

## Y. O. and Elizabeth Kent

Mr. and Mrs. Kent are longtime residents of Williamsburg, Mr. Kent having come first in 1918 with a special student army training program (S.A.T.C.) and Mrs. Kent as a transfer student in the early 1930s. After graduation in 1931 Mr. Kent taught in the newly formed aviation school at the college, later becoming steward of the dining hall, then manager of the college bookstore. Between them, Mr. and Mrs. Kent were able to recall many colorful stories about their years at the college.

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 Date of interview June 9, 1975  
 Place 130 Indian Springs Road, Williamsburg  
 Interviewer Emily Williams  
 Session number 1  
 Length of tape app. 100 mins.

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Y. O. and Elizabeth Kent

June 9, 1975

Williamsburg, Va.

Williams: S.A.T.C. and would you just explain briefly what the S.A.T.C. was.

Y. Kent: The S.A.T.C. was similar to what the G.I.s did during the Second World War in that we were inducted into the service like they were, and the government paid for schooling. They paid us <sup>\$30</sup> thirty dollars a month in those days.

E. Kent: Did they pay your tuition?

Y. Kent: Yes, and tuition. They paid for everything.

E. Kent: You took classes; you didn't do any military work?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. We drilled.

Williams: Sort of like R.O.T.C. is now -- except you weren't officers?

Y. Kent: No. We were all just privates. It was more like a cadet corps that anything else -- but we were in the army and I would say, had the war lasted another six months, they would have sent us all over there <sup>to France</sup> to get shot at. But it didn't.

~~At Graves' wedding the other day, Dr. Goad who was in the S.A.T.C. with me and we reminisced about some of the things that happened. -- Marching us through the water with our clothes on and that sort of thing, Guarding the air force landing outside town in the middle of winter.~~

E. Kent: What kind of an airplane -- army airplane or civilian?

Y. Kent: I don't know what it was.

E. Kent: How old were you then?

Y. Kent: Eighteen.

Williams: Were most of the people in the S.A.T.C. eighteen-year old privates?

Y. Kent: Yes, most of them. There were some that were <sup>sophomores and</sup> juniors and seniors, too, but most of the boys had gone away into the service, and those of us who hadn't gone, were getting ready to go. They figured they were training to send us to a real camp soon.

E. Kent: Did you wear uniforms? Do the manual of arms?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. The government had a school in Plattsburg<sup>h</sup> and we used to call the fellows who came out of Plattsburg<sup>h</sup> as second lieutenants <sup>thirty -</sup> "30 Day wonders." I was the adjutant of our <sup>[Girard]</sup> battalion at Girard College in Philadelphia, the <sup>?</sup> orphan <sup>← YES</sup> school, so I knew all that stuff. So when I came in, I had my suitcase in my hand, and I came up and this fellow was trying to teach <sup>them</sup> ~~him~~ how to about face, but they couldn't do it to save their lives, and I went up and whispered in <sup>his</sup> their ears what they were doing wrong. <sup>He</sup> They said what's your name?" And I told him. And he said, "I'll remember you." So I painted every latrine in the college because I told -- We called them "Egypts." No, not outside -- just wherever they were, all over the place -- Brafferton, Taliaferro, Wren Building, the whole bit.

Williams: Why did they call them "Egypts?"

Y. Kent: That's what they called them. Every student that came to college <sup>as</sup> a freshman had to pay what was called an "Egypt fee". -- <sup>1</sup> Usually twenty-five cents or more. We'd catch them on the

train coming down from Richmond, get on a train and go up to Richmond and come down with the freshmen and collect as many "Egypt fees" as we could.

E. Kent: And keep the money yourself?

Y. Kent: They had to pay the "Egypt fee."

Williams: Was this part of the tribunal?

Y. Kent: Not really.

Williams: That was a private enterprise, sounds like.

Y. Kent: Everybody did it. The tribunal was later, after you got in school.

E. Kent: You were on that, too?

Y. Kent: I was never on the tribunal, was never interested in it.

Williams: Were the boys that were in this S.A.T.C. -- were they pretty closely integrated with <sup>the</sup> college boys or did they keep to themselves?

Y. Kent: They were all together. There weren't really many here that weren't in S.A.T.C. -- very, very few.

E. Kent: There were how many women here, would you say, about?

Y. Kent: Forty. ~~Miss B~~ was here.

Williams: How did the men feel?

Y. Kent: They didn't pay any attention to them. There was a powder plant out <sup>at Penniman,</sup> of town and a lot of girls were working out there. And we go out there and get those girls. We didn't pay any attention to the students. That's the truth.

Williams: You didn't date the college girls?

Y. Kent: No. They had so many regulations, you know, that they had to

go by and the other girls didn't have any regulations at all.

E. Kent: Did anybody have cars?

Y. Kent: Of course not. There weren't any cars. Mr. Person had one.

E. Kent: You were here, you would say, about six months?

Y. Kent: I wasn't here that long. I was inducted in August, and I left the first part of December. I was home for Christmas.

E. Kent: You were home for Christmas for good. And you were out of college then. You had no money and you couldn't come back. Did any of them stay on for college? I bet not.

Y. Kent: I suspect some did, but very, very few.

Williams: There weren't any such things as veterans' benefits or the G. I. Bill?

Y. Kent: <sup>No.</sup> One thing that ~~happened~~ <sup>sort of</sup> happened here that was rather crude but it was funny to us. A fellow named Simons from Norfolk who was not in S.A.T.C., so he got himself about a twenty-pound bag of water and the captain used to stand right ~~there~~ under the window there next to old Ewell and he dropped this bag of water right on the captain's head and knocked him right flat. I can hear him now, hollering, "Corporal of the guard, get that man." And he did and took him up before the president. They marched us all down, and we marched old Simons down to the train, put him on the train, and sent him home.

E. Kent: For good?

Y. Kent: Yes. He came back ~~a~~ second semester, though. I noticed in the <sup>an</sup> annual over there, <sup>so</sup> He was back here right away. <sup>Q</sup> They gave us

what they called <sup>the</sup> "three-in-one" shots in that day. They gave you a shot, and you'd either faint right then or you'd go back to your room and faint. <sup>They were</sup> All the shots put together, and it was just too much for you.

E. Kent: How many students were at the college, just vaguely?

Y. Kent: 150.

E. Kent: 150, including 40 women; that was just a handful.

Williams: And how many men would have been in the army program?

Y. Kent: About 100.

Williams: Then you did go home, you told me the last time, and decided several years later you wanted to come back. What would have made you want to come back to college?

Y. Kent: I know what made me want to come back. I was in the hospital; I was hurt playing football. We had a football team here in 1918, and we played only three regular games -- we played a couple of practice games with people. When I got back to Norfolk there was a semi-pro team down there. They thought that I was a great star because I'd been to college, you see, so they put me on the team. I learned real fast and I got to be pretty good down there.

E. Kent: For pay?

Y. Kent: Not much. <sup>\$10</sup> ~~Ten dollars~~ a game, something like that; it wasn't a big deal. <sup>Anyway,</sup> I got hurt and was in the hospital, and I'd never been in a hospital before. And all this <sup>#</sup>trouble <sup>#</sup>and tribulation and whatnot and people screaming and hollering and everything ~~going~~ and I decided, "Doggone it, I think I'd like

to be a doctor. I could help some of these people."

That's exactly what happened. ~~I hurt my leg all up here.~~

I got my ducks in a row and came on back up here in 1926.

E. Kent: Did you have any money; had you saved any money?

Y. Kent I had enough to pay my initial fee, that's all. I didn't have enough to carry me through the semester. I wrote to Dr. Chandler, who was president of the college -- Dr. Tyler had gone and Dr. Chandler had taken over in 1919 -- I wrote to him and I said, "I'm a pretty good athlete, and I play several sports, and I told him which ones, and that I'd like to come to William and Mary and take premed but I just don't have any money. If I could get a scholarship or a job, I'd like to come. I got a letter by return mail: "You have a job and a scholarship."

Williams: And never having met you?

Y. Kent: Never saw me in my life.

Williams: He didn't know your record?

Y. Kent: He probably checked it. He could check it with the Norfolk paper. So I came up here in the fall of 1926 and stayed here until I finished (except for one semester in which I had strep throat and I went on home).

E. Kent: You dropped out?

Y. Kent: I dropped out for a semester.

Williams: Obviously, there had been some building that had gone on on the campus in-between times. But other than the buildings, could



you tell a difference in the college when you came back than from when you had left?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. It was much bigger. Many more students. About 1400 students in 1926. Monroe <sup>Hall</sup> had been built then. And Jefferson Hall had been built. And they weren't there when I was there, you see. The girls lived in Tyler. I lived in Brafferton and Old Taliaferro -- those two dorms when I first came. When I came back I lived in Monroe.

E. Kent: When did you live with Dr. Chandler?

Y. Kent: That was ~~after~~ when I started flying.

Williams: Was it any big deal getting into college?

Y. Kent: No, they needed bodies. I didn't even get hazed when I came back because, you see, in 1917<sup>8</sup> I had joined a fraternity, S.P.E. (Sigma Phi Epsilon), and when I came back, I was rushed because they didn't know I was in a fraternity. I was rushed by S.P.E., so I took it.

Williams: Did most of the students get hazed then?

Y. Kent: Yes they did. But because I had been here before I was called a "bob-tail duck" -- a "bob-tailed" freshmen -- you hadn't finished, but you had been here, so I wasn't hazed. I was getting a little too old for hazing.

Williams & E. Kent: What were some of the terrible things they did?

Y. Kent: Take you out in the country and leave you. Get you drunk and paddle you.

E. Kent: Take their clothes off? Strip their clothes off?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. Leave them out in the woods.

E. Kent: Leave them out in the woods, stark naked, and drunk.

Williams: And everybody got this?

