

THELMA BROWN HEFFELFINGER

For most of her life Mrs. Heffelfinger has observed William and Mary from the vantage point of a townspeople. She came in 1911, moving here when her father, Dr. G.W. Brown, became director of Eastern State Hospital. Since William and Mary was not yet coeducational when she was ready for college, her degree is from Randolph-Macon (her younger sister was in the first class of coeds). She was, however, very much a part of the town's social life, which she tells about in this interview. For a few years in the early 1920s she taught physical education at the college, and later she served for a brief time as J.A.C. Chandler's secretary.

Mrs. Heffelfinger read the transcript and made a few minor changes.

INDEX SHEET

Interviewee Thelma Brown Hettelfinger  
 Date of interview June 17, 1975  
 Place 1184. Jamestown Rd., #15  
 Interviewer Emily Williams  
 Session number 1  
 Length of tape 45 mins.

Contents:	Approximate time:
description of town in early 1900s, relation to Eastern State	5 mins.
L.G. Tyler, early cars in town, early roads	9 mins.
Social life before coeducation	
college dances	} 8 mins.
Cameron Hall dances	
College plays at Eastern State	5 mins.
L.G. Tyler	3 mins.
women's phys. ed. in early 1900s	10 mins.
J.A.C. Chandler	10 mins.

Thelma Brown Heffelfinger

June 17, 1975

Williamsburg, Va.

EJW: Dean Lambert told me that you came here in 1911 and that you could probably <sup>tell</sup> talk something about the social life ~~between~~ <sup>[between]</sup> in the college and the town. I've been told that back in those early days ~~that~~ there was just no way to distinguish the two. Is that true?

TBH: He's all wrong. <sup>No,</sup> Back in those days, <sup>it was said Williamsburg</sup> ~~it~~ was the town where the lazy lived off the crazy because practically everybody in Williamsburg worked at the Eastern State Hospital. There were very few things <sup>of</sup> -- course, there were old stores and things of that sort -- but <sup>very</sup> very few means of livelihood for people in town -- except for <sup>work on</sup> the William and Mary faculty (which had five members when we came here in 1911) or ~~to work around at the hospital where our nose-up-in-the-air city mayor's grandfather was one of our ward attendants around the hospital for years.~~ If you weren't qualified to teach and weren't down on the janitorial <sup>level</sup> or something of that sort, you worked at the Eastern State Hospital. Our staff around there was <sup>very</sup> so small -- the professional staff, I mean (the doctors) they didn't know what a registered nurse was until my dad started getting some -- <sup>was</sup> ~~were very~~ limited, and the town was small, <sup>and</sup> I guess you might say, but there was <sup>a distinct</sup> this big difference between town and gown -- there wasn't any question about it, very distinct difference. I don't know whether Janet Kimbrough gave you

that impression or not, but that was certainly the way it seemed to me. Of course, maybe I was in a position

*To sense the distinction -*  
~~Janet always ran around with her head up in the clouds,~~  
 anyway.

EJW: Also, her father might have been more connected to the college, maybe her family would have more --

TBH: Well, that's true. Her father never had any connection at the college except ~~her father's~~ family through the Tuckers way back, you see. So she saw more of that side of it. I saw the side where the people in town <sup>(three-fourths of them)</sup> depended upon my father's institution, ~~three-fourths of them,~~ for their livelihood, and there was quite a difference in the social strata, if I may so speak, not meaning to sound discriminating or anything of that sort there was quite a difference.

EJW: It's a statement of fact.

TBH: That's right. The faculty -- some of them, you know, might have looked down their noses at people if they weren't the doctors and their families; <sup>they</sup> why ~~we~~ were the laboring class. But the place was so small then <sup>but</sup> there weren't as many as ~~200~~ <sup>two hundred</sup> students at the college.

EJW: Right. It was very small.

