

February 21, 1975

Emily: When you first came to William and Mary, <sup>there was a lady here</sup> who I think was dean of women called Miss Bessy<sup>ie</sup> Porter Taylor. How was it that you came to replace her?

**26A**  
Miss Wynne-Roberts: I'm not certain whether she retired or whether she passed away ~~that's terrible~~

*take out?*  
~~I went to England and was there a year. I left physical education and went to England. And when I came back I didn't quite know what I was going to do. And we had a summer place up in New Hampshire and I was up there and was coming back in September. [Dr. Hoop<sup>ke</sup>, who was dean of the summer school, <sup>[and]</sup> dean of the college, he got in touch with me and asked me not to make any plans or commitments until I got home. And to come and see him. So when I got home I got in touch with him and made an appointment to see him, and I was asked to become assistant dean and take Miss Bessy<sup>ie</sup> Porter Taylor's place. And that's the way it started.~~

*see page 1*  
~~Emily: That's the way it all began.~~

~~Miss Wynne-Roberts: That's the way it all began.~~

Emily: And this was during the Depression, I believe. Because I think I have it written down, 34 or 33 at the time.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: It was '34. I came in September of 1934.

Emily: You came at the same time as John Stuart Bryan then? Dr. Chandler <sup>ew</sup> had just died.

**26B**  
~~Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. Now there again, I'm not certain of the date whether my first year as assistant dean was 33 or 34 or 34 35. So I would like you to look that up and see which was correct.~~

*I found with 1934 was correct.*  
Emily: I'll straighten it out.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: All right. ]

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Miss Bessie Porter Taylor retired. I had been in England for a year, and on my return in the summer of 1934 Dean Hoke asked that I make no commitments before talking with him. Therefore on my return home I arranged for an appointment with Dean Hoke. It was then that he offered me the position of assistant dean of women, which I accepted ~~at~~<sup>s</sup> of September 1934.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, Dr. Chandler had recently died, and Dean Hoke was assuming the duties of president until Mr. John Stewart Bryan, the newly appointed president, came.

Since this  
line of questioning  
didn't work, suppose we  
take this out?

Emily: Before he died, Dr. Chandler had made a statement that I copied down and I want to read it to you and see if you remembered this having a bearing on the effect of the woman. He had been complaining to the Board. This was about the time where he was having a lot of trouble with the men students. They were striking and having food riots in the dining hall and such. He made this statement to the Board. He said, "The emancipation of women has produced an unsatisfactory attitude on the part of men towards the women and a spirit on the part of women that is not desirable." Do you remember anything that would have reflected such a sentiment?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I don't recall anything in particular.

Emily: Do you know of any reason why it was that the women wouldn't have been giving the trouble to the men more at this time? Because you know that Dr. Chandler had expelled quite a number of men.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, except the women more or less accepted things and went along. There was a way of life to follow and they weren't going out on a ~~limb~~ as they were.

Emily: I believe you said last time you found the women students easy to work with.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, I did. I don't know how it came about, but I always felt if you were <sup>willing</sup> going to sit down and talk to students, and get their point of view and exchange <sup>views</sup> these with them, you got along much better. ~~And~~ always looking for the best in everybody. ~~And~~ if things didn't go quite right, well, don't dwell on all the unpleasant things! ~~And~~ just expect the best of everybody, and nine times out of ten you'll get <sup>#</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>satisfactory results</sup>. ~~And~~ if you have several students together, well, there maybe one or two in the group who are opposed to almost everything, <sup>for the good</sup> But you'll find that the majority will have the influence <sup>of the group</sup> and the best will come out.

Start here

*delete  
yes?*

Maybe if you saw or interviewed some of the former students or students who were there when I was there they might give you a very clear view of it and their estimate of the way I worked might be quite different. They might not always agree.

Emily: ~~As I said, that's what makes it interesting to get people's viewpoints.~~

~~Also~~ just about this time was when the Restoration was really getting started. Did this change social patterns at all? It gave a couple more places for students to go.

