



Voices of Lycoming Oral Histories
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Oral History of

Ann Merritt Corson and William (Bill) Corson

Alumni, Class of 1959

Date: August 18, 2009
Interview conducted by: Julie Dougherty
Transcribed by: Karla Procpio

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Ann Merritt Corson and William (Bill) Corson

August 18, 2009

Interviewer: Julie Dougherty

Transcriber: Karla Procopio

Dougherty: Good morning, the date is Tuesday, August 18, 2009. I am speaking with Ann and Bill Corson, both 1959 Lycoming College graduates. I am Julie Dougherty from the archives. Okay, do either one of you have any questions before we start? Is there anything you would like to say before we get going? I have some questions.

B. Corson: Okay, I just want to make sure you pick one who is going to come after you to keep so that they are willing to keep all this stuff in the archives...

Dougherty: Oh, don't worry about that, it is going to stay.

B. Corson: We don't need any more presidents like the one.

Dougherty: Okay.

B. Corson: Other than that, no.

Dougherty: Alright, tell me where each of you both were born.

Ann Corson: I was born in Cuba, New York, and grew up in Elmira.

Dougherty: I know where that is.

B. Corson: Up near....

Dougherty: I was born in Syracuse, New York.

Ann Corson: Okay.

Dougherty: Oh, good. Okay Bill where were you born?

B. Corson: I was born in Muncy.

Dougherty: You're a native.

B. Corson: Didn't stray too far from home.

Dougherty: Okay, where did you receive your early education?

B. Corson: Hers is New York state-

Ann Corson: New York state-

Ann Corson: I went six years to one elementary school in Elmira; I went to three Junior High Schools. I went to seventh grade in one school in Elmira, an eighth grade in South Elmira, ninth grade at Elmira Free Academy, tenth and eleventh grade in Manlius High School in Manlius New York, and I graduated, my senior year from Penn Hall Prep School in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Dougherty: What did your dad do?

Ann Corson: He kept getting moved in the company.

Dougherty: Oh, okay.

B. Corson: He worked for the S. M. Flickinger Company which was the Red and White Stores, each time you got a promotion you got a transfer. I didn't know him, but (trails off....)

Dougherty: Bill where were you born?

B. Corson: I was born in Muncy.

Dougherty: Went to school in Muncy.

B. Corson: Went to school in Muncy and I don't know if its fate or not, but I had a year and a half at Penn State, I was accepted at RPI, but everybody else in Muncy was going to Penn State, so I went to Penn State. After a year and a half I decided that that was way too big for a shy, introverted boy who had to live eight blocks from the beginning of the campus and his first class was at 8:00 clock in the morning and was a half mile beyond the campus. And I thought there has to be something different and so we came back at mid-term and I talked to G. Hile Gramley who got me in here. Because it was in the middle of the term though; most of my classes were filled so I had four classes one night a week- night school- and just one class in the daytime. And he said, "Let's see you had ROTC at Penn State and I said, "Yes, Air Force ROTC." "Well, we don't have that but you did a little marching didn't you?" and I said, "Yes, sir." "Well, we can call that phys-ed. So you don't have to come up here so many days a week, and drive up just for a stupid phys-ed class. Thank you..."

Dougherty: I bet. Alright, tell me a little bit about your family.

Ann Corson: Well, my family was all very educated, including my grandparents who all went to college. My grandmother was a high school principal, my grandfather was a pharmacist, my mother's side of the family they went to like what we would call tech school today and learned

a trade, some of that was beyond high school. My mother was a teacher and I have an aunt who was a teacher and my father studied three years to become a doctor and then he decided it was too long a session so he then went into business and graduated from the University of Rochester.

Dougherty: You have siblings?

Ann Corson: No, I'm an only child.

Dougherty: Okay, how about you Bill?

B. Corson: Well, my dad graduated from Beckley College in Harrisburg with an aeronautical engineering degree and he worked up here at Lycoming Motors which is now AXCO. During the war he was disappointed in a way, he wanted to be drafted but they wouldn't let him because he had a more important job here. So he had college, but my mother did not, she just was, I guess you call them "stay at home moms" now a days; housewife, but she graduated from Muncy High School.

Dougherty: Did you have siblings?

B. Corson: One brother, I did have, he just died this year.

Dougherty: I'm sorry.

B. Corson: He was two years younger than I am.

Ann Corson: Just two weeks, three weeks ago.

B. Corson: Yes, two weeks ago.

Dougherty: I'm sorry.

B. Corson: But yeah, but that's just the two of us then, though

Dougherty: What circumstances brought you to Lycoming College?

Ann Corson: Hmm, well I had gone to Alfred for two semesters and didn't like what I was taking. So, I don't know, I came home and got a job and my father said you're going to college and graduate because you need a college degree, so find a college. My mother had a friend whose daughter I guess had gone here, I'm not even sure who or what and I never saw this campus until the day I walked on to be a student.

B. Corson: She just had a brochure and she signed up.

Ann Corson: I had a brochure and I applied and I was accepted and the day I moved into Rich Hall was the first day I saw campus.

Dougherty: That's amazing. What were your impressions when you arrived?

Ann Corson: I didn't know if I really had any impressions

Dougherty: Because you were just here.

Ann Corson: Since I was accepted, and my dad said you're going to college and graduate, so here I am.

B. Corson: So she came here sight unseen and I transferred here because I didn't like the big school, so I guess somewhere up the road there was a path that was designed and we were supposed to meet later here.

Ann Corson: I started as a freshman and went through the four years.

Dougherty: Okay and how did you meet?

Ann Corson: In class.

B. Corson: In history class.

Dougherty: In history class.

Ann Corson: Because we both ended up being history teachers.

B. Corson: Yes, I had thirty two years in teaching at Warrior Run: history.

Ann Corson: I had twenty two and a half.

B. Corson: I played in the band too and unfortunately we didn't have money, but I lived at home and dad, of course, paid the food bills, but I could also join a fraternity because the fraternities lived, most lived on Franklin Street. In those big old restored homes or whatever. The town people could join fraternities because all they had to pay was the fraternity dues. The fraternity boys who lived there paid the college room and board as if they lived in the dorm, if they chose to live in the house. So it only cost me the dues, so I could afford to join a fraternity which was probably very detrimental because this lady over there only dated fraternity boys. So I'm sure she wouldn't have even looked at me if I had not belonged and back then, not because I'm prejudice or anything, but Lambda Chi Alpha was probably the best fraternity on campus. We had the highest grade point average and we also had a lot of the varsity athletic people, so that it became a large and good look-up to fraternity. I'm sure the others were thinking they

were as good too, but we for years had a good reputation. That has faltered a few times since then and I'm not sure where they are now; I guess they're on their way back up again.

Dougherty: Ann how about you? Did you join a sorority?

Ann Corson: We didn't have sororities. Mr. Rich had put in his will that if he paid to have Rich Hall built that there would be no sororities, so we had no sororities. I don't know when the sororities came about. Or how because it was supposedly written in his will that there would be no sororities. Why, I don't know unless it was because....

B. Corson: He wanted you to live in the dorm.

Ann Corson: He wanted you to live in a dorm maybe that was it.

Dougherty: I still think that's the best dorm.

Ann Corson: Oh, Rich Hall- it definitely is.

B. Corson: They did have an Honors House. Rich House wasn't it called? Which is now torn down too, some select ladies could go and live there during their junior or senior year.

Ann Corson: Junior and senior year.

Dougherty: Okay, can you tell me any dorm experiences? Anything that went on that you can share?

Ann Corson: Well, the boys couldn't go beyond the first floor and they couldn't go beyond the double doors that went back to where the girls' rooms were; obviously they could not roam the halls.

B. Corson: They did have little cubby holes with two-seated davenports like in them where you could talk.

Ann Corson: And you couldn't come out to answer a telephone if you had jeans on in your room. And or pajamas or something, you couldn't come out and answer the phone without putting on a raincoat to cover up everything and then you could come out and speak because of course there might be boys in the lounge area there and then of course we had a housemother and the dean of women lived in the same building.

Dougherty: And who was that at the time?

B. Corson: Felix-

Dougherty: Felix? Helen Felix?

Ann Corson: Helen Felix, right, stop me in there but I don't remember who-

B. Corson: Who the older lady was...

Ann Corson: the older lady was who the dorm mother, so to speak. We had teas and if some celebrity came, well sort of was a celebrity, someone from mainly the Methodist Church would come and then we would have teas in the lounge and we as girls had to serve the tea and etc., etc.

Dougherty: And be ladies.

Ann Corson: And be ladies, absolutely.

Dougherty: Were there dorm rules? When did the men have to be out of the lounge?

Ann Corson: Oh yeah, oh yeah, we had hours, we definitely had hours. As freshmen we had to be in by 7:00, as freshmen I think it was 7:00 we had to be in and then by sophomores and the rest of the time we had to be in by 9:00 and then by the time we were juniors, on the weekend, Friday night and Saturday night we could stay out till 11:00, but you had to sign in and sign out and you definitely- and past a certain hour which was like 9:00 the boys couldn't come in the dorm.

Dougherty: What was the punishment if you were late?

Ann Corson: You got more of, a sort of, I think demerits.

B. Corson: Demerits, or restricted to your room.

Ann Corson: Maybe a few demerits, five maybe, then you were written up, as they say, and then you would lose your privilege of going out.

B. Corson: there was some leniency, in other words, if you were out someplace and if you were not going to make it back in time if you called ahead of time, we had an awful lot of flat tires, and couldn't quite get back on time, but that was okay if you called ahead of time.

Dougherty: You could have had a cell phone, too bad you didn't.

B. Corson: No, then they would've wanted us to take a picture and show the flat!

Dougherty: Were you a freshman when you met Bill?

Ann Corson: No, a junior.

Dougherty: A junior.

B. Corson: I was a second semester sophomore, but I commuted and had night classes so I wasn't really walking around on campus till I was a junior. And I played in the band and in those days the band was able to not only be a marching band, but a concert band, we did both. I'm very disappointed in the fact that we don't have a marching band anymore. And of course, as you already know, it was very restrictive in those days and maybe a little more Methodist. Our director, Mr. Josephson, after we performed on the football field, the last thing we did was make a capitol 'L' on our side and played the alma mater which he would then come out and direct. Then his next command was "March the 'L' off the field." And so we would bring the 'L' off the field that was as risqué as you were allowed to get.

Dougherty: Yeah, but that's neat, what a neat idea.

B. Corson: Well, maybe not then.

Dougherty: Not then- What other activities were you involved in? You were in the fraternity, Lambda Chi, in the band, marching band, and what else were you involved in?

B. Corson: The fraternity made these papier-mâché type displays for homecoming and ours did win. I mentioned it being- I guess the old-fashioned word was risqué- now we made a display out of the big papier-mâché stuff and we were rolling a huge snowball toward a huge cave where there was fake fire coming out and it said, it was Penn Military College, PMC in those days, and the big banner on the front said "PMC doesn't have a snowball's chance in blank, blank, blank, couldn't even put hell down there either but that display did win- that was my design.

Dougherty: Oh, was that at homecoming?

B. Corson: That was homecoming here; I think it's even in the yearbook a picture of it.

Dougherty: A float

B. Corson: A float, even though it was a stationary float, it didn't move around.

Ann Corson: And of course we had when it got close to football games and the first football game of the season we had "Yats Esool"

Dougherty: "Yats Esool."

Ann Corson: And we would all....

B. Corson: Yep, that was a Lambda Chi creation also.

Dougherty: Was that when Jim Marcinek was the person who was Yats Esool?

B. Corson: No, he had a little tiny pledge.

Ann Corson: I have no idea who it was.

B. Corson: Can't tell you who he was, I'd have to go in the yearbook, but ah he was a little tiny foot- I mean he wasn't a football player I think, but he wore the helmet and so on- that was, actually it was "stay loose" written backwards, yep- and we would all go up to the Penn railroad, up to the, what was the big building?

Ann Corson: Well it was the Park Hotel.

B. Corson: Park Hotel, oh it was the railroad station there.

Ann Corson: And that's where he would come in.

B. Corson: I don't know, I think they would flag the train down a mile up the road and he came in on the train and the band and everybody would play there and welcomed "Yats Esool" to come to town.

Ann Corson: Once in a great while, maybe twice a year if it was that much, I guess in defiance, we didn't have much to defy, but in defiance someone would bring in a six-pack of beer- and we would put it in the back of the toilet, in other words we saved the college a lot of water! We put them in that way because the water was cold, and of course we divvied it up between about twenty people or whatever you know, everyone who knew about it anyway. Then that was it, we maybe did it once in the spring and once in the fall or something

Dougherty: And the authorities never caught on?

Ann Corson: No, no...

Dougherty: Good job-

Ann Corson: Well, we would stand by our dressers with the drawer open and if a knock came on the door we'd just put it in and pretend we were getting something out of our drawer. You know, we had to do something you know- you had to defy something some ways.

Dougherty: Yeah, right, of course.

Ann Corson: And of course we couldn't go anyplace without putting a raincoat over; we couldn't wear jeans on Saturday morning. We could wear them, but if we were going off again anyplace out of the dorm or that we couldn't wear them. No jeans.

Dougherty: What other organizations were you associated with Ann?

Ann Corson: Ah well, I belonged to quite a few things; I was in several of their plays, their musicals that were written by faculty members right here at college.

Dougherty: Okay-

Ann Corson: And I was in the student education association, Women's Athletic Association, The Dance and Mime Club, The Canterbury Club which was the Episcopal Church of which I'm a member of. The Bell staff which was the newspaper, The Arrow staff which was the yearbook.

Dougherty: So, you did quite a bit-

Ann Corson: Yes, I was on the May Day committees for the May Day programs that we had, so I guess I was pretty active.

B. Corson: I think you were.

Dougherty: I think you were very active for someone who just walked onto campus.

B. Corson: Our band only had twenty five members and so I never processed in with the graduating class; I had to play in the band wearing my cap and gown and then get up front because we were still out there where that bell is.

Dougherty: The quad.

B. Corson: They still do that there?

Dougherty: Um-hum.

B. Corson: And then I'd have to walk out and walk around I didn't go down the front area with the chairs, they needed me in the band.

Dougherty: I think they still do; they still do it that way I believe.

Ann Corson: Talking about the bell.

B. Corson: Does it still ring?

Dougherty: I don't know, it's cemented down, I know that.

B. Corson: Yeah.

Ann Corson: Oh well, it always was. But the boys would sit on the bell or sit around the bell or stand around the bell and the freshmen girls we could not walk in the front campus we had to use back campus for six weeks of school as long as that hazing sort of went on.

B. Corson: They had to walk by the bell-

Ann Corson: They had to walk by the bell to get to class and the boys would sit there and they'd look at us girls and you felt very self-conscious and if they rang the bell which was just hitting it with a stone or something then they figured out, let's see, they thought she was probably a virgin if it rang. I think that's the way it was.

Dougherty: Oh, my goodness!

Ann Corson: If it didn't ring, then she probably wasn't. I think that's the way it was.

B. Corson: I think that's the way they designated you.

Ann Corson: You know, so you felt sort of funny doing that.

Dougherty: I bet you did.

Ann Corson: And then of course in the dining hall we ate down in the chapel underneath the dining hall way out in the chapel and there were eight to a table, square table, and because I was in so many activities and- well it was mainly during the season I played hockey.

Dougherty: Okay-

Ann Corson: Field hockey, in fact we had a winning team the year I played and of course the football players too would be practicing, so we had to eat with them, which was a little later on and if you didn't get in there and get seated the minute they would bring the bread or the meat and it was sort of served family style, because the football players all threw their forks into the bread or the meat so you got in there and hoped that they passed a few first so that you could get around.

Dougherty: So that you could eat.

Ann Corson: So you could eat, right. But they wouldn't serve it till everybody was at the table, but just hope that they handed you the platter-

Dougherty: A girl first-

Ann Corson: So that they could then pass it properly.

Dougherty: But at that point they had waiters was that correct?

Ann Corson: That's correct, yes.

B. Corson: They had waiters right.

Dougherty: Well you'd think the waiters would know enough to give it to the ladies first.

B. Corson: Don't blame it on them, who wants to argue with the big football players?

Dougherty: Well that's true Bill.

B. Corson: We had to attend chapel programs back then, even commuters did so I think my most memorable chapel attendance was when Dr. Martin Luther King was on campus. It was shortly after his Montgomery procession on protesting so he was still somewhat unknown yet, but I remember him, well we both do, and we remember his little speech he gave. He talked about a big dining room with a bunch of doors on the side and a bell rang and the doors opened and everybody came in, but their arms were outstretched and frozen and they couldn't move them.

Ann Corson: No, no, no, no (at the tail end of what her husband had previously said)

B. Corson: Outstretched this way?

Ann Corson: No, no, they were told the man died and he couldn't decide whether he wanted to go.

B. Corson: That's another one.

Ann Corson: No, it isn't, to heaven, or down below, and so St. Peter said to him, "Well, we'll give you a choice. Well, let's go down below first, okay?" And so they did and he said, "You will notice the men will come in one door and the women in the other," and such and when they did (Bill says the following words with Ann) their arms were outstretched and they were stiff and they were all around/food on the table and so they all sat down and pretty soon a bell rang and they got up and they left and nobody ate.

B. Corson: And nobody ate, but all this food was on the table.

Ann Corson: And so then they got up and he said "Wow!" and he didn't like that too well, "Let's go up to heaven," so they, St. Peter took him up to heaven and the same thing- two doors and they come in and they're all like this, but the difference was they ate, and how did they eat? In heaven they fed each other.

Dougherty: Oh for heaven's sake.

B. Corson: And that was his...

Ann Corson: And that was his...

B. Corson: His big story if you want, what else he said I don't remember.

Ann Corson: But that was so, I don't know, it just, everybody seems to have remembered that.

Dougherty: Yeah, well we had, there was a recording of that.

Ann Corson: Oh was there?

Dougherty: And someone stole it.

Dougherty: We don't have it, and we don't know who took it, no, now we have the story from you because we didn't have that before, this is wonderful. That's really great.

Ann Corson: We remember that more than anything else, you know.

Dougherty: He was dynamic, correct? Was he a dynamic?

Ann Corson: Yes, yes.

B. Corson: He was just like he was on his other interviews and I mean he didn't (trails off)

Ann Corson: I stayed awake during that chapel... (everyone laughs), some of them I didn't stay too awake, or I studied or went over something.

Dougherty: Someone asked me if you were related to Bishop Corson?

B. Corson: Yes, that was one of my saving graces also when we had to go meet something. I'm Lutheran and I was in the Lutheran Organization on campus, but when we were going through the receiving lines and whatever when they introduced you and said, "Oh, are you related to Bishop Corson?" and I'd always nod my head, "I'm not sure, but I think yes", but now that we are older and retired and so on, we've done some genealogy, but I'm not directly related to him- it may be one of my grandfather's great grandfather's brothers or something that came down with the line, but uh I always sort of admitted- "Oh, yes," you know in case the instructors heard that, why they might...

Dougherty: Well you know he is on our streaming audio on our website so you can hear him if you get into our website into the archival website we have several now.

Ann Corson: I'm not computer literate, I don't think so.

B. Corson: We can check with our son he's our computer handler.

Dougherty: Mine is too.

Ann Corson: The other thing I remember was the panty raid; the only successful panty raid that Lycoming College has ever had was I think; I don't know whether it was our junior or senior year, I think it was our junior year.

B. Corson: I think it was into your junior year.

Ann Corson: Exams were over with and etc., so we just all of a sudden- it started out as a water battle and I think it started out between Sigma Pi and Lambda Chi as a water battle, but I'm not sure and then they started coming over to the girls' dorm and trying to get in and um, somebody opened the window and let them through with the idea that they'd pass right on through.

B. Corson: And not disturb your dressers.

Ann Corson: Yes and so then it all started out in fun and then they were bringing buckets of water over and throwing them on people and Dean Buckle got a pail of it dumped on him.

Dougherty: Uh oh!

Ann Corson: They thought it was one of the kids and threw on a pail of water on him. Then another fraternity, and I don't know which one, because I didn't leave the dorm, got involved and somehow or other they made a cross and put it up on the campus and set fire to it and that brought fire trucks and everything else. Then that really, then it got out of hand.

Dougherty: What year was that?

Ann Corson: I think it was 1958.

Dougherty: The year before you graduated?

Ann Corson: I think so, yes.

Dougherty: Wow, you have wonderful stories, fantastic stories.

Ann Corson: I think a lot of the people will remember that one.

Dougherty: I'm sure- who were your friends? And did you stay in touch with anyone?

Ann Corson: Well, yes when I first came to college I lived with kids that were, girls that were two year students. My roommate was from Rochester, New York, where I was from. She was a

two year student, and Carol, her name was Carol Cornely which was now Batcheler was a two year and Nancy Whitman was a two year student and I roomed with them and well then they graduated after two years because they took the course and then moved on, but I still keep in contact and see Carol who lives in State College, at least twice a year and sometimes we even go on a cruise together and then Nancy, I have just gotten re-in touch with her when we went on vacation out to Des Moines, Iowa where she lived and so now we're in touch. So now Carol and I and our husbands meet at the border of New York State; she came down from Ithaca where she was from, and we met last year. And then I keep in contact with Mary, she was Mary Johnson, now she's Mary Johnson Berrier and she lives down in Mifflintown and she and I lived together up here on Ross Street when we both graduated. She was working here at the college and I was teaching in South Williamsport, so we had shared an apartment.

B. Corson: It was an apartment building before the college bought it.

Ann Corson: It's gone now. I was in touch with my roommate and she just passed away, Shirley Adams, she and I were pretty close. Well, when we're out west in the winter time, because we winter in Arizona, we see a couple of fraternity brothers.

B. Corson: My fraternity brothers.

Ann Corson: Out there, and their wives, but their wives didn't go here to college, but the men did. And then we have some that live right around by Muncy so yeah, we keep in contact.

Dougherty: You keep in touch.

Ann Corson: Yes.

B. Corson: One of the men that I was looking back I think the 25th or 30th or whatever reunion they had a listing of lost people, Billy Chitwood was one of them, and he had been lost for thirty four years.

Ann Corson: And we found him.

B. Corson: This last winter in preparation for our big fiftieth I was given a list of names to try and find and they found that Chitwood lives outside of-

Ann Corson: Tucson.

B. Corson: North of, no, nearer to Phoenix (Mrs. Corson says this at the exact same time) and so Marvin Klapp lives in Saddlebrook, which is in the Tucson area, so he and I, we've gotten together quite a bit in the winters and so we all contacted Billy Chitwood; he was from Tennessee when he came here to college and hopefully they will try to make it back this October.

Dougherty: Oh, that's wonderful.

B. Corson: I'm not sure yet, he says, "Well, when you're our age travel is a little more difficult."

Dougherty: That's true.

B. Corson: Maybe so.

Dougherty: That is true. Who were your favorite professors?

B. Corson: I made a list of Robert Ewing first of all, because I was mostly in history.

Dougherty: In history, yes.

B. Corson: His deep voice was something else.

Dougherty: That's what everyone says.

Ann Corson: The voice from God.

B. Corson: Yep, very good teacher, and we called him, though we didn't call him to his face, but Tommy- Tommy Barnes.

Dougherty: Dr. Barnes.

B. Corson: Dr. Barnes. The old education building that was a barracks I guess.

Dougherty: Memorial Hall.

B. Corson: Memorial Hall.

Ann Corson: Yes, yes it was Memorial and it was red.

B. Corson: The red one, not the one behind it that was Old Main.

Dougherty: Nooo.

B. Corson: Anyway there was a country walkway to get to the building and it had little fences up, well somebody took Dr. Brane's little tiny car and put it on top of that walkway.

Ann Corson: He had a Volkswagen.

B. Corson: No it wasn't, it was a French car, a Renault, and it just fit in there and of course when he came out, there it was and then a few of the football players were very kind and helpful and helped him get it back out of there.

Ann Corson: I imagine they had put it in there in the first place.

B. Corson: I liked him and we had a young man, Michael Wargo, who was also history. He didn't stay for too many years, I think he went into politics or something as a background helper for people and of course Dr. Derr was our mentor in student teaching; we had a couple education classes with him and Otto Sonder.

Dougherty: Oh everyone liked Otto Sonder.

B. Corson: For sociology, and I learned a lot about the living of the South-

Ann Corson: South Pacific Islands.

B. Corson: ...from him, yes.

Dougherty: Wasn't he also in theatrical productions?

B. Corson: and **Ann Corson:** Yes, yes, yes, he helped.

B. Corson: And of course Jim Sheaffer was our band director at that time.

Dougherty: Oh, okay.

Ann Corson: He was the one who helped write some of these plays and musicals.

Dougherty: I interviewed him a few years ago and he's still wonderful.

B. Corson: **Ann Corson:** Yes.

Dougherty: He really is.

Ann Corson: Well I liked Dr. Barnes and I liked Otto Sonder and Dr. Ewing and Mrs. Vargo, Sally, I see her husband just passed away and of course Dr. Shortess, he was my advisor and Dr. Derr as well.

Dougherty: Do you remember how many approximately how many people were in your class? How many graduated with you? Were there 500? 300?

B. Corson: Oh, geez.

Ann Corson: I don't think there were that many.

Dougherty: Small class?

B. Corson: They, they probably had to; I know they kept it the whole campus population was locked in around 1100 or 1200 back then.

Dougherty: Okay.

B. Corson: I think they said they wanted to keep Lycoming small and that was the one thing I liked, even though I commuted it didn't take me long to learn three fourths of the peoples' names that were on campus here; you have around a thousand or so it doesn't take long to learn most of them.

Dougherty: That's right.

Ann Corson: Dr. Howe.

B. Corson: Dr. Howe.

Dougherty: Yes.

B. Corson: Yeah, he was in biology.

Ann Corson: And education.

B. Corson: I went home with her to Rochester and just as we came into the city, the vehicle, the driver we were riding with was involved in a traffic accident at an intersection and Ann had a ruptured kidney and was in the hospital for quite some time, but Dr. Shortess and Dr. Howe, he was injecting mice to deal with toxins or whatever.

Ann Corson: That was our senior year.

B. Corson: Your senior year and they carried on the experiment for her and a couple of classmates did the results or whatever till she was able to get back down.

Dougherty: That probably wouldn't happen today.

Ann Corson: Oh, probably not.

B. Corson: Probably wouldn't.

Ann Corson: But he, well he, they reassigned two people to work with my mice and do what I was doing and they still passed me.

Dougherty: Well how long after you graduated did you marry?

Ann Corson: One year.

B. Corson: 1960, well she only had a mother, her father had, her father died when she was...

Ann Corson: Six weeks into college.

B. Corson: ...here, but her mother and my parents said to both of us we have no qualms about you two getting married, but- why don't you wait a year and save some money.

Ann Corson: Well but we were starting out with new careers.

B. Corson: New careers.

Ann Corson: And it would be a good idea to not jump into things. Not that they didn't want us to marry it was just give you some time to get used to your job and then find a place to live and get a little money ahead.

B. Corson: So, that's what we did.

Dougherty: So, you both became history teachers in Muncy?

B. Corson: Ann Corson: No.

Ann Corson: He became a history teacher.

B. Corson: I started right from graduation at Warrior Run- a then Turbotville, Watsontown jointure and I actually stayed there for well, I had thirty two years there, but it was interrupted when I went on active duty with the Air Force; I had four years and became a Second Lieutenant in service.

Ann Corson: Then when you came back....

B. Corson: Came back to teaching after that the draft was on and I didn't know but people, schoolteachers were automatically deferred, your principal wrote and you wrote to the draft board saying, "He's going to teach next year," so you'd get deferred, but whereas an ordinary person is eligible to be drafted until the age of twenty-six (**Dougherty:** thirty-six) because I was deferred was put in a separate drawer with other deferrers and we could be drafted until the age of thirty-six. And I said to Ann, "You know, about the time we think about going in debt for a mortgage I'll get drafted," and I said, "If I do that there's nothing wrong with being drafted, but an enlisted man's pay won't take care of my mortgage." My principal said, "Well why don't you ask the school board for a four year leave of absence, volunteer, get on in, get it over with,

and then come back.” So I worked for the company for three years and I wrote a letter and said I’d like the next four off and they agreed.

Dougherty: Wow.

B. Corson: And so I went in the military and became a Second Lieutenant and went on active duty and four years later I came back to teaching at Warrior Run.

Ann Corson: And then became associated with the Air Force Academy.

B. Corson: And I stayed with the Air Force Reserve for the next twenty five years. I was assigned to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. I worked here as something like a recruiter type; I can’t say recruiter because that’s what that congressmen do, they have the privilege of appointing people, not me, but I would interview potential students that would like to go there and try and give them some idea about what I learned, about what’s in store for you and so I had twenty five years with the academy and ended up with twenty eight years of military service and from a Second Lieutenant to a Lieutenant Colonel so it was.

Dougherty: That’s pretty good!

B. Corson: That and with the teaching at Warrior Run, same time period, so I tell people I had twenty eight years in the military, and thirty two in teaching; I said that’s sixty years of work- and I’m only fifty four, so it’s time to quit!

Ann Corson: When you retired.

B. Corson: When I retired.

Dougherty: Yeah, and what did you do then?

Ann Corson: Well, when I graduated I got a teaching job over at South Williamsport in the high school, in biology, because that’s what I graduated in and the man who was going to leave the position for a year to take a sabbatical his grant was not accepted or he didn’t get it so he rescinded his teaching job, he wanted to continue teaching so I was without a job.

Now in those days you were interviewed by the Board of Education and by the superintendent as well as the principal and they said to me, “We had promised you a job and hired you. We don’t have that job open, but we have a fourth grade open.” I said, “But I’m not an elementary teacher, I’m secondary.” “Well, we think you can handle it. Your mother is a first grade teacher, and she can give you some pointers.” And I said, “Well, I’m not very competent with reading, teaching the reading course by fourth grade they had a pretty good background.” “Well the only stipulation you take one course per semester working towards an elementary certification.” I said, “Okay.” So, I did that, got the elementary, eventually; I took night courses here at the college, some from Penn State Extension, some from Bucknell in the summertime

and finally got my elementary certification. Then they wanted husband-wife combinations down at Warrior Run so there was an opening in fourth grade down at Dewart School which is a little country school, so I applied, plus the fact it was costing money: we had one car, he was commuting, I was walking and so we decided that that would be a better idea. So, I got the job down there at Warrior Run in Dewart and then when he went in the service. I followed him and we lived in Oklahoma and we had one son while we were out there. He is the only child we have; he is also a graduate of Lycoming College. When we came back, when our son got into fourth grade, was when I went back teaching full time. I went back in history because I also had a history degree, this was at Warrior Run and I taught across the hall from him, so we commuted together.

Dougherty: That's neat!

Ann Corson: And our son, our son graduated from here too.

Dougherty: When did he graduate?

Ann Corson: 1982, with one degree in Philosophy and he got the "Faus Award."

B. Corson: "The Dr. Faus Award" that year.

Ann Corson: And he came back to Lycoming and got his teaching certificate in '89, I want to say '89 maybe.

B. Corson: '87 or '89 somewhere around then.

Ann Corson: I'm not quite sure but he worked in between times so.

B. Corson: In those days superintendents and interviewers cared and so when Mr. Rommelt, called her in and said, "You don't have your job," and she said, "Well it's in late August and I've already turned down Sunbury and a couple others jobs," he said, "We're going to take care of you." And that's when he offered her the fourth grade job and of course that was, we weren't married yet, so she thought she better stay in the area just to be sure and so that's why she took the fourth grade, one of the reasons why she took the fourth grade job. And that's when she lived up on Law Street with Mary Johnson. Things I guess worked out alright.

Dougherty: What issue or issues for the future of Lycoming College should be addressed do you think?

Ann Corson: You know; we don't really know what.

B. Corson: Keep it small.

Ann Corson: Dougherty: Keep it small.

Dougherty: B. Corson: I think

B. Corson: I think that's pretty well locked in stone now, it's a great school and actually my whole life has been because of that, because of up at Lycoming really and I know when the professors from here go to other large meetings your seated according to the founding of your school, and so Lycoming people love to go because their way, they're up near Harvard they're way ahead of Penn State and all these other schools and so on and so we have a good reputation.

Dougherty: That's wonderful.

B. Corson: I think that yeah, just keep- don't, don't get into too much of this modern hype stuff, the basics still work.

Ann Corson: The basics still work, that's exactly right.

Dougherty: What advice would you give an incoming student?

B. Corson: Hmmmm....I don't-

Ann Corson: You know I-

B. Corson: Work hard and stay here; it'll work out in the end.

Dougherty: Um-hmm.

Ann Corson: Yes, the biggest thing is, I don't know, I was trying to think – I don't know, to me if they would just dress and if they would work.

B. Corson: Yes.

Dougherty: They talk now about the helicopter generation that the kids are so connected to their parents with cell phones (**Ann Corson:** I know) and texting and everything and their...

Ann Corson: That their not really enjoying college.

Dougherty: Well they're not getting independent; this is supposed to be a way to learn to be on your own and not having as much contact.

B. Corson: Yeah, I'm sure. The modern world as you, as we mentioned earlier, about computers, my son is bringing me into the world- couple of years ago he ordered a laptop for me and I'm able to at least do some work on it and we can use a program called Skype when we're out wintering in Arizona so that we can see and talk to each other and so on.

Ann Corson: We don't have cell phones.

B. Corson: We don't need....

Ann Corson: Or picture taking or any of that.

B. Corson... all that stuff. I think the new generation is relying too much on this material and slowly they're finding out how harmful it is, this, this what do you call it "sexting" taking nude pictures of yourself? I mean you have to realize that whatever you use-

Ann Corson: You have to have morals; we have to put morals back in to life.

B. Corson: Exposed to the world, yeah? Yeah, we griped because of the rules and restrictions at Lycoming; I certainly didn't want her back at eleven at night or whatever, but you need to have some boundaries.

Ann Corson: Or I would have liked to have thrown on a pair of jeans.

Dougherty: Right, right ...but which is still important I think.

B. Corson: You need to have boundaries.

Ann Corson: I think they need to teach.

B. Corson: So you know where you can and cannot go.

Ann Corson: I think they need to teach more, more morals, more be nice to each other but not be, some of this, what am I trying, I don't know what I want to say about it...their, their attitudes are so you know, and they're not being- oh I know- they're not being nice to each other, simply because they're not with each other.

Dougherty: That's right.

Ann Corson: They go stick themselves in a corner to use this modern equipment and they don't talk to each other, they aren't sociable.

B. Corson: I have an English minor and I say bring back the word "have," they don't use "have" anymore. "Got" is not supposed to be there.

Dougherty: That's right.

B. Corson: That just, my ears just ring when I...

Dougherty: Did I forget to ask anything? Is there anything you wanted to add that I didn't ask?

Ann Corson: I answered all my questions and some of his too.

B. Corson: Now, I said, I went to the fraternity during the daytime because at noon I couldn't eat in the dorm, well maybe I could've, but I couldn't afford that. There was a little old lady half way up Franklin Street on the same side as the fraternities and she made hot meatloaf sandwiches every day. Now, I don't remember what I had to pay for one, maybe fifty cents or something, but a lot of us would go up there, "the townies," and buy our hot meatloaf sandwiches and come back to the fraternity and in the living room of the fraternity we could sit there and eat our noon meal and I think the TV program "Concentration" was on at that time, and we could watch that.

Ann Corson: So, do you have any other questions?

Dougherty: No, I think that this has been wonderful; I thank you both very, very much and it's so unusual to have a couple.

Ann Corson: Oh, I doubt there's quite a few of us...

B. Corson: Well, our son says we're unique, you know, next year will be fifty years of marriage, he says: "My generation doesn't even attempt to come near that."

Dougherty: Right, well, I'm going to turn this off.