TBH: Very, very small. Dr. and Mrs. Tyler were two of my parents' very closest friends, and I'm sure that you've heard more tales about Dr. Tyler than I could possibly tell you. <sup>Dr.</sup> Tyler was one of the most delightful people and one of the most

absentminded you've ever seen. He'd drive down the street -- back in those days, of course, horse-and-buggy days -- he'd drive down the street and come walking home and his stable man ~~just~~ never said a word; ~~He~~ just walked down the street until he saw where Dr. Tyler had left his horse, <sup>o</sup> got in the buggy, <sup>and</sup> <sup>o</sup> drive on home. That was nearly an everyday occurrence. ~~That happened not infrequently.~~ Then when <sup>Dr. Tyler</sup> ~~he~~ finally got an automobile, he didn't know how to back, so when they had to build him a little garage, he said, "You can't put a back in that because I can't turn around. I've got to have a garage I can drive right on through."

EJW: Did he have one of the first cars in town?

TBH: We had the <sup>Bozarth</sup> ~~third~~ <sup>town.</sup> car in <sup>car</sup>. I don't think Dr. Tyler had one for some time. Mr. Person --

EJW: Yes, he had the first.

TBH: Mr. Person and Mr. Ball -- Mrs. Ball lived in the Peyton Randolph House ~~there~~ (her two daughters live there now) -- and Mr. Will Bozarth -- they had the first three. My dad bought me the <sup>third</sup> ~~fourth~~ <sup>in town.</sup> one, I think it was quite a while before Dr. Tyler got an old Model-T. He just walked -- everybody walked all over town.

EJW: Well, it was small enough <sup>so</sup> you could do ~~that~~.

TBH: Certainly it was. And the Duke of Gloucester Street was nothing but a mud <sup>hole</sup> ~~pile~~ when Mr. Warburton was mayor of the town and ~~Duke of Gloucester was too muddy~~ he had one of the

earlier cars (not fourth, fifth, or sixth but somewhere along in there) <sup>He</sup> and ~~he~~ was driving down the sidewalk and someone who didn't recognize Mr. Warburton said, "What in the world do you mean driving down the street?"--(There weren't wasn't any sidewalks really, I mean we didn't have sidewalks then)" What in the world are you driving down the street here for? Someone ought to report you to the mayor." So he looked at them very innocently and said, "I am the mayor." And he was the mayor. ~~But my~~ dad and Dr. J.A.C. Chandler built the hard <sup>-surface</sup> service road down Duke of Gloucester and from Duke of Gloucester on down to the railroad station. <sup>The station was</sup> (It's not where it is now; it was up nearer the Duke of Gloucester Street and one street down <sup>off South England.</sup>)

Dr. Chandler said, "Dr. Brown, I know my alumni can go to the General Assembly and lobby for me <sup>and</sup> your alumni can't go and lobby for you, so I'm able to get more money for my institution than you are able to get for yours, so I will get enough money for the gravel [there wasn't concrete then] for a hard-surface road [because they had to haul in all the coal getting on the power plants, all the food, all the supplies] So I'll get ~~the money for the supplies~~ if you'll furnish the labor." <sup>T</sup> Because the patients were so glad to have something to do, <sup>T</sup> an opportunity <sup>T</sup> they used to work on the farms <sup>T</sup> Dad did everything like that for physical therapy that he could <sup>T</sup> but if a ward attendant opened a door and said, "I need six men to do a job or twelve men to

do a <sup>job</sup> men, he was almost run over with people hurrying. <sup>of</sup> Course you had to discriminate among those <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ were able to do helpful things, but they did the labor. Patients around the hospital gave the labor. Dr. Chandler got together the money, and that's the way the first hard-surface <sup>road</sup> was put in.

EJW: Did your friends think you were crazy or daring or something to have an automobile?

TBH: I guess not. The town was so small and there were <sup>only a</sup> few of us who knew each other -- there weren't but three other girls about my age. My sister was five years younger than I (~~she's~~ she's the one who was Janet Kimbrough's age), ~~went~~ going around to gether and they didn't have but about four or five girls in their age bracket (within three or four years of each other). My dad and my mother were such horse people; they were skilled horsemen. Dad used to tease mother and say she married him to get a saddle horse ~~of her~~ <sup>owned</sup>. Mother never cared for a car. Well, I was for anything -- it didn't matter what <sup>so</sup> dad bought this old Model-T with an <sup>open front</sup> ~~old~~ <sup>this</sup> isn't Williamsburg history so I won't go into the first long jaunt I took on that. ~~so~~ <sup>dad</sup> said, "Now, I'll get this car for you. ~~Your~~ <sup>your</sup> mother's not interested in it; She still wants her horse. ~~If~~ <sup>If</sup> you promise me that you will never drive over twenty miles an hour." Eighteen was considered speeding.

EJW: On a muddy road, I guess it would be.

TBH: Absolutely. You'd drive from here to Newport News, and you'd

start off after breakfast, and you'd be lucky if you got home by night. <sup>#</sup> But college-wise: As I said, there were only five professors <sup>[in 1911],</sup> and I'm sure either probably Dean Lambert or Dr. Kimbrough has told you of those five professors; and ~~so~~ <sup>we</sup> watched them come up the line. ~~I~~ <sup>have</sup> either had ~~somebody in the family~~ my dad ~~was as such on the faculty~~ ~~well, he was on the faculty, he~~ was considered a faculty member in the college catalog, but he didn't have time to do anything except lecture in abnormal psychology and medical jurisprudence, <sup>the</sup> but he did that much. <sup>However</sup> ~~But from~~ my two foster children, my sister, her husband, their two children, and innumerable cousins have all been alumni of the college. ~~And~~ <sup>BT</sup> then my dad was on the faculty and I was on the faculty. So really, we've been right interested in William and Mary.

EJW: You mentioned that there were about five girls your age in town. Now, I understand the town girls were the social life for of the boys.

TBH: Oh, did we have fun! There were no coeds. Back in those days there were absolutely no coeds. ~~And~~ <sup>in the earlier years</sup> finals was quite a big event. There were always five big dances. ~~Finals was an event of great moment here then.~~ It started on Sunday with the Baccalaureate sermon and ended with the Final ball on Thursday night. The men's fraternities rotated who should have the dance each year. (There were only three <sup>for</sup> nights, fraternities and there were six or seven fraternities here.)

~~So~~ one would have the dance on Monday night; ~~mean~~ they were responsible; they were the hosts and provided the favors and the decorations <sup>in other words</sup>, they were the real hosts. Another one Tuesday night and another Wednesday night, Then the following year the three who had not acted as hosts that year <sup>had their turn</sup> The Thursday night dance was ~~put~~ <sup>staged</sup> on by the college German Club and all the dances were supposed to stop at <sup>1:00</sup> one o'clock. The lights all over campus were turned off down at the power plant at <sup>1:00</sup> one o'clock -- except for the final ball, and that was permitted to ~~go~~ <sup>run</sup> until <sup>2:00</sup> two o'clock. ~~So~~ <sup>at</sup> about <sup>1:00</sup> one o'clock a good delegation of the boys -- ~~it was customary~~ <sup>they went</sup> to go over to Dr. Tyler's house, "Prexy, ~~we~~ want lights. We want lights." And they'd stand there and yell until he came out and tell them all right, they could have the lights on longer. That happened every final ball, year in and year out. In the dormitories ~~the~~ the lights were just turned off; <sup>that time</sup> the power was cut off at night. But those were great social events. Of course the boys -- the students -- had to import girls; there weren't enough girls in town because back in those days they didn't start going to dances at thirteen and fourteen, like they do now. Most of them had to wait until they got to be sixteen before their parents would let them go. ~~But~~ the boys here would import their girls from home, and they'd stay in various homes. Our house ~~we~~ we had a large home and it was always filled with visiting girls here for the finals.

~~I mean~~ before I was old enough to go myself. Mother was pretty <sup>and</sup> unpopular, and the boys were crazy about <sup>her</sup> so she always had the girls around there. <sup>Those were the</sup> ~~that's~~ the only girls that they had here until the coeds came in 1918.

EJW: You said there were five dances --

TBH: No, four dances, I'm sorry. There were five days; they started on Sunday with the ~~B~~accalaureate. They made a big thing of the ~~B~~accalaureate sermon in the morning, and parties and teas and ~~so on~~ the towns people would give teas for them, and all the fraternities would have open house all Sunday afternoon for the girls ~~that were there as boys~~. They'd go from house to house to house for the social events ~~and so on~~. ~~And~~ then the four dances were on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Friday if everybody was able to walk they ~~could come~~ they went home.

EJW: ~~Did the townspeople~~ I know some of the boys stayed in town. Were the boys more integrated into the town?

TBH: Yes, much more. And back in those days, of course, no one would think of having an event at which young ladies were present without formal chaperones, so the boys used to ask the various town ladies to serve as chaperones for the dances. ~~that's~~ that's where my mother did more than her share because, as I say, she <sup>was</sup> pretty <sup>and she didn't look any older than I did,</sup> and she was always asked to chaperone the dance <sup>and while they would not</sup> think of a dance without their formal chaperone <sup>line</sup> and when a boy came into the dance in the evening, <sup>he</sup> you didn't

go on the floor for a dance until <sup>he</sup> you took <sup>his</sup> your girl down the line and introduced her to all the chaperones, and you didn't leave until you told the chaperones good night. ~~And~~ at those dances the boys used to give really beautiful favors.

~~Each year each fraternity would~~ . I have a box-  
full of favours <sup>now</sup> from the dances. The prettiest thing I have is from Theta Delta Chi -- a

beautiful cream-colored leather bag about that long with a Theta Delta carnation on it. But not having them every year -- I mean not being host every year they would begin saving their resources all along.

EJW: Were these some of the dances held in Cameron Hall or were they held elsewhere?

TBH: These were held in the men's gym at the college. <sup>Let's</sup> You see, the men's gym is where Ewell Hall is now -- the center part of Ewell Hall -- and that was the men's gymnasium and that's where these dances were held. <sup>Or</sup> in the old dining hall that's so long since been torn down -- I believe it was where Tyler Hall is now or else where the Campus Center is -- around in that area of the campus, <sup>anyway</sup> ~~but~~ in Cameron Hall the only <sup>The dances were for the Hoopital patients</sup> dances -- ~~they did not have strictly student dances~~ over there. <sup>just permitted</sup> The students were to come to the patients' dances that were held every Wednesday night. There would be an old-fashioned square dance. ~~There was a square dance in~~ which the patients participated, and the students or the townspeople <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ came might dance in the square dance if they

wanted to, provided they chose a patient as a partner ~~but~~ the dances were primarily for the patients, so outsiders were not permitted to come and take over the dance from the patients. There'd be a square dance in which the patients participated. Then there would be a <sup>round dance, a</sup> ~~waltz~~ waltz, a two-step that we had back in those days, and the patients were not permitted to ~~round~~ dance unless two women could dance together (but a man was not allowed to dance with a woman) and during the round dances the townspeople and the college students and so on might dance. Really, the round dances were mostly for the outsiders. So there were always four square dances alternating with a round dance. Orchestras varied. There were men in town, Mr. Charlie Person was one of them. Mr. Person used to play -- my dad called it a fiddle and it was a fiddle -- <sup>squeak -- oh!</sup> ~~screak~~. The townsmen used to contribute their talents -- they played the piano or -- anyway it would run from three to four or five instruments -- whatever they could get together and they'd work and they were just as loyal as they could be. They made that contribution to the patients' welfare.

EJW: So the dance was for the patients' welfare. There was no admission?

TBH: <sup>No indeed,</sup> No admission. People would just come and participate if they wanted to. But the ~~stipulation was -- the~~ attendants were instructed to see that the patients were not crowded out. ~~And~~ <sup>#</sup> ~~then upstairs~~ the dance floor was two or three steps down.

from ground level ~~and~~ (but the windows were all above ground),  
~~and~~ and then upstairs on the next floor was the auditorium,  
 and that's where ~~for~~ for many years ~~the~~ the college had its  
 lectures and plays, anything that required any formal <sup>of</sup> audi-  
 torium ~~because there was nothing in the gym where they~~  
~~could have the dances for everybody and I was amused -- I~~  
 told "Cy" <sup>[Lambert]</sup> I was surprised I could tell him anything  
 concerning the college back in those days. I said, "Do  
 you know what rent the hospital charged them?" He said,  
 "No." Well, I <sup>replied</sup> ~~said~~, "my dad said <sup>if</sup> if you want to use the  
 auditorium, I'm glad to let you do it. The rental is a dress  
 rehearsal for the patients." ~~Because~~ the amusements and the  
 things that you could furnish them was so limited. Oh, they  
 had such a good time! And of course, the ones who were per-  
 mitted to come out were screened, I mean ~~they~~ they were going to  
 be well behaved and not bother anybody ~~other than themselves~~  
 or be objectionable in any way, ~~and~~ it was just a form of enter-  
 tainment. That auditorium seated roughly 250 people, so it  
 was <sup>good-sized</sup> for the college population and the town ~~and~~  
 then we had a girl's prep school here -- W.F.I. -- Williamsburg  
 Female Institute -- somebody may have told you about that.  
 And W.F.I. always had its commencement exercises over there in  
 the Cameron Hall auditorium. That went on for quite a few  
 years ~~before~~ the college had an auditorium of any size.

