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Dorothy Ramseyer Duguid

Dorothy Duguid '46

Illinois Wesleyan University

Daniel Maurer 2012

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Oral History Interview with Dorothy Duguid
Bloomington, Illinois, June 30, 2011

Daniel Maurer: My name is Daniel Maurer. I am a student at Illinois Wesleyan University, I'm in my senior year, and the date is June 30th 2011, and I am at Mrs. Duguid's house in Bloomington, Illinois. Would you like to state your name and affiliation with Wesleyan?

Duguid: It's Dorothy Ramseyer-Duguid, class of '46...[laughs]... I finished at University of Illinois, and Art Institute.

Maurer: And what was your major?

Duguid: French major, art minor, I think, when I was at Wesleyan.

Maurer: Okay, interesting.

Duguid: And it was also English by the time I got to U of I, English Literature.

Maurer: Okay, okay. What were some of the qualities that drew you to Illinois Wesleyan?

Duguid: Oh, I—most of my friends were from Bloomington High School. And it was—classes were a nice size, and my mother and uncle and aunt had all attended Illinois Wesleyan, and my father. That's where my parents met. And my two daughters both went to Wesleyan.

Maurer: Okay. How close were the student-faculty interactions at Wesleyan?

Duguid: Mm, it was smaller then, so it was pretty close.

Maurer: Mhmm. Were you close to any of your professors?

Duguid: Oh, John Al Neu, taught vocal music at Presser Hall. And he sang in a quartet with my mother, so he gave me voice lessons before I ever started at Wesleyan. He was a good teacher...had two daughters.

Maurer: Are there any students, staff, faculty members that stick out in your memory, as having an extraordinary influence on you while you were at Wesleyan?

Duguid: Mmm...It's so long ago I'm trying—there was a Fitz. There was a French teacher who lived over by the Manual Foundation, and her father had taught there too. She taught French and I think he was Religion. But I can't remember their last name. I can show you the house, I've been in it...[laughs]...and she was a friend of my aunt's. She married a guy in France.

[On later reflection, Mrs. Duguid recalled the man was a French teacher, not from France, and the woman who taught French was Constance Ferguson.]

Maurer: Neat.

Duguid: It didn't work out.

Maurer: Oh. What stands out at you as the biggest changes at Illinois Wesleyan since your time there?

Duguid: Oh, I think the size. And they don't have a band anymore. And the students have to work a lot harder.

Maurer: What was the size of Wesleyan while you were there?

Duguid: Oh statistically I wouldn't know, but they would invite the teachers to the house, and I was a Kappa. And I remember the Vice-President of the school, I think his name was Wallace, was the guest one time, and I said, "Oh, and what do you teach?" [laughs] and it was a small school, so I should have known.

Maurer: Right. Did you say you were a Kappa Delta? Or—

Duguid: Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Maurer: Kappa Kappa Gamma, okay. Interesting.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: And my aunt was, so I was a legacy.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: They had to take me.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: Yeah. Do you have like an approximate estimate of how many students were there?

Duguid: Oh, probably a thousand.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: What is it now?

Maurer: I believe it's twenty-one hundred?

Duguid: Oh, my.

Maurer: Approximately. So it's roughly doubled since you've been there.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: So everybody at the football game, you'd know their first and last name and their ancestry.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: And that's not true anymore.

Maurer: No, not anymore.

Duguid: No.

Maurer: Who knows though?

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah. What traditions have changed since your time at Illinois Wesleyan?

Duguid: Mm, they used to decorate the houses at Homecoming, and have floats with living people riding on the float...[laughs]...So you had to borrow a farm wagon—

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: —to decorate.

Maurer: Right.

Duguid: Yeah. And they used to decorate the houses too, with sounds and lights.

Maurer: Did you ever take part in any of this?

Duguid: Oh, I borrowed a farm wagon from the guy who farmed my grandfather's farm, and he called about it months later and wanted to know where it was. The kids that...[laughs]...used it didn't return it to him.

Maurer: Uh oh...[laughs].

Duguid: I think he got it back.

