GEORGE GOODWIN

September 18, 1996

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Mame Warren,
Interviewer

Warren: This is Mame Warren. Today is the 18th of September 1996. I'm in Lexington, Virginia, with George Goodwin, and it looks to me like you've come prepared. You've got lots of notes.

Goodwin: I have some.

Warren: What made you decide to come to Washington and Lee, in the first place?

Goodwin: A combination of circumstances, but the primary one was, I knew that they had a very good journalism school, and I was determined on a career as a newspaperman. I had visited the campus in the fall, I guess, of '34, attending a Southern Scholastic Press Association meeting, and that further entrapped me.

There was a remarkable man in Atlanta named Colonel Willis Everett [phonetic], Willis A. Everett, I believe, who was a Washington and Lee alumnus, a friend of my mother's who was particularly a friend of his parents, and he spoke to me of the merits of Washington and Lee and I think had a hand in getting me a small $100 scholarship. It wasn't too small for that day, but it was pretty useful.

He, incidentally, went on to be the military officer appointed to defend the Malmady [phonetic] Massacre, Germans, and as he said to me later, Malmady was a terrible incident in World War II in which a number of American prisoners of war were shot down. Later, the officers of the battalion involved were captured, and that led to a trial of the commander and a number of others. This young officer from Atlanta, who

was an attorney, was picked to be their defense counsel in the court-martial. It went on about the same time the Nuremberg trials went on.

He said for the first part of the incident or the procedure, really right up through the trial, he felt he was doing what he was supposed to do, defending some defendants who, under our system, were entitled to a defense. But thereafter, he realized that he had to appeal that, and he finally appealed it, I believe, to the Supreme Court of the United States, on the violations of American judicial canons. It became quite a famous story, and he became right distinguished for it. He's long gone, but a good man, a very good man. A biography is in the process of being written about him.

So anyway, it was those factors that led in. I think in 1932 my family had visited the campus when we were on a drive through the Shenandoah Valley to New York.

Warren: Do you remember your impressions then?

Goodwin: Oh, yeah. It was a very beautiful place. It looked about like it does now. My wife says that Lexington and Washington and Lee have been pretty much unchanged by progress.

Warren: Do you think that's true?

Goodwin: There's been some progress over here. I don't see much in the town.

Warren: So you attended the Southern Scholastic conference. You're the first person I've talked to who attended one of those. I've certainly talked to Tom Riegel about it, but I'd love to hear a student's point of view about it.

Goodwin: Well, another fellow and I who were in Boys High in Atlanta were invited to attend. I forget now just what the procedures were, whether we applied or how it was. We came up by train to Lynchburg, and by bus over here, I presume. We stayed in—well, I stayed in the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house, because one of my good friends from Boys High had come up here and had pledged Delt, and they found a bed for me.

Then I remembered those things after I was in school, and they seemed to attract a lot of capable young people from around the region. I guess Atlanta was a little far for some to have come.

Incidentally, the fellow who came with me subsequently was a federal district judge in Atlanta, stood for Congress. He was not elected, but was very close. And is now retired, and we are still good friends. He told me he regretted that he wasn't able to come to W&L. He went to Emory.

Warren: So you had decided you wanted to be a journalist early on. Tell me about being a journalism major at Washington and Lee. What did that entail back then? What was it like?

Goodwin: As I recall, you could take only one journalism course in your sophomore year. You had to do all of the required core curricula. In fact, what one sought was a certificate in journalism. As I recall, I had 130-something hours, and that extra twenty or so were what made the certificate part of it.

Then your junior and senior years were pretty well filled with journalism courses. Well, they weren't filled, but you had a lot of them. Tom Riegel taught Critical Writing and Propaganda. A man named Dick Carter taught Reporting and Advanced Reporting. I haven't carried many grudges in my life, but he manages to hold one of them.

I guess it was the spring of my junior year, I was elected to go to the National Sigma Delta Chi convention in Madison, Wisconsin. At the time, the class was covering the courts, and so I did my court story for the day and then wrote a little note that "Goodwin will be away for the next few days. For full coverage of the Rockbridge County Court, see the reports of—" and listed the other guys who were there, for which he gave me not an F, but a zero, and that zero pulled me out of Phi Beta Kappa, and I never quite forgave him for it. I guess I learned a lesson.

Anyway, there was another fellow, whose name I've forgotten, who was there. Harold Lauck ran the print shop, and we printed the *Ring-tum Phi*, which was about where this library is now, as a matter of fact, hung out over the chasm here. Working on the *Ring-tum Phi* was very much a part of the journalism procedures.

Warren: Tell me about that.

Goodwin: Well, the *Ring-tum Phi* was a right good college paper for its day. It came out twice a week, so we had two managing editors. Then there was always a competition to who would be editor in his senior year, and I missed out on that. Bob Nicholson, who had been the managing editor of the other section of the paper was selected.

Warren: Who selected?

Goodwin: Oh, it was selected by general campus votes or something. I've forgotten how we selected campus offices. But it was like everything else. It was traded out. One of our fellows wanted to be president had a Fancy Dress. The Delta house couldn't have everything, so we had to give something up, and mine was one of them.

But the actual selection—oh, now I remember. The actual selection was before some student committee, maybe the Executive Committee, the head of such, something like that.

It was a right thoughtful paper. I get the *Ring-tum Phi* now as a class agent, and we didn't have nearly the political material. It was really more campus oriented and didn't try to cover the world's news or be overfilled with commentary on political, national politics.

Warren: What do you think about that change?

Goodwin: I think it's probably a change for the good, certainly. Today one lives amid politics. I have a feeling there's too many Republicans running around, especially on the campus, but that will change.

Warren: You think?

Goodwin: Oh, yeah.

Warren: What was the political scene when you were here?

Goodwin: Franklin Delano Roosevelt and no one else.

Warren: Is that true? The student body was behind Roosevelt?

Goodwin: Of course. Well, we still had Republicans around, but I would guess that the majority of the student body in those days would have been for Roosevelt. I'm sure there's some pieces in the *Ring-tum Phi* that did touch on that issue. I think his opposition in '36 was Alf[red] Landon, maybe. Yes, that's who it was. And he wasn't a very strong candidate, and Roosevelt was a towering candidate. It's funny, the girl I married was working as a secretary to Wendell Wilkie.

Warren: Really?

Goodwin: When we were married in 1940.

Warren: Isn't that interesting. Now, tell me about being at Washington and Lee during the Depression and during the Roosevelt era. It must have been very different.

Goodwin: That's what this is.

Warren: Well, you tell me.

Goodwin: Well, it's pretty well set forth here, covering four years, because I had to select what was going on, and I've been trying—these notes I made when I was coming up. I found it's really difficult to realize more than high spots.

For instance, from Atlanta you came by train and by bus or by taxi from Lynchburg. No freshmen were allowed to have automobiles. In fact, I didn't have one all the time I was here, and didn't feel particularly deprived. I remember very well the first time coming up and somehow—I guess I had made a day trip of it because of coming in on a bus by way of Glasgow and Natural Bridge and sitting next to a fellow named Bob Brickhouse, who turned out to be the freshman dorm counselor in Graham Dorm, one of mine as a matter of fact.

I remember it was evening, and we had freshman camp at that time, so we spent one night in rather primitive conditions there on the third floor of Graham. But I recall

that the dormitories were, of course, not joined. I can't remember what was between them. I guess it was just grass, though there could have been a road between them. They were separated in the middle, so that you had one entrance from the street leading up toward the campus there behind Traveller's home and another entrance from the campus, but you couldn't go all the way through the corridors. So that made particularly close friendships among the people who were together on their respective ends of the four floors.

I remember one of the people on my end was Ed Shannon. He lived with three other fellows down in the room that had four guys in it. Others, I think, were single rooms, as I recall. But four of us from that group, our sophomore year lived in the castle.

Warren: Tell me about the Castle.

Goodwin: The Castle is the oldest building in town, over behind the jail, the headquarters of the Rockbridge—some agency there. What's the street parallel to Main Street one block?

Warren: Randolph?

Goodwin: Yeah. The castle is a little tabby-like building, outside stairs, entrance under the stairs, it could handle eight students. Professor Hale Houston [phonetic], who lived up on the corner of Washington, I guess, and Randolph, owned it. That's an historical monument. It's got a plaque on it, all that sort of thing.

Warren: Did you have an apartment in it or did you have the whole house?

Goodwin: No, we had the upper story and four other guys had the lower story.

Warren: Is that when you were an upperclassman?

Goodwin: That was when I was a sophomore. Then my junior and senior years, I lived in the Delt house.

But back to the impact of the design of the freshman dorm, they created a little group of which you were a part. Just like you were a part of the journalism school once

you got into it, you were a part of your fraternity. If you had been in athletics, you would have been a part of whatever athletic pursuit you were into, which was one reason I was so glad when they gave up football, because that was a sort of a special group of people. And indeed, I'll tell you a story about that. I don't think I told you.

We'd gotten back from freshman camp. I was in 317 Graham, and the fellow next to me was a fellow exactly my size from Morgan Park School in Chicago, and he'd played football there. I had played pick-up football, but not in high school. And so they put a notice up in the gymnasium, anybody wants to go out for freshman football, report to the gym or to the football field, or to the gym I guess it was, at two p.m. on Tuesday. So McClure and I looked at each other, "Do you think we should?"

"Yeah, let's do." So we did.

We got over there and found all the hired hands had reported at two p.m. on Monday, and they had all the uniforms, the new shoulder pads, better equipment all the way around. And of the group that reported on Tuesday, I think only one ever made the varsity, but that one was Charlie Lykes, the Lykes family of Florida. Well, they wound up owning about half the state of Florida, the Lykes Brothers Ripley Steamship Company, Lykes Foods. He died just a few years ago.

Warren: How do you spell Lykes?

Goodwin: L-Y-K-E-S. Very generous family to the university. Their roots originally were in Texas. In fact, they're all along the Gulf Coast. There were Lykes in Texas, and I think there's an interest in Louisiana, big cattle interest and farming interest in Florida.

Warren: So who do you mean, the "hired hands"?

Goodwin: These were the people that were on football scholarships.

Warren: Tell me more about that.

Goodwin: Well, in those days Washington and Lee was trying to play big-time football, like the University of Georgia or VMI or VPI or Carolina, and they didn't do very well at it. They usually had one or two outstanding players. We had one in our

group, Ray Craft, who was pretty good, quite good. Amos Boland [phonetic], that was the freshman football coach, but he'd been distinguished in the years immediately preceding. I would guess they had about twenty-five football scholarship athletes. The rest of us were sort of to be practiced with and at. But it was fun, and we all enjoyed it. There were some nice guys on there.

Warren: Was there resentment?

Goodwin: Pardon?

Warren: Was there resentment from the other students?

Goodwin: Not really. It was sort of expected. I guess for Mac and me, we were just surprised when we first—we resented having hand-me-down equipment. All the better shoes, the other guys had. We had, if you could find a pair to fit you, left over from last year or the year before. But, no, there was no general resentment.

Warren: Was there a lot of support for the football team?

Goodwin: Oh, yes, very enthusiastic, and we would all get out and cheer. And most of us that went out on Tuesday stayed out through the whole season. I think I got in one game for a few minutes. But it was fun. We enjoyed it.

Then in I think it was 1949, somewhere in that era, Washington and Lee actually played in the Gator Bowl, and then the next year or the fall following that year—no, in the spring following that year—they bounced about fifteen of the players on violation of the Honor System and gave up football. That was one of the great days in the university's life, because it opened the field for anybody who wanted to go out could, and did, and I think it's been fine. I doubt there's been any serious regrets on the part of anybody except a few alumni.

Warren: How did the alumni react when that news came out?

Goodwin: Some of them screamed like a wounded bear, and there's at least one in our class that still thinks it was an evil day and stopped contributing. But they've gotten over it, like they got over coeducation, most of them.

Warren: Was fraternity life really important to you?

Goodwin: Yes. I have a feeling in those days fraternity life was pretty important, relatively. Our son was here in '69, and he elected not to pledge a fraternity, and he had a fine time here and thoroughly enjoyed himself. But fraternity life was right pervasive, I would say, and pleasant. It was another group of friends. One of the fellows who pledged the fraternity the same week I did, I swore I couldn't possibly stand to live around that man for four years, loud mouth, horrible. He turned out to be best man in my wedding, and we were with them in Illinois a few weeks ago.

Warren: You must have worked something out.

Goodwin: It's funny. Some of the people that I have disliked, at least temporarily, turned out to be wonderfully close friends. That was Charlie Bowles. Charlie went on to be All Southern Conference wrestler, still looks like a kite.

We lost a lot of people out of that fraternity. I think eight or nine who were there when I was were lost in World War II.

Warren: Did you have a sense, as you went through your four years, of what the world events were and what was coming?

Goodwin: Well, those four years, here are 1,200, 1,500 young men sort of physically removed from the big cities of America, the big newspapers. We had radio. Of course, this is before TV. There was a lot of following of world events on radio.

That tape, one of them is from my sophomore year. One is Franklin Roosevelt, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." No, no, "This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." The second one is the Duke of Windsor and his statement to the British people when he stepped down from being king. And there's the Joe Louis-Max Schmeling fight, the crash of the Hindenburg, the *War of the Worlds*, Orson Welles' thing.

Warren: One thing. I'm sure your slide show is wonderful, but what I'm putting together here is for posterity, and we want to hear what George Goodwin has to say.

Those were really big world events. What happened here at Washington and Lee as those things were taking place?

Goodwin: Well, I don't remember political gatherings like I read about in the *Ring-tum Phi* now, where you would have visiting speakers, high level. Of course, we had the Mock Convention, but I don't think we had funds in the student budget for bringing speakers. If you could get them for free, you might get some occasionally. There were discussions in classroom. Political science was a very significant course here, always was. History. And so it got mixed in by osmosis if no other way. But anyway, we were sitting back here all by ourselves, and this world's going on outside the Shenandoah Valley.

One of the things in there that occurred while we were here was Neville Chamberlain's meeting with Hitler and his talk, "and Hitler assures me that the Sudetenland will be his last territorial objective," and less than three years later we're all involved in it.

So I think there was a definite awareness, particularly after '38, when Hitler goes into Poland, that it was just kind of a question of time. None of us envisioned Pearl Harbor, but there was the expectation that they couldn't have that big a war without the United States being involved in some way.

We were, of course, aware of Lend-Lease and the destroyer deal. Well, that comes later, after we were out of school. But we knew Roosevelt, which side he was on.

Warren: Were military science classes being offered, and did you take any?

Goodwin: I did not take any. There was a Marine group here. I remember one of my classmates, a boy named Bob Goodin, G-O-O-D-I-N, from Tennessee, was in a group that they wound up on Guadalcanal. There's a picture of his Marine training group in there. Now, where they trained, I don't know. It must have been somewhere around here. I don't think it was as far away as Lynchburg, but it could have been. But I didn't know of any Navy or Army ROTC. And I think some of that continued after the war.

Other than that Marine unit, I didn't know of anything. There may have been some fellows who were in the National Guard in their home states, possibility.

Warren: So was there talk among the students that "we are going to get involved," "we," personally?

Goodwin: Oh, yes.

Warren: Tell me about that.

Goodwin: It just was. You knew you were, because you were the right age. You didn't know when, but there was talk, there was expectation.

We had a nice thing at the Delta house. Our housemother was a woman named Mrs. Kennedy. Her husband had been an Episcopal minister, and she lived a long time in China. Her husband was the brother of Hugh Stoddert Kennedy, who was highly quoted among Episcopalians. She served tea each afternoon, and there was a room set aside just for that. And she had a radio, and we would make our way in there. We might listen to a national commentator, and then she'd talk about it or we'd talk about it. There was some joking around he campus about the tea-drinking Delts, but on the other hand, our friends appreciated being invited.

Some of those conversations were right serious. Then a sort of replay of it might happen in the evening sometimes. She'd be in there, and various fellows would drop around. She was a world figure herself, so she added breadth to any conversation that went on.

Incidentally, she, in China, had in her charge two young women who were with some other missionary family, Olivia De Havilland and Joan Fontaine. In the summer after I graduated, I went out to California with a group from Atlanta, and she made arrangements for me to meet Olivia De Havilland in Santa Monica, I guess. And we were going on up to San Francisco, so she said, "You must see my parents and my sister up there." So I did, because they all had great regards for Mrs. Kennedy.

We had a funny thing happen at one of those tea sessions. Sonny Harbaugh [phonetic], from somewhere in Virginia, he was a year behind me, I believe, brought a dog to school when he came back for his sophomore year, when he could live in the house. See, freshmen couldn't live in the fraternity. He brought this damn dog. It was a remarkable dog, I think a collie, a big dog. But he could hear the telephone before anyone else could hear it, and if he were downstairs, he would go from wherever he was pell-mell to the little downstairs telephone booth, or if he was upstairs, he'd head for the upstairs one.

One day that happened just as Reed, the butler, was either coming in or going out with a tray of tea things, and he hit Reed and Reed went down, and tea things went all over everywhere.

Warren: Was that unusual to have a dog?

Goodwin: He was, I think, the only one we had around the house when I was there.

Warren: There are dogs everywhere here now.

Goodwin: Well, there were always plenty of dogs on the campus, but at that time I didn't know many that lived in fraternity houses. But Harbaugh was different, anyway. I forget what town he's from.

But those four years were good years. They were years of friendships. I was jotting down some thoughts here of the times that happened. The gym was popular. That was the old gym, the Doremus Gymnasium. The basketball team used it for practice, but the handball courts were available, and a lot of us learned to play handball. Then while we were here, they built the tennis courts, and they were good tennis courts, down under the bridge. Fred Perry came here as a tennis coach.

Warren: Tell me about that. Did you play with him?

Goodwin: I didn't play with him. I remember first he came and played an exhibition, and then it may have been after I was gone that he came here as the coach, but I know that he was.

Of course, Rush Week was always an interesting time. The thing that I marvel about so much was how the SAEs and the Delts and the various types of guys wound up at houses where they belonged.

Warren: How do you think that happened? I think it's very mysterious.

Goodwin: I just don't know, but it happened. There would be exceptions, of course. But generally, guys of a type wound up together.

One of the funny things is, the SPE alumni have been generally the most generous in their contributions to the university. The little house down there where the Highway 11 bears off and heads into town as you're coming from out at Best Western, the little yellow building to the right, I think it's a health center now or something, but Hugh Avery of the SPE house started a boys club in there. He was just a student, but he thought these kids didn't have anything to do. I guess they were black even then. And he started a boys club for them. I was here with Hugh some years ago, and he went back there and something like that boys club was still going on. He died recently, two years ago.

Dick Handley lived out in the state of Washington, very generous, very kind person. Didn't have much money. Bob Hilton, Cincinnati, a lawyer. There's something about that crowd. They were that way. You really couldn't describe what made them the—KAs were sort of professional Southerners. I expect we all drank too much, although whatever level we operated in that department was multiplied by ten over subsequent years.

One of our alumni, one of the fellows in my class, wrote me a clipping from some rating service of colleges and universities just recently, in the last month, and Washington and Lee had been noted as a place with plenty of alcohol. He said, "Is this what's being said about our university?"

I wrote him back, "And what were you doing when you were there?" But there was too much of that.

Warren: Do you think there was more here than elsewhere?

Goodwin: Probably.

Warren: Why?

Goodwin: I think the University of Virginia exceeded it. Well, we had a lot of wealthy boys. We were sort of identifying ourselves as sophisticated young gentlemen, coats and ties. That was part of it. Another, we had a lot of parties. Now, we didn't have these constant fraternity parties like came in recent years, but, remember, there were no women here, except for the Desha girls, Dr. Desha's daughters. There just weren't many in town that were a part of the university. So it was Hollins or Sweet Briar or Randolph-Macon or Mary Baldwin, and those visits went on just about each weekend. So when we did have a party, I guess it was a pretty raucous one in some ways.

I remember we had quite a long debate in the Delta house on whether to allow a bar and playroom to be built downstairs. They finally did do it in my junior year, I think. But most of us were probably getting introduced to whiskey for the first time, and beer. In spring, bock beer was a popular idea. Various places around town served it, a dark beer. Conviviality was sort of a hallmark of the place, either by twos or fours or tens or however many were in the group. I don't think there was any drinking in the dorms to amount to anything. The dorm monitors are supposed to be a little aware of that. But we used to take protection in the fact that the University of Virginia was probably even more so.

Warren: I need to turn the tape over.

[Begin Tape 1, Side 2]

Warren: You just mentioned the idea of going to the various women's colleges. You didn't have a car. How did you get there?

Goodwin: By being awfully nice to guys who did.

Warren: Tell me about that.

Goodwin: Well, usually there would be a group around the fraternity that was kind of aimed at various schools, maybe three or four that had girls at Randolph-Macon and maybe an equal number at Sweet Briar or Hollins. Hollins, being a little closer, was maybe a little more popular, because that mountain was a mess to go whichever way you went to Lynchburg. And Mary Baldwin was close up the way.

Usually on weekends, on both days of the weekend, there would be somebody going, and those who had cars were very generous to share them with others. A fellow who died this year in Atlanta, who lived in Memphis, he used to go to Randolph-Macon. I rode with him many a time.

Warren: Would it be a whole gang of you would get in the car and go over?

Goodwin: Oh, maybe six, five. More than one, usually. There was a professor here named Fitzgerald Flournoy in English and high regarded. I think he may have been a Rhodes scholar. His mother was very active in Colonial Dames and the Daughters of the Revolution in Lynchburg, and doing my sophomore year I fell into a pattern of driving her over there of an afternoon, and that would give me time to drop by Randolph-Macon, and when she was ready to come back, we'd come back.

I remember one night driving back in the rain, coming into Buena Vista, a black asphalt pavement, black night, I suddenly realized I was in a herd of black cows. I was dodging cows, not wanted to wreck her automobile. We made it.

One of the things that happened while I was here and that we all took joy in, we had an English professor named Lawrence Edward Watkins. Are you familiar with this story?

Warren: Please tell it.

Goodwin: Well, Larry Watkins lived in the house just back of the Episcopal church, he and his wife, and they used to give pretty raucous parties, not for students, but for faculty. It's said that the university was just about to remove him from the campus

when his book came out, and his book was *On Borrowed Time*, a wonderful play, *Death in the Apple Tree*, and they made him a full professor.

I had him for I guess in freshman English. I also had Dean Gilliam freshman English. Larry was just a delight. Years later, 1951, I was in London, barrelling through a revolving door of Selfridge Department Store. I knocked a man down, and I caught him just before he crashed in the thing. I'm looking, and it's Larry Watkins. "What the hell are you doing in my arms in London?"

It turned out that after the war he at some point had gone with Disney as part of a writer/producer team, and he was in London filming *Robin Hood* somewhere. They were living in London, because they invited me to their apartment, and then we went out for dinner in an Indian restaurant. I remember they asked me did I want my curry warm, medium, or mild, and I said, "Very mild," and it was the hottest stuff I ever tasted.

Then I got a call from him some years later, saying that he was coming to Georgia to produce for Disney *The Great Locomotive Chase* and would I help him recruit some actors. Well, I was president of Theater Atlanta at the time, and so we lined up the extras for him to do *The Great Locomotive Chase*. Then still later, we visited him in California when he was doing *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*, which I have never seen, by the way. I have the book, but I never saw the film. But he showed me the big chair that they used for making people little. But he was a distinguished product of this university, not as a student, but as a faculty member.

Warren: Do you know why he left after he became a full professor?

Goodwin: I remember the night that the play *On Borrowed Time* opened on Broadway. He was scared to go. And I think a playwright named Osborne might have been involved in the play version. I walked around the campus with him that night. I think it was maybe my sophomore year, sophomore or junior. He was just nervous and hoping. I forget how the evening ended, but I'm sure the next day it was known that it would be

one of the great hits of the American theater. To this day, little theater groups put it on all over the country, I guess all over the world.

I got to thinking about something the other day that I believe I should share with you, a personal observation. Oh, I knew I brought you something, and I knew that for some reason I wanted to bring my briefcase, and I left the briefcase in the room. I thought, "There's nothing in there I want." But what I do have in there are tapes of Dr. Gaines' speeches.

Warren: You gave me that.

Goodwin: Oh, did I?

Warren: And I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Goodwin: Oh, all right, then you have them.

Warren: Yes.

Goodwin: Did I give you just the excerpts or the full tapes?

Warren: You gave me both, and I listened to both.

Goodwin: All right. Well, I brought three sets with me this time.

Warren: I'm taking care of it. I have it on file.

Goodwin: All right. Well, that's great.

But anyway, as I think back over these four college years, it seems to me that most of my student friends and myself would be particularly close to one or two faculty members, like Tom Riegel or Al Moger. Usually they were people in the field where we were perhaps concentrating, and you might wind up getting invited to their homes sometime. And I expect that was true of the people in science with Dr. Howe, and I know it was true in geology, the fellow who was head of geology at the time.

But for thirty years, Francis P. Gaines spans this place, and you listen to those speeches, and I submit that if there's anything special about Washington and Lee alumni, it comes out of those speeches and speeches like that. Now, none of those

speeches that you have were made when we were here, but they are typical and they are basic and they are the same points that I remember his making.

I guess thirty years is a pretty long time for a college president to be around anyway, and I think he had a real impact on us, because he had a manner of speaking that would sort of lift things above the routine. When he speaks of positive character, for example, and when he talks about honor your patron saints. Listening to those full speeches, I realize he had a manner, he'd go into a parenthesis within a sentence. If he's talking about Lucius Cincinnatus Lamar, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus Lamar, and he told them, "He was a friend of my wife's grandfather," and go right on.

Warren: What did he mean about personal saints?

Goodwin: Positive character?

Warren: Positive character.

Goodwin: What he meant was this. He said anybody can say that he never robbed a bank or never cheated on his wife or never got fallen-down drunk. The nearest lamppost can say that. But what about positive character? And he submitted an idea that he had heard in his student days, that positive character was the carrying out of a resolution after the excitement in which that resolution was made had passed away. He said, "If you found a better definition, let me know."

Warren: Did he have a real rapport with the students?

Goodwin: Yeah. He taught a class on the Bible as literature. It met at eight o'clock in the morning. Incidentally, we had eight o'clock classes in those days, Monday-Wednesday-Friday, Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday, and labs in the afternoon. I took the course in I guess my junior year. It might have even been my sophomore. And when I got through—I think it was a fall course, but I remember a couple of times we met in his library there. Mrs. Gaines would fix ham biscuits or something, or we'd never listen.

When I went to study for the final exam and I opened my notebook, and I didn't have any notes in it. I'd have a page and a date and maybe two or three words or

perhaps even a sentence, but never a paragraph. And the reason I know it was either my sophomore or junior year, because McClure had to leave. He had to get through in three years, but didn't find out until after the first one. He was here, because he was in the course, and I called him. I said, "Let me borrow your notes on Literature of the Bible."

He said, "Okay."

He called me back in a little bit. He said, "You know, it's a funny thing. I haven't got any notes." He had the same experience I had.

So we started checking around with the other guys in the class, and no one had any notes. That man was such an orator, such a speaker, such a teacher, that you got absolutely mesmerized by what he was saying. It happened to all of us. I think he had had the experience before, because the final exam was something terribly easy. Everybody made A on it.

But the two impacts on this university that I think tend to get overlooked, one is George Washington, and the other is Frank Gaines. That's not to put down any of the others, although Gaines set a standard among college presidents. He had been nationwide [unclear].

Warren: Well, his style of oratory is something that just hasn't happened in my lifetime. There are very few speeches. It's only speeches of old that I've heard recordings of. But I've never had the privilege that you did of living with that kind of oratory. That must have been spectacular.

Goodwin: It was dramatic, and we had that and Franklin Roosevelt at the same time. There was another great orator. But anyway, that's one of my theories.

The faculty, you didn't have the real envision mixing up with the faculty that I expect you have at Oxford and Cambridge. You had good teachers, you had respect for them, and in the classroom there was banter and serious discussion. Dr. Bean in history,

Constitutional History, was very effective at that. I remember one day he said, "If someone would awaken Mr. Goodwin, the class is dismissed."

One of the hilarious ones was Fletcher James Barnes [phonetic], political science. He later wound up as the recruiting officer for naval officers in Virginia, and I saw him after the war, too, in Atlanta. Some of his stories were pretty salacious, but, again, his points over. I think he built, among those who had his class, a respect for the political process. One of the things that frightens me, I feel it's in great danger today.

Anyway, let me glance at some of these things. Oh, yes. One of the things, you asked me about fraternity life. Our fraternity—now, I think it was true at others—had a tendency to linger after dinner for maybe a singing, a songfest of ten or fifteen minutes, singing college songs and state songs and Delt songs. That would go on for as long as twenty, thirty minutes, when you think about it.

We took all meals in the fraternity house, including breakfast. You bat out of here for an eight o'clock class, that meant you got up before seven to go to the Delta house and then back for that eight o'clock class. But they were pleasant occasions, and there was great regard for the cooks and for the butlers, that sort of thing.

Warren: Who were the butlers?

Goodwin: They were blacks. Reed—I forget what Reed's last name was. He lived a long time. He was part Cherokee Indian.

Warren: And they lived here in Lexington?

Goodwin: Oh, yes.

Warren: What would they do?

Goodwin: They served and they sort of kept the place going. They saw to it that there was something in the refrigerator to eat at night, and were generally the only servant in the house. There may be a cook, as well as the butler. Usually we had two butlers and a cook. You didn't know the cook as well. I didn't. And the housemother, of course, directed them.

But they were the gathering places for the dances, and as I say, they were the places where the dashing teams, as they were sometimes called, developed to go to Hollins or Sweet Briar or Randolph-Macon.

Warren: They were called dashing teams?

Goodwin: Dashing teams, dashing off to this place, dashing off to that.

Warren: I love that. That's a great expression. You mentioned dances. Do you remember any—

Goodwin: Oh, and the movies were a big part of life. What were you saying about dances?

Warren: Oh, go ahead about movies.

Goodwin: Well, it was just that we went to most of them that came to town, and when the theater burned during, I think, my junior year, that was a great tragedy. Of course, they built it back the same place.

Warren: Which one burned?

Goodwin: The one on Nelson Street.

Warren: The State Theater?

Goodwin: Yeah. The Lyric immediately became popular again, but it always was good for cowboy movies.

Warren: Wait a minute. One theater had one kind of movies and the other had another?

Goodwin: Yes. Generally, the State had the first-run movies. I don't know whether they were owned by the same people or not. It was when I was off to the Sigma Delta Chi convention. McClure met me in Staunton and brought me home early one morning, and he said, "Before I drop you off, let me show you something." He drove up Nelson Street and pointed to where the State Theater had been. It was just burned down whole. But they built it back quickly. But it was a part of it. So were the places like Steve's Diner.

Warren: Tell me about Steve's Diner.

Goodwin: It was down there—you know where there was a little floral shop at the point where the streets divide, Main Street comes in and ceases to be one way?

Warren: Yes.

Goodwin: Well, Steve's was on the right there as you go north, and kind of back of the Old Blue, but on the other side. It was just a great place to gather. I think he had beer. I think he had bock beer in the spring, ham-and-egg sandwiches, that sort of thing.

Also, one of the pleasant memories of living in the dorm was a fellow would come by every night with crackers and sandwiches and milk and stuff to eat.

Warren: For sale or giving it away?

Goodwin: A lot of guys worked their way through college doing that.

Warren: Were they selling food?

Goodwin: Oh, yeah. Then the laundrymen who would come in from the hills and pick up your stuff on Tuesday and bring it back on Friday.

Warren: What do you mean, "come in from the hills"?

Goodwin: Well, they lived out in the hills. My laundryman lived on House Mountain.

Warren: Wait a minute, you're the first person to tell me about his. You have to explain a little better.

Goodwin: I remember in my freshman year this guy shows up. He says, "I'm a laundryman. I'll pick up your laundry and take it home. My wife will wash it and iron it. I'll bring it back to you, and you pay me."

I said, "Fine."

So that's how it operated. And then at the fraternity house, the same pattern continued. We didn't have coin laundries. You had dry cleaners. Some boys shipped their laundry home. They had fiber-tight boxes about so big, and they'd just mail it home every Monday, and Mama would do it and mail it back.

Warren: Oh, my God, you're kidding.

Goodwin: I'm not.

Another very key gathering place in Lexington in those days was McCrum's. Now, that continued up until fairly recent time. When McCrum's changed character, that's when I knew Lexington had lost its downtown. But it was the bus station, and it had the parking behind it, and long rows of booths and everything you could want in a drugstore of its day. The faculty used to use it during the mornings, and students would use it at night.

There's one story about Dr. Howe, who was the head of the chemistry department, that a fellow comes to class on Thursday and Dr. Howe begins to quiz him on the Tuesday lecture. This guy had been smart. He learned what Howe had said on Tuesday when he'd skipped the class. Howe was a little taken back that this fellow was so knowledgeable. He said, "How did you know all that when you weren't here?"

"I was in McCrum's, and I heard every word you said." Howe had a bellowing voice.

I remember somehow something got mixed up when I arrived at college, and he was my freshman adviser for about three days. I went over to see him in the chemistry building. The place smelled like a chemistry building. I had never taken a chemistry course and had no intention of ever taking one. He handed me my schedule. I had every chemistry course that Washington and Lee University offered. I said, "Wait a minute, Dr. Howe. There's something wrong. I'm supposed to be in the journalism school. You've got me taking all the chemistry."

He said, "I know. A journalist only needs to know two things—chemistry and stamp collecting."

Well, I escaped as soon as I could. I went over to the journalism school and found Riegel and I said, "Look, I think I'm supposed to be one of yours."

He said, "Oh, yeah, there's been a mix-up. I've been looking for you."

After World War II, '47, '48, there was an issue of *Life* magazine devoted to only two subjects—chemistry and stamp collecting.

Warren: Well, you see, he was on to something. He was trying to tell you something.

Goodwin: I'll tell you the person who was on to something, or try to tell you something, was Riegel. Riegel insisted that all of us in the journalism school—I guess this may have been in a course in editorial writing or advanced reporting or something—learn everything you could about Charles A. Lindbergh. This is 1938, '39, after the Lindbergh baby kidnapping. Lindbergh's living in Normandy, working with Alexis Carrel on the artificial heart, and he said, "That man's going to be back in the news one of these days." And so we did. We learned about Lindbergh.

One year later, I'm working with the *Washington Times Harold*, and one of my first assignments was to cover Charles A. Lindbergh in "America First." Later, during the war, we were together for a week out at the Marine Corps Air Station, Santa Barbara. He came through, teaching Marines how to stretch Corsairs, or flying them more carefully than Marines normally fly airplanes. I was the operation intelligence officer, although I was Navy and eventually wound up in PT boats. He had the office next to me for a week. Every time I'd see him, Riegel, I marvel that he should have been so perceptive.

But Riegel is one of the most remarkable men that ever walked on this campus. He was in Paris as a newspaper reporter when, I believe, the international edition of the *New York Daily World* in the mid-twenties, when all these American expatriates were there, Scott Fitzgerald and the like, and he has written his life over there, marvelous writing. I've tried to get it published, but it's too late. There's nobody who remembers the era now. But that's quite a guy. He's a hell of a guy.

Warren: He's had an impact on a huge number of people.

Goodwin: Oh, yeah.

Warren: During the thirties, there he is, he's an expert on propaganda, and the world was being filled up with propaganda. Did you realize what an opportunity you had there, having him as a teacher?

Goodwin: Yes. He was showing us examples of it and talking about it. He was talking heavily from World War I, but those of us who were Propaganda and Public Opinion or maybe Public Opinion I and II were the course names, and you recognized it pretty quickly when the same Belgian babies are getting killed in World War II, and, of course, he becomes head of U.S. Information Service in Italy. Quite a guy.

Warren: In describing something else, you've made the allusion to the Old Blue.

Goodwin: Yes, but I didn't know much about it except where it was. It was in back of Desha's house.

Warren: You never went into it?

Goodwin: No.

Warren: I'm very curious about that building.

Goodwin: I was never in it. Ask some of the faculty people who live down in the circle. They must know, because they back up to it.

Warren: But it's been gone a long time.

Goodwin: I know, but there must have been stories. I think it shows in that very early lithograph of the campus.

Warren: It's in a lot of photographs. I know exactly what it looks like. Charley McDowell remembers it. He's the only person I've talked to.

Goodwin: Charley McDowell grew up there. Charley will know about it.

Warren: Yeah. He's the only person I've been able to find that knew it.

Goodwin: That's all right. If you've got him, that's enough.

Warren: That's enough, you're right.

Goodwin: Probably more than enough.

Warren: I started to ask you before about you mentioned the fraternity houses were the gathering places for dances.

Goodwin: Yes.

Warren: There were a lot more dances back then than there are today, right?

Goodwin: No, I think there are the same. The two big ones were Fancy Dress and Finals, and in between were Homecoming and spring dances. I think that's it, four. Now every fraternity appears to have some kind of a thing to which all the other fraternity guys are invited or all the schools are invited, and these fraternity houses are just not designed for that.

Warren: Well, they have parties now, but they don't have dances like you had.

Goodwin: I guess, no, they probably don't.

Warren: Your dances just sound so elegant to me.

Goodwin: Well, they were. They were formal. The tea dances were on there, too. Penny Gaines had collected the music of the orchestras who had played at Washington and Lee when he was here.

Warren: Who is Penny Gaines?

Goodwin: Penny Gaines is the son of Dr. Francis Pendleton Gaines. He's Francis Pendleton Gaines, Jr., and was in my class and was dismissed on an Honor System violation.

Warren: Really?

Goodwin: That's why I know the Washington and Lee Honor System works. He went on. He had a mental aberration of some kind, and he worked for a year or so on a road crew in North Carolina and then went somewhere else and got his degrees and went into teaching. He was president, I believe, of Wolford College, and when he died, I think he was at the University of Arizona, either Arizona or Arizona State, as the provost or something like that. He had a distinguished college administrative career. He caught a rare disease in Spain. I forget the name. He's buried here. But he was a delightful fellow.

We had in that same class, Penny Gaines and Ed Shannon, both of whose homes were on the campus. I think Penny lived at home. Ed lived in a dorm.

Warren: Yeah, I've talked to him. He's a wonderful person.

Goodwin: He really is. He would be very perceptive, because he saw other aspects of college. He could compare Washington and Lee with one of the great universities of the nation.

Warren: You've mentioned the Honor System. One thing I'm trying to ask everyone is, what did the Honor System mean to you then and what does it mean to you now?

Goodwin: I don't know that it changed much. I heard an Emory University ethics professor speak on Sunday evening last, and she was talking about lying and when was it acceptable, under what circumstances.

But we heard about it first at freshman camp, and it was very much in the student handbook that we were given at that time. But it was interpreted very narrowly that you didn't lie, cheat, or steal, and because you weren't supposed to associate with those who did, you were honor bound to turn in any infractions of those three that you saw.

I felt I was very fortunate. In four years here, I did not see it, but there were from time to time notices placed on the bulletin board that a student has left the university. I don't think they named the student. I have read that subsequently they got involved with trials and defense counsel and all manner of hither and thither. But it was the acme of simplicity, and to this day I think it is one of the things that shaped us all. One of our classmates was a conscientious objector and served time in prison in that category, but it was good because he couldn't come away from what he believed.

It's the intangibles of this place that make it different, if anything makes it different. You can probably get just as good teaching in English and history and political science and the languages as specialties in Georgia State University in Atlanta. You can probably get it around the clock, whatever time fits your work schedule. But that again had something to do with the isolation of the locality, and I think something to do with the fact that relatively few of us had automobiles, even after our freshman year. Freshman year none did. But even afterwards, most didn't.

I was just thinking today. We had lunch out at Wendy's. That whole area didn't exist, and it was made possible only by the automobile and by the ownership of automobiles by just about everybody, not the students, but the lowest income people, and it changed our lives.

Speaking of automobiles, I think at least every year there was one or more Washington and Lee students killed in automobile accidents, usually coming back from Lynchburg. That was a miserable road over those mountains.

Warren: It was a dangerous, and still is very dangerous thing to do.

Goodwin: We had the national wrestling championships at Washington and Lee.

Warren: The national wrestling championships?

Goodwin: Yes.

Warren: While you were here?

Goodwin: Collegiate. Yes. I can't remember which year, but I'm sure the *Calyxes* will tell you. It may have been my freshman year. My freshman year was our Mock Convention year.

Warren: I want to hear about that, too.

Goodwin: See, I'd come in September of '35, and so that convention was in the spring of '36. It was the Republican convention, and we nominated Senator Vandenberg, one of the few misses. But he was a very highly regarded Republican senator.

Really, it's not unlike what happened four years later in the Republican convention that nominated Wendell Wilkie. The crowd got into it, "Ve vant Vandenberg, ve vant Vandenberg," just like "We want Wilkie" four years later. And delegates, I think, may have forgotten some of the instructions that they had gotten during Christmas holidays from their local political leader, because one reason that the conventions have been pretty accurate has been the homework that delegates have done. We had a freshman class president, which was a clown job. This guy really was a

clown, Tim Langvoit [phonetic], and he came as the Hawaiian delegate, grass skirt and all. That was about it. I don't remember who the national speaker was.

Warren: Did you feel the next year like you'd blown it or anything? Did you feel the next year a frustration that you all hadn't gotten it right?

Goodwin: Yeah. We thought we let the school down, because at that time it had a long, long pattern of accurate selections, even to the utterly ridiculous selection of the Washington and Lee alumnus, John W. Davis. The only reason in the world he could possibly have been considered was that he was an alumnus, and there he was, [unclear] Democratic party. It was the same thing.

I think that's a very useful event. I hope we never give it up.

Warren: Oh, I don't think so.

Goodwin: Jimmy Carter has talked to me about it, and Andy Young. They've both been here as speakers.

Warren: Let me pop in another tape. Is that okay?

Goodwin: Yeah.

[Begin Tape 2, Side 1]

Warren: This is Mame Warren. It's the 18th of September 1996. I'm still with George Goodwin. This is tape two.

Before we go on to something else, you were just saying that you had talked to Andy Young and Jimmy Carter about their experiences here. Can you share that with me, what they had to say?

Goodwin: They were very positive. I forget which years they were here.

Warren: Carter was here in '72. I don't know about Andy Young.

Goodwin: I would have talked to him after '72. He was a client of ours as governor of Georgia. Andy was here more recently, former mayor of Atlanta. But I think the Mock Convention was well regarded nationwide, because it hasn't been allowed to be messed up.

Warren: Do you come back for it, ever?

Goodwin: I've been here for one.

Warren: I thought it was thrilling. I thought it was absolutely thrilling. I was there for every single minute of it. I had goose bumps through the whole thing.

Goodwin: I remember Senator Hollings from South Carolina was speaker when I was back here for it. I think it coincided with maybe our fiftieth reunion.

Warren: One of the things that I found myself thinking about while I was at the Mock Convention, and certainly they were talking about it, was how thrilled the students were last year because they finally got to have a Republican convention and they didn't have to act anymore. So I found myself thinking, "Oh, boy, that would be really intriguing to see these people trying to pretend to be Democrats." But in your day, they were having—

Goodwin: I think we had probably a 50-50 split. I always give the other guy the benefit of the doubt.

Warren: But you were having to do a Republican convention.

Goodwin: Yes.

Warren: So what do you think about that, about that idea of having to pretend you're something you're not?

Goodwin: I don't think it makes any difference. You don't really get into that side of the convention. There are two sides to it—or were. I presume it hasn't changed that much. One was the research and the need to be as accurate as you could as to what will the Georgia delegation do in situation A, situation B, situation C, and home over Christmas you asked six or eight people questions like that. Of course, in those days there was no doubt what Georgia was going to do. Georgia was going to vote Democratic in situations A, B, C, D, E through Z. Now it's a doubtful state. And I think those who put on the convention managed to inculcate students in the need for dedicated accuracy in that process.

And then the other aspects of it are the fun parts, the humorous delegates, the banners, and then, I think, the speaker, the visiting speaker, and the school has been able to attract some very good ones. I can't remember who was the speaker during my freshman year, but that's asking my memory to go back a long way.

Warren: It sure is. You know, when I met you a few months ago, you told me a pretty remarkable story about how Washington and Lee had made an impact on your life and the speaking tradition. Do you think you can tell that story succinctly?

Goodwin: Yes. One of the stories that was pounded into us when we were here was the speaking tradition and the story of the still-unidentified younger student who took some time out to take Robert Parker Doremus around the campus back in the teen years or early twenties or something like that, and it came back simply because the fellow spoke to him. Well, ever since I have found it fairly easy just to say how do you do to somebody you meet. You don't know them. They're going that way, you're going this way, and, "How do you do? Good afternoon," in elevators or wherever.

So in 1947, I was engaged in investigating voting frauds in Telfair County, Georgia, which were at the root of a crazy time in Georgia history when we had, for a few days, three governors and, for sixty-eight days, two governors. The story turned on some votes that we found in the bottom of the state capital of Georgia there in Atlanta that indicated that a group of people in the home county of Herman Talmadge, who was one of the claimants of governor, had voted in alphabetic order. We discovered this on a Friday, and on Saturday I had to go to Telfair County and try to find those people.

Well, fortunately, during some preliminary investigation on the story earlier in the week I had gone to make a telephone call at a little railroad station in Helena, Georgia, and I spoke to a man in overalls, "How do you do?" I made my phone call and came back out, and he was standing by my car. He said, "I know why you are here."

"So?"

He said, "Yeah, they tried to get me to vote for Herman, and I wouldn't do it."

So we talked for a while. The call that I made to the office resulted in my being called back to the office, because we were going to have a conference on the story the next day. So he gave me his name. His name was Dan Browning. I went back to the office, and then it was subsequent that we found these alphabetic names on a voters list. So I had a contact, and I called him from Atlanta. I said, "Do you know these people?"

He said, "Yeah. That one you just mentioned is dead."

I said, "I'll see you in the morning at seven o'clock."

So I left Atlanta early of a Saturday morning and went to him at the railroad station. He ran a junkyard nearby. He got in the car, and he knew where all those people who were still in the country, who showed up as having voted that day, lived, and he led me through the back roads of this country. We were able to do some twenty interviews in maybe four hours.

And then I got a call from the paper to get back and start dictating the story immediately, that it was going to run for Sunday. We had thought it was going to be later than that. And so there was no doubt that without Dan Browning, we would never have been able to have confirmed that some of the people listed were dead, others had moved away, or we were able to talk to relatives of those who had moved and they told us where so-and-so lived nowadays, out of the voting district. And so we had a pretty good story for Sunday's paper. It was a light year for Pulitzer Prizes, and it won the Pulitzer Prize in 1948 for stories reported in 1947 in the category of local reporting.

As you can imagine, for a newspaperman, it changed his life. I was at the activities marking the seventy-fifth birthday of the Pulitzer Prize a few years ago, and I forget who the speaker was. It may have been Russell Baker. But he looked out at the audience and all these various winners, and some winners in the arts, as well as journalism, were there. He started his speech, and he said, "Well, I know the first three words of all of your obituaries." [Laughter]

Warren: That's great. That's wonderful. And true. And so the speaking tradition, you know, as I walk around this campus and take pleasure in the speaking tradition, I think your story is so powerful, to let them know why they're doing it. So I'm glad to have to that.

Goodwin: You never know. You never know what it might lead to. I dare say, some practice of the speaking tradition has led to marriages and Lord knows what else.

Warren: Now, you mentioned a long time ago that the SPE house, the SPEs are the most generous.

Goodwin: SPE.

Warren: Uh-huh. I'm sure you know what you're talking about. I don't know one fraternity to the next on that issue. What I know is that alumni of this university is incredibly generous. Why do you think—what is the driving force behind that?

Goodwin: A measure of it has to be Gaines for the thirty years that he was here. Huntley I didn't know as well, although he and I were here about the same time. He apparently had an ability to stir students.

I think one part of the answer is, Washington and Lee has an unduly high percentage per capital of people in *Who's Who in America*, and recently was shown, a surprising number of chief executive officers. You get into *Who's Who in America* in part by being a politician. There are a lot of newspapermen in there because the Pulitzer Prize people are there. A lot of teachers, college presidents, all of which we kind of turn out. A lot of preachers, too.

But I expect part of the answer Washington and Lee people are generous is that Washington and Lee people are pretty successful financially in their careers. It may relate to that the family had money, and thus they were able to come here.

Warren: They could give their money a lot of places, but they're giving it here.

Goodwin: I think some of it may have harped to, in four years in an all-male environment, you learned how to get along with men. If you didn't, there was no place

to hide. And there's some intangible aspect of that, and that's about as far as I can go or that I care to go, because I don't want to offend all these terrific women that we now have here. But there was something in that, and I don't mean this silly business like at VMI or the Citadel, but being in an all-male atmosphere and one that's charged pretty much with campus politics—liberal arts, a law school—somehow that all adds in.

So I think these fellows—in a lot of cases, it's been luck. Gaines deals with it. He points out that both George Washington and Robert E. Lee married the wealthiest women of their eras, and urged his boys to go and do likewise. He tells that delightful story when he was the bottom teacher at the University of Mississippi until he married the dean's daughter.

But I think also there is that—I think our isolated location has something to do with it, or semi something. Now you've got available all the TV channels of the world, but as recently as five years ago, in Lexington, Virginia, you did well to get one TV channel. So somehow there weren't the distractions, and there are these meaningful physical moments sitting in Lee Chapel, coming out of the chapel and blinking in the sunlight and seeing that line of buildings up at the top of the lawn, looking at those buildings at night, looking down between the columns and the buildings, down the line of them, at night. Those are sort of special impressions. Oh, the footbridge. You can walk on that footbridge on a spring evening, when the fireflies are down over the creek, and you can have a conversation with General Lee.

I think all of those experiences, or like an experience my wife and I have had many times, most recently this summer, standing on the floor of Zion National Park, looking up at the towering peaks above us. You feel small, but you feel a sense of majesty around you. I think that definitely impacted our people. Still does. That's about as close an answer as I can give you.

Warren: That's about as good an answer as I've gotten.

Goodwin: But most of us look back and realize that it was our years here that really shaped us. Of course, you're there in the shaping time of eighteen to twenty-two. You learn about whiskey. You learn about women for the first time. You learn there's a world you didn't run into in high school. Oh, and a very important thing. You either proved or failed to prove that you could stand on your own, because you were totally free. There were just those three rules, and anything else, you might get your knuckles slapped, but those were the big ones. It probably is a collection of a lot of intangibles. Probably some of our closest male friendships are developed in those years, too. Well, the best I can do with it.

Warren: Well, that's pretty good. My last question is, I'd like to know how you responded to the whole concept of coeducation.

Goodwin: At first, I was opposed to it and didn't know why. Then late in the controversy, I began to realize that there might be something in that male bonding theory that I was sharing with you a moment ago, and I'd like to go off the record a minute on one thing, if I may.

Warren: Want me to stop it?

Goodwin: Yeah. [Tape recorder turned off.]

So I think you would have to say that I was among those alumni that were certainly not wildly opposed, but somewhat opposed to the idea of coeducation. But I must tell you a story. It involves our granddaughter, Emily, who is now eighteen. When she was no more than four, her brother, who was two years older than she and had a Washington and Lee shirt with the year 1999 on it, was lauding it over, saying, "I can go to Washington and Lee and you can't, because you're a girl."

She said, without a moment's hesitation, my wife heard this, "That's all right. I'll go to Sweet Briar." This kid's four years old.

Well, she's no more than six, probably nearer to five, when the coeducational issue is resolved, and her father was telling her about it, that Washington and Lee is

now open to women. And she looked up and smiled and said, "Now I won't have to go to Sweet Briar." [Laughter]

Warren: That's great!

Goodwin: I realized we can't control the sex of our children and grandchildren, and so now I'm a strong advocate of coeducation here.

I told that story to Jim Ballengee, who was chairman of the trustees at the time of the row, and he said he used it in some speeches with pretty good effect, because, of course, it is true. I'd be very pleased if our granddaughter would elect Washington and Lee. I don't think she will. I think she's hoping to get into Brown on early decision, or failing in that, she's got Colorado College. I don't think it's anything we can press. But I thought that little story really was the summation of the coeducation issue.

Warren: That's pretty good. Now, when the vote happened, were you still opposed, by the time the vote took place?

Goodwin: Yeah, but as I told you, because her comment about, "Now I won't have to go to Sweet Briar" comes after the vote, but it certainly brought me up short. I said, "Wait a minute, you've got two grandchildren here." Now we've got four. Two of them are much younger. Because Ballengee was still chairman when I shared the story with him.

Warren: So what do you think now?

Goodwin: As I said, I'm an advocate of it. I think it was good.

Warren: You're here a lot. You see these women.

Goodwin: Pardon?

Warren: You come back on campus a lot.

Goodwin: Where else can you get a pretty girl to say hi to you at my age? [Laughter]

Warren: What was your experience of that first year or two? Were you here as the transition happened?

Goodwin: Oh, sure. In fact—well, I can't be sure, because we come in the fall sometimes and in the spring. I can't remember, but I think it was a class agents' weekend, which would have been a fall time, that I shared that story with Ballengee. So it was probably the fall after the action in the spring. I don't know.

Warren: Is there anything more you want to share?

Goodwin: Pardon?

Warren: In your notes there, is there anything more you'd like to share?

Goodwin: No. I do want you cut the machine off a minute.

Warren: Okay. Well, I want to thank you. This has just been fabulous. [Tape recorder turned off.]

We're back, and we're going to turn the tape over, because we have a Fancy Dress story.

[Begin Tape 2, Side 2]

Goodwin: I missed Fancy Dress my freshman year. I had an opportunity to go home when my exam schedule fell, so it was about a week or ten days, so I missed that.

But my sophomore year, I remember vividly. The theme was the return of Essex to the court of Queen Elizabeth, and the costumes, of course, depicted the Elizabethan era. I remember Bob Nicholson was in the role of William Shakespeare and various other notables of the time.

I was standing on the balcony. I didn't have a date. The figure comes in, and the favors for the ball were in the treasure chest, which pages are bringing behind Essex, and the pages deliver the treasure chest and open it. And then suddenly, behind the pages and the treasure chest comes this man in a professor's gown, a black gown, who looked exactly like Groucho Marx, the cigar, mustache, eyebrows, and it was one of my fraternity brothers, Cal Shook . He comes down with a menacing step, bows to the queen, and goes off, and Annie Jo White damn near died. But that was a memorable Fancy Dress figure.

Warren: I dare say. Now, you actually knew Annie Jo White?

Goodwin: I think I did. Oh, no, no, no, no, no. Ms. Desha. Ms. Desha sort of took over from Annie Jo White.

Warren: Was Annie Jo White still alive at that point?

Goodwin: I don't think she was, though I won't swear to it.

Warren: I think she'd retired by then, but she lived a good while after she retired. But I'm sure she never missed a Fancy Dress.

Goodwin: No. I'll just have to look it up. I can't remember her era, exactly. But it seemed to me that she did come to some Fancy Dresses when I was there, but I could be wrong.

Warren: I don't doubt it. She lived quite a long while.

Goodwin: I apologize for my memory. I'll be eighty years old next year.

Warren: She lived quite a long time, so she may very well have been there. I should get her dates in my head. Okay.

[End of Interview]