

Marguerite Wynne-Roberts

Miss Marguerite Wynne-Roberts is a long-time resident of Williamsburg, having grown up here before returning in 1925 to teach dance at William and Mary. In 1934 she became assistant dean of women, serving in that capacity until 1954. Another longtime resident has credited Miss Wynne-Roberts with being one of the most beneficial influences on the conduct of William and Mary coeds in that period.

The draft transcript, interesting for Miss Wynne-Roberts's early recollections of life in the town and of women's activities at the college in the 1920s to the 1950s, may be somewhat confusing. It was Miss Wynne-Roberts's desire to edit her transcript, and her additions are in some cases typed and in some cases handwritten.

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Interviewee Marquette Wynne - Roberts
 Date of interview February 12, 1975
 Place 519 Newport Ave., Williamsburg
 Interviewer Emily Williams
 Session number 1
 Length of tape 90 mins.

Contents:

Approximate time:

early memories of Williamsburg (early 1900s) relations between college and town pastimes	} 15 mins.
Seven Wise Men: description of Williamsburg Female Institute	} 12 mins. 7 mins.
dance classes at W&M in 1920s dept. in general	} 8 mins.
May Day celebrations	
discipline procedure	1 min.
return to William and Mary in 1920s - to teach phys. ed. (continued)	11 mins.
phys. ed. dept. in general	
women's social life in 1920s, and 1930s, 1940s sororities	} 25 mins.
social regulations	
parties, dances, athletic events	
summer school, ^{social} activities	4 mins.
discipline of girls, miscellaneous anecdotes	5 mins.

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Interviewee Marguerite Wynne - Roberts

Date of interview February 21, 1975

Place 519 Newport Ave., Williamsburg

Interviewer Emily Williams

Session number 2

Length of tape 75 mins.

Contents:

Approximate time:

appointment as assistant dean of women	2 mins.
general comments on women students	5 mins.
effects of Restoration	2 mins.
student attitudes	3 mins.
World War II effect on women's lives	14 mins.
post-war changes in students' attitudes	3 mins.
miscellaneous	3 mins.
dom security	2 mins.
work with housemothers	2 mins.
Dean Grace Landrum: description	6 mins.
college dances (1930s, 1940s)	5 mins.
^{changes in} 1 dean of women's office in late 1940s, early 1950s	11 mins.
Special duties	
general observations	15 mins.

See back of sheet for names and places mentioned in interview

Marguerite Wynne-Roberts
~~MARGUERITE WYNNE-ROBERTS~~

February 12, 1975

Emily: One of the things that I do want to ask you ^(about) ^{are} is that you ~~were~~ one of the few people that I have met so far who has lived in Williamsburg as far back as the early 1900s. Before you came to the college faculty you were living on the Duke of Gloucester Street, I think you told me last time.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I lived on ^{the} Duke of Gloucester Street ^{then} we had a farm out where Queen's Lake is now. It was on the other side ^{of the lake} and ~~it~~ was called Blairs. ~~We moved out there~~ I can't remember what year it was that we moved, but we were there for ^{a number of years} a long time. ~~And then~~ in 1918 the house burned, ~~and so~~ we moved back into Williamsburg and were again on the Duke of Gloucester Street.

Emily: In those days, what kind of relationship was there between the college and the town? Could you separate the two even? ^{SEE 10}

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Very close relationship. The town and ~~the~~ gown were very, ~~a~~ very close, and it was ~~just~~ delightful.

Emily: Did any of the students live down in the Duke of Gloucester Street area, or were they all up here, do you know?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~You know, I can't remember if they had dormitories or not.~~ ^(to William and Mary) They ~~may not have had~~ dormitories. My brother went, ~~but~~ of course, he lived at home. ~~Well, there were so many. There were the boys in town and they lived at home like Bat Peachy and the Spencer boys.~~

Emily: ~~Vernon~~ Geddy, maybe. Is he from Williamsburg?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: The Geddys, yes. Not Buddy Geddy.

Emily: No. father, senior.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: # There were always interesting and fun things to do and to see: There were plays, lectures, concerts, and minstrels at the college, also receptions. In the town, ^{there were} many social events--teas, luncheons, card parties, etc. Plays, and [#]musical events were often given at Cameron Hall, ~~at~~ on the Eastern State Hospital grounds. Dances were also held there. We went for picnics, ~~at~~ and walks in the woods, ^{and} ~~and~~ rode horseback. Most families had a horse or horses. My brother and sister and I were not allowed to take a horse out until we could name all parts of the saddle, bridle, and harness. It didn't take us long to learn! The boys played , baseball and other games on the Courthouse Green. In the winter we skated on "Ice House Cove" or the "mill pond," which is now called Lake Matoaka. When it snowed we would go coasting. Every family had a sled or sleds.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: His uncle ~~Then Sigh Hankins, George~~
and John Tyler.

Emily: A lot of them, then.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, yes. A lot of them. And I think ^{Dr. Derry} ~~Berry Jones~~. There
are just so many of them. I was just a little girl.]

Emily: You say it was delightful. What could you remember?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, there was such a nice relationship between the people
in the college and the people in the town. Now, Miss Patty Morecock was
Dr. Tyler's secretary. You see, she lived in town. (Maybe you've heard
of the Morecock family.) Miss Kitty, Miss Pinky, Miss Agnes, Miss Patty.
Delightful people.) Dr. and Mrs. Garrett, [^] He was one of the "Seven Wise
Men." Also Dr. Bishop and Mrs. Bishop had a little school. She taught
music, and her sister, Mrs. Hensley, had a little school right there in
the home. Of course the Bishops, [^] they had four sons, And I think I
told you ~~at that time~~ that Dr. Bishop always spoke German and often Mrs.
Bishop spoke French. So those four boys had the speaking knowledge of
three languages. They would carry on a conversation so easily.

Emily: I imagine that was rather rare for Williamsburg residents to be con-
versant in three languages, wasn't it? (Other than the college professors, say)?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes.

