



Macalester College Archives, DeWitt Wallace Library
Oral History Project

Interview with: **Fran and Art Bell**
Class of 1939 and 1940

Date: **Thursday June 28, 2007**

Place: Macalester College DeWitt Wallace Library, Harmon Room
Interviewer: Laura Zeccardi, Class of 2007

Interview run time: 50:26

Accession: 2007-12-21-27

Agreement: Signed, on file, no restrictions

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Interview with Fran and Art Bell

Laura Zeccardi, Interviewer

**June 28, 2007
Macalester College
DeWitt Wallace Library
Harmon Room**

[00:00]

LZ: My name is Laura Zeccardi and I am a new graduate of Macalester College, conducting interviews for the Macalester Oral History Project. Today is Thursday, June 28, 2007, and I am interviewing Fran and Art Bell, Macalester alumni, Class of 1939 and 1940, in the Harmon Room in the DeWitt Wallace Library. Just to start, if you'd both like to state your name, and where you're originally from, and then what year you came to Macalester.

FB: Hi, my name is Frances Bell, Fran Bell, and... Lived in Minneapolis, grew up in Minneapolis. And I came to Macalester in—well, I graduated in '39, and I was here for three years. I went to St. Cloud for one year before I came to Mac. I knew I was coming to Mac from the time I was this high. But I wanted to get—I knew I had to live at home when I went to Mac and commute, so I wanted to live in a dorm for a year, which I did. [laughs]

LZ: Oh, ok. That's very interesting, you don't hear that often.

FB: No. [laughs] ...I was strange. [laughter]

AB: Hey, I'm Art Bell. Arthur is my real name; I've been called that seldom. I came in 1936 and I managed to get out in four years, and we lived in St. Anthony Park in St. Paul. I don't brag about how I grew up because I don't think I ever did. But we used to live in Mountain Iron, down in the Iron Range for another Macalester grad, my father, was a missionary for the Presbyterian Church across here in Range. And living in a twelve hundred population and then coming to St. Paul was rather traumatic, but I overcame it. [laughter]

[02:05]

LZ: So, you had said that you knew you would always come to Macalester, but kind of, how did that, at what point did you maybe realize that you were going to go there...

FB: Our parents went to Macalester.

LZ: Oh, okay.

FB: So Macalester was part of our blood from birth. [laughs]

LZ: Did you—prior to coming to Macalester, did you have a lot of experience with the campus and just the...?

FB: Only when our folks would bring us over, so we knew about it and looked forward to it.

AB: We used to go to Macalester Church here, before we moved. And we lived over—and that was a streetcar ride or what it was, because I—she used to have a group brought her here. I had to get on a streetcar and try and make two transfers to get here, and it was particularly difficult because I got into the band and they gave me a sousaphone, one of those great big machines, and if you've ever carried a sousaphone on a [laughter] streetcar, you know, it was quite an experience. [laughter]

[03:22]

LZ: So, kind of what was your first feelings and kind of—you had been obviously familiar with the campus but, I guess, kind of your first impression of being at Macalester as a student.

FB: I think it was kind of like coming home. My mother was a Clionian and I was initiated into the Clios, Clionian society. And so it became a community right away.

AB: Yep, me too.

FB: You weren't a Clionian though, that's women only [laughs].

AB: My sister—my older sister and my older brother—my older sister had retired before I got here. Her last year was '36 here, and my brother was two years ahead of me. So—or was it three? Two.

FB: Two, he was a year ahead of me.

AB: So we traveled by streetcar.

LZ: Just, what year did your parents graduate from Macalester?

FB: Mine in 1912 and his in '10.

AB: 1910.

LZ: So did either of you ever live in the dorms while you were at Macalester?

FB: No.

AB: No.

LZ: Were there, I guess, did you have friends who lived in dorms that you visited?

FB: Oh yes, oh sure.

LZ: What was kind of—I guess given that you didn't live in the dorms, it might be hard to comment on dorm life but kind of—

FB: I can't really, because we didn't—I mean, if we saw our dorm friends they were here rather than there anyway.

AB: Yeah.

LZ: I guess maybe, what was the physical layout of the campus at that time in terms of which buildings were here?

FB: Old Main, and the Science Hall, and Wallace and Kirk and the Old Gym, Old Gym. And that was—really Old Gym. [laughter]

[05:22]

LZ: Well, to kind of talk about—well, let's talk about academics first maybe and then move on to extracurricular activities. What were both of your majors while you were here?

FB: I majored in psychology, minored in sociology and biology. Dr. Walter was wonderful. [laughter]

LZ: Can you talk a little bit about what he was like as a professor and as a person?

FB: Well, when I was here, he was the best professor that I had. He was wonderful, yeah, very interesting, he made the class interesting, and he wasn't just going by the book. He was...

LZ: How did you come to decide on your kind of field of interest of psychology?

FB: I don't know, I wanted to go into social work and—so I guess that was kind of logical.

LZ: What was your major?

AB: My majors were the same. I didn't get to go to Dr. Walter's classes, however. But it was—I enjoyed it very much mostly, but then there was this psychology professor that was hired before we graduated who was a godsend as far as psychology was concerned. I can't remember his name right now; it doesn't come right out. But he was really quite a remarkable man. The previous psychology professor was soon to retire, and he came in from Chicago and was an outstanding man. He was a professional psychologist, where the previous one was a minister that was teaching psychology.

FB: From the book.

AB: Yeah, from the book. And you could read the book and get the same effort, [laughs] result.

But... his name won't come to me, but he was an outstanding professor.

FB: Well some of the professors, we would go home and tell our folks, "Oh yeah, he said that when we were going to school." [laughter]

AB: We won't give the names of the professor, but it was really quite boring. [laughter] You go home, and my dad says, "I remember hearing that same lecture." So you could tell.

FB: "Oh yeah, we remember."

AB: Well, it was the Depression and there was, you know, not a whole lot of money left. So, they were tough times to survive, there's no question about it.

[08:11]

LZ: How did the Depression affect your decision I guess maybe to go to college?

FB: It didn't. I mean I always knew I was coming to Macalester. So we—in fact, we were talking on the way over—we never, either one of us, were meant to feel deprived in any way, even though my dad took three cuts in a year. We had food, we had clothes, we had—he worked for the Y so I was able to get swimming lessons. You know, we just—we lived.

LZ: To go back to the class set of things—where were most of your classes kind of concentrated on campus?

FB: Oh, either in the science building for biology and then Old Main.

LZ: How large about were your classes?

FB: I can't remember. I don't know, maybe two hundred. What do you think our class—how many in the class?

AB: Oh, I don't suppose there were more than a hundred.

FB: Oh, I thought maybe two, but I don't know.

AB: I don't remember. Things were tough.

LZ: Were there a fair amount of women students at that time?

FB: Um-hm. Um-hm.

AB: Well, being a preacher's kid, my—there's ten percent off on the tuition, which was under a hundred dollars.

[09:28]

FB: Well we both worked too, for thirty-five cents an hour. [laughter]

AB: It started at twenty-five, but then in 1936 the WPA, the government, offered thirty-five cents an hour and that was very helpful. I got a job that fall at a skating rink. There used to be a public skating rink here for students—for the community. And it was—it cost—the season ticket was three dollars, and so the man that had graduated from Macalester and works there, worked

year around here for awhile and decided to get another job and they gave me the job of running the skating rink center, with the candy and the pop and so forth. And then, sharpened skates, and if you've ever sharpened—had your skates sharpened now, I used—I didn't get it, but Macalester got twenty-five cents for sharpening a pair of skates. And there was a man in this area, who—St. Paul—who used to make skates, and he was quite famous for that. And he designed a skating—a skate sharpener. The old kind was this way, and he designed one that was horizontal. So it was a smoother, and you didn't have to sand the—or go through with the stone and sharpen the sharps away. It was the first one set in the whole area here, so one year, [laughs] I sharpened all the skates for the hockey teams here, but also the St. Paul hockey team. Because they, for two bits a quarter—for two per sharpening. That helped. I didn't get it, but I mean, it gave me work—from three to six was open for the public, then between six and seven it was sprayed so it was nice and smooth. Was it six-thirty?

FB: I don't know.

AB: I can't remember. I guess it was three to five and then seven to ten, so in between is when I studied when I needed to. But it was quite helpful because it kept the cost down and, I never had to—I guess the first year my dad paid for my tuition. But after that I worked it off. And then there was a man by the name of McRae, Mac McRae, who used to be the outdoor man in charge of everything and buildings and so on and so forth. And he had a deal with the Shattuck School, St. Thomas, and one or two others; I can't remember which ones they were. And in the wintertime, he had a snowplow on the front of the truck and he asked me if I would do that, because I used to plow these rinks here, this rink here. Sure! And he gave me seventy-five cents

an hour cash. And so, I'd wake up every morning in the winter time—five thirty—and if it snowed, I was on the streetcar and I had the key and I'd get the truck out and I'd do the plowing. One of the by-products of that was, we had a lot of snow that year—one year—and I had a professor—McLean, Milt McLean, who was an outstanding professor, thoroughly enjoyed him—talked—it was supposed to be religion or something like that.

FB: Religion, yeah, he was religion.

AB: Excellent person. He was well-mixed; he wasn't myopic and so on. And the class I had was at eight o'clock in the morning. Well, I might be out plowing the skating rink, so it came at the end of the semester and he called me in his office and he said, "Well, Art," he says, "I don't want to give you an incomplete and I don't want you to fail, but you missed too many classes [laughs] and you didn't quite get it, but I have something you can do." Good. And this was one of the traditions he had, he gave me two books like this, he said, "I want you to read those and write a book report." And it took me quite awhile, but I did and turned it in. He got me later he said, "Well, Art, you got a B, and so therefore you get that—you finished up the class." So that was kind of not unusual to have that sort of thing happen. So that's a story that—I don't think anybody else had one like it [laughs].

FB: Probably not. Nobody else was plowing skating rinks. [laughter]

[15:33]

LZ: Was the skating rink then, like a Macalester-run rink?

AB: Yep, and it run, and it—there was a group of students that would—they would clear it off after I plowed it. And then they had pushers and they pushed the snow away and then they'd sweep it and then they'd spray it. And that was at thirty-five cents an hour, must—probably—well then the sprayers, those were the elite. There was two people and—so it took four of them, they had two big hoses that would come out and one would be the hose, move that around; the other one would be spraying. And it was full; it was one of the best skating rinks in the city. So there were a lot of people that—kids, they had hockey teams, we had closed it off for hockey, and it was a godsend as far as that goes. So when I graduated I went to see the bursar, they called it, the treasurer, and he said, “Well, Art, I hate to tell you, this is very difficult for me, because all that money that you earned went in to pay for your tuition, and there's some left over money.” And he gave me a check. [laughs]

LZ: Where was the rink in comparison to kind of the layout of things?

AB: Where the art building is. It was a football field in the rest of the time.

LZ: Where did you work when you were here?

FB: In the Registrar's Office. And I can't even remember too much about what I did. It was just, whatever he told me to do. [laughs]

[17:35]

LZ: Going back to faculty, you had said you had really good professors. Was that kind of the norm at that time, that Macalester had pretty good professors?

FB: Oh I think compared to anybody else, of course they did.

LZ: Were there multiple professors for departments? I guess, how large were faculty for...?

FB: Not so much.

AB: One psychology, and—

FB: Yeah, Dr. Franklin for Psychology. And what was his name in Sociology. I can't remember; we used to kid about what he said. [laughs] You get old you don't remember anything. [laughs]

LZ: Was this the time when there was also some kind of more vocational programs...? I know—was the nurse—I don't know if the nursing program would have been there?

AB: No.

FB: I don't think so, unh-uh.

AB: They had an affiliation with a—was it kindergarten teaching?

FB: Oh yeah, Miss Wood's school. That was part of the campus even, I think. With kindergarten prep.

LZ: So actual kindergarteners came there for school and then they were taught?

FB: Through Miss Wood's, uh-huh.

AB: There was some connection with Macalester, I don't know exactly what it was, but they were here.

[19:04]

LZ: Well, let's talk maybe a little bit about extracurricular activities and kind of things outside of your studies and outside of work that you were involved in.

FB: Well, there was the off-campus clubs and some of us [laughs] used to eat in a room in the library, take our lunch, you know packaged lunch, and we'd decide what sweater color we would wear the next day. I mean it might have been a yellow sweater or a red sweater or whatever.

[laughter] And—but that was a nice community. And the Clionian society, Clio society. And it's sort of affiliated with the Atheneans, so we'd have dances together and stuff. My mom was a Clio and my dad was an Athenean, so it just kind of happened that my sister and I were both initiated. She—we started here at the same time because she was in Art's class and so we started in the same—1936, and were initiated together.

LZ: Were those societies pretty similar to the way sororities and fraternities...?

FB: I suppose.

LZ: If they were, you know—

AB: No, they didn't have their own house.

FB: They don't have them anymore, do they, hmm?

LZ: No.

AB: You didn't have your own house.

FB: Well, no, we didn't have our own house. [laughs] Definitely not. No, I don't know, and I don't know how they started because, as I say, my mom was in 1912.

AB: I don't think you were connected with other...

FB: No, oh no. It was just the college affiliation because I know at St. Cloud I was in a same kind of a thing.

LZ: Were those pretty popular? Was that something most students found themselves involved in?

FB: Not most, I think, but enough so that it was, one activity.

LZ: And so you said you had dances through that, were there other kind of community-type things like that?

FB: I don't remember any other things other than the dances and I don't think we did what they do now so much, you know, community service and stuff, we didn't get involved with that, which is too bad.

AB: We did have that dance every year, remember Al Livers and I dressed up the gym.

FB: Well yeah, there were school dances.

AB: Yeah.

LZ: Where were those?

FB: In the gym.

LZ: Did you have homecoming?

FB: Um-hm.

AB: Um-hm.

LZ: What kind of activities kind of were involved with homecoming?

FB: I don't remember any particular activities involved with it.

AB: No.

FB: There probably was a homecoming dance. I can remember my mother—probably it was homecoming too, finishing the embroidery on a dress for me to wear that same afternoon.

[laughs] Yeah, I'm sure there was a homecoming dance, and the game of course, but aside from that I don't remember.

AB: It was all homemade stuff. [laughs]

[22:17]

LZ: Are there other kind of groups or organization that maybe you weren't directly involved in but that...

FB: Well, I was thinking there was a religious organization of some kind that McLean was...

AB: Yeah, he was head of it. There were interesting services; we did visitations so often. I can't remember what the name of it was, but it was kind of an outreach to the community.

FB: Yeah, I can't. You know, sixty-seven years ago.

[22:54]

LZ: That's a long time [laughter]. Was religion pretty prominent on campus?

FB: Yes. And I think religion courses, and chapel was required, and they took attendance. So, yeah. And there were a lot of religion courses, we took from him and Dr. Clark was a religion prof. And his daughter was in your class.

AB: Yeah.

LZ: Were there other sort of re—chapel was required, were there other sort of classes or things you had to do that were considered a requirement to graduate?

FB: I think you had to have a certain number of religion courses, but I'm not positive. And they're not like the religion courses we take now at our church.

AB: They were interesting though.

FB: They were. They were very interesting.

AB: Dr. McLean was just excellent—he made it.

FB: Oh yeah, he was wonderful.

AB: He was like this, instead of like this.

FB: —And he used to have—well then it was—what was the group that we used to go out to his home and...

AB: I can't remember what it was but it was—

FB: He used to have us come out there. In fact, we even had sleepovers sometimes.

AB: I don't remember what it was, but he was—he was in that as well as teaching. It was part of his—he was excellent. Well, I had, let's see, I was in the Glee Club.

FB: Of course you were in Glee Club.

AB: Men's Glee Club and we did a tour of various schools. Went by bus, I remember that. Chartered a bus and we went various places and sang. That was good. And I was also in the band, so—that was helpful to have smaller groups that you could be close to.

LZ: The Glee Club was a type of singing group, I think?

AB: Yeah, yeah. And Professor Hall, H-a-l-l, was the instructor, and he had a nice sense of humor, and he—you had to read his eyes whether he was teaching you something that was just some story or whether it was actually leading to something else, so you never would quit listening. I mean, he had that, any time—at least, I cannot remember any time when anybody fell asleep or wasn't paying attention to him in his—I don't even know what class it was, but he was an outstanding professor.

FB: I can't remember either. He was, he was very good and it was fun.

AB: It's been so long ago, you know. Sixty-seven years.

[25:52]

LZ: Were students and professors pretty close or was there kind of a very professional kind of—I guess did you address them by their, you know, by professor so-and-so or...?

FB: There were some professors that we used to love to have for chaperones for our dances or parties, and Dr. Hastings was one and Holmes was another one.

AB: Yeah.

FB: And, of course, McLean, but—and their wives were special too.

LZ: Was there—I know later there was the Faculty Women's Club, which included the wives and also women faculty. I guess were there things like that where the wives were pretty visible on campus?

AB: Not that I know of.

FB: Not particularly.

AB: I was never invited to it, you can be sure of that. [laughter]

FB: If we asked them to be our chaperones they came with their husbands.

LZ: Oh, so they primarily just chaperoned then?

FB: As far as I can remember, that's about it.

LZ: Were dances pretty frequent? I guess kind of what were, on a Friday or Saturday night what was kind of the...?

FB: Well it wasn't like every week or anything. They were special occasions usually.

AB: Maybe two or three a year.

FB: Maybe, maybe a little more than that.

AB: True.

[27:10]

LZ: I should ask—I guess, how did you two meet? Given you were both the same kind of field...?

FB: How did we meet? We met because our parents were friends at Macalester. [laughs] So, when did you move to St. Paul?

AB: 1932.

FB: And our families started getting together.

AB: That's the last century. [laughter]

FB: So then we were at Macalester together, but what really clicked is we worked in a summer camp together for three years.

LZ: Was that during your time at Mac?

FB: Um-hm, um-hm.

AB: It was excellent. We had the best leadership.

FB: It was a wonderful camp though. It was near Chicago and our director was—it was a camp for children with problems. In those days they were ‘problem children,’ but for her they were children with problems. And it was just—it was a wonderful experience. Her philosophy, which we found very helpful when we had four kids, was freedom in a framework. And it works, in case you’re interested. [laughter]

AB: As they grow up you expand the framework, but you’re still there.

FB: But they need anything, they want it. But it was a wonderful, wonderful experience for us.

AB: Yeah.

FB: That’s what clicked. [laughs] And it lasted all these years.

[28:33]

LZ: Do you know any other—I guess it seems that quite a few couples met each other at Macalester, was that kind of, I guess, the norm?

FB: Well, his brother and sister-in-law met here. I had two aunts and uncles—well my mom and dad did. Your mom and dad did.

AB: Um-hm.

FB: I had two aunts and uncles who did. I think Nancy and Vic, my cousin, did. And there were, you know, quite a number in our class.

AB: When our youngest daughter graduated from here, came here to Macalester—we had four kids—we counted up the number of relatives that had gone to Macalester. She was twenty-third.

LZ: Oh my goodness. Wow. [laughs] When you were here did most people come from the area? Did you find that most were either from Minnesota or the surrounding states?

FB: A lot of them. I suppose maybe most of them. But there were international students.

AB: Not many.

FB: Not as many as now, of course. But there were some.

AB: One—what was his name—came from Germany and taught here afterwards.

FB: Oh yes, he was a—yeah... We should have written this down, huh? [laughter]

AB: That's one of the by-products of practicing senility you can't remember everything.

FB: And there was Kaji Onose, a Japanese woman. Yeah, it'll come.

AB: Yeah, yeah. He became a doctor here, ah, professor.

FB: Yeah, professor here too. Maybe you'll remember.

AB: Not too many foreign students.

FB: No he was a professor here when our son was here, and wanted to—he kind of encouraged him to go into law. Name. [laughs]

[30:28]

LZ: I know today, Macalester has a pretty liberal reputation, do you kind of—I guess how did the community perceive Macalester as a college and its students? Did it still have the same sort of kind of liberal reputation then?

FB: Probably different then.

AB: Well everybody that could needed to support—there were very few people that came here with the money to go through four years. So there was a lot of working part-time for students. Not just here—if they could get another job, they tried.

FB: But I guess compared to some of the other, church-related colleges, it was probably pretty liberal, as it is now.

[31:14]

LZ: I know that Charles Turck became president I think in '39.

FB: Yeah, he was—Dr. Wallace signed my diploma because Dr. Acheson died during my senior year.

LZ: Oh, goodness.

FB: So that was—that was, you know, a big deal.

LZ: Was that James Wallace then that signed...?

FB: Um-hm. Dr. Jimmy. [laughs]

AB: Big beard. [laughter]

FB: Yeah, no that was pretty special.

LZ: So you had then Acheson, and then Wallace, and, then, I guess, Turck?

AB: Yeah.

LZ: Can you kind of maybe talk a little bit about each of them? I guess kind of what they were like, and what they were...?

FB: Well, you probably knew Dr. Turck better. I never knew Dr. Turck, and I really, you know, being just a student, I didn't really have any connection like they would now with Brian maybe, or even some of the others since we had then. I mean Mike McPherson and I mean, some of them have been just perfect for the time, you know what I mean?

AB: That's right. And that's something that, looking back with very few exceptions, the right president became during that period. And we're living with one right now, who's the right person for Macalester. And between you and me, the one that was pretty bad was put in by Wa—I can't, Reader's Digest, what's his name?

LZ: DeWitt Wallace.

AB: Yeah, he put him in and he wasn't worth [“pth”-sound].

FB: This is not between you and them, this is between...[laughs]

AB: Yeah well, you can always edit it out [laughter] but he was *not* a good president. But having been on the board, and keeping in touch with Macalester, there's been the right president for—that came in, and I don't know where the genius comes from, but—

FB: Oh yeah, with John Davis.

AB: —today's an example. Just the right person that we need in this culture today. And that's very good. We are fortunate in the college to have that.

FB: We were here for the Golden Scots luncheon, and sitting at our table was somebody from my class, whose wife did not go to Macalester. But she said, “You know, I've been concerned about how does a Jewish president get along with a Presbyterian college?” I said, “Wonderful.” [laughter] He did. He is. He's just—he is perfect.

[33:56]

LZ: So what have you two, kind of, and we talk more about your children and their relationship to the college, but I'm kind of interested in, once you graduated then, what did you do after Macalester?

FB: When I graduated I went one year to Northwestern University to take social group work, worked in a settlement house, and then the next year I worked in a settlement house. And then I

got married, and became a stay-at-home wife and mother. [laughs] We were at a meeting, a gathering, and most of them were retired ministers from one—so it came to me, I'm a retired stay-at-home mother. [laughter]

AB: But you did earn enough to get a little social security in our old age. [laughs]

FB: Oh I did, I worked—taught nursery school after our youngest was old enough that she could be in junior high. Although I—I just, in fact, got married. Gave up a job paying more than he was making. [laughs]

AB: Yeah, my first job was [laughter] was I was a WPA foreman, and they gave me the—hired, and she was making over a hundred dollars a month, I was making seventy-three dollars a month in Faribault.

FB: Running a recreation program, and that was...

AB: Trying to develop a recreation program, yeah. [laughter]

[35:32]

LZ: Well before we move on to some of the kind of the later questions, are there other kind of little stories or memories about either students or faculty that kind of come to your mind? We love the little stories that we don't get at.

FB: Well we loved Mary Gwen Owen for many reasons. I can't think of anything specific about Mary Gwen, but she was very special.

AB: Particularly for us, because when my dad in the Iron Range in Minnesota, he used to come to Macalester and find students who would work in the summertime for what was called the Range Parish on the Iron Range. And there were some fascinating people that—I was, you know—I had a lot of models. One of them was Mary Gwen Owen, and she had worked one summer with my dad and was—they did daily Vacation Bible School, they did playground activity, they had crafts, making baskets, and all kinds of stuff. And so, that was kind of a connection, to have us be here, to have one of those students become a professor here. That was interesting too.

FB: I can remember sitting in Cornell's class on sociology, which was kind of—well, he was on the skating rink, and I had a ring that reflected. So I used to watch my ring to see if he was working down there. [laughter] And his brother and I were in class together once, one year, in Dr. Cornell's class—or I think it was Doctor, I don't know. And you know you had the desk chairs and we used to play hangman. [laughs]

[37:32]

LZ: Were academics pretty rigorous or did you find that you were able to balance things fairly well with all the lot of...?

FB: I didn't get all A's by any means but I did okay. You know, I didn't work that hard either.
[laughter] But I graduated.

AB: Well, we weren't damaged by anything that we didn't like. I mean, it's no big deal. So they're different. People are different, and there's always something you can learn. So I think we both enjoyed that, the fact that there was some intellectual challenges around, which you don't get in a high school much anymore, at least we didn't.

FB: We had some kind of conversation this morning or yesterday morning around our coffee table at the Marsh, and it brought up the memory that we were asked not to sit together in the library by the librarian because it was too disruptive. [laughter]

LZ: I know you didn't live in the dorms but was Dean Doty a fairly...?

FB: Um-hm, um-hm. Oh yes, oh yes. Um-hm. And Dean Doty didn't want the women to wear patent leather shoes either—might be able to see up their skirts. [laughs] At least that was the story, I never heard her say that.

AB: Yeah, very strange. That's part of the culture. When we—you like stories, you don't have to—you can edit them out. [laughter] I was drafted in 1942 in the fall, in December. She was pregnant. I got a furlough the next, next—

FB: Oh, it was right after basic training, his first leave.

AB: And I got furlough, came home, where she was staying with her folks, and she went to the hospital that night and had a baby, and so—

FB: You stayed two weeks those days.

AB: Had to stay two weeks in the hospital.

FB: He never got to hold that baby because I didn't go home until after he'd gone back to...

AB: And so, I left and she came home. [laughs]

FB: Well you can tell about talking to Dean Ficken though, because that was funny.

AB: I came over here to talk—

FB: —Replogle.

AB: Yeah, Replogle, [laughter] Fred Replogle was the psychology professor. [laughter]

FB: He was wonderful.

AB: He was a godsend, I mean—anyhow, I came over to talk to him, and I was sitting there, we were having a good visit, and the dean came by and he said, “I heard that your brother had a— and sister, each had a baby girl.” And Fred says to him, “Yeah, but Art and Fran had a baby boy.” And he looked at me just as sober as can be, and he wasn’t kidding, “You always did insist on being different.” [laughter] And that was one for me! [laughter]

[40:48]

LZ: So did you find that you were able to come back to Macalester quite a bit?

FB: Oh we have every five years, [unclear] every five years and every five years, so for two years in a row we come back—I think we haven’t missed more than one or two—

AB: No, not since...

FB: —five-year reunions in all the sixty-some years we’ve been here.

AB: Well since 19—when we moved here in 1950.

FB: Yeah, well that’s right, well we lived in Dickinson, North Dakota for four years. But, after he got out of the war, but since then we’ve been coming back all the time. And it’s wonderful.

AB: It’s reconnect time.

FB: But you know, when you get this many years, last year, or was it my sixty-fifth anniversary, [laughs] not my—my sixty-fifth reunion, there were four of us. I think there are more living, but they didn't make it back. Makes a difference.

[41:41]

LZ: What is it like for—seeing that you've been—I mean you were on the Board of Trustees which we can talk about, but you've both been very involved with the college since graduating I guess kind of what are some of the biggest changes you've seen or things that really stand out in your mind?

FB: I don't know as I'd call them changes, but growths. You know? And it's just been a gradual expanding.

AB: And they've done a good selection, an excellent selection I think, of faculty and presidents, which you're growing all the time. And you know, you may not go to school anymore but you grow, and that's the same thing with the college. You have a foundation and as you grow, all the stuff that are not helpful die, and you maintain a foundation and that just keeps feeding everything all the way through, without—it just happens if you let it happen. I think it's healthy. Nobody wants it the way it was.

FB: And we've been so impressed with the students. You know, when we come to the dinners and so forth over here and the students at our table. They've been wonderful.

AB: Yeah.

FB: Just, we just have been so impressed by the caliber of students. And I know they're careful in their selection.

[43:14]

LZ: Were you, I guess, involved with the campus, or maybe not directly, during the 1970s? There was a lot going on then with Vietnam and financial difficulties. I guess maybe, do you remember what your reactions were to those, kind of that era in Macalester's history?

FB: Well, we had kids here in '70's. Our younger daughter graduated in '76, and our older son in '65, so we had kids in those years. And that was—I mean they had wonderful experiences; it was different from ours and different from now, but that's the way things are.

LZ: So did all of your children go to Macalester?

FB: Um-hm. And one son met his girl, his wife, here. So, that...well you asked about that, yeah?

AB: We gave them a choice. I said, "We'll be glad to support you, if you go to a college. The only limitation is go to a college in Minnesota that had a Presbyterian connection." [laughter]
How's that for giving them an option?

FB: Any college in Minnesota with a Presbyterian connection!

LZ: Were they very—

FB: You can't see your mouth. [to Art] [laughs]

LZ: Were your children kind of excited for Mac? Has that kind of become a legacy in your family?

FB: It was for us, but you know none of our *eleven* grandchildren have come here. And the last one, New York, is going to Trinity. They've gone, you know, Yale, Puget Sound, University of Chicago.

AB: Most of them don't—most kids graduating want to go somewhere outside of the city. I understand that, it's part of their [growth?] and that's healthy. So it's unfortunate but...

FB: Yeah, you know, you have to bite your tongue. [laughs]

AB: We take—pick up the leftovers. This way you see, without the kids here. [pause]
Yeah...but they're supportive. David, our oldest son, was on the trustees—

FB: You'll see David's name on some of those things around here.

[45:35]

LZ: And actually, Ellen and I noticed this morning that your name is on the placard outside the library—the Board of Trustees in '87, is that right?

AB: Hmm.

LZ: I guess maybe if you could talk a little bit about your time on the board and how that happened, and, I guess, your experience with that?

AB: It just took place.

LZ: Were you approached by someone at the college, is that how that—I guess, how does the process of becoming on the Board of the Trustees kind of work for...?

AB: Somebody tapped me and said, “Will you be on the Board of Trustees?” I was also on the Alumni Board.

FB: Yeah, I was on the Alumni Board too, for a while.

AB: And, in those days, why Sandy Hill was the one that was everything. I mean, he was—staffed the Board of Trustees and, also, the—oh, all kinds of stuff.

FB: Oh, yeah, that Sandy just had everything together. [laughter]

AB: I called him the glue that held the college together. [pause] You all know him so...

FB: Well, for a while I was—what was it, the International Board or something?

AB: Who?

FB: I was. With, you know, we used to meet over at International House with the international students and stuff.

AB: That's right.

FB: That was some time ago, I think, we still had kids in college in those days.

[47:08]

LZ: Have you been able to keep in touch with a lot of your classmates since Macalester?

FB: Well, you know, every five years, yes we did. And it was always fun, it was like, a lot of times like we saw them yesterday, you know, when it's that often. And mostly the same ones that return year after year, and some of them we never saw.

LZ: Have some of them kept I guess kind of a relationship with Macalester going?

FB: Not the ones we see every five years.

AB: We don't have any lifetime connections from Macalester though do we, as students?

FB: As students? Well, there are the ones that we see every five years.

AB: Yeah, but I mean outside of that.

FB: No, not really.

AB: I can't think of any.

FB: There are some that weren't with us that we have, like the Igorns [?] and some of those people, but uh...

AB: Well, and Ruth Stricker is a friend of ours.

FB: Of course Ruth Stricker is a good friend of ours. We go to her—the Marsh every day.

[laughter] Yeah. But that was not initially a Macalester connection, it was a church connection, so...

AB: Well, we survived it, let's put it that way. [laughter]

[48:43]

LZ: Do you have kind of a favorite—when you look back at your time at Macalester, do you have kind of a favorite memory or experience that comes to mind when you think of your time as a student, or I guess even as an alumni?

FB: Well, I do think that the times we were out at Milt McLean's.

AB: Yeah.

FB: Those were special times. It was off-campus but...

AB: I used to write a little column in the Mac Weekly.

FB: Um-hm.

AB: I was going through some stuff and here was a copy of that, and there was a letter from Milt McLean, who left here to teach at another place—he was coming back. And wrote a *very* nice letter to me, I was pleased with that.

FB: Well, they came for dinner, and he brought you some of those columns that he wrote.

LZ: Oh. Have you kept in touch with some of your professors then?

FB: Not—

LZ: No?

FB: Not other than that, and that was some time ago.

AB: Yeah. Oh, I'll say.

FB: And, of course, when we used to come back, early days, some of the professors that we used to like to have chaperone our parties, well, we've always connected with them, but they, you know, are no longer here.

LZ: Well, if you have nothing else you want to talk about?

AB: I'm dry. [laughter]

FB: I'm glad. [laughter]

LZ: All right, well, thank you both for taking time out to sit down...

FB: Thank you, thank you.