Y. Kent: No. The mean guys did that; the "baddies" did that.

Williams: They weren't an organized group that did it?

Y. Kent: No.

Williams: The women -- they didn't have any such, did they?

E. Kent: No. They used to have to lift their freshman caps; I remember that. For what? About a semester?

Y. Kent: Yes. Whenever they passed an upper classman and whenever they passed Lord Botetourt.

E. Kent: They had to turn around and bow.

Y. Kent: Yes, And curtsy<sup>e</sup> to Lord Botetourt when he was in front of the Wren Building.

Williams: When you came, you still had to go by the freshman rules, too.

E. Kent: Yes, except I came as a transfer from Western ~~Missouri~~ <sup>Reserve University,</sup> in Cleveland, so I wasn't a freshman.

Williams: Some of the rules that I read about that were enforced at the time the two of you were here, really knocked me out. You spoke of how strict they were -- that you'd go date the girls out of town. ~~out of town.~~ out at Penniman.

Y. Kent: The girls' rules were terribly strict.

Williams: Somebody said that they really weren't that bad because girls at that time from at home they expected such rules, but I just really couldn't quite fancy girls being restricted to walking down the first block of Duke of Gloucester Street only in groups of twenty-five or some such.

Y. Kent: They wouldn't even let them walk by Tyler Hall dormitory because men were in there.

Williams: Did the girls pretty much stick to the rules?

E. Kent: They were very good. The ones ~~who~~ were bad got in trouble. You were not allowed to walk in your gym suit without your raincoat on -- buttoned so you couldn't show your shorts or your gym suit -- <sup>it was</sup> not really short shorts. But <sup>what</sup> were the other things you couldn't do?

Williams: By then, weren't there cars? But you couldn't ride in cars?

E. Kent: Oh heavens, no. You had to have permission from your parents to ride in a car or to go to Richmond or to go to Norfolk. — <sup>A</sup> signed letter. Bessie Porter Taylor was the dean of women, and if she wasn't an institution! She must have weighed four hundred pounds, and she just squeezed in her little office, but boy, everyone went and you signed in and you signed out <sup>for every date you had.</sup> Every <sup>8</sup> time you went out with a man you signed out. And of course we had to get permission from her and permission from home.

Williams: Did the students think they were silly rules? They made sense at the time, in other words?

E. Kent: No, no. Everything was strict then; it was right in tune with the times. <sup>[the college]</sup> They were still looking after the children they were responsible for, and I think that's all right then; you couldn't get away with it now, but in that time it was worthwhile. Wouldn't you say?

Y. Kent: Oh, I think it <sup>was</sup>. This is what parents expected them to do.

E. Kent: Yes. The college was the caretaker of the children. I remembered several times ~~I~~ I went with you in a car to Norfolk just for a football game or something, which was terrible. ~~If~~ <sup>if</sup> we'd ever gotten caught ~~I~~ I would have been shipped -- without signing up, just get in the car and going.

Williams: Students always try to get around rules. Did they succeed? at this time?

E. Kent: Yes, they did. Of course ~~everybody~~ everybody cheated a little.

Williams: You <sup>said</sup> ~~talked about~~ you couldn't walk by Tyler Hall because that was where the boys were. What were -- both of you -- living conditions like, when you came?

Y. Kent: As far as I was concerned, they were perfect -- as good as I had at home. My room in Tyler was just great, I thought. Meals were good, I thought. <sup>of</sup> ~~A~~ Course I was a waiter from the beginning. I say I was a waiter -- I only did it for one semester and then I got to be a door keeper. I didn't have to carry a tray any more.

E. Kent & Williams: What is a door keeper? Check the meal tickets?

Y. Kent: Yes. You learned to know the faces of everybody who had a ticket. So by a month, they didn't have to <sup>show</sup> ~~show~~ tickets anymore because I knew who they were.

E. Kent: And if you didn't have a ticket, then what?

Y. Kent: You wouldn't let them in.

E. Kent: You couldn't buy a ticket?

Y. Kent: No. They could pay for a meal, but that was a complicated thing. There were plenty of restaurants downtown; they didn't have to

come in there unless they really had need to. And after that I became a head waiter. I relinquished that ~~waiter~~ on Dr. Chandler's dining room.

E. Kent: For how many years did you do that?

Y. Kent: One or two.

Williams: Did you ever have any famous customers when you waited on Dr. Chandler's table?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. We had Lady Aster<sup>o</sup>, and we had Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. We had a lot of famous visitors ~~in~~ Dr. Goodwin, of course.

Williams: Dr. Chandler would bring them to the college dining hall because he didn't keep house<sup>#</sup> himself, in the president's house<sup>≡</sup>.

Y. Kent: That's right. He didn't take any of his meals at home.

E. Kent: You were telling me once, something he bawled you out for?

Y. Kent: That was later, when I operating the cafeteria. When I was operating the cafeteria, he asked me to have an announcement read and so I had an announcer -- a boy, who did the announcing, that was his job -- Cecil Harper -- and I gave him the announcement, and he forgot to make it. I guess he was chatting with some girls or something and just forgot to make it. And Dr. Chandler listened for it, naturally. He didn't hear it, <sup>and boy,</sup> He sent for me. I got up there in front of him. He said, "I asked you to make an announcement. You didn't do it." I said, "I gave it to Mr. Harper, and he didn't do it, Doctor?" He said, "He certainly didn't." I said, "I'll take care of that." And he said, "When I

tell you to do something, I want it done." I said, "Dr. Chandler," -- he had three of his sons in there with him and some visitors -- and I said, "Dr. Chandler, when you tell me to do something and I don't do it, intentionally, you <sup>w</sup> don't have say any more to ~~me~~ <sup>#</sup> because I'll be gone." And I walked out -- because Dr. Chandler was the kind of guy that if he could ~~get~~ get ahead of you, you know, he'd work on you; he'd push you a little bit. And I ~~didn't~~ <sup>knew that</sup> ~~want anybody to do that~~ because I had lived with him, and so I had to talk back with him. He just said, "Well, I guess I'll have to punish you by making you say grace tomorrow."

E. Kent: Did they say grace?

Y. Kent: Yes.

E. Kent: Did everybody stand? I remember that. I had forgotten that.

Williams: Everybody came in at once?

Y. Kent: No, no. After everybody got in, a boy'd get up there on the P.A. system, and he'd ~~stop them~~ some way and say grace. He got a big laugh out of telling me he'd have me say grace the next day. I didn't do it. He just laughed and turned it off. So I won.

Williams: Was this only under Dr. Chandler that you said grace or did this go on? I've never even stopped to think about that.

Y. Kent: I don't remember now when it stopped.

E. Kent: But I do remember it was family-style ~~bowl~~, country-style -- bowls, platters of meat, and vegetables were passed down,

and each table was self-sufficient. Did you have a waiter at each table?

Y. Kent: ~~Sure.~~ We had one for every two tables.

Williams: Looks like there would have been a good bit of waste that way.

Y. Kent: There was. They could have seconds, you know, and they did. All the milk you could drink. All the bread you could eat, good bread -- made by a German baker <sup>(Mr. Reinecke)</sup> -- and he was good. He could make the best bread, the best biscuits, the best rolls, the best desserts, you ever saw.

Williams: Made those over in the dining hall?

Y. Kent: Right there, yes. Each waiter on the men's side had twenty people -- two ten-seat tables. And then they had a training table for the athletes. They had one waiter for each table because they ate an awful lot. You had to keep going back.

E. Kent: Did they eat the same food?

Y. Kent: No, they had <sup>of</sup> different food. <sup>1</sup> Course, they had more steaks. And prior to a game <sup>1</sup> they had tea and toast and stuff like that, you know.

E. Kent: Just like they have today, ~~except they have training women's.~~

Y. Kent: Yes, <sup>3</sup> there by themselves. In those days, <sup>1</sup> there up on one end, <sup>1</sup> all together, <sup>1</sup> About five tables.

Williams: You mentioned the president's dining room. Was it a separate room or did he, ~~like~~ eat out there with the students?

E. Kent: No. A separate room with a private entrance.

Y. Kent: And he did entertain a lot of celebrities.

- E. Kent: He never took a drink, did he? Do you think he ever drank?
- Y. Kent: I don't think he did. He never served wine or anything like that. I think he hated ~~it~~. His two younger sons did enough of it for everybody.
- Williams: The dining hall seems like sort of a plain place to take Lady Aster<sup>o</sup> out to dinner.
- Y. Kent: But it wasn't in this way. ~~f~~ The food that she was served was just as good as she could get anywhere.
- Williams: Did the president have the same meal as the students?
- Y. Kent: No, not really. He had whatever he wanted, you see. The students had a set menu<sup>s</sup>, but he had whatever he wanted. He'd call up and tell them what he wanted -- that he was going to have Lady Aster<sup>o</sup> or he was going to have somebody else or he was going to have Mr. Boston, the Lord Mayor of London or something like that. He would say, "I want Smithfield ham and turkey" or whatever he wanted, you see. Or ~~if~~ he wanted steak, he'd have steak, whereas the students had a menu<sup>s</sup> that was made a week ahead, a week at a time. I don't think the quality was any different. They had the same turkey, the same Smithfield ham. ~~¶~~ The college used to do a lot of entertaining of organizations in those days. A lot of organizations came here and had conventions. There was no place for them to have a convention. The Colonial Hotel on Duke of Gloucester Street was not big enough to handle it, so the college would do it. They had all kinds of



organizations came here and the dining hall. fed these people, you know.

E. Kent: Where did they sleep?

Y. Kent: In the dormitories. They usually came in the summertime when the college students were away.

E. Kent: Like the Sons of the American Revolution, things like that? Do they still come here? They used to -- all our married life.

Y. Kent: Yes, and then the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's came sometime.

A lot of those people would write the steward a letter, you know, <sup>to</sup> thanking <sup>him</sup> because we always took care of them well. --

Bring them some of that good Smithfield ham. Used to keep a tone of it in the store room all the time of Smithfield ham. It was good. Mr. Reinecke -- if there was a small party, he'd make them baked Alaska; he could make anything.

Williams: In those days, the college had its own farm. Did they raise most of their food?

Y. Kent: They raised special things and there was a big ruckus between the farmer and the steward because, for instance, when the farmer had strawberries, he had more than we could handle, so he'd bring them all in there and drop them. Finally I said, "We can't handle these. There's too many of them." We'd make preserves and everything else. (I'm talking about when I was operating the cafeteria -- I mean, not the cafeteria, but we called it the dining hall.) He said, "I'll see about that." So he went to see Dr. Chandler. In the

meantime, I <sup>had</sup> called Dr. Chandler and explained to him that we were just overloaded; that we'd done everything we could. We'd made preserves and we'd used them -- <sup>we'd even</sup> never made booze <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ everything else. We couldn't use any more, and the Farmer Mason kept on bringing them in. I said he should try to sell them to someone else; he can if he will, but it's too much trouble. Dr. Chandler said don't take anymore than you need.

They had hogs, too, ~~but~~ they didn't have much other stuff.

E. Kent: They had tomatoes and things like that?

Y. Kent: I don't remember getting produce from our farm. They'd have one crop, maybe. Maybe he'd have cabbage. They always had strawberries, and they always had hogs, but the other stuff, they never did have too much of it. We'd have to buy that from produce people for other farmers. Eggs we bought from farmers, and chickens.

Williams: Was the farmer a college employee?

Y. Kent: Yes. Farmer Mason ~~he~~ came from the Eastern Shore.

Williams; And that ~~was~~ <sup>over</sup> sort of where the library is now, is that about where it was?

Y. Kent: Farther out than that. <sup>I</sup> Can't tell you exactly where it was, now. Near <sup>where</sup> the airport is, ~~out~~ there. It was quite a long ways. There were hogs around -- pretty smelly.

E. Kent: Was the garbage all taken out to the hogs?

Y. Kent: Yes. Later ~~after~~ after the farm was discontinued, our garbage was sold to people who raised hogs.

E. Kent: Did you sell bones?

Y. Kent: Bones and fat and ~~skins~~ <sup>and</sup>

E. Kent: To separate people?

Y. Kent: Yes. They still do that?

Williams: What were they used for?

Y. Kent: They used that for making soap ~~and and~~ and stuff

like that. They still buy <sup>it;</sup> you ~~can~~ see the many come by the restaurants.

Williams: This is jumping somewhat ahead from when you were students.

You mentioned a while ago the <sup>"7."</sup> "Seven." Weren't you a <sup>"7"?</sup> "Seven?"

What was the purpose of the "Seven Society?"

Y. Kent: It was sort of a guardian organization, a secret organization.

E. Kent: Nobody knew who any of them were, did they?

Y. Kent: No, they didn't -- except you had to report to the administration when you were elected. You couldn't be secret ~~on~~ that far. They wanted to know who; the president was about the only one who knew. At one time <sup>the</sup> president of our honor council was caught cheating by one of his peers, and it was reported ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> one of the <sup>"Seven"</sup> service societies <sup>Y "</sup> got a hold of it. ~~We~~ We had a meeting and we called this boy in. -- As a matter of fact, he was a fraternity brother of mine and a star pitcher on the baseball team -- and told him ~~we~~ we didn't want to see him there the next day. If he was there, why we would turn him over to the administration for cheating on his law examination -- he was a graduate student. He wasn't there the next day. This was what they did. They were a guardian of the various things -- if something wouldn't function, they

would go in and try and make it function. They were also a pseudo-literary organization <sup>under</sup> Dr. Peter Paul Peebles who was a teacher here at the time. We used to meet at his house -- this was in later years -- ~~each~~ one of us would bring in a paper every month. \*

\* See p. 21

Williams: I almost get the impression of a vigilante organization.

Y. Kent: Yes, it was, except the only thing we'd do was go to the administration, <sup>^</sup> Tell the truth if we had to, <sup>^</sup> given him our information. We worked on affidavits. We wouldn't approach anybody unless we had enough affidavits to feel that we had enough evidence to prosecute. Sort of like a grand jury.

Williams: So the administration sort of cooperated with this group? Would they ever suggest that the "<sup>?</sup>Seven" should go visit such-and-such a person?

Y. Kent: Never did while I was on it. I don't know if they had; I doubt it. I guess the "<sup>?</sup>Seven Society" knew as much about it as the administration <sup>^</sup> did, actually.

Williams: How about the "~~Thirteen~~" "<sup>?</sup>13"?

Y. Kent: The "<sup>13</sup>Thirteen Club" was purely a drinking club. Just a fun club.

E. Kent: Where did you get the booze? Corn liquor?

Y. Kent: Corn liquor.

E. Kent: It wasn't easy, was it?

Y. Kent: Oh, very easy. Just go out to Mr. Nixon, give him <sup>\$4,</sup> ~~four dollars~~ <sup>^</sup> and get a five gallon keg of booze. He'd go out and dig it up out of the ground. Give you two or three samples before he

did, and you'd be all ready to go by the time he came back, he'd have two or three drinks, and you'd be ready to go back home. <sup>\$4</sup> ~~Four dollars~~ for five gallons and a keg. He'd furnish the keg.

Williams: But if the administration had known about that, it wouldn't have gone on?

Y. Kent: No. It would have been bad if they'd known about it but they didn't know about it and it was one of these things -- as Mrs. Kent says you didn't always go by the rules. You knew what the rules were, and you just took your chance. ~~Never worried us, I guess.~~

Williams: Why did they call it the Thirteen? "13"?

Y. Kent: There were thirteen of us. We got thirteen licks with a paddle when you got initiated. We used to take them outside of town when we would initiate. We'd go down to Camp Wallace, which is between here and Fort Eustis on the river, or we'd go over to Burrow's Bay<sup>ell's</sup> which is over in Surrey County, on the other side of James River on the ferry boat. What would happen is that the poor initiates would be drunk by the time they got there. They'd make them drink a glass <sup>of whiskey</sup> going over on the boat and then they'd beat them and them while they were nursing their wounds and cursing everybody, they would have a great big dinner and they wouldn't give us any of it.

E. Kent: They wouldn't give the initiates any?

Y. Kent: We didn't get a bite to eat. I remember when I came back from

that thing -- I was initiated at Burrow<sup>ell</sup>'s Bay -- when I got back from that thing, I lay up on the second floor of the S.P.E. S.A.T.C. house for a whole day. The next day I couldn't sit down -- just on my stomach up there. They<sup>H</sup> laid it on me -- but I was bad. I pushed two of them overboard.

E. Kent: Not off the ferry?

Y. Kent: No, over ~~at~~ at Burrow<sup>ell</sup>'s Bay. I pushed Tom Varney and Bob Wallace overboard. He didn't do anything to me, but Tom did. Bob wouldn't hit me for anything, but Tom almost killed me.

Williams: How did you get nominated for membership in this august society or the <sup>"7"</sup> ~~Seven~~ either one?

Y. Kent: I don't know. Just a likely person. You knew all these people --

E. Kent: And you were a leader.

Y. Kent: And I was a leader and I was O.D.K., you know.

Williams: How about F.H.C.? What did they do then?

Y. Kent: <sup>Flat Hat Club Society --</sup> They were a literary organization, really. Just like the Phoenix and the Philomathean, only they were an old -- you see this was to <sup>supposed</sup> ~~antidate~~ Phi Beta Kappa, known as F.H.C. This one club -- that I'd like to see them re~~do~~ do over here -- you see, during the war all these clubs sort of folded and I'd like to see them get started -- there've been several attempts to get it started. They've asked me to do it, but I say, "Well, I don't feel like doing it." Mr. Lambert and Scotty Cunningham both would like to see it done.

~~E. Kent: President of his fraternity. Flat Club, O.D.K., Thirteen Club, Track, O.D.K. so many sports and he was a leader.~~

Williams: Yes, he showed me one of his -- the tray -- Hall of Fame, that's what I'm trying to think of.

~~Y. Kent:~~ We had to write articles, too. I told you <sup>"7"</sup> ~~Seven Society~~, I was wrong on that. It was F.H.C. where we went to Paul Peebles because he didn't even know who the <sup>"7"</sup> ~~Seven Society~~ was. He kept us right on the ball. He'd give us the Dickens if we didn't have our articles when we came. You see, we'd go down there, the whole bunch of us, and sit around and read and he'd feed us. At his house, once a month. And Mrs. Peebles would come in and be nice to us.

Williams: It was a great honor to be in this group, wasn't it?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes.

Williams: Were you elected by the faculty, like Phi Bet<sup>5</sup>?

Y. Kent: Oh, no, by the club itself. We had some honorary faculty members, occasionally. And also in the <sup>"13"</sup> Thirteen Club, we had some honorary faculty members. We beat them, too. Professor Bailey, who I saw at Homecoming, you know, ~~"Old Timers before 1930"~~ -- he and his wife, who was one of my classmates -- he was in the <sup>"13"</sup> Thirteen Club. He was professor of math here. Somebody said, "We're not going to beat the professor." He said, "Oh yes you are." So we let him have it! He didn't want to be in there unless he took what we -- ~~he was~~ gave. He was young. ~~and I can ramble on about these things. Not very~~

~~deep, of course, but on the service I can ramble on if I just~~  
get nudged.

Williams: Then you were also in a fraternity, you said.

Y. Kent: Sigma Phi *Epsilon*.

Williams: Now, they had their own houses at the time. Did all the fraternity brothers live there?

Y. Kent: No, but most of them did in those days. Sometimes there wasn't room. We lived right next to where the Presbyterian Church is now -- there's an apartment there now -- that was our house. Then we went up to the Middlesex House, which was where the Hospitality House is now. I was president of the organization when we built that house, and I guess I was the only one that I can remember that was president for two years. I guess that's why I <sup>was because</sup> ~~went~~ we were going from one house to the other, you know. Sort of kept it together.

Williams: At the time, did social life revolve around the fraternities the way, say, it seems to have in the '60s?

E. Kent: Girls were never allowed in the houses.

Williams: Were the sororities in Sorority Court by this time?

E. Kent: Yes.

Williams: The men were <sup>n't</sup> allowed in sorority houses?

E. Kent: Yes, they were because there were house mothers in the soroties but there weren't house mothers in the men's. They were not allowed in until after 5:00, never in the daytime until after 5:00.

Y. Kent: Just when you were getting ready to go to dinner or something



like that. Oh, after dinner you could stay until 10:00,  
I think.

E. Kent: And then the college bell rang at ten minutes to ten. That meant "Get set. On your mark. Get set. Get going for home."

Y. Kent: All the smooching took place.

E. Kent: Everybdy starts necking and kissing and creeping off<sup>4</sup> into the bushes because they had ten more minutes and that old college bell rang for ten minutes, and then when it stopped, you better be where you belonged. Then the doors were locked.

Williams: <sup>It</sup> Didn't matter what you did, you couldn't get in?

E. Kent: Right.

Y. Kent: You were caught if the door was locked in your face.

Williams: What would you do if it was?

Y. Kent: Just knock until they let you in, but then they'd put you on some<sup>#</sup> kind of probation. The boys didn't have any rules like that.

E. Kent: They were free to go.

Williams: Didn't that make for sort of an uneven social situation if the boys were free and the girls were so <sup>re</sup> constricted?

Y. Kent: I guess so. The boys were anxious to keep the girls out late, you see, because they didn't have any restrictions. The girls knew they had to get in, so sometimes this got complicated.

Williams: You were a Theta, right? What was the rush for the girls <sup>like</sup> in the sororities?

E. Kent: I'm sure very much like they do now. I was a legacy really,

because my sister was a Theta, so I came as a transfer student. I was rushed and my grades were good enough -- you had to make certain grades to be able to enroll, to pledge. We had Theta ~~Parties~~ <sup>parties and</sup> in the rushing parties and the masquerading and the homecoming bit and everybody had to contribute. ~~and~~ we all ate in our houses. They do that now, don't they?

Williams: No, they don't, I don't think.

E. Kent: We had a cook and a maid and we had breakfast whenever we wanted it-- it was served for about two hours. -- and then lunch and dinner there. I'm sure it <sup>'s</sup> ~~was~~ the same.

Williams: Was it important to be in "the" right sorority and "the" right fraternity or was there ~~ever~~ that sort of thing?

E. Kent: It was always important. Thetas and the Kappas were the two strongest in my day.

Y. Kent: They changed ~~from~~ year to year.

E. Kent: Then you tried to excell<sup>d</sup> in something for your sorority. I suppose that's true now. You ~~try~~ <sup>ied</sup> to win letters or good grades or belong to the biology club, Audobon club, and as many different things as you could.

Y. Kent: Or K.K.K. ~~There~~ <sup>o.d.u.?</sup> was the Flat Hat or what is the girls?

Williams: Mortar Board.

E. Kent: So it was competitive. They were always vying -- especially the Thetas and the Kappas. You ~~didn't~~ have a ~~because~~ we cared about the Kappas because they were our competitors. They were good students and the dateable girls. And the rest of them, nobody bothered about them.

Y. Kent: They did, too.

E. Kent: No, our sorority didn't.

Y. Kent: I did.

E. Kent: You ran the gamut of all of them.

Williams: You mentioned ~~a~~ while ago ~~athletics~~. ~~I kept reading things like --~~ and it really surprised me how the college organized trains up to Baltimore to see the football games or something. ~~Charlottesville~~.

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. Used to go to Charlottesville every year on the train. Baltimore or Philadelphia -- some place like that.

Williams: It surprised me ~~that~~ and apparently there'd be a large group of students.

E. Kent: Because nobody had cars. Now you wouldn't do that.

Y. Kent: You'd rent a bus now. In those days you had to go on a train. Everybody'd get together and go on a train. It was a ball; it was a good deal.

Williams: A big social occasion, too?

Y. Kent: Sure it was. Everybody had their jug of corn liquor and their blanket.

Williams: When you were playing, you mentioned how you came -- that you'd wrote and said, ~~that~~ "I can play football and various other sports." Was there recruiting? Scouting? ~~In~~ relation to athletes?

Y. Kent: Yes, in a way. Yes, there was. The coach did most of it himself, though. He was the one who went around and picked out boys. ~~And he did it himself.~~

E. Kent: He would go to Richmond and even into Carolina?

Y. Kent: Yes. He picked up Art Matsu from Cleveland. He picked up Meb Davis from Norfolk, from Ocean View.

E. Kent: But they were big people?

Y. Kent: That's right. He picked up the Todd boys from out in the western part of the state.

E. Kent: And they were all names. High school names?

Y. Kent: Yes. Tiny Grove from the western part of the state -- 6'7" -- biggest man I ever saw to play against me. He was a tackle; I was an end. He used to knock my head off. The only time I could get him down was when Carlton Macon -- who was a fullback -- I'd say, "Carlton, you've got to help me with Tiny. I can't take him." He'd say, "Okay. You hit him low and I'll hit him high." I'd hit him low and Carlton'd hit him high and we'd bowl him over. He'd get up and look like a big giant that a moth had flown in his eye or something -- he couldn't understand what had happened to him. Anyway, those boys were recruited.

Williams: So there was recruiting? It did go on.

Y. Kent: Sure. But they were never paid. They would get a scholarship, like a \$30-a-month scholarship.

E. Kent: Were they ever given a room or something or given anything else?

Y. Kent: No. What they got was very little in those days. I got as much as anybody did. It was just a scholarship that paid tuition, you see. And then a job -- they had to work; all the athletes

worked.

E. Kent: Do they now?

Y. Kent: I don't know. I don't think so. They'll get a \$1500 scholarship -- they don't have to work. I guess they can work if they want to.

Williams: A lot of them <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ waiters in the dining hall

Y. Kent: We all worked in the dining hall. All the waiters were --

E. Kent: athletes. What other jobs were there on campus, besides ?  
 . You didn't do yard work?

Y. Kent; No, not in those days.

E. Kent: Janitorial work, no.

Y. Kent: You'd <sup>do</sup> ~~did~~ janitorial work in town. Some people did that.

Dr. Paschall did that. He used to operate a furnace, you know. He used to light someone's fire in the morning, coal furnace. He'd be there at 5<sup>00</sup> ~~o'clock~~ in the morning and start their fire.

E. Kent: Did they mow lawns or anything?

Y. Kent: They did things like that, yes.

Williams: Worked in the library?

Y. Kent: Yes. Mostly girls did that, though. All the athletes worked in the dining hall, no question about it.

E. Kent: I remember something about regulations in the library -- when you didn't sit with a boy. Is that right or wrong?

Y. Kent: Miss Galphin -- she wasn't the librarian, but she was the floor-walker. And she was real tough. You couldn't make a sound over there that she didn't get after you. She got so tough that

some of the boys decided that they would take care of Miss Galphin. So they went over to the dining hall one night after it was closed -- I guess they went over there about 9:30 and (everybody had gone). They went in one of the windows and they got a big bag of flour -- a hundred-pound bag of flour -- and they went over and started making a big racket outside the library door (the front door) and Miss Galphin came running out, and they put that bag of flour right over her head. One guy held her, and the other one just put it all over, <sup>her</sup> put flour all over Miss Galphin. She ran back inside, spreading flour all over the place.

Williams: What happened when Dr. Chandler got a hold of those fellows?

Y. Kent: He didn't get a hold of them; he didn't find out who they were.

WE. Kent: Were you one of them?

Y. Kent: No. I was running the cafeteria then. She was something. They fixed her.

Williams: Well, let me ask you to get into when there was aviation instruction at the college. Now ~~this~~ <sup>at</sup> surprised me when I was looking ~~for~~ <sup>at</sup> things. I didn't even know William and Mary had ever had aviation instruction. Why was it that they did get this?

Williams: Dr. Chandler's son -- next to the youngest son, Julian -- was very interested in aviation, ~~and~~ <sup>he</sup> got his father to buy him an airplane. He bought him an old OX-5 travel air, which is a classic plane these days; ~~and~~ so I started flying

with Julian.

E. Kent: Were you living with him then?

Y. Kent: Yes, I was living at the president's house with Julian.

We lived on the third floor.

Williams: Sort of as caretaker?

Y. Kent: No. Just as his friend.

E. Kent: And his bodyguard and as his mentor. Julian was ~~and~~ and tended toward alcoholism and --

Y. Kent: His father knew it. He was smart and --

E. Kent: -- very brilliant, but he would never go to classes. He would skip classes, and he would just mess around and bug off every time he could, so Julian and Yel were very close, and Dr.

Chandler knew he had a good thing -- he was a male nurse.

Y. Kent: Anyway -- there was a school in New York <sup>state</sup> called the ~~Byerton~~ <sup>Riperton</sup> School, and it was a school ~~not~~ not for criminal boys, but boys that were misfits. Most of them were wealthy, and they were from a lot of places. One of them was Hugh de ~~Sanger~~ <sup>Sampet</sup>, who was one of the public relations men for Colonial Williamsburg. His uncle, Gabriel de ~~Sanger~~ <sup>Sampet</sup>, came up from Bogota, Colombia, to the ~~Byerton~~ <sup>Riperton</sup> School in New York. Well, they came down here, and Mr. ~~Byerton~~ <sup>Riperton</sup> decided he would give them something different, so he hired a steamboat and put his whole school on a steamboat.

E. Kent: About how many?

Y. Kent: Oh, I guess 150, and they went to school on this steamboat for one semester. So they came down and tied up at Jamestown, and

they put the water fountain down there right in front of the  
 gate there -- artisan <sup>e well</sup> ~~scheez~~ -- the <sup>Ryerton</sup> Ryerton School boys did.  
 Anyway, Mr. <sup>Ryerton</sup> Ryerton came up to Dr. Chandler -- they knew  
 each other -- and he said, "Dr. Chandler, I've got a propo-  
 sition for you. We don't have laboratories for students  
 on the boat. If we could use your laboratory ~~and~~ your physics  
 and your chemistry, we have ~~only about~~ <sup>15</sup> fifteen boys in each  
 place some time when you're not using them, I will take five  
 of your boys that you select and teach them to fly. We have  
 two airplanes." So they flew airplanes down here and put  
 them out at St. George's farm out here, almost at James-  
 town. I was one of the five boys. Julian Chandler was  
 one and I was one and Colin Vince was one and one of the  
 Bozarth boys (~~the forgotten one was~~) and one other  
 boy -- I've forgotten who it was now. Anyway, five of  
 us <sup>for \$150</sup> ~~--- \$150~~ each. I scratched around and got my \$150 --  
 I was going right away. We had to pay our own, but that  
 was cheap. So I got the course for \$150, and I soloed in  
~~five~~ <sup>5</sup> hours and 55 minutes, didn't take me long. I took  
 my exam at Langley Field under the department of the  
 aeronautics inspector and came on back up here. That  
 year, the guy who was the instructor at the <sup>Bozarth</sup> Ryerton School,  
~~Colonel~~ <sup>Earl</sup> Pepp, sold Dr. Chandler the idea of having  
 an air school here. We were the first college to have as  
 part of our curriculum ~~an~~ aviation ground school, which is  
 aerodynamics, ~~and~~ meteorology, and astronomical navigation --



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for credit. We didn't get any credit for flying, but for the ground school we did. I taught the navigation -- dead reckoning, not the astronomical. So we then recruited the next year ~~Haalot~~ <sup>[who]</sup> of these boys graduated from the ~~Ryerton~~ <sup>Ryerton</sup> School and came to William and Mary for college and we had a lot of them in our air school, and their names are all on the prop that we still have.

E. Kent: Where is the prop now?

Y.L. Kent: Our son Robin has it. He knows I don't want him to destroy it. And I have found the panel from the first plane that has the seal on it.

E. Kent: The first William and Mary plane?

Y. Kent: Yes. It was in Charlie Duke's closet. He apparently had borrowed it from me for something and hadn't sent it back, and ~~what's his name assistant bursar~~ ~~Mr. Cogle~~ ~~He~~ has what used to be Charlie Duke's office now, and he found this in the closet and gave it to Gordon Vliet. I could get it if I wanted <sup>^</sup> but I think I'll let Gordon keep it. He wants to put up some sort of display. But I had it for years. Charlie got it away from me and never gave it back.

Williams: Did they have just the one plane or did they have more then?

Y. Kent: No. We had two planes -- actually three planes -- we used Julian Chandler's plane out there at St. George's, and we had a <sup>Viking</sup> ~~black-tailed~~ <sup>#</sup> Kitty Hawk and we also had -- our main training plane was a ~~Kenner~~ <sup>Flect</sup>, which was definitely

a training plane, a <sup>tandem</sup> tandem plane, very moveable, very  
 aerobatic in flying. We had that first year <sup>twenty-five or twenty-six</sup> 25 or 26  
 students who we soloed, and Minnie Cole Savage was also  
 taking some time with us.

(E. Kent: Mrs. Duncan Cocke.)

~~Y. Kent: And Mrs. Duncan Cocke~~

Williams: So it was both men and women?

Y. Kent; Yes.

E. Kent: She was the only woman?

Y. Kent: She was the only woman. Well, she didn't solo with us, but  
 she took some time with us. She had the idea, too --  
 she and Julian Chandler were very much <sup>e</sup> enamored of one  
 another at that time, and I think she figured, "well, if  
 he's going to fly, I'm going to fly" so she went up to  
 Richmond and soloed up there. She was <sup>e</sup> keeping up with  
 him, and she was in our flight club and that sort of thing.  
 That went on for awhile, and then I went on to Denver to  
 barnstorm out there, and someone else took over the depart-  
 ment, Otto Johnson, who was our mechanic when I was  
 here, became the director. Colonel Popp left and went to  
 California.

E. Kent: How long was that school in operation, would you say?

Y. Kent; I think it was about seven or eight years, it seems to me.  
 The first part of it was the only part I was in it be-  
 cause when I came back, I didn't go back except to help them  
 out when they got in trouble <sup>after</sup> I came back from Denver.

E. Kent: But you just went out to Denver to barnstorm ~~the~~ the summer of '33.

Williams: Wasn't ~~the~~ flying ~~the~~ considered sort of addaring thing to be doing then?

Y. Kent: Sure.

Williams: Was it considered that Dr. Chandler was indulging in something of a fad to have a flight school here?

E. Kent: He was indulging ~~in~~ his son, mostly. Wasn't he mostly doing it for Julian, his son?

Y. Kent: I would say so, yes. Julian and I organized, <sup>and</sup> incorporated an airline to fly the same route that Piedmont flies today, but when Dr. Chandler died in '34, it sort of folded up because we ~~sorted of~~ expected him to help. He may or may not, I don't know. But anyway, we had the idea.

Williams: The funding was just as a regular college course. Did the students you taught -- did they then have to pay a fee to take flying?

Y. Kent: Yes, they did.

E. Kent: The classes were under college tuition, but their pilot's license was a separate fee. You <sup>paid</sup> ~~made~~ \$7.50 an hour for instruction.

Y. Kent: Something like that, <sup>not</sup> not much.

Williams: You spoke of that at one time you had <sup>twenty-five</sup> ~~25~~ students. Was that about as many as you ever had at one time?

Y. Kent: Yes. That was the first flight school.

E. Kent: Did I get my <sup>pilot's</sup> ~~college~~ license -- you weren't there then.

Williams: Did you take it when you were here at college?

Y. Kent: No, you got it during the ~~Second~~ World War.

E. Kent: No, I took it after we were married. I did not take it from him, but I took it from the college.

Y. Kent: No, you didn't.

E. Kent: All right. It was the college airport but not the college.

Williams: I found a reference in the Flat Hat that one time Amelia Earhart came to visit the flight club. Do you remember anything particular about that visit?

Y. Kent: No, except that she did come to talk to our flight club and she was, I remember -- "Red" Hultz was the president of the flight club at that time and he became the outstanding test pilot in the country. His picture was all over the Camel billboards, all over the country, you know -- "Red Hultz, test pilot, smokes Camel cigarettes." Then he went with Allison -- with Allison Motor Company for years and years and years. I saw him some years ago; I don't know where he is now. (Discussion about what "Red" Hultz is doing now.)

Williams: Well, then, this did fold, would you say, with the death of J.A.C. Chandler?

Y. Kent: Yes, when Dr. Chandler died, Charles A. Duke came up here -- who was his nephew -- under Dr. Bryan, whom the board elected president, and Charles Duke ran the college for twenty years under Mr. Bryan and Mr. Pomfret. They didn't care to run it, so Charlie ran it as vice-president, really -- they called him bursar, which is the business manager -- well, he ran the college on a frugality program for twenty years. We got nothing

from the legislature for improving the college. The college went down. Under Dr. Bryan the college lost its accrediting<sup>ation</sup> because he wouldn't live here. (You had to have a resident president, you know.) We were in all kinds of trouble. We didn't get a thing. The University of Virginia was building up; V.M.I. was building up; V.P.I. was building up. We were standing still for twenty years; we got nothing. <sup>That was because</sup> ~~Course~~ Charlie was trying to work this frugality program. He did everything he wanted to for twenty years, under two presidents; Pomfret and Bryan. Both of them were fine gentlemen, don't misunderstand me, but they just didn't want to bother with the business end. Mr. Bryan -- gosh, did he love to party and did he have good ones!

E. Kent: He loved to be the president; he <sup>liked to be</sup> ~~loved~~ the figurehead.

Y. Kent: Yes. His Christmas parties were out of this world. The first two or three <sup>colonial</sup> you had to go in costume. And students had to have some kind of costume. They didn't have to have colonial, but they had to have a costume, and anybody that was inebriated during or after the party, the night watchman took home. That was all; there wasn't any punishment. He was just taken home, which was different from Dr. Chandler by a long shot. He'd say, "Ship. Ship. Ship. Ship him home."

# Going back reminiscing a little bit, his treasurer was I. E. Harris at that time. Mr. Harris was the funniest man in the world in this respect: he couldn't help telling Dr. Chandler what to do. And Dr. Chandler would not hold still for him.

Mr. Harris would come and say, "Dr. Chandler, you'd better do so-and-so." "Harris, you tell me what to do again, you're fired! Get out of here, get your stuff together, go on home, you're fired!" Then he'd go on downtown and buy a cigar or something, <sup>See Harris down-</sup> town and say, "Get back up there and get to work, Harris! What's the matter with you? What are you doing down here loafing?" George Reilly -- the same thing. He's used to be over working at the alumni office. One day, ~~Dr. Chandler~~ came over, and George was reading a book. Dr. Chandler said, "What are you doing, reading that book, Reilly?" George said, "Well, I didn't have anything else to do." "You're fired!" So Reilly hadn't been through this before, you know, ~~George hadn't been through it,~~ so he went on downtown, too, and Dr. Chandler caught him downtown. He said, "Get back up there, Reilly! What's the matter with you, down here loafing? Get up there and go to work!"

Williams: Did he ever fire you? You weren't the steward at the time?

Y. Kent: No. The closest I got to it was when I didn't make that announcement. No, he never fired me. He fired my predecessor, though.

E. Kent: Who was your predecessor?

Y. Kent: A <sup>named</sup> man Cook. Fired him for being a dipso. He was; no question about it.

Williams: Dr. Chandler was very strict disciplinarian?

E. Kent: Very strict and very ~~hard~~ and tough.

Y. Kent: But I would say benevolent, really.

E. Kent: But you've always said kind and if you knew how to handle him, you could <sup>his words were sharp</sup>.

Y. Kent: You had to tell him what you thought, too. You just couldn't listen. You had to butt in and tell him what you thought, too, or else he thought you were nothing. You had to <sup>take up</sup> for yourself.

E. Kent: But he was fair.

Y. Kent: Oh, he was fair. He was fair to me. Gosh, he more than fair to me. He was like a father. He was tough. He'd ship you out of here if you really didn't do right, you know, he'd throw you out. He threw a lot of them <sup>out</sup>, too.

Williams: But from what I've heard and read, if he thought you were worth it, he really did things for you.

Y. Kent: He'd really go to bat for you, ~~He~~ would. Thank goodness, he helped me because he could have thrown me out. You see, I had a scholarship. He <sup>even</sup> went this far. ~~If~~ if I didn't make my work this month, he'd say, "you didn't make your work, you've lost your job." And I'd say, "Give me another month, Doctor." And he'd say, "All right, <sup>if you</sup> make it next month, okay." Then I'd go to bat and make it, you see. And it'd be all right and he'd say, "All right, you made it. I'm glad you made it, but don't do it anymore." And I'd do it again, and he'd do the same thing over again. So he was ~~a~~ good to me. I was doing so many things in athletics and other things, <sup>that</sup> I didn't study like I should. ~~He'd have to prompt me.~~



Williams: Last time I was here, you said you thought maybe just from hearing about Dr. Chandler you might not get the view that you had of him, know<sup>ing</sup> him as you did.

Y. Kent: That's true. I think most people thought he was definitely just a tyrant, and they left out the benevolent part.

Williams: He seemed terribly mercurial, moody almost.

Y. Kent: <sup>Yes</sup> He was strict, very strict, and yet, if there was any reason for it, why, he was benevolent, and he would change his mind; He could change his mind if you ~~if~~ if he thought it was worth it, he would change his mind. He was quick on the trigger; he'd make up his mind fast and do whatever he was going to do right then, but then sometimes he would change.

Williams; Well now, I know there was a dean of men at this time but --

Y. Kent: No dean of men, dean of the college.

Williams: Dean of the college? -- so he sort of dealt with the discipline of the men students?

Y. Kent: Dr. Chandler dealt with the discipline of everybody, except --

Williams: Women, too?

Y. Kent: Yes, <sup>of</sup> course, Bessie Porter Taylor was the dean of women, and she would turn the things over to Dr. Chandler, but they were cut and <sup>dried</sup> ~~dry~~ by the time they got to him, you see.

E. Kent: Weren't they the <sup>two</sup> most Victorian people, you've ever seen? ~~They belonged to a generation past.~~

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. Sure they did.

E. Kent: They belonged to a generation past. They were not really with our group. Dr. Chandler was grotchety and set in his ways and --

Y. Kent: So was Bessie Porter.

E. Kent: Right. Old-fashioned. They did not belong to those years.

They were way --

Y. Kent: Things were just beginning to turn when we came, and they weren't about ready to tolerate any of that stuff.

Williams: Did ~~not~~ now this is for both of you. ~~How~~ how, would you say, most of the students felt about these two Victorian characters?

E. Kent: They took them for granted because they were part of their family background, and they belonged and they were afraid of them. They were <sup>deathly</sup> definitely afraid of them. And they never criticized them. We didn't call them strict. We didn't say they were strict, but we knew they had these rules, and we were brought up to follow rules. Now times have changed ~~now~~. I never thought they were unmercifully strict, but you ~~had~~ they were strict.

Y. Kent: They were strict. You had to do what they said.

E. Kent: You had to do -- and there was no question about it. We didn't argue about it. You did it because that was what was expected of you, <sup>or</sup> else out. You were gone and people would leave every day. The nonconformists would leave -- or those who got caught.

Y. Kent: We did have a strike at the dining hall one time. They weren't striking about the food; they were striking about the way the head waiter treated them, <sup>who was</sup> including "Red" King from Surry County. They were going to throw him in the fish pond out there, you know. He got himself a big cleaver, and they didn't throw him in because

he had this cleaver. But they did strike and stayed out of classes for awhile, and Deeter Chandler wasn't here; he was away. Dr. Hoke could no more handle it than I could handle an astronaut's job. He was an educator but not practical. Anyway, he tried to calm them down, but they didn't calm down for Dr. Hoke at all. When Dr. Chandler got back, he called them over to the gym -- the whole student body over in the gym -- and he said, "Now, anybody who doesn't want to go to school tomorrow morning, can pack up and go home." And that's the way it stood.

Williams: And the strike was over?

Y. Kent: That's right.

E. Kent: That wasn't the one that "Froggy" DeBordenave led?

Y. Kent: I don't know what Froggy did, probably not.

E. Kent: I can just see him to this day. He was a rabble-rouser. And there was a strike, and the students all massed down at the college corner. You couldn't even get by the college corner.

Y. Kent: Sure, but Dr. Chandler wasn't here.

E. Kent: I can see all the students in their undershirts, which was not allowed. Men didn't wear their undershirts with something. But I was horrified, and I was frightened, too, because they were wild.

Williams: What were they striking about?

Y. Kent: Something about the head waiter.

E. Kent: I don't know what they were striking about.

Y. Kent: Just like one of these things they do in the springtime, you

know. When I was running the cafeteria, I knew about when they were going to start raising <sup>2</sup>caine and throwing biscuits around in the dining hall. Just about this time, you know, about when they go to the pool. Oh, yeah, they'd throw food around. I detested that, but they'd do it. I knew when they were going to start doing it. Never did it at any time but in the late spring, just before they went home. Then they got all antsy, ~~antise~~. That's when they used to have the panty raids, you know, and the pool business and throwing biscuits in the dining hall.

E. Kent: Weren't you horrified at the first panty raid? I couldn't believe it. It was unbelievable to think --

Williams: They did have panty raids?

Y. Kent: Yes. Just in the spring.

E. Kent: No, this wasn't when we were in school, this was later. You see, we were still living on the campus.

Y. Kent: <sup>never did leave.</sup> We ~~lived in Lee~~. We stayed here the whole time. This was all later. But it would all happen in the late spring. And that's when everybody gets antsy<sup>sy</sup> and wants to raise <sup>e</sup>caine and do something different.

Williams: You talked about throwing biscuits. That reminds me. Yesterday I heard Louise Kale on ~~T.V.~~<sup>T.V.</sup> showing this beautiful Copley portrait that used to hang in the dining hall. She said it suffered from bread fights and a few other things. Why was the dining hall graced with a John Singleton Copley

portrait?

Y. Kent: It was right over the fireplace.

E. Kent: Yes, it was so high up you could never get to it.

Y. Kent: But they could hit it with a biscuit. They didn't know what it was.

Williams: Were there other priceless works?

Y. Kent: No, that was the only one there.

E. Kent: No, that was the only portrait there. The only thing there and it was a bare, bleak place.

Williams: This was old Trinkle Hall?

Y. Kent: Yes.

E. Kent: But the spot it was on was so large, and it was so high, <sup>that</sup> it was lost in there, wasn't it? It wasn't impressive. You wouldn't have even noticed it. (Discussion of the portrait.)

Didn't we spend part of our honeymoon in Brafferton? Phi Bet<sup>e</sup>?

Y. Kent: We did in Phi Beta Kappa. Oh, Ewell Hall is what it is now, but it was Phi Beta Kappa. Yes, we spent part of it there.

Up where the Alumni office was some years ago.

(Discussion about honeymoon.)

Williams: You mentioned a few minutes ago about Dr. Bryan's Christmas parties. Were you ~~as~~ as the steward ~~of~~ in charge of catering those?

Y. Kent: Yes. It was good stuff, you know. You had all kinds of sandwiches (it was pick-up stuff, you know) And fruit cake and punch and stuff like that. It used to be a lot of trouble <sup>because</sup> ~~Course~~ he wanted special things -- candy and cookies and the

whole bit. It was a big deal for us to do because we had to go to Richmond to get a lot of the stuff; we didn't have it here.

Williams: Mr. Bryan paid for most of this, didn't he?

Y. Kent: Never heard of it.

E. Kent: Didn't he pay for it out of his pocket?

Y. Kent: Somebody said he did, but I never heard of it. I don't think he did. I can't swear to it because I'm not the auditor, but I don't think he did.

Williams: What other special events would the dining hall be called upon -- other than serving students?

E. Kent: Brunswick stew. You were famous for that.

Y. Kent: Alumni Day.

E. Kent: Alumni Day. Brunswick stew in the Sunken Garden.

Y. Kent: Brunswick stew was always served, you see, and barbecued pig and whatnot. We'd get a man up here -- he'd come up at 4<sup>00</sup> o'clock in the morning the preceding day, and he'd dig a pit out there where the sunken lawn is now -- right behind the Wren Building -- <sup>there</sup> were trees there then -- under one of those trees. He'd put his pigs down in there and then we'd have tables all there and then he'd barbecue those things. He'd make his sauce. He'd have his men there to serve it. We'd have other things, too. Everything <sup>that went with it.</sup> was ready. ~~Then~~ we had tables up behind <sup>1</sup> ~~between~~ <sup>pits</sup> where the pigs were and the Wren Building we had tables where the students could go and sit down and the alumni could go and sit down. Then

later we had them at the Common Glory picnic place.

E. Kent: I remember great cauldrons<sup>o</sup> of Brunswick stew. Didn't you have real squirrel in them? Or am I wrong?

Y. Kent: We did at first, but then it was pretty hard to get it. We ended with chicken Brunswick stew. But it was good. We'd have long tables, and we'd have two men on each pot of stew, you know, and then the tables with the sandwiches and the cookies and the cakes and all bits of stuff down there ~~and the~~ <sup>to drink</sup>. They'd go down two sides of this pot, you see, and we'd have about six or eight of those tables and got them through there.

E. Kent: But the pigs were roasted there?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes. We'd have oyster roasts down there sometimes, you know, at Homecoming. Get some people from Gloucester<sup>u</sup> County to come over and throw an oyster roast.

It was very good.

Williams: After Dr. Chandler was no longer entertaining famous guests in the dining hall, did you ever have any famous guests <sup>to</sup> entertained<sup>1</sup> over there?

Y. Kent: <sup>We had</sup> K. C. Charlie. (You see, I used his dining room after he died.)

E. Kent: We ate theirs<sup>2</sup> for what, fifteen years? Our family. That's why I can't cook.

Y. Kent: K. C. Charlie, of course. And we had William Groves<sup>2</sup> Perry, who was the architect who did Colonial Williamsburg, and we had folks like that. Ed Kendrew and John Goodbody -- people like that. But not because they were important people,

just because they were friends of ours.

Williams: I really don't know how many years you were in the dining hall.

Y. Kent: Sixteen.

Williams: What sort of changes took place -- I know there were more students <sup>to feed,</sup> for one thing -- but what sort of changes took place in the operation?

Y. Kent: You see, during the war it became a cafeteria rather than a dining hall. It changed from dining hall service to cafeteria service. I went to <sup>the</sup> University of North Carolina, Wake Forest, and Duke to look at their cafeterias and came back and designed -- I didn't design, but I -- well, I did design -- I copied it from them -- the best of them. Now Duke, I didn't <sup>to</sup> they didn't have cafeteria tables; they had windows, and each person would come up and get his food through a window, not at a cafeteria counter, you see. So they had plate service rather than cafeteria service, but they had to go and get it. But at the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State they had cafeterias, and I copied from them and designed these things to the way they are now.

E. Kent: But the changes she's talking about could have to do with when you were responsible for the Chaplain's School. That was tough because you were under <sup>navy</sup> ~~army~~ regulations. It was just like an army mess hall.

Y. Kent: This might be interesting to posterity: During the war we had rations <sup>ing</sup> and students had the least because



they were civilians and then the G.I.s were next and then officers were next.

E. Kent: Who were the G.I.s? In the chaplain<sup>25</sup> school?

Y. Kent: No. G.I.s were just <sup>ordinary soldiers.</sup> ~~regular service~~

E. Kent: Were you feeding them?

Y. Kent: Certainly, <sup>Five hundred</sup> 500 of them.

Williams: Would these be A.S.T.P. boys, you mean?

Y. Kent: No, R.O.T.C. No, they weren't either. They were 500 G.I.s who were sent to school here. They had officers -- Dick Brooks was one of their officers, ~~and then they had their officers.~~ Their officers had ration <sup>points</sup> portions just like -- we had 300 and some Navy chaplains, and they had certain ration points; <sup>also</sup> ~~Actually~~, we had to feed the students. Then we had to take their food off and put new food on for the soldiers. Then we had to serve different food to their officers and different food to the chaplains because the chaplains were all officers. This was a mess. We had Navy chaplain inspectors; we had army inspectors; and we had U.S. public health service inspectors; and we had college health department and local health department inspectors. None of them agreed. For instance, the navy inspectors said all the glasses that come ~~through~~ through the dish washer must be toweled; ~~The~~ The army said ~~that~~ all the glasses that come through the dish washer must not be touched. The army said that the butcher's block must be scraped after each use; ~~The~~ The navy said the butcher's block must be salted down after each

use. ~~So you see~~ the administration said <sup>,"Kent,</sup> you've got to get  
a perfect inspection. <sup>1</sup> Now how could you get it? You  
couldn't get it. So I finally called up Major McGinn, who  
was in charge of the army, and I said, "this is my problem."  
And I called up "Cy" Lambert ~~(Wilfred Lambert)~~ <sup>,"who was</sup> first  
lieutenant, ~~they called~~ <sup>^</sup> who was in charge of their office <sup>(name)</sup>  
over there and sending inspectors over. <sup>(Army)</sup> (Dick Brooks was  
~~one of them.~~ And I said <sup>,"</sup> here's my problem; you've got to  
help me solve it. The college is going to fire me; they say,  
if I don't get <sup>perfect</sup> an inspection in the next two weeks; they're  
going to throw me out, and they won't back me up in anything."  
So Major McGinn told his men what to do and Lambert told his,  
and I got a perfect inspection -- so I'm still here. But  
there wasn't <sup>#</sup> any way to get it, you know. You couldn't pos-  
sibly get it. For instance, a baking sheet that you bake  
a sheet cake on or bread on or corn bread -- you don't <sup>#</sup> scrub  
it; you wash it, but you'd have to proof it every time, you  
see. You'd put it in the oven <sup>?</sup> with grease on it and let  
it sit there for awhile and proof it. You could take your  
thumbnail and get the grease out of it, and that's what  
they'd do. Put me on ~~the~~ report for greasing the pots and  
the sheet cake pans. No, you <sup>couldn't</sup> can't win. You <sup>couldn't</sup> can't win  
<sup>1</sup> anyway; they can always find something. But that's the only  
way I got out of it -- politically, not .

Williams: Did you have any problem during the war with shortage of  
material?

Y. Kent: Well, meat yes. The sugar was rationed, of course, just like everything else. Everything was supposed to be short, ~~and~~ of course, normally in a college, ~~you'll have~~ for at least two meals you'll have meat, which you couldn't do. You'd make shepherd's pie out of hamburger and mashed potato, you know, and you'd use a lot of cheese and things like that. You couldn't get the meat -- you could get as much as you had tickets for, but you didn't have enough tickets to get much.

Williams: You took up the student's tickets, didn't you, to get this?

Y. Kent: Yes. For a couple of years I was on the ration board as the head of the food <sup>distribution</sup>, you know, but some people didn't want to go by the rations. We had one professor -- a man named Carpenter who came up here from Duke, taught English -- and we had a young lady at the coffee counter who had control of the sugar rationing. She came to me crying one day, and she said, "Mr. Kent, I can't do it anything this gentleman. He just takes all the sugar he wants. He <sup>says he's</sup> a professor and he can do what he wants to do. ~~And~~ I can't control him and I don't want you to fire me because I'm not doing my job." I said, "Which one?" And she showed me and I went over to him -- I knew who he was -- and I said, "Professor Carpenter, I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but I understand you're not abiding by the sugar regulations. You've got to do just like everybody else does. We're all trying to abide by the regulations." He said, "Do you know who you're talking to?"

I said, "I thought so." He said, "You're talking to a professor of the college." I said, "I don't give a damn if you're President Roosevelt. You're going to abide by the regulations." And he said, "Would you mind coming outside?" I said, "Well, I don't want to, but I will." So we went outside, and strangely enough, everybody had just gotten in good, so they were all inside and nobody saw this. We went on with this conversation for about half a minute. I said, "I wasn't censuring you, professor." He said, "You're a damn liar." And when he said that all hell flew in me, and I knocked him off. I got him down there and bumped his head on the ground a couple of times, but I knocked one of his teeth out in front and busted his lip. I left him down there. I started to kick him in the head (but I decided not to), I was so mad with him for getting me in this problem. I didn't want to be in it. Anyway, I left him out there and I <sup>didn't</sup> ~~don't~~ know what happened to him. Pretty soon, I said <sup>"id"</sup> I better call Dr. Pomfret and tell him what happened, <sup>"1"</sup> so I called him and said, "Dr. John, I had some <sup>"1"</sup> fist cuffs with one of your professors over here. I couldn't help it. It wasn't my fault. I'm sorry it happened." He said, "Yeah, the guy's over here, and he acts like he's crazy to me. He's all bloody and messed up. Don't worry about it, maestro [maestro he called me]." This was Thanksgiving eve. "Be in my office Friday morning, and we'll thrash this out and decide what we're going to do." <sup>"1"</sup> Course,

<sup>thought</sup>  
I felt that I was going to get fired for getting in a fight. So I went over on that Friday morning and they went through this thing again, and ~~they~~ said, "Mr. Kent, do you want to tell the story?" I said, "No, let the professor tell it." He told it exactly like it was; he didn't lie. And so ~~they~~ told me that was all, and I went on back to work, and I noticed that <sup>[the professor]</sup> he wasn't here after February. So I guess they figured he was wrong and I was right. But that's the kind of thing you just don't want to happen. I was forty years old; I didn't want any fight. When he said I was a "damn liar", well, I knew I wasn't. It was a reflex rather than anything else; I didn't think about what I was doing.

Williams: At this time, was the <sup>college</sup> dining hall self-sufficient? When I say that, I mean in that at this time it was not contracted out to another outside agency?

Y. Kent: No, it was run by the college. It was part of the state, you see. I was told when I went there, "This is your budget; try not to go \$5,000 over or under it. Stay within \$10,000," which I was able to do. One time I didn't. The year they were putting in the cafeteria, I made \$30,000 because I didn't know how much I'd spent. They were down working, changing the books and everything, and I couldn't keep my records, so I didn't know what I was doing. I was too frugal.

Williams: ~~Were you ever crippled -- is too strong a word I want to use.~~  
Were you ever restricted by fluctuating prices of food? During

the war, didn't the price of food go up?

Y. Kent: Oh, yes, <sup>But</sup> it didn't bother us. The only thing that bothered us was getting help during the war. You see, we were not <sup>paying</sup> ~~paid~~ enough money -- we were competing with Fort Eustis and with the naval weapons station, with the naval fuel oil station in Yorktown, with the shipyard and all those people, and we weren't competitive salary-wise or wages-wise, so finally I was able to get permission from the bursar to pay by the hour rather than by the month. We paid <sup>\$30</sup> ~~thirty dollars~~ a month, for example (and food), and then we got permission to pay them by the hour. Then I got myself a recruiter and set him up in Charles City, and we got a lot of ~~colored folks from up there~~, black people from up there to come down here and work, and we put them in the barracks out there. They could stay there if they wanted or they could go home and come back, commute. So we were able to handle it that way. They came and went because some of them could do the job and some of them couldn't, you know. Some of them are still here. Robert over at the cafeteria now -- he's the head chef -- he's one of the boys I hired.

Williams: Why was it that finally the college did contract to an outside agency?

Y. Kent: I don't know. Charlie Duke did that, and of course, when he did that, I was out.

Williams: You were ~~all~~ ready out before that?

Y. Kent: No, I was not, but then the bookstore started to increase, and I went into the bookstore. Actually, I had been running the book-

store for a couple of years as part of the dining room. You'd see, I'd organize it and send one of my assistants -- a boy named ~~Eppes~~ Jones from Surry County -- up to run the bookstore. He was running it for a couple years and I got a little over <sup>right</sup> of \$30 a month for operating the bookstore or something like that; it was a way of giving me a raise ~~increase~~, which wasn't much. Anyway, ~~and~~ then when the bookstore moved out of the dining room, why, I moved with it. It was very interesting -- *the bookstore business*.

Williams: Before that ~~it~~ it had been uptown, and then it moved to the dining hall?

Y. Kent: It had been a private enterprise in <sup>the</sup> college shop prior to that. Bob Wallace <sup>had had it</sup> ~~the head~~ for years.

Williams: Then why did it come on to campus? Did you know?

Y. Kent: Well, I think that Mr. Duke thought maybe it would be less expensive? I don't know why he did it, *but he did.*

Williams: And then you went over totally to run the bookstore operation. In what ways did that change in ~~the~~ years you ran it?

Y. Kent: Well, it changed from being a little corner of the cafeteria -- and I mean little corner -- to the self-standing bookstore that we have there now. I guess it went from about 500 square feet to 10,000.

Williams: When it was in the dining hall, you only sold text books that students would use in ~~in~~ their classes.

Y. Kent: It was right in the cafeteria. And the soda fountain was

in there. -- Sandwiches and whatnot.

Williams: Was that a popular spot for the students?

Y. Kent: Yes, it was the only spot they had really, except the College Shop.

Williams: In later years, you've been on the city council. Now, it's been commented that the city of Williamsburg has been overshadowed by the two big institutions in it -- the college and Colonial Williamsburg. Would you say this was true?

Y. Kent: I guess it's true all right, but what difference it makes I don't know because they had nothing to offer, as such, as a city, prior to Colonial Williamsburg. They had much more afterwards. When I first came here this was a small, lazy southern town and very cliquish, too. As the saying goes, "there were <sup>five hundred</sup> 500 lazy supported by <sup>five hundred crazy</sup> 500 lazy, you know. That was true; it was just a fact. They didn't consider the college as part of their support.

Williams: I have understood that there have been some special problems in the city and college getting along, perhaps in relation to roads.

Y. Kent: Basically, I think they got along pretty well. There were many times when the college balked when the city wanted to you know, run roads through their property, and they wouldn't hold still for it. By and large, I think they were probably right -- for a while. They finally let them go through, you know, that road that goes from Monticello Avenue over to Route 5. That was one of the things that they wouldn't let the city



do for a long time. It's an important artery now, you see.

Williams: Right. The reason being the traffic? Was that what the college didn't want?

Y. Kent: Just didn't want anybody to go through their property, that's all. They had no real reason.

Williams: You had commented when I was here before that when you were on the city council, even though you had been with the college so many years, that you felt that you had to serve the best interests when you were on the council.

Y. Kent: Sure. I wouldn't work for the college if I thought it was wrong for everybody concerned. I would work for them if I thought it would go along with everything. I was criticized some for that -- because I wasn't the guy fighting for the college alone. I didn't figure that the college elected me; I figured I was elected by the whole city, including the college, and whatever I was good for I had to share equally.

Williams: In relation <sup>to</sup> what specific would this mean?

Y. Kent: Well, that's hard to say; there were so many things. They weren't important. Things like walks -- who's going to put the walk down here and who's going to pay for this walk and that sort of thing.

Williams: This is a question really for you both. It's been commented to me by people who lived here very long ago that, much more so than is true now, there was no way to separate the college and the town. Do you think this has changed since you've been here or has it?

Y. Kent: I don't understand your question.

Williams: Well, is the college as closely identified with the town?

Y. Kent: No. It never has been, really. It may have been years and years ago.

E. Kent: Not at all. Before your day. In the really old, old days when the town had nothing ~~it~~ had the college. Now, <sup>but</sup> not since 1900.

Y. Kent: You're either a college person or a town person, by ~~and~~ ~~large~~. We were not; we were both, but we were just fortunate, that's all.

E. Kent: We were lucky. The town had the town and the college had the college, and they do not mix.

Y. Kent: Not very much. They do some but by ~~and~~ ~~large~~ they don't.

E. Kent: We did because he was on the city council and also he related more to the town than to the college.

Y. Kent: Well, because <sup>G</sup> T. Brooks took us under his wings, mainly.

E. Kent: He liked to hunt and golf, and the <sup>town</sup> college people could afford the things that the college couldn't.

Y. Kent: I don't know how.

E. Kent: We did things the faculty couldn't afford.

Y. Kent: I don't believe that. They just didn't want to spend their money that way.

Williams: You mentioned about how before Colonial Williamsburg came that really wasn't much town. You two were here, am I right, about at the time the Restoration was beginning?

Y. Kent: About '27, you see.

Williams: Were the students even aware of what was going on?

Y. Kent: They didn't pay any attention to it.

E. Kent: I didn't either. We weren't interested because ~~our life~~  
our life was wrapped up in the college. We were students.  
Nobody really cared.

Y. Kent: Williamsburg, as such, ~~really~~ had no depression, really.  
~~But because~~ Mr. Rockefeller <sup>was spending</sup> would spend all this money re-  
storing, buying property, and ~~it~~ was <sup>t</sup> putting people to work  
restoring property and excavating and the whole bit, so  
Williamsburg really didn't feel any depression as such.  
Now, individual people like students who came here from their  
homes, they felt the depression because their parents didn't  
the money they normally would have, but people who lived in  
Williamsburg didn't; they didn't feel any depression at all.  
In fact, things were booming around here.

Williams: Booming here compared to what they had been.

Y. Kent: Sure.

Williams: I think that's an interesting point about Williamsburg that  
a lot of people miss.

Y. Kent: A lot of folks came here that had been executives and every-  
thing that were doing menial jobs, but they could get a job  
doing something here where they couldn't get it at home.

E. Kent: Duke of Gloucester Street was one street with big telephone  
and electric wires going down the middle. And it was a  
sad, <sup>hokey</sup> community. <sup>Aluminum</sup> You went in the stores and  
the worse things -- they sold mediocre things -- <sup>you won't find a village</sup>  
~~find them to~~

today, so hokey

. Skid-row.

Y. Kent: I say it was a lazy, dirty southern town.

Williams: Your social life, then, would have been just mainly on the college campus?

Y. Kent: It had to be.

Williams: There was nothing in the town at all?

E. Kent: No, there was nothing, nobody.

Y. Kent: The only dances they had in town <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ over at Eastern States Hospital.

Williams: Did they still have those when you were students <sup>over</sup> at Cameron Hall?

E. Kent: Yes, but we never went.

Y. Kent: I never went to one in my life. <sup>of</sup> Course, a lot of people did.

E. Kent: Townspeople did because that was about the biggest social event in town that people had. The students and the faculty and the administration were completely wrapped up on the campus. I doubt if they ever knew anything else.

Williams: At the time you were both here -- you probably could see it even more so than Mrs. Kent because you had been here when the college had a hundred-and-some students, and when you came back, it had well over a thousand. Were the students conscious of the growth of William and Mary? Now you've been here off-and-on over <sup>almost sixty</sup> ~~what~~ years?

Y. Kent: I don't think so. I don't think they were, no. It wasn't that they were crowded at all because Dr. Chandler seemed to be able to keep ahead of whoever he brought in, he had a building for

them when he got here, so they didn't experience crowding, so I don't think they realized the college was growing. I think when we graduated they had about <sup>fourteen hundred to sixteen hundred</sup> ~~1600~~, ~~1400 to 1600~~.  
 Now, of course, we have over <sup>five thousand,</sup> ~~5,000~~ but that's still a small school.

Williams: I asked that because to me in doing this project, the overall thing is the growth of the college, but it's been so slow and

Y. Kent: In '31 we had about <sup>sixteen hundred</sup> ~~1600~~ students. You see, our graduate schools have grown a lot.

E. Kent: Did ~~we~~ have many graduate schools?

Y. Kent: We had the law school.

E. Kent: Is that the only one we have now?

Y. Kent: No, no. We have a school of business administration. We have several schools that give M.A.s and M.S.s. Physics gives Ph.D.s and doctor's degrees. Everybody who graduates from law school has a doctorate. So its changed a lot.

~~E. Kent: Townspeople remember~~

~~Y. Kent: prior to our day.~~

~~E. Kent: In the olden days when there was nothing for the townspeople to do, they did go to the college dances.~~

~~Y. Kent: Used to entertain students in their homes and things like that.-- from what they tell me, I don't know.~~