

Eleanore Brown McGowan

Interviewed by Marie McCabe on February 21, 1983 at an unknown location.

Oral history tape number: 29

This is Marie McCabe, doing an interview for Historic Madison, Incorporated. I am talking to Eleanore Brown McGowan. It's February 21, 1983. Mrs. McGowan, will you give your maiden name and tell where you were born in Madison?

My name was Eleanore Brown. I was born in Madison in 1892. Then in 1917 I married Robert Hayden. We lived together for over fifty-five years and then he died. Later I married Maurice Sanborn McGowan.

And what part of Madison were you born in?

I was born in what I suppose you'd say was the central part of Madison, on East Gilman Street.

And you lived in one of those big houses up there on the hill?

Well, my Grandmother and Grandfather Storer lived on Pinckney Street, the corner of Pinckney Street and Gilman Street. I was born just across the street from them.

And what did your grandfather do?

He was retired.

But he had been in business in Madison?

No. He was in business in the East.

And came out here to retire?

Yes, yes. When Mother and her brothers and sisters were little children, they came out to Madison.

You grew up in that location then?

Yes.

And who were some of your neighbors there?

Well, there was the governor across the street and Judge [Robert McKee] Bashford lived on one corner. My Grandmother and Grandfather Storer lived on the other corner. Then across the street were the Colonel [John Henry] Knight family. And across from them, which would be the fourth corner, was the old... I really have forgotten the name of the people that lived on that fourth corner. A beautiful old house.

What style home did you have?

It was more Victorian than anything else, I would say.

And the governor's mansion was Victorian, too, wasn't it?

Yes.

There was that big Italian villa. I had forgotten the name of the people. What did your father do?

He was in real estate and in banking.

And your mother stayed home?

Oh, yes.

How many brothers and sisters did you have?

I had one brother and two sisters.

And what was your father's first name?

Frederick.

Frederick Brown.

And his father was Timothy Brown, Sr.. He lived in a house on Gorham Street, just back of us.

And you played with the other children in the neighborhood, I assume.

Oh, yes.

Were your brother and sisters older than you or younger?

They were older.

And where did you all go to school then?

We went to the local schools. When my sister and I were older, high-school age, we went to Milwaukee Downer College, in Milwaukee. Then after being through with high school, my brother and sister graduated from the university. I went on abroad. I had a year in Italy.

How wonderful! We'll get to that again. But I wondered, you said you had grandparents nearby. You used to go over and see them, I presume?

Oh, yes!

Were your parents socially inclined?

I think so.

Do you know if they had lots of parties and dinners?

Yes. Lovely parties.

You had some help in the house, I presume.

Yes.

Do you recall your childhood and what games you used to play in the neighborhood?

Well, I'll tell you. My brother and sister loved to play football. They would play back of our house in a big yard next to my Grandfather Brown's. Of course, soon Mary was too large to play football and she was denied that fun. But Timothy liked to take boxing lessons and he sailed a great deal. We all sailed. And he played golf.

And I suppose since you were right there on the lake that you all learned to swim?

Yes.

And had boats?

Yes, indeed.

Skated, ice skated?

Right.

That sounds like a great life.

Oh, it was. It was fun all the time.

And with all your relatives. You said your Grandfather Brown lived nearby, too.

Yes.

Were you conscious of being better-off than other people in Madison?

No, no. We thought the whole world was just like we were.

And you went shopping up on the Square?

Oh, yes. One thing that I realize now is that we always walked where we were going. We'd walk to the theater, we'd walk to shop. We'd carry our bundles home. Nowadays, of course, everybody drives.

What were the streets like then?

There were narrow roads and wooden sidewalks. Sometimes the wood wouldn't be boarded down very tight and it would bounce when we walked, which was fun. But no concrete, no cement.

And there were mostly horses and carriages?

Oh, yes. In front of the stores there were the hitching posts.

What did you get around in? Did you go for drives in the country?

Yes. We had horses and carriages. And we all had horses to ride, so we went horseback riding a great deal. All around the town and out in the country. And where we live now was simply woods.

Out in this area?

Yes. It was all woods.

I suppose the town didn't go too much beyond the university, did it, then?

