



2-17-2016

## Sue Anderson

Sue Anderson

Meg Miner

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### Recommended Citation

Anderson, Sue and Miner, Meg, "Sue Anderson" (2016). *All oral histories*. 79.  
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Oral History Interview with Sue Anderson, February 17, 2016

Meg Miner: Good morning.

Sue Anderson: Hi

Meg Miner: This is Meg Miner, I am the archivist at Illinois Wesleyan University, and I am here in the Hansen Student Center on February 17 with uh, Sue Anderson. Sue, please go ahead and introduce yourself, and tell us how your affiliated with Wesleyan, and then with Minor and we'll go from there.

Anderson: Ok, I'm Sue Anderson I'm the Outreach librarian at Illinois Wesleyan University, I've been here for approximately 23 years. Minor Meyer jr. hired me when I came in 1992 as the University Librarian at that time.

Miner: And he hired—he was part of your interview process probably not part of your search committee or did he recruit you?

Anderson: No he did not recruit me he was, but I did interview with him as one of the people that I interviewed with, as the search committee interviewed.

Miner: Ok, so it was a regular search process?

Anderson: Yes, it was a regular search process.

Miner: Ok, So um—

Anderson: Interestingly enough, Karen and I were the two finalists.

Miner: Oh my gosh is that right?

Anderson: That's true.

Miner: Oh my gosh, wow what a coincidence.

Anderson: Yes it was, very strange.

Miner: Huh, well we'll hear more about that too maybe. [Miner laughs] So, tell me a little bit about that, what was your search process like? Right because this is a project that's extensively about books and influence of Minor on campus. So, for you I know I definitely want to know in all of the sort of usual collecting kinds of questions that I've been asking people, but you have a unique take on this and I'm just dying to hear your stories.

Anderson: You know when I interviewed with Minor he had essentially fired the um act—the university librarian who happened to be a friend of mine, or at least a colleague a person that I had a great deal of respect for, Clayton Highum. Someone that had been here for a number of years, and Clayton stayed on for a full year after I came, and that was—

Miner: Difficult

Anderson: —Difficult, Clayton and I had—I was quite a bit younger than Clayton and I had interviewed with Clayton when I got out of my undergraduate degree, to work for him. And then here he was, he had been named academic librarian of the year, some years previous to this, situation and so, he was well res—well known in the field and was well respected in the field, so this was a very, very difficult situation for him.

Miner: You were working in this area at the time?

Anderson: I—yes I was working in Pekin, I was working in a system library. But, I had worked in the area I worked at Bloomington Public Library so I knew him quite well.

Miner: And he was involved in the early stages of Illinet, is that right?

Anderson: I did not know that, I didn't know he was ill at the time.

Miner: No Illinet.

Anderson: Oh Illinet, oh yes he had worked in Illinet, he had worked in—so, we had been on committees together and I knew him.

Miner: Yeah if you were working in the systems library—

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: —than you would've crossed his path.

Anderson: Yeah, Yeah I worked in the system library. I was the Associate Director at the system library that was for this area. So yeah.

Miner: What do you think...

Anderson: I was in Bloomington people—librarians know each other.

Miner: Well of course! Yeah of course.

Anderson: I had known him for a very long time and so we met before I came, we had lunch off-campus and we met and I when, I actually, when I sat down and interviewed with Minor, one of the pieces of the conversation I said to him very clearly was, you need to understand that I know Clayton and if you think that I am going to fire him or in any way be disrespectful to him, you need to think about that again. I will not do that, so if that's part of this deal then I'm not your, I'm not the person to hire.

Miner: So what was the deal with Clayton, what was the problem?

Anderson: —Well the deal was, that Clayton had—Clayton got sideways with Minor. Minor felt that the library should be run a certain way and Clayton was running the library his way. And Clayton couldn't see the writing on the wall that Minor was going to—wanting to make some changes and do some things in a different way. And Clayton couldn't make the adjustment fast enough for Minor's—for

Minor's—if you knew Minor at all, you know that Minor ran at warp speed and Clayton did not run at warp speed, he was a very good man, but—I'll give you an example. When I came into the library, all of the librarians were male and almost all of the staff are female, and I came and the male librarians thought it was not their job to answer the phone, now they could be sitting within arm's length of the telephone, but they would sit there and let the phone ring. And wait for some female staff person to come racing across the entire library to answer that phone.

Miner: Goodness.

Anderson So, there was a lot of gender issues.

Miner: 1992

Anderson: 1992, so I don't know that Minor would've know that level of issues, but I know he knew that there was significant lack of response on campus. The vast majority of the campus said to their students if you want something go to ISU, that was just the common conversation. There had just been a, an accreditation team on campus, and they had dissed the library at a huge, I mean just across the campus they had dissed the library and I think that was the ultimate downfall of Clayton.

Miner: So you said Miner thought that the library should be run in a certain way. Can you expand on that a little bit? What way did you think he...

Anderson: Well, our conversation was that he expected it to be a nationally recognized library. And that meant that there needed to be things going on in the library where there was a lot more interaction with the faculty. That there would be a lot more happening where there was a student and faculty engagement with the library. And there wouldn't be this conversation where every faculty member sent the students to another university. I mean, he felt the students were paying a great deal of money coming to Illinois Wesleyan, my god we should have a library that served them.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: And that was the conversation that we had, and I said, well from what I see about this library and I've done my homework before I started it, is that you don't have enough librarians and you're not putting enough money into this library to make that so.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: So, if your committing to me you need to commit some money to that library to make that worthwhile. Faculty can't send their students to this library unless there's some resources to make that worthwhile. You've gotta back it up with the resources to make that a worthwhile thing.

Miner: Was he receptive to that idea?

Anderson: Uh kind of. Yes, he said he was. And it came in time, there was—the resources came in there. But he also believed that every book was worthwhile, so for example one of the things when the Cornbelt Library system was disband, he thought that we should take all of their book collection because every book would be worthwhile eventually. And it was hard to get him to listen when he started doing

things like that. Or everybody that wanted to give us their books out of their attic, he wanted us to take every single one of those.

Miner: So tell me a little bit about that because I've certainly heard of course, the disparagement of the Cornbelt collection over the years in our library conversations—

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: —but I didn't really realize that Minor was associated with its acquisition until recently.

Anderson: Yes

Miner: So, how, what did something like that look like? He would just call—he would just find—

Anderson: He would just find out—

Miner: —an auction? Or?

Anderson: It wasn't even an auction they just closed their clo—they just closed that office down and it was incorporated into like IVLS' office and so the people were disband and pushed into other, and so that collection was—

Miner: And that was like a borrowing system.

Anderson: Yeah, yeah

Miner: Another borrowing system in this era.

Anderson Yeah, yeah some of the library systems had book collections, some of them didn't. And Cornbelt had a small collection, which they had stopped adding to maybe 15 years before. So, you can imagine how old this collection was.

Miner: Of course—

Anderson: —and it wasn't even academic oriented.

Miner: Yeah I was going to say it was a public library

Anderson: It was public library oriented and probably children public library more oriented than anything. So, it was not even remotely close to something that would be worthwhile to our collection and Sheean was already bursting at the seams with junk anyway.

Miner: Right

Anderson: That hadn't been weeded.

Miner: So Clayton hadn't had a sort of a weeding program going on. No, so when Minor found out about this collection, when did you found out about this and were you involved?—

Anderson: —When it showed up on your door, when it shows up on your dock.

Miner: So you weren't even involved in a conversation. —

Anderson: Oh, no, no

Miner : A conversation

Anderson: No, no

Miner: So what happened after that?

Anderson: So, Mi—so Minor fired people on the spot.

Miner: And Clayton was faculty.

Anderson: Yeah, yes, yeah tenured faculty.

Miner: So how'd that happen?

Anderson: Well he just did what he wanted to do, he did it all the time. People didn't know that he did this he fired Deb Wood who was the Dean of Students. I mean just like one day he just got mad at her because they just—got angry at each other about something, and she was a very strong individual who was doing the right thing. Legally doing the right thing. Who he sometimes pushed in a direction that was not legal, and she would push back and say Minor we can't do that and when he got angry enough, which happened pretty regular, um, he'd just say "Well, you're fired." And you know, you'd be out the door, and it happened more than people knew around here. People would just disappear.

Miner: So then as you—

Anderson: —So—so, so my point of saying that was when Cornbelt books showed up at the door, I had to make choices about are we going to just add this crap to the collection and keep moving forward in the other things that I think are important, and continue to try to make headway in some other areas like liaison building. So like none of the faculty had liaison responsibilities when I came here.

Miner: None of the library faculty?

Anderson: No. And so I—

Miner: But there were division representations, right?

Anderson: mm—kind of, but they didn't work with him. They associated themselves with areas that they were comfortable with and some of them taught in the areas that they wanted to teach in. They associated themselves more because they wanted to have some—they wanted to have some prestige on campus, not—because the library doesn't have any prestige.

Miner: Right.

Anderson: So they associated in areas that they wanted to have prestige and they taught classes more for that reason, not—not for the reason of associating for library, does that make sense to you? —like Bob Mowery taught Greek—

Miner: —Right

Anderson: —and Joe, whatever his name was—I truly have forgotten it because he was such a—crazy, crazy man. He taught in the social studies area and he taught something in the social sciences, and he taught one class a semester.

Miner: so that was a—an emphasis then on campus for the library to represent different departments and not necessarily the library.

Anderson: Right. It wasn't about representing the library or teaching or doing anything about library. It was about them getting prestige for them personal selves. It didn't have anything to do with library work. So I pulled that in, they stopped teaching classes, and it was about developing relationships with faculty for library resources so we developed responsible—and like Bob lived in the music building—

Miner: Uh huh

Anderson: —and so everybody needed to start thinking more about 'what is your relationship with individuals on campus in relationship to your library responsibilities?' So each faculty member then started having responsibilities as liaisons to areas for their library responsibilities.

Miner: How long did it take to get that conversation going?

Anderson: Well, and like John—John Westall was the cataloging person but he really didn't wanna—I mean he didn't do anything because we did everything through OCLC. So I moved him out of that and he had some responsibilities and he was the first one—see all of them were men and so they don't like reporting to a woman and so we had to work on that. And John was the first to fall.

Miner: Good heavens!

Anderson: And he was willing to help me and start so I started—

Miner: —oh so he was amiable—

Anderson: —So I started doing programming, I would set up all the chairs. I would bring in programs and then I would, you know, do all the setup, have some—bring people into the library, we'd have a program and then I'd knock it all down all by myself.

Miner: Good heavens!

Anderson: And John was the first one to, to actually, sort of, break ranks and participate. And then I would reward him. [laughs]

Miner: And how would you do that?

Anderson: You know, different things, like—you know, we'd have staff meetings and I would just say something about, you know, "John's helping this way" and you know, things like that, and—and I moved him out of the basement and upstairs, where he could have an office with windows and—or—Sheean didn't have windows, but—

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: —you know, whatever you could do—yeah, whatever you could do to give him some kind of support and I would send a note to Minor telling him that John had done blah, blah, blah but Minor sent personal notes all the time.

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: And so Minor would send him a note thanking him for whatever help he had given.

Miner: Hmmm....

Anderson: Well, getting a personal note from Minor was really big deal so that would just send him over the moon, so then he'd be more helpful so—

Miner: —was that—

Anderson: —Slowly I cracked open this—you know, armor of these guys just being

Miner: And this was still—was this during the time frame that Clayton was still here? Was this—

Anderson: —No—Clayton was only here for one year.

Miner: —after he had moved on? Ok, so he was—

Anderson: —and he would—I mean, he was totally not—he was on a difficult—individual—I mean he was not difficult—

Miner: —No, just saying sort of the tone of—

Anderson: —yeah, it was. It was so hard for him; I feel so bad for him.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: It's hard. And so he was gone after the first year and they moved to Wisconsin, I think, he and his wife, and they weren't there for very long before he died.

Miner: That's what I read. Yeah

Anderson: Yeah, any way, it took a while, but because I had that position and was ready, or was able to fill it, I was very fortunate that I had turnover in the librarian's positions and in the staff positions. I had a



very difficult secretary—and it was called secretary at the time but whatever they call now—I had her for eleven days.

Miner: Was she—a leftover from Clayton's time?

Anderson: Uh-huh

Miner: Ok

Anderson: she couldn't—she had a computer but she couldn't use it.

Miner: Mm-hmm

Anderson: Yeah. And she locked up all supplies from everybody and in my credenza, all of the supplies, everything, in my credenza. I have to hand out pencils and note paper and why is that?

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: Well, they'll take them, that's what they're for, so they'll use them, it was really sad. And so I, of course, I wasn't new at anything until I brought—I brought files and stuff from my previous work and you know, so I brought them to her and I said, "These are all marked and I just need you to file them and put them in a file." Well they sat there for 11 days and she didn't file anything so I went to the Provost who was Pam Muirhead. Did you ever know Pam Muirhead?

Miner: Yeah!

Anderson: She was the acting Provost. They had gotten rid of the old Provost. And I went to her after 11 days and I said, "Pam, this isn't working for me." And she started laughing and laughing and laughing and laughing and finally she stopped and she said, "I wondered how long it would take you. This is really a short time but I knew it would take—but you would come to me. I just didn't know how long it would take."

Miner: How long had she been working for Clayton?

Anderson: A long time.

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: So, I said, "Well, I really can't have somebody in this position." You know how—I've always found that when I've been in leadership positions, there are certain key positions that can be—I always think about it as hourglass and there are key positions that are complete stumbling blocks and if that key position has someone in it that is a problem, they keep the hourglass from being able to flow.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: And this person was just completely impossible and I said, I just can't work with her if she's not able—I said, "She's really a problem" and she said, "Yep, she really is" and I thought, "why didn't you

get rid of her before I came!" and I said, "this have—this has to change," which she said, "Of course, it does." So—

Miner: Wow

Anderson: We had a conversation and she was gone.

Miner: So—Pam was hired then after Ellen Horowitz. Is that right?

Anderson: Right. She was just the acting for a year while they looked for the new person—

Miner: Ok—

Anderson: —and that's when dear Janet came.

Miner: Ok. Ok. Um—so let's get back then—

Anderson: Yeah—

Miner: —about Minor

Anderson: —right. Get back to Minor—

Miner: —and the relationship with the library because it's—

Anderson: —Minor was in and out of the library at least 2 or 3 times a day. Yes. Minor loved the library. He really got disturbed when we moved things because he wanted them to be on a certain shelf so—which was unfortunate because when I came, I wanted—I realized that like we had like the reference collection in one place and there was—I mean, we really needed to change the library to bring people into the library and we needed—there was no reference to us, for instance. The librarians didn't sit at a reference desk. They didn't make themselves available to people so—and we needed to—I hired Sue Wilson, and I hired Sue Wilson to [laughs] oh, my gosh! Hiring Sue Wilson—I mean she had technology skills but the only position open I had was periodicals um, the periodical's position and I said, "Sue, I swear to you I'm going to make this into the technology position but I need you to come in and do this and then we will—we will together change this into this." And she—thank god she believed me and we worked on it together but at first, for the first couple of months, all she did was check in periodicals.

Miner: But it only took a couple of months?

Anderson: It didn't take long. We got it. We got it to a place where she could do what we really needed her to do which was, you know, bring in technology into the library.

Miner: Had she been working in the library systems office with you. Is that how you knew her or...?

Anderson: Oh, no! No, I just hired her—you know, she—I knew that she was the one what we need and—

Miner: how—but how did you know if you didn't have any other-

Anderson: —I—I did—no I interviewed people for the position and I made the position sound like what I really needed it to be—

Miner: —Ok, so she was responding to a call.

Anderson: Yeah, I had a person in the job who was working two jobs and she worked—she was supposed to be checking in our periodicals but she also had night job where she worked at—Bergner's. And she didn't do our job because she is too—she was too busy doing the Bergner's job and when I—I finally caught her at it. I mean she wouldn't come to work because she'd be tired or sick but then she'd be at Bergner's so I would finally—started showing up at Bergner's and I'd find her there. So I finally went to HR and I said, "This is wrong!" And so we called her in and she said, "Well, I get sick leave at Illinois Wesleyan and I don't get sick leave at Bergner's," and I'm like "Well..."

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: This is malingering and so [Miner laughs] yeah, you're out of her [laughs]

Miner: [both laugh] Oh my god, Sue, what a—

Anderson: Oh, I had—I had unbelievable people, but this had been going on for years—

Miner: —and everyone thought that was part of what you could do.

Anderson: You know, Clayton, as good a man as he was, he wasn't taking care of business.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: So, any way

Miner: —So Sue responded to a position announcement that included a technology thing, or—

Anderson: —Yeah. I had written that into the job description as part of the periodicals job.

Miner: Ok. So you lured her in.

Anderson: I lured her in, and she was very, very anxious about "This doesn't sound like what really I want to do." You know, she had a wonderful technology degree—

Miner: —Of, course!

Anderson: Yeah and so I said, "Sue, I swear to you we will make this but I really needs to be."

Miner: She stuck through.

Anderson: Yeah! So, she believed me—thank god—she's so wonderful... any way.

Miner: So Minor made other demands on—locations—

Anderson: —He made constant demands about everything. I mean, he wanted to run the library. —

Miner: —Well, then why did he hire you?

Anderson: —And so did Janet. And so did Janet.

Miner: Well, tell me about this. In what ways did these—

Anderson: —and Janet had been—

Miner: In what ways did these things manifest themselves? I mean how would you hear about this or—

Anderson: Oh! Well he would come into my—

Miner: —would they give orders to people directly?

Anderson: —my office. Well, he would come into my office, he would come—he would run right past the secretary and right into my office and he would—you talked to Minor—did you ever talk to Minor?

Miner: I met him once. We had a 5-minute conversation.

Anderson: Yeah and in that 5 minutes, how many things did he say to you?

Miner: 10

Anderson: At least?

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: Yeah, so he would walk into my office and he would give me 15 ideas—big ideas, big ideas like let's see, he would say— I mean, huge things, like you know, I can't even—and usually I never even had a pencil in my—and I can't remember things like that. And I finally realized over time that there was no expectation that I would complete all of those things. But at first, I mean the first day I arrived, I had everything dumped all over my desk and my office was a total disaster, and he walked in and must have said 15 things to me about the library, and I'm like in my head going, "Holy shit!"

Miner: Yeah, how can I do all that!

Anderson: How am I supposed to get all of this accomplished before—not to mention I couldn't remember most of it—and then he breezes right back out of the office, and I'm standing there with my mouth wide open going, "What have I gotten myself into?"...[Miner laughing]...and that's how he behaved all the time.

Miner: Would he ever check back with you on those ideas or was it just a dump-and-run?—

Anderson: —It was a dump-and-run most of the time but I never knew which one of those things he might come back at me about, but he did that all over the library, not just to me, but he'd go downstairs to cataloguing and do the same thing.

Miner: So he'd circumvent you completely.

Anderson: Constantly. And they never knew of course, with it being the President of the university. They all thought that it was, you know, he was ordering them to do this and this and this.

Miner: Did you have conversations with the staff about that?

Anderson: Yeah, because once in a while he would be very angry and mean it. Like one time, it was really awful. He came in and he found Betty actually—um—deleting books out of the collection—

Miner: Betty is—

Anderson: —what was her last name? She's retired now.

Miner: Was she in Gloria's position?

Anderson: Right. Right. Right. And he went absolutely crazy ballistic. And he grabbed [laughs] the stamp that she was stamping—the—the—delete—

Miner: —withdrawal?

Anderson: —withdrawal, yeah, the withdrawal stamp from her and he came bracing up the steps into my office and threw it down on my desk and said, "You can never use this again. This needs to be blah blah blah" and he was just beet red, and just screaming at the top of his lungs because he wanted us to get Beta Phi Mu, or not Beta Phi Mu, Phi Beta Kappa, and he thinks one of the ways you get Phi Beta Kappa is having a certain number of books in your collection. You had to have —

Miner: -and this was in Sheean, still?

Anderson: Yes. And so if we withdrew any books, it was going to keep us from getting Phi Beta Kappa, so we had—so that's one of the reasons he wanted all these stupid Cornbelt books in the collection. The total number of books was going to have us get Phi Beta Kappa, god forbid —

Miner: So he told you that?

Anderson: No. No. No. you know, he—I just knew this from—from—

Miner: From conversations that were going on—

Anderson: Right, yeah, on-campus.

Miner: But he told you not to remove anything from it all.

Anderson: Right. So at that point, he had said you cannot remove anything. Right. So—Janet happened to be in the library and the staff downstairs all decided to quit, they were just so fed up with him and fortunately, Janet had come into the library for some reason and so she sat down with them and calmed them down and kept them from all quitting. But it was just one of those really horrible, horrible moments.

Miner: so you never had a sense that you could say to them—I mean, yeah—cause yeah—this time, did you realize that he was the big idea, and not, you know, following up on things or did you still have not—you still did not have a sense that this was not a serious—threat?

Anderson: Oh—yeah—well, in this case, it was one of those, you know, moments that Ok, this is real. He made this—

Miner: Oh, it was serious –

Anderson: Yeah, this is serious, this one was serious Right. Right. So that was one of the serious moments but you never knew—I mean, yeah, you never knew when—what he was—this time it was obviously very serious that he was firing people on the—on the fly. This was one of his firing moments.

