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## Marilyn Willis and Lorraine Wagley interview, Wright State University Women

Lewis Shupe

*Wright State University - Main Campus*

Marilyn Willis

Lorraine Wagley

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**WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Retiree Association Oral History Project**

Interview date: 7/25/2013

Interviewer: Lewis Shupe  
Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Communication

Interviewee: Lorraine Wagley and Marilyn Willis  
WSU Women's Club

**Lewis Shupe:** This is Lewis Shupe, Professor Emeritus from the Department of Communication at Wright State University. Today is July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and I have the pleasure of interviewing two members of the Women's Club, Marilyn Willis and Lorraine Wagley. Thank you for doing this interview. I'd like to just ask you, what is the name of the organization? What were you referred to as?

**Lorraine Wagley:** Wright State University Women.

**LS:** Wright State University Women, okay.

**LW:** The connotation of that was that most of the faculty were male, and then they had their wives, and so we were the women of the university. There were a few female faculty, but not very many.

**LS:** But it was mainly the wives.

**LW:** It was only for faculty and administration wives, until 1973. We had to look that up, when we had open membership for all females connected with the university.

**LS:** Okay, see the reason I'm asking is I've heard a number of names in reference to your organization, and the one you're most comfortable with is?

**LW:** WSUW, right?

**Marilyn/Lorraine:** [In unison] Wright State University Women

**Marilyn Willis:** That's the way it started.

**LS:** When was it started?

**LW:** Well, I had to go back to someone because Marilyn and I came in 1969 and it was already active then. I went back to Helen Rossmiller [sp?], and she gave me information.

They came in 1965, she said when there were forty people on the faculty, and there was an organization already formed then for women-

**LS:** That was a different organization?

**LW:** Well, no, it was the same one. Now whether it had that official name or not, but I think it probably did because we were going through the archives and found- now I can't find it- who was the first president?

**MW:** Marguerite Bussman [sp?]

**LW:** Marguerite Bussman. So, in 1965, I think maybe that was the very beginning. But that, again, was just for faculty wives.

**MW:** Well, at least that was the first time it was organized in any regular fashion with officers and so forth.

**LS:** Just very quickly, when you came to Wright State with your husbands, what was your impression?

**LW:** It was this little school in the middle of literally cornfields, right?

**MW:** Yeah, when we came... four buildings, I think, in the middle of nowhere. There was nothing around here.

**LW:** And then way out near the highway- which was going through cornfields- which was Colonel Glenn, they built the student center, which was a long traipse from the Quad all the way out to this building on the highway.

**LS:** Was this discouraging to you to come to this small school?

**MW:** No, speaking for myself, no.

**LW:** Bob had been a high school teacher and we were already living in Beavercreek, so it was just a very positive experience.

**LS:** Lorraine, introduce your husband to us, and then I'll ask Marilyn the same thing.

**LW:** Bob Wagley, he taught in the school of business from 1969 until- I can't remember when he retired, but anyway.

**LS:** Marilyn?

**MW:** My husband is Craig Willis and he was the dean of the University Division when he left in 1977. He was here from '69 to '77.

**LS:** I wanted this introduction because it ties you directly to the university. Okay, what was the initial goal or purpose of your organization?

**MW:** Social, to bring people together I would say, because there was no big, main campus so people lived everywhere, [in] all the surrounding communities as well as Dayton and the suburbs. So I would say that that was it, and as we evolved we decided to take on some fundraising and activities for the university, but basically it was to get the women together and to welcome new people. I was welcomed as a new person by people from the university women's group, and they had a welcoming tea for everybody, and at that time every department was canvassed to find out who were the new hires over the summer, then we tried to get in contact with their wives and hopefully someone in the department would bring them to our meetings.

**LW:** I think we have to remember what society was like in those days. It was the husband worked, the woman did not "work", in quotation marks, she stayed home and-

**MW:** And worked. [Laughs]

**LW:** Well, yeah, although it wasn't called that. It was called cooking and cleaning and babies. [Laughs] So many of us had come at the same time and I would say almost- I don't know what percent- but most of the women had college and advanced college degrees, but they were not working. They might teach- I know one, Helen Rossmiller was a piano teacher, she gave piano lessons, I gave art classes because I'd been an art teacher, and you [Marilyn] did some part time work or you were busy with advanced degrees, but for most of us we were stuck out in suburbia, you know, in a new area.