* Emily: What sorts of things would there have been for a young person in
Williamsburg to do in those days? This would have been before the movie
theater was downtown.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh yes, [^] Cara Garrett was a great one for
writing little plays, and we would have fun acting them
out in the Garrett's boxwood garden.

~~fun in the box bushes.~~ [^] At the college they had plays; ~~they had~~ musicals. [^] ~~features~~

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this?

Then they would have ^{also} teas and receptions. My mother and father used to go to ~~so~~ many of them. Often ^{for} the receptions ^{our selves} they had coffee and tea service ^{went} ~~up~~ there frequently. ^{was used} Of course in the winter we had skating down on the pond. It wasn't called Lake ^{a a} Metoka. It was the mill pond because there was a ^{mill pond} mill there ^(Hour Mill). Then we had coasting and we ~~would go~~ ^{would} now ~~so~~ often on Sunday afternoon Mr. Golt used to take several of us ~~down~~ for a walk, usually along Capital Landing Road. There was a cedar tree there which was called "the ^w Wishing Tree" and we would stop there, and he would tell us little stories, and we ^w could make wishes.
~~(His daughter is living in the Golt house, Mrs. ^{Ki} Garbey) I think I spoke about that the other day. His birthday and mine were the same day and we always had some kind of party. It was just delightful. We would ride horseback. I was not allowed, nor ^{were} my sister or brother ~~were~~ allowed, to take a horse out of the stable until we could bridle and saddle a horse properly and name all the parts of the bridle and saddle. And ~~it was~~ the same way ^{with} ~~was~~ in the buggy. We had to name all the parts and know how to hitch a horse to the buggy.~~

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Emily: Was there much going to Richmond or down ~~to~~ the Peninsula, or ^{was} your life ~~was~~ here in Williamsburg?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. They didn't have cars ⁱⁿ that day. They just had horse and buggy. ~~or carriages~~

Emily: And there wasn't a concrete road ~~out~~ at the time.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No. There was ~~a~~ ^{the} C. and O. station and trains. My father used to go ~~away~~ sometimes to Richmond. ^{when he returned} We would stand on our porch and wait until the whistle blew, ~~and~~ then we ~~would~~ run to see if we could get there in time when ~~the~~ train stopped.

Emily: Did you?

8 # Often on Sunday afternoon Mr. Galt would take several of us for a walk, usually on Capitol Landing Road, where there was a large cedar tree called the "wishing tree." Mr. Galt would tell us fascinating stories while we stood under it, and then we would make a wish.

Emily: Was there much going to Richmond or down the Peninsula, or was your life here in Williamsburg?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, there were several G.&O. trains going both ways. In the early days the mode of travel was with horse and buggy, carriage, or wagon, but soon came the hot automobile and hard surface roads. In the summer weather many families went to either the mountains or the beach, travelling by train. My father often went to Richmond by train. When he returned we would stand on our porch, wait for the train whistle to blow, then race to the C.&O. station in time to meet my father when the train stopped. We usually made it! Of course we carried his suitcase, hoping there was a gift in it for us. We were seldom disappointed!

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Spencer ran the Colonial Inn. It stood where Chowning's Tavern is. Their horse and carriage met each of the C.&O. trains. Mrs. Spencer was a charming lady. She always wore her hat when she came to breakfast. Someone asked her why, and her reply was, "If there is anything to go to or to see I'm ready." And she was. In the winter whenever there was snow she would have the horses hitched to the sleigh and with bells on drive around town. Many people came year after year from New

1 York to spend the Christmas holidays at the Inn.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer were great friends of my parents. On Christmas Day (in the evening) Mr. and Mrs. Spencer would bring a number of their guests to our house. Also other of our friends in town would come, and the evening was made gay with music ^{and} singing. My mother would have refreshments on the dining room table at a certain time

] we children had to go up stairs, supposedly to bed. We would get undressed, but our ears were open, and when we thought all the guests had left we would hang over the banister and call down and ask mother, then run down hoping that some refreshments were left on the table for us. My mother would find something for us. These were truly great and delightful times.

Emily: You spoke of Dr. Garrett and the "Seven Wise Men." I wondered if you would describe the ones you knew, say beginning with Dr. Garrett?

Miss Wyne-Roberts: Yes. Dr. Garrett was a fine person, with a quiet dignity and easy manner. Mrs. Garrett was simply charming, with a delightful sense of humor. She grew up in Louisiana, and she told us children many interesting and fascinating stories of her girlhood in New Orleans. Dr. Garrett and his three sisters grew up in Williamsburg; they lived in the Garrett House. Miss Mary taught Sunday School at Bruton Parish, and it has been said that she influenced many young men to go into the ministry. Miss Sue went out to the Midwest as a missionary, where she met and married Peyton Nelson. They later retired and returned to Williamsburg.

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Miss Wynne-Roberts: Dr. Garrett was really a very delightful person. He was more quiet than some of the others. He was always very lovely. And of course, Mrs. Garrett was simply charming. She was from Louisiana. Dr. Garrett's sisters lived in the Garrett house, ^{ie} now, Miss Lotty and Miss Mary. Miss ~~Sue~~ ^{Miss Sue} taught Sunday School in Bruton. And I think possibly ¹ more young men went to the Virginia Theological Seminary through her influence. ^{MISS SUE} Then she went out to the midwest as a missionary. Then later ^{ph} ~~on~~ she met Payton ~~Randolph~~ Nelson, ¹ then they were married and then when she retired and he retired, they came back to Williamsburg. ^{to live} Emily: They became legends here.

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Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. I told you about Dr. Bishop. I don't know whether I told you how he amused us when he played his organ. He had an organ in their living room. He had a pump organ, and he would sometimes play for us and amuse us. ^{Suddenly} ¹ Certainly his foot would come up and he would strike ^{one or two} some of the notes with his foot.

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Mrs. Bishop taught music. I think she taught practically all the young people in Williamsburg who took music. ^{passions} I think they took it from her. ^{Wharton} ^{one of the "Seven Wise Men"} Dr. ~~Morton~~ was a very interesting person, and he often conducted the service at Bruton, ^{whan} and I'm sure he knew the Bible by heart, because he would get up to read the lesson, and he'd ^{and turn the} ^{with his eyes closed} pages, and then he'd shut his eyes and read the whole chapter. We sat in the second pew, and of course, it just fascinated me to see him standing up there reading the Bible with his eyes closed. [#] One time some of his students, ^{thought they'd} (they were all men students), ¹ played a little joke on him. ^{But he got}

~~a wind of it.~~ They were going to take his ~~take his~~ buggy one evening ^{down to} and take it in the pond, not to put it in the pond, but just ^{edge of the} to the pond. He got wind of it. So he went ^{out + set in} to his in his buggy. ^{They} ^{put the} curtain up in front. ^{The curtain was} used whenever a train ¹.

with the knitting mill

He had something to do also ^(A) I don't know whether it was at the same time ^{that} he was teaching at the college or whether it was later ^[with] the knitting

~~mill. He was~~ ~~I don't know whether he was manager or head man~~
~~or what.~~ *His two daughters & I were friends.*

Emily: Was ~~that~~ ^{the mill} at Toano?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, it ^{was} down where the maze is, ^{[at the Palace] rabbit} Well, I guess it was farther down. It ^{was} ~~is~~ not far from the C. [&] O. ~~station.~~

Emily: And the ~~president~~, Dr. Tyler?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I didn't know him quite as well, ~~in a way~~. But he was a vary ^e approachable ^a person, very ^{fine & interesting} lovely, very nice. Mrs. Tyler, his wife, was lovely ^{& congenial}.

Emily: ~~This was the first Mrs. Tyler. Didn't he marry, didn't she die and he~~
~~marry?~~

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~(This is the first Mrs. Tyler.)~~ She was a very sweet person and congenial. I don't remember anything in particular about him ^o except that he was approachable. As a little girl it never occurred to me to ~~be~~ ^{be} standing ⁱⁿ awe of him. In fact, none of these gentlemen made me feel that I couldn't go up and speak to them at any time.

Emily: Did the Tylers do much entertaining for the faculty or the town ^{people} ~~people~~ Or for students?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. But that I don't remember too much about ^{it}.

Emily: You probably wouldn't have been of the age to have been directly concerned.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, oh, no. But I think they did, ^{quite} a good deal. I don't remember anything in particular about them.

Emily: Well, now you said last time that you went to the Female Institute ^{Williamsburg} as a young lady.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. That was a good many years after all these things happened. I was a five-day boarder ^{Monday Saturday} because we lived out in the country.

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I came in and stayed the five days and then went home every weekend.

And the men students used to come over frequently and serenade us.

They had mandalins and guitars. You don't often see a mandolin. *these days*

Emily: No, you don't.

Miss Wynne-Roberts And they were delightful. I don't know if I remember, well,

I think that Fred Gribblin who later became bishop. He was one and

Wright. I just don't remember them all.

They would stand out front by the road and sing.

Emily: Now were the young ladies allowed to go out with the college men?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I think they did. I don't remember much about them.

Emily: Did all the girls in Williamsburg go to the Female Institute or was there public schools for them, too?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, not all of them. There were public schools for them.

A good many of them went, they were day students. *Cara* ~~Carolyn, Mrs. Dillard,~~

~~Mrs. Godwin~~

~~the Crosby girls from Toano. And there were a good number from away from~~

Williamsburg who came. Some from Norfolk, and the Eastern Shore, and I *know of them*

~~think there were some from Richmond. I can't remember but I know from~~

~~Norfolk and Newport News and the Eastern Shore. Dr. Hunter was the~~

principal. *Miss Kirdie Jones* taught and she was delightful, an excellent

teacher. *Miss White* taught music, and she also played the organ one time

in Bruton. And they had concerts. *Mary Vine*, she took music, vocal

lessons. She sang, *I don't remember what it was she sang.* Afterwards *which*

she was given some flowers. Somehow or other the order must have gotten

mixed up because it was a funeral wreath, so all she did was to put it

over her head. ~~One time while I was there,~~ so many of these young boys

in Williamsburg--my brother and some of the other--they had a squirrel,

and I had a squirrel, a gray squirrel, a nice pet. So I took it to the

to delete this page and put a note that at this point you spoke of W.I.

Do you want to have this note?

Institute with me. I had a box it stayed in at night, and my roommate ^{didn't object} wouldn't mind in the least bit. During the day I had to wear a sweater with a big pocket, ^{for} so that the squirrel could go in the pocket. Then in the class building I put my squirrel ^{to} under in the desk and gave him a nut or something. Sometimes he would come out and sit ^{top of} on the desk. Miss ^{Virgie} Virgess said, Marguerite, I don't mind you having that squirrel ~~at all~~ as long as it doesn't disturb the other pupils. And apparently it didn't. It didn't bother at all. The squirrel stayed with me all the time. He would come out and sit on the desk and look around

Emily: Did many of the students bring their pets to class with them?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I think I was the only one.

Emily: I just wondered if that was a common occurrence or not.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I think I was the only one, ^{who} that did. Nobody seemed to mind. ^{The squirrel} He behaved himself.

Emily: Well now when you finished at the Female Institute you couldn't go to the College because it wasn't ^{coed} coed yet.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I wasn't ready to go to College. I wasn't old enough. I went to Stuart Hall in Staughton.

Emily: When the legislature did allow women to come to William and Mary, you were away at college at that time. But you were at home during the summer and you probably got from your family. What was the attitude in Williamsburg when women were going to be allowed to go to the College of William and Mary?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I was away at school, not in college at that time.

I don't remember anything in particular.

Emily: Just took it in stride?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. Maybe some of the young men took it, kind of wondered about it. But I don't remember any real ~~contemplation~~ ^{contemplation} about the whole thing.

Since my questions weren't too sharp here, why don't we just take out the whole page?

Virgie

Start here

Emily: I know it was a few years later ^{apparently that} you started coming back and teaching in summer school before you came back full-time (is that right?) to teach. And you said the other day, I was quite surprised that you had men and women students in your dance classes. Would you talk a little bit about the ^{phys. ed.} A.A. department at the time?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, you see, they had ^{special} official courses for both men and women in physical education, training to be teachers. — Majoring in Phys. Ed.

Emily: This is ^{part of} for the West Law you ^{we} are talking about ^{the other day?}

See yellow paper

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, now the West Law, you see, ^{was for} those were the teachers in the schools that ~~when~~ each day the pupils in their class would have some kind of exercise ~~or something like that~~. These ^{we} are the teachers who had to carry on a physical education person would go in and conduct the class, and then the teacher every day for the rest of the week would carry on and repeat these.

Emily: I interrupted you talking about the teacher training.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, those teachers ^{who} that were in the classes, ^{with} teaching the classes, they had to pass this West Law. There was a hygiene class ^{also} along with the physical education. ^{I taught these classes} I had two or three summers, I don't remember which, ^{They were} I had these men and older women. And as I said to my mother once, "Some of these ladies are as old and older than you." I had to be very careful to give them all that was required and yet not do anything that would be ^{injurious to them} that they shouldn't do. But we had lots of fun, and they entered into it ^{beautifully wholeheartedly} most, anyway, and I would give them little projects. They would use their imagination. And it was, as I say, lots of fun. But they were quite serious about it, and I was, too. Then the hygiene part, I listened in on that ^{to} The doctor ^{who} gave that so that in case for one time he couldn't be there, I could carry on and also I could help with the tests.

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page 15 & 16

Then I came on the regular staff. Mr. Tucker-Jones was head of the department

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, the West Law was for the classroom teacher^s, who each day conducted the exercises in their classroom^s. The women who were in my class were the classroom teachers who were required to take the West Law course^s—physical education and theory. The theory or hygiene was taught by a doctor. I listened in on their classes^s in the event that the doctor was ~~de~~ ^{de} ~~st~~ st ~~ined~~ ^{ined} ~~for~~ ^{for} I took over, and I also corrected test and exam papers.

My exercise classes were interesting and lots of fun^s and ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~teachers~~ ^{teachers} entered into it wholeheartedly. I would give them little projects, and they would use their imagination. Most members of the class were older women, and I had to give them all that was required and yet not do anything which might be injurious to them. As I said once to my mother some of the ladies were as old or older than she.

After teaching for two summers I was asked to teach in the regular session. Mr. Tucker-Jones was head of ~~the~~ ^{the} department of physical education for men and women ~~at~~ ^{at} that time. →

for ~~both men and women~~. Some of the classes for men were held ^{over} in Blow gymnasium, but there were some where ^{the men & women} they had to work together, and they ^{these} ~~came over to~~ Jefferson. The women always had theirs ^{classes} in Jefferson, and then the men would come over. Mr. Jones would conduct many of those classes. But with the dancing, which was chiefly folk dancing, I taught. And to help them limber ~~them~~ up we would have other exercises ^{dance} and things like that. The boys were lots of fun. ^{and splendid work!}

Emily: Did they seem to mind taking dancing?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, they didn't. I think the way we presented it was so ^{the reason} why they ^{didn't} wouldn't. I remember one of the boys ^{waving} raising his arms like this and saying, "I'll be a butterfly before long." ^{At} Then they had May Days then.

I had quite a lot to do with May Days. ^{At} That time ^{Scrap} I was teaching the men, ^{Chandler} so he would help out a great deal. The men ^{took} as far as I'm concerned, ^{without question} they just entered into it. Now what trouble ^{Scrap Chandler} he had with them, I don't know. But they just ^{entered} added into it beautifully, and I tried to have the dances that they would really enjoy and would be fun. ^{Folk dances} And also dances that were typical of the period, ~~that we were going to teach them~~

For some of the work they had to find out what different nationalities came to the United States ^{at a certain period} and the time and what they did, and ^{with they would have} enter with ^{of course,} their dances of those different nations. Then we always had a May pole.

~~(That was just the women. The men didn't take part in the Maypole.)~~ ^{James.}

Emily: How far ahead did you have to start planning for the May Day?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, I would start ^{on some of} the dances ^{the research} and things like that right at the beginning of the year. Then for the second semester I'd give them different projects to work on ^{the history and that} ~~the~~ ^{dress, etc.}

Emily: So it was a learning lesson, as well as a pageant.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh definitely, definitely. But it was lots of fun, ^{interesting} and ^{and gratifying}.

before a football game

9 And I think I told you sometimes on Saturday the men would come over (football players) and they'd say, "Miss Wynne-Roberts, the coach says keep the weight off my feet today." So I'd give them ^{out} sit down, ~~give them something to do~~, and they'd make it up another time. They ^{were} ~~are~~ very easy ^{to work with} to do. I don't ever remember having any trouble with my students.

Emily: That's very good to say.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I may have ^{but} I don't remember. Sometimes there ^{would} be little things ^{happen} you wished hadn't or something like that. I never felt that it was worthwhile dwelling on the unpleasant things. Look for the best in everybody and bring it out.

Emily: Then that would be a good reason why you wouldn't remember any trouble even if there had been any.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, I expect so. [#] And of course when I was assistant dean, ^{not} things ^{did} came up, ^{but} we had a very fine student government, and many of those things ^{just} would be passed on, ^{to student} and they would take care of ^{them} them. They'd come and talk to me about ^{it}, and I would give them any information I had. They ^{usually} seemed to be handled ^{the problems} very nicely. Each dormitory had ^{to} house committee. They were very fine, very fine. [There's one person I think you should try to see in regard to the early years and that is Bishop Bently.]

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o.k. to take this out?

Emily: Yes, I heard I should speak with him.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I saw him last year when they had this reunion for the people who lived in Williamsburg before 1934. He, on the Sunday morning held a service over in the chapel at which time he spoke of the College when he first came and different stories and traditions. I spoke with him after that and said, this should be recorded.

Emily: I wish I had been there to do it.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I wish you had. Oh, he just kind of laughed it off.

Then I spoke to Mrs. Bently and told her that I thought he should and asked her if she couldn't get a recorder. And when he was talking just turn it on. But he didn't think that was worthwhile. But it is worthwhile. And if you could hear him and talk to him.

Emily: I would like to. I would hope to.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: You might find out from Mr. Lewis at Bruton when he might be coming to Williamsburg.

Emily: Yes, he would be the one to call and ask. I'll see what I can do about that.

~~Miss Wynne-Roberts: He is a delightful person and so is Mrs. Bently.~~

~~Emily: I've read a lot about her in the Aoumni Gazette over the years.~~

Let me back up just a minute and ask you about when you came back to William and Mary full-time, what it was that brought you back?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I came back well, you see, I had been teaching in the summer, And Mr. Tucker Jones just asked me to come back. And Dr. J. A. C. Chandler also and I think Dr. Hook had a little something to do with it.

Emily: Now was this coming back or was this need for a woman physical teacher, was this in any way tied to the need for training teachers?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, oh yes. Miss Barksdale was a member of the department, and it was training for physical education teachers. also all students were required to take physical

Emily: I think last time I asked you this, the participation that you found on the part of the girls. I was struck as I went through the Flat Hats and the yearbooks that many of the leaders of women's student government in the various capacities were often very active athletically, which is not true

today, particularly.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I never thought of it in that way but they were.

~~Of course,~~ there weren't so many women students, you see, ~~but they were~~ ^{at that time}

^{But} they did take a very active part in physical education. It was required

for two years. And then having the ^{major} department, ^{as well,} that brought in

~~quite a bit~~ many more. They had outside influence, ^{with other students,} which brought them

into the general ~~role~~ program, ~~because~~ we had basketball, ~~we had~~ ^{archery}

~~physical education and dancing,~~ ~~then we had~~ hockey, ~~later on we had~~

~~crose~~ and tennis, ~~we had~~ some track, ~~and then we had~~ horseback riding.

~~Basketball, I mentioned that.~~

Emily: Swimming?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. They did their swimming in the little pool in

Jefferson, and I tell you, there were many fine swimmers trained in that

little pool. It was quite shallow at the shallow end and quite deep at

the deep end. There was a diving board. And the West Law people had to

take swimming, too, ^{as part of} ~~for~~ their curriculum. ^{Not that they ever taught it,}

but it was ^{just part of} ~~for~~ the general curriculum. Many of them had ^{we} great stories

to tell about how they can ^{swim} dive down to pick up a brick or ^{put} ~~put~~ across

the pool, which was very small, ~~not~~ very wide. I'm always hearing stories

about what I made them do. I think we had a very good education program.

Mr. Tucker-Jones really was almost a perfectionist, and he wanted it done

just right. He was a great fencer, ~~and~~ he was the one who started the

~~great~~ fencing program, ^[and] ^{that} club here, ~~and~~ had both men and women. The men

did theirs over at Blow, and the women did theirs in Jefferson. He was

excellent at that, ^{it was a sport} He was extremely interested in ~~it~~.

Emily: At one time you had a lady here who was extremely interested in hockey.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, Miss Appleby^{ee}. She was simply delightful. She ^{wonderful}

~~also, she'd come down and she would coach our teams and also give~~

special instruction. ^{to players} She was also extremely interested in English folk ^{country}

dancing, and so we would have that in the evening very often in Jefferson

gymnasium. The girls ^{enjoyed} loved it, ~~and they would just come~~, it wasn't

required. ^{Miss Appleby} Then she had a hockey camp in the Pocono Mountains, ^{each summer} and we

would take a good many of our students up to that. They would go from

Sweet Briar and West Hampton and ^{the camp} all around. She called the ones from

Virginia, "now Virginia Creepers, speed up!" ^{other colleges to} And she was as active, one

of the last times that I went up to the camp I think she was about ^{eighty-five} 85.

Emily: Still teaching hockey?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ^{at that time hockey} ~~And~~ still teaching, and still teaching country dancing.

~~She would come over and she would bring teachers from England to whom~~

she knew, ~~and had~~ and they would do ^{much} a lot of the coaching. It was really very interesting and a splendid course.

Emily: How was it that she happened to come to William and Mary? Was she a friend of yours?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, not necessarily, ^{who} but it was because of her hockey camp and the instructors from all the different colleges knew of her. We ^{each year} would invite her down to William and Mary. Then I visited her over in

England. She lives quite near the New Forest in England, and I visited

her there once or twice. I haven't ^{heard from her} heard from her recently. The last time

I had word of her I think she was over ^{a hundred but} 100, and still active, ^{but} not teaching,

~~but still going around.~~ Of course, the horseback riding, that was another

thing that was brought in later on. They had very nice horses. Mr. ^{is} ~~Kra~~er

was in charge of those. The new part of the campus was woods, and we had

bridle paths all ^{through} around there.

Were the
Emily: ~~With~~ stables down there, too?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. The stables were ^{where} the Common Glory offices are. ~~They had the circle right outside of the other buildings. They learned some of the special parts of the requirements for riding. For riding.~~ ~~They would go out into the woods on the bridle paths. I think it's a shame that they don't have those horses because that was lots of fun. Things that I can think of now, unless you have some questions.~~

Emily: Moving from the phys ed department to women's life in general, what sort of social events ~~(this was before you became assistant dean I know)~~ ^{what sort of social events} were there for the girls at the time? Were there teas and dances perhaps?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: You mean before I became assistant dean?

Emily: Yes. I don't know, you might not even remember anything in particular.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, it seemed as though there were always ^{something} things going on. There were ^{classes} lectures and there were plays. ^{Of course what is now} the chapel at the Wren Building was, ~~it wasn't a chapel at all. That's where they had their faculty meetings. That's where they gave their plays and their concerts and things like that. They were lots of fun. They had delightful plays and concerts. I'm sure there were lots of things. One thing that I remember that the sororities, they would be invited, ^{at} one time, one evening, to have supper, or they would go to one person's house and have the first course. Then they would move on. It was kind of progressive. And I think they had loads of fun, ^{doing that,}~~

Emily: Were these town's ^{people's} peoples houses they went to?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I think usually people who were connected with the College ^a a faculty wife or something like that, ~~not necessarily belonging to the sorority,~~ But knowing some of the girls and being interested in them. Maybe one or two of them belonged to a sorority. But they would do that

(At that time the auditorium, where meetings, plays, etc. were held was in the wing of the Wren Building where the chapel is now.)

There was a pleasant social life for the students, such as dances, picnics, teas, ^{and} cotillions. Faculty members and their wives often participated. One thing which I remember was the sorority progressive parties or suppers, Perhaps once a semester, at which time they would be invited by an advisor, member, ^{or} friend living in town. The group would go to one home for the first course, then progress to the next home for the second course, and so on. The sororities in those days were not as large as today.

(Also, Phi Beta Kappa day ^was always a very special occasion.)

and they would have a progressive supper, which always, I think, the students enjoyed very much. And the sororities weren't as large as they are now and it could be done.

Emily: You couldn't do it now.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Are you a sorority

Emily: No, I'm not.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I don't think they could do it now because there are too many, too large a group.

Emily: There were also a lot of dances, cotillions, and card parties.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, I think there was always something going on like that. And dances --

Emily: To which the faculty would have been invited, perhaps?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, and receptions. On Phi Beta Kappa Day, that was always a very special occasion. They always had receptions, very special.

Emily: ^{Now} I know you mentioned sororities. Did they have their own houses before sorority court was constructed?

Do you remember?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I don't think they did. I think they met in different classrooms or maybe in the living room of one of the dormitories or something of that sort. I can't answer that. I just never really thought much about it.

Emily: It was not until ^{after} you ^{became} assistant dean that you were directly concerned with the sororities, is that right?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: That's right. I did, the sororities were always very nice to me. One sorority invited me to become a member. They would have teas.

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But I don't remember when they really had houses. ^{debate} One group had rooms in Tyler Hall, and the girls lived there, not all of them. I think some of the others lived in other dormitories. ~~But some of them lived, but I just don't recall where all of them were.~~

Emily: While ~~we~~ were on the subject of sororities, after you became assistant dean you had charge, I think, of watching out that they obeyed such things as rush rules, is that correct?

~~Miss Wynne-Roberts: Panhellenic.~~

~~Emily: Panhellenic took over that.~~

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ^{Yes} Panhellenic ^e did that. I had to be very, very careful in working with sororities because you couldn't show any ^f partiality whatsoever, And I never wanted to be in that position. ~~So I worked along with them as they were all~~ ^{on} under the same level, as it went.

Wynne-Roberts
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~~Enjoyed working with them. They all had house mothers. They had all their meals. They had a cook. The house mothers would do the planning. They had the same social rules and regulations as the dormitories.~~ ^{Each dormitory and sorority had a house mother; They all had house mothers. They had all their meals. They had a cook. The house mothers would do the planning. Only these living in the house ate there. The applied to sororities and dormitories.}

Emily: Do you remember specifically some of these social regulations--this is just ⁱⁿ the '20s and the '30s--that the girls had ~~times~~ that they could date and couldn't date?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: They could date during the day. All the dormitories ^{& Sororities} ~~usually~~ closed at ten o'clock. ^{of course,} If there was a dance or if there was something special that went on after that hour, they would sign out. ^{There was} They'd sign a little book in the hall where they would sign out as to where they would be and who they were going ^{with} and all that. Then they would come in at the certain time they were to come in, depending upon the occasion, ^{check in in the book} really. They had a dance every Saturday night. I think I would be quite

quite wealthy if I had had fifty cents or a dollar for every dance I attended. But that was just part of my duty, you see. They were held over in Blow gymnasium.

Emily: Would you be formally dressed for this?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, yes, indeed. The girls had escorts, and there were lots of stags. And I used to tell the stags that I thought they were very

unkind! There were so many girls over in the dormitory who would love to be dancing and here they were just as stags. ^{When it was a card dance} And the girls were often ^{to which} had a certain corner they would go to. ^{after each number} They would dance, and when their dance was over they would go to a corner ^{partner would find them} so the next person would dance.

They had cards, it was a card dance. Then the next person would know which corner to go to to find them. It saved a lot of time. Every now and then they wouldn't get to their corner or something. I remember once or twice a boy would come up to me and say, "Miss Wynne-Roberts, have you seen so-and-so. I can't find her; she's not over there where she should be." They were lots of fun. ^{T 2+} When the leap year ^{dances} the girls would invite the boys. Then there was a stag line of girls. And the boys would say, ^{they} my word they certainly were worn out because they were tagged. ^{constantly} It was a

^{These were} tag dances. It was lots of fun. It was quite rare when a girl and her escort did not come down the receiving line. As they came in they would come right in. Sometimes I was the only one there, but they would come right in and say "good evening." ^{But} it was just a custom, and they never ^{self} thought of not doing it. If they had card dances, the cards were ^{all} often made out in advance. And the men, would have the dance, whoever the girl was he was supposed to be dancing with. And ^{the} stags could go up and tag. And the orchestra was usually a college orchestra. ^{for the regular set, do you see?}

Emily: That's what I was going to ask, where the orchestra came from.

And for very special dances they would ^{have} get an out-of-town orchestra³

Emily: I know there were rules about such things as girls going past the ^{Street.} first block of Duke of Gloucester. Why would this have been necessary.⁷

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Isn't that strange.--I don't recall that. ~~But I guess they were supposed to stay within the area of the College.~~ Of course, they signed out. ^{in the down of society hall} If they were going with a young man who was not a William and Mary student, ^{and,} then they would sign up, and he would have a social card given to him. ^{from the girls} They were not allowed to ride in cars unless they have special permission, written permission, from their parents.

Emily: Did ^m any of them have it, do you remember?

~~Miss Wynne-Roberts: Quite a number. ~~Quite a number.~~ I suppose nowadays you'd see very few. But they always had a good time. Then during the World War, you see, Fort Eustis, they came up and arranged to have a dance down there, maybe one or two a year. They would send names and heights, and the girls also sent their heights. And very often they ^[said they] were taller than they really were because they didn't want to be with someone who was not taller than they.~~

Emily: Were you the one who had [#] to match up the people ^{by their} ~~under~~ height?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, I did it with a group of students who worked it out. Then when they knew just how many girls were going, then the officer in charge would come up and asked where they would pick these girls up and ~~that~~ they would call for them. They always assembled in Barrette, and they would have the buses for the girls and they would get on, and they would meet their escort when they got down to Eustis. ~~The reason you see,~~ I think it was 25 miles per hour that the buses could travel. So what they would do, they would find out exactly where the bus was to be loaded, and then they would drive down to Eustis where ~~the hall was su~~ where the dance was supposed to be, to find out exactly how much time it would

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Miss Wynne-Roberts: Quite a number.

During the war period many men from Fort Eustis, Camp Peary, Yorktown, and other military establishments dated the William and Mary girls. Fort Eustis held two or three dances to which the William and Mary girls were invited. The ⁹girls would sign up and give their height, sometimes an inch or two taller to be certain of having a partner taller than they. I then let Eustis know how many wished to attend, and they in turn sent me a list of the men with their heights. I would, with the help of several girls, pair them off ~~off~~ and return the completed list to the officer in charge. The girls went down in a Fort Eustis bus leaving from Barrett Hall. The buses were not allowed to travel more than 25 m.p.h. ~~There~~ Therefore in order to be on time an officer the day ~~before~~ before drove that speed from Barrett to the dance hall. I was then told at what time they wished to leave Barrett, army precision ~~and~~, well-planned, and I believe the girls always had an enjoyable evening.

There were no dances at Camp Peary, but arrangements were made with the college for them to hold one in Blow Gymnasium.

take. And then they'd come and tell me, well, we'd like to pick the girls up at such-and-such a time, because the dance started at such-and-such a time.

Emily: That was well-planned.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well-planned. And I think the girls always had a very nice time. And Camp Perry. They didn't go down there, but the young men from Camp Perry came over, and they arranged to have a dance an all-day dance over in Blow gymnasium. I don't recall how many they had, but I do remember one. They decorated the gym to look like a ship. I was talking to one of the young men, and he laughed and said, I have never been on a ship in my life and I had no idea what it looked like. But there were some who had been on, so. But it was very nice and beautifully done.

Emily: These dances you are talking about now were during World War II?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes.

Emily: Did the girls pretty much obey the rules? Did they look upon them with respect?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, they did. We had very few who broke the rules. And sometimes if they were broken they were done quite innocently, just a misunderstanding or something. No, the students respected the rules and regulations. They had a part in making the rules, to a point. The College set certain standards and rules, and went over them with the students. They were very good about conforming. Now when the dormitories, in Barretts Hall Mrs. Campbell, who was the house mother there (and I think beloved by everybody), she had a little bell so when it was time for the dormitory to close she would just quietly come in the lobby there and just ring the little bell, and the students would get up, and that was the time to leave. So she never had to say to them that it was time to leave.

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all
Perry*

*see
p. 14*

*to Camp Perry dances
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I should have a ship
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An amusing incident: when it was time for the dormitory to close and guests to leave Mrs. Campbell, housemother in Barrett, gave a signal by tinkling a little bell.

There was one special guest--a pretty black and white setter, a campus pet dog, who came each evening to Barrett and lay down in the lounge. When the bell rang he would go to the door and wait to be let out. After perhaps a year he found a young companion who often came with him. Sometime later the old dog died but the young one carried on the tradition. They were never fed in the dorm, only petted.

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~~just this little bell. And there was a campus dog who loved to come to Barrett. He used to come over and go into the lounge. When that bell rang, that dog got up and went to the door and waited. About a year before he died, he had a young dog who'd come with him. And after this first dog's death, this young dog did exactly the same thing. They really were interesting to see, the dog would come in in the evening. Somebody was coming in and he would be there at the door and would come in and go into the lobby or lounge. Then when Mrs. Campbell rang the bell, not only the dates would get up, but the dog!~~

Emily: So now if dates didn't come to the dorms where was there in Williamsburg that they could go?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, ~~they'd go to the movies.~~ *That's funny, you'd think I'd remember all that.* But they went to the movies, and they'd go to the fraternity houses and the sorority houses. They might go and call on some of their town friends.

Emily: Go to college functions?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: All the college functions, yes. And the basketball games ~~up~~ in Blow gymnasium.

Emily: Were the football games a big thing back then? →

Miss Wynne-Roberts? Yes. ~~Yes,~~ I think all the sports were, football games, basketball games, the baseball. I don't know that swimming attracted as many, nor track. Tennis, a certain number would be interested, *ing at our time fencing matches*
I've ~~tried to recall those, but somehow.~~ *roller skating*

Emily: ~~You're recalling pretty well, I should think.~~

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Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~In the summer Dr. Hoch~~ ^{ke} was in charge of the summer school and several times (I don't know if he did ^{it} every summer, I don't think he did), but one or two summers he got a ^{best} ~~prize~~ from ~~to~~ the state, and students would sign up for it and go down to Jamestown, get on the boat there,

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, I think all the sports were--football games, basketball games, baseball. I don't know that swimming attracted as many, nor track. Tennis a certain number would be interested in, and at one time fencing matches and roller skating were offered.

When Dr. Hoke was in charge of the summer school (two years I remember) he got a ferry boat on a Saturday for a trip up the James River leaving from the ferry wharf. The students would sign up if they wished to go. There was ~~always~~ ^{always} a large group. The dining hall would provide the lunch, and there was always enough for a snack supper. A portable organ was taken along, so there was much singing and dancing. On the way up they stopped at Berkeley and Westover plantations. These were delightful days, and everyone enjoyed these trips. ~~At~~

Another social activity was a water^tmelon feast on Barrett Hall porch. The dining hall would provide watermelons, a table, large knives, and a tray to cut the melons on. These were held soon after supper for both men and women students ~~and~~ and any who had dates. These "feasts" were not frequent, perhaps one or two a summer and not ~~in~~ every summer.

To go back to the war there were at Fort Eustis, Camp Feary, and the other military establishments men whom the students knew at home or whom they met through friends. However, before dating a ^g girl each man had to have a social card. There was a form in my office which they were required to fill out. Before leaving the dormitory the girl would sign our in her dormitory book as was the custom.

we would
~~boat and go up the James River and stop at Westover and maybe one or two~~
~~of the other places, not all were the same and take lunch.~~ *they'd* They'd
~~take a portable organ, and they would have singing and dancing.~~
~~Somebody there was always somebody who could play the organ.~~ *about* They'd go down the
~~middle of the morning and would have lunch and supper and then come back.~~
~~And those were delightful days, just lots of fun, And I think everybody~~
~~enjoyed those trips very much. Then several times at summer school we~~
~~would have a watermelon feast on the porch of Jefferson.~~ *Barret?* Tables were
~~set up and the dining hall would bring these watermelons over and big~~
~~carving knives, and we'd cut them, and the students would come and get a~~
~~piece of watermelon. We always had a basket or someting to put the rinds~~
~~in. There was never any real untidiness. People didn't throw their~~
~~things all over the place like they do now. That used to be lots of~~
~~fun. I think we had approximately two a summer. We'd have delicious~~
~~watermelons. Anybody and everybody, all the students could come, both~~
~~men and women. I think usually it was the girls and then the boys who~~
~~had dates. Sometimes other boys would come over. I think they knew~~
~~some of the girls. But they were lots of fun. That would be in the evening.~~

see page 2/10

take these parts out?

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see page 16
~~Of course, to go back to the War, there were a lot of men at Eustis and~~
~~at Camp Perry, and they would have to come in and get a social card before~~
~~they could date anybody. They had a form to make out. *my office*~~
~~the office), and when they got their social card, then they could date.~~
~~And the girls would sign up, as was the custom. *out* *TD page 11*~~
~~some of the boys would come up from the Air Force, and once or twice they'd~~
~~would say, "oh, this sunken garden would be a wonderful place to land." They *however*~~
~~had very strict relations as to how low they could fly. One afternoon~~

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^a ~~this plane came and it~~ was flying so low, ~~over the~~ ^{over} ~~not only~~ the sunken garden, but ^{also} ~~around~~ the dormitory, particularly Barrett. Well, it was reported to Langley ~~that there was a plane~~. What happened was that this young man ^{who} had been dating a girl in Barrett, ~~so he~~ thought he'd come up and let her know that he was around. Unfortunately for her, she was in the infirmary and didn't know anything about ~~that~~. But she heard about it soon after because when the young man ~~went back and landed~~ ^{by an officer and} he was approached, and ~~he was grounded for I don't know how long, for~~ ^{several weeks} ~~some time, several weeks, I suppose~~. But ~~he came up and dated again~~. But ~~that is what had happened to him~~.

Langley

Emily: I want to ask you more about the war later. Talking about the rules, now if a girl broke a rule, did this go first to the girl's discipline organization (the honor council or the dorm council) and then to you, or did it go directly to you?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: It all depended upon how it came up. Sometimes ~~the girls themselves~~, the council would know about it, and they would handle it right away. Sometimes it would come to my attention, and I would take it to them. ^{upon the offense} It just depended ^{might} upon what it was, and how it came up.

But ^{the students} ~~they~~ were very good in seeing that their regulations were conformed to and that the students abided by them. ^{which} And then they would be put ^{campused} on campus, ~~that was one of the punishments, for a certain length of time, and different things of that sort.~~ ^{the student Scott Handbook} I was trying to think the other day of some of them. If I had one of the books--they always had a handbook--that that ^{secret} might have recalled some. But I expect you have probably seen that. ^{secret}

Emily: I have.

Miss Wynne-Roberts:] I remember one time when I came ^{*} up to the office in the morning, I was told that some group of students from Chandler Hall

^{no one} Hall had come to Barrett after the dormitory was closed, and they didn't know how they got in. ~~They~~ couldn't find out. Nobody in Barrett seemed to have let them in. ~~They didn't know.~~ ~~So~~ they asked me if I would talk to the girls. So I asked the house president and some of the others to come over and see me, which they did. I just said that, ^{it was} ~~they~~ reported they were in Barrett Hall after, ^{down here} ~~it was closed~~, and how did they get in? Well they kind of looked around at each other and weren't quite certain. They didn't say very much. ^{So} And I said, "did you come through the tunnel?" Well, if you could have seen the expression on their faces! And I said, "you know it's very dangerous because all the hot pipes go through there. And I said you could ~~very~~ easily get burned." (The pathway through is very small.) ~~And so~~ finally they said, "Miss Wynne-Roberts, how did you know about that tunnel?" And I said, "well, I felt that, as I am more or less in charge of the dormitories, and Barrett ~~that~~ I should know a little something about ^{the} ~~this~~ structure ^{of buildings} and so if anything went wrong I might be able to tell maintenance just what happened ^{or} and where to give them some idea. And I said, as a matter of fact, I've seen ^{several} a lot of these tunnels. ^{But} ~~the~~ expression on those girls' faces when I mentioned it, . . .

Emily: Was this the only time that ever happened?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ^{That was} ^{as far as I know} The only time. And apparently, there was a door in Chandler that led to ^{the tunnel} it. ^{left unlocked} It hadn't been locked, and they had left and came on through to Barrett.

Emily: I have lots more questions to ask you, but I feel like we've gone on long enough today. I wonder if I could come back another time and ask some more.?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes.