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Davis, Kay Oral History Interview

Doris Meyer

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Davis, Catherine P. (1953-1986)
Dean of Women and Vice President of Student Life

September 27, 2003
By Doris Meyer

Transcribed by Alissa Magorian, University Archives

Subjects: Supervisor of housing, house mothers, student conduct and discipline, student honor societies, dress code for women, student hours/curfews, parent orientation.
DORIS: We’re starting it; we’re still just practicing…

KAY: Oh we’re just practicing.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: Well, my name is Catherine. Catherine Priscilla Davis.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: But I go by the name of Kay.

DORIS: Right, so let’s see how, what we got right now, ok… so, we’re going to stop…

(Pause).

DORIS: …how loud we are, ok?

(Pause).

KAY: Good.

DORIS: Hi everybody, the day is September 27, uh, I was going to say 19, 2003. (Kay chuckles). And uh, we’re down at the library at UOP. My name is Doris Meyer and I had the opportunity to interview for our oral historical interviews Kay Davis. Hi Kay.

KAY: Hi.

DORIS: Do you want to say your name again? We’ve heard that Catherine P. before, what does that stand for?

KAY: Priscilla.

DORIS: Priscilla? So you’re officially…?

KAY: I’m officially a descendant of John and Priscilla Alden along with a million other people.
DORIS: Really?

KAY: And Priscilla… Yeah that’s right. The name Priscilla has been in every generation up until my name, there’s no Priscilla now other than me. But there are millions of people who are descendants from them. (Laughs).

DORIS: But we always knew you as Kay Davis.

KAY: That’s right, I’m always Kay…

DORIS: Is that all right with you?

KAY: Yeah, I’d much prefer the Kay.

DORIS: So, Kay, you and I have known each other for a long time. You were here I think before 1956.

KAY: I came in 1953.

DORIS: And what prompted you to arrive at the University of the Pacific, then the College of the Pacific?

KAY: Well, I followed Harriett Peterson, who had been Dean of Women, because we were called Dean of Women in those days; we separated women and men. Because she got married and that left a vacancy. So I came here, both of us having done our graduate work at Syracuse and in the special what we called the Student-Dean program there. And they had a good organization finding jobs for you, and I was told that there was vacancy out here. Then President Burns called me on the Fourth of July in 1953, asked if I was interested, and would I come out for an interview. I said that I was very interested but because of the distance, I wanted to be guaranteed a job. (Laughter). He said if I came out I would have a job. (Laughter).

DORIS: Really?

KAY: Yeah. I think he took an awful… he took a gamble. He took a gamble. So it was in… it must have been July of 1953 that I came out for my interview with a number of people, among of which one was Dr. Burns. And as you know, he loved to tease people. I remember, and he used to tell everybody this, that when I met him in his office and I was sitting there dressed of course with hat and gloves, because you always wore a hat and gloves. And he asked me to take off my hat so he could see what I looked like. He always, he got a great deal of… a great charge out of our organizational meetings and telling them that when he asked me to undress, I complied; much to my embarrassment. (Laughter).

DORIS: So when he…
KAY: And because it embarrassed me, of course, that’s why he continued to say it.

DORIS: So when he introduced you to others did he bring that up in time? (Laughter).

KAY: Not that. No, no… thank goodness.

DORIS: Well, then was it the very same Fall of that year that you came out?

KAY: Yeah, so that was July, and I came out to take on the job in September, actually in November, uh, no, in August.

DORIS: Right.


DORIS: And retired then in what year?

KAY: Then I retired in… I always have to look this up. I think it was 85, 86, somewhere in there, that time.

DORIS: I remember looking over these questions uh, some of those early days, and you talk about hat and gloves and all of that, and that reminds me of you know of dress codes and whatnot. But uh, one of the questions asked about other than Bob Burns, Robert Burns, who were some of the earlier people that you remember that really helped you get going and feeling comfortable. Do you remember any?

KAY: Yeah I remember a few of them. I remember that probably there were two people who were more help than anything else, anyone else to me, one was Ellen Deering, who of course at that time knew all the answers to everything. But I would have been lost without her.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: Because she helped me find a place to live.

DORIS: Is that right?

KAY: She introduced me to people, you know so that I really began to feel comfortable here. And the other one was Alice Saecker, who was the administrative assistant to Dr. Burns, and later we became very close friends.

DORIS: And Ellen and Alice were under different administrative bosses. Who were you working directly under at that time? Or were you your own boss?
KAY: Actually I would have been working directly under the President. See we had the Dean of Women and the Dean of Men, and Ed Betz was the Dean of Men at that time. Because much of the work which was done was done in a separate, separated, separated classes. He worked with men and men’s organizations. I worked with the women with the housing, both men and women’s housing, of course, and with the Sororities and women’s organizations; some of which had been started by my predecessor, and which we continued to work with until they became connected with the national organization.

DORIS: Can you mention, I remember some of those, can you remember some of those?

KAY: Well, we had a senior honorary one, called Knolens, Dr., Mrs. Knoles, and that became that became part of a national organization.

DORIS: Did that become Mortar Board?

KAY: That became Mortar Board.

DORIS: Right. And then…?

KAY: It was national. Then we had a sophomore organization, which we called Spurs. And that also became a national organization. What did we call that? Sophomore Honorary Society. I think we always called it Spurs.

DORIS: And I remember that was…

KAY: And there was a freshman.

DORIS: There was a freshman one too?

KAY: Yeah, there was a freshman…

DORIS: What was that?

KAY: That was mostly honorary. Now you stop… you know, I don’t remember some of those names.

DORIS: Me either.

KAY: They escape me.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And as I think about it, gradually they will come back to me.

DORIS: Right.
KAY: But there was there a freshman honorary organization too. It began with an Alpha.

DORIS: Well, Spurs was the one I remember especially.

KAY: Yeah, very active.

DORIS: Very active, and I remember in Grace Covell Hall where we used to have just great fun. What were some of the activities? I remember there were some activities where maybe it was having to do with capping and all of that.

KAY: Oh, they always had a special capping organization. And then they might, they’d have the regular meetings, and they might take on some things… you know, there might be some kind of a social event, and they would help out with that. Uh, little things, wherever it was that they could be of use.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: And they were very close to each other.

DORIS: It was a real honor I remember. And the sophomores being still young…

KAY: Yeah, it meant a lot to them.

DORIS: It meant a lot to them.

KAY: That’s right.

DORIS: I remember very well.

KAY: And the Knolens, or rather Mortar Board, while I was still here, at first it was open only to women. And then it was open to men. Back in the days when legally you could no longer separate the women and the men as far as those organizations were concerned.

DORIS: You think that was around in the 70’s?

KAY: Yeah.

DORIS: Perhaps the early 70’s.

KAY: Sororities and fraternities were exempt.

DORIS: Repeat that again.

KAY: I said fraternities and sororities were exempt. The women in sororities didn’t have to take in men, and the men…
DORIS: Right.

KAY: Yeah, and the men didn’t have to take in women.

DORIS: Uh, back to the dress code thing that I mentioned. (Chuckles). Can you recall, can you recall anything special about that?

KAY: Yeah, I am still… every time I see some graduate I have, they remind me of some of the dress codes. You could not appear with curlers in your hair.

DORIS: You could not appear where?

KAY: Anywhere with curlers in your hair, even for breakfast you had to… If you were going to go swimming and you put on your bathing suit, you had to put on a wrap over that, because you couldn’t go across campus in a bathing suit. (Laughter). And for some occasions you couldn’t wear pants. Slacks were just beginning to come in, and if you were a woman you were expected to wear a dress, or a skirt. And I can remember, then of course I was bound by the same thing, and I, if I went to the grocery store to buy something, I had to make sure I was not wearing pants, because… (she laughs).

DORIS: You had to set the example.

KAY: I had to set the example. That’s right.

DORIS: Sure, sure.

KAY: And uh, I would have been scared to death if anyone had seen me elsewhere.

DORIS: Right, uh, I remember the Grace Covell housing situation. By 1953 when you came, Grace had not yet been built. When did the building take place, and can you talk just a little bit about the house mothers, and your responsibility for selecting house mothers?

KAY: Well, when I first came here, our primary housing units were South and West Hall for women.

DORIS: The combined one.

KAY: And, well no, they were operated separate.

DORIS: Is that right?

KAY: They were operated separately. And a different house mother in each of those, and in those days, you called the woman in charge a house mother. Uh, we did not have sufficient housing for everyone, so we had to find housing in the town. And there were
people who loved to have young women and men in their homes. So one of the things we had to do was to approve these off campus housing, and get them filled. And that’s when I first came across the fact that there was a racial prejudice of which I had been unaware. I mean I was, I grew up on the east coast, I knew no one who spoke Spanish, so the desire here, or the need for understanding that, the fact that no Orientals could have a house above a certain street in town. That when you rented or bought houses in some areas, you had to sign in the lease that you would not have any, allow any blacks, or Orientals, or Mexican people, where thank-goodness we don’t have those in the present time. But that was part of the growing up of the city of Stockton, which at that time was a completely different kind of city from what it is at the present time.

DORIS: How do you think, or why do you say that?

KAY: First of all, its size.

DORIS: Uh huh.

KAY: Of course, its changing rapidly now, because the influx of people in the Bay Area, but uh, there was a lack in interest in such things as... well, I would say the museum because we had it, but nobody ever knew it was there.

DORIS: That’s right.

KAY: You know it was a well-kept secret. If you had a bond issued for having a place for plays, that would sell. They brought up I don’t know how many times the need for bond issues to build libraries, and they were turned down. While that still is true to a certain extent, people are now recognizing the need for the cultural things along the way. And when we used to have to house women off campus, it opened up for me the building of Grace Covell Hall.

DORIS: That’s right. Back to back.

KAY: Which was an ends to a very great extent by the funds from the government, the national government, and I can remember when we worked with the architects on this, one of the things we wanted was air conditioning, which was rare at those times, but we never did get it. They said there was no need for it, nobody had air conditioning in the Valley. We didn’t have air conditioning on campus. There were times when we, as I’m remembering, had to do something with the Main Hall in Grace Covell to save $15,000, and I was ecstatic, because I said, “Oh boy, then we could use that for...” and I got stopped.

DORIS: Is that…? Well, go ahead, please, go ahead. Yeah, I was just thinking when you were talking about that… so you were involved in the designing of the building?

KAY: To a certain extent.
DORIS: And then what time was the building first occupied? Was it in 56, or thereabouts, or before?

KAY: You know, I do have to check my figures, I’d have to go back and check the figures on that one.

DORIS: Right. Were Mrs. Adkins…

KAY: She was one of the house-mothers.

DORIS: And Mrs. Wilbur? Miss Wilbur?

KAY: No. No. Mrs.…. Adkins and…

KAY: Not Wilbur.

DORIS: Oh, she’s right on the tip of my tongue.

KAY: Mine too.

DORIS: It’ll come to us. I can see them both, can’t you?

KAY: Yeah, yeah. But she was marvelous, she, well, they both had been in South West Hall.

DORIS: Oh they had. And so they both moved over.

KAY: I moved them over.

DORIS: Oh.

KAY: Because I was in charge of doing the assigning, hiring the house mothers.

DORIS: And there were always beautiful…

KAY: Wilbur.

DORIS: Wilbur. You got it, Mrs. Wilbur. There were beautiful floral displays, and the…

KAY: That was the result of Mrs. Wilbur’s interest. She was an exceptionally wonderful person. She had done a lot of work with the YWCA, with social organizations concerned, opened during the war, the Second World War. She loved flowers, and ever since she had to retire because of her age… but that front lobby was always beautiful, she always had gorgeous bouquets there. We had a Christmas open house that was absolutely fabulous.
Never had anything like that since. That was primarily her work. Mrs. Adkins was second in command, and they both had apartments in the building, and the building was designed to have separate units, and we had student counselors for each of those units. And some of those people later came on and occupied different kinds of positions on campus, which was interesting, it was wonderful training for them.

DORIS: Yeah, I remember they were called the R.A.’s.

KAY: They still call them the R.A.’s.

DORIS: Yes, they call them the R.A.’s. The unit was all women, at first.

KAY: Oh yes.

DORIS: Until about when? Do you remember when men were moving into… it was quite a while later, wasn’t it?

KAY: Oh, it was after I left.

DORIS: Really?

KAY: for Grace Covell.

DORIS: Oh, it was all women up until the eighties.

KAY: Well, where we did have women and men in the quads, in those ones, but Grace Covell was for women for a long time.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And then gradually they… all of the houses became co-ed.

DORIS: Right. You know, its not related to one of the questions, but as we talk, Manor Hall across the street was a housing unit. Did it have something to do with the home economics department at one time?

KAY: Originally, no. Originally, it was a home for young married couples, and there are a lot of now older graduates who were married and lived there. Then they no longer had the young married couples, but it was turned into a housing for women. And it was sort of an apartment place because they had a stove and a little kitchen that they could do their own cooking in. And the Home Economics department took over some of this; they were interested in some of this because they used it for nutritional training with the kids. For example, one of the assignments was to plan meals for so many days and you only had a dollar a day. Do you understand what I mean now [about how the Manor Hall was used by the Home Economics department]?
DORIS: Oh, is that right? I remembered the tea room, we used to go over there for lunch sometimes. Do you remember they had the Home Economics tea room, and you would go around the back door, gee, I remember... oh gosh. (Kay laughs). Well, we better get going. Gee, this is interesting. Are you doing ok?

KAY: Yep.

DORIS: Are you feeling comfortable?

KAY: Yep.

DORIS: Ok...

KAY: I am amazed at how much I’ve forgotten.

DORIS: (Laughs). Yeah.

KAY: Oh some of it will come back.

DORIS: Uh, let’s see, we talked a little bit about some of the people that you became acquainted with and that helped in the beginning. Was there, Ed Betz and you, did you separate women’s and men’s departments for quite some time?

KAY: Oh, yes. Yes.

DORIS: So...

KAY: Then he became Dean of Students.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And someone else came in as Dean of Men. And I can remember who were they all. Zimmerman was one of them. And Dick Williams.

DORIS: Oh I remember him, a tall, slender young fellow, I remember him.

KAY: Uh huh.

DORIS: Ok.

KAY: So and then, later, Ed became Dean of Students and such, and Judy came in and was Head of Personnel as far as Housing was concerned. She was the assistant to the President.

DORIS: Judy... ah, ok, that’s Judy Chambers. Who was Judy...
KAY: Then she became Dean of Students, then she became Vice President of Student Life.

DORIS: What was Judy’s maiden name? Before Chambers?

KAY: Oh… Judy, uh… McMillan

DORIS: Programs. Did student life have responsibilities for social life, disciplining or control of what went on in…?

KAY: Everything outside of what was done in the classroom.

DORIS: Can you give some examples of what kinds of control we talk about…?

KAY: Well, one would be discipline.

DORIS: Ok. For instance… (pause). Like if there was something going on…

KAY: If there had been something going on, let’s see, in a Fraternity house.

DORIS: Uh huh.

KAY: And that’s often. (Chucking).

DORIS: Yeah, that’s always the example.

KAY: That often came up as far as I was concerned, and there was a committee that worked with some of this too. It wasn’t done… one person wasn’t responsible for all of it. But it was, the committee, but it was primarily the Student Life. We were also connected with certain academic things only in that, if someone had kept failing, for example, they would be put on probation. Student Life had a part in that. Because we knew the life that that person was living outside that might have a great deal to do with his academic performance.

DORIS: Was there… not to interrupt, but to interrupt… was there a responsibility then to have counselors work under you, or at the health clinic, or…? Where along the line did you get counseling help to help students who needed that help. Or did you and your staff do most of that?

KAY: We did most of that. And there might be a faculty person who was very much interested was close to a student would be doing some of that. We didn’t have in those days, we didn’t have the sort thing that they have at the present time. First of all, we didn’t need it. WE didn’t have that many people. See when I first came here, I knew everybody by name. After a while we got so big that you didn’t know everybody by name.
DORIS: You knew every student by name?

KAY: I knew every student by name. And especially the women I knew.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: By name.

DORIS: Then was Cowell Health Center… was it built at all during your period of time?

KAY: Uh, yeah. But the health center most of the time was where the fraternity, I mean where the financial center is at the present time.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: That was the health center.

DORIS: Ok, one of our close friends was Doris…

KAY: Doris Richards.

DORIS: Doris Richards, right. So…

KAY: Yes, for years she was in charge of the health center.

DORIS: And we called it what at that time? Do we it call it the Health Center, or did we call it the Infirmary?

KAY: Infirmary. We called it the Infirmary.

DORIS: Uh, did Doris work under you, or did Doris work in the infirmary…?

KAY: No. She was separate.

DORIS: She was separate. She was a special lady. I remember her.

KAY: And she lived to be what? 92, 93, or so…

DORIS: Right.

KAY: But she was there, and some of the people who were nurses there still are here in town.

DORIS: I remember her friend and companion Janet.

KAY: Janet. She’s still living here in Stockton.
DORIS: Is that right?

KAY: Uh huh.

DORIS: Let’s stop for just a second.

KAY: Ok.

(Tape pauses).

DORIS: Ok, Kay, we just had a little break, and our voices seem like they are coming through loud and clear. We were talking about some of the roles of the Dean and the deanship. We were talking a little bit about some of the mental health concerns that you reached, and you said there were relatively few students, in fact, you knew so many of them by name, that that’s really hard to remember, I think, for me. We discussed some of the other roles of the deanship, and you had mentioned something about talking with students a good bit of your day. Can you continue with that?

KAY: That would be individual counseling. Or working with groups. Like setting up and working with Pan Hellenic.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: Which was responsible for all of the programs for the sorority. We also had the Student Personnel Committee, and that was composed of, of, this dean of… well it would be dean of men, dean of women, the registrar was often there, the Academic dean, because I remember Sam Meyer and Lloyd Bertholf were on that committee.

DORIS: What was the name of that committee again?

KAY: The Student Personnel Committee.

DORIS: The Student Personnel Committee.

KAY: And we also had somebody who represented the faculty, who took care of a lot of things. The committee took care of some academic problems, it took care of some discipline problems, it took care of some relationship problems as far as students were concerned. It covered a little bit of everything. And it was good because it helped to get to know not just people who lived on campus, but the people who lived off-campus, and who were attending the university. Because otherwise, many of those people had a life all of their own, and they didn’t belong to any of the campus organizations. Athletics we had the Dean of Men was one of them, was very closely aligned with the athletic program. We didn’t have that much for women, as you well remember, so we had nothing to do with it most of the time for the women. But there definitely was a Student Life program,
as far as the men were concerned, but I know that Ed Betz was responsible for a lot of things that were there.

DORIS: Yes, he became involved in the NCAA…

KAY: Yeah.

DORIS: And quite a lot of the committees, the higher committees…

KAY: He did.

DORIS: …had a lot of control, and actually was the member of a committee of eleven when women’s sports moved into the control of the NCAA, which was the National Collegiate Athletic Association. So he was one of the early committee members, and was really interested in women having a good…

KAY: Oh, yes, very much so.

DORIS: …a good part.

KAY: Very much so.

DORIS: What else… as you look back now, and you remember, you had mentioned your relationship in the Student Personnel Committee with some of the deans and some of the other people… as you look back now, did you feel comfortable with those administrators?

KAY: Oh yes. I think that was a good committee. I think that was a very good committee because it gave you an idea of the overall student, and I think it’s very easy for people to get shunted off into some little area, and they don’t have anything else to do with it. But the program, after a while, as I say, I was in charge of housing, and it had been among other things that we had to assign people to certain dorms. I remember that after awhile that became something which took up too much time, so we set up a separate housing division. Edith, oh, not Edith. She was my secretary…

DORIS: Oh yeah.

KAY: …she was the first Housing Coordinator. Oh, she lived down on Tuxedo, but I have to get some of these old, uh…

DORIS: But, uh…

KAY: I have to get the names back.

DORIS: But then you designated an assistant to handle housing at that point?
KAY: Well, I didn’t designate her as such. She was designated. I mean that was a college...

DORIS: …decision.

KAY: decision.

DORIS: Uh huh.

KAY: And uh, that we were aware of the fact, that this was something that required too much work, because we were getting more and more housing.

DORIS: And more and more students.

KAY: Yes, more and more students. Both men and women. So we needed somebody to work on that program, and that was her job.

DORIS: Can you remember at about that same time, were there any other departments or divisions that moved out because of the sheer numbers of students, or whatever?

KAY: Yeah.

DORIS: Housing was the sort of first one, and the one that took so much time.

KAY: Yeah, yeah. Housing was the part that was very, very much... see later, of course, other things began to normally divide up, as you get larger and larger things. So that you might have a certain group for, as they have now with the fraternities, and someone else responsible for the sororities, and someone else responsible for something else that’s going on. And, as I understand it now, the calendar is done by a completely different office.

DORIS: That’s right.

KAY: And you know it’s one of those things which you... for a while it was done over in the Covell Center, and the office there was responsible for it, but now it’s something completely different.

DORIS: That’s right. Because you had mentioned at the break about one of the responsibilities was in relation to the social calendar. So you did have that responsibility for a good while.

KAY: Yes, oh yes. And if somebody wanted to do something that was particularly important, we’d have the overall calendar, so that you had no conflicts. Or few conflicts, because you couldn’t always be sure about that. The Conservatory, of course, its program operated independently.
DORIS: It had its own program.

KAY: Yeah, those who were academic and they operated completely by themselves.

DORIS: So those students, high school students, junior high school students that came here for band, and programs like that, they handled their own housing through them…

KAY: No.

DORIS: No?

KAY: No, I’m talking about the calendar.

DORIS: Oh, ok, right.

KAY: Because…

(Tape pauses).

DORIS: So Kay, we were talking a little bit about the feeling of caring and you mentioned that when you knew the students so many of them by name, and they came before the Student Personnel Committee, and even many of the administrators by name. Today it seems like the faculty is given a lot of credit for our caring attitude. But what are some fill-ups about that? That seemed like an important role that you and all of us had at that time?

KAY: I think so. I think it was very important. I think it was important for students, I think it was important for faculty, for all of us. I think… you know, if you know the individual, and you know their needs, then you can be, you can do much more to help them, to encourage them. Even if it means discipline. (Laughs).

DORIS: Right. Tough love.

KAY: Yeah, uh huh. And I think that once you lose that, you lose a very important aspect. See one of the things, now years later, that gives me the greatest pleasure is sitting down and talking with people I knew as students. Or having some other kind of relationship with them. Like I was mentioning to you with this program that I’m taking now.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: Lockey Harvey I knew very well. And she was a music therapy student.

DORIS: What is her first name again?

KAY: Lockey.
DORIS: Lockey. How do you spell that?
KAY: L-O-C-K-E-Y.

DORIS: Lockey Harvey. Yeah.

KAY: Uh huh. And I know a lot of these people, I see them, for example, through my work with the museum, as they are there, and things. Nancy Spieckerman, for example…

DORIS: Yes.

KAY: was one of the early ones. We had a women’s government organization in those days, called the AWS.

DORIS: Ah, that’s right.

KAY: Women’s, remember the Associated Women’s Students? And they did a lot of things, and we had two organizations technically, because we had the organization that was the official student organization. Then we had the AWS, because that fit in with the fact that women were separated, so-called, in all of their interests with men. And I was, that carried through in all of their social activities, it carried through in all of their social activities, it carried through in their athletic activities, the kinds of things that they could do as far as athletics were concerned.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And we had a president, we had a vice president, we had all of the various ones. At that time it was a national organization, and they could go to a national convention. Of course, we started having on all campuses, everything was co-ed, those kinds of things disappeared.

DORIS: I remember the same thing in the athletic program, because we had what we called the WRA, which I think fell under the Women’s organization. And at that time, without an extensive athletic program, one of our goals or objectives was the leadership goal, hoping that women, through the kinds of programs that you just referred to and our WRA would have leadership experience, so rather than competing on the athletic field, many of those very qualified women became leaders. It was a little different direction than…

KAY: One of the early AWS presidents was Ursula Meese.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And you remember she was married to Meese who was he, what was he…? Attorney General.

KAY: See, and I saw her, she came here. Bob Benedetti brought some of those people back…

DORIS: Yes.

KAY: …that were special things, and she was one of them.

DORIS: Yeah, city leader, kinds of persons, I think he calls them. Now we had mentioned earlier about Judy Chambers, who we just remembered now as Judy McMillin. And Judy was the leader in the Women’s AWS.

KAY: Judy was president of the AWS. Judy worked for her master’s degree, and she worked for me. She was, what would I say, an apprentice, actually, and of course, she did work, was very active in Grace Covell, in the housing program there. And then she left, after she got her master’s degree, she left and went back to Ohio, as Dean of Women, then came back here, and of course has gone on up to the Vice Presidency, and now is retired.

DORIS: Right. Yeah, I think I…. I’m glad we brought up about that Women’s organization, that was a very, very important group.

KAY: Oh, it was a strong group.

DORIS: Oh, definitely.

KAY: Very strong group.

DORIS: And so SPURS and Knolens, and the others were an honors society, but I remember distinctly the leadership of that group. Gee, this is interesting. Pearl Piper is a friend that we both have now. She worked in the Admissions…

KAY: The Admissions Office.

DORIS: What is it called? The Admissions Office?

KAY: Pearl, if I remember correctly, worked originally in what would be then the Academic Dean’s Office. Now how was that set up? You see, you didn’t have an Academic Vice President, but you had a dean, and his responsibility was academics, because you had the President of…

DORIS: Right.
KAY: …of COP, of College of the Pacific. And then you had the dean, the Academic Dean.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And then you had the man who was responsible for finance.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: That’s another, there are two along the way, but those were the primary ones.

DORIS: So the registrar’s office, and the admissions office, they must have been together under….

KAY: They were, no they…

DORIS: …maybe under finance? No.

KAY: No. They, they operated independently.

DORIS: Independently.

KAY: You see, there was a whole lot of this working together, and being responsible to one person as gradual development, as the organization becomes larger. Uh, but they were independent. One was, he was responsible for the academics. Somebody else was responsible for admissions, uh, well, admissions and the academic would be working close together.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And then of course there was the finance Center, which was completely separate.

DORIS: Right. And they, they took the building over that we spoke of earlier as the Infirmary. And now that is the Finance Center. Right over there across from the old main gym.

KAY: But the early Finance Center was where the… I don’t know what it is now, the Admissions Office, was in Knoles Hall.

DORIS: Ok.

KAY: On a map, see you had the Admissions Office here, you had the Academic Dean’s Office, and the Admissions, I wouldn’t say this is Finance Center, that could be Academic Dean’s Office, and Finance… rather Admissions, over here. Then you had the Registrar’s Office with Miss Deering, and then you had this other was the President’s office, and the money-raising, all that kind of thing…
DORIS: Develop, developing…

KAY: Developing.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: And then, on the other side you had the Dean of Men and the Dean of Women. Eventually they opened up another area, and that’s where Jake used to be, as Dean of COP.

DORIS: So that was all that….

KAY: …all on the first floor.

DORIS: Knoles, Knoles Hall at that time.

KAY: Uh huh. That’s right.

DORIS: Ok.

KAY: That’s why Dr. Burns used to say to Miss. Deering, “Don’t ever stop a man if he walks down the hall.”

DORIS: Oh yeah… (Laughter). I heard that story several times.

KAY: And what was the guy’s name that worked in the Finance Center. He was an ex-army man, and he said, “Now look, I’m going to be careful. This is my side of the street, and this is Miss. Deering’s side of the street, and I don’t want any crossing over.” (Laughs).

DORIS: Well I remember Bob Winterburg was there at the Finance Center at that time. You had talked about the cultural changes you thought, and the whole question of diversity and what not, you brought up a bit earlier. There are some questions in here that have to do with your perceptions of the community. And at first when you came, you were probably so involved in your deanship roles, that you weren’t very involved in the community, other than maybe seeing that the girls wore their dresses when they went down to the Miracle Mile.

KAY: Actually there was more to that.

DORIS: Ok, what did you do in the community…?

KAY: Uh, I, as far as the community was concerned, at that time, the Professional Women’s Club was still in existence.
DORIS: Repeat that again.

KAY: Oh, what was the name of the… it was a Women’s Business and Professional Organization.

DORIS: Ok.

KAY: Professional is the old name. Anyway that existed, still does.

DORIS: Were you a member of that?

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE A

BEGIN TAPE 1, SIDE B

KAY: And I was a member of that. And I enjoyed it because I then got to…

DORIS: …turn the tape over. You were just speaking about the Women’s Business Organization and you were a member, and you’re involved in so many community things right now, as you think back, what were some of the other community involvement…?

KAY: Well, I was a member of that Professional Women’s Business and Professional Organization.

DORIS: Ok.

KAY: Uh, we started, one time we started a Quota Club, which was a sister club to Kiwanis.

DORIS: Oh.

KAY: And that existed for quite some time. That was a women’s service organization.

DORIS: What was that called?

KAY: Quota.

DORIS: Quota, oh.

KAY: Q-U-O-T-A, Quota club.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: It is no longer in existence. Let’s see what else did I…?
DORIS: Did you feel that that was sort of an important role for you to play, that you in fact…?

KAY: No, I enjoyed it.

DORIS: You enjoyed it.

KAY: I enjoyed it. And I did it probably primarily because I wanted to broaden my experience, though I mean this is hindsight,. And I think it’s wrong, and I remember working before I came here, the man who said, you know, all the friends that I have in my leisure time do not work with me. He said I think its important that you get another side, and I think this is why I became interested in a lot of those community organizations. My interest in the museum came after I retired, and I had time to do it. (Laughs). But, to do it then… Let’s see what else have I… at one time I knew a great many people who were in the community. I still do. Because once you get started in something like that, you still do. And then there was another organization, and it was set up as a community organization, and it still exists. I think they call it Executive Women or something like that. And I did belong to that. And I resigned when I retired, because we’re suppose to have only one person you know from…

DORIS: Each professional group, yeah.

KAY: …each area, and I felt that since I retired, this was only fair to open it up to someone else.

DORIS: This is very interesting because you are telling me that rather than your being involved in the community, because you were a representative of the University, you really were interested in expanding your own interests.

KAY: Well, I think that indirectly I would bring in the University connection.

DORIS: I’m sure you must have.

KAY: But my primary purpose was a personal one, to expand my own interests, my own background.

DORIS: Right, right.

KAY: And get some idea about what was going on.

DORIS: You spoke earlier about the changes of diversity of Stockton itself. When you first came to Stockton from Syracuse in New York and that area, what struck you first? Do you feel we were right out here with the cowboys, or what? What did you think of Stockton at first? And as you think back about the changes, how do you perceive all of that changing?
KAY: My first experience of Stockton was down in the old Clark Hotel. When I came for my interview that’s where I stayed. I remember that they gave me coffee for breakfast before they gave any of the rest of it, and I thought that was wonderful. (Laughter). I just thought that was marvelous because east of the Mississippi they never did that.

DORIS: Oh!

KAY: They always threw the rest of it with it. Then you take the bus up. I remember being struck by the number of Filipinos. And people telling me a great deal about the Filipinos and the various kinds of things that they did.

DORIS: Uh huh.

KAY: How they’d buy a car together, and you know all of that, which may or may not be true.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: My perception of them is very much different at the present time as I get to know more and more of them. At that time, through my searching for different kinds of places for students to live, and the ones that we already had is where I began to find out the kind of prejudices that were existing. Because, remember, I came from the East Coast; I very seldom saw a black person. I certainly had no connection with Filipinos, almost no connection whatsoever with any of the Orientals. I felt no feeling that they were… that we were different. But it was in the first year that I was here, went back east for Christmas, and I remember standing in the balcony of Grand Central Station, wondering what was wrong, because I felt very uncomfortable. And as I stood there looking over the main part of it, two Oriental people walked into the door, and right away I knew what it was. Because by that time I had gotten so used to seeing people who were Oriental, that was part of the whole thing.

DORIS: Uh huh, yeah.

KAY: I was very good friends with Isabella Ing and her husband, both of whom were doctors here in town, and who lived over here. Their son, for example, works now as an optohomologist here in town, with Dr. Naakanishi. I admired her enormously, and she was one of the few… they were one of the few families that were able to get above Harding Way.

DORIS: Huh.

KAY: And of course, they were professional which made it completely a different sort of thing with Chris. I remember sending a beautiful [unknown], she wanted to be a Pharmacist, I mean Conservatory, she was a singer, to a place for a housing. And she went to the front door, and they turned back, she was told go around in the back, and she came back, and told me, and I was furious. So I called the woman up, and she said, “I
don’t want any of these people at my front door.” And I said, “For your information, you’re taken off our list. I cannot tolerate this sort of thing.” I was told, though I had, couldn’t afford a house myself, that if you bought a house even right over here, part of the agreement was that you would not bring in somebody who was of a different nationality. Those things don’t exist anymore.

DORIS: Of course not.

KAY: But little by little, for example, there were no blacks, there were blacks downtown, there were Filipinos downtown, there were Japanese downtown, but little by little they began to come up here, and to this day, I know that there are people that object to having someone, particularly the blacks. But those things have been fascinating to me. And of course, the center of town has changed, where once it was downtown, then it moved out here about March Lane, heaven knows where it’s going to go now.

DORIS: That’s right, that’s right.

KAY: But it, but it keeps changing and everything else changes along with it. Uh, and in those days, gee I saw more people I knew when I went to San Francisco than when I did on the streets in, uh, shopping in Stockton. That was kind of fun, but you never went into San Francisco, you never wore white shoes, which of course you wore here in the valley. You wore your hat, and your gloves, and your heels. I’d hate to go to have to wear heels now! (Laughter). It’s hard enough to walk.

DORIS: Exactly.

KAY: It is. It is.

DORIS: Ok, you know talking about the changes in tolerance in that, what about the women’s movement? Do you have any recollection of huge changes in that, or how that affected our women students, we were talking about the leadership of our Associated Women’s Students, and what not. Then at about the time of the Vietnam War, and the so called student revolutions and uprisings, and whatnot. What is your recollection of that period? And did the women’s movement mean anything to you at the time? Was it subtle, was it abrupt, any feelings about that period of time of student unrest? Or is that…?

KAY: I think that the movement on a women’s movement, that was a time with what? Gloria Steinham, Steinman was one of them. Who was the other on that changed her mind a great deal? I think when they first came in, they probably, my feeling then was, still has been that they did more harm than they did good. But that they did start people thinking toward that, and I think that some of that, some of that came here on campus, but there was no strong, as I remember, I don’t, I don’t, I didn’t feel any strong push, other than the fact that athletics were opened to women. In the other respect, you see, when you made both things where they’re both the same for men and women, I wouldn’t say that was a growth for women, necessarily. But it was a growth and change in society, of course. I don’t think they had that much of a, I never felt that they had much of a power
here on campus. We didn’t have kids who went out and did a whole lot of things to try to and get their power. We might have people who worked on things because we said no in the Personnel Office and they were determined to change our mind, and sometimes they succeeded, ha! Sometimes they didn’t. But that wasn’t necessarily just for women, that would be for any group of students who wanted to have more power. And I think when looking back on it now, they probably were right. It was good that they have some of that.

DORIS: Yeah, I think many people have that attitude, you were talking about the Feminine Mystique and the books and the things that came out, at first you thought that was more harmful than good. But then as time went on…

KAY: I think it opened the window, but I think that I think that people feel now that it was more harmful than generally.

DORIS: Uh huh.

KAY: I mean, while it made things open and possible for women, at the same time I always felt that the women had to earn their own way, but that they should be given the same consideration as men. And that would not then mean that we bring out saying that men are awful and women are all are all powerful.

DORIS: Right, right.

KAY: And I know that some of the leaders changed their minds along the way. Said, you know, we went at this the wrong ways.

DORIS: So then looking back to that period of time, I remember one particular graduation where there was a certain number of people that walked across with their diploma and made a farce or acted, you know, that they wanted to be a show off at the time.

KAY: But those were men.

DORIS: Were men?

KAY: Yeah.

DORIS: Yes.

KAY: They weren’t the women.

DORIS: No, that’s right.

KAY: I know.
DORIS: I never thought of that. I wonder why that was so?

KAY: I think women would have always been more subtle. I really do.

DORIS: (Chuckles). Well, maybe that was it.

KAY: I think that they wanted a whole lot of things, but I think that on the whole, women work, women work entirely differently from men. And I regret the fact that now, I was just reading the article in the paper about the number of women who were facing poverty, because their salaries are so much lower than men. If the husband dies, the social security the woman gets, of course, what she earns along the way is much less. It’s bad for everybody, but it’s just one of those things where all the way through, women haven’t been given the same value as men have enjoyed, and they still are…

DORIS: It’s changing… do you think it’s still like that?

KAY: Oh, no I think it’s changing, but it still exists.

DORIS: We’re a little behind still, we’re moving along a little bit.

KAY: Yeah, absolutely.

DORIS: Uh, do you still keep your connection with the University of the Pacific, even though you have retired, you’ve moved into community kinds of things. I know you and I helped with the Emeriti Retirement Dinner, you and I helped with the decorations, and I don’t know when. (Laughter).

KAY: And I like to go to the Emeriti meetings when I can find a place to park!

DORIS: Well, we have free parking if we can find one!

KAY: That’s it: you can’t find one.

DORIS: Sure.

KAY: Well, I’ve been thinking my doctor gave me one of these disabled stickers…

DORIS: Oh yeah, I’ve got… I…

KAY: Simply because of the difficulty of having to walk so far, and I get (breathes deeply, rapidly)…

DORIS: Right.

KAY: And I think maybe my, I don’t want to, I don’t want the plate, but I never thought I’d ask for that sort of thing.
DORIS: Well, I thought you… I thought you probably had…

KAY: No. No. I just go around trying to find a place. And I work. I am a member of the group that works with the library.

DORIS: Friends of the library.

KAY: Friends of the Library.

DORIS: Are you still involved in that?

KAY: I’m still involved with that. I haven’t been there that many times this year, because there have been so many other complications, and I did miss out when I was in the hospital, which was a little hard to come to.

DORIS: Yeah.

KAY: But I still have some interest in that. And I think… I wish we were more active. I think there is a real need for that sort of thing, but it’s hard to find people who are willing to give up their time and their interests and work on such a thing as that.

DORIS: Yeah. What do you think about the University’s directions and what kind of feedback do you get from the community about the University? Are we still an Ivory Tower, or are we reaching out? Or what?

KAY: I think it’s mixed.

DORIS: Pardon?

KAY: I think it’s mixed. And part of what I get from the campus, I’m not sure I want to put on tape.

DORIS: You can avoid it. (Laughter). So you think attitudes of people in the community toward the University are mixed?

KAY: Oh yes. I think it had always been that way. I think it always will be that way. We’re a world apart; people I think still have almost a fear of academia. Far too many of them still think that we just come up with ideas that are absolutely horrible. I mean, after all, a town as a rule is conservative, even Berkeley has some conservative people.

DORIS: Right.

KAY: San Francisco may be liberal in some areas, but in other areas, it is very conservative. And I think you’ll find that here in Stockton. I think here a lot of people in Stockton, particularly in the Southern part of it; they know almost nothing about it. They
have no hope that they will ever be on this campus. It’s sort of like a world a part. It would be nice if I could get there, but I’ll never get there.

DORIS: Hmm, hmm.

KAY: And I think it’s too bad. And I know that there are many people who are working very, very hard to make a good relationship. But that grows slowly.

DORIS: Yeah, there are probably problems related on both sides. I mean a lot of people think uh, the academic world, particularly the university, is an elitist group.

KAY: That’s right.

DORIS: And that turns people off. And yet there are the other concerns, like you say, the people who feel like they could never…

KAY: Never could be a part.

DORIS: Never could be a part. And so it’s probably problems on all sides. And perceptions are sometimes inaccurate.

KAY: I think many times they are inaccurate. But it’s a very difficult thing once you have an attitude, to change that.

DORIS: That’s right. Ok, we’re finishing up here. Is there any question or anything that you wished I would have asked you, or is there anything that you want to be sure we cover? The future of the University I think is bright. Financially it’s better than it was at varying times.

KAY: Than it had been for a long, long time. And I think it’s wonderful that we’re growing as we’re growing. If I were to criticize the University for anything, I would criticize the lack of their use of people who still live around here, the faculty. I think our faculty members are a source of wonderful help, but they aren’t… Well, part of it I think is understandable. I think when you do a job, when you do it well, or haven’t done it well, and heavens knows we’re criticized for a whole lot of what we do, but it’s probably better to walk off, and let somebody else take over. I was always grateful to Harriet, because when I took over her job, she stayed away. And I might have to call her and ask her all kinds of questions about what had been going on, but I did that by the phone, and she didn’t try to tell me what to do, and come back on campus. And I think that’s, I think that’s an important part in a lot of what we do. We done what we could, that’s it. Let the world go on.

DORIS: On the other hand, when you said that the University could make use of this retired faculty, administrators, and whatnot certainly we would not have to come back in the same roles.
KAY: Oh no. No, and I think that’s why I say that. That I say it that way that you don’t come back in the same role. But there might be things that are… because so many of these retired people have time…

DORIS: That’s right.

KAY: And they have the expertise, and they there are some things that they could probably do, and relieve other people of some of the things that they do. See they’re working together.

DORIS: Well, I have enjoyed our conversation today. (Laughter). It’s fun to reminisce.

KAY: I don’t know what we’ll come up with.

DORIS: I don’t know either, but its fun to reminisce, and I think we covered the basis.

KAY: We covered an awful lot. (Still laughing).

DORIS: Thanks a million, Kay.

KAY: Oh, no, it’s fun.

DORIS: And thanks a million for your time.

KAY: I probably think of afterward “oh why didn’t I tell her this?” Oh, no it’s funny how…

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE B