

JOHN E. HOCUTT

A student at William and Mary from 1931 to 1935, John Hocutt returned soon after graduation to teach chemistry. In 1938 he was appointed assistant dean of men, in which capacity he served until his return from World War II. At that time Dean Lambert, who had been dean of men, became dean of students, and Mr. Hocutt became dean of men. In 1952 he left to take the position of vice-president at the University of Delaware, where he is now assistant to the president for special projects.

John E. Hocutt

August 6, 1976

Williamsburg, Virginia

Williams: You were a student from 1931 to 1935, and I always like to ask people "what was it that attracted you to William and Mary as a student?"

Hocutt: ~~Well I don't mean it the way it sounds but~~ I was a graduate of Newport News, Virginia, High School and I was offered a \$100.00 scholarship to William and Mary. At the time I had a distant relative who was chairman of the Board of Trustees at Duke University, and he offered to assist me financially if I went to Duke, but I saw this as a chance to go on my own. I was fairly nearby at the time, ~~about~~ ^{or} thirty ^{or} thirty-five miles ^{away.} I think the scholarship was the primary ^{reason} ~~cause~~ because I had no money.

Williams: Well, the Depression was going on at the time. How did you see the Depression affecting your fellow students once you got here?

Hocutt: Well, it was a very Spartan life; ~~it~~ certainly was for me. I can remember having to work part-time at one or more jobs; in my senior year I had three jobs. I had a dollar a week spending money ~~and that meant~~ for toilet articles, amusements - ^{every} anything except food ^{and} or clothing so it was, as I say, a very Spartan existence.

I started out as a commuter from Newport News, ^{(my}
~~mother was living in Washington, D. C., at the time, but~~
~~I lived in Newport News with a fellow William and Mary~~
~~student and commuted.~~ But during examination week at the
 end of the first semester we had an automobile accident,
 and my friend's car was badly damaged, so we moved on the
 campus, and for the remainder of my time I lived here in
 Williamsburg.

I also remember that because I had to work at various
 and sundry part-time jobs I didn't have a whole lot of
 time to do more than study and work, so I think I probably
 missed a great deal because of that. My participation in
 activities was somewhat limited because of my responsibili-
 ties working.

Williams: Was this characteristic of a number of the students, would
 you say?

Hocutt: Very much so! ^(H) One thing that I remember about my student
 days, the president of the college then was J. A. C.
 Chandler. Dr. Chandler knew just about everything that went
 on on this campus. If a windowpane was broken out in a
 residence hall, he learned about it.

During my first semester here my mother moved to Washing-
 ton, D. C., and took a job in government employment, and in the
 Spring of my freshman year I notified the Treasurer's office
 that henceforth my address was Washington, D. C., where my

mother was living, that summer I had a letter from Dr. Chandler telling me that he had been informed that my mother had moved out of the state, but he wanted me to know that I could register thereafter using that Washington address but paying instate tuition, which in itself was a scholarship. I presented that letter thereafter at each registration. I guess it was in the summer before my senior year that Dr. Chandler died, and I didn't know whether my letter would be honored that Fall or not, but Mr. Vernon Nunn, who was then Treasurer of the college, did honor ^{the} that commitment that Dr. Chandler had made. So ~~that was~~ at least in my own ~~personal~~ ^{that is} case an example of the hard times that we experienced then. That tuition differential made considerable difference to me ~~in terms of that~~ (it was in effect a scholarship).

Williams: And it also illustrates how Dr. Chandler was in on everything that was going on.

Hocutt: That's certainly true. I had always heard during my student days that Dr. Chandler ran the institution as he thought it should be run. He was subject on occasion to some criticism because he might take appropriated funds that were ~~appropriated~~ for one specific purpose and use ^{them} it for another college purpose. He wasn't diverting any of this money outside the college, but he was taking the funds appropriated for the institution and spending ^{them} it as he thought at the time

~~and in places where it~~ ^{they} needed to be spent.

Williams: While you were a student there occurred I guess two student strikes. Do you recall these ^{And} the causes for them?

Hocutt: Yes, I do. The first one, which I think lasted two, maybe three days, occurred because there was a student manager in the dining hall who some students thought had been pretty autocratic with student waiters -- "Red" somebody. I can't remember his last name. Anyway, some students one evening decided they were going to ^{find this} ~~fire him as~~ student manager. I don't know what they proposed to do to him. ^{he} lived in what then was called Old Taliferro. ^{(This has been} torn down for many years.) He heard this crowd of students coming and escaped to the dining hall, and some of the students broke into the dining hall and found him. Well, later there was an investigation of the incident, and some students were identified and suspended for this action. ^{it was this} suspension of these students, as I recall, that brought on the student strike. I continued to go to class, however, because I don't believe in strikes. I remember that there weren't very many students in class. ^{freshman} In my chemistry class students were seated alphabetically in the lecture, and I sat next to a student by the name of Hoke, whose father was Dean of the college. ^{he} continued to attend classes during those two or three days. There weren't ^{many} ~~many~~ ^{men students in classes during the strike.} ~~but I do recall~~

~~simply because I sat next to Hoke that he was one that went to class when I did.~~

I had two roommates at the time; One by the name of Alfred Mitchell, who went on to complete an M. D. at the University of Virginia. He died several years ago. He was in practice as a pediatrician in Newport News. My other roommate was a fellow by the name of Willie Gracie from Hampton, Virginia. Gracie, Mitchell, and Hocutt, the three of us continued to go to class even though many students did skip classes for two or three days.

Williams: Did your fellow students look upon you with disfavor because you did continue to go?

Hocutt: I was never aware that this was the case. I remember attending one student body meeting -- incidentally, I think this involved only the men students, if I remember -- of the ~~men's student body~~ in what was then Phi Beta Kappa Hall (not the new building, of course) and hearing student government officers describe what had happened and why we should strike, and they took a vote. Although the majority voted for the strike my two roommates and I were among the relatively small number who voted against the strike, but I didn't feel I could afford the time away from class. I don't remember what the circumstances were of the second student strike.

Williams: Right now I can't recall either. I think it was the year after. It was a small one, and I don't think it even lasted

as long. It may have just been a one day one. It seems to me it had something to do with people ^{mis}behaving in the library, rather than this dining hall one. I think it was a very localized sort of thing, it was not a general strike.

Hocutt: I have forgotten that one. But I've never believed in strikes of any kind. I'm anti^uunion. I was horrified when ~~the faculty of the University of Delaware,~~ the A.A.U.P. ^{at the University of} ~~from Delaware.~~ became the collective bargaining agent for the faculty. I just don't think a union and a college or university faculty go together.

Williams: When you came back here in '38, what changes did you see in the school by then? Now Mr. Bryan ~~had been here~~ [?] was here your senior year; ^{he} had been here several years by then. Could you see changes in the school from the time you left as an undergraduate to the time that you came back?

Hocutt: Yes. ~~Well I was here~~ I returned to the college the ~~fall~~ after graduation. I had finished the ~~Baccalaureate~~ degree and wondered what I was going to do. I still wanted to go to med school ^{but} and couldn't raise the money to go, and I received a ^{letter in mid} ~~lot of good summer~~ from Dr. R. G. Robb, who was then chairman of the chemistry department, offering me a job as an instructor in chemistry at a salary of \$94.50 a month for nine months. (I used to say I knew what the \$94.00 was for, but I never could figure out that 50¢.) So I was an

instructor in chemistry for 1935-'36, '36-'37, and then I went out to Ohio State and completed a masters' degree in chemistry ^I and had planned to go ^{on} for a doctorate ^{when} and I was invited back to be interviewed for the position of Assistant Dean of Men, ~~and~~ [≡] when I was offered the position I was told that I'd be given an opportunity later to ~~go on and~~ complete the advanced degree. ^{but} Too many things happened and it certainly wasn't the college's fault. Before I knew it World War II was on us.

Dr. Bryan brought a number of changes to the institution. He had a great flair; He was equally at home with royalty *and* with students from very humble circumstances. Regretably ¹ [he was] a part-time president in that he was still publisher of the News Leader and Times-Dispatch. I think that the quality of the faculty was upgraded during Mr. Bryan's presidency, and I think that admissions standards were tightened .

Williams: Was this something you could see at the time?

Hocutt: I thought so, yes. Dr. Chandler had the burden of keeping this institution ^{operating} during hard times and indeed did a great deal to enlarge and improve the physical plant of the college. Then John ^{ew} Stuart Bryan came along and I felt improved the quality of the faculty, improved the quality of the student body by ^{upgrading} raising admissions standards. He made a few changes ~~around~~ that were hard for some people to take. I remember the dean of women at the time was a lady by the name of Grace Warren Landrum. Dr. Landrum was a professor

of English as well as dean of women. I had never heard Dr. Landrum called anything other than "Dr. Landrum" or "Dean Landrum." Then John ^{EW}Stuart Bryan came, and one of the things ^[was] Mr. Bryan didn't like titles. About the academic buildings were faculty offices that had names on ^{the doors:} them. "Dr." was taken off, and "Mister So and So" or "Miss So ^{and} So," as the case may be, ^{[were put up].} I don't believe for a moment that Mr. Bryan had any intention of hurting Dean Landrum, but I knew that she certainly didn't like to be called "Miss Landrum." She wanted to be called either "Dr. Landrum" or "Dean Landrum." That was one of the little things I recall about his presidency.

There's another thing as far as students are concerned. If I remember correctly Mr. Bryan was the first president to inaugurate the programs of aides to the president -- student aides to the president. ^{he} used these aides, who were selected for their personality and who had distinguished themselves academically and in extracurricular activities, ^{for} when he had official functions and for social occasions. I think the students had many unusual experiences.

Williams: Because of the people Mr. Bryan brought in?

Hocutt: Right, ~~right~~. If I can go back for a moment to my senior year here. I just remembered one little incident. ^{the} restoration was dedicated either in the ^{fall} of 1934 or the ^{spring} of '35. President Roosevelt was the principal speaker on this occasion. His address was delivered from ~~in~~ the

front of the Wren Building. One other male student and I were asked to be "escorts" for Mrs. Roosevelt, and this turned out to be quite a chore. Mrs. Roosevelt had no interest whatsoever in attending the official ceremony, and she was hard to keep up with. She went about ^{the} shops in the first block of Duke of Gloucester Street. I think we finally ended on the fringe of the audience. I don't remember that the other student and I were really very helpful as "escorts" to Mrs. Roosevelt, who obviously had a couple of secret service men trailing along behind her, too. I was reminded ^{that} of ~~it~~ in talking about the ^{aides to} ~~age of the~~ president.

