I wanted to ask you about. Oh, did, was he in sort of an honorary way on the school, or were there classes in argiculture that they

WDM: I'm not thoroughly versed in it. I think he had charge of the college farm, which was thre on 4th st. at that time, right opposite the campus. That's mother. That's a lot better picture. that one that she's got up there was the next one she had made, but that's a sad looking picture.

AMM: It's a pretty severe picture.

WDM: Yes, it was. That must have gone back to somewhere around 1904, or 5. Now this was the girl's dormitory, and we lived upstairs here. The girls had the front room, and O.D. and I had the back room. Mother and Father had the

room downstairs in here, and then there were some of the other 9irls that lived in there too. And then for a while the frist Ruskin Post office was in the left-hand side over here. Mother was the first Postmaster, and it later was made, after the other buildin9s burned down, why this one was made into the dinin9 hall, and this was the kitchen and the eatin9 room.

AMM: Eatin9 room was in the front, and the kitchen was in the left rear as you face it, where the Post office had been, back in there.

WDM: This was a little ditch which is Colle9e Inlet now, comin9 down and 674 would have been uP here. The other temPorary buildin9s was built on the same way, and the boy's dormitory was uPstairs. And then the meetin9 room, was downstairs like this.

AMM: In the boys' dormitory.

WDM: Yes, and it was over this way. See, there were two, there was this buildin9 and the other one exactly like it. And this was the, knid of assembly room in here, and these were some of classrooms in the other two sides.

AMM: In the boy's buildin9, the classrooms were? so, these buildin9s were built before the, what's now the clubhouse was built.

WDM: Oh, yes. (282) We moved into them and lived to them while we wre buildin9 our house. I remember standin9 out and watchin9 Halley's Comet. The boy's buildin9 is the one that took fire, a man knocked ou his PiPe. Durin9 a comonood meetin9. Mother came out vith a bucket of water. she stumbled on the bottom steP and rolled over the bucket and almost killed herslef. Why the slats uP and down on the buildin9s? We had our own saw mill, so used slats, evened them uP, battened them inside. re9ular frame construction inside. Girls7 dorm burnd after everythin9 was done and away. No susPicion of arson. Photo # 9. 1910. I have a vivid recollection Uncle Lon, one of mother's brothers died when he was down here. Wife lived out in Kansas, so waited to bury him until she came down--no money for embalmin9, so Pu him in an oilcloth slin9 on ice. WD came down from uPstairs one ni9ht, heard the

drip, drip, drip, drip. I was abvout 15,16. One of the first in the cemetary. Lon Dickman, there were nine Dickman boys and 2 D. girls, mother and Aunt Ella, mother the oldest. walkway in front is now the little creek running under 674. Not Campus Shores This building sat just about where Lucile Tab's house is now. Chatauqua grounds. Only temporary buildings on college campus. how did you keep mosquitos out? Only mosquito neting over windows and bed. Sign above door might actually say Post office. that used to sit over behind our house. How come Photos were Printed up on Post cards/ quite often, and used for Promotion. Father going to TN to help troubled community? An interest inGA, not the colony, but he was a lawyer and they wanted him. Ray Edwards and PoP were up in TN. Ray's father was one of the kickers up there, that made the most difficulty. Came down to Ruskin, Fl, lived with Ray and Aurora. He was just a Plain damn sponger. I never liked him. He was a short old welchman. (the foregoing summary, because the computer went out & I lost that bit--tr.) (440)

AMM: Was he the man that was a Printer, wasn't somebody in that family a printer? or a newsPaPer man?

WDM: No, he wasn't a Printer or a newsPaPer man. Ray Edwards worked with fella that got outall the books, the Roy Crofters, and that's where he learned a lot of his crafts, like working with wood, working with leather, and he handled a lot of the craft work that went on there in the college.

AMM: What were the roycrofters?

WDM: the roycrofters were, there was a man that did a lot of writing at that time, I'll think of his name in a minute, but he was a newsPaPermana in Columbus, and he got out quotations and books, He had a Place up in Aurora, New York, where he had a school of this type of thing, peoPle that thought the way he did about a lot of things were up there with him. Ray Edwards was up there for a while. You'll recognizethe name if I can think of it.

AMM: Was it a newsPaPer, or was it a series of books?

WDM: It wasn't, he got out a lot of his books. And I can't think of it. I have his scrapbook of his house and I can get that name. He had a scrapbookthat he got together and sold. And I had a copy of it, and I still have it up at the house.

AMM: the newspaper tht they did up in TN for a while was called the Coming Nation, but I don't think it ever got down to Ruskin, FL. Yall had your ownw newspaper down here, didn't you.

WDM: We had our own newspaper down here, but that was more for the promotion and sale of lots and things of that kind, and just went ahead and some of the different doings of the college in it, things of that kind. but Admer had to get all of the advertising and keep the newsprint coming and pay the bills and everything of that kind.

AMM: Most of the people who wrote for that were there in the community.

WDM: they didn't do outside columns. Father was the editor and he did most of te promotional material, he and Admer, simply to keep the people acquainted, that had bought in there, as to who else had bought, and any new institutions that came in, things about the college.

AMM: That would be the Ruskin Bugle, is that right?

WDM: No, the, it wasn't the Banner.

AMM: Whose family wuld be most likely to have those, do you think?

WDM: Well, I imagine Paul's family would have had them, Beacon, it was. O.D. worked in the composing end of the thing. We had no printer there that set the type, it was all hand-set. We had a press, and it was in a building down next to the inlet behind our house, way on down, where the laundry was and the wood working shop.

AMM: Well, if you used to play Stetson in basketball, I'll have to check over there at the Stetson library, because they might have had some of the newspapers of an early day.

WDM: as far as I know, there was only one trip that we made, because we

didn't have money to make these trips. Admer was the coach of the basketball team, and he simply put them in this model T truck that we had and lugged them around. And the Carr boys also played a very good game of tennis, and they beat Stetson playing tennis. I think we got beat playing basketball. I remember myself, playing against Rollins. (526)

AMM: Was the Carr family already in Ruskin, when the Millers and the Dickmans came in?

WDM: Oh, no, they came in much later. See, that Carr was the editor of the Christian Socialist out of Chicago and he was just a sponge, if ever there was a sponge, big and full of wind. And he had a big family and he thought he was somebody in the cooperative and in the Socialist movement, and he used to like to come on down and spend the winter with us, and eat on us, and eat more than anybody you ever saw in your life.

AMM: Did any of the people in the family stay around Ruskin afterward?

WDM: No, the boys and the girls went to school during the school time, and when the college broke up, they didn't stay. Alfred and Willard went out to Phoenix, AZ. Willard is working out there for O.D. now, so you could get some information out of him. He would be in his 70's. I'm not certain. Alfred Carr may be out there too. He was a lawyer and he worked for the U.S. gov't in some capacity out there, and so did Willard. He had something to do with the small business end of the thing, and then somehow he lost out when that small business end of it went down. He got a license to sell real estate. He came over and went in with O.D. as one of his salesmen. And I asked him how Willard was doing. Well, he'd been with him a year and a half, and he hadn't made a sale yet. I said, well, how in the hell does he live? I don't know, he said.

AMM: the Carr family, they just came down in the winter and they left during the summer, is that it?

WDM: They generally did. He kept a place up in Chicago. I remember very definitely though, this is one of the things I had against Old man Carr, was just when father died, why, he didn't come down. He sent a wire down saying please advise how much was left in the George McA. Miller will for the Christian Socialist. Well, father hadn't left anything for the Christian Socialist, he didn't have anything in the world to leave, except debts. but

that is a key to Carr. and we had, Kate Richards O'Hare was one of the early lecturers down here, she was an emminent socialist lecturer on economics, and she tau9ht some of the sociolo9y classes. I recall her, one of the first times I'd ever heard anybody make a lecture on sex9lo9y. And she made one for the 9irls. I didn't 9et in on that. I 9ot in on the one for the boys, and she was Pointif9 out that she was not as haPPy as she should be with her marria9e, because her husband was inclined to, I 9uess, 9o off Pretty 9uick, and then he never bothered, whether she had a chance to do it or not. He would jumP uP and run.

AMM: Wham, bam, thank you, Ma'am, is that It?

WDM: That was one of the differences about sexolo9y, that lots of times a man, if he haPPens to be hi9hly sexed, ma9@t 9o on ahead and 9et his knockers off and walk away and leave thin9s. That made a vast imPression on me.

