

VERNON L. NUNN

Entering William and Mary in 1919, Vernon Nunn was one of the World War I veterans coming that year. He later reentered and graduated in 1925, having been trained, like many graduates of the period, as a teacher. After teaching and taking graduate work, Mr. Nunn came back to the Williamsburg area and in 1930 was hired by Dr. J.A.C. Chandler as assistant treasurer. In 1935 his title became auditor, to be changed in 1951 to treasurer-auditor. He retired in 1969. From his vantage point in the administration Mr. Nunn was able to see the inner workings of the administrations of J.A.C. Chandler, John Stewart Bryan, John Pomfret, Alvin D. Chandler, and Davis Y. Paschall.

A very humble man, Vernon Nunn felt the need to improve  
A very  
upon the transcript, and whereas he changed some of the wording  
the substance remains the same.

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Interviewee Vernon Nunn  
Date of interview April 9, 1975  
Place 104 Spring Road, Williamsburg  
Interviewer Emily Williams  
Session number 1  
Length of tape 80 mins.

Contents:	Approximate time:
personal history	3 mins.
student career, 1919, 1921-1925	7 mins.
standards, rules, escapades	
J.A.C. Chandler: assessment as president,	4 mins.
characterization of	
attitude toward education	1 min.
description of campus in early '20s,	11 mins.
living conditions, dorm pranks	
fraternities in 1920s, social life	4 mins.
Harding's visit	1 min.
jobs after graduation	4 mins.
appointment as college auditor, 1930	2 mins.
effects of depression	2 mins.
working with J.A.C. Chandler	10 mins.
building program of Chandler	9 mins.
financial habits of Chandler	7 mins.
help to students by Chandler and Bryan	2 mins.
first impressions of Bryan	1 min.
Bryan's entertaining	5 mins.
miscellaneous anecdotes	10 mins.
hazing, athletics	

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Interviewee Vernon Nunn

Date of interview April 23, 1975

Place 104 Spring Road, Williamsburg

Interviewer Emily Williams

Session number 2

Length of tape 77 mins.

Contents:

Approximate time:

duties as auditor + treasurer-auditor	2 mins.
bursar's role under Charlie Duke	17 mins.
Bryan as president	1 min.
Partners and financial matters	4 mins.
college + depression	1 min.
landscaping contributions of Bryan, plans of J. A. C. Chandler	5 mins.
World War II	
ASTP + chaplain's school	9 mins.
changes caused by war	9 mins.
by changing character of C.W.	
lack of building at college after war	5 mins.
lodges	16 mins.
college property holdings	5 mins.
athletic finances	3 mins.

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Interviewee Vernon Nunn  
Date of interview April 29, 1975  
Place 104 Spring Road, Williamsburg  
Interviewer Emily Williams  
Session number 3  
Length of tape 67 mins.

Contents:	Approximate time:
Construction of new campus Bryan Dorm, library, QBH Hall, math building, DuPont, Student Center, plant dept., physics building, William and Mary Hall	23 mins.
financial records of college	4 mins.
Adair Gym	3 mins.
building plans, 1940s - 1970s	3 mins.
the Chandlers (J.A.C. and A.D.)	17 mins.
changes in treasurer-auditor's office	5 mins.
other opportunities for Nunn	3 mins.
overview of finances end William and Mary	10 mins.

Vernon Nunn

April 9, 1975

Williams: You told <sup>me when</sup> ~~while~~ I was here the other day that you first came in 1919.

Nunn: That's right. I entered William and Mary in 1919 and had some trouble with my eyes. ~~I'd had a back injury and lifting~~ along in November they kept giving me trouble, and Dr. Snead, our family doctor, advised me to drop out of school. He said that he thought this reading and studying would damage them, but he didn't give me any assurance that I could go back to college; he just said it was one of those things I'd have to live with. (Believe it or not it was about that time a chiropractor came to town and I had heard from one of my relatives out in Minnesota that they were all wrapped up in chiropractors and ~~thought she was more or less, you know, taken to a fad.~~ I didn't think anything about it. My sister happened to be out there - my sister said for me to try it - so I went to the chiropractor and he cleared it all up; <sup>it was</sup> a pinched nerve or something.) So I didn't go back then until September '21. And in the meantime I took <sup>the</sup> civil service <sup>[exam]</sup> and was carrying mail; but they used to call ~~it~~ the "T" routes (three days a week -- Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday) from Lightfoot, Virginia, down to what's known as <sup>Blackstone</sup> Blackstone, an eighteen-mile route. Then in '21 I decided to <sup>re-enter</sup> ~~go to school~~, so I entered William and Mary and still kept the route my freshman year. I had

*file under Vernon delete?*

a T-Model Ford <sup>which</sup> and I parked ~~it~~ on the front porch of the old Female Institute, <sup>located</sup> ~~which is now~~ where Matthew Whaley is now, and the College rented it for a dormitory. We arranged to put a ramp up to one end of that cement porch, and I used to drive that T-Model Ford up there every night.

Williams: Did you live at the Institute?

Nunn: <sup>I</sup> You lived at the Institute, ~~as~~ . And then I knew

Mr. Bridges, who was the registrar, and he hand <sup>ed</sup> me the registration card and said, "Vernon, you're working three days a week and you have to <sup>arrange</sup> ~~fit~~ your classes <sup>for the other</sup> in three days." <sup>which I did</sup> So he said, "Vernon, <sup>arrange your</sup> just schedule ~~classes~~ you can take on those three days." <sup>I'm doing so</sup> So I did ~~but~~ I couldn't get in Freshman English

What if we put this after the  
→ sign on p. 3?  
OK  
Vernon

so I let ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> off. I went through that year and there were a few non-curricular activities, a particular one involved some escapade that year that - one of these things she was several students, who borrowed my car to take us but talking about - "Uncle Julian" occurred and at that time I thought ~~was a gay ride~~. It turned out ~~where to be~~ there was these moonshines around the country and they ~~get had~~ a trip to one of the local moonshiners and returned ~~called~~ <sup>these lead stills and white-lightening</sup>. Pretty well ~~under the influence of having consumed~~ There was a place back here where Lafayette School is, ~~now~~ a little ~~much of the white lightening~~ as the there's swamp back there and known for ~~still~~; ~~it was known~~ local product ~~was called~~. Shortly after as Puddin' Bottom. So the kids ~~used to go back to Puddin'~~ they arrived, the heated rooms ~~the heated~~ Bottom to get their "white lightening" they called it. ~~So the boys~~ rooms took over and they ~~started passing out~~ they borrowed my car one night - ~~three of the boys - and they~~ several of the other students and myself spent went back there and when they came back they were just about ~~ready to pass out~~. They came in, we worked to help the poor. ~~call shamen~~. ~~It wasn't until after mid night that things~~ Before that, one of ~~them~~ he got the idea he was going to ~~became normal~~ see how "Uncle Julian" <sup>Dr Chandler</sup> and I'll tell you, ~~he started going~~ <sup>before we knew it he</sup>

Pissing out ←

was on his way <sup>To the campus</sup> "Uncle Julian!" ~~It didn't take us long to stop him~~  
 to see up the ~~We had to talk to him.~~ So we had  
 and used force to ~~to haul him back and hold him and keep him from going to see~~  
 the president. ~~So that's the escapade she was talking about.~~

~~We kept these boys under showers and things all night.~~

~~But getting back to that I don't think he'd want to publish~~

→ anything. # Getting back to the academics. So the

The beginning of my sophomore year, I didn't <sup>mention</sup> say anything that I  
~~didn't have~~ Freshman English, so I arranged a full schedule, <sup>without English, and</sup>

~~I gave up my job, then because I had to go to school full-time.~~  
~~I also failed to tell my advisor (and I)~~  
~~When I went to my advisor to fill out the course, I didn't say~~  
~~anything about Freshman English and~~ left it off. But

my junior year I filled out my registration card ~~with~~ <sup>and included</sup>  
 Freshman English ~~on it~~, <sup>when</sup> and my advisor looked at it and ~~he~~ said,

"when <sup>did</sup> you'd flunk Freshman English?" I said, "I didn't  
 flunk it." "Well, you've got it on here." I said, "What? I've

never had it." Well, that upset the whole department. "How ~~do~~ <sup>did</sup>  
 you get by <sup>not</sup> taking Freshman English your Freshman year?" Well, they  
 had a big to-do about it and finally, they <sup>left</sup> laughed it off and  
 let me take Freshman English my Junior year.

Just in case  
 you're tempted  
 to take this  
 stay out, please  
 don't because it  
 tells something  
 about standards.

Williams: Were they very strict about standards back then?

Nunn: No. ~~And~~ <sup>one</sup> of my instructors my Junior year was <sup>one</sup> of  
 my classmates; ~~He was a student instructor,~~ Cecil Ball  
~~he was~~ <sup>a</sup> student instructor in English. And I turned out taking  
 English under one of my classmates.

Williams: Did the College not have enough teachers or were they just really  
 outstanding [students]?

Nunn: They ~~selected,~~ <sup>they</sup> had student assistants. My junior year I taught one class in the Math Department to help pay my expenses. My senior year I was an instructor in <sup>the</sup> a physics lab, <sup>did</sup> ~~do~~ that <sup>for the same purpose</sup> work my way through college ~~expenses.~~

Williams: When you had come here in 1919, were you one of the World War I veterans who came back?

Nunn: No. Well, I was a veteran but with ~~a probably~~ <sup>a</sup> two-months<sup>2</sup> military career ~~at~~ doing nothing but working in a hospital <sup>in the flu epidemic</sup>. That was my World War I record.

Williams: But there were a number of veterans who did come back in 1919?

Nunn: Oh, yes. The school was loaded in '21 with veterans, quite a few. ~~And~~ <sup>some</sup> of those veterans were probably some of the best students they had. That was the year they came back after World War I.