EJW: Had Cameron Hall been built for recreation for the patients?

TBH: Yes.

EJW: I had wondered why they would have the theater if it hadn't been for recreation.

TBH: Yes, it had been. I can't tell you the year in which it was built because it was far from a new building when we came here in 1919. So it was built evidently back -- I wouldn't be surprised if either Dr. Mancure or Dr. Foster had it built, probably back in the 1890<sup>s</sup> or the very, very early 1900s.

EJW: Was it used frequently by the college and by other groups maybe?

TBH: Yes. ~~Well,~~ <sup>like the</sup> if the people in town wanted anything <sup>and those</sup> ~~and those~~ <sup>Chautauques</sup> ~~which was~~ <sup>1</sup> was always held down on the Court House <sup>green</sup> -- that was always outdoors <sup>under a tent</sup>. That was back in that early era, but it wasn't connected with the college. The college had fewer than <sup>two hundred</sup> 200 students. The faculty ranged from <sup>five</sup> 5 to -- oh, it was years -- some of these college people can tell you when they got up to ten or eleven people, and so it was a long time before they had need to build up anything else. They just used our facilities.

EJW: What about decorations for the dances or scenery for the plays?

TBH: There were no decorations for the dances, there was just the hall. But it was up to the students who had the plays, I mean it was their responsibility to provide scenery.

EJW: They didn't use the resident labor for that?

TBH: No, the hospital had no labor. The college was required to do everything that was necessary in the way of work, and they

just had to put on this free performance for the patients.

EJW: You mentioned a few minutes ago the fraternities. Now one person said to me a few weeks ago that the social life of the college actually revolved around the fraternities. This was a man who said if you weren't in a fraternity you didn't get much consideration from the young ladies.

TBH: The fraternities played quite a role in the life of both the college and the town.

EJW: Because the fraternity houses were out in town and not the way they are now, on campus?

TBH: Yes. The college was in no way responsible for them except, I suppose, a mild oversight and discipline, although I don't think ~~any~~ of the students used to <sup>lead poor ol'</sup> bear-pole Dr. Tyler around by the nose discipline-wise. He was such a nice, old absent-minded fellow. He gave Mrs. Tyler a manicure set five Christmases in succession because he forgot he'd gotten one the year before. Mrs. Tyler told my mother, "You know, Lyon heard me say I wanted a manicure set and so he went to Richmond and bought me one and the next Christmas I got a manicure set, <sup>and</sup> and she said, "I didn't have the heart to tell him he'd given me one the Christmas before." So after that had gone on for five years, she said she told him, "Lyon, would you please get me something besides a manicure set this Christmas?" Dr. Tyler had three children -- John and Julia and Liz. ~~Well,~~ John was teaching in the math department here. When we came down here. (He went from here to Annapolis.)

Of course, ~~John Tyler's~~ doesn't cover an acre of ground but it's not what you'd call petite ~~but~~ the whole Tyler <sup>where</sup> family was just as popular as they could be; everybody liked them. They respected Dr. Tyler. They used to make fun of his absent-mindedness. One cold morning -- you've probably heard this tale -- one real cold morning -- Dr. Tyler taught a class in political science, and he was complaining, "Young gentlemen, isn't it mighty cold this morning?" ~~And~~ the boys were just snickering; ~~so~~ he couldn't understand it, <sup>so</sup> they were having a time maintaining themselves. Finally, one of them got up the courage to say, "Dr. Tyler, I guess it does seem cold to you. You forgot to put on your trousers this morning." So he really <sup>lent a lot of</sup> <sup>life to the place</sup> the students respected him thoroughly and loved his wife and family.

EJW: Did he and his family entertain much there in the president's house?