Williams: And the kinds of people who came in those days. Now when you came back as ~~Assistant Dean of Men~~ was that part of Mr. Bryan's reorganization of the administration? Was it part of a ^{conscious} ~~kind of~~ plan?

Hocutt: Well, I came back from Ohio State in '38 as assistant dean of men and still a part-time instructor in chemistry. Dean Lambert, who at the time I didn't think knew me very well, ^{invited me} none ~~the~~ less ~~the invitation~~ to return for the interview ~~came from him~~. Things in those days were not as formal as they are today. Today you have a selection committee that has to be representative of all segments of the institution, but back in the ~~spring~~ of '38, when I came back for this in-

interview, I met informally with a couple of administrative officers, and then drove along with Dean Lambert and Charles Duke, who was then bursar of the college, and Dr. Miller, who was then dean of the faculty, to Richmond ^{we} and went to Mr. Bryan's office ^{at} the News Leader building ~~and went into his office~~ and there were a few pleasantries exchanged, and Mr. Bryan said to the others, "if you'll leave me alone for a few minutes with this young man I'll appreciate it" so the others got up and left the office, and as soon as ^{they} left ^{Mr. Bryan} closed the door, ~~Mr. Bryan~~ turned to me and said, "I really don't know why they took your time and brought you all the way to Richmond to see me. If they want to appoint you as assistant dean of men that's fine by me". That's the way it happened.

The interview was in the Spring of '38, and ~~I guess~~ I came back here in August and resumed employment at the College as assistant Dean of men and as instructor in chemistry. In 1941 I had three assistants' positions: I was assistant to the president, assistant dean of men, and assistant professor of chemistry. The college back in those days had a paper arrangement ~~in order on paper~~ to keep the cost of administration low ^{in my case,} for example, as I recall I was paid \$50 a month as assistant dean of men, and the balance of my salary was as

instructor and later ^{an} assistant professor in chemistry, ~~let~~ I spent ⁿninety-five per cent of my time in the administrative position. The same was true of Dean Lambert, who taught a course each semester in psychology, and Dean Landrum, who taught a course each semester in English, Dean Miller, ~~Dean~~ of the ~~Faculty~~, taught a course in philosophy. I don't know how their salaries were divided, but I assume some such arrangement pertained in their cases as well as in mine.

Williams: Now you mentioned that you were assistant to the president, ^{because,} was this mainly ^{as you had said earlier,} that Mr. Bryan was here just part-time, or was there a great need for more administrative help to the president? Those aren't necessarily mutually exclusive, either.

Hocutt: Well, I think some of the latter ^{but} ~~the~~ number two officer of the college in those days was Charles Duke, the bursar. He "ran" the institution in Mr. Bryan's absence. Now that year '41-'42, Mr. Duke went down to ^{the} Norfolk Division of the College and came back here occasionally, but his primary responsibility at that time was the Norfolk Division. We had had an unfortunate circumstance develop at the Norfolk Division wherein it was alleged that the ~~Dean~~ of that division had altered ^{some students'} ~~the grades of some students~~ that had been turned in by the faculty. As a result of all of that, Dean Hodges, who had been ~~Dean~~ of Men during my student days here at the college and who then was dean of the Norfolk Division of the ~~College~~, resigned and Charlie Duke

went down to head the Norfolk Division. ~~Be cause~~ I had his office for that one year, ~~before I went in the Navy~~ which was right next to the president's office, ^{before I went in the navy.} ~~So I guess~~ I was doing some of the leg work for the president; I was not by any stretch of the imagination doing the work of the bursar or an assistant president. I was assistant to the president.

Williams: To say that Charlie Duke was the bursar doesn't even begin to give an idea -- as I understand it-- of his role. How would you describe his role in the many years that he was here?

Hocutt: As I said before I always understood his role was that of the number two administrative officer, and because Mr. Bryan was in and out a fair amount of the time the effect of this was that Charles Duke was the administrative head of the institution a good part of that time. I've forgotten whether Charlie Duke came in '34 when Mr. Bryan did or whether it was a year or two afterward, but he was here most of Mr. Bryan's presidency.

Williams: And then would you say his role was as great during Mr. Pomfret's presidency?

Hocutt: No, I don't think it was. Dr. Pomfret was a full time president. He did depend upon Charlie Duke for a dual role. He in effect was a vice-president for business affairs, and secondly if we had a lobbyist with the state legislature it certainly would be him. You might describe ^{his} role with two titles: Vice-president for business affairs and vice-presi-

dent for college relations.

Williams: Was it when you came back after the war that you were then made dean of men and Dean Lambert became dean of students?

Hocutt: That's right.

Williams: With the crush of veteran enrollment did this permanently end what I have found in some of the records was a concern before the war about the male enrollment?

Hocutt: Indeed, there was a concern. I think it was generally accepted at that time -- pre-World War II -- that ⁱⁿ a coeducational institution, the happiest ratio ^{of} men to women ~~in a coeducational institution~~ was sixty-forty. ^{of} Sixty per cent men, forty per cent women. Before the war we were getting very close to a fifty-fifty situation. I can remember during the period '38 to '42 making several recruiting trips ^{for} to students on nothing more than a letter the college may have received from a student ~~some~~ place in the state who said, "I'm interested in William and Mary, please send me a catalog". Then nothing was heard from him. I went out and drove about the state on several occasions searching for these young men, ~~and~~ encouraging them, if they appeared to be qualified, to go ahead and apply. We didn't get as many as we would have liked to have gotten, but we got a few that way.

But then after the war, you're right. ^{with} The return of veterans in that period ('46 into the late '40s) the picture changed considerably. We had a very difficult housing situ-

ation for students. I can recall that at one point in time we housed men students in some Navy barracks in Yorktown and bussed them to and from the campus. We had an army surplus barracks building, which was then located on roughly what today is the site of Phi Beta Kappa hall, a two-story frame building that was dismantled and brought here and put together. Students called it "the chicken coop." The windows were quite small, and I guess ~~some~~ ^{some} thought it reminded them of a chicken coop. I ~~re~~ ^member at one point students painted a chicken on the chimney of this building.

~~In those days~~
~~I remember the days when~~ if a student at the college married ~~you~~ ^{he} had to leave. Then we went through a period during my assistant dean of men days when if a student was going to marry he had to give notice to the college of intention to marry, and if the student was a minor he had to have a letter or other indication from parent or guardian saying that the parent or guardian agreed with the student's plan to marry.

After World War II the college had a number of married students; Veterans returned to the campus with their wives, and we had a few ^[houses] -- I think these again were military surplus houses that were bought and put up here. In any event they ^{contained} ~~were~~ two bedrooms, one bath, ^a one kitchen, and ^a one little living room. That was the house, a one-story

house, we had twenty of them, and we assigned two couples to each house. Each couple had a bedroom, but they shared the living room, ~~the~~ bath, and ~~the~~ kitchen. One of my responsibilities in that period right after World War II was that married student housing, and I knew that it was woefully unsatisfactory situation. It wasn't long before the wives ^{who} that were at home while their husbands were off in class. ^{having} there were a lot of squabbles and disputes, and I was called upon occasionally to try to arbitrate some of these disputes. Those houses were still in use when I left the college in '52, although I think that at that time they were ^{being rented} ~~running~~ them as single-family dwellings.

Williams: Did this sudden change in the character of the male population cause problems, say in discipline or rule enforcement, for the dean of men?

Hocutt: I don't think it was so much the change in the ratio of men to women, ^[it was the fact that] but the student body had a fairly large segment of students who were older, ^{and} ~~had~~ had the war behind them, ^{and} and rules like the alcohol rule, that sort of thing ^(students) they really were returning to a ^{status of a} minor situation and they were older ^{and} ~~and they were accustomed to~~ and while the military had a rigid discipline these men on their own time had certainly had a great deal of freedom. They had to obey ~~the police of~~ the military police, but other than that they pretty much did what they wanted to. Then they returned to the college environment, which in those days was still a

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very structured situation with rules of conduct. Recalling my student personnel days I sometimes have a guilty conscience about disciplinary actions that were taken in the case of students who had a can of beer in the residence hall rooms, while today, ^{consumption of alcoholic beverages in residence halls} ~~if I understand the rules here~~ ^{is permitted. This is} ~~its~~ certainly true at Delaware -- at Delaware we say that if a student is of age he can purchase and consume alcohol in his room, and he is not in violation of any rule or regulation. So I think it was not the ratio of men to women that was the factor as much as that we had a more mature student body with the experience of the war and the experience of many freedoms while in the service that did not exist on a college or university campus. ~~It~~ It was certainly a highly motivated group of students on the whole. They were anxious to complete their degrees at the earliest possible moment and get out and start earning a livelihood. They were serious about academic matters. For the most part they were unwilling to devote ~~the~~ time to student activities, [such as] fraternities; it was "get the job done at the earliest possible date" kind of attitude.

I can't recall specific names, but I remember students who were here pre-World War II, ^{and} perhaps had a very mediocre year or two, some on the borderline of eligibility to remain or be dropped for academic deficiencies, who came back after the war and were Dean's list students, which to me was an indication of their motivation, ^{and} their seriousness in so far

as things academic. And of course this was not unique to the William and Mary campus. This occurred about the country.

~~Another thing I think of~~ I mentioned some of the sub-standard housing the college had at the time, having students live at Yorktown and commute by bus to the campus, looking back and thinking about those days these students had really to put up with a great deal which today's students wouldn't accept at all. But again I think it ^{was a} ~~is the~~ matter of feeling the pressure of finishing college in the shortest period of time with the best record possible, ^{that} kind of attitude. They were willing to put up with living in a former army barracks building that students called "the chicken coop" and living two families in a two-bedroom cottage. They put up with a lot that I'm sure students of the '60s wouldn't have accepted at all.

In January of 1946, John Pomfret was then president of the college. I had met him ^{a couple of times} while I was in the Navy ~~a couple of times~~. We became very good friends; I have a great deal of admiration for him. He was far more distinguished as a scholar than as an administrator. In saying that I'm not suggesting that he did a poor job in running the college, but I think he would have been happier in the role of the scholar rather than in the role of the president. When he left here and went to ^{The} Huntington Library in California, I remember a comment that he made that he was going to an

institution that had no alumni, no football team, a very small and distinguished Board of Trustees --five members of the board, as I recall-- ^[was] and an institution that was handsomely endowed. One of his major responsibilities as an administrator at that ~~new~~ institution was to review applications from scholars who wanted grants to study at ^{the} Huntington and while this requires a very careful review of applications, it's nice to sit in a position where you're handing out fellowships and the like to scholars who wanted to go to the Huntington for one project or another. ^{of} All this reminds me of the so-called "football scandal" that the college experienced in 1950, if I remember correctly.

* 1951
correct

I was involved quite by accident in discovering a record falsification that led to the investigation and finally became a scandal. One of my duties as dean of men was to interview all ^{men} students ~~(men)~~ in the spring of their sophomore year to review their academic record ^s with them, ^{and} to assist them in selection of ^a major. Some in the sciences had already made this decision, but a lot of students had not. In any event I was meeting with a young man, going over his record with him, and he had come to the college on an athletic grant-in-aid. In ^{reviewing} ~~going over~~ his record, I said, "I note you took Spanish 101. You understand that the credits you earned in freshman Spanish will not count toward your degree. He said, "why not?" ^{and} I said "Well, your high school transcript indicates you completed two years of Spanish in high school" and He said, "Well, I don't care what the transcript says, the first Spanish I had was freshman Spanish at William and Mary."

I called this to Dean Lambert's attention, and he sent ^a this photocopy of this transcript ~~off~~ to the high school principal. (This young man was from a Philadelphia-area high school.) ~~and~~ the principal wrote back and said the student was correct; he had not had Spanish, and he indicated that not only had some courses been added and some deleted from the transcript we received but grades for some courses had been changed. He said, ["] furthermore the signature which appears on the transcript is not mine. ["]

So then Dean Lambert with others in the records office (and Hocutt) started searching for other records that might have been falsified and discovered some six or eight. One of the clues in looking for these was that the typewriter that had been used in typing these transcripts had a dirty "e"; ^{guy} the little loop to the "e" was filled in, ~~and~~ ^{it} was finally discovered that this typewriter was in the athletic office, and ^{as} I remember the story, Rube McCray, who was then head football coach and director of athletics, acknowledged later that these transcripts had been typed in that office and that he had dictated the information to his secretary.

One of the things I remember about the incident, ^{is that} as best I recall ^{was} the young man with whom I had talked in the spring of his sophomore year ^{who was} ~~he~~ was the only one in that group ^[of athletes] who had made it that far. The rest of them had fallen by the wayside because of academic difficulties, which says you can't prepare someone for college by altering ^{his} their transcript. That incident had a great deal to do with

Dr. Pomfret's leaving. He was very happily offered this position in California at ^{the} Huntington, and he took some criticism for the situation that I never thought he deserved. At the time the Board of Visitors of this college had an athletic committee, ^{but} and I don't think (if I recall correctly) the Board had a committee on instruction, and the Board had indicated that the Director of Athletics would report directly to ~~the~~ ^{its} athletic committee. This meant bypassing the president of the college so that the president didn't have an opportunity to oversee the running of the athletic program, ~~and that kind of situation.~~ Nonetheless, Mr. Pomfret was criticized by some members of the Board for not having properly administered the college, ^{and} in particular ^[for] what had gone on in the athletic department. I was a member of the ^{college} athletic committee at that time, but looking back I know now that that committee was told merely what the people in athletics wanted us to hear; we had very little to do with setting athletic policy. ~~I'm talking about the college committee on athletics.~~

Williams: The Board set the policy?

Hocutt: Oh, Yes. And incidentally, while the record will reveal whether this is true, ^{but} as I remember the athletic policy of the Board said in effect: "The college of William and Mary will have a football schedule which includes its natural rivals and one or two inter-sectional games a year, and the football team shall win more games than it loses."

That to me was the clincher. I don't condone dishonesty at all, but I think that the Board with that kind of policy lent some encouragement to the Director of Athletics and the head football coach to cut some corners and be less than honest ~~if the board was dictating that the football team had to win more games than lose.~~ That incident brought about some marked changes in the administration of the college. There were many people among alumni, students, faculty, and friends who were upset. In any event, several went out job-hunting. Although I left in '52, I didn't go job hunting, but when I was invited to the University of Delaware and then offered a position I was happy to take it. But we had a dean of the faculty then who was in the field of marine biology, Nelson Marsh, ^{all} now at Oxford University. He made a big to-do of his leaving. I think he resigned with no position in sight because (after I'd been at Delaware for a year he came through, and I introduced him to some people because we were just beginning a program in marine biology, and Nelson Marshall was still, I believe, ~~was~~ job hunting at that time). He left, and the dean of women, who was then Katherine Jeffers, left about the same time I did. Whether she went out job hunting I don't remember, but there were a number of new faces in the administration beginning with Pomfret's leaving to go to ^{the} Huntington.

Do not include in transcript
 I think I said Alfred Univ. Nelson Marshall was on the Alfred U faculty. I had forgotten that he later moved to the Univ of Rhode Island
 J.E.M.

Nelson Marsh
 University of Rhode Island

Williams:

Would you say that was a protest over the situation as it existed or realizing that it was time to get away?

Abcutt:

There is another thing involved here. I think many people

were sick about what had happened with respect to the falsification of these transcripts, ~~and~~ then with Dr. Pomfret's leaving, Dr. Miller became acting president, and then the search began for a new president of the college. The Board had indicated to the faculty that the faculty would be consulted in the selection of the new president, ^{and} have an opportunity to make some recommendations, ~~and~~ the faculty recognized that it clearly was the role of the Board of Visitors to select ^e and appoint a new president. ~~That~~ the faculty wouldn't do that part, but the faculty was quite pleased at having the opportunity to make recommendations. and then the roof fell in when there was a faculty meeting that began at ^{4:00} ~~four~~ and ^{The faculty} went through a long process of electing a committee ~~that was going to represent the faculty~~ ^{it in} ~~to confer with the Board on a new president~~ ^{The selection of} ~~and then~~ people left the faculty meeting around ^{6:00} ~~six o'clock~~ and went home, and those who turned on the radio heard the newscast that the Board had announced the appointment of Alvin Duke Chandler as new president of the college and I guess, I'm pretty sure now, I think this on top of the football scandal (and perhaps more the latter, that is the appointment of the president by the Board without any consultation ^{with} of the faculty after having indicated that the Board would be happy to hear the faculty's recommendations), ~~But~~ this more than anything else brought about a number of changes. As

I said before, in my own case I didn't go job hunting. A friend of mine who was at the University of Illinois was asked by the president of the University of Delaware to recommend someone for the dean of students' position at Delaware, and Dean Turner at Illinois threw my name in the hat at Delaware, ~~and~~ that's how I was contacted, and finally resulted in my leaving.

~~I think~~ Dr. Miller, who as you know, left here and went to McGill University and is now retired and living ^{again} back in Williamsburg. Newark and we're good friends, and we usually see them when we're back. Perhaps a year after Dr. Chandler had been in office, the Richmond newspapers were digging up this bit about Mr. Chandler's appointment, and Dr. Miller called me one evening. I was busy when one evening a reporter from the Richmond newspaper called me and asked me why I had left William and Mary. (goes into various details)

I answered I had left William and Mary because I was offered a position that paid more money, involved greater responsibility than I had at William and Mary and I felt offered me new opportunities. This was not the answer Dr. Miller had expected me to give. He expected me to say that I'd left because of the manner in which Mr. Chandler was selected by the Board of Visitors as president.

Williams: One area while you were here as dean of men that we didn't cover, and that had to do with the reactivation of the fraternities after World War II. Was there any thought

given, ~~and~~ I know before the war began the fraternities had lost their houses, and then during the war ~~they~~ they disbanded. Was there any thought given to not reactivating the fraternities, or was it assumed as the men came back everything would be picked up as normal?

Hocutt:

I'm not sure just when in this ~~period~~ period this happened. In the post-World War II years, when Colgate Darden was ~~governor~~ Governor of the state, ~~at~~ ^{*} one point in time he made a public statement: the gist of it was ~~that~~ that he would take a dim view of any institution in the state which was tax-assisted supporting in any way ~~with~~ ^{of} housing fraternities and sororities. I'm not sure of the date of this pronouncement, but it was post-World War II, ~~but~~ ^{as} you said the sororities were still in college-owned housing, as they are today, but the fraternities with two or three exceptions had lost their houses.

* Actually this was before World War II

In any event, when Gov. ^{error} Darden made this pronouncement with respect to tax-assisted institutions of higher learning ~~in~~ ~~the state~~ providing houses for fraternities and sororities, The College of William and Mary took the position: ~~this is it~~ "We're going to follow the governor's policy." ~~the~~ At the University of Virginia, on the other hand ^{where} (where Darden later went as president), the Board and others said in effect: "We'll fight you on this issue. We don't agree." Well, later on ^{Mr} Governor ~~that~~ Darden, ^{while President of the University of Virginia} modified his stance somewhat.

At that point in time the decision was made at William and Mary, resulting from the input of a number of people, to build these ~~fraternity~~ lodges and rent them, ^{to fraternities.} This would ^{provide} be a place where fraternity social programs could take place,

with the members of the fraternity living in college ~~dormi-~~
~~tories~~ and residence halls. The college built ten or so of
 these lodges, and that's when fraternities hit a low period
 in their history. Not only ^[was the problem] the housing situation, which many
 fraternity ^{men} felt essential to fraternity programs, but they
 were also up against an attitude that existed among many
 veterans of the war. These older men ~~that~~ didn't have the
 time or the interest for that aspect of college life, just
 as they didn't participate in other activities on the whole.
 Some did of course, but from athletics to publications ~~but~~
 to generalize on the whole the majority just didn't have
 the time, the interest, or the inclination to participate.

Williams: I read somewhere in a report that Dr. Pomfret made ~~that~~ he
 described the fraternity factions just after the war as
 obstinate. Did you find that true in your dealings as dean
 of men?

Hocutt: Looking back, certainly it was true the fraternities wanted
 houses.

Williams: They didn't like the lodge idea at all.

Hocutt: No. They didn't like the lodges at all.

Williams: Were they more or less told that they were going to have
 lodges rather than asked?

Hocutt: Oh yes. They were told this. We in the administration
 considered various alternates. One was the arrangement which
 at that time and may still exist at Duke university where

the fraternities leased sections of residence halls, and ~~they~~ ^{were provided} had a meeting room and social space in these sections. ^[It was]

little bit on the idea of row housing; these sections of halls were partitioned off. We took a look at that, and we looked at Davidson College, ^{which} had lodges at that time ~~and~~ this seemed to be one solution to the problem: not providing a place where students ^{would} ~~should~~ live and eat (as per Gov. ^{error} Darden), but they could have a social program there.

Well the students--fraternity men-- did not want the lodges. They resisted this policy very strongly, yet for the most part they were not in a situation ⁿ financially to do anything about a house. I don't remember how many fraternities still had some equity in a house. Perhaps the KA's did, although soon after the war the college bought that property and converted it into apartments for faculty and staff ~~and~~ (today as you know it's ^{the} ~~an~~ alumni house). I was a member of Sigma Nu, and the Sigma Nu house had gone ^{been sold} ~~by the boards~~ due to financial difficulties right before World War II ^{was} ~~and this is~~ true of some other fraternities as well. Even the pre-World War II housing that fraternities had was not what one generally thinks of when you mention a fraternity house. Sigma Nu had a fairly nice house, and Theta Delta Chi did. Several of them had former private residences which didn't house very many students and indeed did not have a dining room where members could have their meals.

But after the war I think members of fraternities were still dreaming and hoping that they might have what they had always thought of as a fraternity house, where they would have a dining room and sufficient room to house, if not all, a major portion of the membership and which had facilities for a social program.

Williams: Was the point in bringing them on the campus the thought that the College would have more control over the fraternities than if they lived off campus?

Hocutt: I don't remember it that way. I think the lodge was simply a compromise solution where the college said, this is the best we can do, and even though you don't like it now, you hopefully will like it after you've lived with it for awhile and at least it will give you a place where you can have a social program.

Williams: So there was an interest on the part of the administration though in keeping the fraternities going? You know, I'd asked earlier about reactivating the fraternities.

Hocutt: Yes, I think so. I'm sure there are people who would debate the point with me, but... I really don't know at this ^{time} point if the college ever came out with a clear statement of its policy with respect to fraternities. ^{In some respects} For some reason I think the institution ^{is} ~~tolerated~~ ^{policy was that of tolerating} fraternities. Building the lodges was a positive step at least in doing something to provide them a place for a social program. I think you'd have to say

the fact that over the years the college had^s provided housing for sororities indicated an interest in the sororities. Back in those days we used to say that^{if} people in student personnel work had a student problem that involved women~~for~~ you could go to the sororities ~~for~~ and expect some positive assistance. The same ~~is~~^{was} not true of the fraternities. I think these sororities were better run^{and} better managed, and sorority women in general were more interested in cooperating with officials of the college, ~~and~~ doing what they could to forward the purposes and objectives of the institution.

~~While~~ on the other hand, fraternity men looked upon the organization I think pretty much as a social club, and they enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of fellow fraternity members, but I always felt ~~anyway~~ that they were more interested in their personal goals and objectives than in institutional goals and objectives. I was an officer of my fraternity as an undergraduate, and I was president of my fraternity's house corporation that reached rock bottom financially, so I speak from that side as well as from the side of the college administrator.

Williams: What was your theory as to why there was the financial problem with building the lodges?

Hocutt: I'm not sure....

Williams: It was not at the time the lodges were built, but it was a

couple of years later. There was a big blowup in the newspapers that the lodges cost far too much, and I'm sure you must have had a theory as to why this was true?

Hocutt:

It's difficult for me to separate fact from gossip, even today. In effect the college was its own general contractor for these lodges. At the time there was an employee by the name of Jack Saunders, who was the superintendent of grounds, and Jack Saunders had ability not only in the area of grounds, but also some ability and knowledge in construction.

In any event he was in effect representing the college. He was the general contractor for these buildings. Bills for building materials and labor, etcetera, for the building of the lodges were paid by the college as submitted by Jack Saunders. At some point in time after the lodges were completed there were cries that the college had paid far more than it should have for these buildings, and there was an investigation. They had an architect come down and look at the lodges and give an architect's estimate of the number of bricks required to build these lodges and all of this, because there were a couple of residences in the town that Jack Saunders had built at about the same time for an investment, and people said these were built of the same (or certainly looked just like) the brick used in the lodges. The inference of all this was that building materials had been siphoned off the lodge project and used for personal benefit. I don't know whether this investigation occurred

after I had left the college or not, I'm inclined to think it did. I don't remember any final conclusion. I don't think anyone was formally charged or indicted. It was a scandal, ~~which someone managed~~ but it never got to the point of indicting anyone for ^{stealing} state property.

I was involved, at least on the fringes, in the planning of the lodges. I had no involvement in the construction or financing of construction and I think as I recall I always understood that Jack Saunders worked for Charlie Duke and that this ~~was~~ (the financing and construction of these buildings) was under the overall general supervision of Charlie Duke. Whether he was taken in by Jack Saunders, I don't know.

But I ~~would have to~~ ^{do} remember that the boxwood on each side of the Sunken Garden-- all that was planted by Jack Saunders and his crew. Those magnolias ^{grandiflora} and the ~~grandiflora~~ near the lodges and what was the library (the Marshall-Wythe Law School today) were planted by Jack Saunders. A lot of the trees on that part of the campus ^{west of the Wren building} were planted ^{by him} so he did a lot of ^{constructive} things, although as I recall he was accused by gossip and otherwise of having ^{taken} property personally from construction of the lodges.

(talks about the fact that he wasn't here, couldn't say for sure--just what he read and heard about Jack Saunders scandal.)

Williams: I knew there was a lot of talk like that abroad, and I wondered what your experience was on that. I'd said there was one more area that I wanted to ask you about. It's many years removed from the lodges in time. You were on the alumni society board when the new president (the current president) was selected. In that selection committee that you were on, did you folks come in with ideas on "we want a certain type of man as president" and I ask this because someone pointed out to me the other day, he took each of the ^{twentieth-} 20th century presidents of William and Mary, he said each president's strength, which became his weakness, was what the new president was the opposite of. For example, Dr. Paschall: He said Dr. Paschall had numerous state contacts, and in selecting Tom Graves he thought that was a clear indication that the committee wanted to get away from the state contacts. Did you have this feeling or was this hindsight?

Hocutt: Well, this committee was an advisory committee which represented the faculty, ^{and had} two or three student representatives, and Pam Chin^{is} and I were on the committee representing the alumni society. There were two members of the Board of Visitors serving -- I know Harvey Chappell was ^{one.} on that committee, and it was the job of this committee to screen credentials, to interview possible candidates, and then to make recommendations to the Board of Visitors. I don't remember that we were told that ^{the board} we wanted the Tom Graves

type." On the contrary, I remember at the first meeting of that committee we had some four hundred names, and we had to start someplace, so we were going through the list of names, and the question would be asked: "Does anyone know anything about him," whatever, and it was a pretty ruthless procedure, because names were deleted from that list right and left. For example, someone had sent ⁱⁿ my name, ~~in~~ and when the committee got to it, I said, "You can scratch Houutt," I've already thanked my daughter for ^{submitting} sending my name ~~in~~. (She hadn't, I just said that.)

When we got to Graves' name, and I had known Tom Graves since about 1950. ^{When} ~~I guess~~, the name Thomas A. Graves, Jr., was read and someone said "strike it". I said, "why?" The answer was, "well, he's too professional." All of his experinee ^d has been at the Harvard Graduate School of Business, at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and at ^{a business school} an institution in Switzerland (~~business school~~), which was an adjunct activity of the Harvard Business School ~~and~~ even though he's a Yale graduate he took his doctorate degree at the Harvard School of Business, and all his experience has been in that area. I said, "Well, maybe the institution could stand a little of this kind of professionalism, and I'd like his name to remain on the list until somebody else meets him." ~~I said~~ I agreed a few names back to keep ^{one} somebody on the list that ^{another committee member} somebody wanted to ~~strike~~ so I ask that the favor be

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 returned. It was very interesting in the end. ^{It} He was an
 unanimous recommendation to the Board that Dr. Graves be
 named president of the college. Toward the end of the
 process there was at least ^{one} member of the Board of
 Visitors ^{who} that was "in the running". So I think when you
 can get faculty, and students, and administrators and alumni
 to come to some mutual agreement, ^{this} speaks well for the man.

Williams: So not only were you pleased apparently with the selection,
 but ^{with} the selection process, especially having been through
 1951. Were you pleased with the process?

Hocutt: ~~Oh~~ Yes! Very much so. I am certain that these various
 communities within the college, alumni, students, faculty,
 administrators, were represented and had an opportunity to
 make recommendations. For example, the alumni were told by
 letter, ~~that said~~ "if you have recommendations with respect
 to the new president of the college, please send them." The
 faculty were asked. That's how we got four hundred names.
~~I think the committee did have~~ if I remember correctly,
 Harvard University about that time had selected a new
 president, and we got hold of the final fifty names on the
 Harvard list. We got some names from a couple of founda-
 tions. The Carnegie Corporation in New York, which is
 really a foundation, ^{and} it is not a business corporation. My
 recollection is ^{the} that people at Carnegie sent us some
 names. So it was a very interesting experience, and I think

members of the committee took the assignment quite seriously and really worked at it. From my standpoint it all had a very happy result.

If the committee had gone through all of that and recommended someone else or had recommended a person and the Board had said, "forget it, we're going to appoint someone else," Well, that wouldn't have been so good.

Williams: I was going to ask you what if the Board hadn't taken your recommendation ~~cause~~ [?] as you pointed out it was an advisory committee.

Hocutt: I'm depending entirely upon my memory. We (the committee) may have given the Board of Visitors (and if it didn't I think it should have) two or three names. First Choice, second choice, third choice, ~~sort of thing~~. I don't think it would be right at all to present the Board with one name. It was more than submitting a name: it was an outline of the person's qualifications and why the committee thought this person was ^{the} a top candidate for the position. I know that the committee understood from the outset that it was advisory and by no stretch of the imagination could the committee dictate the choice. We were to make recommendations.