It went about as far as the cemetery. The streetcars that ran around the park would come out to the cemetery and that was the end of the line. The conductor would get out and turn something around on the top of the streetcar so it could go the other way and back to town again. That was lots of fun to ride on the streetcars.

And it cost only a few cents, I imagine. Your parents allowed you when you were pretty small to do this?

I usually was with a grown person going out on the streetcar.

It went out toward Maple Bluff, too, then, didn't it?

No. The streetcar never went out to Maple Bluff. No. We had our horses to go out there.

Where did you go to school, in grade school? You didn't go to kindergarten, I presume?

Yes, there was a Miss Wiley's kindergarten. Some years she was on State Street and at other times she was on Gorham Street. I went to both kindergartens; I went to both places. Then I went to First Ward, which was later changed to Washington School, the Washington School. Now it's been torn down. It was on the corner of Broom and Johnson. Now I believe there are new condominiums put up there.

And could you walk there?

Indeed we did walk! Yes, sir!

Even in the winter?

Oh, yes. We weren't pampered one bit. Every Saturday afternoon, whether we liked it or not, we had to get dressed up and go to Kehl's Dancing School. That was fun after we got there.

That's the one that's still there. So what kind of dances did you learn?

The two-step, the waltz, and a little Virginia reel.

And you wore your little white gloves and danced with the boys?

Oh, yes! And we carried our dancing shoes in a little party bag on our arm. We didn't like it a bit going, but we always had fun after we got there, so it wasn't so terrible.

And your friends were there.

Oh, yes.

And the little boys hated it more than the little girls.

Yes. And they were told how to go up and ask a young lady to dance: Make a little bow and ask if they might have the pleasure of dancing. You would get up and make a little curtsy and say thank you. Oh, my. We were ladies and gentlemen. Whether we liked it or not. For a while, for an hour we were very proper.

And what did you do on Sundays?

Sundays we'd go to church.

What church did you go to?

We went to the Congregational Church.

That was over on East Washington?

Washington Avenue, yes.

The whole family went?

Oh, yes.

In the horse and carriage?

No, we walked. We walked. Yes, indeed. And in the afternoon we sat around, or we'd take a little walk. One afternoon we started to play croquet over in Grandfather Storer's yard. He came out and gave us a very severe lecture that it was Sunday afternoon and that we should be quiet. We put up the mallets and we were quiet.

And you were quiet in church, too?

Oh, yes. Indeed.

And you wore little hats?

Yes.

And for Easter you always got a new outfit?

Yes. An Easter bonnet. It was really a hat.

Now, the Square wasn't paved around for quite a while.

No.

You must have had a little trouble keeping your shoes clean.

Yes.

And there were street cleaners? To take care of the horse leavings?

Oh, yes. Big sort of brooms that they would push, you know. And there was what they called a water wagon, a sprinkler water wagon, that would go up and down the streets all summer long and keep them clean. It was very nice.

The Capitol was an earlier one than we have now, wasn't it?

Yes.

Were you around when they had the big fire?

Yes, indeed. This fire began after a big dance that we had had, so we were awake. As we were going to bed, Father noticed that the sky was very red over in the west. He got us up in the attic where we could look at it. We could see flames and we could see the red sky from the fire. In the morning, after breakfast, we knew it was the Capitol from the location of the flames. In the morning we walked down to the Square and looked at it. It was a dreadful sight. The desks of the senators and so on were out in the Capitol park in the yard. All sorts of valuable papers were strewn around. Chairs. It really was a miserable sight. And it still kept burning. Then they called into Milwaukee for the Milwaukee Fire Department to come out and help with it. It burned almost all day.

The whole thing didn't burn, though, did it?

It was just dreadful.

Were there some wings that didn't burn? Or did they have wings then?

I don't remember that they did. I suppose they did.

Well, then, shortly after that I suppose they started rebuilding.

Oh, yes.

In the more permanent form.

Yes.

Do you remember other buildings around the Capitol Square?

I remember all the stores around the Square. It was really a shopping area. There were grocery stores and hardware stores and drugstores and department stores.

What were the early department stores?

Well, there was Kornheuser's. Then when the Kornheuser's were through, I believe the Baron Brothers came in. And then there was Burdick & Murray. [Voice in background adds: Boss and Moore].