28A  
Miss Wynne-Roberts: It was, I think it was just about that time that Colonial Williamsburg gave to the students, they had a reception party down at the Capitol, (I believe they still do) and introduced them to Colonial Williamsburg, as it were. And I think that that, although the students as we say that before the students didn't always use their ~~ends~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~accords~~ for any manner of means. But it gave them a feeling of being a part of the community.

*She says  
o. p. to  
said they  
out or  
should  
stay*

Emily: I was rather amused to find that when <sup>it first</sup> ~~the Lodge when it~~ opened <sup>the lodge</sup> was thought of as the Den of Iniquity.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. There again, I don't <sup>I</sup> suppose it was.

Emily: I think it was that the girls could smoke there or could drink there. I forget which--one of the two. And apparently at this time there was a very definite feeling against girls smoking. It was one of the rules. William and Mary girls could not smoke in public.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: That's right.

Emily: The attitude <sup>ward</sup> apparently ~~was~~ extremely negative to that.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: <sup>yes that</sup> ~~was~~ at one time there was a great war cry, <sup>for</sup> ~~they wanted~~ beer. During the summer, <sup>Mr.</sup> professor Duke arranged for beer to be sold in the cafeteria, a certain percentage. It was within the law. ~~that~~ <sup>returned</sup> was there when they ~~came back~~ in September.

*It*

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Colonial Williamsburg had an evening reception at the Capitol during the orientation period for the new students, at which time each student was given a complimentary ticket of admission ] to all exhibition buildings. Although many students did not use the card, having a ticket gave them the feeling of being a part of the community.

~~They didn't bother with the idea, very little of their great outcry~~  
~~from the year before.~~ Mr. Duke had done what he could to answer their  
 request, as it were, ~~their cries~~ <sup>but</sup> and they didn't take advantage of it.

Emily: What would have been the attitude, say, to <sup>ward</sup> a woman student who was  
 who would have gone to the cafeteria to buy beer? Would there have  
 been no notice of it?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No <sup>particular</sup> notice ~~of it.~~ I'm sure that many of the women  
 students <sup>well,</sup> we're not going to <sup>o row</sup> fall in that pattern. But if one  
 person wanted to do it, as long as she didn't go overboard, as it were,  
 with it, they didn't exactly condemn her, ~~but~~ they didn't go along with her.

Emily: What about smoking? You were talking around the time of say,  
 World War II.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I don't recall very much about that, ~~really~~ <sup>I suppose maybe</sup>  
~~the~~ the women students may have had some regulation about it. I ~~just~~ don't  
 recall.

Emily: It would not have been a very significant thing, I'm sure to you.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I don't think so.

Emily: ~~Now I keep asking you~~ I think last time I asked about places for  
 students to go <sup>before</sup> the war and then after the war students were  
 always complaining that they didn't have a student activities building.  
 Do you think this would have helped the students, <sup>particularly</sup> I'm  
 thinking as I move to the topic of World War II, <sup>with</sup> ~~of~~ a place to have ~~been~~  
 entertained?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: It may have, but I don't feel that it was, <sup>they</sup> they had  
 places to go, and they had their living rooms in all the dormitories and  
~~in~~ their sorority houses and <sup>the</sup> ~~in~~ fraternity lodges. <sup>There were</sup> They had certain <sup>hours</sup>  
<sup>to the lodges</sup> times when they could go <sup>A</sup> ~~I don't know that it would have~~ ~~of course~~

~~Of course there's always a group who is pushing hard and then others just kind of~~

Emily: I mentioned World War II, and last time you were telling about how well-planned the Fort Eustis and Camp Pe<sup>a</sup>rry dances were. What was the effect of having millions of servicemen here in the area of what was a very small town at the time? Were there a <sup>b</sup> lot of servicemen who came to town?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, a great many. ~~And they would come and it seems to me they would come~~ <sup>would come more often</sup> Camp Pe<sup>a</sup>rry men <sup>more</sup> than the Fort Eustis men. *me*

~~And~~ Chowning's Tavern was a central meeting place for the Camp Pe<sup>a</sup>rry <sup>[men]</sup>.

