

you been studying that when you were there?

Pollard: I took some business courses, but I ~~took~~ <sup>mainly</sup> a general <sup>education,</sup> ~~course~~.

Williams: I had wondered what kind of business preparation you had at William and Mary?

Pollard: No, not much. In fact, the Harvard Graduate School of Business discourages taking undergraduate business courses. They ~~hope~~ <sup>want their graduates to be well-rounded.</sup> ~~to have a person who is going to be a well-rounded person, and that~~ <sup>they would say that</sup> ~~the vocational aspects can be given by the Business School~~ <sup>the graduates have no time enough for specialization in business.</sup>

<sup>This</sup> ~~which~~ is a sound point of view, I think -- unless, of course, one as an undergraduate has to go <sup>directly</sup> into business pretty soon.

Williams: One of the things I think I put down on the outline ~~and~~ (I'm not sure) was "attitude toward coeducation." Did I put that on there?

Pollard: Yes.

Williams: You would have been in one of the first classes that had women in it. How did the men feel about this?

Pollard: That's one thing I had recalled and noted. I came to William and Mary from ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> I suppose, main high school in Richmond, which of course was <sup>coeducational,</sup> and I dare say since most of the students <sup>who entered</sup> at that time ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> from public high schools ~~that~~ that there was nothing notable about women being around when you entered college. I don't remember any antagonisms or dissatisfactions. On the other hand, I think they were regarded as more of a plus. I recall that rather frequently after the evening meal a number of the men would drop over to the reception room of the women's dormitory, ~~to do~~

and do something really exciting like playing records on <sup>an</sup> old Victrola and dancing a bit!

~~something real exceptionally fun, we'd put a record on an old victrola and dance a little bit.~~ I think saxophones were just beginning to be popular, ~~and was music~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>which</sup> was quite enjoyable. But that was hitting a pretty high pace then for the quiet college. The women weren't in <sup>there</sup> large enough numbers to really change the character of the college when I was there. ~~And the women felt like the men felt that is~~ <sup>Most of</sup> ~~predominantly~~ and most of the time, that they were at school to get an education. ~~Some~~ were more serious than others, of course. ~~if there was any real sense of rivalry,~~ <sup>between the sexes</sup> I never ~~did take of~~ <sup>detected</sup> it. I think most men -- and maybe youngsters, too, young college age -- would feel that if women get better grades <sup>there</sup> ~~that~~ was no reflection, particularly on the men because <sup>the men</sup> they would say women would work harder or maybe the men had a subconscious realization that women are smarter anyway, and ~~they don't~~ <sup>it doesn't</sup> serve any purpose to challenge <sup>e</sup> them. It was a normal sort of life. <sup>at W-M</sup> I don't know whether others found it <sup>this</sup> ~~that~~ way or not. I ~~don't~~ <sup>don't</sup> know whether I'm an optimist ~~and~~ and I don't think I wear rose-colored glasses, but I certainly don't emphasize going around looking for things or remembering things that are not pleasant.

Well, I might say that when I entered as a freshman I was assigned a bed in Brafferton, which is described as the Indian school and was a dormitory for men at the time, and there were four of us -- the rooms <sup>we</sup> are fairly sizeable -- four of us in a room. It had two double-deckers, iron beds as

I recall, and they weren't very comfortable <sup>wood</sup> the floors were a little bit splintered and never quite clean, but I don't remember any grumbling. I think one's reaction to his environment is in relation to his expectations. One of the ailments of society in the last decade is rapidly rising levels of expectations as compared with what can be fulfilled. So the condition of the dormitory we didn't find burdensome. Meals were all taken, as I remember, ~~among the students~~ ~~for the students from a distance~~, in the dining hall, and the meals were announced by a ringing of the bell. The dining hall had long tables, and we had student waiters, as I guess we still do to some extent.

Except for local students, all ate in the college

~~Williams: No, they've done away with that.~~

Pollard: And while we liked to complain about the food <sup>every</sup> ~~most anybody~~ does I guess <sup>when for months</sup> ~~whether~~ they eat in the same place ~~it was~~ good food, plain and adequate. Usually just before the scheduled time for the dinner bell there were numerous hungry boys waiting <sup>for</sup> ~~at the closed dining room~~ the closed dining room doors, <sup>to be opened</sup> and occasionally the doors <sup>were</sup> ~~open~~ a bit late. I recall an impatient student from southwest Virginia named Goad, who remarked on one late occasion, "They're as slow as <sup>the</sup> a seven-year itch <sup>"</sup> ~~which is itching~~." I ~~thought~~ that ~~reflects~~ <sup>good taste</sup> a ~~of~~ background.

nevertheless the food was good.

He pronounced it as "eech," which is a good mountain expression and pronunciation

<sup>I think I've already commented that</sup> The cost of attending William and Mary was one of the lowest in the state. My cost <sup>s</sup> for the first year could hardly have been over \$500 for everything. <sup>of</sup> Course there weren't many

But if the crop failed or if harvesting was late so that the price advantage of an early crop was lost, then farm income would be low.

extras that you could get involved in -- no car, ~~hope~~, not much going on. As I've indicated most of the students were from farms and small towns. I was interested in learning that the students from Eastern Shore of Virginia -- and we nearly always had several students from the Eastern Shore -- the number of them varied up and down with <sup>the financial</sup> outcome of the crop year. The Eastern Shore was primarily a produce-producing area.

~~It's season was the earliest in the area because~~ the ocean and bay <sup>which</sup> pretty much surround it, ~~and~~ in those days we didn't have refrigerated freight cars and trucks, so to raise produce for the table like strawberrie<sup>s</sup> or asparagus or fresh corn and get them <sup>to market</sup> in a few days earlier than the average grower gave the producer a price advantage. But if they were late, why ~~then the price would drop so that they didn't make a~~ <sup>bit of money</sup> minimum.

Crop market early because of the situation related to the market of

So the attendance at William and Mary, especially from the Eastern Shore, <sup>was</sup> related very closely to the agricultural situation.

I mentioned the social hour in the women's dormitory. I don't think we had ~~(I don't recall)~~ <sup>such a facility</sup> student activities building. We didn't miss it because we had never known anything like it. I don't recall any student problem <sup>major</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>such as</sup> drinking or ~~problem with the faculty~~. Of course, I know there were individual ~~of~~ deviations. <sup>#</sup> Now the insane asylum ~~(that's what it was called in our days)~~ <sup>#</sup> along with the college were the main enterprizes<sup>s</sup>. The town supported <sup>two thousand</sup> citizens, I believe. People living elsewhere in the state

Student-faculty relations

sometimes referred to Williamsburg (when I would remark away from Williamsburg that I was going to <sup>W & M</sup> Williamsburg) as having a fine institution for the insane. They would love to comment <sup>primarily</sup> first about the insane asylum and incidentally, about the college, And often I heard the quip that Williamsburg was a place where the lazy live off the crazy.

One of the occasional <sup>s</sup> pastimes of the students was to walk by the asylum and chat across the fence to patients in the yard. You can see how exciting the possibilities were! A few patients were allowed to go into the town (you know, the ones <sup>better off</sup> without <sup>wherever</sup>). I recall one who <sup>would</sup> attempted to preach a sermon <sup>but</sup> he couldn't get anyone to listen. The students would invariably harass him by interrupting him, and when they would use some vulgar word like "damn" or "hell", he would walk away. <sup>Yet the</sup> ~~That~~ poor fellow time and time <sup>again</sup> would renew his efforts to preach <sup>and</sup> subject <sup>ing</sup> himself to the same treatment. It's like teasing a child. # I was a member of the college dramatic club or society or whatever you call it, and from time to time we would have a dress rehearsal at the auditorium at the hospital. The audience, <sup>#</sup> of course, was <sup>the</sup> inmates. They filled the hall because they enjoyed drama ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> they were always attentive, and if we had a comedy with a little slapstick, where the gestures were prominent, we'd get a roaring response. [Discussion of notes]

I said I don't recall any tension between the town and the college nor at that time between the students as a body on the one hand ~~as~~ against the administration and

But this is in contrast -- that it, the personal and <sup>52</sup> individual approach is in contrast with the present-day emphasis on social reforms through governmental agencies, political activities and group pressures. faculty on the other. My generation of students considered the college a place to learn, as I've indicated before, and to prepare for the future, although, of course, there were many who were only partly serious in this way. It never occurred to us -- and I think this is <sup>a</sup> significant contrast <sup>with today</sup> -- to be hostile to our society and to its institutions nor that we had a corporate <sup>or for social justice</sup> duty to reform society nor to strike out for reform. Morality was a matter for the individual, who of course was expected to accept <sup>his</sup> responsibility <sup>ies</sup> in society and to participate, <sup>which</sup> is ~~a different matter~~. ~~of course~~, William and Mary alumni have contributed much to the good of their fellow man without being revolutionary. <sup>#</sup> Restoration of the town was to be a thing of the future -- <sup>this</sup> ~~you see it~~ <sup>to '23</sup> was 1919. The town was only gradually losing its buildings, ~~buildings~~ of colonial times -- an occasional fire or occasional demolition. My father in those early years <sup>^</sup> saved the Blair House on the Duke of Gloucester Street <sup>^</sup> preceding Mr. Rockefeller, incidentally. It was about to be sold to a party who was going to tear it down (it was then in disrepair) and erect some sort of business enterprise -- I think it was a filling station. My father then got an option from the owner and secured the money for purchase by contacting all the Blair descendants he could locate, and he got enough money to satisfy the seller -- I don't know whether it was paid for in <sup>in cash</sup> full. Then <sup>later</sup> the title passed to the college and <sup>was</sup> later ~~sold~~ to the Restoration.

[Discussion of notes referred to.]