Maurer: Okay, interesting. Do you remember any other traditions?

Duguid: Mm, they used to have that flower shop across the street, across from the Alpha Gam house, they used to have yellow mums—or white mums with a little green pipe cleaner 'W' for football games.

Maurer: [laughs]...Nice.

Duguid: Mhmm.

Maurer: Do you have a favorite story or memory that you have about any aspect of life at Wesleyan while you were there?

Duguid: Uh, not really. You learn—I remember they had a formal dinner and invited a fraternity. And my mother...[laughs]...said, "Well, watch the person next to you, which fork they use, it's usually from the outside, so just watch the person next to you." And I told him that, and the guy

across the table thought that was really funny, that I was copying his table manners, because I guess—oh, and my husband was a Phi Gam when he was in school. And there—they had food fights.

Maurer: Food fights?

Duguid: Food fights!

Maurer: In the cafeteria?

Duguid: No, in the Phi Gam house, on Franklin Square.

Maurer: Oh! [laughs]

Duguid: And the house mother would go upstairs and hide.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: And there was a fellow they called Ketchup Konfal...I have no idea how you spell his name [verified Robert C. Konfal '43 in Alumni Directory (1978)], because he'd put a... he'd fight with ketchup—

Maurer: Wow.

Duguid: —With the bottom of the bottle...[laughs]

Maurer: Must have been his primary weapon.

Duguid: And one of the boys worked at ~~Marboly Cleaners~~. [Mrs. Duguid later recalled it was Deweuter's.] Jack Zweng [men's clothes]? So he had beautiful threads. They wore porkpie hats and jackets and Gabardine slacks, sport jackets [to school].

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: And he'd—when they started a food fight, he'd get under the table and hide.

[Both laugh]

Duguid: So he wouldn't... he had to go to work all dressed up later.

Maurer: That is so funny.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: I can only imagine what a food fight would be like now.

Duguid: Well, probably excommunicated...[laughs].

Maurer: Yeah, who knows?

Duguid: Hope so...[laughs].

Maurer: Yeah. What is the biggest impact that Wesleyan has had on your life?

Duguid: Gave me beautiful manners, from being around people like that...[laughs]

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Well, it...it was a very pleasant experience for me.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: I got very homesick at U of I. I loved Art Institute, but I had to walk miles down Michigan Boulevard to get to school and back, because I was afraid I'd get on an express bus and go too far north and they wouldn't let me off.

Maurer: Yeah, so you got homesick for Wesleyan?

Duguid: Uh, at a bigger school, yeah, it's not as much fun.

Maurer: Not as much fun at a bigger school?

Duguid: Yeah, have to work harder and the classes were too far apart to make it in the passing period.

Maurer: Right.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah. What kind of reputation have you encountered elsewhere about Illinois Wesleyan?

Duguid: I think it's a pretty prestigious school.

Maurer: Mhmm. Do you think that prestige has increased over time?

Duguid: I think they have a grade-A reputation—

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: —for professional training.

Maurer: Right.

Duguid: Pre-professional.

Maurer: Mhmm. And what was the—what role did Wesleyan have at— have in your time? Was it prestigious, was it a regional power?

Duguid: Oh, well, let's see...the art classes were in... one of my classmate's aunt's house, on Main Street. It was the KD house for a while. Big, dark brick thing with a big porch they had classes in. In the house and in the garage—the garage had been a brick stable, you know. I don't

know if that house is still there or not. When I'm driving I have to watch the cars. Town's bigger, too.

Maurer: Yeah, I'm sure.

Duguid: So Bloomington was 30,000 and I noticed driving into Normal the other day it's 50,500 just Normal.

Maurer: It is.

Duguid: Yeah, a lot of stuff going on out there I don't want to know about...

Maurer: Plenty of construction.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah, both ISU and Wesleyan.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: And hospitals.

Maurer: Right, the hospital.

Duguid: Yeah. They'll lose their patients if they're not careful.

Maurer: Yeah. Okay. Ah, yes, here's a—how did current events outside the campus bubble affect your life at the University? I'm sure you've heard of the bubble, the Wesleyan bubble?

Duguid: Well, yeah, the Ivory Tower, we called it. Um, well, it was the beginning of the war, so the boys, a lot of them left. Then there were more girls than boys.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: Get used to it.

[Both laugh]

Maurer: Right. And were you at Wesleyan when the men came back?

Duguid: No, it was before.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Yeah, '46.

Maurer: Okay. Right, because you were nineteen forty...

Duguid: '42.

Maurer: Okay, okay.

Duguid: So I guess Jim, my husband, came back in '46, or '47. I met him at U of I.

Maurer: Okay, interesting. Is there anything else you'd like to add about the students and faculty at the time when you were at Wesleyan?

Duguid: Mmm...no...I don't think so...I'm 86, so it's hard to remember the names.

Maurer: That's perfectly fine.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah...yeah. What kinds of extracurricular activities did you engage in during your time at Wesleyan?

Duguid: Well they had intramural sports, and I was an art and music type, so when I was a pledge, one of the actives said, "Oh, she's sick, she has to go home, she can't play" because I had never played hockey before. I was good at baseball and golf and tennis.

Maurer: Wow.

Duguid: Yeah. But... I don't know. I thought it was tactless of her. "This pledge can't play, I'm taking her home!" [laughs]

Maurer: Right, yeah. Was sports big during your time?

Duguid: Well, they had a big bonfire. Do they still do that, at homecoming?

Maurer: I don't really know. They have events for homecoming, now.

Duguid: Yeah. Well, then, just all the students would stand around and there was a big bonfire.

Maurer: Mhmm. Sounds like a lot of fun.

Duguid: It was.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Yeah, small townie.

Maurer: Team spirit, right?

Duguid: Yeah, it was.

Maurer: Your own team spirit. And what was your interaction or your opinion pertaining to sorority life?

Duguid: Oh, it was very protected.

Mhmm. What do you mean by protected?

Duguid: Well girls were supposed to go in groups. And I got out of that habit in Chicago because if you waited for a group you'd miss the bus and class—

[Both laugh]

Duguid: —and everything else.

Maurer: Yeah. And what was the explanation for being in the group?

Duguid: Oh, just that women didn't go out alone.

Maurer: Okay

Duguid: You know, it was right after the Victorian era.

Maurer: Okay. Oh, right.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: That makes sense then.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: It was very sheltered.

Maurer: And were fraternities the same way? Or were—

Duguid: Yeah, things were sort of formal.

Maurer: Mhmm. Okay. Yeah, probably more formal than they are now.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Much more formal.

Duguid: Yeah, a lot of formal dances with corsages and all that stuff.

Maurer: Mhmm. What was dormitory life like and which did you prefer?

Duguid: Well I was a town girl.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: I did live in... I visited girls that lived in the house, but I think both years I lived at home. I guess—no because I came home with sheets that belonged to a friend's older sister. When you moved into the house, you were supposed to bring so many sheets and they had names on them.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: So I had Betty Klem's older—Betty Klem's sheets from the Kappa House.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: So I must... I guess...can't remember which room it was.

Maurer: So you did live in the Kappa Kappa Gamma house?

Duguid: Yeah, maybe one year.

Maurer: One year? And—

Duguid: Freshman year I lived at home.

Maurer: Okay. How would you describe that experience?

Duguid: It was fun. Meals were provided.

Maurer: Okay. Did you form a lot of friendships in Kappa Kappa Gamma?

Duguid: Oh yeah.

Maurer: Okay. And how many people were in the sorority?

Duguid: Oh maybe forty.

Maurer: Okay, that's quite large.

Duguid: Uh-huh.

Maurer: What professors within your major stick out in your mind and why?

Duguid: Oh, Dr. Wood. I think his name was Tom. He had a house on the corner where the Chapel is now and he'd have students over and his wife made wonderful cookies.

Maurer: Nice.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: So did professors typically invite their students to their—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: —places a lot to make meals and just to—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: —interact and talk?

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: It's not so much like that anymore, unfortunately.