Now the City Hall was there at Wisconsin Avenue, wasn't it? I remember that when we came.

Yes. And the old Fuller Opera House was there.

And then that Christ Presbyterian Church was nearby.

Oh, yes. The Presbyterian Church. And then across from that was the Methodist Church, and then there was the Unitarian Church. Grandfather Storer had a great interest in the building of the Unitarian Church.

That was behind where Manchester's is now.

Yes. But at that time, the Post Office was where the Manchester's building is.

And there were some banks around the Square, too.

Oh, yes.

The American Exchange Bank.

Yes. And the First National, and the Trust Company.

I understood that it was called the German Exchange Bank at first until the First World War.

Yes. German-American.

Were you conscious that there was quite a German element in the area?

No. No.

I interviewed Emma Glenz, who lived just on Hancock and down a little ways on Livingston. She lived in an area of quite a lot of German people, so she knew about it. Well, so when you went to grade school, it was in a brick building. It was a modern building?

Oh, yes.

Do you remember any of your teachers?

Yes, Miss [Mary] Edgar was the principal. She was a wonderful woman and an excellent teacher. And then there was a Miss Cavanaugh that taught seventh grade. She later married Mr. Weaver.

You went through eighth grade in grade school?

Yes.

And you had a pretty good time in grade school as far as you remember?

Oh, yes, indeed!

Did you play games, the usual sort of games?

At recess? I suppose so. Yes, but I was little and the boys used to pick on me somewhat at recess. One time, Milton Findorff, who became one of the contractors here in town, he and Walter Butler had a long rope. Should I tell this? They caught me in this rope, so I didn't go out for recess very much.

Did they wind you up in it?

Oh, yes. And then ran. Oh, that was very exciting. But I didn't like it at all!

I see. I wondered if you jumped rope.

Oh, yes. We jumped rope and we played jacks and mumbly-peg.

We used to play the “farmer in the dell” and “ring around the rosy.”

Oh, yes. And “run, sheep, run.”

Do you remember what kind of clothes you wore to school?

Well, we dressed warmly. Mary and I had little serge dresses. Father liked to see us wear a very ruffled apron with little ruffled straps over the shoulders when we wore these serge dresses.

A little pinafore type.

Yes, exactly.

No slacks in those days. And long stockings?

Oh, yes.

In the winter time, how did you keep warm?

In the winter time we wore hoods that tied under our chins and leggings that came up to our waist.

Did you wear long underwear at all?

Oh, yes. And it was so frustrating when the warm weather came on in the spring. We’d want to take this heavy underwear off and Mother would say “Well, we’ll wait a few more weeks.” And we always did. Oh, we were glad to get out of the underwear.

Oh, yes. I remember that, too. Did you have button shoes in those days?

Yes, high-button shoes.

That took a little while to get dressed, didn’t it? And what about your hair? Was it long?

Yes, our hair was long. We would tie it back with a ribbon.

Or braids.

Yes, braids. I had curls, which were a big nuisance.

But much admired, I’m sure.

I don’t know. Not by me.

So you walked to school with your sister primarily?

Yes.

You had the usual subjects in grade school. What year, then, did you graduate from grade school?

My heavens!

I suppose when you were about fourteen, something like that.

Yes.

About 1906, it would have been.

Yes, yes. I would say so.

Did you have commencement?

I must tell you, we didn't call it graduating in those days. We simply "passed."

But you had some sort of little exercises when you were through school, didn't you? Or don't you remember having any formal event?

No, we didn't.

You just got through. No recitations or anything like that? Do you remember having spelling bees in school?

No, we didn't. The teachers were very particular about our spelling. They gave us spelling lessons. But we didn't have any celebration about knowing how to spell correctly. Indeed not!

I see. So your summers were spent then with riding and games and just playing with your neighbors?

Yes. And out at Maple Bluff. Right after the Fourth of July, we'd go over to Maple Bluff until school began again in September.

You had a summer place there?

Oh, yes.

Tell me about that.

It was just a little, old cottage. And a barn in back where we had the horses. That was before there were any deliveries at the Bluff. We used to have to bring the ice for refrigeration of food out in the back seat of the carriage. The ice was just done up in newspapers to keep it from melting until we got there. And we'd have to go in town for the mail. Later on, however, there was a marine delivery. There was a boat that came all around the lake to the cottages. You would know when the mail boat was coming and be down there to get the bunch of mail that belonged to all the cottages.

So lots of people had cottages there?

A few. Not a lot. No.

But you had neighbors?

Yes.

About how large a lot did you have there?

Oh, a very large lot.

Several acres?

I suppose.

That must have been fun.

It was fun. But I was in disgrace one time. Colonel [DeWitt Clinton] Poole lived on the Bluff, too. At that time he was Major Poole. His commission, or whatever, to advance him to colonel came by mail. It was my day to pick up the mail. It was a very rough day, and windy. I stood down at the pier and reached out to get the mail from the mailman who would hand it to me and this commission of Colonel Poole's flew off into the lake. Well, the mail boat coming was

always a very exciting time for all the children, so there were plenty of children on the pier with me. A boy saw this blowing off onto the waves and plunged in and got it and brought it back. When Colonel Poole got his commission, it was quite wet. And soggy.

It had to be an important piece of mail.

Oh! It meant a great deal to him! And he was furious with me. But he got over it.

I'm sure. Who were some of your friends out there during the summer?

Well, the Lyman family came up from Chicago. They had a cottage down near where the Bluff slanted down to the lake. Then there was... dear me, there were very few children out there. There were my cousins. The Frankenburs had a cottage out there, Professor Frankensburger and the two daughters.

And there was a banking family that was there.

Well, there was Napoleon Van Slyke. He was the First National Bank man. They had a cottage up two or three doors from us. But there were no children there.

Oh. So you mostly played with your own sisters.

Yes. And our cousins. Uncle Frank was there, too, and he had two daughters who we played with.

This was just an ordinary cottage.

That's all.

You didn't have plumbing in it?

Later on. Oh, yes. Later on. But at first it wasn't that way at all. It was very crude. There was no water out there. Well, there was water that we pumped.

But you had outdoor facilities.

Yes.

Did you take your help along so your mother still had some help in the kitchen?

Yes. And they never liked it. They were always glad when we came back to town. It was much harder out there, with the old wood stove.

And carrying the water.

Yes. And heating the water. Everything!

And I suppose doing the laundry out there was no fun.

No, of course not. And the hot days.

But still it was great for children.

Oh, it was fine for us. We loved it.

I was going to ask if in grade school your teachers all pretty much were women?

They were all women.

No men at all. All through eight grades.

Well, and high school, too. I didn't have any men teachers.

Did you go to Central High?

For one year, yes. Freshman year. Then I went to Milwaukee Downer.

You were pretty elite, then, weren't you? To go off to school. Did you like it in Milwaukee?

Very much. Oh, very much!

Did your sister go to Milwaukee Downer, too?

Yes. She went there two years and I went there two years.

Did your parents think you'd get a better education there, do you think? Or didn't they like the people you'd be associating with?

I don't think they thought we'd get a better education. They thought that we were spending too much time going to parties and just having fun and not getting down to business. We were sent to Milwaukee Downer to get on to the studies.

And this was a girls' school?

Yes.

Where you wouldn't have as much social life.

No. Not any.

I would think you would have missed Madison.

I did miss it very much.

And your friends.

Yes.

Who was the governor then?

When I was a very little girl, it was Governor Schofield. And then I don't really remember any other. There was Governor Davidson later. James O. Davidson.

But they didn't have children that you played with.

Yes. They had two daughters. One was Mabel Davidson, who was much older, and then there was Grace Davidson, who was our age and also went to Downer.

So you got to know her pretty well, then, I presume.

Yes. Then before that there was Robert La Follette, and his children. We had lots of fun with Bobby and Phil.

I thought maybe the La Follettes were in there somewhere.

Oh, yes. They were. And then their older sister was Fola. She became an actress and married George Middleton. When she went East to be his wife and be an actress, on their apartment it was "George Middleton and Fola La Follette." We all thought that was really disgraceful that she didn't call herself "Mrs. Middleton."