Miner: So we didn't have any kind of HR protections at that point or—

Anderson: No, well

Miner: Who knows...

Anderson: Yeah.

Miner: But it was never, like, pressed, right? I mean, nobody ever said “You can't fire me” cause there's a state law or something, I mean.

Anderson: No

Miner: Obviously in a private institution there would be different things, but there are—my understanding of staff member levels is that there are levels of protection for staff—

Anderson: You would think so.

Miner: —even if they're not –

Anderson: yeah

Miner: —tenured.

Anderson: Right. Right.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: but

Miner: but it never got to the point of that kind of discussion—so did he ever fire anybody from under you?

Anderson: No. no

Miner: Ok.

Anderson: No.

Miner: So he gave them orders but he didn't actually—

Anderson: —right—

Miner: —say—

Anderson: —he scared a lot of people and I lost people because they moved to different departments, because they just didn't want to live with the terror of what happened.

Miner: How long did it take you to figure out that he was—well, in this case, you said he was serious but I mean, that some of the big ideas weren't really...

Anderson: I don't know. I just always lived in the—trying to—I was always in a position—well, then you had Janet—I mean this was another—because Janet was jealous of Minor.

Miner: Ok, so let's talk about that.

Anderson: She—she—when Janet got hired, Minor's personality is so big, and his—Minor is a visionary and if he could—if he could be directed to being just a visionary to being a president of the university and keep his fingers out of the details, he would've been really good—Somehow—somehow I don't know who needed to help him see that—

Miner: Mm-hmm

Anderson: I think that would have been his cabinet that would be responsible for doing that.

Miner: You would think.

Anderson: Yeah. Somehow they didn't seem to figure out how to do that but it was his cabinet that was responsible for keeping all of the details, because he was really excellent visionary, excellent—

Miner: But you thought he interfered in ways.

Anderson: —he did interfere on the detail level. He interfered in ways—someone needed to say “Ok, Minor, those are really great ideas. Now let's focus on the ones that this institution can manage and move forward.”

Miner: Mm-hmm

Anderson: —and nobody did that.

Miner: And Janet didn't either?

Anderson: No. Janet and Ken Browning and you know the people in development, nobody reigned him in.

Miner: Wanna guess why? [laughs]

Anderson: —So the rest of us—the rest of us paid for it cause in my job we reigned him in.

Miner: —and excess work or in—

Anderson: Right. Right.

Miner: —schemes, or—

Anderson: —right, and all kinds of ways. I mean, we would be directed to do things that were completely impossible.

Miner: mm-hmm—but nobody was coming back to see if they were done, so would you then do them and then nobody would say anything? I mean you said Minor was a—

Anderson: - well, we would be directed to start projects that were just completely outside the brain of— I mean, it's like—like we were—like we had the—the book fairs every fall—

Miner: - Tell me about how those get started.

Anderson: Those got started because Minor wanted to have a book fair.

Miner: Ok. And when did they start?

Anderson: They started probably—if it wasn't the first year I was here—no, probably wasn't the first year I was here, must have—it must have been in '93, the fall of 93. I'm pretty sure I didn't do it the first year.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: —but, you know—

Miner: —and he—it was one of his big ideas.

Anderson: Right. It was one of his big ideas. It took an enormous amount of time. Enormous amount of time and energy, and we got nothing out of it. We didn't charge them anything.

Miner: Did you have like used library book sales—I mean, did you put library books in the sales, too, or it was all just the, the distributors, or the—



Anderson: oh, oh, the distributors came, it was because Minor wanted to buy antique books, used books.

Miner: And it saved him time—what to bring people to campus—did he give you a list of vendors to ask or did you just advertise—

Anderson: We had to find the vendors and we had to set it up—I mean, physical plant had to set up, we had to advertise for this, we librarians spent time and energy setting it up, working with these people who are not easy to work with, they are cranky old people.

Miner: 'Cause that went on a long time.

Anderson: That went on for a long—it went on until the day he died and the day he died, Lynda Duke came to me and said, “Do we have to do this anymore?” and I said, “No.”

Miner: That’s interesting.

Anderson: And we canceled the next one.

Miner: Yeah. So what do you think the repercussion would have been if you said no?

Anderson: He may have well fired me. I mean, that’s what I had to make choices with all the time—

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: —and so we did these kinds of things, like the book fair. We did things like that all the time that, in my opinion, took away from our ability to move my strategic plan forward, that were energies being siphoned off on these ridiculous issues—

Miner: Do you think there was any—

Anderson: —And I don’t think that—that project is a good—that’s a good example that brought nothing to the university and brought nothing to the library moving our students or faculty forward in any meaningful way.

Miner: So do you think that—so you said it brought nothing to the library but did Minor—I don’t know—have any sort of tangible or intangible—

Anderson: Well he thought it was—

Miner: —appreciation of this—

Anderson: —Well, he had appreciation of this-

Miner: —So—

Anderson: —He thought that this was really worthwhile for the university and that eventually there would be, you know, tenfold kind of reward to the university—

Miner: —nothing ever materialized.

Anderson: —No. no. I mean he always—

Miner: —I mean, he didn't say—

Anderson: —felt that there was going to be rewards in the end.

Miner: So he wasn't doing it—or at least he wasn't saying he was doing it because he wanted the chance to buy books from a bunch of different people.

Anderson: well, of course, not. No.

Miner: So he posed it as something that would make Illinois Wesleyan more known—

Anderson: Mm-hmm

Miner: Ok! But then—and then the library was doing all this work and providing all this faculty and staff time —

Anderson: Right

Miner: Were there any sorts of rewards for the library from him for doing this work?

Anderson: No

Miner: I mean did you get like extra—I don't know—funding for staff or anything like that as a result?

Anderson: No. Nope.

Miner: So it was an add-on.

Anderson: Mm-hmm

Miner: That must have been terrible on staff morale.

Anderson: Sure. And you know, some faculty who are book collectors would come and they would buy things and enjoy it but there are a large number of community members who would come and enjoy it but I didn't see any tangible—results for us that were really worthwhile for us. And it was an enormous amount of work.

Miner: So we have a mission—the library has a mission—to serve our community—um—the community being faculty, staff, student, the curriculum, right?

Anderson: Right

Meg: So the kinds of strategic planning that you're talking about and mission for the library would have been things that the President would have seen, would have been aware of, right?

Anderson: Right. Right. So...

Miner: And so he was unbuying into those ideas at least on a theoretical level or what—

Anderson: —Right. Right.

Miner: —was he pushing back or—

Anderson: —So it took me years to the place where CUPP eventually approved our—our—collection development policy. Now normally, a collection development policy would just be approved by, you know—

Miner: The Library Advisory Committee

Anderson: —yes, right. And you're done with it. But because it included withdrawing materials from the library—this is after Phi Beta Kappa had come—

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: Ok, we took it to the Library Advisory Committee and from the Library Advisory Committee, we took it to CUPP and the Chair of CUPP and the Chair of the Library Advisory Committee and myself went into Minor's office and we made him sign off on it.

Miner: And so he ultimately agreed on this?

Anderson: He ultimately signed off on it and he knew exactly what was in it.

Miner: Wow! That's huge.

Anderson: It was huge.

Miner: What's that conversation like?

Anderson: It was huge! It was not a pleasant conversation. It was not an easy conversation but I had those people in with me and they did it intentionally to protect me, knowing that if I had that conversation by myself with him, I very well could be walking out the door of the university.

Miner: So other people were aware of this kind of attitude—

Anderson: —yes, of course. And that's why—

Miner: —who was head of CUPP at the time—

Anderson: —I can't remember but the CUPP specifically did this intentionally because they knew that was a protection for the library.

Miner: That's so much!

Anderson: Because they wanted to get the crap out of the collection.

Miner: so—

Anderson: —and that's when we first started getting rid of the Cornbelt stuff.

Miner: And that was in 2002?

Anderson: Uh-huh

Miner: So there really wasn't a formal Collection Development Policy before 2002?

Anderson: Well, we had one but we weren't pushing it, and so that's when we first formally made it. We had one within the library but we weren't—we weren't withdrawing stuff and we wanted to withdraw stuff—and that's the way we wanted to-

Miner: —yeah, I'm thinking you could just do it without Minor knowing it

Anderson: —Well, we had been and that's when he had this big hissy fit and we were afraid to withdraw after that.

Miner: Yeah—um—that's interesting. So if you—I mean, you know, because of course, we always tell people that we hire professionals, just like other departments hire professionals so we have expertise and knowledge in literature and their disciplines, right?

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: And that's the argument that I have used with departments that I had to explain our current actions with but the specter of Phi Beta Kappa still is raisable. "Phi Beta Kappa is gonna revoke." It's like "No, they're not." I actually went out and checked Phi Beta Kappa doesn't have renewal criteria for chapters.

Anderson: Yeah.

Miner: — um but the collection [can't comprehend]

Anderson: —And they really need to rethink how they count stuff too—

Miner: —Well—

Anderson: —because that's just stupid

Miner: Yes. Right. So the world has changed. But the world had changed dramatically when Minor got in the library world—

Anderson: —Yeah!

Miner: I mean I knew—knew the library world as of 1999—

Anderson: —Yeah! Yeah!

Miner: Right? That's when I got my degree—

Anderson: Yeah, yeah

Miner: But—so Clayton was on a cutting-edge of technological shift in the library –

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: —and then you were on the cutting edge of the real research focus of technology in the library—

Anderson: —Right. Right—

Miner: —I mean, the databases and the command line stuff would have all happened shortly after you hired Sue, right?

Anderson: When I—when I came to the library, myself and my secretary were the only ones that had computers in the library—

Miner: —yeah, and computers didn't get on campus—

Anderson: —and—and—

Miner: —until the mid-90s.

Anderson: Right, and I put, you know, computer lab in the library, and tried to have an—you know—and we started develop—and we started teaching all of the staff in the library how to use computers and how to develop, you know, technology resources very quickly.

Miner: So the technology boom or change or shift—whatever—would have happened while Minor was here too. Was he resistant to bringing computers in just for that kind of thing or was it —?

Anderson: No. No, he wasn't resistant to technology—

Miner: —Ok so he wasn't a technophobe?

Anderson: No, not at all.

Miner: Ok.

Anderson: He was very much a book person—I mean, he wanted a new building, he wanted—when we did a master plan for the whole university, the people that did the master plan said that the Theatre building was much more of a problem and the Theatre building was the top need, and Minor ignored that and said, “I want a library” and as you see, the poor Theatre people are still in need of a building.