Duguid: No, it wasn't like that at U of I.

Maurer: Yeah, I suppose because Wesleyan was so much smaller at the time.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: There was just maybe more interactions between students and professors.

Duguid: My English class at U of I was bigger than the Normal Theater. And somebody would have a clipboard and if there was a body in a numbered seat you were marked present and if you changed—if I hadn't—didn't look at the number and sat near somebody I knew and they'd changed—

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: —then they'd count me absent all year.

Maurer: Wow.

[Duguid laughs]

Maurer: That's weird.

Duguid: Yeah, it was like a chart.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: Yeah. How did your lifestyle and work ethic change from your freshman to your senior year?

Duguid: Hmm. Well, I don't think very much. I always did like to read and study.

Maurer: Okay, so you were quite studious—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: —throughout your college career?

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah...that's good.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah, so you're kind of like me then—

Duguid: I didn't—

Maurer: I'm very studious too.

Duguid: I didn't waste their tuition.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: That's a good ideology.

[Duguid laughs]

Maurer: Yeah, I like that.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah. What was your transition like from high school to college?

Duguid: Well, not very much from Bloomington High School to Wesleyan.

Maurer: Right.

Duguid: But from Wesleyan to U of I, it was very different.

Maurer: I'm sure it was quite radical.

Duguid: Like a big city.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: And then the guys were coming back. They had a lot of GI Joes, you know. I know my husband had to take a test to get out of retaking English.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Yeah, took it by examination instead of spending a year on it.

Maurer: Yeah, were you overwhelmed by the large class size?

Duguid: No, but I don't think you get nearly as much out of it.

Maurer: Right, mmmm.

Duguid: Because there are a lot of distractions

Maurer: I'm sure. I can barely imagine being in such a large room with so many people.

Duguid: Mmmm

Maurer: Right. And why did you go to U of I again?

Duguid: Oh I'd been in art school, at Art Institute. And my father thought if I ever had to earn a living, art was not the way....[laughs]...

Maurer: Oh.

Duguid: —to earn a living—

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: —and I'd better finish my degree, so, I don't know, I think they decided.

Maurer: Okay. Did you ever switch majors?

[Duguid laughs]

Duguid: Well, I had started out as an Art major and that became a minor, I guess, at U of I because then I was going to get in architecture school, but then they wouldn't let women sign up for architecture school. Then later they said I could take Architecture if I wanted to, but by then I'd already met Jim and was getting married, a senior and didn't want to stay in school forever.

Maurer: Okay. What did you think of the art program at Wesleyan at the time?

Duguid: It was fun.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Very good.

Maurer: Were there many people in this—in that department?

Duguid: Oh, not a lot, no, it was manageable. And one gal bought a portrait from me...you know, just from a class.

Maurer: Nice.

Duguid: And at U of I you weren't allowed to talk in art class...[laughs]...and it was just different, regimented.

Maurer: Right.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: What were some of your classes and what were the buildings like when you were there?

Duguid: Oh, well there'd been a fire, and during the war there was—Hedding Hall, I think it was, that burned. So they just roofed over the basement and held classes there.

[Both laugh]

Duguid: And then they replaced it with the library.

Maurer: Sheean library? Or—

Duguid: No. [She later recalled that is was Sheean.]

Maurer: Oh, Buck.

Duguid: Well the one next to Presser was there then. That's what we used for the library. And they said they're going to tear that down.

Maurer: They're tearing down Sheean Library...

Duguid: That's the big stone one?

Maurer: Yeah, the big stone one, with the concrete blocks, kind of looks like a fortress.

Duguid: Yeah

Maurer: Yeah, they're tearing that down to make way for the new classroom building. And it's going to be a classroom building. It will also house offices for professors in the Economics and Business Administration Departments. So, yeah, we're looking forward to it.

Duguid: I hope they don't build it out of beaver board.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: It was a beautiful building...outmoded though.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: So what types of modifications to campus stick out in your mind? Like modifications to buildings or—

Duguid: Oh, I think the quad is beautiful.

Maurer: It is.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: I like it.

Maurer: Were there any new buildings that were constructed when you were at Wesleyan?

Duguid: No, Presser Hall was already built and—used to go to a lot of concerts there.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: And they had—I think it was Wednesday morning, the assembly—Chapel was required.

Maurer: Chapel?

Duguid: We'd get the whole campus in there.

Maurer: Chapel was required?

Duguid: Yeah

Maurer: And would they—they held Chapel in Presser?

Duguid: Mhmm.

Maurer: Okay, and I'm guessing that was due to the Methodist background—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: —of the university? Okay.

Duguid: Yeah. So they took attendance...[laughs]

Maurer: At Chapel?

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah, what'd you think of that?

Duguid: I liked it.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Got to see everybody.

Maurer: Mhmm. Yeah, I'm just trying to imagine what that would be like today...[laughs]

Duguid: You couldn't get them in there.

Maurer: No, you couldn't, like with the—well, for one, people would refuse to go.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: People are really busy nowadays. What was homecoming like during your time at Wesleyan? Do you participate in Homecoming as an alumnus or homecoming activities?

Duguid: Oh, I did when my husband was alive, but now I stay away from bleachers.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Unless I know that there are handrails.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: But I love the new baseball stadium. Have you been out there?

Maurer: No, I haven't.

Duguid: It's a blast, you should go.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: I'll maybe have to check it out this summer.

Duguid: You should.

Maurer: Mhmm. Do you keep up on that kind of homecoming news, like what goes on?

Duguid: Oh, well, my age—hardly anybody in my age group goes, and they have the meetings, you know, like at the BCC or off campus, or at a restaurant.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: Which is fine, but if there's not going to be anybody there you know... and the people I would go with are getting older and don't like to go out at night and—

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: I used to go with my aunt and all her friends and all my friends...but I'm glad I didn't drop by the way that a lot of them have.

Maurer: Oh.

Duguid: Yeah. I can hear it from my back yard.

Maurer: Oh, the—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: —sports?

Duguid: Yeah, yeah.

Maurer: Yeah, I'm sure that's entertaining.

Duguid: It is.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah. Was there any sort of gender stratification while you were there? How about racial or other divisions?

Duguid: Oh, goodness. I don't think that—yeah there wasn't—it wasn't integrated when I was there.

Maurer: Okay, so predominantly white?

Duguid: Mhmm.

Maurer: Okay. And were there—how about the gender or—the gender ratio? Was it—

Duguid: Oh, well yeah, there were a lot of like Edith—I worked for Edith Kuhn in the Alumni Office. [full name later recalled as Edith Elliott Kuhn]

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: And they had a lot of strong women in Wesleyan. Methodists aren't shy usually.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Yeah

Maurer: Right. So during your time were there more men or more women?

Duguid: Oh, I think it was about even. Well, it was more women when—

Maurer: When the men left for—

Duguid: —during World War II.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: I'm sure, yeah—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Yeah, there were plenty of women on campus.

Duguid: Until I went to U of I, then they were starting to come back.

Maurer: Okay. How well were you able to keep in touch with your family, and how did your time at Illinois Wesleyan impact your family?

Duguid: Not at all. My husband—my whole family lived on East Grove Street, and we had a carpool that went to campus every day—off-campus that lived East Washington and Grove Street, and my aunt had a carpool that, uh...if they want that dance card for their collection, they can have it, because I gave the other ones to the Museum of History downtown.

Maurer: Okay, the dance card for—?

Duguid: For my aunt.

Maurer: Oh, okay.

Duguid: See, those people, that Cory Overaker that's on there married—Dotty Parker, and Dotty Parker and her husband and her brother [Hub Parker] and my aunt [Mary Bodell Culbertson] were in the carpool that took Aunt Mary to school.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: She lived on East Washington.

Maurer: Did you visit your family a lot while you were at Wesleyan?

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Okay, like how much or—

Duguid: Well, I was there every night when I was a freshman...[laughs]

Maurer: Oh yeah when you lived there but—

Duguid: Yeah, yeah.