That was an actor's way of doing things. Yes, very advanced. What sort of course did you take when you were at Milwaukee Downer?

Oh, just the regular things: mathematics, history, English.

And was it college preparatory?

Oh, yes. Indeed.

You all assumed you'd go on.

Oh, very much.

I wanted to ask you how you got to Milwaukee to go to school.

On the train.

And how often did you come home?

Only at regular times, like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and that's it.

So you really were away at school.

Yes, indeed.

Did your parents come to visit occasionally?

No. No. We kept in touch. Well, Mother would come in once in a while, on a Saturday. We'd go in to lunch at Chapman's, which is now gone, I believe.

Is it really? Chapman's?

Yes.

I didn't know that. What was Milwaukee Downer like then? Was it several buildings?

There was the seminary, which was high school, and then there was the college there. There was the seminary building and a college building. The school part was in the center, with the college on one side and the seminary on the other. Then later on, it was all college and a new building for the seminary was built across the street.

Oh. And it was a pretty big school?

Yes.

You liked the girls who went there?

Oh, very much. It was very nice.

Were they primarily Milwaukee girls? Or did they come from around the state?

There were the day students, which were Milwaukee girls. They would come out in the early morning and stay until classes were over in the afternoon. But the boarding girls were from away, from out of town. Mostly they were girls from the state, but there were some from Illinois and there were some from farther off. These were the boarders.

And you enjoyed it there?

Yes. It was delightful.

You had to work fairly hard?

Yes. We worked very hard. But there was nothing to interfere with it. No dances, no boys, nothing like that. So we did very well.

You were glad to get home, I presume, at vacations.

Delighted. Yes, delighted. And then we had lots of dances and lots of fun.

Especially at Christmas, I'm sure.

Yes, exactly.

How did your family celebrate Christmas?

Well, Christmas Eve we would go to bed early. We would hear Father and Mother bring presents down from the upstairs where they had been hidden to put around the tree and decorate the tree. We didn't see the tree until after breakfast on Christmas Day.

They put the tree up just the night before?

Oh, yes. But we were in bed and it was a secret. They would light the tree with candles. Imagine that! Little candles all over the tree and no fire. Just all very safe, apparently. We were allowed to go in after we had had a good breakfast. We couldn't skip breakfast. We had to eat our regular breakfast and wait until the tree was lighted. Then we were allowed in. It was a big thrill! The night before Christmas Father and Mother would pack some boxes and baskets and the coachman would come in and would take these around to different people that they knew of. It was a very busy Christmas Eve.

Did you go to church services then?

Not on Christmas. No, we didn't.

Unless it happened to be a Sunday, I suppose.

That's right. We would have Christmas dinner over at Grandmother and Grandfather Storer's. That was always lots of fun! All the cousins were there to play with.

Did you have a big turkey dinner?

A big turkey dinner. And a great, big, long table, because there were so many of us. Just before the fun began, our uncle would dress up like Santa Claus and be upstairs with sleigh bells around him. Then he would come down saying, "Ho, ho, ho. Merry Christmas." The sleigh bells would tinkle. We were all so thrilled! Then he would distribute the presents from around the tree. That went on year after year, until we were all grown.

What a wonderful tradition. You looked forward to that.

Yes, it was lovely.

And where were the dances held?

The dances? Well, mostly at Kehl's.

Oh. At the studio?

Yes. Then later on the Woman's Building was built and dances were held there.

Who would sponsor them? Do you remember? Individual families?

Yes, yes.

And so you knew lots of young people.

Oh, yes.

Did you go out with boys then on individual dates during high school?

Oh, yes. Yes, indeed.

Do you remember some of their names?

Murray was one.

Oh, he was!

Yes.

Murray McGowan.

Yes. Our acquaintance dates way back.

And some others? Do you remember others?

There was Jerome Head and Charles Brant and Tom Coleman.

Was this just a certain group of families who knew each other pretty much?

Yes, I think so.

What would you wear?

Our dresses were rather elaborate. They were specially made by a dressmaker and they were very pretty. Now, the girls, if you would like to know – I told you some of the boys – there was Florence Bardeen and Margaret Brittingham, Dorothy Hubbard, Jean Fredrickson, Catherine Head. These are their names before they were married. This was the high school group.