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: I’ve always felt that bad about that.

Miner: The masterplan was done under his watch or was it [overlapping] the one—

Anderson: —The master plan was done under his watch—

Miner: —Ok—

Anderson: —It was done under his watch—it was done under his watch and Theatre was identified as the biggest need—

Miner: —yeah—

Anderson: —and Minor went looking for money for a library and they—there was—and I can’t remember the name of the organization that was building libraries all over the country and we got involved with that company and they were building pretty small libraries. And we worked with them and we spent a lot of time with them and got all the way to the construction management level with them in—the plan of the library and then they completely restructured and decided they weren’t building libraries and so without that grant money—

Miner: —Oh—

Anderson: —Yeah, I wanted to—

Miner: —Oh, crude!

Anderson: Right, it was like—well—bananas. I’m telling you. Um so we set it aside. We just stopped working on that and that’s when I was able to take my first sabbatical because I—I had set it aside because I was so involved with the whole plan. We had gone out and hired the architects—

Miner: So that would have been 97 or 98?

Anderson: Yeah. I don’t know. I can’t remember but it was somewhere along there so I took—and that’s when my sabbatical was this broken up half one summer and half the next summer. Well, Minor went looking for money again and by second summer, they had found the Ames’. So it was back on track and my second sabbatical sort of went under the—got under the bus.

Miner: I just looked at my watch and it is a little bit past 10 till, so you want to?

Anderson: —Yeah.

Miner: We both wanted to go to the colloquium

Anderson: Ok, so take about that—

Miner: —Can we do this later? Continue this another time?

Anderson: —sure—

Miner: —some other time?

Anderson: Yup. Yup—

Miner: - I think it's really helpful and I appreciate you being frank.

Anderson: Ok.

Miner: Ok. Yeah, oh, we haven't gotten to the good stuff yet.

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Miner: Ok, so this is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Happy spring!

Anderson: Oh, my gosh! We wish that were true.

Miner: Yeah, and in like a lion, right? I'm back with Sue Anderson, and we were interrupted last time because we both wanted to go to convocation, and so thank you so much for coming back I guess. So I will just recap that you had gone through—kind of going chronologically with your career, which makes a lot of sense so we had made it through the book fairs and then into CUPP supporting your Collection Development Policy, right?

Anderson: Yes.

Miner: Now that's the one that actually didn't finally get enacted in the library until 2004 because of events or was there an earlier one cause I?—

Anderson: It must have been an earlier one—

Miner: —our records are woefully—scant but—

Anderson: —yeah, we did have a collection development policy. Now Marcia has re-written it since then, of course.

Miner: Yeah. Yeah, but I know we had one in 2002—

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: —umm—and that's the one that just got re-written two years ago

Anderson: Yeah. Yeah.

Miner: But—yeah so—so after that you had sort of gone into the master plan for the campus and the library but I don't know if you wanted to talk anymore about the Collection Development Policy or I mean—CUPP support, lack of support and then you didn't really get a lot of pushback or—

Anderson: No, cause the CUPP chair and myself and the Library Advisory chair, which is just totally not the way you would normally expect anything to be done but in the collection development policy as in any collection development policy, there was a weeding piece to that.

Miner: Right

Anderson: and—um given the fact that we knew that Minor had for years said that we would not weed the collection—umm—CUPP and the library advisory chair both felt that it needed to be confronted with the President and they felt that—so CUPP had approved the policy, which is way beyond—

Miner —what CUPP should be—yeah—

Anderson: —would normally do, yeah, that's stupid. So the Library Advisory Committee had approved it and then they felt they needed to take it to CUPP—

Miner: Sure

Anderson: —to get a wider approval and then the two chairs felt with—with me, that they would confront Minor.

Miner: So this was um—2002?

Anderson: Yeah!

Miner: So it was in the fall?

Anderson: It must have been because he got sick soon after that. —

Miner: —So he was—he was ill, right? So I mean, how did that meeting go? Was it—

Anderson: —It really—he was—he backed down.

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: Yeah, I mean, he certainly didn't love it but we sent it to him in advance so—

Miner: —Oh, Ok

Anderson: —he had a chance to read it—

Miner: —great—



Anderson: —and then—set up the meeting and just said, you know, the University had approved it essentially, the whole university had approved it because obviously the way CUPP is represented and everything, so there was just—and—and this was not for his approval. This was for his—

Miner: —To be aware

Anderson: —essentially, just making him aware that this was how the library was going to move forward.

Miner: So this is—I'm just trying to think now—cause you came in 92, and—I mean, this is a decade later that it took you to get—do you think the faculty support um, was culminating around the late 90s, early 2000s or do you think you'd had support for a—

Anderson: —Oh, I had support—

Miner: Ok

Anderson: —all along. It was just a matter of—no, there had been a lot of support from the beginning—

Miner: Ok

Anderson: —they had been really excited that I had come and that I was making a lot of changes.

Miner: Ok, yeah cause the library had terrible reputation.

Anderson: Oh gosh! The library had terrible reputation and any, anything that I did was perceived as a good thing.

Miner: Ok.

Anderson: So a lot—I did a lot of things, some incrementally—just setting up the liaison—and they love that because they had someone to talk to, they had someone to go to, and so then we set up the instructions and then we set up the lab and—I mean, we just did so many things. Getting rid of the—the—we had the journals that were—I mean, we just did—I mean, anything we did was just phenomenal —

Miner: —cause I've heard—

Anderson: —and we—and we had set up databases. We set up a reference desk where people could go to [laughs]—I feel—

Miner: —yeah—and ask questions, that's radical—

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: Well, I've heard—

Anderson: —answering the phone—

Miner: I've heard that Minor even restricted budget for journals in favor of books so I'm—

Anderson: —I don't—no, he didn't. He didn't—

Miner: —He didn't have that level—

Anderson: Not when I was there—

Miner: Ok

Anderson: No

Miner: —because I mean—

Anderson: —he might have done that with Clayton but he didn't do that with me.

Miner: So part of the reason I'm sort of belaboring this point is—I mean, honestly, you know, I've been on this campus for 13, almost 14 years now and I keep hearing these stories, right?

Anderson: Mm-hmm

Miner: And it's just been so—sort of mind-boggling to me that—not just the old stories—but that faculty today in departments would say—

Anderson: Yeah, yeah

Miner: —“Yeah, well, the library just is never really, you know, supported us in the way that they should,” and I'm like, this is, you know, 20 years old news now at this point so—

Anderson: —Yeah, exactly. Give it up. Let go of it.

Miner: Right. Yeah and—but it doesn't seem to be the tradition on our campus, really to do that [laughs]

Anderson: —No. No.

Miner: —to give it up and let go of it—

Anderson: ——No, no, no, no—this—yeah—

Miner: —So some of these issues that still resound about weeding are present still—and even in our library—I mean even among the library personnel—

Anderson: —so true. It's so true—

Miner: - So I just—I really wanted to sort of parse out a timeline for this and to parse—and to—you know, the dialogue—so once you started to get new librarians in, new library staff in—

Anderson: Right—

Miner: —in—

Anderson: —right, and—and when I hired people, I said to them, this was—this was my—this was my spiel “You need to understand that the library field is changing and that whatever job you’re getting today may not be the job you have two years from now or 5 years from now. Certainly not 10 years from now. So I want you to understand that the most important thing about your job and about you, you need to 1. Be a change agent, you need to be willing and able to change and so if that isn’t something in your personality, then this isn’t the job for you because whatever I’m hiring you to do right now isn’t what you’re going to be doing 5 or 10 years from now. And if that’s not something you’re comfortable with, then don’t take this job. “

Miner: Uh huh.

Anderson: We will support you. We’ll provide development for whatever changes we need and we’re not gonna ask you just to turn on a dime but we will ask you to change. And so I said that to Tony and Julie and Rita and every librarian. That was part of my administerly spiel because the truth was is that we were going to have to take risks. We were going to have to be able to—I knew that, you know, I was the first one that had a computer on my desk beside the person sitting out as my administrative assistant. Nobody else had computers and I knew that that wasn’t going to be that way.

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: We were going to bring a lot of computers into the library and I knew that databases were coming down the line. I mean I was the only one that did re—that did research because I was the one that was doing all the database searches when I came. But I wasn’t going to be the only one doing that for very long.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: And, you know, I could just see that we were headed in a way that everybody was gonna have to make significant changes and how they were living and doing so I felt very fortunate that we had opportunities to hire new people but I also knew that those people were going to have to make real changes in what they were doing probably very quickly.

Miner: So as you brought in new staff, and new faculty to the library um, the kind of old attitude of, you know, ‘We teach. We’re not gonna fight with our—

Anderson:—We’re not gonna do what we’re doing right now—

Miner: —and that sort of—that just went away—

Anderson: —right. I—I—

Miner: —it’s interesting that we’re moving back into—

Anderson: —yeah—because—

Miner: —interesting teaching—

Anderson: —yeah, because I felt that we needed to be strategic risk takers. I mean I don't want us to just fall off the cliff because that's something to do or be on the bleeding edge but I thought we needed to be on the cutting edge and be looking for ways to be strategically aware. So from the get go, I worked with Trey and we wanted to try new things and so Trey always came to us and tried new things in the library first, and so we began to look to the, to the campus as the place to come to if they wanted to try something.

Miner: So Trey, not Fred?

Anderson: Well, Trey was here first, and Fred wasn't. And then once Fred came, Fred came to me too and we worked closely together and I got along with Fred just fine.

Miner: Great

Anderson: A lot of people didn't but Fred and I got along Ok.

Miner: Ok. So do you want to—move away—I mean I don't know what more—what more we can say, I mean, about the direction that the library moved in with relationship to Minor because he—

Anderson: Yeah, and that's what Minor wanted, I mean, when Minor hired me, he said he wanted to see a nationally well-known library. That was his goal.

Miner: And I was gonna ask you to expand on that some more. Do you know what he meant by that or—

Anderson: Yes. Yes, he wanted me to be out—outside the library, wanted me to be involved in national organizations. He wanted the library to be seen in any way that I could bring it to a national level, so that's why I got involved in ALA, I got involved in the college library section, I got, you know, I was involved in the—you know, I was the president of the CARLI and all of those things.

Miner: Yeah. Yeah. So he got that.

Anderson: Right away

Miner: —that wish then.

Anderson: Yes. Yes.

Miner: And you encouraged—or then expected other librarians to do the same thing.

Anderson: Yeah, involved in whatever their field—you know, whatever there were few—

Miner: —so that was new too? -

Anderson: —you know Bob and MLA, or whatever—yeah!

Miner: Mm-hmm

Anderson: His expectation—he made a very clear—you know, Minor had—lots of people had lots of problems with Minor for a variety of reasons but I never ever doubted what his expectations were. He made it very clear what he wanted. And you may not have liked what he wanted but at least you knew what Minor expected of you.

Miner: Hmm—hmm—that's interesting. So do you wanted to go back then to the library planning—I mean, we were sort of—

Anderson: —The building planning started almost from the beginning. I mean, Minor made it very clear that he wanted a new library building. He felt—

Miner: --oh, from the early 90s?

Anderson: —yeah—

Miner: —cause the 96 was the first time I think we had a—

Anderson: Right, right. But he was looking for money from the get go—

Miner: Ok

Anderson: So I don't know—I mean I wasn't a part of the—his inner circle, you know his cabinet, so I don't know what was going on at that higher level, but I know that he was looking for money as soon as, you know, he had me in place. He had—a lot of balls in the air—um but—so as soon as he found the money from the—and I can't remember the name of the grant, I'm really sorry—but as soon as he found that one organization that was funding libraries—and I think Augustana got money from there, maybe—

Miner: You mean library collections or library?

Anderson: No, it was one foundation that was funding small, private...

Miner: Davis, maybe? No? Any way.

Anderson: Any way, he though wow this would be right for us and that's when we started planning our—the first time we started planning. And that's when—and Janet was already here and we started looking for architects and I was going to—I was going to ALA and I met a number of architects and I was doing my work on, you know, looking for library architects. Of course, I didn't wanna hire some yahoo who had, you know, built churches or something and didn't know crap about libraries. So I helped them identify specific architects, especially academic library architects. I also didn't want just a public library architect. So of course, Janet didn't believe I knew anything about building libraries. Well every institution that I had worked at before I had been involved in a building project so she wasn't paying any attention to me because we had been at crosshairs for a long time at that point.

Miner: So this was at the mid-90s or—

Anderson: —yeah—

Miner: —or late 90s—Ok.

Anderson: yeah, at least, 94. So, this was all about her jealousy and my relationship with Minor. She just couldn't stand it.

Miner: But it didn't sound like you were that close.

Anderson: Well, Minor—I mean, Minor just loved the library and she just couldn't stand it. She just couldn't stand it. Because he would tell me what to do and frankly, he was the President of the—of the university, it's not like you can ignore that.

Miner: Oh, so as Provost and Dean, she thought—

Anderson: —she —

Miner: —you would report to her—

Anderson: Right

Miner: —Ok, got it.

Anderson: Well, you know, I don't know how I was supposed to um handle that.

Miner: Servant, two masters—that whole thing.

Anderson: Right. I mean, he'd come roaring into the library two or three times a day and give you orders. And then I was supposed to work with that.

Miner: So how was her vision different than from his? Or was it just that she wanted to be in the loop?

Anderson: Yeah, she just wanted to be—

Miner: Ok

Anderson: She wanted him to tell her.

Miner: So that she could tell you?

Anderson: Yeah. Well, that isn't how Minor worked.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: I mean he went all over the campus but specifically to the library. [both laugh]

Miner: So you think he was sharing the joy with others, then?

Anderson: Oh, well, you know only in the sense that every once in a while he'd have an idea for something.

Miner: Ok.

Anderson: But going to a faculty member and sharing an idea about their research or—that wasn't as unattractive to her as it was to come into the library and tell me a project he thought the library should be doing.

Miner: Uh huh

Anderson: Somehow that was much more—I don't know—the faculty all didn't report directly to her. So if he went to Dan Terkla and had found a book or something that Dan Terkla might be interested in, that wasn't as offensive to her as coming to me and telling me about a library project or exhibit he wanted to see down in the library, 'cause Dan Terkla was just a faculty member and Dan Terkla reported to somebody that was the Chair of English who—

Miner: Was the library always under—administratively—under the Provost?

Anderson: Under the Provost... mm-hmm

Miner: Ok, 'cause Provost Dean was new with Janet's predecessor so—so there weren't any real changes in that responsibility.

Anderson: Yeah.

Miner: And then of course Pam. So you worked with Pam.

Anderson: Yeah, I worked with Pam for a year until Janet was hired.

Miner: Ok. That's interesting. So she wasn't really an ally then, of yours but an ally of the library as a whole or—or I mean, I don't even know if that's the right word for it—

Anderson: —yeah—right —

Miner: —is ally the right word?

Anderson: I don't know. I don't know. I don't know if she ever spoke out for us but eventually I got her back to the building—um—we went to—Boston to look at the architect that we finally hired.

Miner: We being you and Janet?

Anderson: [laughs] Roger, Janet, Mona—

Miner: Ok

Anderson: —and myself—on Easter weekend.

Miner: hmm

Anderson: yeah, well, I didn't wanna hang out with them. I mean, these are not my social buddies.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: A really close friend of mine lived in Boston so while we—I was with him at the work sessions that we needed to be at but then, you know, I spent Easter Sunday with a friend of mine. I'm sure they were offended by all of that because they wanted to hang out and but, you know.

Miner: How often do you get to go to Boston!

Anderson: Exactly! And one of my really close friends lived there and so when I—we weren't in work sessions, I didn't spend time with them.

Miner: So is that still in the—like the mid-nineties or is it later in the nineties?

Anderson: Yeah, this was in the mid-nineties. As we were doing the planning sessions, they wanted to go to Boston to look at the offices and see some of the projects that the architects had done—And before that we interviewed all three architects in August, and of course, they didn't tell me the dates they were interviewing—oh yeah, they kept me completely out of the loop until the very end. I had a week of vacation planned and I had tickets to North Carolina to um, to spend—you know, a week of vacation and away from here, and then they told me the dates so I gave the ticket—

Miner: —oh gosh, no—

Anderson: —My husband went with our friends that we were planning our vacation with. I wasn't going to let them hire an architect without me, so I stayed here and interviewed the three architects with them.

Miner: Are you happy with the one they chose?

Anderson: Yes! That'—

Miner: —I mean—

Anderson: —well, I wanted to be here—

Miner: —Ok—

Anderson: —to make sure they hired the right one.

Miner: Ok. Was there resistance to hiring the one they did?

Anderson: Yeah, so—yeah, they were—well, I don't know if they would—I was afraid that they were going to hire a different one, so yeah, I knew who we needed to hire so—so I was here, and we hired the right one. And then we went to Boston and interviewed them and that was the Shepley Bulfinch group and then—so then we did the planning and we did the first phase of planning and went through that.



We did surveys of students and faculty and I made sure that we surveyed the students off campus as well as the—and we surveyed all the sororities and fraternity houses and everyone. And then we compiled all that. We also had a library consultant besides the architect.

Miner: Oh, who was that?

Anderson: umm—oh, gosh, he was the McCallister director, I think—

Miner: Hmm

Anderson: —and did a really good job with that, really good job with that and asked all really good questions, put that together, worked on the results of that and that's where we put our building plan together, our strategic plan of the building together. And I used that as our touchstone for the entire project. And I made—I kept their feet to the fire about that. Here is what everybody on campus wanted, and—I mean I would carry that to every building meeting and it was after we put—and I forget what the stage is called, but the first stage is where you write your program for them, you put it out to bid from them.

Miner: mmhmm, mmhmm

Anderson: So, this is where I got them —this is where I really got [Miner giggles] so all of the—all along they, you know, were dissing me and I mean, just really treating me very disrespectfully like I was nobody—

Miner: —and they being—

Anderson: —Roger, Mona, Janet...um

Miner: Minor not involved in this at all?

Anderson: No, Minor was not involved in the details. He was the big picture guy.

Miner: Ok.

Anderson: Ok. He just kept saying he wanted to see books. So we come to the meeting, and there's —and we've got the plan done, Ok? So everybody was supposed to look the plan over and come to this meeting and any, any problems with this and it was, you know—

Miner: —a big big book?

Anderson: —yeah, it's a big thick book. And they walk into the meeting and they are all ready to pop the cork and say it's done and send it out for review. And it was Roger, and it was, god, Bob from physical plant—

Miner: Yep.

Anderson: —It was, yeah. And Mona, and Janet, and um, myself. And I can't remember who else, maybe Susan Bassey—you know—just a large group of people. I had 6 single typed pages of mistakes in this

thing. They came with nothing. I would bet my life that none of them had read it. So I started in on page, you know, 1, and I said, "Ok, here are page 1"—and I had details of everything that was wrong in there. The refrigerator wasn't the right side. On this page, this was wrong—I got through the whole god damn document, that's what we were supposed to do. And they just sat there with their mouths wide open. And I got 'em. That was the first time I got respect from them. And they're like—well, so like Janet and Mona got up and said, "Oh, well, Ok fine." And Roger's like "Oh, my god!" [laughs]

Miner: did you send it back to the—

Anderson: It had to go back. It had to be fixed.

Miner: hmm

Anderson: Because if you don't fix it at this stage, then what you have is—is fixes after the fact and those cost money.

Miner: Yeah.

Anderson: —and then you end up compromising on things that shouldn't—

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: So

Miner: Good for you

Anderson: yes, so—

Miner: So that—but that was still long—

Anderson: so from then they paid attention to me and respected me and I was at the table from that moment forward.

Miner: Ok, and so you didn't get any more grief.

Anderson: No. Not a bit. And Janet respected that I knew what I was doing in a way and what I want. And from that moment, I got respect from her and Bob sent a letter to the President saying that he had never worked with anybody on a—on a building project and knew what they were doing, and—and was involved and paid attention and really—yeah, so he sent out a really nice letter but never nice to anybody. [both laugh]

Miner: Well

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: That's gotta be gratifying after all that work—

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: —and I think it shows. I mean obviously any time we get—

Anderson: —they have clocks in the middle of a white board like they do at State Farm Hall.

Miner: Yeah, I think there are things to be said [laughs] in many different ways—

Anderson: Well you just have—every single time a set of blueprints come out you have to go over every single one of them and keep the details.

Miner: —and knowing how to read that kinda thing. I mean had you had some sort of—

Anderson: —yeah, every—

Miner: —class or—

Anderson: —every—well, after, you know, I had gone through project after project. Bloomington Public Library was one. The director left before that building was built.

Miner: hmm...

Anderson: so yeah, well, trial by fire [laughs]

Miner: [laughs] and I learnt all those mistakes without you people.

Anderson: Yeah—

Miner: Well, it's interesting, the—the sort of picture I'm getting of Janet is not confident in you and not—and even interfering.

Anderson: Oh, very interfering! Very interfering!

Miner: Because one of the things that I did want to, of course, started to think about Minor's influence on the library as I went to whatever records we have, right? And there's an early external review that he had done '91, so before you—

Anderson: Ok

Miner: —that he commissioned somebody from Carleton—

Anderson: —ah, yes, yes—

Miner: —to do and it's a wonderful language in the introductory down like the President has asked for this and this and this, and these reasons. But then there's one in 1998 which I've always taken to be, you know, like right on the cusp of the plan.

Anderson: Yes, yes, yes.

Miner: So do you remember that one?

Anderson: Yes

Miner: And how that one came about?

Anderson: Yes, and that was Sarah Pritchard

Miner: Yeah, from Smith.

Anderson: Yeah, yes.

Miner: So that one in the introduction said the Provost asked for this review, so—

Anderson: —Yes, she did. She was trying to get me.

Miner: Oh, Ok. So it wasn't to benefit you or—

Anderson: No

Miner: —or any of your tasks

Anderson: No

Miner: Talk about that?

Anderson: Yeah, Janet hated me. I mean she just—and it was all about—I mean she would just never—I mean she would respect my work on one level but she just—I don't know why she—I mean we just never got along.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: She had a lot of good qualities but she was just so insecure. And that just ate at her...umm so she hired Sarah to get Sarah to say that I was incompetent and I wasn't doing a good job. Well, I knew Sarah, and so Sarah got here and she—she met with Janet and Sarah came over and I just told Sarah exactly why she was here and she said—and so Sarah reviewed everything we were doing and she said, "You're not incompetent. You're managing under a lot of strain with not enough resources."

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: And so that's what she said in the report.

Miner: Yes, it's very clear. I mean everything that you had been pushing back against with gifts, with weeding, I mean all of that stuff was very clearly highlighted.

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: So Minor would presumably would have seen that report as well and that is well in advance of your attempt to get the Collection Development Policy in place.

Anderson: Mm-hmm

Miner: so did you—

Anderson: —and—and Sarah was just appalled. Just appalled at the shit that we had to take in because of Minor—

Miner: yeah, yeah—

Anderson: —and so she pushed back about that so—

Miner: —yeah, I mean it's very clear—

Anderson: —I was just very honest with her and I said, "Do what you have to do but here's what I think is going on, and they're bringing someone in from a very prestigious school because they want to prove that I'm not"—you know Minor brought me in to fix it, and then didn't support me when I'd get pushback from somebody that I was trying to fix it with. Like we had a Circulation Coordinator who was a racist. I mean, a real racist.

Miner: Oh, dear!

Anderson: Yeah, and like, she would do really horrible things and I would go and try to resolve that with saying, "You know, this person simply can't be at the circulation desk."—

Miner: Yeah. Yeah.

Anderson: —and she was a beloved employee of the university, beloved. And it was like, well, that's just fine but here and here and here are instances of the problem and I'd get serious pushback because she was beloved.

Miner: From people inside the library or people outside the library?

Anderson: Both.

Miner: Oh gosh

Anderson: Yeah, and so finally I said she's got to go. Absolutely cannot tolerate this. So Jim Rudy hired her.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: They moved her to Jim Rudy and she was the face of Admissions for a while until she did it in Admissions and then she was let go.

Miner: Wow

Anderson: Yeah—

Miner: —so was that—was a time when Janet was here—

Anderson: —so I was fixing it but I would get serious difficulty with my fixing it and I would get a reputation of being a bitch because I was, you know this wonderful, wonderful woman was getting—and she was a blabbermouth all over the campus and she would go bitching about me all over saying I was this terrible horrible person because I was giving her so much grief.

Miner: so that was pre 1998?—

Anderson: I fired my secretary after 10 days

Miner: You told me that.

Anderson: Those kind of things build a reputation for you—

Miner: Not maintaining the status quo but you were hired to.

Anderson: Right, right—but they weren't supporting me—you know I wasn't getting—so that I'm not sure there is—what kind of support they can give you—those kinds of things.

Miner: That's why you are brought in.

Anderson: They sent the wellness person Missy Smock to talk to me about my attitude.

Miner: Where is she in your chain of command?

Anderson: That's like, don't waste my time.

Miner: How interesting.

Anderson: Well, yeah.

Miner: They being?

Anderson: HR who was this—she had been a secretary to Ken Browning for a long time then eventually took over all the HR until they hired—

Miner: Ken

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: Wow, so once the '98 review, by a person that Janet brought in was done, did any of the dialogue with administration get better about how the library was run?

Anderson: I think she backed off for a little while but—I don't know—

Miner: —specifically, Janet but not Minor?

Anderson: —yeah—and Minor was always just a—I just you know—Minor and I just had an ok relationship. I mean he would come in or fly in and tell me to do x, y, or z and I'd decide if I was going to do it or not. I finally figured out with Minor, he just had ideas, he would just throw them out to you and sometimes you had to figure out if it was something he was really serious about or if it was just something he was giving you an idea about.

Miner: Sure, ok, well that's interesting because it was a real contrast to me, the two documents, and trying to figure out where—what the motivations were, and what the outcome was.

Anderson: I think the first one was to get rid of—

Miner: Clayton

Anderson: —yeah, and Janet's was to get rid of me and it backfired on her. And I don't know how she took that particularly because I—

Miner: We can move on from there.

Anderson: I don't know—I just did my job and didn't really care—I mean I cared, I did care, but I didn't think that she'd get anywhere because I knew I was doing a good job.

Miner: Sure, you want to talk about then—more of the planning or you want to move into once it was done... and Minor's reaction?

Anderson: The planning of the building?

Miner: Yeah—

Anderson: The planning of the building was intensive and they would only allow me to be at the table so then I would try to talk with the librarians and the staff about what we were doing and then take their ideas forward as much as I could. We'd have staff meetings and like when we were discussing chairs for instance for the building, we would fill the staff room with different types of chairs and everybody would—during staff meetings—would keep moving from chair to chair so people could vote on which chair they liked best, for comfy chairs or for office chairs or for things like that. So we tried to involve, I tried to involve staff and faculty, I'd bring in faculty and the library advisory faculty to try out different things. So we continue to involve people in those kinds of ways as much as possible. But they were very rigid about who would be involved in the direct planning.

Miner: With the architects?

Anderson: Right, so I was the only woman at the table, everybody else was male. We had a landscape architect and we had the working architect who came in um, I think he came in every two weeks, we had a meeting every two weeks. So that was a lot of, that just took a huge amount of my time—running the library, and they gave me no extra help of course, so it was pretty intensive.

Miner: The landscape architect, I understood from our current landscape people, that they sort of overrode some of his ideas, because—

Anderson: Yes, they did—

Miner: —he had an east coast plan—

Anderson: —and he was very good about listening to them—

Miner: —was he?

Anderson: —yeah, he was. He was a good architect but he came in with these grand plans but he gave them to our landscape guys and they said these won't fly here and they gave some suggestions back and he took them.

Miner: So even though you were the only woman in there and the only library representative in these meetings, it sounds like people within those meetings were amenable to.

Anderson: Oh very, like our, our...what I call the working architect was wonderful.

Miner: Good

Anderson: He was very wonderful which is why I wanted that set of architects because I had done my homework and one of them they had chosen, as a finalist, was a real asshole and I had heard a lot of bad things about him. That he didn't come in on time and that he didn't come in on budget and that he didn't listen, which is the biggest. The other two I could deal with but not listening was definitely something that I didn't want but these architects had been known for listening, paying attention to people at the table, making adjustments accordingly and all of that so yeah this guy was great. He's still a friend of mine.

Miner: That's great.

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: Well the building withstood the test of time, certainly.

Anderson: Yeah and I think it has a lot to do with paying attention. I still hate the rotundas.

Miner: Who's idea was that.

Anderson: The architects and I never wanted the rotundas. I just think they take up a lot of space and they don't really function well.

Miner: You said earlier that Minor wanted to see a lot of books in the library and the one criticism that I've heard about the library is there are no books on the first floor.

Anderson: Uh huh. We did have books on the first floor when it opened.



Miner: Oh, besides the Reference collection.

Anderson: Yes

Miner: Oh I didn't know that.

Anderson: We had books when you walked in the building, you could see books because we had shelving in the back and it was like the new book collection.

Miner: Oh I do remember.

Anderson: Do you remember that?

Miner: Oh I do

Anderson: It never worked, but it was books.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: and that was for Minor.

Miner: [laughing] That's funny.

Anderson: Uh uh—

Miner: Wow

Anderson: —and in those rooms. We had books in those rooms too.

Miner: That's true, the newspapers too for a while. Yeah that's, you know I think it reaches into what you said earlier about risk taking and I think it's one thing that the library, that I feel is true and accurate is that we will take risks—

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: —and do different things

Anderson: We have a whole, I mean I think I've talked to a couple of other departments and how they have a lot of faculty that want to do what they're doing right now and they've done it for twenty years and by god they're not going to do anything different.

Miner: Uh

Anderson: I know Lynda just from a couple of comments and conversations with her and how they've tried through CETAL and some other things is trying to get faculty to try some new things in their teaching. I think she feels very frustrated that they just have an older faculty and they're just doing the same thing they've done for ever and ever and I think that our department is really risk takers that we will try new things and that we're constantly as a group willing to look at something new and I feel really

proud that I had some, some influence on that, that we have built a sense of strategic risk taking and that is a culture in our department.

Miner: That's a great, great phrase. Um you are all over campus in a number of capacities for as long as I've been here and I think that's true of all the librarians—

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: —but do you think that the—I mean from this vantage point, you know the reputation of the library over the years, do you think its—how would you characterize it on our campus?

Anderson: Well I think it's changed dramatically from when I got here um, and there probably are still people that think that you have to send students to ISU to get resources but I think that has changed. I think, I think the students really love the library. When I got here, students didn't come in the building and now they do. So that's really changed dramatically and I think they're doing something in the library besides just sitting there so you know that's wonderful.

Meg: One of the—

Anderson: —I think the people are more involved in the campus before—

Miner: —the people being the library people?

Anderson: —the library people—

Miner: Ok, yes

Anderson: Not just—not just the faculty but also our staff are more involved. Before it was our faculty were involved in departments, a department but they were involved in those departments to get out of the library so they could feel like they had a place on campus. Now were not, they're not involved in other places on campus to get away from the library, they're involved to be a part of the whole—

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: —and I think that's a whole, a whole different way of being involved.

Miner: Yeah, absolutely and I'm sure that that's felt within the library, I'm just interested if you think that the reverse is true, the faculty, the staff, people elsewhere on campus feel that same way about the library.

Anderson: I don't think a week goes by that I don't get a call from somebody, that they want to come into the library for a reason. You know it's either an exhibit or want to partner with us about something or they want to bring something into the library. I've had more than one faculty member say to me that if they want something to be seen or they want to have something happen, they think of the library first because that's where it's happening on campus.

Miner: Yeah, that's a great statement.

Anderson: Yeah, it is. I mean I think that's a really remarkable, wonderful way of—of you know—I think that's a great thing to say about the library. They don't go to the Hansen Center to something shown, they come to us. That's great.

Miner: That is great. So it sounds like you've completed the mission that you were given. [laughs]

Anderson: In some ways I feel like it's gotten fixed. [laughs]

Miner: Are there other things that you want to share? I mean it's really insightful to hear about the progression of things.

Anderson: You know I think all of those things are pretty good things to have and I feel pretty accomplished about some of those things.

Miner: I think you should

Anderson: Yeah, I mean, you know I think the liaison program was really a good thing to get started, getting the collection development. I mean we worked hard at all of that. You wouldn't believe what I went through to get all of the details of who gets how much when we first created all that. I'm not sure it was worth it; I mean we should have put money out there to see what worked but the details of all of that but just getting the respect for the library. That's really important. They had no respect whatsoever. And I think, I think I feel a lot stronger about that. At the last faculty meeting when uh Business was trying to change their requirements from being a PhD to a Master's degree and I really wanted to stand up and say there's other departments on campus that don't require a PhD and you need to stop being so damned snooty about this.

Miner: Uh uh

Anderson: and I—I should have, I just should have stood up and I feel really bad that I did not do that.

Miner: You may get a chance to say that again. It seems like we revisit—things.

Anderson: Yeah, but my fear of, you know, calling out the library and having the spotlight on the librarians, I'm in a position that I could do that but I didn't want the rest of the library faculty to—

Miner: Well certainly things have been said before and I mean I think the whole—

Anderson: —I feel like we're in a strong enough place that we could do that.

Miner: Right

Anderson: I guess that's why I felt I could say that. I feel like we are in a strong enough place that we can be, we could be put under that spotlight and still feel like we're, we're supported across campus enough now. When I first came here, they didn't want us to be faculty.

Miner: But there already were faculty—

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: —but not everybody had a PhD.

Anderson: No, no, no, I was the only one.

Miner: Well Bob had a PhD, Bob Mowery.

Anderson: That's right he did, he did. That's right but they didn't want us to be faculty and when I was hired, they were contemplating not allowing anyone, maybe just the University Librarian, but all the rest of them wouldn't be faculty was in that range of discussion again, always that undertone that they think we can get away so and that was, not everybody but some faculty.

Miner: Sure

Anderson: So but I don't think we're there though. I think we're not, I think we're still in there—I mean there's always one or two faculty that are always dissing us for one reason or another. [laughs]  
Anyway...

Miner: Well you can't win them all I guess.

Anderson: No, no not at all

Miner: Will you address the national recognition thing, and I mean I think you've hit—I was going to ask you who was Deb Wood because you mention her early on?

Anderson: —She was the Dean of Students.

Miner: She was, ok because it came up and I thought that's who you meant but I didn't check with you and it came up when we talked about how do you fire faculty.

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: And I didn't think she'd been a faculty member.

Anderson: No

Miner: I still don't understand how Minor rolled over people but um, but really I mean, you know the comments you made about Minor are the most forceful ones I've heard and him being pushy.

Anderson: Oh

Miner: You know—

Anderson: He was a tough one. Yeah

Miner: —and I hadn't really heard. Other people have danced around it but not really giving a lot of specifics and I really appreciate your specifics.

Anderson: Well I think that um probably a lot of the faculty members—like, like Dan Terkla or Bob Bray, and many of the faculty members had pretty good, pleasant relationships with him because they loved books and so their relationships with him were really conversations about books but they didn't have a direct relationship with him, in terms of like a direct report and although mine wasn't a direct report, Minor acted like it was a direct report. Um, I would say that if you talked to anybody that was in administrative offices, like Jim Rudy...you can talk to Jim Rudy and if you talk to Ken Browning um, those people that weren't book people but that had any direct relationship with him in a reporting, they would be able to give you a different view of Minor.

Miner: And I've really been trying to reach out into a variety of people so if you have contact with anybody that you think—send them my way. I would really appreciate that.

Anderson: Rudy would be one to definitely talk to. I know he had somewhat of a volatile relationship with Minor because Minor was always telling him how to get students here.

Miner: Ok, another influence to explore.

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: And that's what this is all about so the very narrow focus of what I think I can write about—is—is—you know doesn't touch on a lot of what most people are talking to me about but collecting these oral histories, curating them as I hope to be able to. I mean, I think that this, that anyone who comes to write a history of that era—

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: Will have things that the documents can't tell them. So

Anderson: I'm sure Ken Browning has stories to tell but I'm not sure Ken would tell them. He's a gentleman and um, I mean I know a lot of people blame our current financial situations on Minor. I, I don't know that I agree with that but—and then they—and then they—a corollary to that would be blaming Ken Browning because he didn't do what he needed to do but I'm here to tell you that I had direct relationships with Minor and trying to buck him when he says to do something would be very, very difficult so I have a lot of sympathy for Ken Browning cause if Minor says do this and you didn't do it, then you'd be out the door. So...

Miner: Well that's interesting

Anderson: It would have been hard for Ken to not do what he told him to do.

Miner: And he was VP?

Anderson: Yes, yes—

Miner: —VP of Business and Finance so um he ultimately did leave under Janet though.

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: Right, so—because when we first started talking you were sort of wondering why didn't anybody in the cabinet stop him and I think I would have that same question. Um—but, so your take on his personality is very interesting and I need to redouble my efforts on these other people because although I've asked—um, I haven't really gotten very great responses.

Anderson: Yeah, yeah. They may be avoiding you for the reasons that I've just discussed and they're not willing to say those things out loud.

Miner: Well if you have any paths crossing and can—

Anderson: Yeah I see Ken—well I see Ken once in a while there in library.

Miner: I would love to—I mean I would—I don't have an ax to grind. I have an interest in collecting these stories before they go away.

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: Anything else?

Anderson: No, not about that

Miner: Anything else? [laughs] Anything, anything about else?

Anderson: Did we—we were touching on when Minor and Ellen, when Minor died and the discussion about the book collection. Did you want to hear about that?

Miner: I would love to if you want to tell me about it.

Anderson: Well that was all a very interesting time.

Miner: Is it such an interesting time that we should set up a third interview because I mean honestly that's what I want to write about but I don't know how much I can, how much I can delve into the—

Anderson: Well, I was the last person on campus to see Minor. I was the only one that saw him after he got sick.

Miner: —Oh, where'd you see him?

Anderson: Well my daughter takes chemotherapy and so I go to the Cancer Center a lot and I also volunteer there and Minor was at the Cancer Center getting chemotherapy and he was very ill and I saw him, he was in a wheelchair, Ellen was there, and so I walked up to him and I sat down on the floor so he could, so I was at his height then and took his hand and just chatted with him for a few minutes and then went on about my business while I was there. It was actually Friday and I was volunteering because I usually volunteered on Fridays and I got a call then soon after that and Ellen said, "Minor wants to see you, can you come to the house?" and I said sure so I went over to the house and Minor was actually walking around and he wanted to show me the collection. He wanted to show me where everything was and so we walked around the house. I mean they have them in the bathroom—the had them, I mean they had books in every room—

Miner: Oh my gosh

Anderson: —of that house, everywhere. He was showing me around the house and wanted to show me his whole collection and wanted to make sure that it was going to be taken care of and that he was essentially putting me in charge of his collection.

Miner: And was Ellen there?

Anderson: Yes, Ellen was there and so then he got tired and he left and he went to lay down and Ellen and I sat in the living room and discussed his collection and how she wanted to be sure it was taken care of and went through some details and was crying and upset about Minor and obviously that was hard um, and she felt very alone and felt very uh, like she was being taken advantage of by the board—

Miner: Huh

Anderson: —and went into some details about that and um—so I went back to my office and—and felt like—Wow am I really being put in—so the next thing that happened is I get a call from Janet and I'm being—I was told to come to her office and she wanted to know everything that Minor had said to me. Somehow she knew I had been at his house and I said, "as far as I know he is still President of the university and until he's not, I don't believe that a private conversation with him is any of your business." We weren't exactly best friends at this point.

Miner: Clearly—

Anderson: Yeah and I said it was a private conversation and I don't believe that he expected me to share that with you and she said, "Well as a, as an Officer of the university, I'm demanding that you share that with me."

Miner: You can't say that to—

Anderson: Don't say those things to me and I said, "I'm not telling you anything that happened in that conversation." (Janet) "Well the board says that you have to tell me." I said Janet I'm not sharing the conversation with you. Well she was livid, absolutely livid and I said I think we're done now and I walked out of her office. I mean really.

Miner: He was still alive?

Anderson: He was still alive.

Miner: So what—so what was the board trying to take advantage of Ellen with?

Anderson: Well, it was all about the book collection and my understanding was from her that she didn't feel like they were giving her enough money for the collection. She also felt that they had killed him because they hadn't put radon, um, they hadn't done radon test in the basement and of course a huge amount of collection was in the basement and he spent a lot of time down there and so—

Miner: But you said that Minor wanted you to have the collection.

Anderson: He wanted me to take care of the collection.

Miner: Oh, but—but

Anderson: Take care of it but not personally have it—

Miner: —He still planned to sell some of it?

Anderson: Well I think he just wanted to make sure that it was going to be taken care of properly. You know he loved his collection and he wanted to make sure that when it got too, when it was taken care of by the university that it was taken care of properly.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: So this went back and forth with the board and they were—the board was buying the collection and basically I think this was their way of keeping Ellen from suing Illinois Wesleyan for Minor's illness. So I saw the final document of—is it in the Archives?

Miner: Which document?

Anderson: The document of—between Minor's family and the Board of Trustees of the book collection, of what—

Miner: I don't think that is in the Archives. If it is, it's in a file that's buried somewhere.

Anderson: Ok

Miner: I don't know who—Board documents are in the President's office so.

Anderson: The agreement between Minor's family and the Board of Trustees for the book collection says that Illinois Wesleyan gets the whole book collection, except for the music materials.

Miner: Oh

Anderson: And that the Minor's family can choose to take some of the materials out of the collection that they want.

Miner: Ok, which is essentially what happened.

Anderson: Exactly

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: So they chose—the best—

Miner: Of course they did.

Anderson: —the Board stupidly allowed them to cherry pick the collection.



Miner: Yeah

Anderson: Well the Board was livid because it's not like they don't know books. I mean the boys knew books because they grew up with their father so they went through the collection, and so the Board knew what was in the collection and so they thought they were getting this wonderful collection of these really high quality materials. Well the boys went through it and took out all the good stuff.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: Ok so then when they got the collection, it wasn't worth anything.

Miner: Uh huh

Anderson: But they paid a fair piece of change for it.

Miner: Uh huh

Anderson: So they were really angry about that. Really angry about that and then so Roger and I were tasked with reviewing the collection and going through it book by book and pulling out the music materials. Well there was one music piece in there that was really valuable and Roger wouldn't give it back to the family.

Miner: Which piece was that.

Anderson: I don't remember but he chose to keep it because it was his way of—making the family pay for taking all the good books out of the collection.

Miner: Do you think he ever communicated that to them?

Anderson: —To them? No, he and I fought about it because I wanted to give it to them. So we'd go through the collection—I would go through the collection and I'd make piles of what I considered to be music books and then he would sign off on them, he would come to my office and he'd go through them and say these are all music books and then we'd ship them off to Ellen.

Miner: And that was when the collection was in the house still?

Anderson: This was—no we had pulled them all out of the house and I was going through them and so Roger would come to my office like once a week and he would go through what I had pulled out as music materials and then he would go through them with me and we were looking for this one book because the Myers' had specifically said, "we want this one book" and when I found it I said this is a music book and he said "Yeah it is but we're not giving it to them." because it was worth a lot of money and I said "Roger that's not right" and he said "Well it's not right what they did"—that was the agreement Roger whether you like it or not that was the agreement. We fought about it for days.

Miner: Uh

Anderson: And I think that's why he uh, decided that I didn't need to be University Librarian anymore.

Miner: Was Roger that decided that.

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: How?

Anderson: He was the acting Provost

Miner: Because of that because you pushed back on that. Wow Sue—so, I mean he then he said that to you in so many words or is it he went to Janet?

Anderson: It was awhile after that. Oh no it was he and I. Then he made me put it in the Archives in the collection.

Miner: Put your statement?

Anderson: No the book.

Miner: Ok

Anderson: We had a really big fight about it. I told him what I thought of him and I told him what I thought of his actions. He's wrong. You don't steal from people.

Miner: Yeah, well I mean especially when it was what the board—

Anderson: —It was a legal agreement. It's a legal agreement. I haven't spoken to him since. I'm sorry but I live by—I have some standards I live by.

Miner: That must have been really hard.

Anderson: It was impossible for me, he made me do it, he ordered me to do it and then the board made Ellen move out of the house by the end of September. Her husband had just died two months before—I mean honest to god. They told her originally that she would have until the end of the semester. So your husband dies under extremely difficult circumstances, and your whole family has to move out of a house and change your whole life in two months.

Miner: Were you on pretty good terms with her?

Anderson: With Ellen?

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: Yeah, yeah

Miner: Man

Anderson: I was not happy. Needless to say Janet was giving me a lot of pressure during this time so after Minor died, then she called me back in and told me I had to tell her [laughing] I said, "Well, you're not getting any more information than you got the first time." Yeah so it was a really difficult, very difficult strained time.

Miner: So—your sense of the way that Minor then felt about his collection from your conversation with him. I mean, I mean I guess I've heard the story right—

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: —that they cherry picked,

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: —I mean that's the phrase but I guess I sort of always thought he built the collection, you know some people build collections to make investments out of them, for their legacy but did he express that kind of thing to you—

Anderson: Oh no—

Miner: —This was a legacy for his family?

Anderson: —No, no, there weren't that many books in the collection that were wonderful books. Minor, Minor collected very eclectically. I mean I have a chunk of the books that I bought when we had the sale and nothing in it is, is valuable stuff. He collected things that he liked, um, and didn't—I don't think that he collected for a legacy at all. I think he collected things that he thought that he would enjoy, um, because of the way they were made sometimes, because sometimes of what the topic was about. You know he loved so many different—he had a huge array of interests, huge. I mean he had a huge railroad collection. I don't know if you ever saw his railroad.

Miner: No

Anderson: Oh my gosh he had a huge—one room in the basement was just filled with railroads.

Miner: I've heard about it. I'm asking everybody. Did you take a picture of it by any chance?

Anderson: Oh no, I should have, no. He gave that to the railroad collectors here in town. So you know, you name it and he was interested in it. So he had a little dab of this and a little dab of that. He loved old books. So if he met somebody that had an interest in something, then suddenly he'd go out and want to know everything there was about it so I can't imagine that there was any legacy involved in this but he did have some in his collection that were really remarkable books and some of those were because he, somebody on campus here had an interest in that and he would find one and get a book on that particular—

Miner: —but never give it away.

Anderson: Well sometimes he did (Meg laughing), sometimes he did but usually not.

Miner: Did he ever give you any books?

Anderson: No, no. Ellen gave me a purse once.

Miner: They collected purses too?

Anderson: It was nothing. It was not valuable but you know it was something that she enjoyed and then she gave it to me because she wanted me to have it. He gave me, he have me aquamarine stones. Yeah, he went to the gem show in um, is it Arizona where they have the gem shows?

Miner: I don't know. I didn't know he was a rock collector. I knew he was a meteorite collector.

Anderson: Yeah, no he brought these back because of the—the—water that we had, the huge—

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: Yeah the damage so he brought these back and gave them to me.

Miner: Huh, do you ever talk to Ellen?

Anderson: No

Miner: That so

Anderson: Yeah, I think she closed that door and needed to have some distance from us.

Miner: Sure. Well that is certainly understandable. What do you think he would of thought about the way we dispersed his collection?

Anderson: Well I think he would have liked for us to keep the collection together in the, in the Archives. I think that would have been his first choice because he collected it and of course he would have seen it as valuable and wanted it to be in the Archives that would have been his first choice.

Miner: Do you think the board and Janet were supportive of auctioning it?

Anderson: Oh yeah, they wanted to make as much money as possible off of it. That was there, that's what they wanted. They didn't see it valuable at all. I mean valuable in the sense of as a whole for the university.

Miner: Because the um, the way that I understand it, is that we, the library, assessed it, and I was involved in that—

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: —in creating a database of that and then suggested, we suggested the types of materials we could keep so but we also made a recommendation that there were some things that weren't suitable for an institution like Illinois Wesleyan—

Anderson: Uh hun

Miner: —to have. So I always got the sense that it was the library was suggesting that the auction take place. You felt it was the other way around?

Anderson: I think it was um, I think that the board—well we didn't want to keep it.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: But I don't think if they had wanted us to keep it, we would have had to keep it so I don't think there was any, I mean they were looking to us to make recommendations but I think if they had wanted us to keep it, we would have had to have kept it. I don't think there was any push back from the board one way or the other.

Miner: And it doesn't sound like Janet demanded it.

Anderson: No

Miner: Of you

Anderson: No

Miner: That's very interesting.

Anderson: Yeah I don't think. I think at that point she wanted to get as much money out of it because they had paid so much money for it. They were looking to get as much money back as they had paid out. I think that at that point they didn't want to keep it to get a refund.

Miner: And Ellen didn't want to keep it?

Anderson: No, no she was moving to a much smaller, she was looking—I think at that point she was probably just dazed and just distressed so it was her way of getting money out of the university for losing Minor. But she had no interest in books.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: That was not her thing at all.

Miner: They were big antiquers. Maybe?

Anderson: Yeah, yeah antique furniture. So—she just wanted to get back to the east coast. That's where her boys were.

Miner: Do you think she was very comfortable here, or?

Anderson: Well

Miner: Just the drama, the trauma of everything.

Anderson: I think it's hard to have friends when you're the university president.

Miner: I would imagine.

Anderson: Yeah she had a couple of friends. I know one day she was, something horrible had happened with the board and I was leaving the university and she was walking, race walking down the sidewalk and she didn't have a coat on and she was really very distressed so I stopped and picked her up and she said, "I just can't" and she was just, like almost not lucid so I took her over to a friend's house. So she had a few friends but she was also not an easy person so um, I think she needed to get away from here.

Miner: So the—and you can tell me if it's none of my business but I mean I'm curious you know you said that Roger kind of made unilaterally decision that you weren't going to be head of the library—

Anderson: —Well he did a, a survey of a few people in the library while I was on sabbatical.

Miner: Oh so this happened while you were gone.

Anderson: Yeah, so and they didn't say bad things about me but they didn't say good things about me so he used that as a reason to get rid of me. And I just had a—before I went on sabbatical, Janet had done a full blown, you know just like we do for Karen, and I had had a very good review. So—

Miner: Interesting

Anderson: —yeah and I just decided I don't need to put up with this shit. Cause I'm not, I just built you a building, I've just spent years—

Miner: Right, everything

Anderson: —years of giving to this university and if this is the way you want to treat me then screw it.

Miner: Yeah

Anderson: And my mom was seriously ill. She was in the hospital, ICU in Springfield and Roger called me in and started giving me a hard time and saying you know, "You're not doing a good job blah blah blah and you're not going to be the University Librarian when you come back." Fine, I don't need it, fine.

Miner: Yeah, well

Anderson: And that was the year that we got the Princeton award for—and I just thought you guys are just so full of shit.

Miner: Yeah, well I think all the reviews and everything since then have borne out the value of the changes, the changing nature of the discipline has you know. I mean it's all over our literature whether or not anybody else wants to believe it. The kind of work that we do. The reality of it.

Anderson: So it changed by life and it changed my attitude about the place.

Miner: Yeah but you're here.

Anderson: I am.

Miner: You stayed here.

Anderson: I stayed here because my family is here and because of Cass's doctors are all here and I can't take her away from here.

Miner: Yeah and you're still here and you're still contributing. It's not like you're—

Anderson: Well

Miner: —just air floating down the river.

Anderson: No—specific individuals do not make the place; you know well everybody else. I think there's a lot of other people that still think that I have something to contribute.

Miner: You do

Anderson: You don't punish the whole place for a couple of individuals and you either decide to contribute and continue on or you decide to get out but you, but I can't be just a show up and punch the time clock [laughing].

Miner: It doesn't seem to be in your nature.

Anderson: No, that's not me. Anyway so that's the book story.

Miner: Well that's quite a story and I appreciate you volunteering it 'cause I have, I guess I've gotten a little gun shy. I've run up—against a lot of walls in asking so if you have emails [laughing]

Anderson: Well you could certainly ask Roger his side of the story but I suspect you won't get the same story that I told.

Miner: Well, I haven't got any response from him yet.

Anderson: Yeah, so

Miner: Well I have no idea how um, how all of this will come through in whatever it is—end of writing.

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: I mean it's a very difficult topic to approach and to address. We have created a record—

Anderson: Uh huh

Miner: —and that's more than we had at the beginning of this.

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: And I really appreciate that.

Anderson: Yeah, well good luck with this. I know you've got a big project ahead of you.

Miner: Thanks Sue

Anderson: Yeah

Miner: I appreciate it.

Anderson: Ok