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Delores Worazek Colton and Roger Colton

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Illinois Wesleyan University

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Oral History Interview with Delores Worazaek Colton and Roger Colton, October 2019

Delores Worazaek Colton: Hi, my name is Delores Worazaek Colton. I was here for three years and graduated in 1959. I was Kappa Delta, I was involved in synchronized swimming, I was involved in every sport that there was – and at that time there weren't that many, field hockey was the best one – and volleyball . . . every sport there was, I was in. And at the time there was only – Ms. Nihouse was the coach of all the sports that there were for girls. There was no intercollegiate sports at all. It was strictly – the dorms had teams and all the sororities had teams and we played against each other, there was no competition against any other schools, none. I was also a cheerleader enjoyed that immensely but, I must say the thing I enjoyed the most was the sorority and all the social activities, and all the camaraderie with the girls in the Kappa Delta house. . . At the time, there were only about 900 students and like I said I was a cheer leader and we had football games every Saturday, some home, some away, and I can remember looking up in the stands and seeing this old people come back at homecoming, and now we are one of those old people. This is our 60th reunion and I'm happy to be here and, we now live in Florida.

Roger Colton: My name is Roger Colton and I was born and raised in Bloomington-Normal so, Illinois Wesleyan has been apart of my life from the very inception. My neighbors were affiliated with Wesleyan. They married Wesleyan graduates and the girl that lived across the street actually worked for Lee Short, her name was Marsha Minch and she worked here in the alumni office for quite a while. So, my roots go all the way back to 1937 and I can recall being here on campus when they had the big fire in 1943. And when I say on campus, I mean I only live four houses into normal right behind the stadium. So, back then when you had a fire, everyone would come to the fire and see what was happening so, this was a major, major occurrence. I was known as a townie because I came from town and, it seemed like if you came from the town, you would pledge a fraternity and usually that fraternity would be Phi Gamma Delta. So, when I was here from 1955 to 1959 I was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and we had a large pledge class. To which, believe it or not, we still have reunions from time to time. And, this is our 60th, 6 O reunion. And, I see a lot of familiar faces, so I'd have to say that the fraternity life back then was something that was good, something that was worth while and it stayed with you forever. As a matter of fact, the 60th reunion we have probably, 20 or so individuals back that were in the class of '59. The biggest story or memory I have while at Wesleyan, of course that's when I met my wife Delores and we were married and now have been married for 58 years, since 1961. I was not exposed to any type of gender, racial, or other problems while at Wesleyan and I didn't see that as any difficulties what so ever. . . Wesleyan did impact my life because it gave me the background necessary for a BS in Business then I went on to Law School and eventually became a judge in Palm Beach County Florida. To which I am now on a senior status and still, sit in the courtroom from time to time.