Int: This is Ellen Dubinsky. I’m the Digital Services Librarian at Bridgewater State University. And this is the fourth in our series of oral history interviews. Today we have the pleasure and honor of interviewing graduates of the Class of 1963. I’d like to ask the women who are sitting with me today to please go around the table and just introduce themselves and tell us where you’re from and then we’ll get started.

Pat: Pat Siekman Fee, class of 1963, and I’m living now in Northern Virginia.

Joan: Joan Hanley Smith, class of ‘63, again, and living in Norton, Massachusetts.

Betty: In her same house.

Joan: Same house. [Betty laughs] [I] don’t change. I’m glad you’re enjoying this.

Betty: Betty Sawin Callahan, and I’m living in Florida.
Mae: Mae Ashenfelter Doherty, class of ‘63, and I traveled all the way from Bridgewater for this. [Laughter]

Joan: Yea, Mae!

Marcia: A lot of gas. [Laughter]

Marcia: I’m Marcia Potter Picard. I live in Dartmouth, where I lived when I went to Bridgewater State Teachers College in 1963.

Int: Well, thank you. Let me begin by just asking you about entering college in the fall of 1959. What drew you to what was then known as Bridgewater Teachers College?

Mae: Actually for me, it was my chemistry, my physics teacher [who] said, “If you’re going to a state college, you should look at Bridgewater.” And that’s why I applied, actually.

Int: Did you grow up in Bridgewater?

Mae: No, I grew up in Maryland. And then moved to Massachusetts when I was sixteen.

Betty: And Bridgewater was the only state college that had Physical Education. I wanted to be a Phys Ed teacher. So it was either go to the University of Massachusetts or the private school out of Boston University, [it] was Sargent College. And Bridgewater. Those were the major areas to become a teacher. So that drew me. And also -- it was interesting -- back in the ‘50s, when you were in school, the guidance counselors or your parents, most people would say to us as girls, “You’re going to be a secretary, a teacher, or a hairdresser, or a nurse.” I loved chemistry. [To Mae] It was interesting that you said that. My brother was at Columbia University at the time. And he was majoring in Chemistry, and he was going to be a chemist and a chemical engineer. And I thought, “I would love that!” And they looked at you and they said, “You’re going to be a teacher, a nurse, blah, blah, blah.”

Mae: It’s true.

Betty: But I loved... And I was one of the unique, I think -- I never saw the campus. Never knew where Bridgewater, Massachusetts was, because I lived in Leominster, which was – oh, my gosh -- two hours away! The first time I laid eyes on the campus, I had my suitcase. Never saw another...

Joan: You didn’t come for an interview?

Betty: No, no.
Marcia: No interview. Wow.

Mae: Sight unseen. [Laughter]

Joan: It was my physical education teacher that inspired me, because I had started off freshman year in high school as a secretary. [To Betty] As you said, “You’re going to be a secretary, this, this, and this.” And then she was the one that started talking to me, “You should really go on to college. You really enjoy the sports and everything.” So that’s how I got into it. Didn’t look at Sargent [College], But when I came to look at Bridgewater it was so different, and I thought, “This is where I would like to be.” That’s how I started here, but [I] did have to commute in the first year because I lived closer than Leominster. Therefore, “You’re too close. We don’t have enough dorm space. You have to commute.” So that’s how I started.

Mae: But isn’t it interesting how the influence of a teacher shaped...

Joan: Yes, yes, that’s exactly what it was. Or I probably could be a secretary today.

Mae: Yeah, really.

Pat: In my high school, [the] guidance counselor called me down and said, “You really should go to college. Do you want to be a nurse or a teacher?” So I said, “Nurse! Ugh!” Just no way. So she said, “OK.” I said, “Teacher.” So she said, “OK. You apply to Bridgewater and Framingham.” And that was it. Framingham -- I probably would have had to commute. I’m not sure. So Bridgewater was great. Living in was great.

Marcia: And I came for two odd reasons. It was an influence of a physical education teacher, but just the opposite. I didn’t like the way it was being taught.

Pat: Good for you.

Marcia: I didn’t. Maybe I shouldn’t even say this. But it was a matter of lining up twenty people in line. And one would do a forward roll. And then you’d go to the back of the line. And then twenty minutes later you’d do another forward roll. And to me, that wasn’t education. It had nothing to do with physically educating a student. I wanted to do it differently. I knew I wanted to be a teacher. The guidance teacher -- there was one guidance teacher for the whole district, which is very unlike today where they have adjustment counselors and all other kinds of counselors. But he had said, “You’ll never get a job. You won’t get a job in Physical Education. You need to go into either English or Math.” Both of which I liked very much and I still work a lot with English and editing and so forth today. However, he said, “No, You’re not going to get a job.” I said this is what I wanted to do. I went to Bridgewater because up to that point I had been following in my
older sister’s footsteps. Pretty much everything she had done and she went to U
Conn. I had been accepted at U Conn and I thought, you know, it’s time that I
stood on my own and went somewhere else.

Joan: Good for you.

Marcia: So that’s why I went to Bridgewater. But I wanted to go back to the gentleman,
who shall remain nameless. When I did my senior teaching at Dartmouth High
School, the superintendent walked into the gym and said, “There is a position
open. Would you like it?” And I wanted to go back to Mr. “Who Shall Remain
Nameless” and go, “Hah-hah, hah-hah.” [Laughter] “You said I wasn’t going to
get a job and it came to me!”

Pat: Good for you.

Marcia: And that’s all she wrote.

Betty: And you are still working.

Marcia: And I am still working now. I’m much too young to retire. That’s what I tell
everybody.

Pat: That’s a nice feeling.

Marcia: When I go to people who are the same age as I am, but [I say] “I’m much too
young to retire.” I love what I’m doing. I’m still working with -- I’m the Wellness
Coordinator for the Fall River school system.

Mae: Oh, nice.

Marcia: So I still work with Physical Education teachers. I provide professional
development for them and I work with school nutritional services and so forth. So
I’m doing exactly what I want to do, working with people I love working with.
And I get up every day looking forward to working. I’m pretty much my own
boss and I work fifty to sixty hours a week.

Mae: That’s a lot.

Marcia: That’s of my own choosing. Because I love what I do.

Joan: Well, good.

Mae: It’s funny when you mention. Sometimes learning is two ways. Sometimes you
learn what to do and sometimes you learn what not to do.
Marcia: Exactly. Exactly. Exactly. I just thought it had to be more than, “Here’s a basketball. Go out and shoot baskets.”

Mae: Interesting.

Marcia: That has nothing to do with kind of education.

Betty: In my physical education teacher, in my high school -- her nickname that we called her was “The Lady”.

Marcia: “The Lady”?

Betty: And she was the classic... Every time we would go on varsity trips, she wore high heels and nylons. Someone said, “Look at the lady.” Because often physical education majors are rough and ready. This petite, dynamite teacher was my influential teacher. You can enjoy athletics and you can still be...

Marcia: A lady!

Betty: ... a lady. But she was called “The Lady.”

Marcia: That’s the other bubble I wanted to burst, too. Because every time I went to school to teach, when I was teaching physical education, I would go dressed up, in heels and so forth.

Joan: Exactly.

Marcia: People would [ask], “Why aren’t you wearing the sweats and the whatever, like the guy is there?” I said, “Because it’s not professional.” To this day, this is extremely important to me. Professionalism. So it’s not looked down as the person who gives the kids a ball and shoots baskets all day. That’s not what it is about.

Joan: I remember doing the exact same thing. Every day, get there early, but you went dressed. No one really saw you unless you checked your mail, checked the office and you went into the locker room, changed into your clothes and did your classwork. Then you changed back up and go check your mail and whatever, back again. A few people saw you, but the few that did said the same thing, “Is something going on? You’re all dressed up today.” “No, I’m dressed up every day.”

Marcia: “I’m a teacher.”

Joan: Exactly.

Marcia: Good for you.
Int: For the non-Phys Ed majors, when you came here, did you also want to teach? Was that the goal?

Pat: That was our only choice.

Mae: It was [a] state teachers college.

Pat: A state teacher’s college.

Int: But in 1960 the school became a “state college” as opposed to “teachers college.” Did that have any effect or...

Mae: We were already in...

Pat: We were already in our divisions and there you were.

Int: So the curriculum didn’t change at all for you?

Mae: Your curriculum had education courses.

Pat: It was set.

Mae: Yes.

Pat: Two years of liberal arts -- that we all took.

Mae: Um, hmm.

Pat: Zoologies and botanies and physics, and oh, my. And then, junior and senior years we went into our...

Mae: Student teaching.

Pat: ... majors. Student teaching. And methods courses.

Mae: Methods…

Marcia: It was still pretty much teacher-focused too, because there was Elementary Education majors. Physical Education majors. Secondary [Education] majors. Math, science...

Mae: Math, history...

Betty: Earth sciences.
Marcia: Earth sciences. But it was still pretty... People might have chosen to go into something other than teaching when they went out. But even though the “Teacher” went out of the name of the college, it was still very teacher-focused.

Betty: I believe every one that graduated in our class...

Pat: Was a teacher.

Betty: ... was a certified teacher. We all had...

Mae: I think it got that along with your diploma.

Marcia: Right. That was part of the...

Mae: The certification.

Marcia: Yes. Yes.

Betty: We were all teachers. We all had to go do a student teaching for 16 weeks, and also a full-time teacher internship for 16 weeks.

Marcia: We taught at the training school in our junior year.

Pat: We all had to train there.

Marcia: We trained for a quarter.

Int: Right.

Marcia: At the Burnell School.

Mae: Harrington Hall, now.

Int: Yes.

Joan: At the Burnell, but it wasn’t in our field.

Marcia: Not in the classroom, right.

Pat: Which was amazing.

Joan: If we wanted experience in our field, we couldn’t get it until our senior year.

Marcia: That’s right.

Joan: For 16 weeks. That was it.
And then you went to schools in southeastern Massachusetts or...?

Where did we end up?

You could choose.

For your training.

Student training.

Junior year we had to do it at Burnell.

Had to do it here.

In a classroom.

Then in your senior year...

We picked the school.

You could be near your hometown.

[You] could be near your hometown. I think many people went toward their hometown.

Yes. I did.

You did.

Oh, Yes. I went back to my first grade teacher. She was getting ready to retire by then.

That’s a nice full circle for her.

That’s nice.

It was fun.

[To Pat] Did you end up teaching elementary school?

Yes, I did. Yes I did.

I found the training, though, junior year frustrating. I had forgotten that -- that’s right -- it wasn’t Physical Education, it was classroom-focused.
Joan: Right. We didn’t have a choice.

Marcia: We sat - at least the room that I was in, I don’t know about you folks - but I was in a room with two, I think, other student teachers.

Joan: Yes.

Marcia: So you pretty much sat while someone else was teaching. This is terrible. But I was sitting there, thinking, “I wouldn’t do it that way. I wouldn’t do it that way. I would do it that way.” And yet it was classroom-focused, but it’s like you need to engage the students. I’m saying this to myself and judging. Isn’t that terrible? It was a difficult situation. And then when you got up there you didn’t necessarily do it the right way yourself, but... it was difficult to sit there and watch other people doing things. It’s like, “I think I would do it differently.”

Betty: It was not the proper training for us.

Marcia: No, it wasn’t.

Betty: I was third grade. [Laughs]

Joan: I was third grade.

Marcia: I had fourth grade, I think.

Betty: There was one teacher and she’ll remain nameless.

Marcia: It’s all anonymous.

Betty: Who everyone said, “Do not get that teacher.” I got her!

Mae: It’s not fair.

Betty: Oh, my god. She made my life miserable. One day, I’m trying to think, doing something, and I’m like this. [Gestures] “Well, Miss Sawin.” She stopped teaching to say this. “Well, Miss Sawin. You can’t just be sitting there thinking of your cheering.” She just...

Marcia: How inappropriate.

Mae: That’s awful.

Marcia: That’s awful.
Betty: I would get up and I’d say, “OK, now boys and girls. Put your name on the top of the paper.” “You know,” from the back of the room, “You have to tell them to put it on both sides.” She was brutal.

Marcia: Did she go to Bridgewater to become a teacher? [Laughter]

Betty: She was... I just happened to have -- and I don’t care about my grades -- this is enormous [holds up a report card]. The students today, what they have to take and what we took. We had to take General Zoology to become a Phys Ed teacher.

Mae: Phys Ed had...

Joan: Because we had Health and Physical Safety and...

Marcia: A lot of science. A lot of the sciences.

Joan: We had a lot of sciences.

Marcia: We had Botanical sciences...

Betty: We had to take Microbiology. With the microscopes! [Laughter]

Joan: To teach.

Marcia: Kinesiology.

Joan: And Botany. With all the plants.

Marcia: And Botany. Right.

Joan: We had to know that!

Pat: We did too.

Betty: Yes, you had to, too.

Pat: I’m sure Mae had to take that.

Joan: But we had almost 35 hours of classwork.

Pat: They did.

Joan: Now you talk to students: “Oh, I got 18 hours. I got it all on Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday morning.” I said, “You got what?” This is what we’re hearing from so many different students now, as opposed to the full load that we had. Your load was set up for you.
Betty: And that was something -- we all were obedient. Except in the Junior and Senior year, you could select [electives]...