TBH: Yes, quite a bit. <sup>of</sup> Course Dr. Chandler was <sup>#</sup>not able to entertain as much because Mrs. Chandler's health was so bad, and she died in '22. <sup>at</sup> We came here in 1919; <sup>at</sup> course he was my boss the first year I was here at the college, <sup>at [when I]</sup> and taught in the public schools in Richmond. ~~So~~ <sup>He</sup> did not have nearly the social life there in the president's house, but there was always something going on with the Tylers. <sup>Dr. Tyler</sup> He had these two attractive daughters. Of course, they were married then. ( Dr. Wilson married the oldest one, Julia,

and he taught in the English department. Liz married a naval officer.) But they were <sup>were</sup> quite socially inclined and very gracious with their hospitality.

EJW: You were <sup>about</sup> telling me a little bit ago when you taught here. I think that's a very interesting subject. This was after women started coming that there was a phys. ed. school put in.

TBH: Yes. There was a professional phys. ed. school in which you were given your B.S. in physical education, and of course, in a professional phys. ed. school you had ~~things~~ but you didn't just have athletics. I taught anatomy and <sup>kinesiology</sup> and the history of physical education, <sup>and</sup> you had to take a certain number of courses in biology and beside that, so many hours in sports. We had both men and women in the professional phys. ed. course. "Scrap" Chandler, <sup>"Dr. Chandler's nephew"</sup> ~~he~~ was one of my prize pupils, and afterwards he became track coach here <sup>at William and Mary.</sup> Jefferson Hall was brand new then, so we had the Jefferson Hall gym for the girls.

EJW: And it was a very fine gym, <sup>it</sup> apparently, of its day.

TBH: It was. It was <sup>an</sup> excellent gym of its day. We had the first women's basketball team that played intercollegiate athletics. We played Westhampton and Sweet Briar in Virginia because they were the only other two colleges that had intercollegiate athletics. ~~Then~~ <sup>the</sup> second year I was there ~~we~~ went to Philadelphia and played Temple and the University of Pennsylvania and then -- I don't know whether it was that year or the following year -- <sup>we included</sup> Adelphi. We played G.W. in Washington

the second ~~and~~ <sup>of</sup> third and fourth years. And we had an  
 amazingly good record <sup>of</sup> with getting money. Dr. Chandler  
~~he~~ wanted us to take those treks to advertise the col-  
 lege because they were just getting women here, you see,  
 and they hadn't been here long. But he thought we  
 should travel on thin air! Oh, it was so hard to get  
 money. Of course, he didn't have so much <sup>t</sup> but the boys  
 could usually come up with it, <sup>the</sup> but we couldn't. ~~But~~ after  
 our first away-from-campus winning streak, it was much  
 easier to get money. And I remember -- it must have been  
 the second year -- <sup>that</sup> and we had quite an ambitious schedule on  
 the trip. We went to Washington and played G.W. and then  
 we went on to Philadelphia and played Temple and University  
 of Penn. On that one same trip we played Adelphi -- it  
 must have been the third year -- and when we got back ~~Dr.~~  
 Chandler was amongst the delegation that met us at the sta-  
 tion. ~~He was so proud;~~ <sup>while we were gone, and</sup> we hadn't lost a game ~~in all the~~  
~~time.~~ <sup>He</sup> was just as proud as punch. He was an awfully nice  
 person to work with. <sup>#</sup> Yes, <sup>there</sup> it was a very good swimming pool, <sup>[in Jefferson].</sup>  
 Swimming was not one of my major sports. I swam enough to stay  
 up ~~and~~ that was all. The <sup>things</sup> I really could do  
 anything with <sup>were</sup> was tennis <sup>and</sup> basketball. <sup>a</sup>  
 Hockey I did not like, but I put in the hockey team here. ~~But~~  
<sup>S</sup>swimming -- fortunately, I didn't have to get in the pool to  
 demonstrate. ~~And~~ I knew the strokes; I had taken enough  
 swimming and done enough swimming to know how to do it ~~so~~

[her great niece and nephew]  
 these children were out here the other day -- which she  
 was referring to -- when her mother said "get auntie to  
 tell you about the way she used to teach swimming at Wil-  
 liam and Mary. She'd ~~stand~~ stand on the bank and use a  
 pole to pull the girls out with." I

did stand on the bank; the pool was too small. If I'd got-  
 ten in with the girls, there wouldn't have been any room  
 for the girls!

