

Interview with Margaret Wipperman

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Margaret Wipperman - MW
Ann Pflaum - AP

AP: Your official name is Margaret Wipperman. Your address is . . .

MW: . . . 1791 Laurel Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104.

AP: You were the secretary to J. L. Morrill—he was always called Lew, right?

MW: Yes.

AP: Also, to Stan Wenberg and Stan Kegler, is that right later on?

MW: Yes. Stan Wenberg was his assistant vice president.

AP: Was Morrill's?

MW: Yes. Later I worked for Wenberg when he was vice president.

AP: I'm interested in Wenberg as well as Morrill. Can you start me with a little background—where you grew up and how you got to the university?

MW: When we moved to Minneapolis I was nine years old. We lived in southeast so my brother could go to medical school. I became quite familiar with the university campus, living first on Oak Street and then on Ninth Avenue Southeast. I went to Marshall High. At Marshall High you got to know the campus very quickly. I attended the university for several years and then quit in disgust.

AP: What disgusted you?

MW: I wasn't getting anywhere. I had drifted into an English lit major, which I adored, but I couldn't figure out what on earth I was going to do for a living back in the early 1940s with an English lit major other than teach it, and I didn't want to teach. So I quit the "U" and I went to secretarial school for the three-month course and became a secretary. I said I might as well work on campus because all my clothing was geared to campus life, not downtown Minneapolis life. So I figured I had worked at the university for maybe a year, during which time I could change my wardrobe. Well, I never left.

AP: I want to stop on wardrobe. What would you have worn downtown versus what you might have worn on the campus?

MW: Back in those days, if you were a secretary in downtown Minneapolis you dressed up. You wore heels, you wore nylons, you wore a nice suit or dress, and I was used to wearing a skirt and blouse and flats and crew socks and a cardigan sweater. This would not do downtown Minneapolis at all.

AP: How did you end up in the president's office?

MW: I started working at what was then the General Extension Division for several years and I took Dean Julius Nolte's dictation and did typing for the course in applied mortuary sciences as well as night classes. Then I decided I wanted to make more money, so I looked for a job and found one in electrical engineering. I worked for William G. Shepard there for several years and decided I still wanted to earn more money. I asked him for a promotion, and he wasn't able to give it to me. Then he decided he would, which opened up the whole business of my being interviewed again by Personnel. But I did get the promotion. A few months later Personnel came to me and wanted me to apply for the job as secretary to the president because Miss Mousseau was leaving. So I did go and apply for it and I was hired.

AP: Was this before Morrill had come or as he was there?

MW: He was there.

AP: Was this in '45, '46?

MW: It was in the early '50s. He was well entrenched as president. The problem, as I understand it, was that Miss Mousseau, who was my predecessor there, had gone through several presidents, so to speak. We had an interim president, I think, before Morrill was president . . . Coffey?

AP: Coffey and Ford were each interim presidents.

MW: I think it was Coffey. He knew he was interim president until they found a replacement. She sort of took over, as I understand it. Then Morrill became president and there was some conflict there because he decided he should be president. So she was encouraged to leave and retire. So I had no overlap with her in the president's office at all. I really started from scratch.

AP: Do you remember the year, by any chance?

MW: I think it was 1952, but I'm not entirely certain.

AP: Do you remember the time of year—was it summer or winter?

MW: I don't know. I think it was spring.

AP: Now you walk into the president's office . . . Are you still wearing a cardigan or do you have to dress up?

MW: By this time I've bought a few different clothes. I bought some dresses.

AP: Was the president's office dressier than Jerry Shepard's office or than the General Extension Division?

MW: I think it probably was, especially the front office.

AP: Where was your desk?

MW: My desk was in a small room that was between the president's office and the regent's room. I think it's now a kitchen or something.

AP: Right, but then there is a little office even behind that, I think, that still exists.

MW: At that time what was behind the president's private office was first of all a men's room; then the little room that I had; then the regent's room. I think that was all changed, and I've forgotten who was president who changed all that. The men's room had an automatic flush to the toilet, so it was kind of interesting to be on the phone and you'd hear this Vesuvius of water coming down behind the wall.

AP: We've been studying a lot in getting ready for the book, a lot of the issues that Morrill faced. One of the things that is fascinating to me is the way in which both he and Wilson struggled with the sort of anti-Communist issues. Do you have any memories, because those must have been very tricky and painful to have dealt with?

MW: I don't have any specific memories of it, Ann. I do remember the tension at the time. I do remember there being a lot of noise in the legislature about Mulford Q. Sibley. I remember the president defending him and saying, "No, he has tenure and will continue to be on the faculty." But he was a sore spot in the legislature, I know that, Sibley was. I don't remember any other specifics.

AP: It's interesting looking back, it all looks so tame, but it must have been much more scary then.

MW: Oh, it was. Some people just looked for Communists under every rock. We had all sorts of conservative people on the legislature. I wish I could name them right now, but I can't.

AP: How long did you remain in Morrill's office, say '52 to . . . ?

MW: It was December of '59.

AP: Then, approximately when . . .

MW: He retired the following June 30.

AP: You, then, were ensconced with Wenberg.

MW: Yes.

AP: Where was Wenberg's office?

MW: He was assistant to the president, so he was in the president's office area. He had a corner office. In December of '59 I left the president's office and went to Korea for a year and worked for Bill Middlebrook.

AP: Was that connected with the University contract to help rebuild Seoul National University?

MW: Yes, it was. It was part of that contract. They put an extension on the contract so that Middlebrook could take a look at all public higher education in Korea as far as its physical plants are concerned. A lot of them had gone downhill, of course, during the Korean War, and in subsequent years they needed a lot of refurbishing. So that was his part on the Korean contract.

AP: That must have been very, very interesting. So you spent a year in Korea?

MW: Yes. Then when I came back, Wenberg offered me the job as his secretary. By this time he was the vice president and had moved down to the other end of the second floor of Morrill Hall. So I went to work for him then.

AP: One of the issues that we were trying to decode in our memories, there was a small incident that occurred in the Union about a flag burning.

MW: Oh, Ed Haislet (director of the Alumni Association) I had forgotten what flag that was. It was from one of the Latin American countries, I think.

AP: It was supposed to maybe have been a Russian flag.

MW: He thought it was a Russian flag, and he stomped on it, took it down and stomped on it, where the Union used to be years ago before they remodeled it.

AP: Then there was some question about, should somebody have apologized?

MW: Oh, yes. The university did as I understand it.

AP: We're trying to decode somebody's memory on that because . . .

MW: I'm quite sure the university did. I was no longer in the president's office. Who was it who was president then?

AP: It was Wilson.

MW: I was thinking it was O. Meredith Wilson. But it was the laughing stock of Morrill Hall.

AP: One of the problems was, and we may take it out because it's hard to make sense out of it all and to be sure . . . There may have been a flag burning, too, and then the question was, either stomping or burning the flag . . .

MW: I don't remember the burning of the flag. I remember his ripping it down and stomping on it because he thought it was a Russian flag.

AP: This is one of those things that maybe if we can't . . .

MW: This was inside Coffman Union on the second floor overlooking the huge area there in the Union.

AP: I think in his 1984 interview with Clarke Chambers, Wilson said that he was out of town when it happened. He got contacted by somebody.

MW: Probably by Tommy Thompson. That was his assistant.

AP: He then wired back and said, "Don't apologize. These people had no business putting up a flag." I think it was a Russian exhibition, so I'm a little . . .

MW: Maybe I'm misremembering, but I thought that Ed Hazlet was all mixed up and thought it was a Russian flag, and took it down and stomped on it, and it was from some other country. I don't know . . . This is my memory.

AP: I'm inclined to take it out anyway. We've got a chapter that's too long and it's too confusing.

MW: They were all laughing at Ed Hazlet's misguidedness. [laughter] Back in those days Ed reported to Stan Wenberg.

AP: Ed was interesting because at the time of the Williamsburg speech, which was in about '48 or '49, maybe early '50, by Morrill, he gave a national speech to alumni association saying, "Hang in there, don't harass the faculty for leftist leanings." Hazlet published the speech in the alumni journal. A question is, was Hazlet left or right personally? It was hard to tell.

MW: It was hard to tell. If anything, he would lean to the right.

AP: That was what I suspected.

MW: I can't swear to that, but that's my feeling having known him for years, that he would tend to be towards the right.

AP: Were there people in the community that Morrill looked to? As he was making tough decisions, was there anybody who helped him out or gave him guidance that you knew of?

MW: I remember Otto Silha.

AP: Otto Silla must have been young then.

MW: Yes. Or maybe it was somebody else at the paper. I remember somebody at the *Star Tribune*.

AP: It's interesting, Wilson regularly consulted John Cowles. Do you have any impression of Cowles and his impact on the university and legislation?

MW: I don't specifically, except that he was a very strong supporter of the "U." I do know that. Of course, he was the one who helped spearhead that Gideon Seymour lecture series, which was put together in honor of Gideon Seymour, of course. Without his pushing it wouldn't have gotten done.

AP: One of the most famous lectures, and I'm going to try to get a picture of it or something, is one that occurred where T. S. Eliot spoke.

MW: I don't remember that one off hand. I remember some others. I remember Scotty Reston of the New York Times. . I remember he spoke in Northrop Auditorium and he had such a huge crowd, it overflowed. There was a basketball game that night that was very interesting, too. He started out by saying, "I should tell you the basketball game is further down the street." But I don't remember T. S. Eliot.

AP: One of the things that we found interesting as we've done these interviews has been the different ways in which the presidents created relationships with the legislative leadership.

MW: There he had a great deal of help from Bili Middlebrook and Ray Amberg..

AP: Can you tell me about Middlebrook? He's somebody I should know more about.

MW: He was just a delightful person. He was hard headed, smart. If he wanted to move a mountain, he'd do it today. He didn't stand on ceremony with things. We had an incident happen where one of the speakers at the Seymour lecture series—a man from England . . . what was his name . . . a short name . . . good grief, I thought I'd never forget it . . . The agreement was that after the man had spoken and done his speech in the evening, he would receive his check, and then he departed the next morning to go back to wherever he lived. Well, the president had gone out of town after the speech and so had Malcolm Willey, who was in charge of those arrangements. The next morning I was sitting at my desk and our receptionist came in and she said, "Mr. [So-and-So] is on the line and he wonders where his check is that he was promised." I said, "Oh my Lord!" I got on the phone and said, "We will get it to you immediately" because his plane was leaving later that morning. When I got the papers to find out how much had been promised to him in the way of honorarium, I went upstairs and told Clint Johnson I needed a check in the amount of . . . I have forgotten how many thousand dollars it was . . . and he said, "Well, you have to process the funds." I said, "I need it within an hour." Well, he wouldn't do it, so I walked into Middlebrook's office and said, "I need a check." He said, "Okay." I had the

check in five minutes. He could dispense with funds and those obligatory things whenever he wanted to, and he did. He had a marvelous sense of humor. He was a strong person, and he was a great guy.

AP: What was it like to be in Korea? Was that towards the end of the contract?

MW: The contract I think went on for two or three more years after I came back. I came back in January of '61.

AP: It may have been '65. I just saw yesterday when the contract ended. As I understand that program, the university coordinate was the lead university, and we were working in engineering and health sciences and nursing and agriculture. Seoul National was the lead institution.

MW: That was the one we were mainly helping out.

AP: The agricultural campus, at least, was someplace else, if I'm correct.

MW: All the campuses were someplace else. Our central offices were in the Seoul National University hospital building. But their campuses were all separated. Economics was one place; agriculture was another. They were all over the city of Seoul, basically, except for agriculture which was further away.. It was entirely different from our campus.

AP: Did you get a sense of, from the point of view of the Koreans, was this project considered successful?

MW: Yes it was. There was a kind of project where we brought people here to the University of Minnesota also instead of our just all being there. A lot of people came to the "U" to study—people who were already in their fields—to get more information, more expertise in all these fields, and then brought back to Korea. So it was quite an expansive project. In Korea itself, our people were highly almost deified, people like Dr. Neal Gault especially, because he really took to the Korean medical school students, and he took them out in the field in small towns to encourage them once they finished their medical studies not to stay in Seoul to establish a practice, but to go out to the hinterlands, which needed them desperately. How successful he was I don't know, but he tried. Also, the wives on the contract were interesting. If a project person like Dr. Gault or some of the others were to be there for two years, they could bring their families. Now the wives independently got together and started a well baby clinic at the hospital there, which was just delightful. It was a new concept that you took your baby to the doctor when it was well, and that's when they introduced things like inoculations and checkups to make sure the baby was healthy. Those Korean babies were the sweetest things you ever saw in the world. But it was new to them. I hope it kept flourishing afterwards, because it became very popular.

AP: Did you know the director of the School of Nursing, Katharine Densford?

MW: I knew who she was. I don't think I ever really met her.

AP: She certainly must have been quite a person.

MW: She was. She was a very domineering person, as I remember knowing about her. She really ruled the roost, but did it well. She knew what she wanted, and she wasn't shy trying to get what she wanted for the health service.

AP: By the health service, you mean the nursing school?

MW: Yes, the nursing school.

AP: That twigs in my mind somebody else that I don't have as good an impression of as I'd like to, and that's Ruth Boynton, the director of the health service.

MW: I didn't know her at all; I just knew her name. One thing that President Morrill faced and had to convince people of, was the move to the West Bank. We was the one who made the decision to move across the river and establish a campus there. He ran into all kinds of flack. The other alternative would have been to keep going on the east side of the river in southeast Minneapolis, and tearing that up. The reason he went across the river is the land was cheaper, and it was in pretty bad shape over there. So the decision was made to go across the river, but there were a lot of critics, both in Minneapolis and in the legislature who felt that this was a big mistake. But they did it anyway.

AP: One of the things about Morrill was that he had deep angst over post-season football.

MW: Yes. I can't remember when Northwestern dropped intercollegiate athletics. He was very sympathetic. Robert Hutchins was a good friend of his.

AP: It's interesting to me. If you were to take the biographical profiles of O. Meredith Wilson, who was a Mormon, and Lew Morrill, who was a former alumni director, you would have reversed their views on intercollegiate athletics and expected that a former alumni director would have been an avid fan of post-season play and a Mormon would have had doubts about it. In fact, it was the reverse.

MW: Absolutely.

AP: And it was very tactful in a way that Morrill didn't have to test his conscience with the 1960 Rose Bowl.

MW: I think to some extent he enjoyed going to the games, but he didn't like all the baggage it brought with. I think he felt that it was too much of a good thing. He thought it should be a smaller enterprise, I think. He would have been appalled, I think, with all the Viking nonsense and everything like that. He didn't like the fact that the downtown quarterbacks were trying to buy up Murray Warmath's contract, you know, and hanging him in effigy. He felt that was not sportsmanlike at all. He felt that football should be just a sport and that's it, and not be encumbered with all these other things, like people.

AP: Do you remember, was it Lou Gross that headed up the study that sort of looked at football in '58 and '59?

MW: I sort of remember that.

AP: I think they kind of advocated "hang in there, let's not fire the coach." Can I ask you about legislative leaders? We've spent a fair amount of text in the book on Gerald Mullen.

MW: Yes, he was very strong of course.

AP: Are there other people who, as you knew our interaction with the legislature . . . major sort of leaders who stood head and shoulders above others, that we should document?

MW: I've been trying to think of their names, and I haven't been able to, except in more recent years.

AP: Who would you mention in more recent years?

MW: People like Nick Coleman. That would have been during the Wenberg years. I worked for him. I can't remember back into the '50s.

AP: What do you association Coleman with? Are there any particular issues or particular ways in which he interacted with us?

MW: I don't recall any particular things.

AP: And, of course, this is Nick Coleman Sr.

MW: Yes. He was a strong leader in the senate. That was the good old days of the smoke-filled rooms.

AP: We've got a lot of discussion, a lot of commentary on staying up all night in the smoke-filled rooms and making the deals, and how Wenberg did that.

MW: How these things were done in the smoke-filled rooms I don't know, but that was the era.

AP: Apparently Kegler was more inclined to stay home with his family, and there seemed to be less of the smoke-filled room when Kegler took over.

MW: That's absolutely true. The situation in the legislature changed. A lot of the old guard, so to speak, retired or died off, and the newer legislators weren't apt to do that. They, too, wanted to go home to their families. There wasn't as much of that later.

AP: There's Roger Moe.

MW: He's more recent, too.

AP: Somebody else I wanted to ask you about was Ray Quinliven.

MW: He was delightful. He had the deepest voice I've ever heard in my entire life. He was chairman of the board of regents when I started working for Mr. Morrill. They had a very good relationship.

AP: It must have been an amazing thing to be chairman of the board because when he took over in around 1950, if you can believe it, Fred Snyder had been chairman of the board since 1914. Isn't that an extraordinary thing? I think he'd been a member of the board earlier, from about 1911. I've got the exact number, so I should not put them on the tape unless they are exact.

MW: Quinliven was very good. He ran the board very well.

AP: He was a lawyer from St. Cloud, if I understand correctly.

MW: Yes—Quinliven, Quinliven, and Quinliven was the name of the firm, and he was from St. Cloud.

AP: I'm guessing that he might have been Roman Catholic.

MW: I'm sure he was.

AP: How he ended up devoting such energy to a public university rather than, say, St. John's or St. Ben's . . .

MW: People on the board of regents were less parochial then, really they were. After Quinliven was on the board, people like Fred Hughes, too, who was from St. Cloud. He was from a law firm there, and I'm sure he, too, was Catholic, but he was devoted to the University of Minnesota. In recent years the board has been more divisive because you get these jabbery parochial people on it. But it didn't used to be that way. People like Charles Mayo and even Dick Griggs from Duluth were staunchly in favor of anything that would enhance the whole University of Minnesota, not necessarily just Duluth, although he's done a lot for Duluth. They just wanted the whole University of Minnesota to prosper, regardless of where they were from. Herman Skyberg from the northwestern part of the state, was the same way. It was a totally different feeling on the board than when we had a few years ago, when it got so bad. I was awfully glad I wasn't in Morrill Hall anymore.

AP: Do you remember the year that Kegler took over for Wenberg when Wenberg retired?

MW: I think that was '74.

AP: That would have been, of course, the Peter Magrath . . . And you were in Morrill then, right?

MW: Yes. I was working for Wenberg at the time. At that time Frederick had been his assistant vice president.

AP: Did you then work for Kegler?

MW: Yes.

AP: I came in '76, and I think that's approximately when we first met, because you would have been working for Kegler then.

MW: Yes, I would have.

AP: The way we have written the Magrath chapter, it seems very, very austere because of the financial problems, this sort of drumbeat of retrenchments.

MW: That was just so awful to go through, especially when you have a small office to begin with. That was a difficult period. One thing I remember, Kegler had a marvelous sense of humor. He always kidded about Magrath as our only president who didn't know how to spell his name. I got the biggest kick out of that. (His name was pronounced Magraw, but spelled Magrath.)

AP: Are there thoughts that you have about the civil service staff at the university, or what it was like to be on the civil service staff as secretary to these types of executives? Was it conflicting at all?

MW: It was just the way it was.

AP: What did they call you? Miss Wipperman or Peg?

MW: Working for Wenberg, they called me Peg. Working for the president was "Miss Wipperman" or "Miss W."

AP: And you were saying that you were fairly sure he didn't know your name.

MW: I'm positive. An old friend of the family, Al Johnson, who was in highway construction, and who was bound and determined the university should participate in fostering the growth of wild rice in farm tracts kinds of things instead of wild rice being wild, had come in to see if I was around. I'd known him since I was a youngster, since I was five years old. He was waiting in the outer office to see the president, so I went out and said, "Hi Al, how are you?" and we chatted. The president had someone else with him, and so when that person left, the president came out and very gracefully said to Al, "I'm sorry to keep you waiting, Al, come on in." He looked at the president and said, "Oh, that's all right. I've been chatting with Peggy all this time." And the president looked at him and said, "Who?" He really did not know my first name.

AP: This would sound to modern sensibilities very unusual. Can you describe, was he insensitive or was he unpleasant?

MW: No, he was a gentleman of the old school. He was formal. I don't think I ever saw him take off his suit coat in spite of the heat. He was kind of unusual that way. A real hot sticky day, and of course we had no air conditioning then, the president's set of offices were on the sunny side of Morrill Hall. By the end of the day I would be absolutely wilted and so would Wenberg. The president would leave, and he'd come out and put on his straw hat—he had a skimmer—and I remember him wearing a light blue lightweight suit. He'd never take off his necktie. Wenberg by this time would have his tie off and his shirtsleeves rolled up. He'd wish us all a good day and go out the door. We'd look at each other, Wenberg and I, and say, "That man just doesn't sweat!" But he was very formal, very formal with everybody except those who knew him very well.

AP: It was interesting, as I think I mentioned to you, the dean of the graduate school said they never called each other by their first name until they both retired.

MW: That's right. It was partly, I think, the workplace formality.

AP: Who were his good friends who would have called him Lew?

MW: His wife did, and some of them downtown did who knew him well.

AP: Who might that be?

MW: A lot of these friends were not in the Twin Cities. Conant, who was the high mucky-muck in Germany during the . . .

AP: And formerly president of Harvard.

MW: He and Morrill were very good friends. They corresponded and addressed each other by their first names. The same with Hutchins and all the Big Ten presidents. He was on good terms with them and they all called each other by their first names. He was very active in the AAU, and that was a first-name basis with those presidents, too. But around campus and in the office, he was formal.

AP: And he did not have a Ph.D., so he would have been called Mr. Morrill?

MW: That's correct. Those who, when they would call and want to see Dr. Morrill, we would gently persuade them that it was Mr. Morrill or President Morrill. He never went by the name James because it was James Lewis Morrill, his full name, and he always signed it "J. L. Morrill." His wife called him Lew, and on April Fool's Day we'd always get calls from the office where these young fellows would call and say, "I have a message here to call Jim." We knew it was April Fool's Day, of course, so we'd say, "Well, President Morrill is busy right now." They'd be so abashed. "Oh, I wasn't trying to call him." The students didn't realize that he was not called Jim, that he was called Lew. It was a dead giveaway. Even Mr. Wenberg never called him by his first name, and they became good friends. I don't even think Quinliven called him by his first name, certainly not in the office he didn't. It was always Mr. Morrill. The president always called him Mr. Quinliven. Maybe elsewhere they called each other by their first names, I don't know.

AP: Are there any things that I perhaps have not asked you that you would like to comment on? When did you retire? You came in approximately 1950.

MW: I worked on campus since the '40s. I retired in '85, when I was sixty years old. I took early retirement. One thing I had to do when I first started in the president's office was learn how to forge Morrill's signature. He did not want to see a secretary's initials under a signature of her boss, like so often you used to see done. He wanted his actual signature there, even though he didn't sign it himself. So I spent hours practicing; I got myself the same kind of pen he had, and I would spend hours. I got to be really good at it. I never signed anything contractual, of course, for the university, but I signed all kinds of stuff for him. I remember his calling me in once and saying, "Miss Wiperman, did you sign this or did I sign it?" because I really got good. Often he would sign the first copy; back in those days we typed carbons because we didn't have copy machines. He would sign the original and I would sign all the carbons that went to all these other people. In the spring of the year, doing pre-retirement stuff, usually on June 30 they have these presentations of little certificates to people for all the years they'd worked there. There had to be two copies of each one that had to be signed in case one got ruined. Back then they were individually signed with India ink. I had to sort through them and pick out those people whom the president knew personally, and he would sign those. Then I'd lay them all out on the regent's table, and I'd have to sign all the others. It would take me all day. I had to personally sign "J. L. Morrill" to all those certificates. It drove me nuts. But I got to be very good at forging his signature, especially when he couldn't tell. I did write up a little list here. Have you run across anything about the university's self survey that was done back in the '50s? He put Dean Blegen in charge of it. As a result of that self survey, the physics department was moved to IT, I think probably from the arts college.

AP: Right. That was in the early '60s.

MW: I remember that period because we got swamped with letters from anybody who'd ever taken a class in physics.

AP: What were the letters saying?

MW: Most of them wanted the department changed to IT. It didn't belong in the arts college. I guess historically it had been in the arts college. I remember Dean Blegen coming in one day, because he was getting a headache from all this, too. A lot of the letters were being sent over to him to answer because he was head of the survey. I remember telling him, "I wish right now that you would transfer it to Ohio Wesleyan, I'm tired of hearing about it." I don't know what else came out of that survey, but I remember that coming out of it.

AP: One of the people who seems to have had a fairly large impact was Williamson, the dean of students. Can you describe Williamson?

MW: Oh, yes. He was a very strong individual. He reported to Wenberg too. Student development was his thing, which of course, that has all gone down the drain. He believed strongly in the educational value of co-curricular experiences..

AP: I know they inspected the housing around the campus to be sure. In fact, they still do a certain amount of that in the housing office. What he was also known for . . . He came out of psychology, so he had a lot of his staff members who were Ph.D.s, so they did an intensive amount of study of student life and student opinions and student backgrounds. It's formed a very interesting set of sources for people. I think he was willing to give the students broader exposure. Matt Stark worked for him, and Matt was describing some of the things that were permitted. For example, students were sent up to Indian reservations to get exposure for the first time, and there was an interest in international students, a certain willingness to have students do civil rights things. I think that he, in a way maybe like Hazlet, was willing to push himself a little bit further than he personally wanted to go in some areas. But you're right, he had a kind of parental attitude towards the students. On the other hand, the theory was that this parental attitude was supposed to make them more independent. So it was sort of a paradox. Give them experience that would allow them to grow up into more mature, thoughtful citizens. Do you have any thoughts on the decision not to re-appoint Forrest Wiggins in philosophy? That must have occurred just when you came.

MW: I vaguely remember it, but I didn't see any of that myself.

AP: Did you go to the football games?

MW: Oh, sure, for years. I did as a student, and then when I started working at the "U" I had gotten to know some other friends who worked there, and we went together and bought tickets in a group. I didn't stop going to football games until just a few years ago. I got so I absolutely despised the Dome. That's when I finally said, "This is it. I'm not buying tickets anymore." I loved the years at Memorial Stadium. We'd go over there, and I had a contract at that time at the Northrop garage and could park there. We'd wait until the band was ready to march down University Avenue, and we'd follow the band. We'd walk by the band down to the stadium. That was just lots of fun. Then we'd have a couple of hot dogs before the game and some coffee and stuff. Yes, I went to all the home games, even when it rained or snowed.

AP: Well, Peg, this is just a charming interview. Thank you very, very much. Is there anything else you'd like to say, or if there is you can always call me up and add it.

MW: There's one other thing, and it had to do with the president's dietary requirements. His idea of a good meal was a steak and a baked potato and a salad. He didn't care for vegetables. The only one he would eat was peas. I remember when we had the prime minister of India come to campus and being in touch with the British people here in the cities on what to serve at lunch. I was talking to Dale Shepherd about that. It turns out we ended up with every single food requirement that there is in India. I went in to the president and said, "It looks to me like all we can do is have a buffet luncheon." He turned absolutely red in the face and said, "I do not like buffet luncheons." So I explained to him that some people could not eat meat, some other people could not eat this, eat that, and the other thing, and they didn't blend very well. He finally ended up agreeing to a buffet, but it was not what he wanted at all, not at all. So he was kind of stiff on that subject.

AP: Did he and Mrs. Morrill do the same amount of official entertaining that was done later?

MW: No, I don't think so. Mrs. Morrill did a lot of it, but the house was smaller—the one on Tenth Avenue. It was a very nice house, but it was more limited in its size for entertaining. I don't think they had the expensive receptions that they have now. She had a reception every year for the faculty, and they came in shifts, because I used to have to write up the addresses on the reception cards and get them in the mail for her. She would decide who would come at what time. That went on for about four hours. I remember that being a big deal.

AP: Would that have been in the early afternoon in the summer, or would it have been in the evening?

MW: It was during the day in the afternoon from about 1 until 5 or 6. It was in the fall of the year.

AP: Was there any kind of garden in that house like at Eastcliff?

MW: No, I don't think so.

AP: Certainly knowing the neighborhood, it didn't seem like it.

MW: That's why they were limited. Parking was limited. So they were invited in shifts. I remember one year I had done all the envelopes for her and sent them over to her to look at.

[end of side 1]

[beginning of side 2]

AP: There were some giants on the faculty in those days—Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Al Nier. Do you have any stories or memories about any of those folks?

MW: No, not in particular. I was aware of them and that was about it. I didn't get to meet them, except Al Nier. But I met him when I was still in IT.

AP: Of course you would have known him. This has been extremely helpful, Peg. I appreciate it. I will send you a permission form because this is Human Subjects Research, and then this will be typed up and it will go in the archives. Thank you so much.

[end of interview]