Pat: Right.

Betty: ... in your major. But Physical Education - for four years, we were handed a schedule and “You will go to those classes at that time” and you had no option.

Marcia: One of the other massive differences, too, between what students are going through now, or that deal with now, as compared to us -- and I bring this up with some of the people that I work with -- the young people -- I have clothes older than some of the people that I work with now [Laughter] -- you tell them about... When we had reports to do, we would type -- gosh, it sounds so old when you say this -- we would type them on a manual typewriter.

Mae: I know.

Joan: Yes.

Marcia: And if you passed it in to the professor and the professor said, “OK. On page 3 of 6 you really need to change that paragraph,” you started on that page and you retyped everything.

Pat: That’s ridiculous.

Mae: Isn’t that amazing?

Marcia: They don’t realize...

Mae: How much better it is.

Marcia: They take for granted spell-check. We had to actually spell on our own or look it up in a dictionary. As far as computers are concerned, you “cut and paste.” You can alter, you can edit so easily. But it was that way. And do you remember if you made a mistake in spelling, either White Out or the white tape...

Joan: Your White Out...

Marcia: ... that you put in? Or the pin, the head of a pin that you’d scratch out... It just sounds antiquated and absurd when you say it out loud now. Because I don’t think that we’re that old! [Laughter] But evidently we are. I don’t know.

Joan: I could tell, too, because my freshman year in high school, as I said, I started off in secretarial school. Therefore, for freshman year I didn’t get any typing. Now I switched my sophomore year -- had to double up on Algebra and Geometry and
the rest of it -- there’s no room [in the class schedule]. But “You’re going to
college. Guess what you don’t need? You don’t need typing. Only the secretarial
people need typing.”

Marcia: Gosh, how funny.

Pat: Right.

Joan: So, therefore, when I came and we had to do those papers, this was me. [Mimes
typing with two fingers.] Many, many late, late nights. [Laughter] And then you
had to have room for the footnotes. And how many times did I forget to make the
little lines.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Joan: So I’d see... I would type the whole thing over again. But like you say...

Marcia: And if you wanted to do two [copies], it was a carbon. You got that horrible
carbon thing...

Joan, Betty: Carbon.

Marcia: ... with the black all over your fingers.

Joan: All over.

Marcia: And if you wanted to make copies, it was mimeograph. You got high on the thing
[fumes]. That’s not good to say. But it was a little strange to inhale those fumes.
But they don’t realize how lucky they have it now! [Knocks on table] How good
they have it!

Mae: They haven’t smoke in the room with all the... [Laughs]

Marcia: That’s right. Actually, with that... As far as the smoking...

Mae: And the Xerox machines.

Marcia: ... there was the Butt Room. I never smoked, but they had to go in... That was one
of the reasons I think we gravitated toward one another. Neither Joan nor I -- who
ended up being roommates for three years -- neither one of us smoked. And the
others had to go to a specific room to smoke.

Joan: They were a threesome.

Betty: They [Joan and Marcia] did not recognize each other. Totally. This afternoon.
Marcia: I came and I’m looking, I’m thinking “I think that’s Joan.”

Joan: I’m saying, “I think it was and I’m looking and I think so, but who’s going to be the first to say ‘Are you...’?” [Laughter] And then she said, “Joan?” I said, “Marcia?” And that was it.

Marcia: I was looking for somebody a little bit older than the students would have been walking by me prior to that. Oh, my gosh. It sounds so corny to you, I’m sure, but it just seems like yesterday. I’m sorry.

Int: Not at all.

Marcia: It just does not seem... Some of the work that I’ve been doing involves something called the Parent Cafe, which is not a cafe food-wise. It’s based on the World Cafe model, which is really about sharing concerns and discussions, having discussions and so forth. And it’s all about improving parenting skills. So we’ve been running a lot of those in the area that I work. And at the end of the sessions, we ask people to reflect on what they learned during the course of the time. Like “I’ll be more tolerant of the children,” about taking time for themselves and so forth. And usually when we do these at the end, I step in and I say, “One thing I need to tell you is you need to enjoy your children the age at which they are right now. Because you don’t believe this right now, but mine are 45 and 41, and I was 4 years out of college before I had them. But it goes by like that. [Snaps fingers] You’re not going to think that. But it goes by so, so fast.”

Betty: And our four years at college...

Marcia: You really need to...

Betty: It went too fast.

Marcia: They do.

Pat: They did. Except for exam week. [Laughter]

Joan: That was long. Very long.

Mae: I always used to think, “If I had studied this hard the whole semester, what I would know.” [Laughter]

Marcia: Oh, my gosh. [Laughter] And the studying was out of books, too. When you talk about technology, it was out of books. You couldn’t go on the internet. There was no such thing.

Joan: [You] went to the library.
Marcia: Yes, there was a lot of books and book-study.

Betty: The library for the dorm students was a blessing, because that’s how we got out of the dorms.

Pat: It was the only time it was quiet.

Betty: That was the only time, after the dining hall...

Joan: Didn’t we have to have a pass to go?

All: You had to sign out

Mae: Because you could go to the library until 10, right?

Betty: Yes. But you had to sign in to the library...

Marcia: [Now] it sounds ridiculous.

Betty: ... You had to sign out of the library.

Int: I thought you had to sign in and out of the dorm.

Betty: No.

Joan, Pat: Both. Both.

Betty: You left the dorm, you signed in to the library. You left the library, you signed out of the library.

Mae: Not that they didn’t trust us. [Laughter]

Int: Not at all. Not at all.

Marcia: We were so good. How could they feel that way about us?

Mae: I know it. I know it.

Betty: And they only wanted to allow us 10 minutes...

Pat: It made us really...

Betty: And we wanted to go up town, and have a cup of coffee. And we were only [going] for coffee. It wasn’t like we wanted to go out drinking.

Marcia: No, we weren’t wild women. It’s so regulated.
Betty: It was during the week.

Marcia: It was so regulated. It was so “policed”, if you will. But it was the norm.

Betty: It was wonderful.

Marcia: And we never thought about it any other way, like “Oh, my gosh. They’re really looking over our shoulders.” It was the way it was.

Mae: That’s true.

Marcia: You never thought about it.

Joan: We were so happy to get into the dorm sophomore year.

Marcia: Exactly.

Joan: We were thrilled. “I got my paper! Did you get your paper? We’re going to be roommates!”

Marcia: Whatever they say, we’ll do it.

Joan: We were so excited. There were three of us, actually, at Wood [editor’s note: Woodward] Hall. I remember the first time they told us we were going to have a fire drill: “Make sure you get your rope. You throw it out the window. And you go down.” And I looked at her [to Marcia] and she looked at me and I looked at Jean and I said...

Marcia: Are they kidding? [Laughs]

Joan: ... “Do you see a rope? Is it under your bed?” “It’s not under mine.” We checked the closet. “Oh, my god. We don’t have a rope! Who do we go to to get a rope?” And we’re all doing this and all of sudden...

Marcia: This is so funny.

Joan: ... someone from the upper class came in and said, “We’re having the fire drill. This is a practice. Are you ready?” And we couldn’t get... “Who’s got the rope?” [Laughter] They brought us all downstairs first to explain what was going to happen before they pulled the thing. All the way down, we said, “Do you have ropes?” [Laughter]

Marcia: It was so funny, because junior year...

Mae: How scared... It was a scare.
Joan: It was a scare. The snootiness. The whole thing. We didn’t know.

Marcia: We were buying everything that they were telling us. What did we know? Junior year, I was vice president of the dorm and one of the responsibilities of the vice president of Woodward was to organize the fire drills once a month with the fire department. So I always knew when they were going to be. If we got back to the dorm early evening, mid-evening, we might have been in our jammies, comfortable, studying. So if I was not in my jammies, then people would say, “Ah, there’s going to be a fire drill. Marcia is not in her jammies, so there’s going to be a fire drill.” [Laughter] So that was nice, because the buzzer, that god-awful buzzer, was right near our room...

Joan: It was. Right outside.

Marcia: ... so when the blooming thing went off it was like -- The fact that we already knew when it was going to be was nice, junior year. It was so loud. Had anyone been sound asleep, it would have... It’s a wonder people didn’t have heart attacks. It was so loud. So intrusive.

Joan: True.

Int: Talking about the dorms lead into one of the questions I actually do have written down for you, and that has to do with your college experience being different than that of men at the time. And that plays into partly with the dorm rules you had. But then also differences being commuter students versus on-campus students. Because I’ve heard tell that the women who were commuters didn’t have to sign in and out of the dorms obviously, and might not have had curfews like you might have had in the dorms.

Joan: Right. Because we were traveling. We were on our own, really. When you finished a class -- not that we had much time in-between - but when it was time for lunch, they would go to the dining room, it was usually a hot lunch. It was served family-style.

Betty: And you were...

Joan: We would go downstairs to this kind of a dingy room. It was in the cellar. And you’d find a little place to sit. You couldn’t buy a sandwich or anything like that. You brought it from home.

Marcia: You brought in lunch, right.

Joan: You might get a soda or something in the machine. But usually, if you’re bringing your lunch, you bring that. You sat there. You really didn’t know too many people, because people had lunch at different times. Then when you finally
finished that last lab class, you got into the car and you traveled back home. And then you started with your homework. If you had questions or something, when [you were] in the dorm, you could bounce it off [someone else], “What do you think she wanted in this assignment?” Things like that. You were on your own at home. You didn’t want to bother anybody, so you never -- I never thought to do that. Maybe I should have. You winged it on your own, or did what you thought she wanted, hoping that it was the best. Then sometimes when you really were caught on something and you thought “I got a great grade” and I was so excited. In the dorm, you could say, “Hey, you know what?” to someone [and share your news]. And once in a while you’d say, “Let’s go out and get a pizza.” You didn’t do that [as a commuter]. You were just by yourself, saying “Well, I’m glad I got a good grade.” Then tomorrow starts again.

Marcia: Your point is well-taken about not a lot of free periods. So there wasn’t a lot of down time where you figured, as commuter students, where do we go? We have no home. We have no place to go.

Joan: Right.

Marcia: Because you had classes from the moment...

Joan: We had classes all the time. It was just our lunch time...

Marcia: ... that you got here until the end of the day.

Joan: ... that we had to go to the commuter room.

Marcia: That was it. There’s not a whole lot of free time.

Betty: That never dawned on me, and perhaps the other dorm students. That the commuters weren’t... invited to go to the food [dining hall] that we -- they didn’t have the option to even buy it.

Joan: Right. Right. There wasn’t...

Betty: “You are a commuter. Go to your cellar.”

Marcia: We were brown-baggers. We were brown-baggers, really.

Joan: Right. Go to your own little bag lunch place.

Pat: The men went... Before the men’s dorm, most of the men lived in apartments, houses. They had no rules, living in those places.

Mae: Exactly.
Pat: Unless the landlady was a little... [Laughter]... tight. “Be in at eleven” or “The doors are locked at eleven.” I don’t really know.

Mae: But I think the men had it a lot easier that way.

Pat: The other thing that I -- when I think about men and women -- even in this “Rules of the Dormitory” for 1962-63. We are all, always, referred to as “girls.” The men are “men.”

Mae: Isn’t that something?

Marcia: That’s interesting.

Mae: Not “boys.”

Marcia: Disturbing, but interesting.

Pat: Every word about male is “men.” We’re “girls.” We’re the “girls.”

Betty: Girls

Pat: Girls.

Marcia: That’s funny. I’m sure...

Pat: We needed protection, I guess.

Marcia: Really.

Int: Well, I’m sure the rules were meant to protect you...

Pat: Of course.

Int: Because the world was such a frightening, horrible place, in Bridgewater.

Marcia: Really.

Pat: But I think it started way back from day one that the women were...

Mae: But the feminist movement -- was that in the sixties? When was that really?

Pat: I think it was later. Wasn’t the feminist movement maybe later?

Mae: Friedan and …

Betty: I don’t think we were...
“The Feminine Mystique” was...

Seventies?

No, early sixties. But probably just after you graduated. [editor’s note: The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan was published in 1963]

Yeah.

We were all... We were before.

It took a while. We were on the cusp.

We were. Yes.

I think we were just the obedient. “You will turn left. You will turn right.”

And I don’t think our thinking was...

“You will sign in.” Although we did...

tell me what to do and I’ll do it.

Yes. And we never said, “Why?” We never said, “How high?” We just did it.

We just did it.

That was before equality.

And we were talking about it prior to coming into here [for the interview] and I’m sure you’ve heard it before about as far as men coming to the dorm. There was a house mother and she would sit at the desk and she would say, “You have a caller.” She would call you -- “So-and-so, you have a call.” But no men were allowed beyond that desk other than moving-in day and moving-out day. But again, we never questioned it, it was what it was. I suspect it may have been the same for you all, when my daughter went to college and [I] was, kind of like, “Oh, my gosh, there’s men all over the place.”

I know it, yes.

“What’s going on here?”

Mixed dorms.

So it’s...
Pat: I think it was more fun, being with all women. You didn’t have to think about...


Pat: ... going to the Ladies Room.

Joan: Right.

Pat: To me it would be awkward trying to walk around with rollers in your hair -- of course, they don’t wear rollers now -- but we definitely wore rollers. I think it’s different.

Betty: We had a blast...

Marcia: We had fun.

Betty: ... and I think you can hear, Ellen, how wonderful we all became friends. There were no isolations. You were one unit when you were in the dorm. That was good, Joan, when you said you were isolated as a commuter.

Marcia: That’s true.

Joan: That’s how I felt. [To Marcia] Did you feel the same way as a commuter the first year?

Marcia: Yes. You didn’t feel as though you quite the integral part. It was almost like going to high school.

Joan: High school again.

Marcia: You went to school during the day and you came home at night and that was pretty much it. So obviously you weren’t here on the weekends, so you didn’t take advantage, you weren’t able to take advantage, or you chose not to take advantage of anything that was going on in terms of as activities.

Mae: Did you find out commuters, though, formed close relationships?

Marcia: No. I mean I didn’t feel that way.

Mae: With each other?

Joan: I didn’t feel that way either and I don’t know if it’s because we only had that lunch hour. Had we had 18 hours of classwork and we were in the commuter room...
Marcia: Exactly.

Joan: ... I think you may have gotten more conversation with friends.

Marcia: Because you were in class all day.

Joan: But we had such rigor... We were in class.

Marcia: You were in class, lunch, class, you went home.

Joan: Because of the major. Maybe others found it different.

Mae: That could be.

Joan: Found somebody.

Marcia: Right.

Joan: But I didn’t.

Betty: Although I read over the 1962 booklet that Dave Fee had, from his retirement. There were several gals that had written that “Because I was a commuter, I was not involved with blah and blah. And it was because I was a commuter.” It sounded very lonesome and it sounded very negative, that I didn’t enjoy in that talk …

Joan: College experience.

Betty: … that they all talk about their experiences. “Well, I was a commuter so I did not experience this.”

Marcia: But I didn’t feel ostracized. Again, it was because we had classes from the beginning of the day till the end of the day. So it seemed like kind of glorified high school, if you will, because you certainly knew you were at college. But again, you drove up, you went to your classes, you had your lunch, you had your classes in the afternoon, and then you went home. I didn’t feel slighted. I didn’t feel...

Joan: I didn’t feel ostracized, because that’s all I knew. I didn’t know...

Marcia: It was the norm.

Joan: ... what the dorm was going to be like. But near the end of freshman year, when I started hearing some of you talk about “You know, that thing the other night. We were in the dorm and we did this and we did this.” And then I thought, “Oh, that sounds like so much fun.” Then I was kind of feeling “I wish I could have gone to
that.” But prior to that you just followed the regiment and did whatever you were told.

Marcia: The other thing, too, is because our division of Health and Physical Education majors -- we were a very close-knit group.

Mae: That’s what I think.

Marcia: So we got the camaraderie out of the fact that we all had that like-major, whether we were commuters or whether we were dorm students. We still felt like we had some connection so it’s not -- but again, it wasn’t that feeling of being ostracized because you were a loner coming and doing your think and going away as a loner. The whole group bonded. I think our group got along very, very well.

Joan: Oh, I would say so, too.

Marcia: We were just one big, happy family.

Betty: But the men... There were no men or there was like six women to every man on campus. So any man was... [Laughter]

Int: Was there a sense of competition, then, trying to get dates because there were so few men?

Betty: I think the men that dated just had a field day.

Pat: They did.

Marcia: They really...

Pat: Some of the girls would say, “How can you go out with him. He goes out with someone different every night?” And I remember thinking, “Jeez, I’m not going to marry him.” I mean, so what?

Marcia: Just playing the field, hey? [Laughs]

Pat: Who cares? I mean, I did end up marrying one. [editor’s note: Pat married David Fee, class of 1962].

Marcia: Ah hah!

Pat: But truly...

Marcia: [To Betty] And you did. [editor’s note: Betty married Paul Callahan, class of 1963]
Betty: Yeah.

Marcia: [To Mae] And you did. [editor’s note: Mae married Paul Doherty, class of 1963]

Betty: And you did. Three of us did.

Marcia: That’s right. Three of you.

Betty: Even though they dated a lot of others. [Laughter]

Marcia: Oh, my goodness.

Betty: But, whatever.

Int: Was there a competition between the two women’s dorms? Once Pope Hall -- I guess it wasn’t called Pope Hall...

Marcia: It was called the New Dorm.

Joan: New Dorm.

Mae: It was Wood and Tillinghast.

Joan: It was mainly the senior dorm. Seniors had first pick, right?

Marcia: That’s right. There was a division based on -- I was going to say grade level -- on what year of college you were in.

Int: Did you all stay at Woodward then your senior year as well?

Mae: We were Wood, and I think Tillinghast had more...

Pat: Single rooms.

Mae: ... single rooms. So I think that was just a whole...

Betty: I would not have liked that. They were...

Joan: Tillinghast had the single rooms.

Betty: The Tillinghast girls were different from the Woodward girls. There was no competition. But they liked their private rooms.

Pat: But they didn’t choose...

Betty: I think they did as sophomores.
Joan: As sophomores and juniors.

Betty: As sophomores they could choose to stay there. The ones that had... When we talked to Annette, she was there for three years?

Mae: I think so.

Pat: And she liked it?

Mae: And she liked it.

Betty: But there was no competition.

Pat: No.

Mae: No, there really wasn’t. It was just different.

Marcia: There was a lottery for the rooms, though. There was a lottery to check the rooms. Because I remember that -- to select your rooms, rather. In senior year.

Pat: But you still could choose your dorm.

Marcia: Yes, you could. But that was pretty much a senior dorm, as I recall.

Pat: The Pope Hall.

Marcia: The New Dorm was a senior dorm. So we got to pick the room that we wanted and people were... because we had organized the lottery.

Pat: I think the lottery was for Wood, too, as sophomores. But your pecking order...

Betty: You did.

Joan: The juniors had first choice.

Betty: The seniors had the first pick.

Mae: That’s kind of...

Marcia: Right.

Pat: We wouldn’t expect that.

Joan: Right.
Marcia: The senior year -- this sounds “braggy”, I don’t mean it that way at all -- but senior year I was president of the dorm council so I got first pick. [Laughter] That was nice. So you and I got to pick out any room we want. Junior year, when we got second pick -- because I was vice-president of the Woodward Dorm -- and we didn’t pick the best room. We picked the room that we liked. It wasn’t considered the suite kind of room. And then everything else was a drawing.

Betty: You know, at the dormitory -- we came across some pictures. They had bureaus, like the oak wood bureaus that you see in antique stores.

Pat: [Passing a photograph] There you go.

Mae: That’s what we had.

Marcia: Yes.

Pat: As sophomores and juniors.

Betty: In Woodward.

Marcia: I wonder what happened to them. I bet they’re not there now.

Betty: I know. They’re beautiful. There’s some pictures that Pat and I have been looking at …

Pat: … with attached mirrors. You know that type.

Joan: Yes.

Betty: The mirrors are on the bureaus. Like you see in antique stores.

Mae: Wow.

Betty: That was our furniture. But in Pope Hall, they actually built in [the bureaus]...

Pat: Built in. Yes. And only two to a room.

Joan: Built in and only two to a room.

Mae: Two to a room.

Marcia: Yes.

Betty: Two to a room.

Mae: So if you had three, then you had to...
Pat: I was in quad as a freshman with two sophomores.

Marcia: That’s right.

Mae: I had two sophomores.

Pat: I was just dead meat. Because they were the ones that initiated us and, oh man, I was dead meat. [Laughter] My freshman roommate.

Marcia: Sophomore year, we got in touch with Jeanne Madore, who was our third roommate, and talked [with her] -- I don’t even know if they do this now -- we got matching bedspreads and matching rugs and...

Betty: Of course

Mae: Right.

Pat: And they were judged.

Mae: That’s right.

Marcia: It was all about [unintelligible].

Mae: I do remember.

Joan: Yes. Remember the judging?

Pat: The judging.

Joan: They’d come through the rooms to check your rooms.

Marcia: That’s right. I forgot all about that. That’s right.

Pat: When they had the judging one year, they came in...

Mae: That’s funny, but…

Pat: ... I don’t know if we heard them. But they said that our room looked like an austere nunnery. [Laughter] And we didn’t win.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh. Maybe that’s why.

Int: Who did the judging?

Pat: It must have been the dorm council.
Joan: Dorm council, I believe.

Pat: I don’t know.

Betty: Was it you? [to Marcia]

Marcia: I don’t remember.

Pat: Was it you?

Marcia: I’m very sorry! [Laughter]

Pat: My austere nunnery.

Marcia: Nothing personal. I don’t remember. I think I remember there was judging, but I don’t remember...

Mae: I remember the judging. I remember that whole thing, yes.

Betty: And I think the candy-stripe room won. [Laughter]

Mae: Yes.

Marcia: Gosh. I know we had plaid. Sort of an orange-y plaid. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but... [Laughs]

Betty: In our rooms...

Joan: Right.

Pat: I think we had the [chamber?] bedspreads.

Mae: I had forgotten that, but I remember that.

Betty: But in those notes [referring to the Dorm Rules], you were to empty your wastebasket.

Pat: Oh, yes.

Betty: Once a week.

Pat: And your shoes and your slippers had to be in the closet. Once a week? Every day we were supposed to empty the trash.

Betty: Oh, every day, the trash? OK. See how little I followed.
Mae: We had really messy rooms. So we must not have... [Laughter]

Pat: You could [unintelligible]

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Pat: But living in a quad you had to be neat, or else you’d bump into each other. It was really very crowded.

Betty: They weren’t bunk beds. So they were just beds, and beds and beds.

Pat: But you know, living in a dorm, I found that you could ask any of your friends or whatever, anything that you would have never asked your mother.

Pat: I mean, that was big.

Betty: And also...

Pat: That was huge.

Betty: This was the time that new products were coming out.

Mae: Oh, yes.

Betty: Tampons was the first...

Marcia: Oh, good lord.

Betty: We were teaching...

Marcia: The things you remember.

Betty: ... one another. [Laughs]

Pat: But that’s a fact.

Betty: We enjoyed helping one another, whatever it was. It was just so funny. I cannot imagine the girls today, having something quite that personal. “How would you do this?”

Marcia: It sounds so corny, but it was a sisterhood. It really was.

Betty: It was a sisterhood.

Pat: Absolutely.
Marcia: Everyone felt as though they were one big happy family. Because we were.

Pat: Yes.

Marcia: We were. It was fun. We worked hard, but it was fun.

Int: I can imagine. Can you share some more of what some of the specific rules were?

Pat: Oh, sure. Dress was a biggie. Remember, we could only wear certain things. And never, ever, ever could you wear slacks or shorts to any academic building. And you could only wear them on Sunday morning breakfast, which -- how many went to? -- and Saturday during the day and Friday evening, I think. That was your little window.

Marcia: Or if you were going to sporting events, too. I think if you were going to a basketball game you could wear long pants, but otherwise you weren’t supposed to wear them on campus. That was it. It seems so silly when you say it.

Pat: But my favorite -- my favorite thing in this booklet, is - and I will quote: “Slacks and Bermudas may be worn downtown, Monday through Friday, after 3 pm, and all day Saturday. Face the fact honestly, that is it only the unusual girl with a perfect figure who looks well in either slacks or Bermuda shorts.”

Mae: Isn’t that amazing?

Pat: Right there.

Joan: Can you believe...

Marcia: I can’t believe they would actually put that in print. It just sounds absurd.

Betty: [To Marcia] Did you print this? You were the president...

Marcia: I don’t remember that...

Betty: ... of the dorm.

Marcia: ... to be quite honest. It surely wasn’t my idea, I’ll tell you that.

Betty: Well, see if your name is there, on the... [Laughter]

Marcia: [Looking at the Dorm Rules] Oh, good lord. It is. [Laughter]

Joan: OK, Marcia.
Marcia: But Dr. Shea’s [editor’s note: Ellen Shea, dean of women] name is above mine! So I can guarantee you she wrote that.

Mae: She just handed it to you and you did it.

Marcia: Oh, I probably rubber-stamped the dern thing because I cannot begin to imagine...

Pat: We were expected to be “ladies”.

Marcia: Well, of course.

Pat: And like smoking cigarettes...

Joan: Not ladylike.

Pat: No, never in public. But one of the funniest things Betty and I were looking at last night...

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Pat: You had one o’clock’s [curfews] that you could come in.

Mae: Oh, [unintelligible] one o’clock.

Pat: So you signed in and whatever, you went out in the hallway and, you know, a little licky-face and all that. And you were allowed to go down to the Butt Room and have a cigarette. It says it right in there. But you were not allowed to play a radio, turn on the television, play the piano.

Marcia: This is ridiculous.

Mae: The amazing this is...

Pat: Any of those things.

Mae: ... when we read it at that time...

Pat: Oh, it made sense.

Mae: And that’s amazing.

Pat: That is amazing! [Laughter]

Marcia: That’s even more amazing than what’s in there [the Dorm Rules]. I’d love to have a copy of that. I’d love to show my kids.
Joan: Oh, I would too.

Marcia: They will just split their sides laughing.

Betty: We can copy it for you.

Marcia: I would love to have a copy of that.

Int: We can Xerox it upstairs.

Betty: You don’t mimeograph it? [Laughs]

Marcia: That’s downright disturbing.

Int: I’m sure we could find a mimeograph machine. I remember mimeograph machines.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh. Well I know we met with Dr. Shea -- Dean Shea -- and she would talk to us about [how] a lady folds her legs at the ankles...

Pat: That’s right.

Marcia: ... not at the knees, as we are all sitting here with our knees crossed. And how to hold a teacup and all.

Pat: That’s right.

Marcia: Which again, you just never questioned. This is what you did. I don’t know who it was she met with, but I wouldn’t remember being part of that little seminar.

Joan: Do you remember going to the teas?

Int: Did you learn to serve tea as well?

Joan: We had to go to the teas.

Mae: Teas were a big thing.

Joan: We had to wear our white gloves.

Marcia: Oh, the white gloves. Oh, my goodness.

Joan: And go to the teas...

Mae: But white gloves at that time were not unusual.
Joan: No, it wasn’t.

Betty: I have some white glove pictures.

Mae: I had a drawer full of white gloves.

Joan: Right. Easter Sunday, you wore your white gloves. And your hat.

Pat: Right. And your hat.

Marcia: How absurd.

Mae: Yes. But the amazing part of that whole thing [the Dorm Handbook] is, when we received it, I’m sure it didn’t seem awful or unusual.

Marcia: Nobody would question it.

Mae: It was just the rules.

Pat: It was the norm.

Marcia: It was the norm.

Betty: To this day, I will tell people that when we were at the tea, and learning how to properly eat, if someone asked for the salt and pepper...

Pat: Oh, yes.

Betty: ... you passed the salt. And count to three. And then you pass the pepper. Because...

Marcia: I don’t remember that. But I believe you.

Betty: Because when you don’t...

Mae: Did somebody tell you that, Betty?

Joan: Because if you had to pass both at the same time. If someone passed the salt, you had to give them the pepper, too. They both had to go.

Pat: But you had to count to yourself, “One, two, three.”

Betty: You had to count to three, because no one can use both at the same time. You’re being polite.

Pat: I don’t think they told us why.
Marcia: We wouldn’t have questioned it.

Betty: I don’t know. Maybe I’m making it up. I don’t think so.

Pat: Oh, no. They said, “One, two, three.”

Marcia: Oh, OK.

Mae: Who was the “they”? I mean, who said that? [Laughs]

Pat: Dean Shea.

Joan: Dean Shea.

Marcia: Dean Shea.

Pat: It had to have been Dr. Shea. Or, who was the P.E. teacher that I said came up with some rules too? Miss Caldwell? [editor’s note: Mary I. Caldwell]

Betty: No.

Joan: Moriarty? [editor’s note: Mary Jo Moriarty, chair of the Women’s Physical Education department]

Betty: No. Yes, that’s the teacher that we were discussing.

Pat: But we were there. I remember her telling us and I wasn’t a P.E. major.

Betty: Miss Caldwell. But she talked about hygiene and other...

Marcia: Right.

Betty: Wasn’t there one time that if you’re going to sit on a gentleman’s lap, you should have a...

Pat: Pillow.

Betty: ... pillow between you? [Laughs]

Pat: I’m not sure...

Mae: I’m wondering if there...
Pat: I’m not sure about that rule, but definitely, Dr. Shea -- I can still see her -- because we used to have that orientation in the Auditorium. And we'd all be sitting there, all the freshmen girls -- do you remember that?

Mae: Well, tell me more. OK? [Laughter]

Pat: She told us...

Marcia: [unintelligible]. Really.

Mae: Not yet.

Pat: She told us never to wear red and black, because it excites men.

Mae: Wow.

Pat: She said that.

Marcia: Oh, good lord.

Pat: And never wear too much jewelry. And she always had a...

Joan: A broach.

Pat: ... a broach on and the necklaces going [gestures the shape of the necklace]. Those were a fact. I remember that.

Marcia: Clearly, I didn’t learn that lesson. I was at a two-day conference in Marlborough the earlier part of this week and I had black slacks and a red jacket.

Pat: Oh, it’s my favorite.

Marcia: So evidently it didn’t get... But talk about a well-rounded education. See all the things we learned that they don’t learn today.

Int: Absolutely. You made use of it your entire lives.

Marcia: Without question.

Betty: But now, Dean Shea has to be flipping around because Bridgewater is black and red.

Int: The school colors, yes.

Betty: The school colors are black and red.
Marcia: Oh, my gosh. To excite that football team...

Betty: Wooo.

Marcia: ... to play better.

Mae: I just don’t how she did it, anyway, to go from the beginning of the 60s to the end of the 60s.

Pat: I know, exactly.

Betty: I don’t know what she did.

Mae: I don’t know how.

Pat: Well, it needed to be changed.

Mae: Oh, it needed [to be].

Pat: It definitely needed it. But I think the pendulum has swung too far.

Mae: Too far. Yes.

Pat: I would be uncomfortable...

Mae: The co-ed...

Pat: Yes. But if you grow up with that, you probably get used to it. You would be OK.

Marcia: It’s all you know, really.

Pat: Yes, it’s all you know.

Betty: And speaking of change, when we were seniors -- and Mae, you were part of the group -- we decided we’re all 21 years old and yet the rules stated that you could not go to an establishment that served alcohol. So we always were going to the movies at Brockton. [Laughter] I mean, we went to the movies...

Marcia: You’re so bad...

Betty: Friday and Saturday nights for fourteen weeks in a row.

Marcia: You’re so bad. [Laughs]

Pat: Raise your hand if you’ve ever been to the Brockton movies. [Laughter]
[No hands are raised]

Int: Let the record show that nobody has raised their hand. [Laughter]

Marcia: Point well taken.

Betty: So our senior year a number of us that were 21 years old, we said, “We’ve got to have this changed.” We even had...

Mae: Well, that’s a little spark. [Laughter]

Betty: Whoever organized it, by having people that had positions, like the vice president of the class or the Commissioner of Education’s daughter or I was a cheerleader - the captain - and [to Marcia] you were too young. I don’t think you were 21, Marcia.

Marcia: I was younger than the others. But I never went -- let the record show -- I never went to one of those establishments.

Betty: There must have been 8 of us, and we all signed out. If you break a rule, you’re “campused” [editor’s note: not allowed to leave campus]. Dean Shea came and called -- there were 8 of us, I think, that did this -- and called us in. She was a lovely person, and she was very sincere...

Marcia: To us.

Betty: And she just looked around and she had tears in her eyes.

Marcia: Oh, dear.

Mae: The disappointment.

Betty: And she said, “You are my leaders. And I don’t know what to do.” So I bet, later in the 60s, she really had some difficult times.

Mae: Don’t you think?

Betty: Yes. That day we said, “Dean Shea, you need to have some rules changed. We were trying to point this out.” We were punished. Whatever the punishment came... whatever the board decided our punishment was going to be.

Marcia: I do remember that.

Betty: I think we had to...

Mae: I know I was campused, too.
Betty: ...stay in the dorm at 7 o’clock for four nights, or something. We did have to serve a punishment. But they were able to change the rule -- if you were 21 you could sign out to an establishment. In the rules, even if you were with your parents, you were not supposed to go.

Pat: Oh, my gosh.

Betty: Yes. We found that.

Pat: We’re not supposed to be in an establishment that serves alcohol.

Betty: We were not trying to rebel. We were just trying to bring up something that needed to be changed.

Mae: Yes.

Betty: Do you remember that?

Mae: Not really. [Laughter]

Betty: Thank you, Mae. [Laughter]

Mae: But I do remember being campused. [Laughter]

Betty: We were. We were punished.

Mae: I do remember being campused, but ..


Mae: ... but at different times with different things. I do remember.

Betty: My roommate was the editor of the yearbook. We purposely got... if I had the yearbook open I’ll say, “OK. She’s the vice-president. She was the blah-blah.” We made sure we were the people that should not be breaking rules.

Mae: Wow. That’s amazing.

Marcia: Hearing some of those... And again, we didn’t question. It was what you did. This is what you were told to do and you did. It didn’t seem extreme then, and I don’t know why. Because some of those things are ridiculous.

Pat: Oh, they are.

Marcia: They’re just absolutely absurd.
Mae: And even at that time -- because I remember the first meeting when we first got there freshmen year and there was going to be a meeting in the Ad [Administration] building -- and so I came in Bermudas and... [Laughs]

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Mae: And Dean Shea was right there. [Laughter] I went back. I came back a different girl.

Pat: Did you know, we were encouraged to change our clothes for dinner?

Mae: Yes!

Joan: Yes. That’s right - you dressed up for dinner.

Marcia: Yes. Just for dinner.

Pat: I said to Betty, “I don’t think I had ten outfits that I could have changed to.”

Mae: Exactly. Exactly.

Pat: Truly... whatever. I can’t imagine.

Betty: And the guys -- even though they had a lot of liberty in no rules in the dorm except to keep a clean room -- the guys had to wear a jacket.

Mae: Really? Wow.

Pat: If they signed up for the meal plan, they had to dress accordingly.

Mae: And you were assigned tables.

Pat: And stockings on Sundays. Stockings on Sunday.

Mae: We had assigned tables -- at each semester you would go and find out who was...

Joan: At your table.

Mae: ... who was at your table.

Betty: That was a blast. Some of us...

Joan: That was family [style] serving. Right.

Mae: Exactly.
Joan: No one wanted to sit...

Mae: Maybe that was the salt and pepper... [Laughs]

Joan: ... at the place that had the meat or the casserole in front of them, because they had to do the serving. So you wanted to get in there quick and sit at any other seat, so you didn’t have to be the one.

Pat: But also, some of us never wanted men at our tables.

Mae: Yes.

Pat: Especially the athletes -- they ate too much! [Laughter]

Pat: I can remember one in particular -- and I’m not going to say his name -- the platter of meat would come out and he would empty it into his plate.

Marcia: Oh, good grief.

Pat: Honest. Honest. And then he had to go back to the waitress, hopefully to get some more for the rest of us.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Mae: I must say, because of that you met a lot people.

Joan: Met a lot of people.

Betty: You met upperclassmen

Pat: I loved it.

Mae: You didn’t just sit...

Pat: You didn’t feel as shy, especially as freshmen.

Mae: Yes. I think so.

Int: Were you allowed into the men’s dorm once it opened?

Betty: No.

Int: So you couldn’t even...

Pat: You had to have a note.
Betty: In fact, I have right here... [reading] “Dear Miss Sullivan. Betty Sawin has permission to attend the boy’s meeting downstairs in your dorm tonight. She has to speak to them regarding Pep Rallies for the football games. Thank you, Ellen M. Shea.” [Laughter]

Mae: Now, Betty, why do you think you saved that? [Laughter]

Joan: Now, why was that the memento?

Marcia: That is so funny.

Mae: And laminated?

Marcia: Gosh, that is so funny.

Int: That is fabulous.

Betty: I found all this stuff. And I don’t know why I have it.

Pat: Now the Dean of Women was really the Dean of Women.

Mae: Don’t you think it was because it was so special?

Pat: I mean, she was the Dean of Women.

Marcia: Oh, yes. Someone that we very much respected, too.

Mae: [unintelligible] to us?

Joan: Probably at that time, she thought...

Betty: I think that it was all part of... Yes, it was very special. I went to the men’s dorm.

Joan: September twenty-fourth, but no date [year].

Betty: Did you ever go to the men’s dorm?

Marcia: I don’t remember ever going to the men’s dorm.

Betty: Did you?

Pat: No.

Betty: No! See?
Mae: So see, that’s how special it was, Betty. [Laughter] Look! Look at the heading on this...
Betty: And you got this... [Laughter]
Marcia: On the letterhead.
Mae: ... “The Commonwealth of Massachusetts. [Laughing] Department of Education.” I mean this is no normal piece of paper. [Laughter]
Marcia: Too funny.
Betty: It’s laminated. [Laughter]
Pat: And you got out of there unscathed.
Marcia: A keepsake.
Pat: You got out safely.
Marcia: Gosh. It is too funny.
Mae: I don’t have one of those.
Betty: Ellen, you cannot understand how regi-...
Marcia: Regimented. Regimented. We know what you meant. [Laughs]
Betty: Yes.
Pat: It was Victorian.
Mae: Ellen, this is from the Dean of Men.
Marcia: It was very Victorian. [Laughter]
Betty: It is, isn’t it?
Mae: It is!
Marcia: That is laughable, it really genuinely is.
Betty: That was a perfect question.
Mae: I mean, that’s amazing.
Betty: I love that.

Int: I’m ecstatic that you brought that in...

Marcia: That’s so funny.

Int: ... I think that’s the best I’ve seen.

Betty: And you may have it in the Archives.

Int: Thank you. The Archives would love to have it.

Marcia: That is so funny.

Mae: That is amazing.

Betty: And also, on the back side is the cost of tuition...

Mae: Oh, that’s good, Betty.

Betty: ... and eating at the dining hall.

Mae: Wow. Isn’t that good.

Marcia: That’s changed dramatically, too.

Int: Radically. So tuition [was]... semester fee one hundred dollars.

Mae: And you could actually get that, you know what I mean? You could [afford] ..

Int: And boarding was two hundred and forty dollars. That’s pretty amazing.

Marcia: You can’t get books for that now.

Joan: I thought it was four...

Pat: No, no.

Int: I can’t buy one textbook for that in some cases.

Marcia: Really, I know. It’s crazy.

Betty: Isn’t that something?
Int: That is wild. In much earlier years of the university, students had to sign a pledge and they had free tuition but they had to pledge to teach in the public schools of Massachusetts for X number of years. That must have been long gone.

Marcia: After our time.

Joan: If you got the loans...

Mae: [softly, to Betty] And you could make a hundred dollars in the summer... I mean you could find a job... but kids today [unintelligible]... in the summer.

Joan: ... if you took the loans, then -- I took the loans in order to get through school. You had to agree to teach. They were government-something loans. Why can I not remember? Teacher-government loans? Something. But you had to teach five years after [graduation] in the Commonwealth.

Marcia: The Pell Grant loans, no?

Joan: It wasn’t a Pell Grant.

Int: I think it was before Pell.

Joan: It was Government Something…

Marcia: I didn’t realize that.

Joan: But you could get a portion of a loan to continue on. But you had to agree to teach five years. If you did not teach five years, then you had to pay the whole amount back rather than half of it or a portion, whatever they deemed necessary.

Marcia: I didn’t know that.

Betty: When I saw this, I couldn’t believe it. But I also -- my family that I came from -- that was a lot of money,

Marcia: It was.

Betty: So for my sophomore, junior and senior years, I was a waitress serving them. [Laughs]

Marcia: That’s right. That’s right. Your were.

Betty: Yes. I wish I knew what we got paid. But we had to set up for the meals -- put the plates on the table. We brought the family-style in, and until my last semester senior year, I served all of you girls!
Marcia: But you put it in perspective. Gas was 25 cents a gallon...

Pat: That’s right.

Marcia: ... and when I got out of school I was making forty-five hundred dollars a year, and I thought that was a whole lot of money.

Mae: And that was a good [salary]

Betty: It was a lot of money.

Marcia: It was. So it’s all relative.

Pat: It’s all relative.

Int: Were there other work-study kinds of jobs on campus besides serving in the dorms?

Mae: I used to do something for Swenson -- I don’t know -- some secretarial thing.

Marcia: I never heard of anything other than the waitresses.

Pat: I don’t remember.

Betty: Coach Swenson would have some secretary jobs and also I know Paul did the laundry. He was working down in the washer and dryer -- remember those bathing suits? The girls had cotton tank-top suits that you had to wear.

Marcia: For swim class.

Joan: For swim class.

Betty: Yes.

Marcia: They were not flattering, to say the least.

Betty: And they provided the towels. Some of the guys -- I don’t think any girls ever did the laundry -- but I think guys did that.

Marcia: I don’t remember anybody doing...

Mae: I think Paul used to work in the bookstore. I think there were different jobs throughout.

Pat: I wonder if it was by need -- some of those jobs. Because I think nowadays you can’t get a job unless it’s a need, financial need.
Joan: That’s right.

Pat: I don’t know if Bridgewater was that way.

Betty: I think that with Coach Swenson - I think he had players that he would... He would just say, “Would you like to make some extra money?”

Marcia: It would help out.

Betty: There was no... it wasn’t a work-study

Marcia: There was no formal process of... Right.

Betty: When we were in school there was no such thing as a work-study.

Marcia: No.

Mae: I do feel like in the summer I could work and make the hundred dollars.

Betty: Yes.

Pat: Right.

Mae: I don’t think today the kids could...

Pat: Oh, no.

Mae: ... work in the summer and make the tuition.

Int: Ten thousand dollars! [Laughter]

All: Yes. Yes.

Marcia: So it’s relative. It’s beyond relative, really.

Pat: It is relative.

Betty: It was.

Pat: It’s much more disproportionate now. It’s costs. Even though we did make forty-two -- I remember my first job was forty-two hundred dollars.

Mae: I was forty-two.

Pat: And my dad said when he saw my salary, he said, “Wow. I don’t even make that.”
Mae: Oh, wow.

Pat: And he had been working...

Marcia: It looked like a lot of money.

Pat: Oh, sure. It was still a lot of money.

Marcia: But you could buy a new car for twenty-five hundred dollars, three thousand dollars.

Pat: I think mine cost about eighteen.

Marcia: I remember buying a Mustang convertible -- my first car -- with thirty-five hundred dollars. And I thought that was just “Wow”.

Betty: Joan. Talk about yours.

Joan: I had gotten a... well, first I had to borrow money from my godfather for the down payment. I had a job, but I couldn’t get to it because I had no car. And I had no money, even though I had worked over the summer enough to get a car. So I borrowed money from him for a down payment on the car and then I was able to get to Milton, my first year teaching there. [I] saved enough money to get the car that I really wanted, which was a Pontiac convertible. It was a sixty-five...

Marcia: Nice.

Joan: ... and I actually still have the car.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Betty: It is beautiful!

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Betty: She still has her sixty-five...

Marcia: Classic car. Classic car.

Joan: Letting go, letting go. Every year, you say, yes, I should...

Betty: She lives at her same address.

[Laughter]
Betty: Joan, I’m sorry.

Joan: That’s all right, Betty. I understand.

Marcia: That’s so funny.

Mae: That’s worth a lot of money.

Pat: I think that’s great.

Marcia: I think that’s terrific. I think that’s great.

Joan: With the car the way it is, they say that the classic cars...

Mae: That’s a classic, I bet.

Marcia: Yes.

Joan: It is, but they are not as popular or... A few years back you could have gotten a lot of money for it. But when the economy, as everything else, took the dip, then you could buy classic cars rather cheaply as compared to what they were before. That’s what I’ve heard.

Marcia: Hang on to it. It’ll go back up.

Mae: It’ll come back.

Marcia: That’s a treasure. That’s a treasure. Hang on to that. Good for you.

Joan: That was full circle to actually get the car I...

Betty: When I saw that, a couple years ago, I went, “What!”

Joan: We had to show Betty and Paul.

Marcia: That’s great.

Int: When you were students here, Bridgewater did not have intercollegiate women’s sports, though I know many of you -- well, I know Betty, at least, played sports in high school -- and you weren’t able to do it here. What were some of the other extra-curricular activities you were able to participate in?

Marcia: We had the PEM Club [editor’s note: the Physical Education Majors Club], at least for our majors.

Betty: We had the Aquabrytes. Swimming.
Marcia: Cheerleading.

Joan: Swimming. Aquabrytes.

Marcia: Aquabrytes. Joan was an Aquabryte. Betty and I were cheerleaders.

Joan: I was a cheerleader, too.

Marcia: That’s right.

Int: Who did the Aquabrytes perform for?

Betty: We would put on great shows and the student body would come.

Marcia: Very well received. They were great.

Betty: They just loved it. And we had lighting. Our senior year, the president -- Marilyn Hanson -- her boyfriend somehow knew that you could get battery lights...

Marcia: That’s right.

Betty: … taped to you.

Marcia: That’s right.

Betty: We were so far ahead of all the beautiful lighting. There were four of us seniors that year, and the first time you pushed that switch, you were afraid you were going to get zapped.

Marcia: Getting the Christmas tree. [Laughter]

Joan: And everybody said, “Ahhhhh!”

Marcia: I remember...

Joan: The light shows today -- but back then...

Marcia: I remember watching you. That was very impressive. That was very high tech for its time.

Betty: Oh, it was. We would have different color kites or... I was in a duet and we were supposed to -- I was the shadow -- and the girl was all in white and I was in black and I was in the water. The pool had lights underneath, so if you’re underwater they could see you. We were very far ahead of the times, as far as the Aquabrytes’
abilities and the skills. I see what they do in the Olympics, and we weren’t there. But what we did back in 1962...

Marcia: It was great for its time.

Betty: ... it was wonderful.

Marcia: I remember going to the shows.

Pat: Oh, yes. The shows were fantastic.

Marcia: They were great. They were all great.

Betty: The student body loved it.

Mae: Absolutely.

Marcia: It was very exciting.

Betty: We must have put the same show -- there must have been three nights in a row, or something like that.

Joan: We did.

Marcia: Because it [the swimming pool] didn’t hold, as far as spectators go, it didn’t hold a whole lot...

Mae: Plus they had plays every year.

Betty: And the plays!

Pat: Dramas. The dramas were good.

Betty: The dramas. We had such...

Mae: That did a lot. A lot of people participated, one way or another with those, I think.

Joan: We participated with our other roommate doing a tarantella dance in one of the plays.

Marcia: These were the dorm parties.

Joan: They were going to send us to Greenland because it was so great. We were so excited. We hadn’t been out of Massachusetts, never mind going to Greenland. But it fell through, so we never went. [Laughs]
Pat: But they were fun.
Marcia: We had great dorm parties. A lot of fun at dorm parties.
Joan: But it was fun, yes.
Mae: Fun. They were fun.
Betty: But also -- I’m looking in the book -- the Audio-Visual Club -- they started that. There was a Library Club and the...
Marcia: W-R-A? Women’s Recreation Association?
Betty: W-R-A.
Mae: W-R-A.
Marcia: I hadn’t thought of that in years.
Betty: The Women’s Recreation Association was huge.
Mae: It was big.
Betty: And we would have a wonderful banquet.
Pat: What did we do in that? I don’t remember what we did in that club.
Mae: I remember being in it, though.
Betty: We had recreational fun things.
Pat: I was in it.
Betty: We would do a lot of the Saturday or a particular time, a fun activity.
Pat: I was never bored.
Betty: Then there was Glee Club...
Marcia: No, we always had plenty to do.
Betty: The spring concerts. We had a lot... Modern Dance Club.
Mae: Oh, yes.
Betty: They would put on a nice show.
Marcia: That’s true.
Joan: They had a nice show.
Marcia: That’s true. They were good.
Betty: And the men -- they also had their fraternities. There were two. There were two!
Marcia: No sororities.
Int: But there were fewer men, so... [Laughter]
Marcia: That’s true. It’s all proportionate.
Pat: No sororities. No.
Betty: The men had almost [a] competition. If you were dating one, it’s like, “You’re going with an Alpha guy.”
Mae: Oh, yes.
Pat: Alpha and Kappa.
Betty: “You’re going with a Kappa guy.” They weren’t friends. They were just...
Pat: Right.
Marcia: They had all the inter-scholastic sports, too. Because soccer was big.
Pat: Yes.
Marcia: Soccer was very big. That was on lower campus, which is here [editor’s note: where the Maxwell Library building is now located]. This was the field.
Pat: But then soccer stopped when football started.
Mae: Right. Right.
Marcia: And then football picked up.
Joan: They didn’t have enough [men] to do both.
Betty: That’s one thing, Marcia, you were a cheerleader for the soccer [team] your sophomore year. And then your junior year...

Marcia: Was football. Football in junior year, was it? When did you --?


Marcia: Yes.

Betty: So Marcia could even explain the difference, with the cheering.

Marcia: No. It was fun. I don’t know that in high school -- I don’t know that they have cheerleaders for soccer anymore. Or if they ever did -- at the high school level now I’m talking about. Yes. It was a different kind of sport because it kept moving. I mean, I love soccer because... In terms of physical ability...

Pat: It’s moving.

Marcia: ... you’re moving, you’re moving, you’re moving. It’s not like football where you move a little and you stop.

Mae: And you don’t have to be a certain size. I like that.

Marcia: No. As a matter of fact, when I got out of college and started coaching... When I was in high school and played interscholastic sports, field hockey was always my favorite. When I coached, field hockey was always my favorite because it didn’t necessarily take someone who was physically skilled. The mental sharpness had a great deal to do with it and the ability to push yourself further than you felt you could. Soccer, I find, is very much that way. A lot of endurance. That was fun. And it still -- as many times as I’ve come up here, it still seems really weird to see buildings where there was a field.

Mae: Yes.

Marcia: Right here! This was a field.

Pat: That’s right.

Marcia: Lower campus. That’s what it was called.

Marcia: And now, you drive in, there’s buildings way over there and there’s buildings way over there.

Pat: Now it’s East and West.

Marcia: It’s just changed so.
Betty: Isn’t that amazing?

Joan: We’ll see so many buildings... I knew where we were, but...

Mae: When I read [the campus map] last night, West Parking Lot or East Parking Lot.

Betty: And Ellen told me that, “You will park in the West Parking Lot.”

Marcia: It’s like “What?”

Betty: And I’m like, “Is that the one behind the gym?” [Laughter]

Int: If they were to replace the gym, I’d be at a loss to describe where to go.

Marcia: Really. These are our anchors.

Int: Right.

Pat: That’s our anchors.

Betty: Brim... I think it’s important for history -- it was a shock that we had the most athletic women in a state college, and yet we never had a varsity team of the women. I’ll just speak on my own behalf, as a junior and senior in high school, I played varsity for three sports. So when I came to Bridgewater, I assumed I would be on a Field Hockey team if I played well enough. Or I would be on a Basketball team. There was nothing.

Marcia: I remember once...

Joan: We just had intramurals.

Marcia: ... going to Wheaton College. We played a pick up sort of game in lacrosse.

Betty: Lacrosse.

Joan: Lacrosse.

Marcia: I remember going there. I remember playing lacrosse. But the thing that really struck me is I saw on campus wearing pants. And I’m thinking, “Oh, my gosh. Can you imagine! Women walking around with slacks.” Well, girls or whatever we were going to call them in those days. But girls walking around with slacks on campus. It’s like, “We could never do that.” Everybody on the bus was saying the same thing. “Look at the girls in slacks.”

Betty: It was four...
Marcia: [To Ellen] Isn’t that ridiculous when you say it out loud?

Betty: It was our senior year...

Joan: Our senior year from...

Betty: ... for four years. [To Joan] Did you play varsity? In high school?

Joan: In high school.

Betty: And you did too.

Marcia: Yes. I did, in all the sports.

Joan: Right.

Betty: I think we all did. Our senior year, we were a club. A lacrosse club. And we went to Wheaton College. One trip.

Marcia: Right. One match. That was it. I don’t remember doing anything else.

Joan: I think it was because she was trying to introduce it. That was a new thing for us to have lacrosse.

Marcia: That was relatively new. Right.

Joan: It was new for us playing it.

Marcia: I think you’re right.

Joan: And she was teaching us and everything. I was center at the time. I thought, “I really like this game. I would continue with that.”

Marcia: Yes. You were good.

Joan: And she said she was trying to get a game together with another college and evidently...

Marcia: But that was it.

Joan: ... it was Wheaton.

Marcia: That was the day. It was men that had the interscholastic sports.

Joan: Right. Here we were hoping it would continue on and get into an actual team.
Mae: It’s funny because you had the Phys. Ed. majors, but...

Betty: Here you had the Phys. Ed. majors and you had very few men. In fact, when they started football, they had...

Marcia: It was a man’s world.

Betty: ... thirty-five men...

Joan: It was a man’s world.

Marcia: It was.

Betty: ... they had thirty-five men on the team.

Mae: There were probably thirty-five men in the class. [Laughter]

Betty: And that was it.

Mae: Every man makes the team. [Laughter]

Betty: I don’t think anybody got cut.

Marcia: Not a try-out process, right?

Betty: It’s true.

Int: Joan, you mentioned “she” set up the lacrosse team. Was that Mary Jo Moriarty or someone else in the Phys Ed department?

Marcia: No, it was...

Joan: No...

Marcia: ... who was the woman...?

Joan: Tiny little...

Marcia: ... tall, young woman...

Joan: ... short...

Marcia: ... she was...

Pat: Coakley.
Betty: Ann Coakley.

Marcia: Ann Coakley.

Joan: Ann Coakley is the one that started it.

Mae: Wasn’t she...

Betty: She was dynamite.

Marcia: I liked her a lot.

Mae: She was very nice, wasn’t she.

Joan: She was.

Marcia: She was really nice.

Joan: She started it. She got a group that just...

Mae: [unintelligible] ahead of me.

Marcia: No, she was really nice.

Joan: ... in class, to see what we would do with it. And we just took off with it. I think it surprised her that we had never had a stick in our hand before. She gave us the fundamentals. Like I say, we just took off. But it was our group, our class.

Marcia: Right. It was such an odd skill. It was a unique skill to us because none of us had ever played. And it was nothing like the basketball, the softball, the volleyball, or the field hockey that we’d ever played before. It was like, “OK. What is this cradling business?”

Joan: Right. Right.

Marcia: Whole new skills.

Joan: And you were running.

Marcia: Yes.

Joan: It felt great. Learning this new skill, you felt really good about it. Then you got interested in seeing -- because more schools in Connecticut, particularly, and other states, were having more teams coming up with lacrosse.
Marcia: It’s funny we didn’t advocate -- with the strength that we would have had based on people who had all come from high schools...

Joan: Right.

Marcia: ... playing varsity sports. It’s odd now that I think of it, that we didn’t advocate to get a team together in something -- field hockey, volleyball.

Joan: Right.

Betty: It was just not in the rule book.

Joan: It wasn’t. I mean we followed the rules.

Marcia: It would not have been something that crossed our minds. Right.

Joan: And that was it.

Marcia: It wasn’t our place to do so.

Joan: You’re right.

Pat: Right.

Joan: We never gave it a thought.

Marcia: No.

Joan: We weren’t the women...

Marcia: Now, it seems like...

Joan: ... the ones to come that would have said...

Marcia: ... “Dern. Why didn’t we...”

Joan: “You know what? We need a team!”

Betty: The women of today, they don’t understand.

Mae: Wouldn’t stand for it.

Betty: They can just...

Pat: It’s against the law. I think it’s against the law. Isn’t there...
Marcia: Title VII.

Int: Title IX.

Marcia: Title nine, rather. Yes.

Pat: Funding, and the whole nine yards. It’s against the law.

Mae: Even the Olympics, they say, the women [are] so much more competitive and everything throughout the Olympics. I mean the women...

Pat: We weren’t supposed to be competitive...

Mae: Women were the big winners in the last Olympics.

Pat: ... type people, I think.

Betty: Yes. They were.

Mae: Yes. And that had to do a lot maybe with the Title IX, I think.

Pat: We had to take Physical Education as Elementary majors. Just as classes. And I remember going to swimming. Some of my favorite classes, when we had to go, you could practice your square dancing.

Betty: Square dancing.

Pat: I loved those classes. We had to do square dancing so that you could learn how to teach it. It was great.

Joan: We had to do calling. We had to learn all the right calls.

Marcia: Right. I’m not thinking of her name -- the tall woman who ran those classes. What’s her name? What’s her name? What was her name?

Joan: Pat.

Marcia: Yes. Pat. That’s right. Good for you.

Joan: Pat...

Marcia: You’re halfway there. And it was Pat...

Pat: She was on the young side.

Marcia: Oh, you know. You know. What was...?
Joan: She was on the younger side.

Pat: She was on the younger side, I remember.

Marcia: Yes. Very tall.

Joan: Yes. Tall and...

Marcia: Rather strict.

Joan: Yes.

Marcia: Every so often, she would sort of -- not, I don’t want to say let loose, that’s not the right...

Betty: Phillips!

Pat: Phillips.

Marcia: Phillips, that’s right.

Joan: Pat Phillips.

Marcia: Pat Phillips. Every so often...

Betty: Let it be known that I had to look it up in the [year] book.

Joan: How could we ever forget?

Marcia: It was kind of a smile and sort of a let down a little bit. Oh, my gosh, she can relax a little bit. She was good.

Pat: We had to take golf from her.

Marcia: We had golf, I remember. We went off somewhere to play golf.

Pat: She was a terror.

Marcia: To putt or something or other.

Betty: Pat Phillips should have been a professional square dance caller.

Marcia: She was very good.

Pat: She was that good?
Betty: She was sensational.

Marcia: She was very good.

Pat: Wow.

Betty: One classmate of ours, Judy Brown...

Marcia: Oh, yes. Judy was really good.

Betty: ... was really - [could] do the square dance calling.


Betty: [Laughing] You should have heard...

Marcia: I remember all that.

Betty: I had rhythm, but not verbally with the music. I’d go, “Allemande left, and go right.” [Laughter]

Joan: We did it. But you had to do it in front of the group. No one wanted to call in front of the group.

Mae: Isn’t it funny?

Joan: And we had one classmate, who walked out the door, with the mike, and called from there. And we looked at each other, “Oh, my god, what’s Phillips going to do now?” And she went right out there after her and she said, “You are to stand in front of this group” and everything. And she said, “I’ll call somebody else up to do it. You get yourself together. But you’re going to call in front of the group.”

Marcia: That’s kind of ringing a bell now.

Betty: I think I know who it is.

Marcia: I can’t remember who it is specifically, but ..

Betty: R.D.?

Joan: Yes.

Betty: Ruth.
Joan: Yes.

Marcia: Oh, yes, yes, yes. Gosh, I hadn’t thought about that one.

Betty: Oh, I forgot that one.

Joan: And she’s the only one that ever did it, because every week, it was going to be someone else that was going to call. And we’d be practicing. Luckily then, we were in the dormitories, that we would be practicing with each other. We’d have a group out in the hallway. “Come on, you guys. You’ve got to do this. You’ve got to do that. Get it right.”

Mae: That’s funny, though. As a teacher a lot of things you can do in the classroom in front of the class, is one thing. But if you have to do it...

Joan: In front of your peers.

Pat: Peers.

Mae: It’s a whole different thing.

Marcia: It is. You just feel like you’re going to be judged.

Mae: Yes.

Pat: Yes.

Marcia: And the kids, [are] kind of like, “OK.”

Mae: Yes.

Marcia: That’s funny.

Int: Let me ask another question that’s unrelated to what we’ve been talking about thus far. Were any of you active politically, like in the 1960 election? Did that ever cross your radar?

[Long silence, followed by laughter] I guess not.

Mae: Well I can...

Joan: We were down in the dorms, in front of the television, as far as being aware of what was going on in...

Mae: And I remember the inauguration...
Joan: ... and we had discussions about it.

Mae: ... and I remember because it was so close and you didn’t know for a while who had won. I remember all of that.

Pat: This is Kennedy, right?

Mae: Yes, Kennedy.

Betty: Yes, Kennedy. Yes.

Pat: We probably tuned it in.

Joan: I didn’t go out and work for a political group.

Mae: And campaign, no.

Joan: And campaign.

Betty: The voting age was 21, wasn’t it?

Joan: Right.

Marcia: Right. We weren’t old enough to vote.

Betty: We were 18 or 19. I don’t think that affected us. What did affect us - and I think I mentioned to you - was the Cuba crisis.

Int: Right.

Betty: That in fact.. there is one gentleman coming tonight...

Mae: Will Kingsley? [editor’s note: Wilfred Kingsley]

Betty: Yes. He thought he was going to lose three and a half years of education because he was in the Reserves -- I remember we were all so concerned. He thought he had to go off to fight. And Pat...

Pat: There was the draft. They were still drafting.

Mae: Yes.

Int: So this was October, your senior year.

Betty: Senior year.
Pat: Sixty-two.

Betty: And it was drastic. That, I think, hit a lot of us.

Mae: Yes.

Betty: We were so tuned in to the television.

Int: There were televisions in the dorm?

Joan: Downstairs.

Betty: Probably one.

Marcia: Not in the rooms.

Mae: And in [unintelligible] in Tillinghast, maybe?

Joan: One in the “Butt” room.

Mae: I kind of almost remember in Tillinghast... in the waiting room.

Betty: Downstairs.

Pat: In the waiting room area.

Mae: And I remember people watching -- maybe it was the inauguration.

Marcia: But it wasn’t the big flat-screen plasma TV.

All: No. No.

Pat: I actually was student-teaching and my husband-to-be was in the Air Force. He had been commissioned and all. It was up in the air as to where he was going to be.

Mae: Yes.

Pat: We were supposed to be getting married in August. It was not a pleasant time.

Mae: I think Vietnam was the years after we graduated.

Betty: Later.

Pat: Yes.
Marcia: Sometime afterwards.

Betty: That was after the assassination. All of us, I’m sure, could go around the table -- we were all teaching that year -- and I bet we know where we were, in the class that we were talking, when Kennedy was shot.

Marcia: Kennedy was shot. Isn’t that funny? That’s true.

Mae: Absolutely.

Marcia: I do. I absolutely remember.

Betty: We all...

Marcia: I was teaching.

Betty: That was our first November teaching.

Mae: I remember a teacher - a fifth grade teacher - came up to my room and knocked on the door and said, “I just want to let you know, the president was shot.” And I said, “The president of what?” [Laughter] I mean it was out of your thinking...

Marcia: Right.

Pat: Right. Out of your thinking. You never would have thought.

Marcia: Was it president of the P.T.O., or...? [Laughs]

Betty: A student came up to me and I thought it was one of those “Knock, Knock” jokes.

Mae: Yes. I mean it was just like...

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Betty: I was waiting -- like “Knock, Knock. Who’s there?”

Marcia: Right.

Betty: It was... That was so out of anybody’s world of understanding. And yet today’s society, this is how they’re growing up. With all this type of tragedy. We lived in a bubble.

Mae: We were really fortunate.

Joan: In comparison. We surely did.
Mae: And I think too, technology -- the kids have it much tougher today.

Pat: Quicker. They get all this information so quickly.

Joan: All the social media.

Marcia: Politics in our time was more United States, as far as global [focus]. Now, again, with technology and communication such as it is -- my mom is 97 and she said -- still mentally sharp, she’s terrific -- in her years, she said communication, transportation are the two things that have absolutely changed the most.

Mae: Oh, sure.

Marcia: Communication...

Pat: I can believe that.

Marcia: ... I mean, [it’s] instant. Email, text, everything. It’s just quick and it’s global.

Mae: And [click] send it and you can’t bring it back. [Laughter]

Marcia: It’s like, “Oops. Did I really say that?”

Mae: Didn’t mean that.

Marcia: I didn’t mean to hit send.

Mae: Where’s that white tape when you need it? [Laughter]

Pat: Where’s the white tape, right.

Marcia: That’s good.

Betty: Let it be known on this tape that Mae has not changed. [Laughter]

Marcia: No. Not at all.

Betty: You’re still wonderful, Mae.

Marcia: And that’s great

Mae: Listen - you need to read that into the historical record, the dorm rules.

Pat: Tomorrow, yes.

Marcia: Definitely want copies. That’s just hysterical.
Pat: We were watching the Red Sox last night, reading this. And I had to read it out loud. We were just stunned.

[Mae Doherty exits the interview]

Marcia: I remember it being old-fashioned, but when you read that... I just don’t remember it being that old-fashioned.

Joan: That old fashioned.

Marcia: But it’s true!

Joan: We may have skimmed it, and then just put it in a drawer and that was it. Because you didn’t think you were going to really break any rule because we followed the rules.

Marcia: This is what you did.

Joan: We probably didn’t think twice about it.

Marcia: But it just sounds ridiculous.

Pat: I can’t imagine any of us that didn’t look good in slacks. [Laughter]

Marcia: Yes, by the way. That’s a good point!

Pat: Really.

Betty: We looked at the pictures. The girls -- I didn’t think they were... Eighty percent were within the normal weight range.

Marcia: Right.

Betty: At least.

Pat: Where’s that coming from?

Betty: And maybe 5 were underweight, and 10 were overweight. The majority were slim -- to have that written.

Pat: There it is.

Marcia: Really.

Betty: But, Ellen. You had some other questions.
Int: I do. One of the other things you had mentioned that I had completely forgotten is that during your freshman year Robert Frost came to speak on campus.

Pat: Yes.

Marcia: Yes. I remember that.

Int: In December. And I think he’s probably one of the more famous speakers to ever appear on this campus.

Marcia: Probably so.

Int: What was that like? Was it mandatory attendance?

ALL: No. No.

Betty: We all wanted to go.

Marcia: Oh, gosh, really.

Betty: [To Marcia and Joan] As a commuter, did you stay, or go to it?

Marcia: Oh, I remember going...

Joan: I remember going...

Marcia: I don’t remember a whole lot about it, to be honest with you.

Joan: I don’t know if I had come back - that it was on a weekend. Normally I didn’t come back so much, because you were driving from [unintelligible]

Betty: It would have been in...

Joan: Unless it was during the [week] day, I would have stayed after. I would have stayed after.

Marcia: It must have...

Int: I didn’t look up the day of the week. It was December first, but I didn’t look what day that was.

Marcia: None of you have that great memory that can say, “December first in 1963 was on a Thursday!”

Betty: “And I was wearing a green top.”
Pat: Yes. Yes. “And I had this for lunch.”

Marcia: Sure. Who says we’re old and can’t remember anything?

Betty: To have such a... It was an honor.

Marcia: And we were a tiny, little teachers college.

Joan: We were a tiny teachers college, right.

Marcia: We weren’t a university.

Joan: Right.

Betty: And to have a giant like that - to us...

Pat: I think, though, yes he was a giant but I think looking back now, it was an even bigger event.

Marcia: That’s a very good point. I think you’re right.

Joan: Than what we thought at that time.

Pat: Because he was from New England, and...

Marcia: Well, maybe the Horace Mann connection, too, is something that drew him to here, unexpected.

Pat: It was still spectacular...

Marcia: It was, without question.

Pat: ... because I remember him reading those poems. We had heard them in high school and all, and it was...

Marcia: I think you’re right. I think it means more to us now, that “Oh, my gosh...

Pat: “Oh, Robert Frost.”

Marcia: “… Robert Frost actually came to the campus and we actually got a chance to see him.”

Betty: We had television, but we never had global television.

Marcia: Right.
Betty: Until we were in the 50s, we didn’t have television more than 12 hours a day or something.

Marcia: No. And there were 3 channels...

Pat: We didn’t even have a set.

Marcia: ... and there were no remotes. And so you actually got up and changed the channel. But there weren’t...

Betty: So you did not see famous people.

Marcia: No.

Betty: So to have someone on campus -- I mean, we filled the auditorium.

Pat: Oh, definitely.

Marcia: No. It was things like “Father Knows Best” and “Twilight Zone” and “Ozzie and Harriet.”

Pat: “I Love Lucy.”

Marcia: And “I Love Lucy” and that’s the kind of thing.

Pat: [unintelligible]

Marcia: Nobody said any bad words.

Pat: Oh, never.

Marcia: And there were no sexual innuendos.

Pat: Twin beds.

Marcia: Twin beds. That’s right. That’s right.

Pat: Different times.

Marcia: Very different times.

Betty: Other than Robert Frost,...

Marcia: I don’t remember.
Betty: ... what other special things happened during our four years?

[Long silence]

Marcia: Does that not speak? [Laughter] Does that not speak volumes?

Pat: For me, nothing.

Betty: And let it be known...

Joan: I didn’t think, either.

Pat: I remember nothing, other than Robert Frost. So, it was a big thing.

Joan: It was a celebrity coming in.

Marcia: But again, we never felt slighted, like why didn’t more celebrities come to our campus...

Pat: Oh, never.

Marcia: ... because that was not something that happened. Again, this was a little school.

Int: Right.

Pat: It was teeny.

Marcia: It was teachers and so we dutifully did what we needed to do and then we went out and influenced young people.

Pat: There was a need, a huge need for teachers.

Marcia: There was.

Betty: I had the experience, while looking for you girls today...

Marcia: See, you still call us girls. [Laughs]

Pat: Ladies.

Marcia: I love that.

Pat: Yes.

Betty: Bristaco, the bear, for the football team. [editor’s note: Bristaco is the school team mascot]
Marcia: The bear. Funny.

Betty: He was walking with someone, and they were taking pictures. And when they said, “Would you like your picture taken with Bristaco?” we had the contest to name [the school mascot]...

Marcia: That’s right. I forgot that.

Betty: Everybody made up the name [for] the mascot. And I’m looking at this [year] book. We had Homecoming parade...

Pat: Yes, we did.

Betty: Nothing ever...

Marcia: So they’d have to rename him now to Brista-un?

Betty: They do. [Laughter]

Marcia: Bristaco just doesn’t work any more, right?

Betty: She just said, “We are going to have -- although we like Bristaco -- we are going to rename... We’re having a contest to rename.”

Marcia: Brista-un just doesn’t flow.

Joan: [Takes out a beanie she wore as a freshman] Bridgewater Teachers College. From what we had to wear.

ALL: Ohhhhh!

Betty: You didn’t!

Joan: I did find it.

Pat: Very good.

Joan: And it was the Teachers College, the Bridgewater Bristaco.

Marcia: Silly little... Bridgewater beanie. Oh, my gosh.

Pat: The beanie.
Joan: I can’t read the writing on the back. but I have a feeling that there was a sponsor or something that when we finished, they wrote something on the back of our beanie.

Betty: We all had...

Marcia: I keep forgetting about that.

Int: Was this part of freshmen initiation of some sort or orientation?

Betty: We had to wear it for a full week.

Joan: We had to wear it.

Betty: We had to wear these.

Pat: Look at this. Look at this.

Marcia: Gosh.

Joan: We didn’t want to, but we did! [Laughter] If you were caught without it, they made you do something, like stand in front of everybody and sing a song. And if you don’t have a voice, that is so embarrassing.

Pat: Oh, it’s awful.

Betty: We also...

Joan: Or do something crazy.

Betty: ... on the spur of the moment, during the orientation -- remember that song “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes?”

Joan: Yes.

Marcia: Yes. That’s right.

Betty: We would just be doing it...

Pat: Nonstop.

Betty: ... and you were almost late for class. But you had to quickly do it.

Pat: I was thinking about that. Was it a few days before classes started?

Betty: No. It was during class, because...
Pat: Absolutely during class?

Marcia: We never had the week orientation, like they do in colleges now...

Pat: Well, it might not have been a week, but a couple of days?

Marcia: ... where the kids come back earlier. It seems to me we just got right into it.

Joan: No. I don’t remember a week or anything.

Int: If you were -- I don’t want to say “hazed” - but, forced to go through this as freshmen, did you then return the favor once you became seniors?

Betty: Yes, we did.

Pat: Yes, we did. No, as sophomores.

Betty: Sophomores initiated freshmen.

Joan: Sophomores initiated the freshmen.

Marcia: But it was so mild. It’s funny, because hazing was the word that crossed my mind, too. There’s just no comparison to what hazing...

Joan: Right. It was mild.

Pat: It was just silly things.

Marcia: It was.

Pat: Just silly.

Marcia: Right. Nobody got injured or...

Joan: It was silly. And like she said, the “Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes”, it was “Drop down and give me 20 push-ups.” And that’s how fast they would say it.

Marcia: Right.

Joan: And you’re there with your books and you were hurrying, hurrying to class and, “Oh, no.” You there you had to do the whole [unintelligible]

Marcia: But nobody got hurt or horribly mortified.

Betty: Oh, no. They weren’t... It wasn’t...
Joan: There was no beating things or anything like that.
Marcia: It was very mild. Very mild. No paddles.
Betty: In fact, you felt almost honored that you were being harrassed. [Laughs]
Marcia: “We have arrived,” right?
Joan: You kind of wanted to go without your beanie some days...
Marcia: Just to see what would happen.
Joan: ... but it would have been twice as bad if they found out you were a freshman and you didn’t have that on.
Pat: And you were nabbed because you were walking from the dorm to the lunchroom, to the cafeteria. Or from the administration building to the lunchroom. You were just nabbed, right there, on the quad. Right there.
Joan: Right.
Betty: I have another envelope. I had some pictures - and there was a picture of me, wearing my skirt up...
Pat: Upside down.
Marcia: Upside down.
Betty: ... upside down.
Int: Right. You showed that to us upstairs [before the interview].
Joan: You showed that to us.
Marcia: Did you give it to Paul?
Joan: I had put it in there.
Betty: I’ve lost it, already. [Laughs] After 50 years, I lost it.
Joan: It must be in the... files.
Betty: It was another one of these [envelopes].
Pat: It’s not in your book?
Betty: No.

Marcia: You’re not getting old, are you?

Betty: No, because I’m with Marcia.

Marcia: No, you’re not. You’re funny.

Int: Do you remember anything about your graduation ceremony itself? Did they still do the Daisy Chain, whatever that tradition was?

Pat: No, they did not.

Int: That was over by then?

Marcia: Do you know what I remember -- and this is so silly, and I’ve told my kids this before, because both my kids went to Emerson College and they were four years apart. I can’t remember who my son had for graduation. I know that my daughter had James Earl Jones speak and I was so excited. I thought, “Oh, my goodness. High profile speaker and all.” Maybe I shouldn’t even say this. He was horrible. He was all over the place. The only thing I can remember him saying is that at the end he said, “Let the Force be with you” and everybody loved it. The only thing I can remember the college speaker saying, and I can’t imagine how we ever got around to this, was when you go through life, you should always make sure that you carry a handkerchief in your pocket. I’m thinking, “Why, why would you do that?” I don’t why that was supposed to have been meaningful to him and/or to us, as it were. It’s like, really? I don’t even remember who the speaker was.

Betty: I remember...

Pat: It was Joan Kiernan’s dad. [editor’s note: Owen Kiernan was Massachusetts Commissioner of Education from 1957-1969 and a 1935 Bridgewater graduate] He came.

Betty: I remember the statement was, “You can never go home.” And I’m snickering, “I’m going home tonight.” [Laughter]

Marcia: So obviously, very meaningful to you.

Betty: He was so on-target, because once I received my diploma, my bachelor’s in Physical Education, I was not that same person...

Marcia: Your world changed. Your world changed.

Betty: ... back at home.
Marcia: Our world changed.

Betty: It was a wonderful message.

Marcia: You were suddenly on your own. It’s all up to you now. Make your own...

Betty: It was outside. I have pictures here. It was outside. We came out the...

Marcia: I remember the outside...

Betty: ... administration building and the procession.

Pat: Walked.

Betty: We were facing lower campus...

Joan: Right.

Pat: Right.

Betty: ... where this building not. It was just... we were called one by one and received our diploma. There was I think over 200 in our graduating class. According to what I’m looking at, we had a banquet. It was very meaningful. You did not have limited tickets. I jokingly looked and I had my mother, my father, my grandmother and my brother. Then I look at Paul. He’s got fifty-four people there! [Laughs] No, but he had like seven aunts there and whatever.

Marcia: When did we have the dinner? I can’t remember that. I’m sure we went to one.

Betty: It was in the dining hall.

Pat: In the dining hall.

Betty: It was in the dining hall.

Pat: And we all fit there?

Joan: It was after the...

Betty: The president’s luncheon.

Marcia: It must have been, but I don’t remember that.

Pat: The president’s luncheon, yes.
Betty: And we all had our hats on.
Joan: Why do I think for that, we only had the two tickets, being probably your parents...
Marcia: Because there wouldn’t have been room, right?
Joan: ... for the luncheon. But anybody...
Betty: For the luncheon, right.
Joan: ... could go to the [the ceremony], because it was outside.
Marcia: It was outside.
Joan: And could go to the graduation, because they were outside.
Pat: Yes. People were standing.
Betty: And now that Mae’s gone, she’s not going to ask me why do I have them, because I don’t know. [To Ellen] If you would any of these [commencement items], these are all what we received.
Marcia: Oh, my gosh.
Betty: I came across them all.
Int: Oh, my.
Marcia: Wow, you’ve really kept...
Betty: No, I...
Marcia: ... memorabilia here.
Betty: I think my mother did. I think I put it together, so I have all this. It’s rather nice.
Int: It’s a wonderful record of...
Marcia: It’s a regular collection.
Pat: We had a baccalaureate. They’re going away from that now, I guess, because that’s really religious.
Betty: The commencement. See? [Sharing the memorabilia] All this. It was wonderful.
Marcia: My gosh

Joan: Convocation.

Betty: Yes.

Marcia: Wow.

Pat: That was a Tuesday.

Int: What were your expectations as you graduated? Did you just assume you’d teach and get married and raise families? Did you think your lives would differ tremendously from that of your parents? Did you sense a generational shift?

Marcia: Oh, yes. I think we were pretty sure that it would be very different from what our parents would have gone through. I mean, the idea of making forty-five hundred dollars a year is -- one of you had said something about so much different from your...

Betty: Like she [Pat] said, your father wasn’t making that.

Marcia: Right.

Pat: It was much... expectations were much bigger. Definitely.

Betty: I came from a family that my mother was an orphan, a state ward, and my father had quit high school at age 16. So they were thrilled that their two children went off to college.

Marcia: That’s pretty neat. Really.

Betty: I knew my life would be so different from my parents.

Marcia: Oh, sure.

Joan: I was the same way. My parents did not graduate high school, so they were thrilled that I was going to go on to college. I remember when we were graduating, you wanted to set the world on fire, and everybody was getting applications out and where we’re going to go. [To Marcia] I remembered you were staying close to home.

Marcia: Yes.

Joan: And Jeanne Madore, Ruth Duddy, and myself - we were going to set the world afire and we were going to go out. So we had different states we were looking to get to, so we could kind of be close together, whatever. We were going to go...
Marcia: A little support system.

Joan: ... get our own apartment and do whatever. Well, as it turned out, I got accepted in Colorado, Colorado Springs. And I was going to be able to teach swimming there, too. They had a pool. I was so excited. Then I heard from Jeanne Madore - she decided to stay around Somerset...

Marcia: Somerset. Right.

Joan: ... because she had been offered a job. And Ruth Duddy -- she decided to stay locally, too, in Massachusetts. And she was going to King Philip. Being the little country bumpkin, I wasn’t about to venture off on my own...

Marcia: There goes your support system!

Joan: ... so therefore I took the job in Milton, Mass.

Marcia: I was just going to say, I didn’t remember that you had gone to Colorado Springs. So you didn’t!

Joan: I didn’t. I didn’t.

Marcia: It’s not too late. I’m still working. You could work.

Joan: OK. I’ll think about that. [Laughs] That’s how it turned out for me.

Marcia: Wow.

Pat: My first job was in Utah...

Marcia: Oh, my goodness.

Pat: ... because that’s where my husband-to-be was stationed.

Marcia: Stationed. Wow.

Pat: There I was. I arrived like two days before school started. I asked -- or, “Go to the gym and pick up your supplies.” So I had a reading manual and a math manual. That was it.

Marcia: That was it?

Pat: That was it.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.
Pat: Yes. No P.E. teacher. No music teacher. So I was very grateful for anything I had learned at Bridgewater because I was the teacher. Thirty-two first-graders.

Marcia: That was a very big class in those days.

Pat: It was huge.

Marcia: I mean it’s terrible now when they talk about classes being that big. But back then... wow.

Pat: But it was great. The people were great. Everyone, they loved my accent. And I dressed in Bermudas, and wore knee socks. They told me this after they got to know me a little bit better. And it was fun.

Marcia: That Massachusetts accent.

Pat: It was a great, great experience.

Joan: And that’s kind of a common thing. Because when my husband started teaching elementary, he too -- you were the music teacher, you were the art teacher, you were...

Marcia: One size fit all. Really.

Joan: ... everything.

Pat: Lunchroom. I had to take them to the lunchroom, playground, everything.

Marcia: Wow.

Pat: And I went in and asked the principal, “What should I teach them in Social Studies?” or Science or whatever. And he just said, “Anything you want.” And I’m thinking, “Massachusetts - I’ve been through Methods courses up to here.” [Gestures]

Marcia: So, no D-E-S-E [editor’s note: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education] regulations. [Laughs]

Pat: Nothing. The register -- do you remember the register, where we had to write the kids’ names?

Joan: Oh, yes.

Pat: Well, they didn’t do that in Utah.
Marcia: They didn’t keep attendance?

Pat: No. You pass it in in the morning.

Marcia: OK.

Pat: There was no...

Marcia: That’s funny.

Pat: ... or someone else did it. Somewhere.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh. Culture shock.

Pat: But it was a great experience. I loved it. I was very grateful for anything I had learned at Bridgewater.

Marcia: That’s great.

Betty: Bridgewater did prepare us.

Marcia: It did. I felt as though it did.

Betty: The only thing that I did not realize was our accent. You mentioned your accent.

Marcia: That’s funny.

Betty: Our second year - after Paul and I got married - he went back as a full-time student at the University of Colorado. I got a teaching job. It wasn’t until January. The first faculty meeting, the principal introduced me and asked if I would stand up and tell the new faculty a little bit about myself. Well, I was taken aback, but I stood up and I started to say things. And he just chuckled and he said, “Mrs. Callahan, I had to have the faculty experience that accent.”

Marcia: Your accent. [Laughs]

Betty: It was like, I had no idea...

Marcia: “What accent? What accent?”

Betty: ... that we had an accent. It was just a hoot.

Marcia: That’s funny.

Pat: We had speakers in our rooms - that was for the office to talk to us. And an electrician came in -- right in the middle of teaching -- climbed up the ladder,
finished his job, came down. He looked at me and says, “Boy, you talk funny.” [Laughter] And of course, the kids are “Waa-yooooo.”

Marcia: “What do you mean, me funny?”

Pat: When I was teaching first grade I came across [spells] a-u-n-t.

Marcia: Right.

Pat: We say “aunt.”

Joan: Aunt.

Pat: So, I had several military kids in the class. And the native kids - the Utah kids. So I thought, “Who shall I ask?” So I always chose the native kid, the state kid, “Ant.” “That’s right. It’s ant.”

Marcia: Smart woman.

Pat: You had to.

Betty: There was a piece of [gym] apparatus - they don’t use anymore - but it was [spells] h-o-r-s-e. In Colorado, it is a horse.

Pat: Horse.

Betty: But when I said, [exaggerating her accent], “This is a hauwse.” [Laughs] It was terrible. But a horse. We always had horses.

Marcia: What “r”? Who said there’s an “r” in that word, right?

Joan: Yes.

Marcia: No “r” where we come from. That is funny.

Betty: Bridgewater prepared, personally, prepared me for life. And also prepared me with great friendship. And I don’t think students today will be meeting like this. We met for the first time last year, Marcia.

Marcia: Right.

Betty: After forty-nine years.

Marcia: And it was as though nothing, no time had passed at all. Really.
Betty: Joan, we met maybe about five years ago, again. And Pat and I remained closer. It is just wonderful what we experienced, and it was the dorm life. We have not spoken of the dorm fun. We had sing-alongs. Oh, weekly, nightly.

Marcia: Oh, yes.

Betty: And Marcia played the accordion. There wasn’t a tune that she could not play.

Pat: Do you still play?

Marcia: Every once in a great while, I’ll get it out and play. Oh, my gosh. But that has a great deal, I think, to do with technology and communication. Now, I think, kids because they’re [hooked?] to a laptop, you weren’t inclined to go back and whatever. Whether you’re doing work, whether you’re online, whether you’re surfing the web, whatever you’re doing, we didn’t have any of that.

Pat: Right.

Joan: Right.

Marcia: So it was more about -- the time you weren’t studying, was more about socializing, bonding with one another, because you weren’t tied into phones, computers and so forth.

Joan: You made your own fun, what you did.

Marcia: Exactly. Our communication was not electronic. Our communication was oral. It was real. It was to one another.

Joan: We’d be having a dorm party and they’d come and say, “You three are going to do something, right. You three are going to do something.”

Pat: That’s right. You had the talent tests.

Marcia: Really

Joan: We’d say “Alright.”

Betty: The talent show.

Joan: She was the writer.

Marcia: The song parodies. That was fun.

Joan: She would put her music with a song. And then she’d play it. Then she’d say, “What rhymes with this? What can we say here?” Then Jeanne and I, we’d be the
ones [who would say], “What can we do to this to make it funny, to make them laugh?” So, we were kind of crazy.

Pat: By the way, the fire ropes that you were talking about...

Joan: Yes.

Pat: Occasionally we would hang them down the back stairwell. One person would be holding, one person would be holding. And it would reach down to the first floor, so it was safe, and we would use it as a swing.

Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Joan: Ooohhh.

Pat: But it was safe because that was the last floor -- in the back hall.

Marcia: Right. How funny.

Pat: We used to wait, listen for the dorm mother to come. Because you certainly shouldn’t be doing that.

Joan: Definitely not.

Marcia: What was our dorm mother’s name?

Pat: Miss Mellow.

Joan: Mellow.

Pat: And Mrs. Priestley.

Marcia: “Mrs. Priest.”


Marcia: Oh, my gosh. I hadn’t thought about those names in ages.

Pat: We called her “George.”

Betty: She had a physical appearance, like George Washington.

Joan: George Washington.

Pat: She did.
Betty: We’re not being mean.

Marcia: No. She was a nice lady.

Betty: She was wonderful.

Marcia: I was going to say, it wasn’t an easy job, but we were well-behaved, really. Except for that one over there [points to Betty?] [Laughter]

Pat: I think they knew...

Marcia: No, [I’m] kidding, kidding.

Pat: ... both of them knew that we were doing things that we probably shouldn’t. Yet they had to overlook some things, for sure.

Marcia: You’re talking about - how many people did we have at Woodward Dorm? Did we have a couple hundred people? However many there were... But the fact that we all knew what the rules were.

Pat: We did know what the rules were, yes.

Marcia: And we did, for the most part, what we were supposed to do.

Pat: We did open the side door, every now and then though, to let kids in. I mean, we did that.

Joan: You weren’t supposed to do that either.

Pat: You weren’t supposed to do that. Signed each other in and out.

Marcia: It was the signing in and signing out.

Pat: So we knew... But we just, I guess, hoped that we didn’t get caught.

Joan: Wouldn’t get caught.

Pat: But to us it was an innocent thing. That girl was late -- she needed to come in.

Marcia: It’s funny though -- I mean, I don’t know what they do today, but I’m assuming they don’t go through the signing in, signing out kind of process. In today’s age of security concerns and so forth, you would almost think that that would happen more than it would have in our age, in our era, where safety... I never really thought about walking across [campus].
Pat: We had a night watchman. Do you remember the night watchman that used to come through at night?

Marcia: Yes, I do.

Joan: Yes.

Pat: He carried a box, so he must have been, I don’t know, collecting [or] checking on something to see if the doors were locked. But he would look straight ahead.

Betty: Oh, yes. Because he [was] walking through a girl’s dorm.

Pat: Straight ahead. He never looked.

Betty: I bet he hated it.

Marcia: Right. I forgot about that.


Marcia: Oh, my gosh.

Betty: We weren’t totally modest, but I remember half-slips being worn...

Marcia: Right.

Pat: Pulled them up here.

Betty: ... pulled up like so that you had a short dress on.

Marcia: Yes. You didn’t go running through the halls in the all-together. It would never have occurred to us.

Pat: Not even in the common bath rooms.

Joan: No.

Marcia: No.

Betty: We always were very private.

Pat: Yes.

Marcia: Again, it was the norm. It’s what we did.

Pat: It was the norm. You’re exactly right.
Marcia: It wasn’t out of the ordinary. It’s what we did.

Pat: Right.

Int: Is there anything else you’d like to share with us? I’ve heard such wonderful stories that I’ve enjoyed this immensely. More than you’ll ever know.

Marcia: It’s just fun to reminisce.

Betty: We appreciate you wanting to have this information, Ellen. This is wonderful. I have had a blast...

Marcia: What a great opportunity...

Betty: ... talking with everybody.

Marcia: ... to relive things we haven’t thought about for years. It’s like, “Oh, my gosh! I remember that. I remember that.” This has been great, personally. I’m loving this. This is fun.

Int: I’m so glad. Thank you all very much for joining us.

Pat: We loved it.

Joan: Thank you for having us.

Marcia: Thank you.

Int: It’s always a delight to see you. Have a great reunion weekend.

Marcia: Thank you.

Betty: It’s going to be fun.

Int: Great.

Betty: Thank you.