

**Interview with Ms. Helen Watson – Dean of Women**

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Barker House, Winter Park, Florida

AA: Good afternoon, my name is Alia Alli and with me is Dr. Paula Hammer, Ms. Lisa Thomson, Ms. Terri Buys, and Jennifer Ritter. Today we will be interviewing Mrs. Helen Watson, who was the dean of women at Rollins College –

HW: - But she's a Ms. –

AA: Oh, Ms. Helen Watson – Can you please share with us your family background.

HW: What kind of family background?

AA: Like where you grew up, what your childhood was like –

HW: Oh my goodness (laughs), I had a wonderful childhood. I grew up in Coral Gables, Florida and it was the bottom of the depression, but we still had a wonderful time. Everybody around us was poor, so we just had a wonderful time.

AA: And what did your parents do for a living?

HW: At that time, nothing; they didn't have a job. (laughs) And my mother had to go to work. She went to work at Burdines in Miami and my father finally got a job at Florida Power and Light in Miami.

AA: And did you have any siblings?

HW: I had a brother, Wayne.

AA: And now, where did you go to school?

HW: High school in Coral Gables – Ponce De Leon High School.

AA: What was it like in Florida during that time?

HW: I don't know what you mean "like"

AA: Um, like what was the atmosphere like during the depression?

HW: Nice and warm – (laughter)

AA: Have you been back since?

HW: Back to Coral Gables? Oh yes, my parents lived there until they died – in the same house. I went back often.

AA: Oh wow, so you went to Florida State College for Women. Can you tell us about that?

HW: You ask questions that I don't know how to answer. Florida State College for Women was for women. There were two thousand of us girls at Tallahassee and Gainesville was where the boys went and there were two thousand boys there. And on weekends, we were at one place or the other and the rest of time we went to class.

AA: What kind of classes did you take there?

HW: The same kind that you're taking here.

AA: You were a psychology major, right?

HW: Yes I was.

AA: Why did you choose psychology?

HW: Why did you choose your subject matter?

AA: Oh, I love it.

HW: So do I; I don't know why I choose psychology. I wanted to do counseling and work with people.

AA: Okay, and then after there you went to Simmons College, is that correct.

HW: Um-hm

AA: What did you study while you were there?

HW: I got my masters degree in psychology.

AA: And now after you graduated from school, what profession did you go in to?

HW: I went in to the personal department at Strawbridge and Clothiers in Philadelphia. You don't call it the personal department anymore. What do you call it?

LT: Human resources – human resources

HW: Human resources is now what we call the personal department.

AA: After that you came to Rollins?

HW: Oh, no goodness (laughter) I didn't come to Rollins until '56. I was 45. No, I had a long career before I ever got to Rollins College.

AA: Can you tell us about your career, please?

HW: Well, the war came along, but before the war – let's see, I got married, and I stayed at Strawbridge's until I got married and then my husband was an architect and he got a job in Palm Beach. And so after we were married in Coral Gables, we moved to Palm Beach and then we had another slight recession and he lost his job. And Mr. Weaver, who was head of the architectural department at Florida decided that he had too many of his students who had graduated in architecture who weren't working, and so he persuaded the legislature that he had all these young architects out of work, if he would bring them to Gainesville, would the legislature and they could plan some of the buildings for the campuses that could then be built when the recession was over; and that's exactly what happened. And they planned hospitals and dormitories and a little bit of everything, and we had a job until things picked up. And then we got – Jack got a job in Jacksonville – we went to Jacksonville and I went to First Goods. That was a department store, and was their personal director there, and stayed there until the war. And then Mr. Babson caught up with me and wanted to know if I would start a retailing department at Webber College in Babson Park, which I did while Jack was away at war for four years. And I started the retailing department down there and eventually became president of Webber College and I came to Rollins from Webber College.

AA: What was your first impression of Rollins?

HW: I lived in Winter Park, (laughs) so I had all sorts of impressions. I had always been good friends with Rollins. Hugh McKean was a good friend of mine and he tried to get me to come to Rollins for many years. So I finally gave in and moved back to Winter – well, I lived in Winter Park, I commuted – and I finally said alright, I'll come and I came as the dean of women.

AA: Now who were some of the other people that you worked with while you were here.

HW: Dych Vermyle was the dean of men, and then when Dych left, Fred Hicks was the dean of men, and Hugh McKean – I can't name the faculty (laughs)

AA: Do you have any stories to share with us about Hugh McKean?

HW: With Hugh McKean? Well, I think one of the things that I liked most about Hugh was the fact that he could work just so long and then to had to go do something that wasn't work. And my office was right down the hall from his, and ever so often about three o'clock in the afternoon, my door would open whether I had a student in there or not, and he would say, "Helen, come on, we've got to go." And so I would dismiss the child and off we'd go, and I never knew where we were going. That's when I rode the elephant. (laughs) He came and got me and said, "Come on we're going to ride an elephant." And I said, "Ride an elephant? I can't ride an elephant." I had on a very full skirt and no hat. And he said, "Yeah the fiestas having a parade" – in those days we had a fiesta – and he said, "Well, we're going to ride an elephant."

And Jane Cochrane was walking across the campus, and I said, “Jane, let me have your hat,” and so she gave me her hat, and we climbed up on the elephant and rode down Park Ave. (laughter)

LT: Where’d you get the elephant?

HW: I don’t know. Hugh got the elephant from some place, brought the elephant – we had several in the parade. Hugh could get something anywhere. He loved to do things like that for the kids.

LT: - Spontaneous, fun things –

HW: Anything fun – and one day he came and got me and took me down to the edge of the lake – where I don’t know if it’s still there or not. Is there a little pagoda down there?

AA: Yeah, there is –

HW: Well, we went down there, and you know the McKeans owned all the property across the lake and Hugh sat me down and he said, “You want to know my plans for Rollins College?” And I said, “Yes, I’d like to” and he said, “I’m going to build a bridge from right here, right over to Windsong, and the kids are going to walk across because most of the campus is going to be over there. All our new buildings are going to be over on Windsong property, and we are going to have a great big campus, which of course never came to pass with the things that happened at Rollins.

Another time, he took me over to the chapel and in those days, the first floor of the chapel was is as it is now, but there was no basement. When they built it, they didn’t excavate a big hole, you know, they just built it there. But, there were walkways where you could walk underneath both ways and we went down the steps and I kept – I said,” Hugh, where on earth are you taking me?” And we went way over in the corner where there were a large space – there was no dirt – and here was box after box after box and he said, “Just look in there.” And I opened one of the big boxes and it was full of glass – all sorts of glass. Do you know what it was?

AA: No

HW: The windows that are now in the museum – the chapel – that they had picked up off of the sand – he and Jeanette had picked up off the sand when they had blown out with the fire up on Long Island –

LT: lauralton home, yeah –

HW: And all that is together now in the museum here at Winter Park was in boxes in little pieces of glass. And he explained to me what it was and I said, “Hugh, how are you ever going to get all of this together? “I’m going to do it.” That was his attitude, and he did it. But he did things like that all the time.

Fox Day – he called me up one night and he said, “Helen, you know the kids are tired of going to school.” (laughs) I said, “They’re always tired of going to school.” And he said,

“Well, let’s do something special.” And I said, “What?” So he came over and he said, “Let’s have a Fox Day,” and I said, “What would a Fox Day be?” And he said, “I found an old fox in my attic and we could put it out on the chapel steps and some of the kids won’t know that I’m the president. I’ll kind of sneak around there early tomorrow morning and the first student that comes back, I’ll tell him it’s Fox Day and he’ll say, what’s Fox Day? And I’ll say, you can have the whole day off, you can do anything you want, and you don’t have to be responsible to anybody. And he’ll say, you mean I don’t have to go to go to classes? I mean you don’t have to go to classes. You mean I can I go to Pelican – that was our beach house. Yes, you can go to Pelican. You mean I can sleep? You can sleep; you can do anything you want.” And so that’s what we did. We put the fox out on the chapel steps and the next morning Hugh met a few students out there early in the morning and told them it was Fox Day. And of course, they raced to the dormitories and by six o’clock, everybody knew it was Fox Day – and that was our first Fox Day. (laughter) And when everybody came back, of course, they were hungry, and we fed them.

And the next year, Hugh said, “We got to do something better than just letting them come back. What do we do?” And I said, “I don’t know, what do we do?” And we said, “let’s get them all together in the – well, it wasn’t the dining room, it’s – I don’t know what it is now – it’s where our post office used to be. Your post office isn’t over there, is it? Its where – I don’t know what it is now. It’s that big building – you know where the alumni office is, and then what’s the next big building?”

LT: Carnegie Hall?

JR: the bookstore

LT: Or the bookstore?

HW: Well that was what – I don’t even remember what we called it, but we had food in there, and the post office was there, and it was a gathering place for the whole campus when you didn’t have anything else to do, that’s where you went. And we took them over there and fed them that night. But the third year we said let’s do something even better and we took them back to the chapel and then we took them over there and fed them. And I don’t know what’s happened to Fox Day now.

AA: We still have it –

HW: You don’t have it?

AA: No, we do have it, yep. And some students go to the beach, some of the them go to the – there’s a springs called Wachovia Springs –

JR: Wachiva –

AA: Wachiva Springs, sorry – and they go there. Some students just sleep all day.

HW: Yeah, that's what they did, that's what the whole day was planned for. But then don't you come together at the end of the day?

LT: Yeah, there is a barbeque –

HW: With a barbeque? Oh, that's nice.

AA: Now, what was your first Fox Day like?

HW: My what?

AA: Your first Fox Day – what did you do?

HW: My first Fox Day, I worked all day long.

AA: Oh you had to work? (laughter)

HW: I was so glad I didn't have a student to come in. I could get caught up; I was real glad for Fox Day. And Hugh had a good time; he just roamed the campus and had a wonderful time.

LT: Well, there is still a lot of excitement building up to Fox Day, isn't it? The president still puts it out on the lawn now, not on the chapel, correct?

PH: He puts out by the flag pole –

HW: And you've got a fancy fox now.

PH: There is a concrete fox now.

HW: This was a real old stuffed fox in the beginning. (laughter)

LT: Where'd he find it?

HW: In his attic (laughter)

LT: He sounded like a really interesting character.

HW: Oh, Hugh was more fun. You know, I was president of Webber College, and Hugh and I used to go to national meetings and both of us, being from Florida, we always were seated together at banquets and everything. They thought we didn't know each other – and so – and I loved it because Hugh and I were good friends and we always had a good time together. And every time we would get together – see Marian Cleveland was dean of women for – I don't know how long, maybe thirty years, and the kids loved her; they just idolized her. And I would no more have taken the job of dean of women after Marian Cleveland than I would have died. You can't follow somebody as beloved as that is and do a good job yourself. Because the first three years, you know, all the kids knew Marian and they wouldn't have anything to do with you, and

that's exactly what happened to Dean Day who followed Marian. And Hugh kept saying come to Rollins and be the dean of women, come to Rollins and be the dean of women. (laughs) And I said to Hugh, "I can't come to Rollins because if I come, I have to be the president, and you're still there." (laughter) So we teased all the time, but finally I did come. And they certainly – you saw the picture in the paper. For the archives, what I'm going to give you all is paper after paper of my arrival as the dean of women. You would have thought that I was the king of Spain. I have never gotten so publicity over one little thing in all my life. My picture was in the Orlando paper, the Winter Park paper, every place, there was Mrs. Watson's picture. (laughs) And I had a good reception because the students had really been very naughty to Dean Day – had made it very hard for her. And by the time I got here, all of Dean Cleveland's students were gone and the students that were left had not liked Dean Day, and so they received me with open arms. They didn't know me, but they got me. (laughter) So, we got along fine.

AA: Can you tell us about some of the students that you got to work with?

HW: Well, I've got a lot of them that still call me up and say are you still alive? (laughter) Christmas time I get calls from students all over the United States. Dean Watson, I just wanted to know if you were still alive – because most deans don't live to be ninety-eight years old. I had lots of good friends among the students. We seemed to get along pretty well, and they were great. I don't know if you girls are as nice, but my girls were very nice. We had some wonderful kids.

AA: Now what are dorm mothers? I've never heard of that.

HW: Resident heads. We had a resident head in every dormitory, because of course, in those days the girls lived in their own dormitory; we didn't have co-ed dormitories. And while I was here we built Elizabeth Hall, and that was the freshman dormitory all the freshman women were put in that. And all the freshman women lived in that end of the campus and all the men lived in this end of the campus. All the sorority houses were at that end of the campus, and the fraternities were at this end of the campus.

AA: So you were the dean of women. What jobs did you have to do?

HW: I was in *loco parentis* in those days. That means I was responsible from a parental standpoint for every girl on campus. When she went to the hospital, I went with her, when she went to jail, I went and got her out, when she got drunk, I got her sober; anything that happened she was my responsibility as though she were my daughter – in *loco parentis*. And you don't have that kind of responsibility anymore, but I was responsible for every girl on campus twenty-four hours a day and we had some good times (laughter)

LT: What was the most frightening or worrisome situation that you –

HW: I had a suicide.

LT: Oh, did you? I'm so sorry –

HW: – in Cloverleaf – Cloverleaf was the oldest – it's been torn down now, but everybody wanted to live in Cloverleaf because it had so many memories. And she was just distraught, shot herself, and the resident head called me. She had taken her to the hospital, and I called Dr. Ramsey. Dr. Ramsey and I went and stayed all night with her. We poured blood in to that child like I've never seen anything, but we couldn't save her. And of course I had all that go through with her parents. Why did she do it, you know it was our fault that she did it. It was a very sad time on campus.

AA: What has been your happiest moment?

HW: Oh, everything! We had a wonderful time. One of the things that I liked best was to be on campus at closing time. See, the girls had to be in at ten o'clock on weekdays and eleven o'clock on weekends. And the boys would bring the girls back to the dormitory and then when the girls had gone in, the boys would start walking back to this end of the campus and they would start singing. And I could stand over in my office window and you could hear the boys deliver the girls and then start singing as they came out from this end of campus. I loved it (laughter) especially on a moonlight night, because we didn't have lights on campus then.

LT: Did you live on campus? Or you just left after than ten o'clock curfew – sometimes you'd leave and go home –

HW: Oh, I wasn't here at ten o'clock –

LT: But every now –

HW: That's what I had resident heads for.

LT: (laughs) So you could have a good night's sleep, right?

HW: Oh yeah, I went home at five o'clock unless I was needed for a meeting or something. No, I worked nine to five just everybody else did.

JR: Now, speaking of lights, we had an old article about some of the lights being unscrewed in the dorms by the students. Is there a story about that – some of the lights –

HW: They unscrewed the light bulbs?

JR: Something like that. I don't know –

HW: For what?

JR: I don't know, it was only part of an article that someone had reported that the lights in the dorms had been going out and I guess that they had gone to you.

HW: I don't remember that. I wouldn't see how they would get hold of a light bulb in the dark. (laughs) In a sorority house, in a lamp or something like that –

PH: Can I ask a question? Helen, you mentioned in passing, you just sort of glossed over it, that you were president at Webber College. And I don't know if these young women know how unusual it was for a woman to be a college president at that time.

HW: (speaking at the same time) I was the youngest –

PH: Yeah, speak to that if you would.

HW: Well, I was the youngest woman presidents in the United States.

PH: Yeah, one of the only woman presidents of a college in the United States. Now, that's a huge, huge thing.

HW: Well, women didn't do much when I was coming along. You went home, and you got married and had children and stayed home, and I didn't. I didn't have any children and I had a husband that was wonderful about not minding my having a career at all. And at Jack's funeral in the chapel (laughs), Dean Darrah said Jack was the best assistant dean of women that Rollins had ever had. (laughter) Jack was the kind of man that liked women. He was very good with the girls, and they just loved to come out to our house if Jack was going to be there. Jack had lots of friends; and when I was at Webber, Jack used to come down Wednesday evening for dinner. We always – at Webber, we did things the old fashioned way. We dressed for dinner; we had white table cloths, we were a girl's school. And Jack came for dinner on Wednesday evening; we always had a lecture and a speaker and everything, and he had a yellow convertible Studebaker and they loved it. (laughter) He would come early enough that he could take three, four, five girls at a time – take them for a ride in that Studebaker, and I've got pictures of him with all those girls. They'd wait for him out by the administration building (laughter) so they could take rides with him the Studebaker. The Studebaker was quite a car after the war. It was the first one that was really pushed after the war.

LT: So Mr. Babson of Babson Park recruited you to be president of Webber College?

HW: Yes, uh-huh.

LT: Because I've been to Babson Park many times and it's so interesting that it's –

HW: And the Babsons lived at Mountain Lake and then bought all that property down at Babson Park. And it was called Crooked Lake and Mr. Babson immediately said that he was not going to have a town on a lake called Crooked Lake, so he renamed it Colusa – Lake Colusa – and he petitioned the government to name the town Babson, and that's how it got to be Babson Park.

LT: Oh, that's amazing.

HW: Uh-hm, and then they established the girl's school at Babson Park because Babson College in Boston was for young men. You of course don't know, but Mr. Babson was one of the few men that came through the depression with his money. He saw the depression coming; he took his money out of the market and didn't lose money. He was a millionaire when the depression

was over and there were very few of them. And the Babsons had started Babson College in Boston and it was for their clients sons to learn how to invest their money –the money that they were going to inherit. And so the parents came to the Babsons and said well we don't have any sons but we have daughters, can't they come? And the Babsons did not believe in co-education and they said no, we can't take girls. And I guess parents carried on so long that they finally decided alright, we'll have a college for girls. So they started, and they had the fall session in Boston, and then they brought the girls to Florida to Babson Park for the next session because all the parents were in Florida and their little girls would be near their parents. That's the way people thought of girls in those days. And so, the war came along, and they couldn't bring all those type writers and all the things that they had to bring to have the school in Florida, so they decided to have the school in Florida all year long.

And that's when Mr. Babson decided that retailing would be a very good department to have at this college that was going to be in Florida. And he went to Simmons and asked who would be a good person to start a retailing department in his college, and they suggested me. And I was in California with Jack – he had just come home for a month from the Pacific. The war was going on and Mr. Babson sent a telegram – you didn't telephone in those days, you sent a telegram – to my address in Coral Gables – my parents address, and mother sent me the telegram by mail, so you can imagine how long it took to get to me, and it said to call him immediately. Well, I didn't know who Mr. Babson was, and I was there with Jack for one month and I wasn't letting interrupt that; he was going back out to the Pacific. So when I finally got home, there was another telegram that said why haven't you called me? So, I went to a telephone, because we didn't have a telephone in those days, and I called Mr. Babson, and he said, "Why has it taken so long for you to call me?" And I said, "Mr. Babson, I don't even know who you are or what you want." He said, "You don't know who I am?" And I said, "No, I don't know who you are." (laughs) He was that kind – men in those days were that way, and especially wealthy men that had a lot of power. And so he said, "Would I meet him at Babson Park?" And I said, "Mr. Babson, the war is going on. I have a car, but I have no gasoline. I can't drive up to Babson Park." "Now, young lady, you can get enough coupons from your friends to get enough gas if you've got a car. I want to see you in Babson Park." And I said, "Well, I'll try, but I don't know when I can get there." Well, I got enough coupons from my – you had to have coupons to get gas during the war – and so I got enough coupons and I got enough gas and I got to Babson Park, but he wasn't there. He'd gone back to Boston on the train. (laughter)

But Dr. Bob was there, who was president of Webber College, and all they wanted me to do was to buy the books and hire the teachers and interview the students and start a retailing department. Well, when I looked at what they had outlined for what they were going to teach and how they were going to teach it, I just laughed out loud and I said if I were a student I wouldn't anymore come and take that course than a man on the moon. And they said well what would you do? And I said if a student took that course, she would not be ready to work in a retail store. And in those days buyers were trained – nowadays, you know, I don't know how they do it, maybe they don't even have buyers – but they wanted to train girls to be buyers or personal directors. That's what the course was to be, and I said you certainly would not be training people for the retailing store. And see, I'd worked in retail stores – I'd been at Strawbridges and First Goods and I knew what they were planning would not satisfy the market at all. So, they said could you spend the week and help us plan what we should have? So I stayed and we worked for a week and we set up a curriculum and in those days, there were very

few books with – written for that trade. And New York University was doing a lot of training, but that was the only place in the United States that you could get any retail training and go in to the retail trade. And so, we finally – I got so interested in buying the books for the library and interviewing the students and everything that I decided to stay for a year. The war was still going on, and it didn't look like Jack was coming home anytime soon, so I went and stayed and taught for the first year and then I got hooked. And so I stayed for twelve years.

LT: Did you know Ken and Helen Morrison? Do you remember the Morrisons? They lived on Crooked Lake. And they worked at Bok Tower – he was the head of Bok Towers for a while. I don't know if Mr. Babson was connected with Bok Tower Gardens at all.

HW: I used to go up to Bok Tower and plan my lessons for the next day.

LT: (laughs) That's a good place to do it

HW: It was wonderful

AA: Now, what kind of courses did you teach while you were there?

HW: When I was where?

AA: While you were at the school?

HW: At Webber?

AA: Right

HW: All the retailing courses; fashion line design, everything –

AA: Wow, do you have any stories to tell us about your students there?

HW: I just told you all the stories (laughter) What else do you want to know?

AA: Well, how was Webber different from Rollins?

HW: Oh, Webber was a girl school. I was completely dismayed when I came to Rollins and went in to the dining room for the first time. I almost handed in my resignation that day. You know, boys and girls and no table cloths and long tables and you went through a line to get your food and everything. And at Webber we dressed for dinner and we sat down and were served (laughs) so there was quite a contrast between Webber and Rollins, but I got used to it.

AA: How were the girls at Webber different from the girls at Rollins?

HW: They weren't different. They were all the same nice wonderful kids. The girls at Webber, most of them were quite wealthy. One of the things I did at Webber, which – I started work-study program. We only took girls who had two years of college and they got their second two

years with us and got their degree. And they came to us – the retailing students – came to us in September and stayed until June and in June they had to go to work. And I helped them get a job in a department store in their hometown and they worked from June through Christmas and then they met me in New York for two weeks and I took them in to the market and I showed them how to buy. I did everything with them for two weeks, and then we came back to campus and they were on campus until they graduated in June. But we called it a work-study program, and so by the time they graduated, they had enough work experience that they usually got a good job in the store in which they were working – and that was our object of course.

LT: Was that work-study program kind of ahead of its time, because –

HW: I don't know –

LT: or was it common back then?

HW: There was just no way in Babson Park that I could get girls in to a department store. I took them to Tampa to see different things and I'd brought them to Orlando, but the department stores here weren't very large. My most successful student at Webber was from New York. She did her training at Macy's and when she graduated she got a job at Macy's, she worked herself right up the ladder until she was a merchandise manager at Macy's. Then she went to work for *Vogue* and they sent her to Paris and she did the *Paris-Vogue* for a while and then she came back and worked for – I forget which other large department store – and then she went to FIT, which is Fashion Institute in New York and she became president of FIT. And she's still teaching there and Elaine is eighty.

LT: Is she one of the ones that calls you at Christmas time?

HW: Elaine calls me practically every other month – other day, other week –

LT: That's great –

HW: Elaine has become one of my best friends. But Elaine tickled me because when she turned seventy-five she had stepped down from the presidency but she loved it and she was a good teacher and she kept on teaching. And she said I'm going to retire; she's never been married. And I said, "Elaine, what are you going to do when you retire?" "Oh, I'm going to have the best time. I'm going to sleep late, and I'm going out to lunch with my friends and I'm going to see all the plays." And I said, "And when your friends start dying off, what are you going to do?" "Well, maybe I'll die." And I said, "Well, maybe you won't die," and she said, "Well what do you think I should do?" And I said, "Don't give up your job. Keep your job," I said, "teach one course, but go to work every day." And so she went and talked to them and they said she could do anything that she wanted. So the first couple of years, she taught two courses, which got her our everyday, took her to school, she had somebody to eat lunch with, and she had the rest of the day free. And now, at eighty she's still teaching one course, stays for lunch, and then has the rest of the day free. (laughter) And she called me the other day and she said, "I sure am glad you stay at FIT because," she said, "I don't have enough to do fill up the time I've got." But she had

worked all her life and her friends have died off. You know, when you get in your seventies and eighties, your friends start dying. But she's a great gal, but she's my most successful student.

LT: Great, she took your advice, even when she was seventy-five and eighty. That's good, she's still listening to you.

HW: A lot of them are still listening to me (laughter) – even some in Winter Park.

AA: Okay, we only have a few more minutes left, but before we close, I want to ask you – in 1965 you won an award from Rollins when you left the College. How do you view your Rollins career from the time you were here?

HW: How do I what?

AA: How do you view your Rollins career?

HW: Oh, I loved every minute of it. We did a lot of things. I can remember one of the first things I did was go to the faculty and get permission for the girls to wear sun back dresses. (laughter) You can't believe that can you? And then a year later, I went to the faculty to get permission for them to wear shorts to class. We did all sorts of things like that and I think probably one of the best things we ever did was when we had senior house and ten seniors were allowed to live in – well I forget where the house is now – they were allowed to live there by themselves, have their own hours, cook if they wanted to, do anything they wanted to, and we called it senior house. I don't think they had it after I left.

AA: How do you keep yourself busy these days? I understand that you sew, is that true?

HW: Not anymore. My eyes are gone, I have macular degeneration. Oh, I'm busy all the time because I'm getting ready to die. Now, you all don't like to talk about things like that, but I have no family, I have nobody at all, not one single soul, and so whoever takes care of my estate is going to be somebody who just knows me casually, so I have to have everything ready. You should come out and read the notes in my house. Give this to so-and-so, do this, do that, do the other thing, all over the house, (laughter) so when I go they know what to do with it.

PH: But you're still working out everyday too; you're just not getting ready to die – you're lifting weights and –

AA: You're lifting weights?

PH: Oh yeah, she works out every day at the gym.

AA: Wow, I don't even do that.

HW: Well, you ought to (laughter)

JR: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us before we close?

HW: Don't you think I've shared enough?

JR: Well, thank you Ms. Watson for talking with us and letting us preserve the history of Rollins College and thank you for all your contributions from the time you spent here.

HW: Well, I enjoyed every minute of it.

AA: Thank you.