**MW:** And we were all new at the same time, because this university was just starting. So we were all in the same boat.

**LS:** Who got the idea to start such a group? Any information about that?

**LW:** We had to go back to the books because, again, this was before us, and what was the man's name- I've lost it, I've got it down here [pointing to her bag]. He was head of- well, can I go down here to look? [Looking into bag for her notebook]

**MW:** You told me that last night and I didn't write it down.

**LW:** Yes, I know, I even wrote it down because I thought it was... and this was information from Helen Rossmiller. Stanley Allyn, who was the... well, I don't know, he was connected with... do you know who he was?

**LS:** Mm hmm.

**MW:** Allyn Hall was named after him.

**LW:** He was the first one to provide social activities for new faculty. Now I don't know if that was- I think that might have included wives, but at that time, and this was when the Rossmiller's came in '65, and she said there was like forty people on the faculty, and most of them were new to the area, and this Marguerite Bussman, who neither of us remember, was the first president of the university [women]. That's when they decided that the women need something. So that's all I know, but that's just from written records.

**LS:** Okay. Because it's interesting to know how this actually came about. Did you feel welcome on campus?

**LW:** Oh, yes, and by all departments. It was small enough you knew [everyone], and the presidents were friendly and the presidents' wives were friendly-

**MW:** Definitely.

**LS:** Who was the president that you worked with?

**MW:** When my husband came I believe it was Brage Golding, and then, of course, Kegerreis.

**LS:** So Brage Golding was president when you came.

**LW:** Yes.

**LS:** Okay, very good. Marilyn, you mentioned the medallion you are wearing. Would you tell us about that?

**MW:** Alright. In 1973, this is a silver replica of the logo of Wright State Women, and the group decided they needed to have a logo.

**LW:** Here's the logo [holding up a logo on letterhead]

**MW:** Yes, and Bea Deal [sp?] designed the logo for us, and the center represents the woman, and the pedals- it looks like a daisy, doesn't it?- the pedals coming out and going she told us represent the reaching out and coming back to enrich ourselves and going out to enrich the community and so forth. I thought it was a lovely logo, and much to my surprise they had one made and so when I left my year as president they gave it to me, and I believe that has been continued to be the tradition to give the outgoing president one of these, for however long the group lasted. But the logo then appears on everything that the club did from there on.

**LS:** What was one of the first activities or your tasks as an organization? Do you remember? Or what type of activities did your club do?

**LW:** Well, I had to list them because I had forgotten so many but it was sort of divided. Every month we had an activity, some things were just for the women but a lot of things

were co-ed. I mean we had- even though, Marilyn, we should cut this because you don't remember them- but we had formal dances-

**MW:** Get out of here. [Laughing]

**LW:** We have had so much fun doing this. I mean it started yesterday-

**MW:** It really has been wonderful.

**LW:** Yes, and we've been friends for so long we can say nasty things to each other and it doesn't bother either one of us. Well, I don't think.

**MW:** No.

**LW:** Okay, back to the subject.

**MW:** For the purpose of the interview we'll behave.

**LW:** Yes, we'll try.

**LS:** Oh, don't do that.

**LW:** We had formal dances, the long-timers, around Valentine's Day, and I have a funny story about that at some point in time-

**LS:** Tell us now.

**LW:** Okay, we were going to have this formal dance and I was on the committee and we wanted to do nosegays for each of the women coming, and someone told us if we contacted funeral homes that we could get the flowers free because they always throw them away after the- so we prayed for a really good funeral right before so the flowers would still be fresh. I don't know who picked them up and how many funeral homes they went to but I can remember driving up the driveway to somebody's two-car garage and it was filled with nosegays- no, funeral arrangements- and so we took, I don't think we used the gladiolas for nosegays, but we made nosegays for every woman and-

**MW:** How many would that have been?

**LW:** Oh, what, probably sixty or so I would imagine.

**MW:** I would think.

**LW:** But at the time I was very- I'll go on with another part of the joke- I was very pregnant, about a month later we had our son, and the head of our department it happened to be his wife that was on the committee with me, the head of my husband's department, and when they came to see the new baby they brought two huge funeral arrangements,

and I have a picture of this newborn baby in an infant seat with these funeral arrangements around him. Soon after, he became... I guess later he became the head of the department, my husband's department, and so the night before he was moving into his new office, Bob and I filled the car, we went to funeral homes and got arrangements and we filled his office with funeral arrangements. But it all started with our idea for nosegays for a dance.

**LS:** You made an interesting statement when you said 'my department', and it's your husband's department. I think the members, the women, actually it was your department.

**LW:** Yeah. It was our main social outlet. But getting back to our activities, you can go from... um, we did have the- well, we can talk about that later- but we had children's programs, we had magic shows, we had one time this magic show and the children all came and made bird feeders with pine cones and peanut butter and bird seed, and-

**LS:** So it was like outreach activities that you did.

**LW:** Yeah, and then we developed a puppet group. We made our puppets, and I was in that and that was mainly for our children, but then in going through our archives I find out we gave a performance for the cerebral palsy children's nursery school, which I don't remember. So it got into the community, too.

**LS:** Well, that's good, so it was good community outreach.

**LW:** Yeah. We had international nights, two of our members who were married to international faculty or faculty from other countries and they had a lot of connections. They were chairmen of this international night which was very similar to- I mean it was a very big affair, similar to what they have now. It was on one night, and we sponsored that.

**MW:** I don't know what came first, the international nights or the gourmet group that developed out of that.

**LW:** Yeah, I don't know.

**MW:** Well, these international faculty wives were instrumental in helping us plan menus for the gourmet group that we developed, and each meeting was themed, each time. We had such a big membership, at this point we had such a big membership that we had to divide into groups. So they would meet in different homes.

**LS:** So, was every woman invited to join the group?

**LW:** Every woman in the organization was, but this was a co-ed, I mean, was a couples thing.

**MW:** The dinners were couples.

**LS:** Oh, yeah, okay. Did you have difficulty getting new members or getting people into your organization?

**LW:** No.

**MW:** Not at that time, no. Because women were not outside of the home as much as they are now and it was a welcome activity for them.

**LW:** I think the main problem we had with communication was- should I say?

**MW:** [Laughs] I wasn't going to tell. Sure, go ahead and say it.

**LW:** It's very sexist. We found we couldn't rely on our husbands to bring... we couldn't use, like, our husbands' email-

**MW:** We couldn't use campus mail-

**LW:** -campus mail, because the husbands never brought the information home to their wives and so we had to do it usually by telephone or directly with the wives.

**MW:** So that was very effective, though, because we talked to people on the phone one-to-one.

**LS:** Okay, now, did you have a spot on the university campus where you could work out of?

**LW:** No.

**LS:** You worked out of your homes.

**MW:** Out of our kitchens.

**LW:** Yeah. That's where our phones were.

**LS:** This was a kitchen organization. [All laugh]

**MW:** Yes, it was.

**LW:** Well, Marilyn probably wouldn't say it, but I have to thank her, for our first gourmet groups probably a lot of people hesitated to join because the hostess would plan the meal, then cook the meal, and then have the people, but everyone had to take a turn. But Marilyn, when she arrived, through past experience she suggested we start to call it 'the gourmet club a la carte', and that's where the hostess was responsible for one dish, usually the meat and the beverages-

**MW:** And cleaning the house and getting everything ready.



**LW:** Which was nothing, right? [Laughs] But then she would assign food so everyone brought something. I and Sharon Bassett, between us we still have almost all the recipes, and it's interesting, so many of them now would not be considered gourmet because a lot of them were ethnic, developed by our foreign faculty wives, but it's so common now because there are so many ethnic restaurants. And one we had to laugh at, there were big letters across one recipe that said, 'You must have a microwave oven to prepare this dish', which eliminated most of us.

**LS:** Initially then, it was basically a social group, right?

**MW:** It served the function of helping to get us together and get us acquainted.

**LS:** Now at what point or how did you start to do some kind of an outreach or a service-type org?

**MW:** Well, you can speak to that Lorraine.

**LW:** Eva Kmetec, um, Emil Kmetec was a faculty member, his wife died- this, again, happened right at the time we were arriving so we don't know a lot about this-

**MW:** We don't know it first-hand.

**LW:** But that's when they started the book fund, and that was 1967. So very early we started out not just social-

**LS:** Explain that... the book fund.

**LM:** We would have luncheons where you paid and they were held in the University Center, and it would be- I think they were open to the public but mostly it was our husbands and the staff who would come and pay, and we prepared the food and the proceeds went to the book fund. Well, that was stopped when the food service decided we could not- that through their contract they could not bring in outside food, so that stopped us.

**LS:** What do you mean, book fund?

**LW:** It was a scholarship for books, right? For students, a scholarship designed for students-

**MW:** To raise money to help. I don't know who the recipients were, though.

**LW:** No. But I don't think it was the library, so I think it was individual students.

**MW:** I think it was, too... for students, for scholarship money or assistance of some sort.

**LW:** You could probably find it.

**LS:** Now, see this is good information to learn, that you started to do some outreach into supporting the students.

**LW:** Yeah. Well, two years before we came, actually.

**MW:** I think the outreach was there from the beginning and that we were reaching out to each other because we were all in the same boat together, and we lived all over the area. It wasn't like we were in a neighborhood. So we had to find a way to come together, and then very early on decided we had to help the new people that came, and it really was one of the best organizations I had ever seen. As Lorraine mentioned, I had been on several campuses and this one was probably the best at welcoming and having events aimed at and actively searching out the new people and making sure they were invited. And I think that was probably the biggest early mission.

**LS:** So that was one of your initial objectives.

**MW:** Mm hmm.

**LS:** Well that's nice. That's nice. What was probably the best event you ever established for the women's group?

**MW:** It's so hard to say. They were all good. They really were good.

**LW:** I think probably the most successful that took in the most people was the gourmet group.

**ML:** Yeah, I think you're right.

**LW:** And as I must say, it's still going on through the retirees, where I don't remember who the president was, but decided let's- with the retiree's association, which is quite active- let's have a gourmet, a la carte group. Well, for several years, the word "gourmet" scared so many people that we now call it "Dining In", but it's very successful, and it's ongoing.

**LS:** Okay, good.

**ML:** One thing that was very unusual about this group- and I took it on to another university, the idea of this- but one thing that was so unusual about it is that we would have committees that would get together in the summertime, plan the menus for the entire year, put them in a cookbook, and so everybody got the cookbook in the summer and then they had all that time to look it over and try things if they wanted to. And then, whoever was responsible for that dinner, I mean, we had a pretty large group, so the hostesses would volunteer. 'I can take six couples', 'Well, I can take eight couples'. So we'd have these going on at the same time all around the area on the same weekend; you could decide which night, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. But they bought all the food in bulk, because they had to go to Columbus, for example, to get some of the ingredients. As

Lorraine was saying, it's not that unusual now, but in those days you had to go and find it. And it was also cheaper to buy it in bulk. So then you had your menu and you had your food.

**LW:** Also, another comment on society then, oftentimes you tried to make it as formal as possible but a lot of times we ate on card tables in the family rooms, because so many of us were young couples with young children who had just bought a house in the suburbs and it was just your old furniture; your couches and so on went into the family room because you were going to put in a new living room and dining room. You know, a lot of people had moved from apartments, they'd never had a dining room before. So it was kind of- and some were very formal, they already had their [furnished rooms], but a lot of us, you weren't embarrassed if you didn't have good china or linens or so on.

**LS:** Did you interact at all with any of your husbands' departments, or with the university?

**ML:** Oh, sure.

**LW:** Yeah.

**ML:** In many different ways. You mean formally for the university or as individuals?

**LS:** Well, as a group, individuals within a group.

**ML:** As a group did we interact with the university.

**LW:** Well, this luncheon we would have-

**ML:** All of the departments were represented.

**LW:** Yeah.

**ML:** And we contacted the deans, in those days it would have been the deans' wives, and made sure that they contacted everybody in their department to make sure that they knew, and to escort them if they could.

**LW:** The new people.

**ML:** The new people.

**LS:** Well, that must have been very effective making people feel comfortable when they arrived on campus.

**LW:** And also the fact there wasn't a hierarchy of, 'Well, you know, we have to be careful because that's the president's wife', or, 'that's the dean's wife'. I mean, we were all, most of us, young mothers or at least middle aged, you know?

**LS:** Did you have scheduled meetings?

**LW:** No. It was a monthly event, and then we had lots of interest groups that met on their [own]. We had bridge, duplicate and contract. Bridge at the time was very big. An arts and crafts group that met- Marilyn and I were talking, we just found out we don't remember- but we both were meeting in somebody's basement and doing ceramics.

**MW:** Christmas cookie exchange.

**LW:** We had a cookie exchange at Christmas, and some other... oh, a lot of us had an interest in art so when the Kegerreis' moved into Rockafield House, which was the name of the president's home at the time- it's changed now-

**MW:** Oh.

**LW:** She opened the house for an art show and the whole campus was invited to that, and it was up for I can't remember how long but it was all faculty, faculty wives, anyone on the faculty or their spouses could show. We were just looking at the program and there must have been close to a hundred pieces maybe.

**MW:** I would think.

**LS:** Well you were really active.

**LW:** Yeah.

**LS:** What happened when a female professor arrived? Was she automatically invited into the group or did that create a problem?

**LW:** I don't remember.

**MW:** I think so, but I don't think they chose to. Because speaking as a female professor, I wouldn't have had time to do all this. So they would have been welcome I'm sure, but they wouldn't have probably chosen to do so.

**LW:** I think that did bring up something I remembered.

**LS:** Okay.

**LW:** We would send- I guess we somehow... I was never involved with this, but when we found out a new faculty member was coming we would send a letter of welcome to their wives. Well, somehow, maybe the gentleman had a feminine name or something, but somehow a male faculty member got an invitation to join our group, which kind of scared us until he declined membership, so that saved us.

**MW:** We're not sure what we would do. [Laughs]

**LS:** Were you ever accused of being sexist?

**LW:** Not at that time, no. Actually in the '70's, not sexist, but we decided to have open membership because some of the people decided... in other words if you were- I never remember what classified and unclassified staff [are] but- for instance, the secretaries could not belong because they were not faculty wives, but in 1973 we opened the membership to any woman who was involved at Wright State could join our group. We were looking at that, a lot of the presidents after that were, or officers I should say.

**LS:** So that was successful.

**LW:** Yes.

**LS:** When you opened up the membership.

**LW:** And it wasn't because we lacked members, it was just that we-

**MW:** We had a constitutional convention and revised the constitution in '73 so that it would include any woman who was associated with the university.

**LS:** Okay.

**MW:** You have to remember, too, that this was also the beginning of women's lib. And so this brings us to the beginning of the downfall of the organization, I think.

**LS:** Okay.

**LW:** Yeah.

**MW:** Because, the main thing being women working outside the home.

**LW:** I was going to say, not because we had open membership.

**MW:** No, no. Help me with the transition. Not because of that.

**LW:** But, yeah, because we started with open membership in the-

**LS:** What was that, what year?

**LW:** What?

**LS:** What was that, what year?

**LW:** The open membership? 1973.

**LS:** Okay.

**MW:** But, you know, that was the year of the women's liberation movement was up and coming, very strong.

**LW:** And a lot of women went back to college to get degrees, and a lot of women if they had degrees they started working. For one thing they weren't connected as much with their husbands. Our social life revolved around our husbands' occupation.

**MW:** For a long time.

**LW:** For a long time.

**MW:** For those of us who were not working.

**LW:** Women developed their own interests and their own contacts, socially. Although, we were surprised, what was it, 1990 was the last- we know it was still, the women's group was in existence in 1990, yet-

**MW:** That's the last written record we found of it.

**LW:** Yeah, so we don't know if it was after that or not.

**MW:** But here and everywhere, women's groups kind of started to collapse because women were working, they didn't have time for this, didn't want to be bothered with it, whatever. They were establishing their own careers.

**LS:** But you had a constitution-

**MW:** Mm hmm.

**LS:** -and you had by-laws-

**LW:** Mm hmm.

**LS:** -so that you were well organized.

**MW:** Oh, yes. And committees, and committee chairs, and standing committees.

**LW:** Yes, right. [Laughs]

**MW:** Chairs of the groups.

**LS:** Give me some samples of some of the committees, the names of the committees.

**MW:** Well, all of the interest groups would have had a committee.

**LS:** Interest groups.

**MW:** Well, the gourmet groups, the, what were they, okay, bridge, arts and crafts group, book group, these were standing groups that went on all the time and they met on their own schedule on a monthly basis. You could join the book group and they did their own schedule.

**LS:** Okay, so you functioned then mainly as sub-groups.

**LW:** I know when I was first vice-president, I was first vice-president and program chairman and I can remember in the summer, I think we saw a picture, it was August, one of our rooms was filled with women that I had invited, there had to be at least ten or twelve other women there, and it was our job to form all the programs. Not the interest groups because they were already self-standing and they provided their own schedule, but the monthly... when we were finished with the evening we had our monthly programs for the year.

**MW:** In addition to the interest groups meetings, we had a monthly program. And so those all had to have committees.

**LW:** And the women there, the people you invited you knew would be chairmen of these different events. I think in the summer we didn't do anything but during the school calendar year there was an event every month.

**MW:** We did the planning during the summer.

**LW:** Yes, we were, during rhubarb season. [Laughs]

**LS:** So was there a need to get more women involved?

**MW:** I don't know that there was.

**LW:** I think our main problem or our main goal was to reach the new people, which was sometimes hard to do through the dean's office or whatever departments to make sure that we got all of them.

**MW:** And sometimes a list of new people was not formalized until in September sometimes.

**LS:** So it was more... making it more inclusive was to your benefit, was that correct?

**LW:** I had something, wait [laughs] exclusive, inclusive. When you first said that-

**LS:** Inclusive.

**LW:** It was to our benefit, yeah, but that certainly was not the reason. We were a very strong group before that. It was just more politically correct.

**LS:** Okay. Did you get support from the university for what you were doing?

**LW:** I don't think we asked for it, did we?

**MW:** No, we didn't. I don't believe we asked for it. We were allowed to use the facilities, and if we needed to have something duplicated did we pay for that ourselves, I think?

**LW:** I don't remember.

**MW:** I don't remember asking for anything to be done.

**LW:** Or Bea Deal, when she designed our logo, she was in- and maybe you knew of her, she was in one of the departments here and did design work, and I don't know if we had to pay her for that, or-

**MW:** I don't think we did. I just saw the whole stack of treasures, the records in the archives. If you want to find out you could go look [laughs]. It looks like it would be a daunting task.

**LS:** Did you ever get any commendations or words of congratulations from the university?

**LW:** Maybe one on one. But no, I don't think.

**MW:** Yeah, perhaps. I know Kay Kegerreis opened the house for a meeting for us.

**LW:** And some of the presidents' wives were more active than others.

**LS:** Well, that's nice. Because I know that you've been a very important part of the university, and your names keep coming back and creeping into our oral history. So this is why this interview I think is important.

**LW:** You know, I don't think we felt neglected at all.

**MW:** No, we didn't.

**LW:** I think we felt good about we did this on our own and we didn't ask for help.

**MW:** And wanted to do it. I don't ever think any of us felt we had to do it. We did it because we wanted to.

**LW:** I know we were upset when the food service said we couldn't bring any food in anymore, but that's the only time I remember being upset with any policy.

**LS:** Does your organization still exist here?



**LW:** No.

**MW:** I don't think so. We just said the last we could find was 1990.

**LS:** 1990.

**MW:** That's the last elected president we found on the list. Now that doesn't mean there might not be more, but that's the last we could find.

**LS:** Okay. Who was the last president?

**MW:** Do you know that?

**LS:** I'm just curious.

**LW:** [Pulls a paper from her bag] Yes, it's right here. Jill Melton. Actually, you might want to look this over because I think you would know some of these people. But it's interesting, the last two presidents happened to be secretaries. One was Marge Hodson, she was the lead secretary for the school of business or whatever her title was, and Jill Melton I think was a secretary. Even though my husband was still here at the time- well, he had... no, he hadn't retired then- I think I got involved with work and I was not, it was just the last few years that-

**LS:** So you think that maybe it was the time; that things changed.

**LW:** Yeah.

**MW:** This is true. I went on to other universities and this was true with their groups, too. They found that the women just didn't have the time, they didn't have the interest. Maybe they- well, the last place we were they went to two luncheons a year, and they didn't attempt to do any social work or projects. It was just a strictly social get together, a couple times a year.

**LS:** Well, you were an important part of the beginning of Wright State. You were very active.

**LW:** I think we provided- well, we didn't start it so we can't take the credit, but-

**MW:** But the group provided a valuable service, and we certainly had a good time.

**LW:** Oh, gosh. We sure did. Well, if you had heard us out there looking at those pictures you'd know that it brought back only good memories.

**LS:** Well, yes, I think that the scrapbook that you have in the archives here at the university is a very important remembrance of that.

**LW:** Yeah. Well, we didn't get through it all but I asked if I could come back sometime because I'm going to come back and finish looking at it, because it was-

**MW:** I'm not sure when it ended but that particular scrapbook started in '71/'72 and we got through '75 and were about half way through.

**LS:** Okay.

**LW:** And that might have even been another committee that did that because-

**MW:** Probably. There was a historian or something.

**LW:** Like an archival- yeah, or a historian. I don't remember.

**LS:** How important would you rate what you did for the university? And be generous.

**LW:** Be generous. As important as our husband's salary, right? [Laughs]

**MW:** I would just say I have never seen a place that had as active a welcoming group, ever, and because this place was new I think that was so critical.

**LS:** That's an important statement. Being a new university that was so small your contribution was a very valuable asset.

**MW:** I'd say it was the glue.

**LS:** It was the glue.

**LW:** Well, isn't there a saying, 'If the wife's happy, everybody's happy?'

**MW:** Yeah.

**LW:** You know, we might have been grumpy old wives that our husbands came home to at night.

**LS:** Well, you know, it's a pleasure to have you bring us this information to the oral history. Any parting comments that you would like to make?

**LW:** I'm going to- just this whole experience from the time they arrived yesterday to us talking about it, then the highlight was the scrapbook and all the archival things, I'm going to let a lot of our old people, through email- which we didn't have in those days- know what a good time we had.

**MW:** I'm a little sad because I don't think this kind of thing is ever going to happen again. Because we have such a different kind of social life now. We keep in touch in different ways now. This was a very close knit, personal-

**LS:** Would you maybe think of having like a little reunion? Inviting some of these old people back to look at this scrapbook with you?

**LW:** Oh, I don't know if you could take it. [Laughs]

**MW:** The emails were not successful.

**LW:** No, no. I don't know if I should even mention that, maybe can you turn the camera off for a minute?

**LS:** No.

**LW:** No? Okay.

**LS:** You can put it on the tape.

**LW:** Well, I don't know if I want to. Okay, I will. A sad note. Unfortunately, a lot of these people, in fact, looking at the scrapbook we said, 'Oh my gosh, they're dead, they have dementia', you know, so on. I did go through and a lot of them I didn't have the emails for or they'd moved to Florida or someplace and they're retired and I don't even know if they're alive or dead. But I found about ten people that I knew were still in the area, and I emailed them and said that Marilyn and I, that they were coming to visit and those were good times in our life and if they had an interesting or funny story to tell- because I knew with Lew asking the questions there would be humor involved- to let me know. And Helen Rossmiller- ahead of time because we've stayed friends with them- had sent me a long, two page, single spaced thing about her remembrances which was very helpful. We did not, all the others we received no answer. So, that was kind of sad but a lot of them, I must admit, that I sent to I'm not sure what their physical condition is and so on. So there might be an excuse.

**LS:** I think the important thing is that there is a history of what you did in the archives and that it will remain in the archives as a very important contribution to Wright State.

**LW:** Well, we didn't remember the scrapbook and that was a really fun treasure.

**MW:** It was great.

**LS:** Okay. Any parting words?

**MW:** I guess not.

**LW:** No, I think that's all.

**LS:** Did you enjoy this?

**LW:** Oh, thoroughly. Thoroughly. I will say when I emailed Marilyn about the idea [and] could they come, never once did she hesitate so I knew she was anxious to do it, too.

**LS:** Well, that's great. Thank you very much.