

Myron Stevens
Alice "Patty" Meloche
Adeline Steffon

Interviewed by Hallie Lou Blum on August 27, 1988 at an unknown location.

Oral history tape number: 7

This is an August 27, 1988, interview for Historic Madison by Hallie Lou Blum. We're talking jointly with Myron Stevens, Alice Meloche, also known as "Patty", and Adeline Steffon. All three of these individuals were born and raised in Madison and have lived here all their lives. We'll start the interview with Myron.

Alice: Take the south side of the streetcar and walk a little bit when you got over there. Of course, that was all right. There were horse races and a whole lot of things where you could buy popcorn and whatever you wanted and a lot of sideshow things.

Myron: That's where the Coliseum is now.

Alice: Yes. And there was always a nice collection of animals, too, farm animals. I always liked those. And I liked to walk over to the university. In the spring it was customary for some of the kids to get together and walk over to the university barns and see the animals: pigs and cows and sheep and chickens. And, of course, you would always stop in to the dairy department and get a cup of free buttermilk, a glass of free buttermilk. After a while they started charging for it and then we didn't go quite so often.

Myron: Patty, have you lived in Madison all your life?

Alice: Yes, except for a time that my mother and I were out on the West Coast for about a year and a half, and then summers when Mel and I were up at Trout Lake and some winters when we were in Tucson. I'm certainly an old Madison resident.

And your career was always at the university?

Alice: Yes.

That's remarkable.

Alice: I was very much university-oriented.

After you were a statistician, what was your next post?

Alice: Running the Student Employment Bureau.

I know you're famous for that.

Alice: I started in with nothing. I had a desk, no telephone. I thought I'd better go over to the library and see if I can find out something, but there wasn't anything written, or at least published, about student employment. So I went back over to the desk and started writing to other schools. I remember [writing to] Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and Iowa, asking if I could have copies of their blanks and would they tell me how they ran their [office]. I used those for a basis to get started.

Myron: Where was your office? Back of Main Hall?

Alice: No. It was in the Administration Building, the old Porter House at the corner of State and Park. I had a little cubbyhole which was...

Six feet by ten or something.

Alice: Yes. Just about that. There was room for a desk in there. When I got a helper a little later, she sat on one side of the desk. If any students came in, I could get in one or two at a time. There was a back room, too, but that was very often used by the accountants and other people that had to overflow.

Myron: What kind of employment would you get for students?

Alice: Local. There wasn't a great call from restaurants and things, except in summer and holiday time for students to work for meals. That was the most popular type of employment, especially for boys. They wanted to work for their meals, because that was the most expensive item they had here on the campus. Then we would have homes for girls, a few for boys, where they would work for room and board. That was mainly, oh perhaps washing the evening dishes and staying with the children when the parents were out. Those places varied considerably in their desirability, but they always [involved] staying with children and doing some household chores. Then [there were] part-time jobs in stores and [for] typists.

Did any of the university departments use students?

Alice: Oh, yes. They used a number. They would have little extra jobs to do. Also the teaching staff, the professorial staff, would use students for extra things, where they had some extra typing to be done. If a student had any trained skill, he could usually get some kind of job – maybe not immediately, but something was available for trained students. They always had something to offer.

Myron: Graduation in those days was in the Old Gym, was it, on Langdon Street? Or had the Stock Pavilion...

Alice: The Stock Pavilion when I graduated. I remember that well, because Van Hise was the president, Philip was the governor, and Art Nielsen was the class orator.

Myron: Oh, he was in your class?

Alice: Yes. He was giving the address. Philip and Van Hise sat up on the platform, of course. Nielsen gave a very good address. Everybody listened very carefully. Mr. Van Hise got up and was delivering his oration and Mr. Philip fell asleep. I don't know whether that ought to be in there or not. With Mr. Van Hise, what he had to say was worth listening to, but he was not what you would call a compelling orator. He didn't talk very well. I was sitting right up near the front, too, so I had a good look.

Well, then was the governor awakened to give his speech?

Alice: Oh, yes. He didn't talk very long. We all listened to what he had to say. Of course, no one got his own diploma. You were handed a diploma and then you went around...

Scrambling around to figure out who... but you did walk across and receive a diploma?

Alice: Oh, yes. You walked across and received a diploma. That was very exciting. After the bachelors, of course, then all the masters and doctors and special people came up and you began to think that what you got wasn't so much after all.

That's right.

Myron: Did you go to football games then, Patty?

Alice: Some, yes.

Myron: Do you remember any of the outstanding football players' names? Those were the days before Rollie Williams.

Alice: Yes. Rollie Barnum.

Myron: He played later, didn't he?

Alice: Yes. Of course, they were basketball, too. I don't remember so much. Of course, the war kind of cut down on things. I didn't have a lot of money to go around to things, so I didn't do much.

Myron: It probably didn't cost as much then as they do now.

Alice: No, it didn't cost as much, but once in a while I could go to a five-cent movie.

Myron: And then you spent five cents on the streetcar.

Alice: Yes.

Myron: After you left State Street, where did you move? Where did you live then? You didn't live there all the time.

Alice: We had sold the house. That was in January 1923. For a few months Mother and I lived in a furnished apartment over on West Bultman Street. Then in June we left for the West Coast and we lived out there for a year and a half. When we came back, we went to the Lorraine Hotel and lived there until we moved to Kennedy Manor, and I lived there until I was married.

Myron: You've heard of the Kiekhofer wall. What was that?

Alice: Oh, dear. Didn't I bring the pictures down? The Kiekhofer wall was on Langdon Street.

Myron: Back of where you were. You were on the front end of that block.

Alice: Yes. We were on State Street. And the Owen house... Gladys married Kiekhofer and that's why it was called Kiekhofer Place.

Myron: And Mr. [Edward T.] Owen was the father-in-law of William B. Kiekhofer, was he?

Alice: Right. He was the French teacher. Incidentally, he was very tall, about like Kirk Stone and Mrs. Owen was about like Vera Stone, a little bit of a thing. We used to have a lot of fun about them, because when they would walk along, here was this little thing and...

The stone wall ran from Frances Street around to the end of our place on State Street. Why didn't I bring that picture? I must show it to you later. There was a pillar there at the end of the stone wall, at the end of our property. Somebody knocked that pillar down and Mr. Kipler found a picture and gave me a copy of the picture, so I have a picture of that pillar. The sidewalk used to be quite a little above the street. Maybe not as much as this table, but you stepped down the steps to get to the street. Later, when that was paved, they raised it up and lowered the sidewalk and they put a wide, quite a deep wall, too deep to sit on, along the front there. Then there were stores all the way down the street.

Mother sold the property, as I said, in January 1923, and a Mr. Bertrand, a banker in DeForest, no, Sun Prairie, bought the place. He immediately started tearing down all the trees in the front yard and built the stores that were back there. Do you remember where Antoine's was on State Street? That was a store in our front yard. The house where I was born is still standing. That house was built in 1893. My father built it. The house is still standing, but it's been converted to a rooming house. It looks quite different.

Myron: You spoke of the sidewalk. In those days were the sidewalks made out of wood?

Alice: Yes.

Myron: I remember when I grew up on Arlington Place that our sidewalks were wood.

Alice: Sure. They had little space in between so they could drain a little bit.

Myron: And State Street wasn't concrete then, was it?

Alice: No, no. When they lowered the sidewalks, then they had a concrete street. But that used to be a nice muddy street.

Myron: You say the streetcar was a single track. In later years didn't they have double track on State Street? It seems to me they did, but I'm not sure.

Alice: I think that was after we left there. I'm not sure. They might have. Of course, State Street was never very wide.

That's right.

Myron: I might be wrong.

Alice: I think they still used that switch place up there at the corner of Park and State, by the old Administration Building. Lew Porter used to live there, the state architect. It later become the Administration Building.

Would you like to tell us something about your career?

Myron: Okay. I'm Myron Stevens and I was born on August 8, 1902. I originally lived on Arlington Place in a house that... I think our family house was about the second house built on University Heights. The first house was the [Charles E.] Buell right up on the top, then called "Buell's Folly." At those days – I'm too young to remember this then – but I think that Breese Terrace was about as far west as the city went. People building in University Heights were really on the outskirts of the city. I think our house was built in 1901. I remember my mother once telling me that she lived in a tent just west of that house and when an electrical storm would come in summer, it scared her so she would go up to the Buell House so she would be under cover.

They were living there while the house was being built?

Myron: They lived there while the house was being built. She and my father both graduated in 1893, as I remember it. My father went to law school and then became associated with Burr Jones, who was a famous lawyer. Patty, you spoke about Bob La Follette. About 1901, I don't remember when it was, Bob La Follette appointed my father as the first circuit judge and he served as a circuit judge for many, many years. I went to Randall School on Spooner Street. Randall School in those days was just a four-rung building. You remember that, Patty, probably.

Alice: Way out.

Myron: That's right. Then I went to University High School – "Fools' Retreat," often called – which is now no longer. It ceased to be a school after a while. I graduated from the university in 1923, and in law in 1926. I became associated with what used to be known as Bagley, Spohn, and Ross and I've been with that law firm ever since. Many of the things that Patty has talked about are refreshing to me. There isn't very much that I can add as far as early history is concerned because, as I think about it, I've asked Patty questions and Patty has answered most of that.

Did you ever go to a boys' camp? Were there any camps around?

Myron: I don't remember. I was a member of Troop 13 of Boy Scouts. Mr. McCaffrey, Agatha

Church's father, used to be our scout master. Once or twice we had a camp down on Lake Kegonsa. He also had a boat on Lake Michigan. I remember one time we had a boat trip on Lake Michigan in our Boy Scout troop. We used to vacation in Door County.

Oh! How did you get there?

Myron: We would get there. We'd take the afternoon train from here to Milwaukee. Then we would get on the Goodrich boat in Milwaukee and sleep there. The boat would stop at Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Algoma and go through the ship canal into Sturgeon Bay. We usually got off at Sturgeon Bay and stayed there. For many years we did that. The Goodrich boats in those days were the means of getting to Door County. You remember those, Patty, don't you? Or not? You remember of them anyway.

Alice: Yes.

Myron: Those have long since gone out. I remember they used to have a whaleback. Do you remember? They used to run between Milwaukee and Chicago. Do you remember way back when the *Eastland* capsized in Milwaukee? I remember that to show the safety of the whaleback, they took it out one time and loaded one side of it with a lot of sandbags, which would be the equivalent of people rushing over there, to show that it wouldn't tip over. I remember that very distinctly.

And it worked?

Myron: It didn't tip over. We used to take the streetcar, ride our bicycles, have picnics out in Shorewood, walk out to Picnic Point. Patty, you were on Picnic Point many times.

Alice: Oh, yes. That was a nice hike – a good mile or so.

Do you remember the bag rushes on lower campus?

Myron: Yes, I remember the bag rush. I was in one, in 1919, I guess. Then I think they abolished them after that.

My brother was in one in the 1920s.

Myron: In those days the sophomores would line up freshmen and take them out in the country. Do you remember? They would leave them so they couldn't get back in time for the bag rush. Usually the sophomores would flood the freshmen side with water so it was just a sea of mud.

Adeline: That's what I remember. And then I remember bonfires on the lower campus.

Myron: That's right. They used to have a homecoming bonfire on the lower campus. You remember those, Patty?

Alice: Oh, yes. I remember seeing them building them with boxes.

Adeline: Or chairs.

Myron: Oh, they would scrounge around and get every piece of wood that they could. I think they finally figured those were too dangerous and had to discontinue them. Patty, you don't remember the little green caps?

Alice: Oh, mercy, yes. With a little red button.

Myron: You tell about those. The sophomore would say to a freshman, "Button up," and the freshman would have to put their hands on the cap.

Alice: They had to put their hand up on the little cap. I don't know how long those caps lasted, but I think they went out maybe after...

Myron: Well, I had one when I came in 1919. I don't think it was many years after that that they gave it up.

Alice: I think by 1925, probably, they were all gone.

Were those issued to the students? Or did they buy them?

Myron: You had to buy them.

Alice: And if you didn't have one, well, that was just too bad.

Myron: You would get thrown in the lake if you didn't have one.

Oh, dear. And were there stores? I can remember a co-op store where students bought books and they also bought clothing.

Alice: Yes. Well, that was not in its present location. That was up State Street right under Miss Richmond's Academy, wasn't it?

Myron: Where Wehrmann's now is.

Alice: Yes. Where Wehrmann's used to be. I don't know if they're still on State Street or not.

Myron: I don't know. We used to have a number. There was a Co-Op and we all had a number. As we would buy books, we would give our number and at the end of the year we could go back and get a rebate, maybe five percent or something of that sort.

Alice: They discontinued that some time ago. I remember my number was 11888.

Myron: Mine was 17650. I remember that.

Did you always have a telephone, in your early years in Madison?

Alice: Yes. It was a Standard, not the Bell. It was one of these tall ones and you had to crank it to get central. You had no prefix, you just had a number. There was no prefix with it. Later you had Badger or Fairchild.

Adeline: Yes, I remember. We had Fairchild.

Alice: Of course, we don't have that. We have numbers now, longer numbers. The Bell line came in finally and then that had the little box like this. Sometimes you had both Standard and Bell.

Myron: There were two of them for a time, weren't there?

Alice: Yes, Standard and Bell.

Myron: Yes, that's right.

Alice: Then Standard disappeared and it was called Bell, and I guess it's been Bell ever since.

The early phones were on the wall, is that right? That's the way I remember it.

Alice: Yes.

Then gradually you had the desk model.

Myron: In the early days, Patty, you said you had Christmas trees.

Alice: Oh, sure.

Myron: But you didn't have electric lights.

Alice: No. You had candles. I suppose there were more fires in those days. I remember we had some candles. My father was always very particular about that.

They were only lighted when an adult was there?

Alice: I can't really remember lighting the tree. I was a little bit in awe about that.

Myron: In the early days the fire trucks were drawn by horses. Do you remember that?

Alice: Oh, yes!

Myron: They used to have one right across from the arch on Randall Avenue.

Alice: Yes. Over the place where that old building is, on the corner of Dayton and Randall. Now it's an apartment building.

Myron: Then there used to be one right on the first block on State Street off of [unclear].

Alice: Yes. The main one was up on Webster Street.

Myron: At the back of where the First Wisconsin Bank is now.

Alice: Yes, back of there. Those big trucks were drawn by three horses. That was very impressive.

Oh! That must have been exciting.

Myron: I can remember in those days they used to exercise the horses every day. The ones on Randall Avenue would go up Regent Street, Breese Terrace, back on University Avenue.

That was enough.

Myron: Every day they'd go out and run.

Alice: I remember when Hausmann's Brewery caught fire. They said that never had the department made such a prompt run to put out a fire.

Do you remember the Capitol burning?