That sounds like great fun. Then would you go to homes afterwards for refreshments?

Sometimes, yes. Sometimes it was too late. One of the nice things about it was when the dances were over, we could all walk home without any fear of being disturbed in any way at all. At twelve o'clock the arc lights would go out and then it was really night and very mysterious. I loved that part.

Were you allowed to stay out that late?

We could stay until the dance was over. My parents always knew about how long it would take me to walk home from wherever we were, and I was expected to be there then.

And they were looking for you?

Oh, yes.

What else might you do on a date? Did you go to the theater? To movies? There weren't movies, I presume.

Later on there were movies, yes. And we'd have picnics.

Oh, yes. And I presume you would go out on the boat and that sort of thing in the day time.

Oh, yes. And horseback riding.

Were there tennis courts then?

Yes, there were, I think, around the university. But we didn't play tennis.

There was plenty else to do.

I don't think we were a very athletic bunch. Maybe the boys were.

Probably the girls were not expected to be. They were little ladies then.

That's right.

I presume at Downer you wore the long skirts?

Yes. Skirts came way down.

And the long-sleeved blouses and high neck sort of thing?

Right.

And wore your hair up, I presume?

Yes.

Well, then after Downer, was that when you went on your trip to Italy?

Yes, yes.

Was this sort of a graduation gift?

No, no. Indeed. No, Father just wanted me to go, and so I went. My cousins had gone before me. It was Miss [Georgianne] Sheldon's School in Florence. Both my cousins had been there and they said that I really should go. Mother and Father agreed and thought it would be fine, and so I went. It was extremely nice. I just enjoyed it.

Was this a sort of finishing school?

You might call it that.

And there were other American girls there?

Yes. We were all Americans. There were fourteen of us.

And you were there for a year?

Yes.

And what did you learn there?

They specialized in Italian history and Italian art. That was the main thing. It was fun to study about these wars and then go out and see the battlegrounds, you know, all that sort of thing. In Rome. During Christmas vacation we were taken on trips. We didn't just stay in Florence. We went to Rome or we went to Spain, and we went around. It was wonderful.

And there was so much to see in Florence.

Yes.

That would have been a great treat.

Oh, yes. It was.

And there was a woman, this Miss Sheldon, who was in charge of the fourteen girls?

Yes. We never could go out without a chaperone, however.

Did you learn to speak any Italian?

One week we had to speak Italian and the next week we had to speak French until seven o'clock in the evening, and then we were allowed to speak English. Even when we were just learning French or just learning Italian, we had to confine ourselves to that language of the week. Early in the morning when the maid came in with the hot water, we would have to know what week it was and say "Bon giorno," if it was an Italian week, or "Bon jour," if it was French. And if we didn't say the right word, ah! It was a demerit.

You learned fairly fast, then, I presume.

Well, we really had to.

That was quite a lot, to learn two different languages.

Well, it was difficult for me because it was taught in French. I had never had any French, so I had to struggle. But we got it.

Well, I suppose you did. But you were very glad when seven o'clock came, weren't you?

Delighted.

You were there for a whole school year?

Yes.

And you traveled around Europe somewhat, by train?

Yes. Oh, yes.

All fourteen of you?

Well, now there was a carry-all automobile for some of the trips around Florence. But not as a rule. That was when we were going up in the mountains, or some far-off place, then we'd have the carry-all.

A little bus.

Yes.

I meant to ask you back in Madison, do you remember the first cars, seeing them on the street?

Yes, yes.

Did the horses get pretty frightened?

Oh, dreadfully! We had a little Buick to start with. That was our first car, Father's first car.

About when?

Well, I would say maybe about 1908 or 1909. Do you think that's right, honey? [Background voice: Or earlier.] The men, when they'd see a car coming down the street, would jump out quickly and hold their horse's bridle until we had gone by. We would always go very slowly by the horse so it wouldn't really act up too much. But they would! They would rear up on their hind legs. It was really pretty hard for them for a while.

Did your mother wear the motoring costume with the veil over the head?

Yes, yes.

I suppose you went for rides then, out in the country, when you had a car?

No, we didn't. Father and Mother did, but the children weren't allowed to ride the cars at all. No, indeed.

I thought maybe you would remember the rough roads and flat tires and that sort of thing.

I remember it when Father took us out for a drive or a ride, but we couldn't go ourselves.

Oh, no. I meant with them.

Yes.

So now you're into cars. You enjoyed that year in Florence.

Very much.

Then when you came back, what did you do?

Went to the university.

What course were you taking?

Letters and Science.

What did you plan to do when you finished? Or what did you do?

Well, I got married!

I wondered if you had expected to teach.

I didn't graduate from the university. No. I had two years and a summer school. Then Robert Hayden and I were married. That was the end of my adventures abroad.

What was he doing?

He was in investments.

Oh. And a little older than you?

A little bit.

Had he finished school?

Yes.

This was quite often the case in those days, wasn't it, that the young ladies got married at about that age.

Yes, yes. Never thought of a career.

Well, mostly women, if they did anything it was teaching, as I recall.

Right.

There was very little else. When you were on the university campus, you enjoyed the courses?

Yes, very much.

Did you stay on campus? Or did you come from home?

I came from home. We would walk up the hill. We would walk to school and in the spring we would have some classes out on the grass, which was lots of fun, but mostly in the classrooms,

entirely in the classrooms.

Did you belong to a sorority?

No. No, I didn't. My family were all Delta Gammas and I had a very good friend that was a Kappa. She went Kappa, so I didn't go anything so we wouldn't be separated. Wasn't that the limit!

Where did you live, then, after you were married?

We went down to Chicago. That's where my husband was, where he had his job. He earned \$110 a month. The ten dollars extra was because he was married. They gave him a ten dollar raise.

Do you remember the reactions in Madison to the war? Did it affect lives very much?

Oh, they were very patriotic. Yes, indeed. And from every home that had a boy go to war, there was a little red flag that hung in the window.

And what about your brother?

Yes. He was in the Navy.

I presume the university kept on going.

Oh, yes.

And you were conscious of the legislature, the government, going on?

Yes.

I suppose you saw comings and goings from the governor's house, too?

Oh, yes, indeed.

Important people?

Very exciting.

Was the name of the people up there Kuehn? In one of those homes?

I don't remember that.

It just occurred to me that I thought that was the name of that one house. Well, do you remember the professors you had and anything in particular about them?

I don't believe so.

You registered at the Old Red Gym then? Or up on the Hill? Do you remember where you started?

Well, there was a private house that was made into a registration building, on University Avenue. I don't believe that's there now. I don't believe they do that now. We stood in line for a long time and finally got up to the little window where we registered.

And were there football games?

Oh, yes. I remember one football game and we were sitting on this side of the field in the old Camp Randall. The seats all fell down. There was much confusion. I don't think there were any serious injuries, as far as I know, but it sounded like a cluster of firecrackers going off, these seats falling. It was in the bleachers across from the regular grandstand.

And President Van Hise used to come out and watch the football games on horseback. The horse would stand on a track that went around the field. He'd have a perfect view of everything. He'd sit there on his horse until the game was.

Now, I'm beginning to recall some of the professors. One was a Professor Albright. I believe he later left that work and had a bank in Ringer Park. And then there was a Professor [Karl] Young and a Professor [Barry] Cerf. They were all very good, very interesting.

So you enjoyed your classes?

Yes. And Professor Catell was the French teacher.

And you had had so much French that now you were taking advanced classes?

Yes, yes. That was rather easy.

You were up in North and South Hall for your classes?

No. All my classes were in Main Hall.

In the old Bascom Hall, I see. Yes, Letters and Science was there. That sounds delightful. Now you were dating this young man, who was from Madison.

No. He was from Kentucky.

Oh! How did you meet him?

One of my sister's friends brought him up to call. After Christmas vacation. It was around New Year's time, before classes began, and introduced us. From then on we had a friendship.

And developed into marriage, for fifty-five years.

Yes.

When did you come back to Madison then? After you were married?

I think that must have been about 1922.

Oh. So you had been married for just a few years.

Yes. We were married in 1917.

And so you came back. Did you find Madison changed a bit? It was growing?