Williams: Did you find that they had different attitudes?

Nunn: No, no. <sup>Their</sup> ~~The~~ attitude was very good. That's one thing about my whole career those four years. The students were very friendly, and everyone knew each other. You'd never pass a student without speaking to him or talking to him. If you didn't know him, you'd still speak ~~and it was,~~ I think, the attitude was entirely different from what it is now. <sup>of</sup> ~~course~~ <sup>there is</sup> ~~you've got~~ an entirely different situation now, but I thought the morale was ~~way~~ much better than it is now. My assessment of it may be entirely wrong, but I thought it was much better. There weren't so many students.

Williams: I was going to say, it was a much, much smaller school-- only



a couple hundred.

Nunn: A much smaller school and with a few exceptions the student body recognized the regulations and ~~we~~ lived up <sup>to</sup> them. They were very strict. Miss Bessie Porter <sup>[Taylor]</sup> was Dean of Women and head of the dormitories, and you didn't have a date <sup>without it being known to</sup> ~~passed by~~ Miss Porter. Dr. Chandler was very strict on drinking and carousing. You'd get shipped if you were caught drinking. -- That was just automatic. They wouldn't even let boys and girls hold hands on campus; if you did, get out. No cigarette smoking by girls at all when I first entered there. -- That was absolutely a rule not to be broken. Then they relaxed this and let <sup>Taylor</sup> them smoke in their rooms when they wanted to. ~~It wasn't~~ I don't know just what year it was <sup>relinquished this rule</sup> that they let them smoke anywhere they wanted to. They were very strict. Personally, I think they got along better. <sup>Students</sup> ~~People~~ didn't <sup>think about</sup> pay any attention to breaking rules.

. There were a few. -- of course, always have been some.

Williams: Miss Bessie Porter Taylor was social director <sup>for women,</sup> and I think that by this time Dr. Hodges may have been Dean of Men, but would they handle discipline or would Dr. Chandler?

Nunn: Yes, he was Dean of Men. Dr. Billy Hodges. Well, Dr. Hodges would handle some of the discipline <sup>for men</sup> and most of it would <sup>finally</sup> get in the hands of Dr. Chandler. Oh yes, he was the boss of the college. He <sup>would supervise the affairs</sup> ~~was boss~~ of the deans and all <sup>other</sup> the administrators. He was the head of the college, but it was smaller than <sup>e</sup> and he had a

Supervising the Academic Program and overseeing all other Business operations. The attention to operational detail

had a great deal of ~~to do with~~ ~~the~~ ~~business~~

big job on his hands with the physical plant. ~~And that~~ ~~ruined~~ his health -- trying to do too much. There was an incident

just before he was taken sick the last time -- that was in September. Course he ~~didn't mind firing and rehiring a person~~ ~~every day and rehiring them sometime the next morning.~~ It

was sort of a joke, but there was one serious event: It was in September of 1933 because he died in May '34. It was

a hot September day, and we were registering in what was then Taliaferro Hall, ~~located at that time~~ that was ~~the building right in front~~ of the present student center; ~~it's been razed,~~ and it

was close, ~~The building was real hot, and close quarters~~ and the line of students ~~went way down the walk and up to~~ ~~the door.~~ ~~and a girl fainted in that line,~~ and when they

~~heard~~ ~~to the desk where Dr. Hoke~~ told Dr. Chandler, ~~and Dr. Howard were approving registration cards.~~ ~~line and got Dr. Hoke and got Dr. Howard~~ ~~he was a dean and Dr. Hoke~~

~~was~~ ~~dean of the college~~ ~~they were sitting at a desk~~ registering students and Dr. Chandler told them to ~~hurry it~~ ~~up to put them through faster,~~ ~~that it was too hot out~~

there for girls to stand. Well, of course, Dr. Hoke said, "We're doing all we can. We can't go any faster." Course he ~~disagreed,~~ ~~said,~~ "Yes, you can, too." ~~and they had a few words,~~ But he made those two gentlemen get up and go to their offices.

Well, he sat down at that desk, ~~and he registered students;~~ ~~he~~ ~~just stamped cards that'd go by.~~ ~~He put them through.~~ ~~He'd~~ ~~sit there all day and he went and got~~ ~~adverse effect on his already weak condition.~~ ~~was sick~~ ~~after that.~~ I know he sent word over to us - ~~we were over in~~ We (the treasurer's office staff) were ~~denia~~

another building ~~taking money~~, collecting money ~~for the fees~~  
~~And he sent word for us just not to figure account, just make~~  
~~on their accounts, a ~~cost~~ and~~  
~~a - let them pay what ever they want. ~~Just~~ give them a receipt,~~  
~~and figure out their charges later.~~  
~~to get them through.~~ Well, it didn't work too well because

it took me nearly two months to straighten <sup>the</sup> accounts, <sup>I heard that</sup> and they  
~~The registrar's office also had their own problems~~ <sup>Dr. Chandler was</sup>  
~~said they had an awful time with the course records. But he [Chandler]~~  
~~was sick,~~ though, and he just couldn't stand to see the

students standing <sup>out</sup> in that heat. He was really sincere about  
~~it, but I think he <sup>entered</sup> ~~went~~ in the hospital, ~~soon after that.~~~~

Williams: When you were here, though, as a student, ~~it~~ was in the early  
years of women being at William and Mary. What was the atti-  
tude <sup>of</sup> toward the men toward these newcomers to the campus?

Nunn: The women were admitted in 1919. \* ~~1918~~, I think most of the  
arguments against it took place before they actually enrolled.  
They didn't want <sup>[it]</sup> to be a female institution, but I didn't  
see any real difficulties once they were registered. ~~But~~ I  
think it was more before <sup>because</sup> the school was opened that <sup>people didn't know</sup> what  
<sup>to expect</sup> was going to happen. ~~But~~ I never heard of any real trouble.

Williams: <sup>The</sup> Men, by that time, you think had accepted the fact.?

Nunn: Oh, ~~Yes~~, ~~far~~ as I know, there may have been a few that I didn't  
know about, but there ~~wasn't any~~

~~there wasn't anything you could call dissension, like that.~~  
If they didn't like it they went on and accepted it and didn't  
say anything. Others might have heard something; I didn't.

Williams: You spoke of how ~~it was much smaller~~, William and Mary was  
much smaller at the time. Could you describe what William and

\* 1918

Mary was like, <sup>[in]</sup> the early years you were here as a student?

Nunn: Well, it would be hard to describe it. It <sup>was</sup> just like one family. We all ate in <sup>the</sup> dining hall together. You had to wear a coat to <sup>the</sup> dining hall, and you were on a <sup>pre-arranged</sup> ~~strict~~ schedule. Classes started at a certain time, <sup>and all</sup> ~~you had time~~ <sup>meals</sup> 'scheduled the same. ~~off to go to dinner, go to lunch, and time off to go to~~ ~~dinner at night.~~

Williams: What about the physical layout of the campus and the town?

Nunn: ~~The physical layout was~~ <sup>There was</sup> the Wren Building <sup>and the</sup> President's House, which has been restored to look like <sup>it does now.</sup> ~~again~~ (it had the porch on, <sup>it then</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> Brafferton ~~was~~ practically like it is now, <sup>although</sup> ~~only~~ it's been spruced up a little bit ~~to~~ <sup>until</sup> it looks better, ~~and~~ then there was <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ Citizenship building ~~off the, faced the Wren Building from the Duke of Gloucester~~ <sup>of the Wren Building</sup> Street. It was a ~~building off to the left, which~~ <sup>It was a frame building; ~~It had the law school and the gym-~~ ~~the law school and a gymnasium on the first floor.~~ ~~nasium~~ <sup>now the basketball courts</sup></sup> ~~Then on the right hand side, you had the science building, which took care of~~ ~~physics and chemistry on the first floor and~~ ~~and the home economics all in the same building-- home~~ ~~economics upstairs, chemistry and physics downstairs.~~ And then just in back of that was the library, where the law school is now. <sup>The library at that time included</sup> ~~Now when I first entered, there was just~~ <sup>The present</sup> ~~the front part of~~ ~~that~~ building; the back part was all put on later. So the library wasn't very big. Right at the head of the Sunken Garden - you see, at that time, Jefferson was there-- that was the first girls dorm. There was

There was <sup>facing Jamestown Road between old Takaferron + College corner</sup> Tyler Hall, there, Ewell Hall ~~in front of Tyler~~, and right back of Ewell Hall was the frame building known as the Deanery and that <sup>housed</sup> would have the Dean of Women, and people. And in back of that was the dining hall-- it was just <sup>To the rear</sup> ~~in back of where~~ the Student Center <sup>is</sup>. ~~Part~~ of it's ~~still there somewhere~~. <sup>However it</sup> That was eventually burned down in the late '20's, I think, and then they moved some girls in. (I couldn't tell you exactly when it burned. Somewhere between '25 and '30). And ~~then~~ <sup>the</sup> the infirmary was <sup>in a frame</sup> ~~building on the location of the former Takaferron Hall.~~ <sup>The Laundry, Power, and warehouses made up the balance of the physical plant.</sup> there, ~~in the back of Tyler.~~ ~~And that was the whole campus.~~

Williams: Were any of the buildings from Penniman over on that side?

Nunn: <sup>One large metal building from Penniman</sup> They came in after ~~they brought those in and put one~~ <sup>was located</sup> just beyond <sup>the present</sup> ~~where~~ Washington Hall <sup>is</sup>. (Washington Hall was <sup>built later.</sup>) ~~not there when they put that big Penniman building in.)~~ <sup>The Chemistry department was moved to this building.</sup> it was a metal building and they moved the chemistry over <sup>there.</sup> ~~When the dining hall burned, the college acquired~~ <sup>Now at the front of the Sunken Garden that wasn't</sup> another large Penniman building which ~~the Sunken Garden wasn't there at all~~ there was a <sup>row of big elm trees right there and a cattail pond right</sup> ~~there in the Sunken Garden that was a cattail pond.~~ And then just rough country. Mr. Bryan, when he was president, constructed the Sunken Garden.

Williams: I understand that some of these buildings that were here at the time were not, shall we say, satisfactory.

Nunn: <sup>That's right</sup> Oh, ~~not at all~~. The science building wasn't big at all, you were crowded in it, although we didn't have too many students. We had ~~the~~ physics on one side, and chemistry on the other,

and sometimes one hour of chemistry would use the lecture rooms ~~for lectures~~, and other times the physics department would use it. The offices were ~~just~~ on opposite sides <sup>of the first floor</sup>, chemistry and physics were on <sup>the</sup> second floor with home economics. We <sup>enjoyed</sup> used ~~to enjoy~~ getting something <sup>refreshment from</sup> to eat from ~~when~~ the home economics students, ~~would bring some-~~  
~~thing down~~ for us to eat.

Williams: What about living accommodations? How were they?

Numm: Living accommodations-- I can't say but what they were adequate. We had ~~I lived in~~ After I moved from <sup>the</sup> Institute, I lived <sup>on the third floor of the Jefferson Hall</sup> in ~~Brufferton building which is~~ <sup>before</sup> it was converted to an office building ~~became offices~~ on the third floor. We had, I guess, good accommodations. We had <sup>probably</sup> just about as good accommodations as anyone could expect. We had hot water <sup>and wash basin</sup> in the rooms, ~~but no toilets~~, they were all in the basement, <sup>and toilets</sup> the showers were in the basement. To take a shower you had to go down in the basement, but you had a wash basin. <sup>Taking</sup> At that time that was a luxury. It wasn't too long before that -

~~Williams: You were talking about the living accommodations when you were -~~

Numm: We had janitor service, ~~just~~ in the hall, we had to ~~sweep the room.~~ <sup>we saw</sup> ~~we cleaned our own rooms, and left the trash in the~~ <sup>hall, where it</sup> ~~paper or anything in the hall - the janitor took care of that~~ <sup>was picked up by the janitor, which was</sup> ~~a student working his way through college,~~ <sup>part -</sup> and the janitor was a student who worked his way through school. He would just sweep the hall and would take the results out to the trash. <sup>There was one</sup> Then they had one man,

colored man who was ~~he was sort of~~ <sup>the</sup> a general caretaker of the whole ~~thing~~ <sup>building</sup>. That was the ~~thing~~. We made our own beds, things like that - ~~there wasn't any maid service~~ <sup>no maid service</sup>.

Williams: Now, what's this I hear about a radio <sup>ator</sup> being thrown down the stairway?

Nunn: A radio?

Williams: Radiator.

Nunn: Oh, that was over in the Institute. Lambert would probably tell you more about that.

Williams: He said you would remember more about it.

Nunn: It was the year after I left; I wasn't living down there at the time. ~~You see, the dormitory was three floors, three stories and winding stairs just went to the top.~~ <sup>There was a winding stairway in the middle of the dormitory, with a stairwell in the middle.</sup> Three or

four of the boys got the idea one night to have some fun, ~~so they found a large steel radiator, carried it to the top of the stairs and had one of these big steel radiators, you know, so they threw it down.~~ <sup>so they found a large steel radiator, carried it to the top to the stairwell, and let it fall to the bottom.</sup> Well,

the result - it didn't stop at the ~~floor~~ <sup>first</sup>; it went right through the floor and down into the basement ~~in the furnace room.~~ <sup>and landed in the furnace room.</sup>

Dr. Chandler was going to expel ~~us~~ <sup>them</sup> ~~or something~~ <sup>but</sup> at the time a boy by the name of J. Swanson Smith, ~~I think, was sort of~~ <sup>was working</sup>

the dorm manager, ~~a student who worked his way through college,~~ <sup>interceded in their behalf.</sup> ~~he was in our class.~~ <sup>he</sup> And I think he suddenly persuaded Dr.

Chandler not to ship ~~them~~ <sup>them</sup>, but he made ~~a rule in the dormitory,~~ <sup>them move out of</sup>

~~and they went down town and rented some rooms over at the post~~ <sup>They ended up</sup> ~~office, and organized a little club or something.~~ <sup>renting</sup> ~~I'll tell~~ <sup>and</sup>

you, if you ever get a chance to talk to J. Swanson Smith, he can tell you the details of that escapade. ~~He'll be here~~ <sup>The whole story is well worth recording for the future.</sup>

(Note: Mr. Smith is a member of the class of '25 and lives in Hillsville, Va.)

~~on May, during Commencement. He's in our class and it's his fiftieth reunion and he'll be here. I understand he and his wife are coming, that's what Gordon Vliet told me that they'll be here. Now you can talk to him; he can give you the exact details of that escapade.~~

Williams: Were pranks like this very common at the time? This no doubt was the worst<sup>t</sup>.

Nunn:

*The dorm manager*  
~~No, no. When I was living there we had Elliott, let's see he were two graduate students named Elliott and Simmons. They were the dormitory then and a fellow by the name of Simmons, there subject of many minor pranks. There were two students studying for their Masters' Degree - they who one night ~~came~~ *came* of the boys learned that they were managers of the dormitory when I lived there, and I know they had a date ~~and~~ *and* we were always playing some pranks on them. I remember one night they had dates up there and they were all fixed up, ~~they~~ *they* filled a large ~~pan~~ *pan* with water and placed ~~it~~ *it* just over the door, so that it would tip over when the door was opened. The result was two well-dressed ~~people~~ *people* well-soaked, it so when they'd open the door they would be caught ~~and~~ *and* they were so mad they went to their room and stayed there ~~on~~ *on* date. The ~~manager~~ *manager* of the dormitory, took off their ~~and~~ *and* didn't come out all that night. So I don't know what their dates thought.~~

Williams: When you were here, were you in a fraternity?

Nunn: No, I didn't join a social fraternity.

Williams: Did you feel in any way left out because you didn't or was it not this <sup>way</sup> great at this time?

Nunn: No, not at all. I didn't have money enough to join a fraternity,



and I didn't approve too much of fraternities as just a social thing. ~~Now~~ I had some very good friends in ~~the~~ fraternities.

*many in classes, and I never felt*  
~~Some of them I worked with all the time in classes, but I~~  
~~any different by not being a member.~~  
~~didn't aspire to join a fraternity at all. If I had, I~~

~~didn't have the money then. I had to work. But there~~

~~was some~~ fraternities at that time, I think, did a lot a  
*Especially those that stressed academics,*  
 good for ~~some~~ *many* of the students. I think they were different --

Williams: Do you mean they were more service-oriented?

Nunn: The housing-- if you lived a fraternity, *dining space was at a the fraternities, and fraternities* they took care of  
~~housing seemed a most beautiful thing,~~  
~~some of the housing. It'd leave spaces for others and each~~  
~~several fraternities included boarding facilities,~~  
~~of them had their own cook in the houses, and they took their~~  
~~meals there which was a big advantage. They could pool their~~  
~~funds and~~ *and* probably eat, live a little cheaper than they  
 could if they were <sup>going to</sup> the dining hall. No,

*I* I never felt I was left out; <sup>it</sup> never bothered me  
 at all, ~~never bothered me one bit.~~

Williams: You didn't find that there was any kind of fraternity snobbery toward non-fraternity men?

Nunn: ~~No~~ No. Some of the girls, I understand, were affected .

*omit* [ This happened later when I was working there that one girl,  
 a young lady, *when she failed to become a grad. She* ~~I didn't believe she got a B.S.~~ just packed  
 and went home. But that's the only time I heard of anyone  
 really doing anything drastic for not making a sorority. I  
 think now, *there is less importance attached to*  
~~Sorority or Fraternity membership~~ *more or less, with independence you did just as*  
 well ~~treated~~ *as the sorority, fraternity.* ]

Williams: So your social life didn't suffer because you weren't a fra-

ternity man? ~~Because you had to work?~~

Nunn: Didn't suffer - no, it didn't. As far as that was concerned,

I can't speak for others, for me it didn't make any difference.

Williams: What was there to do if you were going to have any social events?

Nunn: Well, you had your date <sup>could</sup> go to the dances, go to ~~the~~ anything that was on campus. We weren't left out.

Williams: But I mean, where there - my question is: were there events in Williamsburg going on that would have been social events

for the students? I'm not talking about <sup>the</sup> fraternity ~~now~~

Nunn: Not too much. I don't recall any particularly <sup>that were functions</sup> designed for the students. The town <sup>[people]</sup> ~~they were~~ more or less a group kept to themselves, and the social <sup>events were for the</sup> students around the campus. The principle ones, of course, in those days <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ the dances.

Williams: They were big affairs then.

Nunn: Oh, yes. Big affairs. They had <sup>to fill out their dance</sup> their cards with

in advance ~~and all that stuff~~. I had to work too hard,

I wasn't much of a social <sup>person</sup> ~~I wouldn't say I was a social student~~ but I had to work - to work to pay my way through.

I studied very hard. They used to accuse me of not going out with them nights. I had a policy - after supper, <sup>and</sup> ~~after~~ we'd had our dinner, I wouldn't go anywhere ~~we would~~ probably sit around, you know, for an hour or so, around the campus and ~~and then I'd always go to my room~~

get much done. Boys'd come by the room and'd say,

*Don't  
omit  
Vernon*

*omit*  
~~"Come on, let's go down the street and get a Coke of some-  
 thing." One of them would say "Oh Nunn's got his study  
 pants on. No use asking him." I had a schedule a time for  
 every night except Friday and Saturday night. I must have  
 spent at least three, four hours~~

Williams: You spoke <sup>of</sup> how the President's House looked different at the  
 time. The Wren Building wasn't even called the Wren Build-  
 ing at the time; it was a very different building from what  
 we know now.

Nunn: The Wren Building, I think, <sup>was called that</sup> ~~came in~~ after the restoration  
 started to restore it. I don't know what we called it-- Main  
 Building, <sup>I believe</sup> ~~something like that~~. We never thought of it --  
 just classes.

Williams: Were you here when they were doing the restoration on it?

Nunn: <sup>[when]</sup> ~~Oh, yes,~~ <sup>in the Treasurer's Office.</sup> I was working. There were some students who en-  
 tered and left and never went inside of that building. Yes,  
 I was here the whole time they were restoring it.

Williams: I was looking back today to see if there were any special events  
 I could find while you were a student. One that I found was  
 Chandler's inauguration. <sup>U</sup> Were you here for that when Presi-  
 dent Harding came?

Nunn: Yes, I attended that.

Williams: Do you remember anything about it that you could describe?

Nunn: I don't remember anything in particular other than hearing him  
 and standing watching him getting out of his carriage <sup>at the</sup> ~~in front~~  
<sup>front of the Campaign</sup> of the Wren Building ~~down~~ there, and walking up the walk. <sup>To the</sup> But  
 President's House

~~that's all. I don't remember much about his speech. As I remember it, I don't think there was anything that could be recalled.~~

~~Some of the others might be able to tell you more about that.~~

Williams: How was it that you came back to work for the College after you graduated?

Nunn: After I graduated, I taught school in Victoria, Virginia, for a year. And then after that, I came back the following summer ~~(after teaching)~~, and Dr. Rowe, who was my math professor -- ~~you see, I~~ <sup>had</sup> majored in math and minored in chemistry and physics. In fact I just about had a major in physics, too but when I came home that summer, Dr. Rowe -- ~~who was my math professor --~~ <sup>said,</sup> called me in and <sup>1</sup> "Vernon, how'd you like to go to graduate school?" I hadn't even thought about it. He said "I got a letter from Professor Kuhn at Ohio State, and he wants me to recommend someone. ~~And I want to recommend you to go there.~~" I said, "okay." So I resigned my <sup>position;</sup> ~~the fact of the matter, I was rooming - I came back to summer school the summer after that and was rooming with the superintendent of schools of Lunenburg County - a man I'd taught under, we were rooming together - so I talked with Tom Waddell who was the Superintendent and he said, "Vernon I'd go on to graduate school." He said, "I hate to lose you up there but -"~~ <sup>me</sup> ~~I~~ don't think I was that good but anyway, he said there's an

~~opportunity. So I did go to graduate school at Ohio State in the fall of '26.~~  
~~I came home the next spring, I didn't come home until the~~  
~~next spring, after school was out, and I didn't know at the~~  
~~time but when I got home <sup>and found</sup> my father and mother were both~~  
~~sick, and they didn't tell me that things were such there~~  
~~that they just needed someone <sup>To look after the farm.</sup> to help.~~ So I wrote to the  
~~school and I just had to stay home for a while. At the~~  
~~same time, there was a vacancy in the bank in Toano, You~~  
~~know where that is <sup>was</sup> back of Toano which is a branch of~~  
~~the Peninsula Bank, which is, now United Virginia Bank. They~~  
~~persuaded me <sup>to go to work</sup> while I was home to work in the bank. So I went~~  
~~and remained at Toano <sup>This I did</sup> in the bank in Toano, worked less than a year and they closed ~~and~~~~  
~~before it was consolidated with the <sup>bank</sup> bank.~~  
~~Closed and moved everything down to Williamsburg. <sup>transportation,</sup> transportation,~~  
~~Transportation problems had improved, and it was felt~~  
~~was getting better, and you had cars, and you didn't need it.~~  
~~That one bank was <sup>sufficient.</sup> sufficient.~~  
~~So I worked in the <sup>bank down here</sup> bank down here until ~~1930~~ May 12, 1930.~~

# One day Dr. Chandler came into the bank ~~back up~~. Bill  
 Thompson, who was the Assistant <sup>a</sup>Treasurer of the College, was  
 resigning to go with a Norfolk automobile firm, and they were  
 looking for a replacement, and Fred Savage, the president of  
 the bank, <sup>and informed me that he, was</sup> came to me one morning, Dr. Chandler is coming  
 down to see <sup>if</sup> you if you'd be interested in going ~~on up~~ to the  
 college. So I said I didn't know if I was or not. Well, we  
 thought it over, and Fred said, "If you want to go, it's a bet-  
 ter opportunity probably there than it is in the bank. We'll  
 back you up." The next day Dr. Chandler came down, and he  
 said, "Vernon, I want you to come up to the <sup>college</sup> bank." Well, I said

"I've got to think about it." "Well," he said, "I want you to come up now, <sup>and</sup> take your <sup>Bill Thompson's</sup> place. We'll give you \$150 a month." Just like that! Well, a \$150 a month ~~seemed~~ sounded like a lot of money; I wasn't getting but \$110, something like that. ~~Geeh, that sounded like a lot of money.~~ I said <sup>I accepted.</sup> "okay" ~~and that's the way I went,~~ May 12, 1930, ~~And I stayed there until June 1969.~~ <sup>#</sup> ~~You had them~~ 1930's ~~the depression was pretty bad.~~ <sup>at its height</sup> It wasn't too long until I got my first change in pay, and I was down to \$112.50 from \$150, ~~The governor of Virginia~~ and that \$112.50 looked awfully big then. And I think <sup>Dr.</sup> Doc <sup>h</sup> Chandler handled the financial affairs of the <sup>e</sup> college probably just as well as anybody could possibly do it. Everyone had to take a cut. He called the faculty together and told them they had two choices ~~they could either,~~ some of them would have to go or they could all take a cut and keep <sup>their jobs</sup> ~~them all.~~ Well, they voted unanimously <sup>(from</sup> what I understand, <sup>1</sup> I wasn't at the meeting) ~~I understand they voted unaimously to all take a cut so that no one would lose their jobs.~~

Williams: They had to do this twice, didn't they?

Nunn: Well, ~~cuts came~~ mine came all at once, but they cut most of the faculty <sup>gradually</sup> ~~was graduated~~ as the governor gave out the orders to reduce their expenditures. I know <sup>Dr. Chandler</sup> he ~~stopped cutting grass on the~~ <sup>reduced landscape operation</sup> ~~campus;~~ <sup>grass got up to</sup> six, eight <sup>inches</sup> high before they'd cut it. ~~I don't think of anything else right now. Do you have anything else in mind?~~

Williams: What was it like working with Dr. Chandler?

Nunn: Dr. Chandler was a man I admired immensely. <sup># #</sup> To most people, he was hard to get along with, but I never had a moments trouble with him at all, except on one occasion and that was much later. He was a man <sup>who conducted much of his business from memory</sup> that kept his business in his head. He had one of the most remarkable memories. He would come into the office and he'd say, "I want so much money from such-and-such a fund." And he was never wrong. He'd tell me exactly what he had in that fund ~~and he was never wrong.~~ And I think he relied too much on his memory - that had something to do with his health because you know, I told you he'd fire people <sup>I</sup> names he would fire - he didn't mean it, <sup>Told</sup> but if he would tell a person to do something, he wanted it done, <sup>and</sup> he meant just that. We had some people who'd say, "I don't think," that 's about as far as they'd get. He just said, "You don't think; you do it!" ~~and~~ he was very emphatic, but I never had any <sup>real problems with him</sup> trouble

~~at all and that wasn't the trouble. That was in '34 - before that. I think he thought I had a secretary, <sup>Miss</sup> who is now Annie Neal Jones (I don't know if you've met her or not). She's still living in the College apartments; she's <sup>an invalid</sup> in the Inn, in a wheel-chair. She was my secretary for thirty-some years. And she was a very good chauffeur; she liked to drive all over the She had a Hup and he had <sup>Dr. Chandler</sup> a Hup, - I don't know if you've heard of a Hup or not, but anyway - he had a Hup and he would come at night - would come over to the office, <sup>at night</sup> walk in - (at that time he was living by himself-- his wife had died, the children were away) - he was living by himself and he'd come into the office~~

How about making this a new paragraph or inserting something like: "Dr. Chandler was a lonely man, too."

Dr. Chandler was in some respects a lonely individual. He was for most of the time alone in the President's House. Here were times when my secretary, Miss Annie Neal Jones, and I would be working at night when he would arrive at the door and say, "Don't let me interrupt your work. I'll just sit here until you finish. It was so quiet at the house I had to take a walk." When our work was completed he would ask Miss Jones, who was an excellent automobile driver, if she and her roommate, Miss Joyner, would like to take a ride to Jamestown. A few minutes later there would be Miss Jones, driving the president's car (a Hupmobile), with Miss Joyner and President Chandler as passengers, on their way to Jamestown. These occasions seemed to relax him because the next morning he would stop at the door of our office and have something to say about the evening before.

I recall one other occasion that throws light on the real Dr. Chandler. He had in his early days been a farmer, and he knew I grew up on



one. One day I was walking across the front campus when he was sitting on the porch of the President's House. As I passed he invited me to come and visit awhile with him. I did not know what to expect, but it wasn't but a few moments before the conversation turned to farming. I don't believe I ever spent a more pleasant half hour. We compared farming notes and discussed everything from horse trading to general farming to routine chores. He was a different person, one that could laugh and joke about the many little thing that had happened. Needless to say I went away with the feeling that I knew the real Dr. Chandler.

and we would be working nights and he would walk in the door  
 He'd and say, "Don't let me bother you. Don't let me bother you."  
 We'd look at him. And he'd say, "I got lonesome over in the  
 house sitting there-- just wanted to walk around. I just want  
 to sit here awhile until you finish." And when he'd finish, he'd  
 say, "Miss Jones, do you want to take a ride?" And she would  
 chauffeur him around, just ride around and he'd go home and  
 put her out and she would go on back to - and he'd go back  
 to the house. He would do that quite frequently, and at times  
 he would used to call me often (he'd see me out in the yard  
 or anywhere), "Come on, let's talk awhile." He would talk  
 about his farming and that sort of thing and laugh about his  
 little mule for this person, for that person. I think that

~~I was his relaxation because when he was in the office, he was~~  
 all business. There wasn't any tomfoolery or anything, he was all  
 business. ~~and he was a good business man, and he had an excellent~~  
 educator, too. ~~Some people say he was a builder and not an~~  
 educator but I didn't. ~~That wouldn't be my estimate of him~~  
 at all. ~~You see, he had - if you go back to a history of him~~  
 he had some very responsible positions. He was Superintendent  
 of Schools <sup>in</sup> at Richmond. He apparently changed that whole system  
 around to one that was probably one of the best in the country,  
 and that was before he came to William and Mary as president.

When he was sick, he was in the hospital, and this was just be-  
 fore that report <sup>the [Downs Report]</sup> broke. He called Miss Alsop <sup>from his</sup> on the bedside

in Richmond to ask her to get certain information from me and  
 for the both of us and <sup>take</sup> for Miss Alsop, myself to bring it up to the house hospital.

~~He had a~~ chauffeur by the name of Booney, and Miss Alsop <sup>delivered us both</sup>  
~~was to get Booney to take us up there.~~ Well, he took us

~~up there.~~ We walked in his hospital room and handed him  
 the information which he had requested, <sup>I had and after glancing at</sup> and he looked at me  
 and said, "Vernon, can't you ever <sup>get</sup> give me anything right?"

This isn't what I wanted. He turned to Miss Alsop and bawled  
 her out and said, "Didn't you report to Mr. Nunn what I told  
 you?" She said, "Yes, I did and that's it." He said, "No it  
 isn't." He turned to Booney and said, "Booney, how fast can  
 you get Nunn back to Williamsburg to get the information I want?"

Booney said, "I'll get there just as fast as I can." So we  
~~got in that Hup and started back, and I stopped in Sandston and~~  
~~got to a telephone and I called Miss Bessie Payne, who was~~  
 working in my office, told her what I wanted <sup>and</sup> to have it

ready when we drove up. Booney drove from Richmond to Wil-  
 liamsburg in fifty minutes <sup>on</sup> around that old road. How we got there, I don't know,  
 but that Hup was running! We turned around and went back.

And I walked in his room, and he said, "Vernon, I don't know  
 what got into me. <sup>I don't want it,</sup> If I ever cross you again, just tell me, <sup>about it,</sup> Vernon."

~~He was out of his mind worrying about the Hup. He never looked~~  
~~at it.~~ <sup>He had heard that the Down's Report was to be released and was no doubt quite</sup> <sup>concerned.</sup>  
<sup>Soon after he came back to Williamsburg he</sup>

~~at it.~~ Course he never ~~he~~ came back and went to the hospital

in Norfolk. But that thing was worrying him so bad, I'll never  
 forget it; - I felt so bad, so sorry for the man. He said,

<sup>the only concern during his whole administration was to be</sup>  
 "Vernon, I didn't mean what I said." <sup>To working for him.</sup>

<sup>my face and betterment of William and Mary</sup>  
~~My experience was that he was a great man. He was criticized~~

by a lot of people, ~~and~~ principally for his foresight in buying up

a lot of property-- not that they were against it, but they

thought he was doing something that would never be any use to

the College. <sup>He obtained out</sup> ~~He did spread it quite thick~~ <sup>Property, Strawberry Plains,</sup>  
~~he came out up Strawberry Plains, which, that goes way back~~  
<sup>and residential property along</sup>  
~~here to the Strawberry Plains Road out to Ironbound Road.~~  
<sup>Richmond and Jameson Road.</sup>

Williams: He bought all that?

Nunn: <sup>Yes,</sup> ~~Yeah,~~ I'm not sure of the acreage-- I think the acreage would  
<sup>thirteen hundred</sup>  
 be around 1300 acres, but I'm not too sure. ~~There was a lot of~~  
 1300, ~~whether that was it or another one.~~

Williams: You mentioned that he was a fine educator, but as you're saying  
 now, he was also a good businessman and builder without peer,  
 really.

Nunn: A good businessman and builder. That's right. And he wasn't  
 afraid to take chances. And I think, <sup>it</sup> ~~I've~~ had a lot to do  
 with his <sup>declining</sup> health because you can't commit yourself  
 to a lot of purchases and then wonder where you're going to get  
 the money to pay it. He never <sup>hesitated to</sup> ~~has paid it~~ or signed a contract  
 to buy the property, but just how much <sup>did worry</sup> he worried before he  
<sup>obtained the funds</sup> ~~finished building, trying to get the money to pay for it,~~ I don't  
<sup>am</sup> ~~know, but it's bound to have some effect on it.~~  
<sup>sure it must have had affected his health.</sup>

Williams: How did he get the money?

Nunn: Well, he had Dr. Goodwin <sup>as his fund raiser</sup> ~~was raising money for it.~~ <sup>J</sup> And then he  
<sup>from</sup>  
 borrowed money from banks and paid it back in rents. Part of  
 Monroe Hall was build<sup>t</sup> that way. And I told you about the  
 sororities ~~where he built these five sororities~~ in Sorority Court.  
 He had ~~this~~ <sup>the</sup> Mr. Davis, who was <sup>the</sup> a contractor, build the homes and

the sorority girls <sup>affirm gave</sup> signed a note to Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis, <sup>After getting the college to</sup> gave them to the college and they endorsed the notes and took <sup>them; discounted</sup> them to the bank and the bank discounted them for Mr. Davis, <sup>then at the bank, after which</sup> and then the college <sup>agreed to pay</sup> paid them back out of the rents from the sororities. He ~~didn't put five cents in those buildings in cash in repairs until the sororities started paying rent, and that's when he paid them off.~~

Williams: He tried to get money from the state, I assume? Would he go up to Richmond to get it?

Nunn: He <sup>received his share of the</sup> got some money from the state; he'd buy some things. But the state <sup>wasn't wealthy.</sup> didn't have a lot of money. But where would he get it?

He had <sup>a</sup> good relationship with the governor; he always had good relations with the governor. In fact, ~~of the matter,~~ at one time it was rumored <sup>student rumor,</sup> that he was <sup>to be selected to</sup> slated to be run for governor. <sup>I would suggest that you ask</sup> (Just how true that was - I'll tell you, if <sup>about it.</sup> you see Dr. Paschall, <sup>he can tell you about that.</sup> At the time that came up, Dr. Paschall was a student waiter in his dining hall, <sup>I understand</sup> and he overheard conversations between Dr. Chandler and Dr. Pollard, <sup>who was selected to</sup> who was government professor. ) Dr. Pollard was, ~~instead of Chandler, I think,~~ <sup>instead of Chandler,</sup> they ran Dr. Pollard and he did, he became governor. And Charles Pollard, the son, lives over in Queenslake. John Garland lives over in Lancaster County.

Williams: Would Dr. Chandler personally go to Richmond to try to get money?

Nunn: He spent <sup>right</sup> very much time in Richmond, and I know the governor used to come down here to see him, too. I think Dr. Goodwin probably

raised most of the money for him. But <sup>the greater portion</sup> a lot of the stuff ~~of the development was covered by bank loans~~ was done on notes to be repaid from the earnings of the ~~and repaid from rents~~ <sup>part of</sup> special dormitories. I know that Monroe Hall was ~~part of it was built with a note.~~ <sup>in this manner.</sup> At that time there was a ~~source of revenue through~~ piece of legislation known as the Noel Act, which was a fund set up to build dormitories in educational institutions.

Old Dominion and part of Barrett were built with Noel Act funds; that was a loan-- <sup>low interest repaid over a period of years.</sup> you had to pay it back but a loan with ~~low interest.~~

Williams: From the state?

Nunn: Right. Now you've got <sup>the stadium,</sup> the present Taliaferro Dormitory, <sup>1</sup> and James

Blair <sup>hall</sup> they were built with P.W.A. funds where the college bor- <sup>percent</sup> rowed money for 70 of the buildings <sup>Costs with to Federal government contributing</sup> and the government donated <sup>percent.</sup> 30. <sup>The bonds percent</sup> And you repaid that 70 from the proceeds of the dormi- <sup>from college operating funds as they became de-</sup> tory, and then they appropriated ~~the state~~ appropriated so

~~much for debt service to repay the Noel Act on on James Blair and the stadium.~~

Williams: You were telling me the other day about the original design for the stadium.

Nunn: Amphitheater. -- That's what it was. It was designed as an amphitheater, <sup>and called that an order to qualify for P.W.A. funds</sup> called it all through the records. They couldn't appro- <sup>These funds could not be used</sup> priate money for a stadium.

Williams: Because of the way the federal legislation was worded?

Nunn: That's right. And that's the reason that the front of that build- ing is designed the way it is.

Williams: You were talking about raising private donations - when as I read

it (in the Flat Hat primarily) when you were a student it seemed that Dr. Chandler was trying to raise funds from the students ~~for~~ in addition to the contribution that Mrs. Blow was making for Blow Gym. Do you remember any of that?

Nunn: No. That building was opened about 1924 or '25, I think. I know we had our Commencement Exercises in ~~there in '25~~, and I think that was the first time it was used. (I may be wrong about ~~that~~ <sup>this</sup>) but I think it was. She gave that money. I don't recall any ~~of~~ <sup>of students before</sup> ~~student-raising~~ <sup>involved, I do not remember it.</sup> could have, but I don't recall it.

Williams: He must have been quite good at fund-raising.

Nunn: Dr. Goodwin? Oh yes. He was a great orator. He sold Rockefeller on the ~~whole restoration.~~ <sup>idea of restoring with a building.</sup>

Williams: What sort of pitch could he make to someone to give an enormous amount of money to the College?