Alice: Yes. My father had something to do with that. He was a professor of mechanical engineering. One of his jobs was to oversee the pump house, which is now where the hydraulic lab is, out on Main Street. The pump house pumped water for utility purposes for the Capitol. When the Capitol burned, apparently the water had been shut off between the university pump station, which pumped Mendota water to the Capitol. My father was awakened about four o'clock in the morning to go down and turn the water on.

Myron: You remember the fire? Did you see it?

Alice: Of course that lasted quite a while. I'm sure I got down there that day to get as close as you could, but about all you could see was a lot of smoke. And it was in the winter time, too, when you didn't stand around.

It was no day to be idle.

Alice: What I remember was in February of one year when it was very cold. We had had a snow

storm. That was the old University Club. It was the Parkinson house. Mr. [John Barber] Parkinson was vice president of the university at that time. That house caught fire. They had two girls rooming up on the third floor. It was just before Junior Prom and they lost their dresses.

Oh, dear. But not their lives.

Alice: No, not their lives.

Where was that house located?

Alice: Where the University Club is now. It was the Parkinson house at that time. They never did remodel it. It became the University Club.

Myron: The Prom in those days used to be held in the Gym, didn't it?

Alice: In the Gym.

Myron: Then later for a few years they held it in the Capitol.

Alice: In the Capitol, yes.

Adeline: I don't remember that.

Alice: It was just there for a while.

Myron: Then they used to have a military ball every year in those days.

Alice: In the Gym.

Myron: And they used to have a glee club, a men's glee club, which they don't have any more.

Alice: I guess the women had a glee club, too.

Adeline: I think they now have the Wisconsin Singers.

Myron: Yes, that's right. Co-ed.

Alice: Yes, that's taken the place – and very successfully, I think.

Do you remember when they first opened the Memorial Union?

Myron: I graduated in 1926. I can remember that when the Union was being built there was a labor strike. Mr. [William H.] Spohn in our office represented the Union. This could have been 1927, 1928, somewhere around there.

Alice: I was thinking about 1928 was when the Union was built.

Adeline: I think that's about right.

Alice: The theater was added later. Our Student Employment Bureau at first was in the old Administration Building, then in the house next door, and then we moved over to the president's old house. The Union was built at that time, except the west end where the theater is.

Myron: Did the Union at one time occupy the president's house? No.

Alice: No. Some of the offices did. Sally Owen had an office in there. And the University YWCA had an office in there. Our employment office was on the first floor. Then they moved it over to the Union when they tore down the building.

Myron: Then in the old days the YMCA was right next to the old Gym, between the Union and the Gym.

Alice: Then they tore that down, of course. That was quite a place. The museum was quite a place to visit and the Historical Library on the fourth floor. They had a museum that was a collection of a whole lot of things and it was of interest to young children. I remember especially the results of a cyclone, I think at New Richmond, Wisconsin. There was a tree there in which a slat of a bed set had gone right through the tree. That was always fascinating to [look at].

Myron: I remember seeing that. That was on the top floor of what is now the Historical Society.

Alice: Yes. It was called the State Historical Society at that time.

Myron: Was that built when you were in the university? It was, wasn't it? Oh, yes.

Alice: I can remember when that was being built. The stones were all lying out on the lower campus and it was fun to play and hide-and-seek there. You could hide behind these big stones and run around, and it wasn't too far from home. Those big flat stones which form the stone wall around the building had some funny figurations in them. We thought they were snakes and that the snakes had been in there when the stones had hardened by nature. We used to jump on those as children and pretend we were jumping over snakes.

When they built that building, did they arrange with the university to use that as the library?

Alice: Oh, I think that must have been planned because that certainly was the university library. That was all the library there was, except I think it had been housed to some extent in other buildings: engineering had a little bit, agriculture had quite a library, and Music Hall, too.

Myron: That was the library even after I graduated in 1923.

It was the library all through the 1930s.

Alice: It was the library until they built the one, the present one at the corner there of State and Lake.

Myron: Patty, your earliest recollection of the campus, Bascom Hall, North Hall, and South Hall were there. Was the law school there early?

Alice: Oh, yes.

Myron: And the engineering building.

Alice: And, of course, Science Hall.

Myron: And the Old Gym was there.

Alice: Yes. Lathrop Hall I think was built somewhere in my early... and Barnard Hall, and Chadbourne, of course.

Myron: The old Chad was there for a long time.

Alice: Yes, that was there for a long time. And a few of the Ag buildings, the barns and Ag Hall, were there.

Myron: The cow barns were there.

Alice: Yes, the cow barns.

Myron: The old horse barn was there.

Alice: Yes. That used to be a treat. Easter vacation the kids would get together and visit the Ag

campus. Of course, the buttermilk was part of those days.

Myron: You used to get free buttermilk.

Alice: Yes, until it finally got to be a little expensive.

I think they moved to charging for a paper cup.

Alice: Yes.

The milk was free but the cup cost.

Myron: That's right.

Alice: That cut down on the attendance a little bit, I think. Oh, one thing I remember. Professor Prokosh was the teacher of German and he used to ride down State Street...

Myron: Frank Lloyd Wright. Do you have any memories of him, Patty?

Alice: Yes, when I was at the school – now this was in 1902 – the Hillside Home School.

Myron: That's the Hillside School out in Spring Green.

Alice: I was seven years old, and Frank Lloyd Wright was getting ready to build the school. Not Taliesin West. It was called Hillside Home School. He was building a large school building. I remember that. It was a little more expensive than they expected and later it went bankrupt, you know. I can remember Aunt Nellie and Aunt Jennie saying, "That renegade nephew!" I learned the word "renegade" and I thought what a wonderful word. I didn't know what it meant, but I felt it wasn't too complimentary at any rate. That was one of the first big words I ever learned.

Where were your classes, if they were building?

Alice: I was the only child at that age of seven. The next oldest was twelve, so I was just a little tag-along out there.

Myron: Was it a one-room school?

Adeline: Were you in a big house?

Alice: Yes, they had a large house, a residence house. That's where I lived and most of the pupils lived there. And there were a couple of smaller buildings – Home Cottage, one was called; another Little Cottage – where there were classes. There was a piano and I remember I took piano lessons in one of the houses. But [for my classes] I just met as an individual with teachers, you know. I don't know how I ever learned anything, but I apparently did.

They were building this school, the Home School. There was a big library at one end; that later burned and had to be rebuilt. There were some little rooms along a corridor – they were the classrooms – and little kitchens, and a theater at one end. The theater had a very low door so that even a person of ordinary size, six feet, would have to squat to get through that door. Thanksgiving came along and I was a little Pilgrim child in one of the plays. All I had to do was stand there.

Myron: Did you ever see Frank Lloyd Wright?

Alice: I must have seen him, but he didn't make very much of an impression at that time. Of course his name then didn't mean anything – especially to a seven-year-old. And I probably was keeping out of the way of that "renegade," anyway.

Myron: In later years did you ever see him as he would drive in Madison?

Alice: Oh, I used to see him around Madison, of course!

Myron: Describe him. How would he appear?

Alice: Well, slightly flamboyant, I think.

Myron: He had an open car with a chauffeur and he would sit in the back seat with...

Alice: With his long bow tie and the fancy hat of one kind or another. He was important, except with the bankers. The bankers didn't like him very well. Did you know Bob Ackley?

Myron: Yes.

Alice: Bob Ackley used to have some dealings with him. Bob Ackley was my brother-in-law, I guess you'd call it.

Myron: Was Bob Ackley related to Wright?

Alice: No, no. He was a banker. He married Mel's sister, so that's how I knew him.

Myron: Oh, I see. Yes, I remember now. I remember him, sure. Well, Frank Lloyd Wright designed this hotel in Tokyo that withstood the earthquake. When he was over there, didn't he buy a lot of Japanese prints?

Alice: Oh, yes.

Myron: Then he borrowed money at the bank and put the prints up for security, and then they foreclosed and he lost the prints. Didn't the Van Vlecks get that?

Alice: They later gave them to the library.

Myron: And then Hasbrouck inherited them, and then when Hasbrouck died, he gave them to the university library. That's how they happened to get these prints, isn't it?

Adeline: Are they now at the Elvehjem?

Myron: Now at the Elvehjem, that's right.

Adeline: That's what I thought.

Alice: It's a very fine collection. [Edward Burr] Van Vleck, he was a professor of mathematics.

Myron: He must have been on the faculty when you came.

Alice: He was. My mother and father had just built their house and the Van Vlecks were a young couple. They didn't have a place to stay so they stayed in our house for a while. This was before I had arrived on the scene. They stayed there for a while. Hasbrouck and I used to play together as children.

Myron: Is that right!

Alice: The Van Vlecks later lived up on Pinckney Street. And [unclear] of course has had quite a career. One of his favorites was railroad statistics.

Myron: When you were young, we had two newspapers. The *State Journal* was still here and the *Madison Democrat*.

Alice: Yes.

Myron: The *Democrat* was a morning paper.

Alice: Yes. There was another one that my father used to get, *Inter-Ocean*. I think that was a Chicago paper. I'm not sure whether that was the forerunner of the *Tribune* or not.

Myron: You know Dick Marshall, of course.

Alice: Sure. We were classmates.

Myron: And you knew Hegge Brandenburg?

Alice: Oh, yes. He was a Psi U and I used to see him when he came to the Psi U.

Myron: Dick used to tell about one time the Marshalls were entertaining the Brandenburgs. After dinner Hegge went up and talked to Dick's kids – he had had a drink or so – and they got talking about the Capitol fire. Hegge said "I'm the guy that started the fire." The next morning Dick's kids were in school telling that they had met the fellow who started the Capitol fire. Dick always used to get a big kick out of that.

Did Hegge have to live that down?

Alice: There was a Mr. Crafton, who was a neighbor of ours – later the Sumner and Crafton drug store – and they lived near us. Mr. Crafton was the night watchman at the Capitol. He discovered this fire and he couldn't put it out. It had just gotten too far. It was a gaslight flame that was too high and that got it started.

Myron: In those days they used to have the Palace of Sweets.

Alice: Oh!

Where was that?

Myron: What was it and where was it?

Alice: That was at the head of State Street. It was on the as you went up State Street toward the Capitol it was on the left-hand side. It was very fancy. It opened up on State Street and you could also get into it from Carroll Street on the back. It was filled with places to sit down and have ice cream sodas and things like that.

Myron: And do you remember Waltzinger's?

Alice: Waltzinger's was around on the...

Myron: What was that?

Alice: That was an ice cream, like the Palace of Sweets, an ice cream and candy shop. Fritz Waltzinger was in school with me. He was the son. That was along about where Simpson's store used to be.

Myron: It was near the YWCA.

Alice: Yes. On North Pinckney Street. Those were the two candy shops. That was before the Candy Shop developed on State Street.

Adeline: The Chocolate Shop.

Alice: Yes. Before that one developed, there was another one. Al Schwoegler had a candy shop in the 400 block on State Street, on the south side as you go up State Street. That later developed

into the Chocolate Shop.

Myron: Mr. Daniel had it. You used to go to the Chocolate Shop for ice cream sundaes?

Alice: And lunches. They were very nice. When you walked in and walked a few steps on street level there were the candies standing on either side. Then you went up a few steps and there were booths where you could get the food. Mr. Daniel conducted that place until after the end of World War I and he signed off. He realized that he couldn't and wouldn't serve liquor and there was no parking any more, so he just moved out to Tucson.

Myron: But he came back. He died when he was here in Madison. Mr. Daniel died, what a couple of years ago? Within the last two years.

Alice: Well, but he had been living out West. I guess he came back. I didn't realize that.

Myron: Next to the Chocolate Shop was what?

Alice: The Pantorium.

Myron: Also there was another place – Morgan's. Do you remember Dad Morgan's?

Alice: Oh, of course! Dad Morgan's Malted Milk. Oh, mercy, yes! That's history.

Myron: Those were the best malted milks you could get anywhere, weren't they?

Alice: Wonderful. And, of course, women never went in there. Women didn't go in there. It was a man's retreat. If [a woman] went in there, you snuck in. Three of us were going to have a picnic, ride our bicycles out around the lake and the campsite and have breakfast, and we were going to take malted milks. I was going to get the malted milks. I called up to order them because I knew I couldn't go in there. I said "Now, we'll come at such-and-such time and come to the door and get them." I think I stepped just inside the door and I felt as though I were stepping into a dreadful place. I got the malted milks and got them safely home.

Myron: Do you remember when they built the Gay Building? Our first skyscraper.

Alice: Oh, down on the... I don't particularly recall that.

Myron: That was the first building of more than a couple of stories here in Madison, wasn't it?

Alice: It certainly was the first one around the Square of any notice, yes. I can't remember that. I remember when the Tenney Building was built that there was quite a discussion about the marble in the lobby. There was something wrong with the marble in the lobby. I don't know what it was. Something happened. [Interruption] Teachers and lawyers and doctors were on a plane by themselves and could do no wrong. They were eminent people, all to be respected.

Myron: Have you changed your mind about lawyers?

Alice: No. About some, yes.

Myron: Okay.

Alice: And about some ministers, too. Anyway, they were all on a high plane and always behaved in an exemplary manner and so forth and so on. When I was a sophomore in the university, I was in a French conversation class. It was a small class and this man who was teaching it was kind of a funny guy, I decided. Anyway, he was giving a dissertation about his family affairs one day. He said "I won't have to be teaching all my life. My mother is well off. When she dies I will get what she has and I won't have to teach any more." Well, you know, if

somebody had stood up there and shot me I wouldn't have been more shocked or surprised. All of a sudden my idea of a teacher's perfection went right through the floor.

Adeline: He had no calling.

Myron: We had university faculty at the University High School. They were all members of the university faculty and I think they were excellent teachers.

Alice: Oh, they were. It was a wonderful thing for the kids over there. It was called the Fools' Retreat for no reason at all except that it grew up out of Miss Richmond's Academy. Miss Richmond had an academy on State Street. It was over what is now the bank building and Wehrmann's, on the corner of State and Gilman. Upstairs was Miss Richmond's Academy. Presumably students who couldn't make it in high school had the special privilege of some kind and went to Miss Richmond's Academy and it was called the Fools' Retreat. Then when the University High School was started, that seemed to absorb Richmond's Academy. It also very shortly absorbed this name, the Fools' Retreat. That didn't last very long because it was anything but... because some of the smartest students were coming out of University High School.

Myron: Patty, did you ever know Ruby Corscot?

Alice: Yes.

Myron: Probably not.

Alice: Or that name.

Myron: Her father, I think it was her father, who was Eben Peck – either her father or her grandfather. No, I guess it was her grandfather. The Pecks were the first white settlers here. When they came they had a small child and I think that child was either Ruby's father or grandfather. I have heard her talk about that. I was always amazed that here, running between two or possibly three generations, was the first white settler here coming to Madison, Ruby Corscot. I wish I could remember the generations in there, but it always amazed me that they were so close.

Adeline: Yes. And in that short period Madison developed.

Myron: That's right. I remember her telling me there was supposed to be one spot on King Street which is the first Peck home. Ruby Corscot said that isn't the right place. It's somewhat one way or the other.

Adeline: Yes, I think they still argue about that.

Myron: I think they still argue that, that's right.

Alice: That's been disputed every once in a while. There used to be a horse barn on State Street and one up on East Washington Avenue, just off the Square. That's where horses were stabled. If you wanted to rent a horse, that's where you'd find one. Marjorie Doty, whose ancestors were the Doty people around here, had a horse. She and I used to ride once in a while. We would go and rent a horse. We could ride all around town, around the Square and everything on these horses. One night we were just about ready to go home, I guess, and I've forgotten whether her horse kicked mine or my horse kicked hers. At any rate, there was a little disagreement between the horses and off they both started for the barn. They tore right through the Capitol Square – not on the walks, you know, but right through the grounds, digging nice holes in that, and right up to the barn.

Well, lucky they went that way and not out to the country.

Myron: Patty, when you were in school in Spring Green, the only way you could get there was by train, wasn't it?

Alice: Yes.

Myron: From Madison to Spring Green.

Alice: Yes, yes. That's the way we did it. I remember when Christmas time came one of the teachers was coming back to Madison, so she brought me back home and my father met the train here. They had a carry-all and we used to ride in that, three miles from the school to Spring Green, and that was very exciting. A few years later, when I must have been about ten or twelve, my mother was stronger and we went out there and stayed the summer, maybe a month or so in the summer. We did that for a couple of summers.

I used to ride horseback around out there. [One day] I was way out past the little church and here was this cloud of dust coming up the road. It was a car. The Johnsons, Harold Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Jacobs were out there in their touring car. They had a chauffeur and with everybody else. It was raising all this dust. When it saw that dust, my pony just started up and ran as fast as it could back to the stable. I remember holding on to the reins with one hand and the mane with the other hand. We went right into the stable, right into its stall. That was the wildest ride I ever had.

Myron: What year was it you got your first car? When did you buy your first car, Patty?

Alice: 1925, and it was a 1923 Dodge coupe. I was playing golf that summer and I had to have some way of getting around. Mother and I were living at the Lorraine Hotel then. We had just come back from being out on the West Coast for a while. I bought this Dodge coupe and it cost \$600. I borrowed some money from the bank to buy that car.

Myron: You probably didn't have insurance. In those days you wouldn't have liability insurance. Or did you get some insurance?

Alice: I had some kind of insurance, yes. I knew I should have something like that. I remember learning to drive. Mr. Baxter, who was a professor of English at the university, taught me to drive. We went out in what was then Lake Forest, Lost City. There weren't any houses and it was a wonderful place to learn to drive with all these little roads with turns and things and no traffic. One thing he had me do was that he had two rulers. He laid them down at right angles to the edge of the road and he said "Now you back into that." He made me back in between those two rulers, to learn how to back the car.

Myron: You didn't have to have a driver's license then, did you?

Alice: I don't think there were any such things.

Myron: I don't think so.

Alice: No. I can't remember. I learned to drive all right. I remember the first time I drove into a place where there was a city and I said "Oh, we're coming to town!" After I got through it, it was all right.

Myron: The original cars didn't have horns. It was a bulb that you pressed.

Alice: Yes. I can't remember about that one. I think it had something.

Myron: Maybe by that time.

Alice: It didn't have automatic windshield wipers. You had to reach up and do your own wiping, you know. And, of course, no heater. I put it up in the winter.

Myron: You had the gear shift.

Alice: Yes, you had the gear shift. The Dodge was just the opposite from the others. The others were back to the left and... anyway, the Dodge was just opposite all the other cars.

Myron: Now in the old days they didn't have electric lights, the headlights, on the car. You'd have to stop and start a little acetylene or something. You'd get out of your car and set something, which would turn the lights on.

Alice: Mine had electric. But there was a while at Kennedy Manor when we parked it out on the street at night and you had to have a light. I thought, "I can't let my lights run all night." I bought a couple kerosene lamps and hung them out all night. So I had to have a can of kerosene. But that didn't last very long. I guess I kept it in the garage at Kennedy Manor by that time.

Myron: How long did you keep the car?

Alice: It was in 1925 that I bought the car. I didn't have to have very much done with it. Oh, one time I was right near there and was going by and I heard a clunk and something fell out. I thought, "Oh, mercy. What's going to happen?" Well, I was right near the garage where I had bought it, the Madison Motor Car Company, so I went in there and they came out and fixed it. There wasn't anything to it, apparently, just something got loose, so I had no trouble with that. Then Mother and I took a trip. We went out West again for a little while. When I came back, I bought a Victory Six. That was a General Motors car. No, that was a Dodge. I didn't like it too well, but I got Mother one later.

Myron: Did you ever have a flat tire?

Alice: Did you?

Myron: Yes.

Alice: Mother and I had the experience. My aunt was up in the hospital at Rochester, Minnesota, and Mother and I thought we would go up and see her. We started out. I think this was the Victory Six, too. We got out to Arena and I had a flat tire. We got that fixed. Then we got along all right. Went up to Rochester. When we were coming back and were still in Minnesota, just the other side of Wisconsin, I had another flat tire. It was getting along late in the afternoon. [The accident] was right in front of a farmhouse. I had [already had] a flat tire, that was it, so I didn't have a spare. Right in front of the farmhouse I had another flat tire. I thought, "Oh, dear."

I went in. It was milking time. These two men were milking their cows and this one man stopped. I think he was kind of glad to be relieved of his job because he seemed glad to take over. He got his car out and he took the tire and me into town, a little town, and anyway we got the tires fixed. When we got back I said "How much do I owe you?" He would not take a cent. I couldn't even throw money at him! He just wouldn't take a cent. He was just being very nice. I decided he probably was glad to be relieved of the milking. When I got home, the next day I went to the tire place and I got four four-ply tires.

You learned that lesson.

Alice: Yes. A four-ply tire is not the easiest thing to ride on, but it was much better insurance

against puncture.

Myron: The roads weren't as good those days as they are now.

Alice: Oh, no! It would just be a joy when you'd get on a good road that didn't have too many loose pebbles on it. We used to ride around up in the northern part of the state. I had my mother with me. She wasn't a very strong person so I didn't dare get her out somewhere.

Adeline: My father spoke of corduroy roads up north.

Myron: I never saw those.

Adeline: I think they laid logs and then you went...

Alice: The idea was they were supposed to drain off or something.

Adeline: Yes. It wasn't a great advantage.

Alice: We used to play when we were kids, hide-and-go-seek and "run, my good sheep, run." Do you remember those?

Myron: Sure.

Adeline: Sure. We played something called "red rover." Did you make things in the snow? We used to make angels.

Myron: Or big snowmen.

Alice: Oh, big snowmen! Of course! I think the most exciting was when I mentioned about hooking the big bobs going out on the ice.

Adeline: Now were you on foot or were you with a sled?

Alice: Oh, no. You'd just slip on these big runners. They were big thick runners, you know. It was all right to go out, but they didn't like you to come back on it.

Myron: Didn't you used to slide on the Pinckney Street hill with sleds?

Alice: Yes. And more on Wisconsin Avenue. On Wisconsin Avenue you could go down to Gorham Street or Johnson Street and then you'd have to walk back up the hill. Of course, you didn't mind it.

Myron: In those days there were no cars to worry about. You didn't have that concern.

Alice: No. Another place we used to slide was on the back of Bascom Hill. That was pretty good.

Myron: We used to slide down Prospect Avenue and then make the corner and go down Spooner or Princeton.

Alice: That was a pretty good hill.

Myron: And across University Avenue. We were not supposed to cross the railroad tracks. Well, sometime we would do that, dangerously.

Alice: If the ice was just right, you could do it.

Myron: Yes. Have you done that then?

Alice: I don't know that I ever did it on Prospect Avenue. You mentioned living out there. Did you know the Noland family?

Myron: Oh, sure.

Alice: I used to play with the Noland kids there.

Myron: Gertrude?

Alice: Gertrude and Margaret.

Myron: And Helen? Wasn't there a third one?

Alice: Margaret and Helen.

Myron: Okay. You probably used to play with the Buell girls. There was Helen, Pauline, Martha, and one more. At least three.

Alice: Pauline. Helen was my age, Martha was younger.

Myron: Martha was the youngest.

Alice: She married Louie Slichter. Martha did.

Myron: Married a Slichter, yes.

Alice: I can't think. I can think of Pauline, but I can't think the other one's name now.

Myron: Gertrude Wilson is still alive.

Alice: Yes.

Myron: She lives over on Regent Street. Her daughter Jill comes here and helps somebody out.

That's right. This is the one that wrote some of the essays about the Heights, the early days.

Alice: She could tell you a lot about the Heights. The Maurers lived right next door then. He was head of mechanics, of the mechanics department.

Myron: No, he was not next door to the Wilsons.

Alice: The Nolands.

Myron: He was not next door to the Nolands. The Nolands lived on Kendall and the Maurers lived on Prospect Avenue, about a block away.

Alice: Well, at one time their house was right next to it. The next house was Ely.

Myron: The Ely house was in between.

Alice: I thought the Maurers were right next door to the Nolands.

Myron: Rowland Maurer and Jean Maurer were the children. Then the Turneaures lived up above us. The Gilmore house was that Frank Lloyd Wright house, now a landmark. And the Buell house. All up on University Heights.

Alice: Yes, that's going the other way.

Myron: That's going the other way. That's right. And the Bradley house, which is now the Sigma Phi house. Do you know where that is?

Alice: Yes. About right near where you lived there.

Myron: We lived on Prospect in later years. Originally it was Arlington Place, which was just below the Turneure house, where we lived.

Adeline: Those hills must have been good for sledding.

Myron: It was! They didn't clean the streets in those days. In those days there used to be a...