Well, yes. I think so. The wooden sidewalks were gone and the streets were macadam streets instead of dusty roads. The Square was about the same.

But I presume that the city was spreading out a bit?

Oh, yes. It was. Yes, indeed.

Did you have children then?

My children were born here in Madison.

Where did you live?

Where did we live?

Were you out in Maple Bluff then? Was Maple Bluff a community?

Yes. We built a house in Maple Bluff.

I see. So it was not just cottages out there any more.

Oh, no. Those were disappearing and permanent homes came in. We built on Firewood Drive. The Mautz family is in the house now which we built.

Were your parents and grandparents still living up on the hill there?

The grandparents had gone. And Father had gone. Mother was still living on Gilman Street.

She was glad to have you back in the city?

Yes. I think so.

How many children did you have then?

Three. I had two boys and a girl.

Did they go to school out in that area?

They went to Wisconsin High and to Lakewood School for the primary grades.

Oh, Lakewood was built then? But not the new building that there is now.

Yes, the new building, later on. Yes.

In the 1920s, do you remember the Prohibition days and the speak-easies and that sort of thing?

Oh, yes. Indeed.

Did you go to any of those?

No.

You just knew about them?

Yes, I knew about them.

You had a social life with other young families?

Yes. Right.

And Madison was expanding somewhat. Were you ever involved with any of the people in the government?

No.

Just more business people.

That's right.

I was wondering if you knew university people? If they were part of your circle? The professors and academics?

No, I wouldn't say so.

And were you having shorter skirts and shorter hair by this time?

Oh, yes. That had come in.

Where did you do your shopping then?

On the Square. Yes, indeed.

At some of the stores, like Woldenberg's and the Emporium?

Yes, they were there. It was very much a shopping center.

I remember when I came in the 1940s, we used to go always... that was the only place you could shop. And Thursday nights the stores were open.

Yes.

It was a big event. I did want to ask back a ways, if you went ice skating and if you remembered an ice skating rink at Breese Stevens?

Oh, yes. Indeed. There was a great deal of skating out by the university. Just off the university buildings, there was a rink that was enclosed, with canvas walls. That was very nice.

You said that there were football games and they were pretty popular.

Yes. Right.

Was there also basketball?

Yes.

Did you and all your friends go to all the games?

We did. And we would be there early to see the very first kick-off for football games and the very beginning of the basketball games.

Do you remember hazing on campus?

Oh, I do! That was dreadful! You'd see these freshmen boys being pulled across the campus, across the road, and down over the rocks into the water. I thought that was dreadful!

And you wore little green caps, you said.

The boys did. The freshman boys did.

Freshman beanies, they were called.

That's what it was.

Do you remember May Day activities on the campus? Did you remember taking phys ed? Did you have gym classes?

Yes, yes. And I took archery. I don't know if they have archery now or not, but that was kind of fun. We'd go out into a field somewhere near Wingra Park. The targets would be set up and we would have to hit the bull's eye. That was kind of fun.

Did you play field hockey?

No. I didn't play hockey.

I remember doing that. What did you wear for your gym classes? Do you recall?

Well, if it was outdoors, like archery, we just wore our regular clothes. But for gym classes in Lathrop Hall, we'd wear bloomers and blouses.

And Lathrop Hall was there then.

Lathrop Hall was very new, a very new building. Very nice.

Do you have any other memories about the university? Going to classes and going to dances?

Lots of dances.

You knew so many people in town, I presume you went to all of the... the military ball. There was ROTC or something like that then.

Yes.

And during the war, you were there during the war?

Yes, I was.

So I suppose the boys were training to go off.

Oh, yes. Then there was a women's building that had a cafeteria in it on the ground floor and we had lunches there.

Was Chadbourne Hall there then?

Yes, indeed. Earlier on it was called "Ladies' Hall." That was when the girls were first allowed to go to the university. It started out without the women and later became coeducational, and then Ladies' Hall was built to accommodate out-of-town people.

Did you climb up that big hill?

Oh, yes. Every step of the way.

In your long skirts.

Yes. It was quite a task.

In the winter time there must have been a problem with deep snow, wasn't there?

There was. There was lots of snow, yes.

Did they plow the streets then?