AMM: Was she, when PeoPle would come in like that to the colle9e and do lectures, did they usually 9et Paid for it, or was it all volunteer?

WDM: I realy don't know how much they 9ot Paid. I know they ate their heads off and we had to sleeP where we could sleeP, because they 9ot our beds and everythin9 else like that. Tht was one of the tin9s that kind of turned me a9ainst the socialast eovement& they'd c9me down y9u kfow and jsut exPect to have room and board, and then start criticizin9, why don't you have this, why don't y9u have this, we come from a bi9 down, you're just a little bastard here and we know more than you do. And I resented the hell out of that.

AMM: Was there anyone else that came in and sort of served as critics of the community?

WDM: There were a number of the othr PeoPle who came down. We didn't ever have Eu9ene B. Debs or Thomas or any of that crowd, but we did have some of the socialists come in.

AMM: when members of the family tau9ht at the colle9e, did they9et Paid cash money or just in kind?

WDM: Well, there wasn't anay cash money to pay. so if they got anything at all, they got it in kind, or maybe they got it in credit down at the store so that they could eat. But I never saw any money pass, because the out of town students in large measure came because they, not only because they were interested in the movement, but more or less because they could have a place where they could get the room and board and tuition by working. (614) So there wasn't much of an income that way, and the only way the college kept going was that for every acre that wa sold, part of it went into the Commongood Society for the roads and a part of it went into the college, but I7m not certain how much of it went into the college. but there wasn't too muchof that in cash money anayway, by the time you got all expenses of transferring and everything of that kind. You could buy a lot at one time for as little as 50 to 75 dollars, where they're more than three thousand now.

AMM: when somebody did something and got credit at the store, did they get a piece of scrip that said something on it, or did they just keep it

WDM: No, they would have to have scrip in order to give it to them. I don't know how the credit end of it worked, I was rather young and I didn't have very much of a say-so there when the thing was going down-hill. Admer handled it for a while, and had to go up to Tampa and buy stuff and bring it down, and then people would come in and want it on the table. And then they didn't pay for it, and wanted the money to go get some more wholesale. They didn't think about that, because you've got two shirts and I've only got one, give me a half of that one of yours. That's the thing that the students don't seemto understand, that the one who had the most ideology were in the ascendency, they were the ones with their hands out all the damn time, and they expected anybody that had two shirts to give them one, or if each one of them had a shirt, they didn't want to gove any of theirs, but they wanted the tail off of yours. so, it wasn't all ideology.

AMM: A little survival techinque in there, too.

WDM: A hell of a lot of survival technique.

AMM: Have you seen, you know, in the last several years, does anybody have any of these pieces of scrip?

WDM: I don't know of anyone that had any of the scrip, but at one time that was practically the only money they had in town.

AMM: Was that in dollars or was it in hours?

WDM: No, it was in dollars. but they got so much, I think it was 10 cents an hour for working out on the roads or maybe nine or ten dollars for grubbing a 60X150. You used to get $10, O.D. and I would go out and grub a lot for $10, and that would take us all week, and we got the $10 for all week, at $5 a piece for having done it. And that was a hell of a lot of money. Another thing I remember very distinctly one of the first times I had very much to do with financing, was that I used to work with some of the people that did building. They would just work as a carpenter's helper and hand up the lumber and tools, they'd go get the tools and that sort of thing, and I don't know what I got, maybe 15, 20 cents and hour, but I'd accumulated something like 25 or 30 dollars and I had my mind set on buying a suit from Sears, Roebuck, which you could get for 15, 16 dollars in those days and practically all we had were clothes that had been made out of father's old ones or a pair of overalls, and O.D. came to me one day, and he said, how much have you got saved up? And I said, well, I think I got about 15 or 18 dollars. He said, gimmee. I said, what for? He said, well, we owe forty dollars down at the store, and they're going to cut off all of our credit. so he had to take my 15 or 18 dolars and whatever money he had and go down and put it down, I mean this is how tight we were.

AMM: Well, was your father away on the road a lot, trying to get students in, or?