Maurer: —maybe when you were in Kappa Kappa Gamma?

Duguid: Oh... yeah, I think I went to church with my parents still—

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: —on the weekend.

Maurer: What type of background did you come from?

Duguid: Presbyterian. And my father's father came over from Switzerland when he was twelve and had a farm out of Hudson and my mother's father was a Presbyterian minister at the First Presbyterian Church, which was by the Barnes Memorial Building. Do you know where that is—

Maurer: No I don't

Duguid:—downtown? It used to be the History Museum. I can't even think what's there now. There used to be a Jolly Roger downtown...too long ago. Nobody cares about that...[laughs]...and the Methodist Church was.... I guess it's the parking lot for the Consistory now.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: And we'd go there in a group sometimes, you know.

Maurer: That sounds nice

Duguid: Yeah it was.

Maurer: What kind of orientation programs did the university provide for incoming students?

Duguid: Oh, they had a dance in the gym. That was orientation... then I guess somebody would stand up and tell you where you were going—

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: What was going on.

Maurer: Yeah, students giving directions.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Right. Kind of—I suppose every freshman was kind of disoriented like, ‘Oh, where do I go?’

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Like, ‘Where are my classes? Where’s my residence hall?’ Right.

Duguid: Well, most of us grew up near it and wasn’t too strange.

Maurer: Mhmm. What was the dance like?

Duguid: Oh, short dresses and... nobody went with a date, I don’t think. You just showed up.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: It was just go there and pick a date.

Duguid: Yeah, but they had live music. I don’t know if they still have live bands?

Maurer: Oh, live bands come to Wesleyan a lot.

Duguid: Yeah?

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: Good.

Maurer: Right, so I’m sure it was a very pleasurable experience for you.

Duguid: It was.

Maurer: A way to break the ice.

Duguid: Yeah, it was.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: And meet new people.

Maurer: Right, form new connections.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Sounds like something we could do now.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: I think we have like a festival of talents and there may be a band coming in, but I don’t think there’s—young people nowadays don’t dance very much.

Duguid: Yeah, that’s too bad.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: I think computers—so many of them just look cross-eyed at a screen all the time—

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: —and they lose all of their, you know, the little things that make it easy to get along with other people.

Maurer: Like Facebook.

Duguid: Uhh.

Maurer: And the Internet, Instant Messaging.

Duguid: Well, you know, my grandkids each got a fancy iPod for Christmas. They sat on each end of that sofa and texted each other all day instead of communicating with the grownups.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: I mean, that's boring.

[Maurer laughs]

Maurer: Yeah, I'm sure.

Duguid: I see the top of their head.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: You know.

Maurer: What were the facilities like, like the dorms, the library, the athletic grounds, etc.?

Duguid: Mmm...traditional.

Maurer: Did you like them?

Duguid: Yeah, very much.

Maurer: Okay. And in your opinion, how diverse was Illinois—I mean, was Illinois Wesleyan? Not so much racially, but like religiously. Were there—like were there Catholics coming in? Were there—

Duguid: Well yeah.

Maurer: Okay. Other religious traditions?

Duguid: Oh, I don't think so. I can't remember too much about Chapel. It was, you know, they'd make announcements—

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: —and say what was coming up during the week.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: More like an assembly.

Maurer: Okay. So was the Methodist background, or kind of the Methodist theology, was that really emphasized when you were at Wesleyan?

Duguid: Mmm, no, I don't think so.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Just felt like hometown...[laughs]

Maurer: Yeah, it just felt like—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: —a small town I guess.

Duguid: Yeah, not a change.

Maurer: Small town, small school.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Mhmm. And who was the president at the time when you were there?

Duguid: Oh don't ask.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: [laughs]...I'd have to look it up, I don't remember. I really didn't have much to do with the president of the school, you know. The people that I was with all the time I still see.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: There's still most of them here and their kids.

Maurer: Mhmm. So many of your friends who went with you to Wesleyan still live in this area?

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Nice.

Duguid: Yeah it is.

Maurer: I'm sure it's very convenient for you.