Nunn: I don't know. All I know is that when it came in, <sup>I borrow he by they a detailed</sup> and if you can get a hold of his records, <sup>record of all contributions which</sup> they're in the library - if you <sup>is now in the library.</sup> can get a hold of that you've got names and amounts - they're in there. I don't recall many of the names. I think A. Lincoln Filene was in there. Most of them that are in there who were <sup>there are</sup> ~~are well known~~ back in those days.

Williams: You said that Dr. Chandler carried his business in his head <sup>it</sup>

Nunn: Oh, yes, he had the greatest mind for figures.

Williams: It seems that his financial habits would have driven a treasurer-auditor wild <sup>it</sup>

Nunn: Well, yes, <sup>but</sup> it's a shame that <sup>the financial records of that</sup> we've lost some of those old records. <sup>early days are lost. There were no</sup> You could keep the records; you didn't have any problems keeping

the records, But it was uncanny the way he could tell you what was in ~~that~~ <sup>each major</sup> account. <sup>During the latter part</sup> Because I know that the last time -- ~~not the last time he came in the office~~ <sup>of his administration</sup> but it was near, it was ~~that last year~~ <sup>and said,</sup> -- he came into the office one day "Vernon, I want \$20,000 ~~to be~~ <sup>turned over</sup> transferred ~~to some account.~~ <sup>to another</sup>" I forget which account it was. ~~And~~ <sup>The accounts involved</sup> I said, "Dr. Chandler, you used that money a month ago" or something like that. He said, "No, no, I didn't," ~~and he didn't say any more.~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~And I thought said,~~ "yes, you did, so I went and got the books, and I showed him where ~~he sent a memo for that \$20,000.~~ <sup>he sent the transaction</sup> man cried. Tears came to his eyes, and he said, "Vernon, I'm losing my mind."

Williams: This was in his latter days when he was getting sick?

Nunn: Yes. He said, "I'm losing my mind." And that worried him because he prided himself on knowing all these <sup>about the finances</sup> things. And so I couldn't say that he gave us any problems because <sup>in keeping</sup> we kept the books, <sup>but</sup> and we just made transfers or paid bills as he sent them ~~to us.~~

Williams: If his health had held out and <sup>if</sup> the Depression hadn't intervened, do you think he would have continued more building?

Nunn: He wouldn't have stopped as long as there was any need-- need according to his way of thinking. No, I don't think he would've stopped, because he had a lot on the drawing board when he died, and that's the reason Mr. Bryan took the job as president. You see, Mr. Bryan was vice-rector of the Board, and they calculated that it would take about two years to complete Dr. Chandler's plans ~~that he had set out.~~ There was a Charles M. Robinson, who was



architect, had a relief map made of <sup>him plus Grandstand</sup> ~~what he wanted~~, and Dr.

Bryan agreed to take the presidency until that was finished ~~til that program was finished, because~~ <sup>he was Chairman</sup> (he was the chairman, I think, of the Building Committee or something on the Board). ~~And~~ that's the only reason Mr. Bryan took the presidency but once, he got into it, he became so interested in the <sup>students</sup> kids that he told me once, "I didn't realize it was so much fun working with young people." So he stayed on longer than he'd really planned when he <sup>first</sup> took the job. So Dr. Chandler did have his plans; he definitely would've gone on to finish if he'd lived.

Williams: His health, though, did fail, and when we were talking the other day you indicated that this report by the State Auditor's Office caused him a great deal of anguish. What was the Downs Report, and what was his reaction to it?

Nunn: The Downs Report said that there was a transfer of funds between accounts that they ~~said were~~ <sup>was</sup> illegal. Funds were given for one purpose and used in another category. I don't remember figures too well, but I think it was around \$85,000. But there was never any indication that he absconded with anything, just misappropriation. ~~And~~ Dr. Chandler was so wrapped up in development that it never occurred to him <sup>that</sup> he wouldn't ever deliberately do anything wrong. I know that. It's just that he <sup>was</sup> ~~wrapped up in~~ <sup>[building]</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>wanted it done</sup> and I don't think he even realized that he was <sup>what was being done was for the good of the college and state</sup> using for one thing ~~what~~ <sup>when</sup> the records ~~way back~~ <sup>indicated</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>[the</sup> money] ~~was for~~ something else.

Williams: It was the quickest way to do it; was that his idea?

Nunn: Yes. And then after he died, the Board of Visitors ~~took it on~~

*work in his journal and credits concerning each question*  
 themselves to straighten it out. They changed <sup>their</sup> the opinion *Transactions*  
<sup>\$23,000 or \$24,000.</sup>  
 on all but <sup>1</sup> twenty-three or twenty-four thousand. Now (those  
 figures may not be exact) but that amount. We worked through  
 the auditor's *to make adjustments on the accounts.*  
~~we worked to get the funds paid back to straighten~~  
~~them out.~~ But I think it's remarkable he didn't get mixed up  
 any more than he did considering what he was doing and the fact  
 that he was all wrapped up in his work. What he wanted to do  
 was for the interest of the College <sup>and</sup> which was for the State of  
 Virginia. I know it never occurred to him to get anything out  
 of it personally.

Williams: Had the report charged that he did?

Nunn: Well, I'd have to go back and read it. No, I don't think it did,  
 charged him — just misappropriation.

Williams: But this upset him terribly?

Nunn: Very much so; it hurt him. I don't think he ever thought once  
 that he had done something wrong. I think it hurt him to <sup>realize</sup> think  
 that people <sup>might</sup> would think he did something wrong-- I think that  
 was the worst part of it. I know it hurt him. And I've always  
 felt that <sup>it</sup> that hastened his death. You'd really have to know  
 him, *to realize that he was a great man* A lot of people didn't like him.

Williams: Did <sup>the</sup> students like him?

Nunn: I couldn't say I've ever heard one of them say they disliked him.

He was strict. The discipline, I think some of them like all stu-  
 dents, I know some of the students didn't like the way he handled <sup>it</sup>

*his rules.* <sup>wasn't for them to be pleased with</sup>  
 if he happened to catch them drunk or something like <sup>and I think</sup>  
 that. <sup>the other</sup> Course, he was <sup>they were shipped</sup> <sup>students that had a blame for violation the</sup> <sup>rule</sup>  
 But he had certain regula-  
*He expected them to know the rules and*  
*live by them.*

tions, and he wanted to live by <sup>them</sup> them. He wasn't wishy-washy in any way, shape, or form.

Williams: If he <sup>were</sup> was alive today we'd probably call him a law-and-order man.

Nunn: Definitely. And not only that -- in a few words, he was a

great man, *one that every person should have respect for the law.*

Williams: He and Mr. Bryan both, I understand, gave a good bit of personal help to students. Is this not true?

Nunn: Mr. Bryan did; Dr. Chandler didn't, *that's in a financial way.* Dr. Chandler, I don't think, was ever a real wealthy ~~man~~; he was well-off, but I don't think real wealthy enough to make any large contributions. He would do everything he could to get scholarships for students.

*maintained control over the fund.* He had a state student loan fund; I know if he thought you needed ~~a~~ *loan* *immediately* *approve* *it*, he'd be the first one ~~want you to have some.~~ He didn't want you to drop

] out of school. I borrowed \$50 from ~~him~~ the state student loan fund.

He just looked like he was pleased to help you. <sup>#</sup> But Mr. Bryan was just the opposite, *[from Dr. Chandler] He liked to hear words student.* Mr. Bryan, ~~he liked young people and he's~~ *the one* I told you the other day, *about* one case. I had ~~an~~ *concerning* problem with a student ~~to pay~~ his accounts. I called him in and he

just told me-- in fact, he laughed at me-- and said, "I don't have to pay." And I said, "Why?" "Well, Mr. Bryan told me

I could pay it when I wanted to." So that's when I ~~-----~~ out

I went to <sup>[Charlie]</sup> Duke, who was the ~~bursar~~, and I just said, "We've got <sup>#</sup> to go in and have a talk with Mr. Bryan." *After telling* ~~And I told~~ him what

happened, ~~and~~ Charlie said, "Let's go in." So we walked into his

office, and Mr. Bryan was sitting at his desk. Charlie said, "Vernon  
~~Mr. Bryan,~~ <sup>around</sup> we want to talk to you about some students, stu-  
 dent accounts." ~~Well,~~ <sup>John</sup> I told him what happened, and he looked  
 at me and said, "Vernon, I never realized that he would take it  
 that way." He said, "I meant for him not to worry about the  
 account, we'd work out ~~something like that.~~" <sup>Then</sup> "But," he said,  
 "I assure you that it'll never happen again." ~~And he didn't~~  
~~have to say that to me.~~ get the impression that I'm

~~just letting him off and letting him go.~~ So, <sup>a</sup> couple days  
 later, I had another ~~case like that.~~ <sup>similar case.</sup> ~~A boy couldn't pay it.~~ <sup>After talking to the boy</sup>  
~~I talked to him.~~ <sup>he</sup> He went out and went to see Mr. Bryan. ~~I didn't~~  
 know it, ~~but they~~ <sup>the cashier</sup> told me later that he came right back in the  
 office <sup>from</sup> Mr. Bryan's office, and paid the account. ~~Mr. Bryan took~~ <sup>I am confident</sup>  
 the money ~~out of his pocket and gave it~~ <sup>came out of Mr. Bryan's pocket</sup> - I don't know that  
 he did it, but I am inclined to believe that he helped quite a  
 few students that way. <sup>#</sup> He was one of the most pleasant and in

a sense, remarkable individuals. The first day he came to work ~~he~~  
~~went to every office~~ <sup>(I was in Richmond, I think)</sup> ~~he~~ went  
 to every office with a box of sweet rolls, and I understand he  
~~met all the secretaries; he went down the hall and gave them all~~ <sup>and treated</sup>  
 rolls. ~~that was the way he~~ <sup>went into the</sup> building <sup>the</sup> first day he was  
 president. The second day, <sup>when</sup> I was in my office, ~~and he came in -- a~~  
 long, lank <sup>#</sup> fellow -- he didn't even come through the door, ~~he~~ just  
~~got outside the door and put his head around there and said,~~ <sup>the casing</sup>

"Vernon, what do you want me to do?" <sup>That was the first greeting</sup> ~~That's the way he greeted~~  
~~me as president. He was a great man.~~ <sup>I received from him as President.</sup>

*Omigod*  
 He got Liz worried once. We went to a party and he called her aside. "You know, I've got to do something about Nunn. He isn't working enough." She didn't know what to think. "He doesn't work more than eleven, twelve hours a day." She thought he was going to bawl me out.