WDM: NO, he didn't do any going out and soliciting of students. That way, he did make trips up, he had a lecture course that he did in Columbia University,

and he would go up to Columbia University once a year and have a series of lectures up there on economics and the socialist movement and things of that kind, but he didn't really have the clothes and all that to do all these things with, because he couldn't buy anything new, there wasn't anay money. I presume that Columbia must have given him money for the lectue course and paid his expenses, and things of this kind. I don't know just where he did get his honorary degrees, but he had a Dr. of Law and he had a Dr. of Phd., and Mother had an L.L.d. but those were honorary, because he didn't ever in his college work, work out to get his Phd at that level. (683)

AMM: About how old were you when he was going up to Columbia?

WDM: I was Probably 16 or 17.

AMM: HOw did the Miller family manage to keep itself in the center of things when the financial situation was so tight? Was it because it was so tight for everybody, or were there people who ere making money off of farming, say, whereas the education?

WDM: There wasn't anybody making money off of farming, that was simply a way of existing. We had no railroad, no hard road, and no Packing house, and you might have half a dozen baskets of squash or something of that kind to take up to Tampa to sell, but they'd have to go up on the boat, and somebdy would have to go and sell them. by the time ou got done, there wasn't any money in it to amount to anything. But you could eat. It was like havng a wind garden, something out in the, it was just a way of eating. And some of the people that came down, they may have had a little bit at the back of them, brought money or something of this kind, but the clubhouse was financed by, we must have one good year, because it was, the house that we're in now, and the clubhouse and Uncle L.L.'s house was all built within two years of each other, and they were financed I think by a bank in Sarasota. I told you about what they said about father over there, didn't I? One of the vice-Presidents was saying he hated to see old man George McA. come into the bank. Father, always when he was a

little bit perturbed, he'd stand there scratching his head. He said, every time he turns over a loss, it costs the bank 10000 dollars. Father had to do all of the banking, you know, and he could have mortgaged on this piece, kept the money and paid if off on this piece over here, which he had to get (716)

END OF SIDE ONE

WDM: I went down there and I worked on the survey crew with the Tampa Southern railroad, which is now the ACL, through Ruskin. I worked there for a year and a half, starting in as a hacksman and working my way up to rodman, which was as high as you culd go without an engineering degree, which I didn't have, and my top salary on that was $80 a month. And I had more cash money than anybody in the town. And then, Clarence Leisey had gone up to Philadelphia, he ws from Pennsylvania, and he went up there and he was a pretty fair carpenter, and he had gotten a job as a ship's carpenter up there, and he was making anywhere from a 100 to 125 dollars a month, a week up there. and he said, well, why don't you come up? You've done some of this kind of work. And so I went to mother and I said, well, you don't want me to go on ahead and join the army and it's no fun living without dong what the rest of my generation are doing, that was pretty rough. Girls wouldn't dance with you, they wouldn't go out with you, you wouldn't do anything. They were all for the man with the uniform on, you know that was the way that was in that war. so, I said, well, if I can't go do that, I'm going up and work in a shipyard, at least I'll do that much. So I went up, and this was, let me see, when did the war, it ended about '20 didn't it? So I went up there and took on the carpenter's helper and then I started making about 60 dollars a week,and out of that I would take 15 dollars. And I'd go get a money order and send the rest of it down to mother, because that was the only thing that kept things running down there for about two years. (60)

WDM: O.D. was in the Army, and he could only send back san allotment out of $30 a month, you know, that's the what the boys got. I worked in the shipyard then until Armistice Day, I was up there during Armistice Day, then I kept on working in the shipyard, they had ships to finish up, so I worked there a little longer until father died, early in 1919, and I went home and there was nobody that could stay there and try to close out things on father's estate but me, and of course, Admer had a family of four children at that time, and he couldn't, but he came down and helped me get things straightened out, and I stayed down there for about 3 or 4 months, and the rest of the family were all up in Washington, mother was up there and Aurora and Admer. And by that time, and O.D. was up there too, I don't know wht he was working for at that time. but anyhow, I got things wound up to where I could get away from down home there, why Admer came down and we went up north together. And that was the time that O.D. had just gotten out of the army. He stayed in it a year and a half after the Armistice. they didn't release all the men at that time. He came back, and then he, Woodrow Wilson's daughter was very interested in sociology, and that's when they had put in, what do you call it, before you could send packages through the mail? They had only been sending letters through the mail to start off with, this was Parcel Post and she had a notion that the poor farmers would go ahead and send these their produce in by Parcel Post to some central place and then they would, we could do away with the middle man, they would have a man there that would just take their stuff, sell it, and give them all of the money, and get away from the middleman. That was Margaret Wilson, and she had a friend tht was a friend of ur family's up there, and this fellow was kind of an idealist, I can't even think of his name now, but he was a Pastor, and O.D. had come out a top sargeant, and this fellow liked O.D. quite well, so he had him meet Margaret, and they started to set up a school in Washington, D.C. in the basement, where there was a branch Post office and O.D. would be the branch Post master, and then would accept

all of these Parcel Post thin9s that were sent in and then Pass it on to the PeoPle in Wash. and try the thin9 out. but the or9anizational end of the thin9 hadn't been very well worked out, so that the farmers would send in just what they wanted to send in, and tell you what they wanted for it. And the PeoPle would come in, and say, well, I'd like to have some of that over there that's sent in, but I'm not 9oin9 to come here unless you have Peaches and bananas and other thin9s, because there's no sense in my comin9 in and buyin9 one thin9 here and 9oin9 down to another store and buyin9 somethin9 else, which meant that we had to 9o ahead and stock the shelves fairly well to keeP the PeoPle comin9 in. And then we had to keeP Post office hours, because O.D. 9ot a Post office allowance on it, but there wasn't a damn bit of money in it, because if they sent in somethin9 that wasn't 9ood, maybe somebody sent in a bunch of oysters, for examPle, and they hadn't been kePt refri9erated ri9ht, and they'd 9et to us and they weren't so you could Put them out. but the PeoPle would exPect money for their oysters, and we hadn't even ordered them, so we couldn't 9o on ahead and Put them out, we had no advertisin9 on it, and we kePt at that for about a year, year and a half, and there wasn't any money in the damn thin9, so O.D. said, you 9o down and take, see what he could 9et in the dePartment of a9riculture, because Admer was workin9 for the dePartment of a9riculture at that time as a market sPecialist. And O.D. went down and took the examination, Passed it, and because he had his army behind him, he had one of the first calls 9ettin9 a Job in it, see. So, we just closed uP the store, and somebody came in, Post master, I don't know who it was, but that left han9in9, suckin9 the hind tit. there wasn't anythin9 for me to do, see. but I had a notion that I'd like to 9et into Chatau9ua work, I was a Pretty 9ood dramatist and reader and thin9s of this kind, and maybe I could do that tyPe of thin9. but it was 9oin9 down hill, because the whole economy was 9oin9 down after the war 9ot over, everythin9 went to Pieces. but the RedPath Chatau9ua, the Radcliffe, RedPath was the bi9 one, the Radcliffe was the small

one, they had a small group about 4 days running, the other one had 6, I believe. And they would send these men out to go into a little town and get the merchants to put up a bond of say, a hundred dollars a piece, and get about 2000 pledged for Chatauqua, so that if they came in and set up, and if they lost money they'd get the difference between what that was and and the payment of the Chatauqua end of the thing. I didn't know where I wanted to go, but I had met some people in the Carolinas, and I thought that would be a good place to go, they seem to have money down there. so, I'd take the Carolinas. they said, well, now, what do you want to do, paya your own expenses and then get so muchc for every one you sell, and I checked it out, and I thought that would be the easiest way. I got a percentage of whatever I had gotten pledged on that. And I had maybe 100, 125 dollars in mypocket to get started with, so I went out and spent a month at that, and I hadn't sold the first one when I got done. (233) Because the bottom had gone out on cotton. And whereas the farmers, all of them had a lot of expensive machinery and automobiles, which they had made when cotton had gone up durng the war. It was way at the bottom now, and their credit was cut off and everything else. YOu'd go in and you'd make this round, and all you'd get was, well, I'd like to have done it when we did have it before. but now there's no money around, and who's going to pay the thing, we can't do it. And they paid my way eating, and they paid my expenses on the train, it wasn't any fun. I'd gotten down to about, I think I had about 15 to 20 dollars left, and I was in Monroe, N.C., and Georgadda at that time had lost her first husband and had gone up to Charleston, S.C. and was working with the YWCA, and she was living up there, and I think it cost me $4 to get over there, and I got over, and I had $4 or $5 left when I hit Charleston, and then I tried to get a job and there weren't any jobs. Everything was just, nobody wanted you. I just went from one place to the other, all the way down, trying to get a job somewhere at some price. I didn't care what it was. I saw a man digging a ditch, I felt like taking

his shovel away from him, because here I was just going on down hill. And I was able to eat because Georgadda could pledge her security for my eating at the cafeteria, you know. And there was an old YW there, one of the old buildings, and they let me sleep over there. So, one day she said, here's an ad for an office manager in the Carolina chemical co. they're building a new plant for making calcium acid phosphate. And I said, well, I'll go out and see what I can do, so I went out, saw this fellow, and his name was Renneck, and he went over everything with me, and he said, well, Ithink maybe you'll do all right. I said, well, how much money will it be? Well, he said, there'll be $30 a week for managing the office, or $40 a week, I wasn't certain, it was about the top of it. And I said, now then, when do I go into action on it? And he said, well, this is, I think this is about January or something like that, and he says, well, we're going to open up about the 1st of June. You cana com on in then. I said,hell, I can't exist on what I'm making between now and the first of June. what are you doing in the shop out there? He said it's just under construction. I said, you got any carpenters out there? He said, yep, they're all union carpenters. I said, well, I'm not a union man and I can't do that, but the helpers out there aren't union men are they? No, but they're nearly all of them black. I said well to hell with the business being black, I'm down on my last four dollars, and I'll go on out and take it. He said, all right if you want to do that, so I went over and paid two dollars, I think it was, to get a pair of overalls, and ripped off my pants and went on out and started lugging lumber around for the men, and I did that for about 3 months and made enough to eat on, and then I took over the office and stayed in that for about 8,9 months before I went to Washington. That was when I got into the newspaper business, because I was looking around for something to, somewhere staying up there when I had a year in, and had a vacation, so I could go up there. And I found this job at $25 a week with a chance of getting up if I did well at being an assistant bookeeper for the circulation

department, so I took that, and I think it was making $30 a week when I got to be circulation manager when they stayed circulation managers. That's how I got to stay in that.

AMM: which paper was that?

WDM: Tht was on the Washington Times. That was a Hearst paper at that time. Those were the gallant years. You saw your duty and you had to do it. You may have some tugh times coming along for yourself, but just remember, your Daddy had some of them too.

AMM: I haven't been out lugging the boards yet, but you can never tell what's going to happen next year.

WDM: No, and you won't make very much time, now that you've gotten your mustache grey.

AMM: Well, I like it, I believe in grey.

WDM: I mean, do the boys like that?

AMM: No problem, no problem. (mustache talk) WD(no hair on my Chihuahua joke)

AMM: Didn't yo stay with the Wash. times for a while?

WDM: I went with the times, and then did something, most people don't know that Herbert Hoover owned the Wash. Herald and it was a morning paper, but not a very good one, because the Post was the big morning paper. but Hearst bought the Herald and made it morning and evening, which is the Times-Herald, and he ran that until he finally sold it to Mrs. Patterson, and she in turn tried to buy the Post but couldn't. Then Scripps-Howard came in and started up the News, so we had the Star in the evening and the News in the evening and the Times in the evening. In the morning we had the Herald and the Post, and the Herald and the times were a combination magazine. 5 newspapers in Wash. D.C. the battle was pretty rough. so I went over on the Times and Herald. TThey had had a circulation manager that wasn't very careful with it. The way he ran the circulation, he bought too much to try to keep his figures up and they finally fired him. And they went over to the Post and got the circ. manager

from over there to come over to the Times and Herald, and he was circ. director, and he, I was still the bookkeeper, I was head bookkeeper at that time, and the whole circ. dpt was in a mess. They hadn't kept their collections up, and thier books were in a mess. And Shelton had to come in in the early morning, and he worked til 11 or 12 at night trying to get things straightened out. I liked him pretty well and I went on up with him, and I said, well, why don't you let me see if I can colect up some of these bills that are outstanding. so I worked with him, and then he asked me if I wanted to be city circulation manager. And I said, hell, I don't know anything about circulation. (421) But he said, well, you have more savvy than guys who have worked on here for maybe 15, 16 yrs. They learned everything they knew the first week they were in there. If you don't know more than they do at the end of six months, he said, I'll fire you. I said, well, if you want to do that, why, let's go. that's how I got into it. (family sounds)

END OF INTERVIEW