Now I <sup>don't recall</sup> ~~can't say at all~~ about the students going there, <sup>but</sup> ~~the~~ Camp Pe<sup>a</sup>rry men would come up every evening, and ~~they~~ stayed on late. I

had a servant who used to come down around seven o'clock, <sup>a.m.</sup> ~~and~~ she walked down the Duke of Gloucester Street and always <sup>passed</sup> ~~the~~ Chowning's Tavern.

~~(not on that side, but on the other side of the street)~~, and frequently *on the opposite side of the street*

~~she~~ would have picked up dollar bills, quarters, fifty-cent pieces that had been dropped by these <sup>as</sup> men, which may give you an idea <sup>to</sup> the condition <sup>in which they left Chowning's.</sup> ~~they were in~~.

*realize in reading the transcript that you had already covered this*

Emily: If one of the William and Mary girls wanted to date an out-of-town serviceman could she do this?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes.

Emily: How would she go about it?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: She would have to get a card from the office.

Emily: From your office?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. A social card

Emily: Did he have to come apply for it

Miss Wynne-Roberts: <sup>Yes</sup> No. There was a form that he made out and he was given the social card.

Emily: What if a girl was walking down Duke of Gloucester Street on Saturday

*omit*



Emily: You were telling me earlier about one time your going up to the air raid [at the college].

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, yes. It was in the evening, I heard the alarm, so I quickly got on my bicycle and was headed towards the college. ~~And~~ I got ~~up~~ just about ~~by~~ <sup>church</sup> Bruton, ~~and~~ a policeman stopped me and asked ~~me~~ what I was doing at that time on the street because the alarm had gone off. ~~So~~ I ~~just~~ told him that I was on my way to the college to be at my post. ~~And~~ he said ~~all~~ right and waved me on, but he was very stern. ~~Of course, he realized. Afterwards I told him that I lived down at the far end of Duke of Gloucester Street and had to come up.~~

Emily: Did these blackouts and air raids take place frequently, do you remember?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: not too frequently, ~~not~~ <sup>enough</sup> just often to keep people alert.

Emily: That was the point, I'm sure. What do you recall about the morale of the girls during the war? They had the chaplain's school and the training unit on the campus. The regular <sup>male</sup> student body was off in the Military.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~So many of them were~~ <sup>perhaps</sup> The majority of ~~them~~, yes.

I ~~think that~~ the girls used to have dates with men from Eustis and from Camp Perry <sup>also</sup> and with the chaplain's group <sup>which was stationed</sup> on campus. Of course, there was <sup>a little</sup> competition between the girls <sup>in</sup> and getting their dates. I don't think that's changed. Somehow or other they adjusted <sup>to it</sup> very well, I think. ~~And~~ they did many things to raise money for good causes.

I don't recall anything special.

Emily: But they did seem enthusiastic about the war effort, ~~from~~ what I've read <sup>to</sup>.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, yes, ~~very~~.

Emily: Do you know if any quit to go into war work, or did most girls just keep on with their education?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I think most <sup>of the</sup> girls kept on with their education. As

continued with this activity <sup>83</sup>

far as I recall the ones in college just stayed on in college, I don't know what they did between one year and the next. I didn't ~~ever~~ follow that up, ~~they were there or they weren't.~~ But they worked hard on projects for raising money for good causes.

Emily: Now the sororities weren't dissolved during the war, I don't think.

They probably had some competition between them to see who could do the most...

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, somewhat. And yet they worked very well, very nicely together. ~~But~~ each sorority had certain projects that they were interested in, particularly, and pushed. And of course, they would have lots of dates with the servicemen. And of course, there were a good many students who had friends from their own homes who were stationed at these different military establishments. But somehow or other I feel that they all tried to work for the good <sup>of</sup> for all, pushing things on and keeping things more or less on an even keel.

Emily: Some of the people I have talked to have commented that the students who came after the war, particularly the veterans, were very, very serious students. They were older, more mature, and someone said they were among the best students they ever had. ~~Did you find that the war,~~ I can see why the war had changed the veterans' attitude, <sup>s</sup> did you find that the war had changed the women students?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~Well,~~ when the veterans came back, and they were so serious <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ really the scholarship went up, the women students realized that they really had to ~~do everything to~~ keep up with <sup>the men.</sup> them and surpass [them] if possible. It raised the standards, <sup>T</sup> indeed, it did.

Emily: A beneficial effect.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Very beneficial effect, yes. And of course, the men were much more mature. They realized what was expected of them in the world

after they finished college, ~~so~~ they were aware of what they needed to do to be prepared for this. And it ~~meant that they really~~ <sup>consequently</sup> studied very hard and raised standards. That was ~~very emotional.~~ <sup>noticeable.</sup>

Emily: I understand that during the war there was some fear that William and Mary was going to become, for all practical purposes, almost a girl's school, and I think it was about this time there started being some talk about when Eastern State moved out to Dunbar that perhaps the College would make this the woman's campus. Do you remember any of this talk?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I don't.

Emily: I'm not sure how seriously it was <sup>suggested</sup> ~~maintained~~ I wondered if you remembered any of this?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I don't.

Emily: You were saying ~~that~~ these students who came in after the war ~~but~~ ~~they~~ worked harder, that the standards of the college were raised, did you find that they were just as amenable to guidance, that they adhered to the rules just as much as you seemed to have found earlier students doing?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I think they did, yes.

Emily: You didn't find a change in attitudes?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I didn't find <sup>a great</sup> ~~any of that~~ ~~changed~~. Possibly they took it a little more seriously and were more apt to take ~~the~~ part ~~in the~~ in formulating the rules and regulations but using, I would say, very good judgment.

Emily: It was at this time ~~after~~ after the men students came back that there had to be something done about the fraternities. The fraternity houses had been sold or rented out during the war. And so the idea was hit upon

Again:  
I think  
we had  
covered this

the idea of building the lodges. Then did you have to find chaperons or anything for the lodges when they would have the women students there?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, I didn't have ~~do~~ <sup>to do</sup> anything with that. They always <sup>arranged</sup> ~~brought~~ <sup>for</sup> their own chaperons.

Emily: Were you called upon, do you remember?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, not for any of the fraternities as a chaperon. I was invited to some of their parties or open house or ~~something like that~~. But it wouldn't really have been very appropriate for me to have been a chaperon for any particular group. I had to be more or less neutral. And that was the same with the sororities as well as with the fraternities. <sup>MS</sup> My position, I felt that I needed to be neutral. And in that way, I could deal with each case ~~as it were~~ that came up without any prejudice whatsoever. It just wouldn't have been appropriate.

Emily: Yes, I can see why.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: But I would be invited to some of their parties or their open houses. And the same with the sororities. Some of them invited me over to teas or to dinners, things of that sort that they were having, which I always appreciated and enjoyed because I enjoyed knowing the students ~~on a, that kind of level~~ and something of their life in their dormitories or sorority houses. You know, <sup>if</sup> things happened in the dormitory in the evening and security was needed to be gotten in touch with, the light ~~off~~ in the tower of Barrett was put on. Security would always keep an eye on that ~~light~~ <sup>light all night</sup>. And if the light was on, they woul ~~d~~

all night. And if the light was on, <sup>to</sup> they would come and find out just where they were needed.

Emily: <sup>Was</sup> ~~is~~ this for all girls' dorms?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. <sup>for instance</sup> ~~In case something happened in Chandler they just phoned over.~~ <sup>to Barrett to put the light on</sup>

Emily: That's a good system.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: It was. It saved ~~a lot of~~ trouble and time.

Emily: What sorts of things would they have been called on to have <sup>a</sup> dealt with?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Well, if there happened to be any cars parked out in front, <sup>or</sup> they thought there might be somebody pl<sup>o</sup>ying tricks or something like that, <sup>or</sup> <sup>one</sup> maybe somebody was taken sick and needed to go the infirmary, ~~or something of that sort.~~ ~~I don't recall any special~~

Of course, I wasn't in my office at night. That was taken care of by the house <sup>weekly</sup> mothers. I met with the house mothers every week, on

Monday. They would bring their reports over, and if anything came up, <sup>any problem + plan for things to be done</sup> we would discuss it, and anything that was going to be planned or done,

~~we would discuss it and straighten it out.~~

Emily: And swop stories, too.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Not in the way of gossip.