EJW: Were the boys at all jealous that the girls had a pool or  
 could they use the girl's pool?

TBH: As well as I remember, they ~~had~~ <sup>we will</sup> one or two evenings a week  
 they could use it. And of course, when Blow was built ~~and~~  
 their pool was ~~so~~ far superior to our glorified bathtub --  
 that's what the pool was in Jefferson. We did our best.

Mr. Tucker-Jones was head of the physical education department,  
 and he was a prince of a fellow. And we tried to get the  
 architects to ~~get~~ <sup>show</sup> Dr. Chandler to see that the glorified  
 bathtub that the architects had put in was too small to be  
 really very helpful. You could get a good dunking, but you  
 couldn't do very much instructional swimming in it, and if  
 they had turned the pool -- the architects tried to tell us  
 that they didn't have room -- but they ran it <sup>the</sup> short crossways  
 of the room where it was, and then If they had run the pool in the oppo-  
 site direction and moved the boiler and so on that was down at  
 the other end, they could have increased the pool by eight or  
 ten feet. But we ran into a group of stubborn men, and we didn't

make any headway, ~~so we never had anything~~. It was deep enough, but it should have been <sup>^</sup> definitely, ~~should~~ have been and could have been <sup>^</sup> quite a bit larger than it was, and it would have been not only more fun to those who really loved to swim, but it would have been easier to work with.

EJW: Was that pool in use for many years? I know that it isn't now.

TBH: Yes, it was in use for -- to tell you the truth, I don't know when it was closed down. After the girls wanted to do more and more with swimming and competitive swimming they would go over to Blow and train. ~~And little by little~~ <sup>^</sup> I was not connected with the college then in any way, shape, or form; I had <sup>my hands full</sup> at home) <sup>Little by little they</sup> gave up the Jefferson pool because it was so small and more and more they were given use (~~or allowed use~~) of the pool in Blow.

EJW: I think you started to say something a few minutes ago about your boss in Richmond and here -- Dr. Chandler -- to characterize him.

TBH: He was as fine a man, really, as I ever knew, but his temper had as short a fuse as anybody you ever saw. Have you met Miss Margaret Bridges who lives right across from Jefferson Hall?

EJW: No, I have not.

TBH: Her father, Mr. Bridges, was registrar for the college for so many years. Mr. Bridges used to laugh and ~~he said~~ <sup>say</sup>, "I know there was no one employe~~d~~ at William and Mary who was fired oftener, and taken back, than I was." Dr. Chandler would get

mad over something, and he'd call him in, "Bridges, you're  
 fired." Mr. Bridges knew it didn't <sup>amount to anything,</sup> and he'd come  
 back a few hours later (in the afternoon or whatever time of  
 day it was) and go on as if Dr. Chandler hadn't said a  
 word to him. Dr. Chandler forgot he'd told him he was  
 fired. ~~But~~ I wouldn't guess at how many times, but I think  
 Mr. Bridges <sup>would tell</sup> ~~was telling~~ that it was up in the twenties.  
~~but~~ If you knew Dr. Chandler, you couldn't help but respect  
 him and like him. ~~And~~ I had a privilege that I don't guess  
~~that~~ many people around here had. ~~When Mrs. Chandler died,~~ I  
 was teaching the phys. ed. and ~~Dr. Chandler's secretary,~~  
 the summer after my year of teaching under Dr. Chandler  
 in Richmond. <sup>had</sup> I stayed in Richmond all summer and taken a  
 business course because I wanted to come down here and help  
 my dad in the office. They didn't have secretaries in those  
 days, you just had a stenographers <sup>and</sup> so most of them were only  
 high school graduates. ~~And my dad was an English~~ an Anglo-  
 phile almost. He was very particular <sup>of</sup> the one instructions  
 when I went to college. "I know there are required courses  
 that you have to take, but in your electives you are always to  
 take at least one course in English as long as you are in  
 college." Well, that summer -- I'd been away from home for  
 four years at college and one year teaching in Richmond; I  
 hadn't done my graduate work then. ~~And~~ daddy's secretary had  
 to go back to South Carolina to take care of her parents, so  
 I went down to Smithfield Business College and asked them if

there was any reasonable chance of my learning enough shorthand and typewriting during three months in the summer (because Dad's secretary had agreed to stay on in the summer if I could do this). And they were very kind and very understanding, and they said, "Yes. Our work is geared for high school graduates. Our course is, so we have English courses; We have math courses; We have courses like that which, of course, would be nothing in the world to you. They are freshmen-sophomore college level. If you want to learn typewriting and shorthand, we'll let you <sup>go</sup> just as fast as you can. You may take two or three days work." So usually I did a months' work in a week because ~~that was what~~ I was concentrating on to get <sup>ting</sup> through. ~~So~~ I did come back and work for my dad for a couple <sup>of</sup> years before I did graduate work. Well, Dr. Chandler, of course, knew all there was to know about anybody who worked for him, and he knew that I had this secretarial training, ~~so~~ his secretary was sick for quite a few months. And he sent for me one day, and he said, "Miss Brown, will you be willing to act as my secretary until I can get one, if Mr. Jones can divide up your phys. ed. work? I don't know anyone around here who is trained to do the type of work that I want to send out from a college office." ~~So~~ <sup>The</sup> I probably had some fear and trembling; I didn't dare say no. ~~But~~ <sup>however</sup> it gave me a rare opportunity to know Dr. Chandler as almost none of the rest of his faculty did because ~~at the~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~clique~~ "let down his hair." Mrs. Chandler had just died a

short while before, and a great deal of the work I did for him was writing, ~~and~~ he was very particular; ~~and~~ he wrote all of his acknowledgements and so on ~~of~~ himself in long hand, but there were ones I could <sup>type</sup> do for him ~~in typing and then~~ under the stress and strain that he was going then <sup>[under]</sup> he would sometimes sit and just fold his hands and reminisce <sup>[about]</sup> when Mrs. Chandler was here and what they used to do together. As I said, I considered it a rare privilege ~~to get~~ to know an unusually fine man. A lot of his faculty didn't get to know him well enough; just took him as a quick-tempered <sup>someone</sup> -- in ~~some ways~~ he was quick-tempered -- but his fine qualities, in my book, <sup>[ed]</sup> far outweigh <sup>1</sup> the superficial oddities.

EJW: So you think people sort of realized that you had to take both sides?

TBH: Surely. And goodness, how he <sup>built</sup> loved that college! His personal life wasn't easy the whole time he was here. He was having trouble with his two younger boys, endless trouble with them. But he didn't take that out on the college, <sup>people at all,</sup> He tried to keep his personal life <sup>out -- not let it get him</sup> <sup>[out]</sup> upset and so on, <sup>1</sup> it was bound to. I liked him very much. He was good to me in Richmond, too. He certainly was. I applied to teach English <sup>at</sup> because English and political science had been my majors <sup>in</sup> John Marshall, which was then the city high school. Presumptuous creature that I was -- I had never been <sup>in</sup> a public school <sup>1</sup> a day in my life. I had always gone to private schools before I went to Randolph-Macon. So I was presumptuous to ~~think~~ think

I'd even get a chance. <sup>He was nice;</sup> My first-year assignment was to the Ginter Park School, which was the elementary school of the city then; he gave me the 7-B grade, which was the top grade. In January he sent me word that he would like me to transfer to John Marshall as an English teacher. Well, I was so in love with Ginter Park <sup>then</sup> I didn't want to leave. ~~So~~ I asked him if I had to move or did I have a choice? He said, "no," you asked for this first and you didn't get it. If you want to stay at Ginter Park you <sup>may</sup> ~~can~~ stay at Ginter Park; <sup>so</sup> I did. ~~But~~ I mean, that was just one facet of the man. If I didn't want to go, though he needed an English teacher there, I didn't have to go because I didn't get it when I asked for it and so I would be permitted to stay where I was assigned. He would do so many kind things for people around the college. I don't guess anyone except the students <sup>whom</sup> he helped realized how many students he helped personally. -- And never wanted any credit or any glory. Well, I <sup>was</sup> always a great admirer <sup>of</sup> Dr. Chandler -- still am, always will be. <sup>[ ]</sup> Don't think he ~~ever~~ got the credit that he deserved from the college community in many instances. (Discussion about Mr. <sup>s</sup> McCrae of Carter's Grove and <sup>of</sup> Eastern States Hospital.)