Duguid: It is.

Maurer: Mhmm. Yeah, I'm trying to think uh... maybe it was Shaw, or Holmes? I don't know. I'll have to look that up.

Duguid: Oh, I knew Shaw and Holmes. I mean, I remember the names.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: But like a freshman doesn't shake hands with the president of the school.

Maurer: Right, right, unless you're like, really lucky.

Duguid: Yeah, don't—seen and not heard, that's how I was brought up.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: Show up and be quiet...[laughs]

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: And I didn't wear my glasses as often as I should, so... [laughs]

Maurer: Okay, well is there anything else you'd like to add about your experience at Wesleyan?

Duguid: No, it was wonderful to come back to Bloomington and know everybody because my husband was in the Air Force and we moved a lot and you had to mix to find out about the area.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: And the facilities and the town and which cleaners and you know—

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: —what was going on. And I was shocked, shocked, that I couldn't use my credit card when I took my daughter to California. They didn't know who I was. Can you imagine—

[Both laugh]

Duguid: —such a thing?

Maurer: I'm sure that kind of came as a shock. Yeah.

Duguid: Yeah, I had a car reserved to rent and they said, "Well this isn't your credit card, it's in your husband's name."

[Both laugh]

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: I'm sure you, yeah, went around town a lot when you were at Wesleyan. Like what types of attractions were there in Bloomington at the time?

Duguid: Oh, there were concerts at the Consistory.

Maurer: Mhmm.

Duguid: Now the [Bloomington Center for the] Performing Arts. And I took a date to the concert because my mother had free tickets. She was on the Board.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: And we walked...[laughs]...all the way from campus...[laughs]...to the concert and walked all the way home.

Maurer: Wow.

[Duguid laughs]

Duguid: Yeah. Not as many cars.

Maurer: I'm sure.

Duguid: Yeah. Even my picture for the yearbook, I walked from campus to Ed Moore's Photography Shop. Umm...what's that natural grocery store and the candy chocolatier? It was across from the chocolatier on that corner, the photographer, that would take the party pictures. There was Fall Festival that the Phi Gams had at the big building in Miller Park. And they'd bring bales of hay and straw and all that stuff.

[Maurer laughs]

Duguid: And then the—Ed Moore [Eldo Moore Photos] would take pictures and they'd be posted in the windows, so you'd go in and buy a group picture of every party.

Maurer: Nice.

Duguid: Yeah, it was.

Maurer: It sounds like a lot of fun.

Duguid: It was.

Maurer: Yeah.

Duguid: Pre-war small town was great.

Maurer: Right.

Duguid: Mhmm.

Maurer: And you said that you were there during World War Two, right? Or when—

Duguid: Yeah.

Maurer: I mean was there like kind of a change in the mood at Wesleyan when the war began, or at least for the United States?

Duguid: Well, yeah. The boys would leave and then uniformed groups were stationed there and they'd be in the snack bar, which was—where was there now? Biazzi's Drug Store was across the street from the Alpha Gam house. And what is it, Holmes Hall where the freshmen used to live? That was a drug store and you'd go there for sodas or lunch. And there was a vacant lot across from them and they would have—that's where they had the bonfire for homecoming. And that—there was a little shack where you could go between classes and sit and talk and then go to the next class. And there'd be uniformed people there that nobody knew.

Maurer: And what were the uniformed soldiers doing there?

Duguid: Khaki. I don't know, they were stationed there taking a class I guess.

Maurer: Oh, taking a class.

Duguid: ROTC, maybe.

Maurer: Possibly ROTC.

Duguid: Yeah, maybe.

Maurer: Okay.

Duguid: Yeah. And marching on the street between the Kappa house and the old library.

Maurer: I'm sure that was a—

[Duguid makes marching noise, Maurer laughs]

Duguid: And we'd made fun of them.

Maurer: Yeah, I'm sure that was a sight.

[Both laugh]

Maurer: Yeah. Well, anyway, thank you so much—

Duguid: Yeah! It was nice to meet you.

Maurer: —for the interview. I enjoyed meeting you too.