

ANNE VOSS WITH IONA FACKLER MYERS, 1991, ORAL HISTORY

VOSS: I'm Anne Voss from the class of '37 and with me is Iona Fackler, also from that class. Iona, do you remember the first day that you came to Trenton State College?

MYERS: Anne, I guess I'll never forget it, because here we had these magnificent buildings in a beautiful setting and lots of interesting people around and an anticipation of being a college student and what the future would bring from that.

VOSS: Well I was a little late in coming because I never got the announcement that school was open, but fortunately I lived very close and walked over here and it looked like everything was going. So I went into Green Hall into the administration building, and Lula Haskell, who was the registrar, I announced who I was and she said, "Well, we've been looking for you, classes started two days ago." So she got out the record and sure enough, I was enrolled and she sent me up to Lois Shoemaker, Doctor Shoemaker's class in general science and biology. And that's where we started. I think the thirties, certainly thirty-five, thirty-three, thirty-three through thirty-seven were interesting times to be here. It was the depths of the Depression, we really didn't know we were poor, we just knew we didn't have a lot of money to spend, but there was plenty of things to do and we were very busy with school, with our friends that we were making. We were also, as the freshman class of '33, we were, that was the last year the old buildings down in Trenton were still being used. Twice a week we got on a bus, all of us, all freshmen who had classes out here in Hillwood. We got on a bus and went down for an assembly.

MYERS: And that bus was called Miss Hillwood.

VOSS: Oh sure.

MYERS: And Harvey drove it.

VOSS: That's right. It was the bus that we used to take us to New York, to plays, the opera, any special events.

MYERS: Field trips.

VOSS: Yes, down into the Pines, were the one I remember. It was also, the old school down in Trenton, if anybody had to get there on their own, you gave directions by telling them how to get to the Swamp Angel because everybody in Trenton knew where the Swamp Angel was and what it was.

MYERS: Yes and that Swamp Angel is in Trenton today, thanks to Mayor Holland, and it is now in Cadwalader Park.

VOSS: That's right.

MYERS: And that was from the civil war.

VOSS: That's right. It was one of the cannons used by the Southern army that was captured later and brought to Trenton. The old building itself was, I think I was in a state of shock, since we all came out here to very handsome new buildings, attractive classrooms and then we went down to the old building which was a Victorian monstrosity, really. The auditorium was on the second floor, you had to climb up. There were large plastered statues of Venus de Milo and the discus thrower and several Roman busts scattered out around the auditorium. But on the platform, it really wasn't a stage, was the Blossom Farley mural, which is now out in the library here on campus. I remember watching Blossom Farley when they moved the old mural out to the library there was a curve at each corner so that to fit in an oblong, Blossom Farley came out and painted a bittersweet over the corners and filled it out so it became a perfect oblong. At the end of that year, the buildings I think were sold to the city of Trenton and now the old Grant School is down there.

MYERS: Yes well lots of people will remember that being as not only the Model School but also the Normal School before we got to be a teacher's college.

VOSS: That's right. And one of the things that you accepted and understood when you came to Trenton in 1933, it was basically a teacher's training school and hopefully we would all get jobs teaching.

MYERS: Yes and you would promise to teach for at least two years.

VOSS: That's right; you signed that you would teach for two years. This of course, the exceptions to that were the people who couldn't get jobs. Only about half the class of graduating classes from '33 to really '38 were able to get teaching jobs. So certainly if you couldn't get a job in a school then you were exempt. Otherwise, you were supposed to pay, if it was by choice that you didn't teach, then you were supposed to pay additional tuition.

MYERS: That's right and when you think of the tuition we paid..

VOSS: Yes.

MYERS: ...back then. At fifty dollars a semester if you were a commuting student, which both of us were, even that seemed to be a lot of money for a lot of people.

VOSS: Oh surely. Very few cars, there were a few commuters who were able to have a family car or something to get to school. But in our class I remember there was one girl who commuted everyday from Jamesburg, got the train into the station downtown, then took the bus out to the college. There was another one who came from New Brunswick, the same route. The only time there were cars was if there was a really special dance or something like that then some of the men could borrow the family car.

MYERS: I got to school by borrowing the family car because we didn't have any direct transportation here. It often caused an inconvenience for family but back then family didn't mind doing anything.

VOSS: Yes, you got it, you brought it home in the afternoon and then they could use it. Well I think that despite all the lack of money, there was really quite a rich experience. It was quite formal. I remember the first year we had a formal tea in Allen House. These were rushing teas, the sororities invited freshman to come, we wore hats and white gloves, we had our tea and finger sandwiches and learned to hold a napkin, teacup and saucer and a plate with sandwiches and at the same time walk around and talk to faculty who were there and to other students. For some it was perhaps a little difficult but it probably got you in shape for almost anything. If you survived the tea without disaster and learned to really enjoy a social occasion with nothing more than tea.

MYERS: Yes, and that's all we had on campus. We didn't have any alcoholic beverages of any kind. And I think that that was one of the joys of being on campus, we didn't have all the problems that result from imbibing in such things. We had so many fascinating things that they provided for us to do that we wanted to always come back when we could over the weekend. Even though we were commuters we were back here because you were just interested in what was available.

VOSS: Yes, I think we were very lucky. Auditorium assemblies were compulsory but on the other hand, it was an opportunity to hear Langston Hughes, Carl Sandburg...

MYERS: Robert Frost.

VOSS: Robert Frost, Paul Engle, young Midwestern poet. In our day he was a young Midwestern poet, he just died, I saw in the Trenton paper.

MYERS: Yes I just saw that. My husband went to the University of Iowa where Paul Engle was and I saw in their in memoriam column that he had died in February of '91.

VOSS: Yes. The thing that was very interesting is that I remember particularly with Paul Engle just walking around the campus and several of the students in our class going up and talking to him. Students who had some literary ability, or aspirations anyway, in writing and he was just as pleasant and nice to work with. I think we also had two stints in practice teaching, our junior year I went to a junior high school in Trenton. Where?

MYERS: I went to an elementary school in Trenton.

VOSS: And then the second year, senior year, I was at a high school in Hamilton Township.

MYERS: I was at Junior Four in Trenton. And that was a fascinating experience.

VOSS: Yes, it was, I think that probably there were lots of, there were some students who came here because it was the college available to them and not quite sure about really wanting to teach. But practice teaching opened your eyes and made it very clear that it was a good career for you or that you really probably should look for something else. I recall that one our classmates went into nursing as a result. Had the four years here at the College, was an English, history person and then went to Johns Hopkins for training. And it was largely because of practice teaching experience, she knew that it was not for her.

MYERS: Well the business education field offered a lot of opportunities.

VOSS: Oh, yes.

MYERS: And I remember different students going into offices and other organizations in Trenton to work with valuable experience.

VOSS: Absolutely, I think I was always a little sorry that I was not able to go into business education. I think I really feared the mathematics that bookkeeping would require. Perhaps a minimum skill but I think we were very practical in our approach to life and careers. In fact I think one of the strangest things that happened to me because I never thought of it was at the end of my senior year I had gone to several interviews for schools and nothing much was happening and I came over to play on the old tennis courts which were right about where we are sitting now in Forcina Hall. And the

president, Doctor West, was playing tennis I think with Mike Travers, and he came over and said to me, "Wouldn't you like to go to the library school?" which the old commission, library commission ran in the summer and I said, "No, I didn't think so. I've been in a financial strain long enough." So he said, "Well, if you'll run the post office, you can go to the classes for free." So I thought, well, it'll be interesting and at the end of the summer I was offered a job in a school library. So while that is a form of teaching and it is a teaching certificate, it was kind of a change in career that I never expected and I'm very glad because it's been very satisfactory as far as I'm concerned.

MYERS: Well that's very interesting Anne. Well, I can remember during the time we were in college that in order to get the tuition and be sure one had it for the fall, I went to New York and put an ad in the newspaper, in the New York Times: college student. Every summer I had a different job from working for a French dress designer who let me model things for Saks Fifth Avenue and stores because he only made one dress for each store, he wouldn't duplicate it. So you were very much an individual in those days, you didn't always want to have what somebody else wore, like maybe some of the students have to have the same jeans today. I found that rather fascinating just to be able to do that. I taught an eight year old child and took him to the zoo in New York and did things like that so that I was sort of prepared for the fall. But I felt one of the great opportunities I had when I was a freshman was that for some reason or other I was elected president of the freshman class.

VOSS: That's right.

MYERS: And so when you happen to have an office such as that, you are always invited to the thing that the sophomores have, the juniors have and the seniors have. So I felt that that was a wonderful opportunity to meet so many people on campus that I wouldn't have had the opportunity otherwise. And I still remember fondly those many people from the other classes that we all knew so well.

VOSS: Yes that of course, there were only around nine hundred students, eight to nine hundred depending on the year, and you knew everybody at least by sight on campus and of course many you got to know quite well. There was a greater-- I think when you look at the record, you probably would think what an inflexible, structured school it was but it really wasn't, it was quite structured but there was great flexibility in what you did, who you knew. I think it was quite a, it was a very good place for people, as a small school is, in contrast to a large university, in starting in a large university, it

gave you a lot of confidence. And boy did we need it because we were very unsure of the future.

MYERS: Yes. Well one of the great things was we always had a place where all of us could meet. We had the assembly in Kendall Hall and we had the gymnasium. We had the opportunity to meet all the faculty and the faculty could all get together and this is an utter impossibility now. I think that although we have other things on campus which might compensate for that, but I think just the ability to all get together was very meaningful.

VOSS: Oh I don't think there's any question. I think many of us would have liked to have had an opportunity to elect more that we did. For instance, after three years of French in high school, I sort of hated to lose it and thought I would like to elect a foreign language while I was here but that didn't work out very well. But you could make some of your own decisions too. I was very fortunate as a commuter and living here in Trenton, it was nothing to go out and get the bus and go downtown to evening and Saturday class at the Industrial Arts School it was then. But they had George Bradshaw, I worked with him, he was a well known etcher.

MYERS: He did the magnificent etching of Green Hall, if you've seen one of those.

VOSS: Yes.

MYERS: In fact, Doctor West gave me one of those for a wedding present.

VOSS: Yes they are wonderful, and of course he is perhaps better known for his Princeton prints and a wonderful one that he did for the old Reading Railroad station down in Trenton.

MYERS: And the Old Barracks.

VOSS: And the Old Barracks, he did those. So, well, it didn't take you, or very convenient I think Trenton is to both Philadelphia and New York. I can remember the first large Van Gogh exhibit in Philadelphia and then it went to the Met in New York. And my sister who was in high school and I just decided that we were going down to see it and we got on the train and went down to Philadelphia, took the day off. As a high school student, my mother, my sister suggested she write a note that she was ill but my mother said no way would she do anything like that, it was your choice. So she went in and said that she had gone down to Philadelphia as a high school student from Trenton and they thought it was a very good idea and very educational.

MYERS: I'm sure it was, Anne. And we must say that Trenton, when we were in college, was a wonderful place.

VOSS: Oh, yes.

MYERS: We were so proud of it, it just looked great everywhere.

VOSS: Oh yes and you thought nothing when I went to night classes. Took the bus down after the class was over and I cleaned up and gotten ready I went out and stood on the corner of State and Broad. When it was really cold and wet and rainy, and this of course was about half past ten, I walked around to the old bus terminal on Perry Street to get out of the rain. It wasn't neat and clean particularly but it was perfectly safe. If you thought the bus was going to be crowded, you went down and stood on Front Street to get the bus. I don't think I would do it now.

MYERS: No, unfortunately, but we look forward to the day when Trenton is revived.

VOSS: Oh, and it is.

MYERS: It's moving slowly toward that, for which we're grateful.

VOSS: In fact, I think Trenton is ahead of some other urban areas that have problems. But it was a very interesting time to be in school.

MYERS: I think so. And I'm sure that we are more grateful for the opportunity we had then because times were really difficult in comparison to the easy flow of money in many respects these days.

VOSS: Yes, and of course the ability to borrow. There were no federal loans or anything available. I was able to get an NYA, National Youth Administration job. I started at thirty cents an hour and then it was increased by the time I was a senior to forty cents an hour and I was able to put in enough money and enough time to pay for all my textbooks that I wanted and have enough to save up so that if there was an opportunity - a bus trip or a play or the opera. I can remember the first opera I really went to was L'Africaine with Rosa Ponselle. We went in and I was very impressed with every time she took a deep breath all the sequins on her blouse glittered throughout the old opera house.

MYERS: Oh, it's fun to think of the past.

VOSS: Yes.

MYERS: Remember the sorority parties and the fraternity parties?

VOSS: Yes.

MYERS: And the beautiful bridge across the lake that we had then. And the Hillwood Inn, where we had so many activities.

VOSS: Yes, it was a funny place in a way because it had originally been a very nice road house and restaurant and then it was expanded a little. A larger dining room was put on when all the college came out. At Thanksgiving they had the Priscilla procession.

MYERS: Oh, yes.

VOSS: All resident women wore black dresses, white collars and hats and walked.

MYERS: They carried a candle.

VOSS: Carried a candle from..

MYERS: The dorms.

VOSS: The dorms. Through the woods to the dining hall and there they had a very nice turkey dinner. And some of us as commuters came to that because we represented, well you represented the class.

MYERS: But I never attended those but I remember seeing the pictures and being very enthusiastic about such an interesting project. And I remember Miss Decker reading to students in Allen House with the Yule log.

VOSS: Oh, yes, the Yule, the ceremony that we had. Put the Yule log in the fireplace and really did light the fire. I do remember my job with the NYA was working in the old costume room in Kendall Hall and any time there was a performance or something of that kind, students could come and check out either a Victorian bonnet and skirt or for the Yule log, there were the whites and we had tights and tunics. They were used also in the auditorium for the choir always had a Christmas concert and there were trees all around the stage of Green Hall, of Kendall Hall. And then the whites came in, the carolers came in. The reason I remember them is that I always had to get out the costumes and then see that they were washed and put away.

MYERS: Remember the living pictures that Miss Decker did?

VOSS: Oh, yes.

MYERS: And since we were both Philo girls, we were a part of that. And I remember being Guinevere because I had long hair, which I still

have, even though I cut it for my military service, I let it grow again. Those were something very, very different.

VOSS: Yeah.

MYERS: And we had from King Arthur.

VOSS: Yes, and then we had some Chinese and Oriental ones. The thing that was kind of interesting, it was I think the first time we went, Miss Decker persuaded us, to go into the project. I think we were all a little apprehensive. How would this ever go over? But I remember there were two, the Signal had a survey in which they asked people for their favorite assembly program and several times, and faculty were also included in the survey, said that they liked the living pictures. They were among their favorite, two or three of their favorite programs.

MYERS: Well I think that was true and I remember the beautiful frame that we had and we stood in this frame just as you would if you had been painted on canvas and stood there until they decided that the scene was over and then the scene was changed. But it was a very different thing that I had never experienced before.

VOSS: There was a scrim across the front of the frame so it gave a flattened effect and then you stood there because there was either a recitation or music. Remember Mrs. Stillinger in the music department had a beautiful voice and I can remember, I don't know why, but she sang Stabat Mater. It was behind the scenes so whatever we were portraying you had to be still until that moment.

MYERS: Yes and it seemed like a long time as I remember it.

VOSS: Yes, especially if you were kneeling or in a slightly awkward position. They seem very simple, the activities, now when you think about it.

MYERS: But very impressive.

VOSS: They really were. And people entered them I think very honestly and there was a real commitment. I think that for the time that we had to go, that we were in, the late thirties, really the depths of the depression. Now we talk about soup kitchens now but I remember going through New Brunswick and going through Trenton and seeing bread lines.

MYERS: Oh, yes.

VOSS: And the bread lines were made up of people who had never had to take charity. Which is the way it was found at that time for anything. There was very little welfare programs that we have now. I'm not sure that it was a better time than it is now but it was certainly a survival time.

MYERS: Well in some ways it was not as difficult to exist with all the other problems that people have today. When you think of what people earn today and you look back and think that the first position I had was in Burlington County in a little school in Juliustown and I got a salary that was better than a lot of people made and that was twelve-hundred dollars a year.

VOSS: My first job was a real fluke because I really didn't have anything that summer, I had gone around for all kinds of interviews and in August, the school librarian in East Rutherford went to Newark Junior High School which of course was a very desirable position and in sheer desperation I seemed to be certified so I went there and I got fourteen-hundred dollars. I had to live away from home so I lived with a family. Well he was a retired railroader and he was the traffic marshal in front of the high school, so I had a room there. I must say I learned that I needed to learn a great deal more if I was going to go on. The only reason I was able to survive is nobody else knew what to do.

MYERS: Oh, that's interesting, Anne. I had to drive thirty miles each way with the family car, too because I didn't have one. And be there after seven o'clock in the morning. After a year there I really loved the students and the community, they were just absolutely wonderful and they just disliked so much when I told them I felt that I couldn't return for the next year because the traveling was rather difficult. The roads were not as good as they are today and sixty miles a day it was a lot to do. So I was fortunate enough to get a position in Hopewell, which was fifteen minutes away from home which was just delightful. At the end of a year there I had the opportunity to have my choice of three jobs: one to be a helping teaching for Mercer County, one to please stay there where I was, and Doctor West came along and said, "You know, Iona, we'd like to have you back at the college." And that's when I went back to college to start the Alumni Office. I really felt grateful for that but my experience in teaching was just wonderful. I just loved the children and we started a school newspaper that they wrote everything for and we did it on the ditto machine.

VOSS: Oh, the old purple ditto.

MYERS: Yes, and all kinds of clubs where we made things. I still have a little plaque which has Indian arrowheads on it that one of the little boys gave me for Christmas the first year I taught school and I still cherish it.

VOSS: I should think so, yes. Well I think one of the things no matter how, and I think anyone who is going out on their career or job for the first time, has a certain amount of insecurity or apprehension. But somehow we were really prepared. I think after the first week, you did a lot of things you knew the next year around you'd do differently but you thought, well, I'm going to survive and this is going to be a lot of fun and a lot of the things that we had tried out as undergraduates here were working. I do think practice teaching, and it was a good block of time.

MYERS: Yes, I agree, because we had to have lessons for every day and knew exactly what we were going to do and what we were going to accomplish and that was very important.

VOSS: And your junior practice teaching you started in September so that you had the experience of seeing what happens with a class when it's very new, you're new to them. And then your second practice teaching, I don't recall, that came I guess in the middle of the year somehow. It wasn't at the end.

MYERS: But again it was the fact that you had to be well prepared and had to present those plans and have them ok-ed.

VOSS: Oh yes, yes.

MYERS: And you had the visitation from the authorities at college who came to see how well you taught and what you were doing and if there were any suggestions or corrections.

VOSS: There was one of our supervisors who was always very critical. I think probably quite rightly so, but she tended to cast fear into the hearts of the poor practice teachers. So at Junior High School Number Three which is now Arthur Allen school, as soon as she came into the office, there was always a teacher who heard her voice and knew she was there and immediately sent a child in with a note to the room where the practice teacher was saying be prepared. And then they would all stop and talk to her to shorten her time because she was a very carefully scheduled person and was only going to say so long. You had allies all over.

MYERS: That's interesting. I hadn't heard that story. But possibly because I was originally in the smaller place than that where we

didn't have that network. But I know who you mean too. Well it was great fun, there's no question about it. I still remember the mud that we got on our shoes when we walked around campus when we were first here. But I think one of the fascinating things about the college and how well it was built, that you can walk down the corridor of Green Hall today and see the same tiles in the floor that we had then and they are magnificent when they are polished.

VOSS: Oh, yes. Well look at the roof, you're not going to find a slate roof on very many buildings now. One of the things that, Iona you brought in your 1937 Seal. It's kind of funny now. On the cover is an engraved, you probably can't see it but it's an oak tree. The reason the student protests in those days were, I would say very controlled, but in the front of Green Hall had lot of trees just as it does in the grove in back of Green Hall now. I think it was our junior year, one of the people who had been very influential in guiding of the building of the school decided and insisted the trees come down because the architecture and the quadrangle really didn't show up. So we all, our protests were just grumbling and speaking to faculty that we thought would be sympathetic and they were sympathetic but said it was inevitable and this is the way it was going to be. So as a student protest, I think, we put the tree on 1937 cover and the trustee who was on the inside, I would sign the name, her name and have under it the quotation, "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree." That was considered really very protesting.

MYERS: Yes and of course we did have a few trees which were left which now have been removed but that is the reason it got to be known as Quimby's Prairie because all those gorgeous trees had to go.

VOSS: Yes, that's right. One of the rites of passage used to be the seniors and juniors singing and crossing Quimby's Prairie. The juniors sat on the library steps and the seniors sat on Kendall Hall and it was always in the evening and after really a singing contest where many of the songs and verses were made up, then we crossed over and the juniors sat on the seniors' steps.

MYERS: Yes.

VOSS: It was really great fun.

MYERS: It was.

VOSS: Trees were then planted on the prairie but then when a lot of the new buildings came up they had to come down apparently because a lot of the heating and I suppose water, sewer pipes are in there now.

And of course it does provide a very nice place for commencement provided weather permitting.

MYERS: Yes, it surely does. I think the beauty of Green Hall, Kendall Hall and the Library and the Allen House Ely complex were just magnificent. And I can remember being somewhat disturbed by the fact that we had Centennial built and these other buildings which did not conform to the rest. And the thought was that it was too expensive to build the others. However I can remember Doctor Josham who was at the School for the Deaf, was able to insist that all his building retain that same style, and he was fortunate enough to be able to do it. However, we were not that fortunate and we did have the other buildings designed to try to blend in with what he have. But everybody says how magnificent Green Hall is and I don't think any one of us who have ever gone there will ever forget it.

VOSS: No, I don't think so either. I think it's kind of interesting that now there is sort of a return to a unified architecture. There are a few campuses that have tried to maintain it and I think it's very nice if you can. I think of Princeton is always kind of a fascinating place because it has the Victorian academic Gothic is what you think of but then many of the new buildings are quite modern and quite interesting.

MYERS: The Woodrow Wilson school especially.

VOSS: Yes and of course the old Richardson Library. That was kind of a byzantine of architecture but then when they built the new library it blends in with the older Firestone. We were very fortunate Iona to have been a part of Trenton during the thirties, late thirties.

MYERS: I do too. It was an experience I wouldn't have wanted to have missed.

VOSS: Yes and I think it has a good solid history from 1855 from when it started. It was a very simple, quick little normal school. Of course many of the older Trentonians, people who have lived here a long time felt it was a real privilege to go to the Model School.

MYERS: Oh, yes.

VOSS: It was the private school for the area. We came from a good, solid tradition.

MYERS: Yes, I think they have a good basis on which they are now still building and I am very proud to have been a graduate of.

VOSS: Yes.

MYERS: And proud that I was able to go on and get another degree.

VOSS: Oh, yes, yes. Without any difficulty either in entering. I struggled through Columbia.

MYERS: Yes, so did I.

VOSS: And the thing that was interesting when I started at Columbia there were several of the professors that I had would ask about Charlie Rounds, the head of our English department who they always spoke of very fondly and it sort of helped you to mention.

MYERS: Yes, you knew Charlie Rounds.

VOSS: And of his English majors.

MYERS: Yes, yes.

VOSS: Well, Iona, do you have any other fond memory we ought to..

MYERS: Well I have so many of them it would just go on indefinitely.

VOSS: Yes, I was thinking about it too.

MYERS: I was thinking about not only how things were different then but some of the things that people take so for granted today were just not available when we were students.

VOSS: Such as?

MYERS: Well we didn't have cars, we didn't have TV, we didn't have penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics, frisbees, we didn't have frozen food, we didn't have nylon stockings. We had stocking with seams, which of course have come back but they were certainly different. We didn't have Xerox machines; we didn't have radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards, ballpoint pens, time sharing meant togetherness, not computers and a chip meant a piece of wood and hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word then.

VOSS: That's right.

MYERS: And we didn't know about yogurt or Ann Landers or plastics or hair dryers, the forty hour week and the minimum wage. We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? In our time closets were for clothes, not for coming out of and a book about two women living together in Europe could be called Our Hearts Were Young and Gay. And rabbits they were little animals they weren't the bunnies that came later and rabbits were not Volkswagens either.

VOSS: That's very true.

MYERS: We were before lots of people like Grandma Moses and Frank Sinatra. We wore Peter Pan collars and thought a deep cleavage was something butchers did. There are just countless things. We never heard of pizzas, we never heard of Cheerios, frozen orange juice, instant coffee, McDonald's wasn't even thought of. And we thought fast food was food you ate during lent, not that you got in a store. Oh, we were before so many things and so many people; before FM came. And at that time, unfortunately, cigarettes were fashionable and grass was mowed, it wasn't used in any other way, Coke was something you drank and pot was something you cooked in. We were before daycare centers, house husbands, babysitters, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. In 1937, anything that had the word Japan on it was what we called junk and we didn't buy it. And there were five and ten cents stores there where you could buy anything for five and ten cents. Automobiles then were six hundred to seven hundred dollars. Gasoline was real cheap, like thirteen cents a gallon but still you had to have the car and you had to have that money for the gasoline. And back then we didn't have these words that meant other things, such as CIA, NATO, UFO, NFL, SATS, JFK, NBA or ERA. We would have thought they meant alphabet soup when you were enumerating these things. But that's a long time ago and that's some of the many things that have happened from the time that we left Trenton State as students to come back today as graduates of a class that has been out now fifty-four years.

VOSS: Yes, that's impossible to think.

MYERS: Isn't it? And next year will be our fifty-fifth reunion so we hope we'll be here.

VOSS: Yes, well Iona, you really sound like the alumni secretary. Drumming up the class of '37 for 55<sup>th</sup>.

MYERS: Yes, we'll have to have a real big reunion.

VOSS: Yes.

MYERS: You know, one thing that I think that is very interesting, of the different sections that we had when we were in college, we have had many people who are no longer with us. But the last time I checked, our music group is still the only section who has not had anyone deceased.

VOSS: Oh really?

MYERS: Yes, yes and that was last year. And I hope it remains that way but I think there must be something, although they had a very small group in comparison to our secondary. There is something about that that makes you wonder about music and how it affects people in many, many ways.

VOSS: That's very interesting because in a small group, the loss of one would make it a very high percentage. Well I think maybe further research could be done and find out if they all maintained a career in music. They were the one section, I remember, that all knew they would all get a job.

MYERS: Oh, yes.

VOSS: Well, Mabel Bray wouldn't take anyone unless she could really figure out where she could place them. And she did.

MYERS: That's right. Well, Anne, we'll look forward to our next reunion.

VOSS: Yes, indeed.

END