Williams: I have heard, and I don't know how true this is, but I had heard that Dr. Chandler before he died had been afraid that John Stewart Bryan would be his successor. Do you know how true this might be?

Nunn: Well, if that's true, I never heard it. This is the first I've ever heard it. *time I have heard it mentioned*

Williams: I don't know if that's a true story or not. Dr. Bryan did, though, change the whole tone of the college.

Nunn: Oh, yes. He changed the tone completely. It became a <sup>quite</sup> social place. He <sup>remember</sup> you had a Christmas party <sup>when you</sup> you had to dress up in colonial costume to get in, it didn't cost you anything, <sup>since</sup> he'd have everything -- <sup>supplied everything for you</sup> soups and nuts and -- His parties were the most elaborate, <sup>remember he had</sup> and he had two at the Laburnum, <sup>in</sup> in Richmond, <sup>bank</sup> And we went up to the first one, and <sup>when you were plentiful and</sup> this was a champagne flowed, and some of the students, <sup>or</sup> some of the faculty (<sup>or</sup> like he told me later)

that they drank like as if it'd be the last they'd ever get.

*Later the evening*  
 And the last I saw of them a group of them were sitting on his stairs singing. I came home. *He had one more party at Laburnum and I saw them* He tried it once more and after the second year we had it, *to my office*, he came out and said,

"Vernon, I'll never have another one." ~~He said~~, "Some of these faculty members don't know how to drink. They just get inebriated."

*many more were held on*

So that's the last one he had in Richmond. He'd have them  
*Hal Kemp*  
down here, especially at Christmas.

Williams: <sup>And</sup> This must in the Sunken Garden.

Nunn: In the Sunken Garden-- Dances. We had Hal Kemp  
and Glenn Miller-- they both were here twice, Gene Krupa was here  
once, and there were quite a few others.

Williams: And these dances all came out of Mr. Bryan's pocket?

Nunn: Well, ~~the arrangements~~ we never didn't see a bill for the  
arrangements, like construction of the decorations and that,  
but we did -- they charged a good fee -- the orchestra <sup>was</sup> paid for  
from ~~the charges for the people who came to dance.~~ <sup>the</sup> But as far  
as the arrangements, we never saw a bill in our office. And they  
were elaborate, too. I remember how Hal Kemp <sup>remained</sup> said, <sup>he</sup> didn't see  
anything in California that was any better. <sup>The dance floor in the</sup> All the lattice works  
<sup>Sunken Garden, was surrounded (at the upper level) with</sup> and the booths around up there where you could sit down  
<sup>for tea, coffee, etc. something for the comfort of the patrons,</sup> like you enclosed.

Williams: Mrs. Nunn said they looked like movie sets.

Nunn: That's right. It was a social era.

Williams: Can you think of any illustrative tales on this period, either  
students or the --

Nunn: Well, one I remember one occasion <sup>[when]</sup> William and Mary beat -- ~~I~~  
~~one of our rivals (I don't remember if it was in football or baseball),~~  
~~don't know what school it was or whether it was football or base-~~  
~~ball, I've forgotten --~~ but to celebrate <sup>the students</sup> they had a bonfire  
right in front of the campus, <sup>on the street</sup> right there in front of the gates  
of the Wren Building right on Duke of Gloucester Street --  
that's where they built the bonfire. And some of the students  
<sup>became</sup> got a little <sup>one</sup> anxious to building it up and get more wood;

they came back pulling a two-horse wagon that belonged to a Williamsburg resident. The students later had to take up a collection to pay for it.

From time to time one met a student that was overly serious about his education and elected to concentrate on the academics while forsaking all other activities. I have in mind one such student, whom I will call Mr. X. He came from the southwestern part of the state, and like many of the natives of ~~the~~ part of the country included handguns as a part of his personal belongings. It happened that during the time he was at William and Mary it was customary to have bonfires on Friday nights before football games. Freshmen were required to gather the materials for said fire and be present during the celebration to

supply the entertainment by running around the fire, with the upperclassmen furnishing the incentive--paddles. During one occasion someone inquired about the whereabouts of Mr. X. He not being present a delegation was dispatched to



go after him. Upon arriving at his room they encountered a locked door braced with chairs, and he refused to come out on the grounds that he had to study and didn't have time for other matters. So they decided to enter through the

transom over the door. One of the boys was booted up, and as his head appeared through the opening he was greeted by a gunshot, the bullet entering the ceiling just above the transom. Needless to say they changed their plans, and after enlisting aid decided to wash him out by connecting a firehose to the hydrant that was located at the rear of the building. Mr. X's room was on the third floor, and the window opened on the top platform of the fire escape. While the boys were connecting the hose, Mr. X went out on the fire escape platform and was standing there with a gun in each hand. When the connection was

completed one student called for the water to be turned on, but there came a voice from above, "I'm ready, too--turn it on!" The sight they saw when they looked up ~~was~~ of Mr. X., a gun in each hand-- caused them to change their minds. This was the end of the episode as far as the students were concerned, but the affair was reported to the president.

I believe President Chandler was sympathetic to Mr. X's ambition for an education because he offered to let him remain in college, provided he surrendered his guns. This he refused to do, and he decided to leave the college, taking his guns with him. Just how his career fared after this episode I can only report that I heard through the grapevine that he transferred to another college, received his degree, and was doing very well.

April 23, 1975

Williams: You wanted from last time to correct the record that you in 1930 became assistant treasurer, rather than auditor.

Nunn: <sup>yes</sup> And then it ~~was~~ several years later, <sup>also</sup> ~~that~~ Mr. Duke <sup>became bursar,</sup> came in.

~~They~~ reorganized the titles? They gave me the title of Auditor. <sup>and</sup> They did away with the Treasurer, <sup>title and gave the position to</sup> used the bursar and auditor; <sup>Alvin</sup> and then when Dr. Chandler came they restored the Treasurer and then <sup>changed to</sup> made my title Treasurer-Auditor, <sup>where I remained</sup> Then that stayed until I retired in 1969.

~~And now they've done away with the auditor~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~and have~~ a separate person bursar <sup>for</sup> treasurer he's one person and the auditor's another person.

Williams: Was there ever any change in your duties from the time <sup>you came</sup>?

Nunn: Well, when I first started it was strictly accounting. The business manager handled <sup>state</sup> the vouchers and that sort of thing, and <sup>Purchase orders</sup> mine my duty was strictly collecting of funds and depositing them and charging <sup>the accounts, making deposits, printing</sup> the ~~financial records,~~ <sup>the financial records,</sup> ing the checks and things to the proper funds. <sup>There were</sup> Now we've got had two types of funds <sup>and local,</sup> with the state ~~state~~ and with the bank, the local business. <sup>State transactions were handled by the state comptroller and treasurer.</sup> We didn't sign any state checks; ~~and state~~ <sup>The state income collected were</sup> money was deposited in the Treasury of Virginia, and we just had a certified vouchers against <sup>the</sup> the funds, and the state mailed <sup>These duties</sup> the checks, and <sup>such vouchers</sup> that process is still in operation today. That continued until we moved <sup>into</sup> over to what is now James Blair Hall, and <sup>when</sup> then I had the budgets, <sup>control</sup> were added to my duties. We helped prepare the budgets; we didn't distribute budgets to the departments-- that was done by the academic side; it was done by

Academic

I couldn't understand this from the tape. Can you figure it out?

Our office supplied them with the

the Dean of the Faculty. Our office would give them the total and take from half of department he distributed among the ~~received that annual allotment from the bursar.~~ faculty. It was our job to keep a record of the

departmental expenditures and to see that each department was ~~did not exceed the allotted amount.~~ within its budget. So, you could call it a <sup>sort of</sup> ~~semi~~ budget control.

The real budget control was in the hands of the bursar, but we ~~kept the records and supplied the~~ did the work and handed him the reports. And that's practically the way it stayed except ~~that~~ where I stayed all year with the exception of the volume grew

Does the pencilled version sound better?

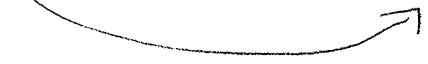
immensely. I guess it was around ~~a~~ under \$1,000,000 when I started and when I retired, (the best I can remember) between \$12,000,000 and \$13,000,000.

~~12 and thirteen million.~~ That's just the state budget. And then ~~In addition, we kept the records of all local funds,~~ we had all our local funds which we took care of, with the ~~en-~~ dowments and any athletic fees and recreation fees and the library

~~fee - that sort of thing was handled through our office. They~~ ~~were~~ private funds. Every agency had their own fund like the men's athletic had theirs, the women's athletic the same, the student activities - they each had a separate fund. It was our job to all that - to keep records of those, the income and the <sup>go</sup> ~~outcome.~~ We did sign all local checks, <sup>but not the state</sup> ~~out-of-state.~~

Williams: And you say that practice continues still today?

Nunn: Still continues today, yes. All state money is deposited with the Treasury of Virginia and all purchasing is done, most of it is done) by the state for the College - State Division of ~~The college could~~ But they do make purchases for small amounts, <sup>all V olund</sup> But if you have volume buying, <sup># 10</sup> it's all handled by the Division of ~~Purchasing & Printing~~ in Richmond. ~~Handled all~~



through requisitions, <sup>which are prepared by the</sup> We send requisitions to the ~~Department~~ <sup>Purchasing Department</sup> and they ~~do~~ the purchasing.

Williams: Was the business end of the College this organized when you came in 1930?

Nunn: Yes. I carried on just the same work as had been put in before I arrived, <sup>by the</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~young man whose name is Bill Thompson was~~ <sup>when I took the place of William B. Thompson,</sup> doing the work, I took over, and he left to go into automobile ~~business in Norfolk.~~ <sup>which was to run a private business.</sup> So that's when I came in his place, but <sup>has been</sup> there ~~was~~ very little change in the mechanics of the book-keeping, except the volume has increased and there <sup>have</sup> ~~has~~ been minor changes in methods, but the end results are just about the same. We changed systems a couple of times, but that was just <sup>for added efficiency</sup> to improve the method of doing it, not to change the method.

Williams: Now when Mr. Bryan came in, you had one of these changes in titles; <sup>you</sup> became the auditor, <sup>and</sup> at the same time he created the job of bursar. How did this differ?

Nunn: They did away with the title "business manager" and used the title bursar because the original charter, you see, ~~had~~ <sup>use</sup> didn't have a business manager, <sup>who was both</sup> it had a bursar. <sup>At that time the bursar</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>the</sup> business manager and treasurer. Now bursar, in reality, is a treasurer, <sup>of the change was made to have the officers conform to</sup> They changed it so the title would conform to <sup>had made</sup> the original set-up. <sup>the</sup> So they made Mr. Duke, the title of business manager, <sup>had his title</sup> before, <sup>title</sup> they changed his to bursar, <sup>They eliminated the</sup> and they did away with the treasurer and gave me the title of auditor, <sup>title</sup> But no change in my duties.

Williams: How did Charlie Duke's role differ from yours?

Nunn: ~~Well,~~ <sup>had</sup> the charge of the operation of the <sup>Physical</sup> whole plant, <sup>you know.</sup>

*which is a major task in itself.*  
 All the plant was under him and frankly, the budgets were under him, too, *he delegated the detail work to our office;* but we did do most of the work in there and *he acted on the* just put reports on his desk. *we supplied* The duties, with these title changes, *with these title changes* didn't change at all. He had the whole college to look after from the business standpoint, the plant department, the dormitories, academic buildings, grounds. *not only* He was *was let at my boss, but he was responsible for* all over. In fact, he was over our office, too. He was *all physical plant operations.* really my boss.

Williams: And then you were responsible for the <sup>#</sup> <sup>and #</sup> <sup>of</sup> ingoing<sub>1</sub> outgo<sub>1</sub>ing state and local funds?

Nunn: That's right, *And* keeping the records and making up the financial reports. We made all the financial reports.

Williams: It appeared to me, as I read things about the Bryan administration and the Pomfret administration, too, that Charlie Duke's role was a very strong one. How dependent was the bursar's position on the personality of Charlie Duke?

Nunn: Charlie was a politician, *And* he aspired to being governor. He was very active in the Byrd-- they called it the Byrd machine ~~the~~ Byrd organization. His father, I think, was one of the top political men in Norfolk <sup>1</sup> or it was Portsmouth, I believe -- <sup>the</sup> in Portsmouth and he was very close friends with Byrd <sup>S</sup> and when he died, I think they sort of locked to Charlie to take over. And Charlie did. He told me himself that one day he aspired to be governor of Virginia. So he was quite active in politics.

*Then there was the time the Governor appointed him to head up a* ~~And he was away some of the time~~ *he was away from the College a committee to review and make suggestions to improve* few days at a time. *And then they had a study made of all the* *the various state departments.*

[in the state]

departments by a committee appointed by Governor Tuck. The  
 Governor appointed Charlie as chairman of that committee. *This resulted in his being away from the college.*  
 → So there was a spell there where he was in Richmond about three  
 days a week, and he left us to handle all the business. That  
 didn't go on very long; the study was completed, I think, in  
 about three or four months, something like that, maybe a little  
 longer. *This is the only time he delegated his duties to*  
 But that's the only time when he was really away from  
 the college, but as I said, he did have his hands in a lot of  
*other papers. He remained quite active*  
 in politics for a short period thereafter.  
 the political organizing and was quite active, but he never

I think he finally realized that his chances of being governor  
 were very slim, and he sort of discontinued his political efforts.  
 And then too, about two <sup>or three</sup> years, I think, before, ~~three years be-~~  
<sub>[the college]</sub> fore he left, he had a slight heart attack, and he was under  
 the doctor's care, and I know there was a spell when he wasn't  
 supposed to come to the office until 10:00 in the morning, and  
 then at lunch he was to lie down and take two hours rest <sup>before</sup> and then  
<sub>coming back</sub> come to the office for a couple hours in the afternoon. He did  
 that for about two weeks. And he came into the office one day  
 and said if he had to continue that way, he'd rather be dead,  
 and so he started coming back regularly. He did that until  
 Admiral Chandler was appointed president. When the Admiral be-  
 came president, Charlie resigned. *help organize*  
 He resigned to take a posi-  
 tion with WAVY <sup>[TV]</sup> and <sup>P.</sup> he was one of the organizers of that orga-  
 nization, and <sup>to</sup> get the charter, he was doing a lot of work in  
 Washington <sup>to</sup> frequent trips <sup>to</sup> coming back and forth from Washington. *This*  
 Of course, *posed to be more than he could stand.*  
 one day he came back, and that's probably a year after he retired,



*The last time he made his trip*  
 after he resigned, and he stopped up here at Norge at the  
~~he stopped at Southern States in Norge to pack~~  
 Southern States, to get some, I don't know, grass seed or  
~~supplies for his garden~~ *while loading* he  
 something, he was going to do around the house and as  
~~when he was loading the cars~~ *he collapsed and died*  
 they were loading the cars, he dropped dead at Norge.

That ended, of course, Charlie's career. (That was when  
 Admiral  
 Dr. Chandler was president.) He came in under Mr. Bryan  
 as business manager, and then later bursar, and was there  
 through Dr. Pomfret's administration and into, I forget  
 whether it's one or two years, <sup>of</sup> Admiral Chandler's admini-  
 stration.

Williams: Why was it he never became even a candidate for governor? How  
 did he miss his chance?

Nunn: I don't know. I wasn't a politician; I didn't get into that.  
 all of a sudden  
 As far as I know, he just stopped talking about it ~~and~~ *aspiring*  
 to the governorship. I don't know whether he had any run-in  
 with the organization, <sup>or not.</sup> If he did, he never told me about it.  
 Maybe <sup>some</sup> others could give you more information than I. <sup>of</sup> Course  
 he wasn't too popular among quite a few of them. There were  
 some rumors about him, but I think the rumors were mostly  
 overplayed. He made some enemies in town, and there <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ some  
 people that I think ~~we~~ *were* out to get him. We were very close  
 friends, and we worked together, never had any problems at all.

# A lot of the things, I think, <sup>h</sup> we did, were overplayed. Some  
 I suppose were true. I think what <sup>h</sup> we did when he lived <sup>in the</sup> right  
~~there on Richmond Road;~~ *Bozarth House on the corner of Richmond Road* well,  
 it had a beautiful back yard at that time and he was asked by  
 and Virginia were  
 # 1

Mr. Bryan to do a lot of the entertainment<sup>ing,</sup>. He was asked ~~since the house was not in the best repair to try to do a lot of the entertainment, he and Virginia, so they had it redone.~~ The yard was also landscaped, fixed the house up real nice, and he bought a lot of bulbs ~~including planting of the several kinds of bulbs and shrubs.~~ and things and put them in back yard. Now he paid for the ~~Mr. Dake furnished the bulbs, with the college bulbs, but he used college groundsman, you know, to do the groundsman doing all the work.~~ planting and landscaping and that sort of thing. And quite

a few of the townspeople would walk <sup>when</sup> by and see his place all fixed up, <sup>would have a comment about how he was</sup> and these remarks would be made -- they didn't <sup>mean to state favor for personal gain. This didn't bother him.</sup> bother Charlie at all. He did it on the assumption that they

were entertaining for the President, <sup>the President's wife</sup> was an invalid in Richmond, she didn't live down here, <sup>down in the campus with them</sup> and Mr. Bryan did ask <sup>Charlie</sup> him and Virginia to do this entertaining.

And they did fix the place up so the backyard was a showplace.

Whether he can be faulted for that or not, I don't know, but <sup>some folks just talked too much.</sup> there's a lot of people made these remarks -- college building,

college expense, living that way. I couldn't condemn the man, <sup>some people did</sup> but my relatives <sup>in connection with the college business. If you</sup> got along <sup>was exceptionally good.</sup>; I couldn't condemn him. Some people might.

Williams: Was he able to use <sup>did</sup> he have influence in Richmond that he could use for the College?

Numm: Oh, yes, <sup>Construction of the summer</sup> At one time he did. Yes, indeed. They were doing an <sup>garden, planting of all the Boxwood, Freziera myrtle, and</sup> awful lot of landscaping of the campus -- they had all those <sup>beech trees was accomplished during his administration</sup> beech trees there during his administration. And all the boxwoods <sup>to do this, without interruption he had to secure</sup> that was during his administration. And all that came in, that <sup>was an expensive thing.</sup> was an expensive thing. Well, he had no trouble whatsoever getting <sup>the Governor to approve through it</sup> deficit <sup>authorizations to the state to finish the work</sup> and then <sup>they</sup> paid off the deficit later. That, of course, is a feat in itself. <sup>was</sup>

<sup>has</sup> decreased the deficit a little each year until it was entirely liquidated.