Emily: Oh, no, I didn't mean that. I'm sure it was a very interesting occupation.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~I had an appointment with a house mther separately, Not as a group. Every now and then I would have them as a group, more in a social way. But they would bring in their reports to me and then if any question came up, they could, we could discuss it. And that was very~~

*↑ This picks up well on what we were saying.*

helpful to me, and I think they <sup>also</sup> found it helpful, ~~too~~. ~~But there was never any comparison between one and the other.~~

Emily: Now during these years you were working with a lady named dean Landrum. I wondered if you would describe dean Landrum and working with her ~~for me~~.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: She was an extremely easy person to work with. ~~She~~ <sup>a person</sup> had high standards. ~~She had a real appreciation of young people, and high standards.~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~She~~ <sup>also</sup> had a nice sense of humor. ~~And~~ <sup>she</sup> was always ready to discuss problems or various situations that would come up and help to solve them in the very finest way. A lovely <sup>and helpful</sup> person to work with. I don't know exactly what to say, other than that ~~she was just a marvelous person. Her example was always just what you admired most.~~ <sup>she</sup>

Emily: Can you think of any little anecdotes that might bring out her character?

I understand she was a small person.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: <sup>Very small, yes.</sup> Well, she loved to walk, <sup>And</sup> in the spring she always walked to Jamestown and back, at least once.

Emily: I had been told she had energy. That certainly <sup>bears that out</sup> ~~clears that up~~.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: And she did. She would do <sup>a great deal of</sup> regular walking down through <sup>a woods</sup> Metoka ~~and all through there and down the~~ <sup>along</sup> town and Jamestown Road.

She loved to walk, <sup>And</sup> I think she loved nature. That's one of the pleasures she got out of walking through the woods and ~~walking~~ to Jamestown and ~~around~~ in different sections of town. She was a very lovable person, a person whom you couldn't help admiring.

Emily: And students felt this way, too?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. <sup>believe</sup> I think most of the students had no hesitancy about going to her, although sometimes ~~I think once or twice~~ I think they felt she was a little austere, but she really wasn't. ~~It's just they~~

*some students*  
 weren't quite certain how to approach her. But she would usually sense that and put them at ~~their~~ ease.

Emily: Now what was the division of labor between you and Dean Landrum?

What matters were within your province and what matters were within hers?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Hers were more academic and mine were more the social and the set up in the dormitories. *There was almost* ~~and we had~~ a dance every Saturday night, every Saturday night. Charles Chandler would come and get me, and I would go in the gym, *and* he would stand at the door and get *Tabs* their tickets or money or whatever *necessary to admission* ~~it was~~ and see that the right people got in. *would* ~~I was there~~ and the students used to come up and speak to me, *evening* ~~some as soon as they came in and others sometimes during the dance.~~

They always had a line of stags, which made it lots of fun for the girls.

Emily: Now this would have been in Blow gym?

*Yes*  
 Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~In Blow gym, every Saturday night I used to scold the boys sometimes because there they were, stags, and girls over in the dormitory just longing to dance.~~

Emily: Were the dances well attended?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, very well attended. ~~Yes, very well attended.~~

Emily: ~~Well~~ *it* seems, *maybe* this is an incorrect impression, *but* it seems to me that after the lodges were built this sort of all-college dance faded away, and fraternities became the social centers. Is that ~~the~~ an incorrect impression?

*only*  
 Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, *that* to a certain extent ~~that was~~ true. ~~And then you know the girls would have a certain corner of the gym that they could go to so when the dance was over their escort would take them there or the stag would know just where to find the girl, you see, as well as just tagging when they were dancing. Then possibly once or twice a year, the~~

*There was almost*  
*evening*  
*that*  
*only*

boys. And then the girls had their stags. The boys would sometimes say, I'm worn out.

Emily: Well, before the war this would have been, <sup>were</sup> the dances in the sunken Garden in June, the finals dance.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: <sup>The Final June Ball was held in the Sunken Garden</sup> Those were beautiful dances. They had the platform in the sunken garden and a lovely urn in the center, with magnolias <sup>take ea</sup> in ~~each~~ corner. Then ~~up~~ on the upper level there were tables, and they would <sup>for refreshments</sup> come there to have refreshments. Then they'd just go down for their dancing. Those were great occasions. Of course, they all had to have a card or identification as they came in, and there was somebody at each <sup>of the steps</sup> stairway, ~~steps going down~~ <sup>to the car, taking tickets</sup>

Emily: I've heard a great deal about those dances <sup>so</sup>

Miss Wynne-Roberts: They were beautiful, just lovely.

Emily: I think Mr. Bryan was very instrumental in <sup>making them</sup> what they were.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes, he was, very much so. Then, of course, the Dodge Room and the Apollo Room, all that area was open. And there were refreshments <sup>on and chairs</sup> as well as the tables on the lawn. They were just beautiful. <sup>occasions</sup>

Emily: And after the war they didn't have these so much apparently.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I don't remember the dates of those, what year.

Maybe you've got that down.

Emily: Yes, it would have been in the 30s with Mr. Bryan because they didn't have them during the war, I know.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: No, they didn't.

Emily: So it would have been in the latter half of the 19130s.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. <sup>[Mr. Bryan]</sup> And he loved to entertain, and he was a charming

host always. Of course, he did a lot of entertaining in his own home, <sup>+</sup> the President's house. He told me once, ~~he said~~ <sup>when I was a young boy</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>to</sup> always be on the lookout to see that there was never a wallflower. <sup>”</sup> ~~In her book she didn't say wallflower, I forget what term she used, it's strange.~~

Emily: Getting back to Dean Landrum, <sup>---</sup> now she retired, I believe, and she was replaced by Miss Jeffers. This is sort of a difficult area to ask questions about, ~~now~~ it was said by some of the Board of Visitors when Miss Jeffers resigned, <sup>“</sup> that they were probably better off without her. <sup>”</sup> Why would you think that anyone would have cause to say this?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I don't know.

Emily: <sup>1</sup> Because you had worked with her here and then you worked with her later up at Tufts <sup>University</sup> ~~or~~ Jackson College.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Jackson College is the women's college of Tufts <sup>University</sup>.  
No, I don't think I can give you any clues on that.

Emily: This was into the '50s, now, when there was a lot of tension and emotion about things like the athletic scandal and about Pomfret's resignation and about the selection of Admiral Chandler and this sort of thing, so it could have been made in a charged atmosphere.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I wouldn't be surprised. I expect that's the way it came about.

Emily: Now both you and Dean Jeffers decided to leave William and Mary <sup>o</sup> you had been here for a very long time.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Oh, ~~she left before I did~~. She left two years <sup>before I did</sup>.

Emily: ~~She left a couple of years beforehand~~

Miss Wynne-Roberts: ~~And~~ it was she who was responsible for my going to Tufts.

Emily: You had been at William and Mary for a very long time.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I didn't leave there until 1954. I finished '53 and <sup>I</sup> '54, then <sup>1</sup> went up to Tufts in September, '54.

Emily: What was it that made you leave Williamsburg?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: I just felt I'd be happier there.

Emily: Did you find it difficult in the last years that you had been here?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Yes. It wasn't too easy to work with Admiral Chandler.

I think that's all I can say about that.

Emily: And Miss Jeffers found it that way, too, apparently.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Apparently so. <sup>41A, 41B</sup> ~~I never went into it, detailed with her~~ <sup>We discussed it</sup> ~~about it.~~ <sup>The opening</sup> ~~She~~ <sup>then as Dean of women at</sup> ~~and came at Tufts, and she was asked to go, so she~~ <sup>Jackson</sup> ~~left.~~ <sup>College</sup> ~~After she had been there for a year she came down and was just~~ <sup>visiting.</sup> ~~visiting.~~ <sup>about?</sup> ~~I don't know what brought it up, but then the next year she~~ ~~came down, and she asked me, after she had been here that time she asked~~

~~me to, if I'd like to come up and have an interview at Tufts. So I~~  
~~arranged to go up, and then I didn't hear anything more for some little~~  
~~time. It was almost a year, and I was asked to come up. And I was~~  
~~pleased to go because we had always gotten along very well together.~~

~~As I say, it was not too easy to work with Admiral Chandler. [When I~~  
~~got to Tufts I asked Dean Landrum what my duties were. And she said,~~  
~~anything that you see to be, work with the house mothers and the students~~  
~~in the dormitories. But she said, I do not want you to have anything~~  
~~to do with discipline as such. A lot of it will come to you but there's~~  
~~a disciplinary official of the college. I had a lovely time because I~~

~~had very, very happy relations with the students of both Jackson and~~  
~~Tufts. One thing that Dean Hocutt and I did we set up a calendar for~~  
~~all the activities on the campus. It finally got in my office that I~~

~~did it. Notices were sent out to every organization, faculty, students,~~  
~~and all. And they turned in a schedule of their meetings or events, and~~  
~~then that, the calendar was that size, and each one was recorded. And~~  
~~if there were conflicts I would call in whoever sent the, submitted the~~  
~~calendar of their events, I would call them in and we would work it out~~  
~~and see if it not a lot of conflicts. There is a very interesting~~  
~~part of my work. And another thing, it put me in touch with~~  
~~practically everybody on campus, the men, the women, the faculty.~~

*This is fine. It's all the explanation that's needed. See again page 2*

*Yes to take this out since it isn't on the college?*

*See page 142*

*then as Dean of women at Jackson College*

*Take the position of assistant of Dean of women*

*\* 13 memorable years administration faculty and Cat William and Mary JAWAS to*

*from my office for each semester*

*It was*

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Apparently so. <sup>#</sup> We never discussed it. The opening came at Tufts University, and Dean Jeffers was offered the position of dean of women at Jackson College of Tufts University. After she had been there for a year she came back to William and Mary for a visit. I don't know what brought it about, but the following year she came again, and at that time asked me if I would like to come to Tufts for an interview. I agreed to go but heard nothing more until almost a year later. When I was offered the position of assistant dean of women at Jackson College of Tufts University I was pleased to accept. Dean Jeffers and I had always worked together with ease and understanding. I had twelve memorable years there with very happy relations with administration, faculty, and students.

One thing that Dean Hocutt and I did at William and Mary was to set up a calendar for all activities held at the college. Notices were sent out to all organizations, faculty, and students from my office to turn in a schedule of their meetings and/or their events for each semester. Each event was recorded on the large calendar. If there were conflicts they were worked out with the person who submitted the schedule. Plays, lectures, concerts--the outstanding all-college events--were scheduled and given first preference on the calendar. After all was recorded on the large calendar, an approved schedule was sent to each organization, etc., giving approval of

their date and time of events. As time went on other meetings and occasions would of course come up to be scheduled. By referring to the large calendar conflicts were avoided. All of this entailed much care and detailed work. Scheduling and the continued work on the calendar have me an advantage and opportunity to come in contact and be acquainted with many, many people in all areas of the college community, which was truly a privilege.

And what we did, we would take, for instance, plays and concerts and <sup>features</sup> the big, outstanding, all-college affairs. <sup>e were</sup> Those ~~were~~ scheduled and worked out first because they needed to have first preference on the calendar. It was very interesting, and there was quite a lot of detail sometimes in getting it so it would flow smoothly. Then after it was all down on this large calendar <sup>an approved</sup> then a list was sent back to each organization <sup>etc</sup> giving them the dates and the times. And then as the time went on, <sup>to be scheduled</sup> other meetings would come up. They would come in and look at the calendar and see what was going on. <sup>Can we</sup> And they would have a meeting at such-and-such a time or whether there would be a conflict. So you didn't have many conflicts.

Emily: You had worked under Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, Mr. Bryan, <sup>Dr.</sup> Pomfret, under Admiral Chandler, <sup>to be</sup> thinking back over these four presidents, which did you find the strictest disciplinarian? I'll ask it that way?

Miss Wynne-Roberts: <sup>434</sup> Possibly Dr. Chandler, but not too difficult to work with. But he was a disciplinarian. <sup>strict</sup> The Admiral was not easy to work with, <sup>omit</sup> but all the others were very easy. Of course, in the summer Dr. Hoke was dean of the summer school, and he was extremely easy to work with. <sup>very pleasant</sup> He did a lot for the whole student body and the morale of the college. I think I told you about the trips up the James River.

Emily: Yes, And the watermelon feasts.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: And the watermelon feasts.

Emily: Now you ...

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Now there was one thing, <sup>which</sup> this will go back to both the physical education years and assistant dean. The women students never had games or contests on Sunday mornings. Nothing was scheduled until after noon, after church services, as it were. And that was <sup>done</sup> ~~run~~ the custom time I was <sup>with</sup> physical education and when I was assistant dean.

<sup>also</sup> there were frequent intramural events

Emily  
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during the

Miss Wynne-Roberts: Possibly Dr. Chandler, but he was not too difficult to work with. He was a strict disciplinarian. Dean Hoke was dean and head of the summer school. He was extremely easy and pleasant to work with. He arranged many interesting and pleasant occasions for the entire student body and morale of the college community. I have told you of the trips up the James River and the watermelon feasts.

~~intramurals, we had lots of intramurals. The women never had anything  
until the afternoon.~~

Emily: In looking back over <sup>thirty</sup> ~~30~~ years of service at William and Mary, what stands out in your mind about those years? This question may take a little thought.

Miss Wynne-Roberts: It will. I would say possibly <sup>(3A)</sup> the very pleasant and happy cooperation and relationships that I had with faculty, administration, students, as well as all labor. <sup>Dept of Grounds & Buildings</sup> I remember months at Christmastime they would have, just before Christmas vacation, parties and things for special occasion, <sup>grousemen</sup> for the men, the laborers, the janitors <sup>etc</sup> and ~~all that~~. Well, it seemed to me as though, the women (the maids) were being left out. So I decided that we would have, at the same time, maybe not the same day but in the same period of time before Christmas we would have some kind of social gathering for all the maids. They seemed to appreciate <sup>it</sup> ~~and that~~ was always a very <sup>pleasant</sup> nice occasion. <sup>held in the living room</sup> We always had it in Barrett Hall. Mrs. Campbell, who was the house mother there, would always help me, and of course, the people in my office, too. ~~And we would have a lovely time.~~ ~~But~~ I felt that the maids should have recognition of that sort, the same as the men. No, I enjoyed my work at all times; <sup>Anything that you do over a period of years,</sup> there are difficult times as well as easy pleasant. You have some problems to be resolved. And Mr. Lambert was a very easy, a very fine person to work with, a great help always, a great help.

Emily: I would urge you now or if any time you think of any little anecdotes to tell, let me know to spice up the story. What I was saying about swopping stories, I wasn't testing spersions on house mothers, I was hoping that would stimulate you to think up some interesting things that happened in the dorm. So if at any time you do think of little

Miss Wynne-Roberts: This is a difficult question to answer. I had many memorable and happy experiences to remember. Of course, over the years no matter what one's work there are difficult and pleasant occasions, problems to resolve, lessons to learn. The understanding, advice, and cooperation of Dean Landrum, Dean Jeffers, and Dean Wyatt, also my close relation with each housemother contributed greatly to the satisfaction and pleasures during my years at William and Mary. There were, of course, occasions and incidents when humor brought laughter and joy and also broke tensions.

The years of relationship and work with and for President Bryan and President Pomfret were exceedingly pleasant and happy. Each of these gentlemen was considerate and approachable. Some of my duties during these years necessitated working with Mr. Duke, who was at all times most helpful, considerate, and easy to work with.

There are two other members of the administration with whom I worked and to whom I owe much gratitude: They are Mr. Lambert and ] Mr. Hocutt, who were at all times and under all circumstances most understanding, helpful, and a pleasure to work and be associated with.

One thing which I might mention in connection with the department of grounds and buildings was the little Christmas<sup>S</sup> socials which they had for the groundsmen and janitors a few days before the Christmas holidays. I felt that something comparable should be done for all the maids. Therefore with the help of Mrs. Campbell, housemother in Barrett Hall, and my office staff we had a morning coffee and gathering in the living room of Barrett. They were pleasant occasions, and the women seemed to appreciate the recognition given them.