

HARDIN MARION

July 16, 1996

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**Mame Warren,
Interviewer**

Warren: This is Mame Warren. Today is the 16th of July, 1996. I'm in Lexington, Virginia, with Hardin Marion. Are you from Baltimore originally?

Marion: Not originally.

Warren: Where did you come from?

Marion: Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, grew up in Richmond, Virginia. Came to Washington and Lee from Richmond. When I graduated, I didn't go back. I went to Baltimore to practice law.

Warren: Why Washington and Lee? Why did you choose Washington and Lee?

Marion: I knew Washington and Lee probably by reputation, although I didn't know much about it. When I graduated from high school, I was given a scholarship that was presented to me. I graduated in January of 1951, and my mother told me that I was to go to the June graduation from my high school in Richmond. I said, "I'm not going to do it. There's no reason for me to go down and sit through a graduation. It's hot."

She said, "Well, you really have to do it."

And I said, "No, I just don't want to do it."

She, finally, said, "Well, I'm not supposed to tell you this, but they're going to give you a scholarship."

So I went a sat through a long, steamy, hot graduation, and near the end, the principal called my name, and I went up to the stage. He handed me an envelope. In

the envelope, all it said was "Washington and Lee University." I had no idea how much the scholarship was. It turned out it was \$100, but it put me in touch with Dean Gilliam.

I had not applied to any college. My family, I think, thought I was going to go to Davidson at some point because Davidson is in my family tree. But I called Dean Gilliam and talked to him and said that was very nice, but \$100, which was a lot more than it is now, wouldn't get me far enough to go to college in Washington and Lee.

After some discussion back and forth, he found me a Mink Miller scholarship which paid \$400, which I think was probably the tuition in those days. So I came to Washington and Lee in September of 1951 with a Mink Miller scholarship.

I'd been to Washington and Lee once before in the spring of either my junior or senior year of high school as a delegate to the Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA) convention which was held up here in those days every spring, and had hosts of college kids show up for three or four days. So that was my one visit to Lexington, Virginia, before I showed up to attend the university.

Warren: You are the first person that I've talked to who came to that convention. Can you go all the way back? Can you remember what it was like coming here for that convention?

Marion: Very little. I remember I stayed out on Lee Avenue. My belief, without being able to confirm it, is that I stayed in the house that Randy and Elaine Bezanson just sold there, whatever they call it, right on the corner of Lee and Preston, in a front room that was the Gadsden sisters' house for year. That's the way my memory tells me it was. I stayed in some front room there for two or three nights.

I remember very little about Washington and Lee. I remember we went over to VMI for a meal or something during that time here. I have no recollection of anything else I did.

Warren: So you were on your high school newspaper staff?

Marion: Yes.

Warren: So did you think you were going to have a career in journalism?

Marion: I came here to major in journalism.

Warren: And?

Marion: That was my intention through my first two years, and in my sophomore year, because I did not get the grade I thought I should have gotten from an Introduction to Journalism course, I lost the scholarship. So I decided I would not major in journalism. I lasted one year without the scholarship, I guess, my junior year. Then somehow I was able to reclaim a scholarship for my senior year, but I decided to major in history. And I had always thought about law. Law had been something that was in my family because of my grandfather, and people periodically would tell me, "Gee, you ought to grow up to be a lawyer. You ought to be a lawyer when you grow up." So I always had law, I guess, in the back of my mind and so I majored in history.

In my senior year, I had to deal with the military, which in those days hovered over everybody's head as something that you had to deal with in your career planning. So along with a fraternity brother of mine, I went down to Norfolk to apply to the Navy Air Force. Figured that if I was going to be in the military, might as well go in, learn how to fly a plane and be an officer. He did not pass the test because he did not have the absolutely 100 percent perfect peripheral vision that the Navy required. So after a day, he was told that he did not meet the physical qualifications. I went on through and did a whole bunch of psychological testing and was interviewed by people the second day. They said to me – this was probably April of 1955 – they said, "You'll hear from us in a couple of months."

So I came back to Washington and Lee. I graduated. I had several odd jobs during the summer. I kept waiting for the Navy Air Force to get in touch with me, and I didn't hear anything. So long about August, I picked up the phone – things were a whole lot easier in those days – and called Mrs. McDowell in the law school office and said, "Mrs. Mac, is it possible for me to come back to law school in September?"

I don't know that this is exactly the way it occurred, but I sort of have the perception that she put her hand over the phone, had a brief conversation with Dean Williams, came back on the phone and said, "Yes, Mr. Marion, you can come to law school."

Well, I said, "Ms. Mc, can I get a scholarship?"

She put her hand over the phone again, talked to the dean and came back and said, "Yes, we have a scholarship for you to come to law school."

I had the foresight to apply to become a dormitory counselor, which would give me a place to live courtesy of the university for my first year of law school just in case I came back to law school that fall. So I was kind of hedging my bets.

So I got a scholarship to law school. I had my room. I took my meals at my fraternity house all the way through law school, and I ended up being a dormitory counselor throughout law school. That's how I came back to law school.

It was probably January or so of my first year of law school that I got a letter from the Navy Air Force congratulating me and telling me I had been accepted to some program at Pensacola. I wrote them back and said, "You're a little late. I'm halfway through my first year of law school."

Warren: Well, the bureaucracy did it's thing, and you did yours. Right? [Laughter]

Marion: You're exactly right. I did what I had to do.

Warren: I'm real interested to hear more about Mrs. Mac, but let's go back to your undergraduate days. It sounds to me like Washington and Lee picked you instead of the other way around.

Marion: Well, there has to be something to that. You know, Dean Gilliam, in those days, was sort of a one-man recruiting admissions committee, did everything as it related to students. I don't know what he knew about me and how I came to the school's attention. I may have done something that initiated it, but I have no

recollection of it. All I know is that I had the one contact with the SIPA convention, and I was given a scholarship. Then I came to Washington and Lee and never looked back.

Warren: So what was it like to arrive in 1951? What was Washington and Lee like then?

Marion: Well, I can tell you this, I was the youngest person in my class. I was still sixteen years old when I landed in Lexington to start school. My parents put me on the bus in Richmond, probably with one suitcase and a trunk. I arrived in Lexington on a bus that parked and left me off in the parking lot behind the Southern Inn, which I guess was the bus stop, bus station. I have no recollection of getting from there to the freshman dormitory, but I was as unsophisticated as you can get. I was living in the outskirts of Richmond, Virginia.

I probably listened to country music, wore ties that would be an embarrassment to me or anybody else today, and came into the freshman dormitory, and my roommate was Peter Steven Stuyveson Pell from Oak Forest, Illinois. He was, as he told me, the heir to the Armor meat-packing fortune. Peter Pell had more money than I'd ever heard about. He was a prep school graduate. He was probably a year and a half older than I was. He was tall and handsome, and he had a lot of prep school friends who were here. I was just Hardin Marion from, at that point, Bonaire, Virginia, which was in Chesterfield County outside of Richmond. We did not have a great relationship, because we were like oil and water, I think. So at the end of the first semester, he and I agreed, or maybe it was a fraternity brother, agreed to switch rooms with one of his good friends from his prep school. He had gone to St. Andrew's School in Delaware. So he and one of his friends got together for the rest of the first year, the freshman year, and I and one of my fraternity brothers got together, and we roomed together for the rest of that year. Peter Pell, I don't think lasted beyond the first year at Washington and Lee, and I'm not sure whether the school knows where he is today.

Warren: But you're certainly still very much in evidence.

Marion: I'm still around. I'm still around, yes. If Peter Pell is out there listening somewhere –

Warren: Well, we're not real concerned about him. What was the place like?

Academically, what were the classes like when you arrived? Did you find any difficult?

Marion: Challenging, challenging. I did very well in high school without doing any appreciable amount of studying. I got here and found that I did not know how to study, certainly at the college level, and I had to scramble at the end of my first semester to master the courses sufficiently to pass them. That semester, I got the only D I got in a course in college. I got one A and the rest Cs and was lucky to come out with that, and had to really turn over a new leaf in the second semester to hold that scholarship I was telling you about, which I ended up losing when I dropped below a B average by one grade in my sophomore year.

I didn't know how to study. I probably never really learned to study in an adult kind of way until I got to law school and had to deal with the way of studying for law school in class preparation and for the examinations. I had difficulty in the undergraduate school in stopping four courses while I studied for an exam or test in one. Then I would sometimes find that I couldn't pick myself back up again. I couldn't pace myself so that I could study sufficiently for all five courses that I was taking in each semester.

I've often said, I don't know how much truth there is to is, but in law school, it was easier for me to do it because you didn't have tests along the way. In law school, everything was focused on the exam at the end of the course. There was time to study for each exam, and if you kept up during the rest of the year, then studying for the exams made it a lot different. It was a different method of studying, I found, and suited me a lot better because I did a lot better in law school than I did in the college.

But my perception is that the school was very much then what it is today, on a smaller scale, a little more intimate scale. There were less students here, there were less

buildings here, probably less administration and less bureaucracy, but the town was very much the same. The Colonnade was the same, the Honor System was the same, the students related to each other much the same as I think they do now, although we've gone through some phases in American life that probably changed that. But it's probably more now like it was in the fifties than it was in the seventies, for example, compared to the fifties.

Warren: That's an interesting observation. You mentioned the Honor System. Was that concept new to you when you came here, and how was it presented?

Marion: I'm not sure I know how it was presented. I certainly knew about it. We all knew about it. Whether we heard about it from Dr. Gaines, who was the president then, or we heard about it from student leaders, or we heard about it from just our colleagues, I'm not sure, but we certainly knew there was an Honor System. We knew the ramifications of the Honor System. We learned about General Lee. He was part of the tradition and the life that we grew up with from the beginning. Everybody just sort of knew that Washington and Lee had an Honor System that worked.

Warren: And how did that manifest itself? How did you know it worked?

Marion: Well, you knew it worked because you were trusted by professors. There weren't people standing over you when you took an exam. You knew that you were free to take an exam out of class if you wanted to. You knew that you could make up an exam if you had to. You knew that you put a pledge on every paper you turned in. The language was essentially the same, but it incorporated the concept of the Honor System every time you turned in a paper. So that reminded you of it when you had written work that had to be presented to a professor. And you heard every once in a while that the Honor System, there would be results of people who had violated the Honor System. One day somebody would be here, and the next day, that person was gone. There were never any public trials then, which I guess was a right that one had, as it is today, and I understand that there are more of the open trials, although not

frequent, they're occasional, but that never happened when I was at school, to my recollection.

I had one occasion when I was a dorm counselor and a law student, when I was called in front of the Executive Committee as a witness. They were doing an investigation of some incident. Based on whatever information they had, they thought I was a witness or that I had some information that would be helpful to them or maybe helpful to the person who was under investigation. They never told me which, but I knew they were very interested in what knowledge or recollection I had of a particular event. I cannot remember anything about it now.

It was one of the first, I guess, serious personal illustrations in my life of something that I came to learn once I became a lawyer, and that is the frailties of human memory and that people who are witnesses can remember things differently or some people cannot remember at all something that happened fairly recently that you think they're bound to have recalled, because I couldn't remember enough to be helpful, I think, and answer all the questions that they put to me during the course of this hearing. But that was the only time I had a direct exposure to the Honor System, the enforcement process, at work, although I saw illustrations of it with other people whom I knew.

Warren: Were there any particular teachers who made a difference to you, positive or negative, anybody that was a real character or that you remember particularly?

Marion: Well, there were always characters. I mean, I remember my freshman geology professor was Marcellus Stowe. One of the things everybody knew about Marcellus Stowe was that somewhere on his geology exam he would ask you, for probably one point, what McGraw-Hill was. The answer that he wanted was it was the publisher of the textbook that everybody was supposed to have for the course but that nobody needed to buy. But he knew that nobody was buying the textbook, and he would always ask what McGraw-Hill was.

Warren: That's great. [Laughter]

Marion: I remember my journalism professor. I don't even remember his name now, nor would I want to mention it, but he upset me sufficiently that I wrote to Dean Leyburn to protest what I thought had been an unfair treatment of my work. My grade stood. So I remember him.

The professor during undergraduate school that I found most interesting and really challenging was Marshall Fishwick. I took each of the courses that Dr. Fishwick offered. He taught freshman history, and it was just by luck of the draw that I was assigned to his class. I could have been assigned to any number of history professors who taught the freshman history overview course, but I got Dr. Fishwick. So I took his course, history, in the freshman year. He offered a sophomore sociology course, I believe it was, a junior fine arts course and a senior, I think it was called, humanities. Those were the official titles of it, but each one was Fishwick. Freshman Fishwick, sophomore Fishwick, junior Fishwick, and senior Fishwick, because he was the one who injected himself and his own personality in each one of these courses.

I came to believe afterwards that he was not well respected by other faculty people. They thought maybe he was pop sociology and maybe not as deep a thinker as they thought he should be, but he certainly was intriguing and interesting to me as a sixteen- and seventeen- and eighteen-year-old. I enjoyed his courses, although I never did as well in them as I thought I should. They were interesting. He was a good lecturer, and each of his exams was a challenge.

I had other professors. I had Ollie Crenshaw for American history. I had, I thought, a good rapport with Ollie Crenshaw in class such that he frequently would talk to me as he delivered his lectures. I can even remember there were times when he would be lecturing on some subject on American history, and he was looking right at me. Somebody sitting between me and him would shift in the seat, and Dr. Crenshaw

would lean over to the side so he could maintain eye contact with me. I always got good grades in Ollie Crenshaw's class.

Warren: That must have been flattering to feel like the class is directed to you.

Marion: Well, it did. I enjoyed American history. I enjoy all history, but I enjoyed American history, and Ollie Crenshaw had a wry, dry sense of humor. I enjoyed his lectures.

I had Allen Moger for English history. I had Dr. Bean for some history; I don't know whether it was American history or European history. Probably it was American history. Never had Charlie Turner, who I have seen in Lexington, not in the last year or so, but who's I guess still around.

I never had Bill Jenks, who I certainly knew and had a great deal of respect for. I knew him well enough so that when I came back to an Alumni College ten years or so ago, he was going to participate in the program as one of the lecturers, my conversation with him suggested that I had a recollection of his having been one of my professors in school. He said, "Nope. You never took one of my courses." So he knew, even if I didn't remember. But we've become good friends through the Alumni College in the last ten years. He's traveled a couple of times abroad on trips with us, and my wife and I frequently stop and visit to say hello to him and his wife here in Lexington. He lectured twice last week to the Alumni College while we were here.

Other professors. None stick out, I guess, as much as those I've just named.

Warren: I've been curious about that with the Alumni College. How much is your sense that they remember you as students? I guess, other than Bill Jenks, you haven't mentioned anybody who is still teaching, like Sid Coulling.

Marion: Sid got here just after I left the undergraduate school. He came in, I think in 1956 as an English professor. So I've never had him. Fran Drake, who's still around, was my French professor for a year.

Warren: Sometimes when I'm sitting in those lectures I look and I wonder if that guy up there is looking out and seeing you all as you are today or seeing as you were as students.

Marion: I'm sure that many of the professors remember some students. There are probably others who are forgettable, who they don't remember. Some may remember more than others just because of their teaching styles or the way they related to students while the students were here as their students.

Warren: Someone like Fishwick, who obviously was important to you, would you have had a personal relationship with him or was it strictly in the classroom?

Marion: Strictly in the classroom.

Warren: And were you Mr. Marion, or were you Hardin?

Marion: I believe I was Mr. Marion. You know, he wasn't all that much older than I was. He probably was less than ten years older than I. He was a pretty young professor, and he'd only been here for three or four years when I was here as a freshman. But anybody who was eight or ten years older than I looked like they were Methuselah in those days. I mean, Bill Jenks, in the 1950s, was in his thirties, I guess, but he seemed to me a much older man.

There were some professors with whom students had, I guess, a friendlier relationship than I can remember with any particular professors. In law school, I worked with some. I was editor of the Law Review, so I had to work closely with Bill Ritz, who was then the advisor to the Law Review. So I got to know him, and I enjoyed his courses. He was not a stimulating lecturer, but I enjoyed his courses because he always challenged us on a final exam with something that was different. I'm a puzzle person. I like the challenge of a puzzle. Some of his exams were just well thought out so that it really was puzzle-like, and you had to think, and think like a lawyer, I guess, to be able to see everything that he had in his exam and be able to answer the question. Some people didn't like those because they didn't follow form.

One of the ways that people studied for law exams was to look at the same exam, or the exam that the same professor had given last year in the same course, and you got some guidance from those exams. That was one of the traditional ways to study. Bill Ritz was always a little different. You couldn't be sure that he was not going to turn the tables on you completely and give you a type of exam that followed no form whatsoever that you'd seen before. So it was interesting.

My sense is, and it may be just simply because I know more professors now on that kind of a personal basis through the Alumni College and through being involved in the alumni activities, but my sense is that more professors today are closer to students, and it was my perception that professors and students were close back when I was a student.

Warren: I'm intrigued by this idea of making exams into a puzzle. What do you mean? What kind of things did he do?

Marion: In first-year law school, he taught criminal law. On his exam, he had one question that had in it every conceivable common-law crime that the common law knows, and you had to identify all of them because they were all there, including the crime of misprision of felony, which is an arcane term that means that somebody else has committed a felony, and you know about it but don't turn them in. That is a crime in itself. So he had all of these things.

In the third year, he taught a course in conflict of laws, which is a tough course. His examination was some key quotations from some of the opinions that we had studied, some of the cases that we had studied. We had to identify the opinion from which the quotation was taken and then explain its significance. A lot of people just hated that. I thought it was terrific. I mean, somehow I knew the answers. I mean, that's the way my mind works.

Warren: It does sound like something out of the newspaper, Sunday newspaper.

Marion: But that was not a typical kind of exam for law school. I think some people grumbled because they were expecting something different, and it didn't fit the mold or the format, and so they didn't like it.

Warren: So you were in law school in old Tucker Hall.

Marion: Correct. Never heard of Lewis Hall when I was in law school.

Warren: Tell me about Tucker Hall. What was it like going to school there?

Marion: Well, it was like going to almost any of the other buildings on the Colonnade. It was the last one. It was one of five buildings on the Colonnade, with a couple of exceptions back behind the Colonnade. That was where all the courses were taken, all the courses were conducted, all the classrooms were there. In Tucker Hall, there were just probably fewer classrooms and some of them were bigger because most of the law students in a class were in a course together. So everybody would be in a classroom.

It was more intimate because there were less law students then than there are now. My recollection, which could be off, was that there were about 100 law students altogether. We started out with a larger number than we ended up with, because in those days the three-three program was something that a lot of students did. They would take their first three years of undergraduate school, and then if they were interested in being a lawyer, they would take their senior year of undergraduate school as the first year of law school, using the law classes as elective course credits to get their undergraduate degree after four years. But then many of them left Washington and Lee with the undergraduate degree and with one year of law school under their belt, and went wherever they were going home to, South Carolina, Maryland, New York or wherever, and went to law school to finish up, but they only had two more years to go when they got to whatever law school they decided to transfer to. So we lost a lot of students after the first year. So the number declined in the second and third year.

In those days, a lot more students in law school had been Washington and Lee undergraduate students, which is different today because the Law School reaches out

much further across the country and attracts students from undergraduate schools all over the United States. Although some come from Washington and Lee, the proportion is much smaller today.

Warren: When you made that phone call to Mrs. Mac, how would she have known who you were? You had been an undergraduate.

Marion: Well, for one reason because Mrs. Mac probably knew everything.

Warren: Tell me about that.

Marion: Well, the students' perception was that Mrs. Mac ran the Law School and that she knew everybody, that she knew everything. There were not so many people here that she wasn't aware of people. I may have made an inquiry about it, I don't know, before sometime that spring, about law school. But she knew enough about me and my record to be able to get the answers quickly when I made that phone call in August of 1955.

Warren: What was she like?

Marion: She was always pleasant. I remember she sat in that outer office outside Dean Williams' office on the first floor of the Law School. She was almost like not a traffic cop, but she was there, so she could see everybody who came in, everybody who went out, and she knew most everybody. She was friendly. Her husband, Charley McDowell, the professor, was right across the hall in an office. His office was across the hall from hers in Tucker Hall. She just had her finger on the pulse of everything that went on in the Law School. If you had a question, you went to Mrs. Mac. She was the source of answers to all questions.

Warren: Was there anybody who was her equivalent on the undergraduate level?

Marion: Not to my knowledge. I mean, Dean Gilliam on the undergraduate side was the one who had his fingers more on the pulse of what the students did. He knew every student. He knew how every student was doing. He communicated with parents, friends. People who had recommended a student to him got letters from him

about how the student was doing. He was, in effect, my boss when I was the head dormitory counselor for my last two years in school. The dormitory counselors worked for, if you will, Dean Gilliam as dean of students. He was the one who selected the dorm counselors, and I worked with him. I can't remember a lot of the details about the things that we did, but I know that I was periodically in his office and I had to report to him. When things went wrong, I had to go over and explain them to him.

Warren: And how would things go wrong? What would go wrong?

Marion: Like when a student blew part of his hand away with a cherry bomb firecracker when I was the head counselor. A student right around the corner from my dorm room went into another student's room to throw a cherry bomb out the window into the quadrangle where it reverberated and made a lot more noise. He lit it and threw the firecracker, and it hit the window sill and bounced back into the room and landed on his fellow student's desk. Instead of just ducking and letting it destroy a book or two, he decided he'd better go grab it and throw it out the window, and while he was holding it, the firecracker went off in his hand. He lost a portion of a finger, probably some of his thumb.

I had to drive him out to the old – well, it was then the new Stonewall Jackson Hospital, because I had been in the old hospital myself for one night when it was in where Stonewall Jackson's birthplace is, his house. This was the new hospital out when you went to Buena Vista. I had to drive the student out there where whoever the doctor was on duty in the emergency room had to give him novocaine. It was painful, painful to watch, and I'm sure it was painful for the student to go through. I had to give Dean Gilliam a report on that and what had happened.

We periodically had to deal with alcohol in the dorm, which was forbidden, and other things like that. I had to keep Dean Gilliam advised from time to time.

Warren: Whew. You're the first cherry bomb story. I haven't had one of those before. A while ago you mentioned writing a letter to Dean Leyburn. He was the academic dean?

Marion: Yes.

Warren: Was he accessible?

Marion: He was probably more accessible than students perceived him to be. At some point in my senior year, I was invited with a small group of others and it perhaps was because I was taking a course of his, although I don't really remember that, just for an evening of conversation, and he played the piano. So he gave us like a sort of mini recital of some piano pieces that he played wonderfully well in his home. He was in one of the homes on the front campus down from Lee House. I'm not sure which one it was. But he periodically invited students, I think, into his home for things like that. But I can't tell you how accessible he was, because my perception, I guess, was that he was pretty much a figure who was up on a pedestal.

Your views about these people, you know, change after you've been away for a while. You come back as an alumnus, and you find out they're really people that don't know everything, that they sometimes have to study to teach you a course, and that they just can't stand up in front of a group and talk for an hour about whatever the subject is they're supposed to teach. But that awakening comes later.

Warren: We think they have all knowledge at a time like that. Did you take any of his classes?

Marion: I don't remember. He taught a course, a sociology course, and I don't think I took that. I did take the one course that Dr. Gaines offered.

Warren: You did?

Marion: Dr. Gaines taught a course, maybe every spring, maybe every other spring, on the Bible as literature. It was a wonderful course, and he was a wonderful lecturer. He would lecture about different books in the Bible like the Song of Solomon and some of

the others, and talk about the literary content and analyze it. It was a fascinating course. It was a small course. I took it, I think in my senior year. He did not, I think, allow more than ten or twelve students in the course. I don't really remember taking a course under Leyburn, but I do remember listening to him play the piano, which makes me think that I must have been in some course of his.

Warren: I never knew that President Gaines taught. You've taught me something that I hadn't heard before.

Marion: He did teach that one course.

Warren: That's fascinating. I need to turn the tape over.

[Begin Tape 1, Side 2]

Warren: You mentioned that you were in a fraternity.

Marion: Correct.

Warren: Was the fraternity important to you? What was fraternity life like?

Marion: It was important. When I came here, as I told you, I was very young and unsophisticated and naive. I really didn't expect to get into a fraternity because that, too, sounded like something that was for all the people who came here from prep school. But I went through the Rush Week, which was at the very beginning of school, and ended up being invited to join two fraternities. I accepted one, and that one was Phi Gamma Delta out of Preston and Jackson. My best friends throughout my undergraduate years were my fraternity brothers, most of them classmates. Obviously, it was very important then. I have not seen many of them a lot since school except occasionally at reunions. I now see probably other people in my class other than my fraternity brothers more often than I see some of my fraternity brothers from those days.

One of my good fraternity brother friends has been particularly close for the last ten or fifteen years, although he was two years ahead of me. He's now on the board of

trustees with me—Grey Castle. He and his wife and I and my wife are friends, and we visit in their home. They now live in Lexington.

I became the president of my fraternity. But although we were taught that fraternities were a lifetime thing, to me, now, fraternities can sometimes operate to prevent you from having the bonding with your entire class or with others in the school that is important for good alumni to have. You have to overcome, I think, the fraternity bond in some ways to become as an effective an alumnus of the school as many people are and more people ought to be. But it was a good place to be. I mean, they served good food. I ate my meals there. I slept there in my sophomore, junior, and senior years. I came to Washington and Lee, as you might imagine from my scholarship story, on a very thin budget and did not have a lot of money to spend. So I couldn't have a room out in town. The fraternity house offered me the most inexpensive place to stay.

Warren: Was that true? That was the best deal, to live at the fraternity house?

Marion: Yes, and in those days, it was essentially the only place to eat meals. That was just before Evans Dining Hall, which, I think, was built right after I left law school. But in those days, there was a freshman dormitory and no other sleeping facilities that the university had for students except for some married students' housing facilities. There was no dining facility at all, so you either had to eat your meals out in town or at a fraternity house.

Warren: Was anybody not in a fraternity?

Marion: There were some, but not a lot.

Warren: And where would they eat?

Marion: Some of them would eat together. I guess they would eat in places like the Southern Inn and whatever the other food establishments are in town. There was something in those days called the Beanery, which may have been a place for people who were not in fraternities could eat. It was a university facility somewhere on the back campus. But I always associated that with athletes who had to eat training meals,

football players and such. Maybe there were other facilities that I just never knew about. But I never gave that any real thought, either, because I was going to eat my meals at the fraternity house.

Warren: You mentioned athletes. You were here during the cheating scandal.

Marion: I was.

Warren: What was it like to be here at that time?

Marion: I believe that happened at the end of my sophomore year, which would have been in 1953. I remember that there was a lot of quiet conversation, secret conversation, among a lot of people about something going on. Then we heard a lot of people had left school who had been guilty of Honor System violations, and that a lot of them were football players, scholarship football players. I think it had a striking effect on the student body. It was right after that, I guess, that the board decided to do away with big-time athletics, on the ground that Washington and Lee's academic program was really not appropriate and created too many conflicts for people who were here on athletic scholarships who maybe should be getting their education somewhere else.

I don't know how much I thought about it, really, at the time, but I thought it was the right decision, and I thought the university did the right thing in stopping playing some of the football opponents that we played when I first got here. I mean, I can remember playing the University of Maryland on Wilson Field when Maryland was ranked number one in the country. Washington and Lee was just wiped up, although we also had that wonderful victory of my freshman year over at the University of Virginia when it was the only loss UVA had all year long. Washington and Lee just played a wonderful football game and beat UVA forty-two to fourteen. That, too, was here on Wilson Field. That was the highlight of the big-time football program while I was here.

I had a fraternity brother my freshman year who was here on athletic scholarship. His brother is here this week, Ben Bolt [phonetic], who's here with his wife

Ann. They've come back to several Alumni College programs. He came here for one year, and he was a freshman, although he was older because he had served in the Korean War. He came back here for a year in my senior year. Then he went away and I graduated, eventually, from a college in Mississippi. I never saw him again until he took an Alumni College trip with us to Russia three years ago. We met at Dulles Airport as we were ready to leave on that trip. I haven't seen his brother, who did not graduate from Washington and Lee, but was here for a couple of years as a football player.

Warren: Were you involved in sports at all?

Marion: Intermural sports. No varsity sport. I wasn't either big enough or good enough, but I played intermural just about everything at least once.

Warren: Tell me about that.

Marion: Oh, my. Well, I played football, basketball, softball intermural. I wrestled once. I played volleyball. I bowled in intramurals. I played handball once. I played ping-pong. I mean, there was virtually every kind of sports activity in intramurals, and I think I did it all. I may have played tennis, although I'm not sure about that. I played golf once in intramurals. Some of these I did more regularly than the things I did once. I tried to wrestle once, and I can remember trying to lose weight to make the weight, which was a number of pounds below my current weight. But even then it was a strain because I had to stand in a hot shower and sweat all afternoon and do whatever I could do reduce my weight by another pound so I could make the weight limit. They fed me a big steak that night at the fraternity house, and then the next day I went out and wrestled and got pinned right away. [Laughter] But that was my intramural wrestling experience.

Warren: I had no idea there was that much of a variety.

Marion: Oh, yes. I mentioned I spent one night in the old Stonewall Jackson Hospital. That was what the doctors thought was a possible concussion from playing intramural

football. I remember I was passing the football, and one of the players on the other team tagged me so hard that I went back and landed on the back of my head. They took me to the hospital just to watch me overnight. I thought I was fine, but they made me spend the night in the hospital.

Warren: Now you can say you slept in Stonewall Jackson's house.

Marion: I guess I can say that, and I will. I slept in Stonewall Jackson's house for one night.

Warren: You and a lot of other Washington and Lee students.

Marion: I think that's right. Let me tell you about one experience that you haven't asked me about and that you wouldn't know about without a lot of research, but that you probably ought to know about. You know, I guess, that Alben Barkley died in Lexington at the Mock Convention.

Warren: You were here?

Marion: I was not only here, but Alben Barkley died with his head in my hands, because I was on the platform. I've seen some of the old clips of the 1956 Mock Convention, not for this Mock Convention, but maybe four years before in one of the little promotional pieces that the students did, they used a clip from that 1956 Mock Convention, and there I am sitting on the stage.

It was in the old Doremus Gym. There was a platform, and there were maybe half a dozen officers of the convention, and I was the secretary of the convention, because of my interest in politics and student government and all that sort of thing, and I was then in law school, but they made me an officer of the convention. Alben Barkley was giving his speech, which most people have heard about, and he had delivered the phrase, the last phrase, that he mentioned, "I'd rather be a servant in the house of the Lord than sit in the seats of the mighty." With that, his head kind of went down almost like he was bowing his head in prayer, but then his hand somehow flopped across the

podium in front of him. There were all these microphones set up and some of them went scattering in different directions.

He then collapsed, and he fell right behind my chair. So I turned around and put my hand under his head, and he kind of wheezed three times, like three gasps of air, and he was dead. I knew he was dead. There were all the other people, all the students on the platform. His wife was out on the first row and President Gaines and all sorts of other people were out there. All I remember was saying to whoever was the chairman of the convention, I said, "Maybe you ought to ask everybody to stand for a moment of silent prayer," because, I mean, I just knew he was dead. I mean, there was no time for any emergency medical people or anything to get there.

That happened, and I really don't know, and I can't remember all the details of what happened after that, but the convention was postponed for a week. Barkley's widow urged that it be continued after that week. His funeral was in Washington sometime in the middle of that week, and we resumed the convention and finished it a week late the following weekend. As I also think, that was the first person that I ever saw dead who I knew was dead, and here I was in law school at the time. I had never seen a dead person, to my knowledge, until Alben Barkley died.

Warren: That's quite a beginning.

Marion: Yes.

Warren: Did you become a celebrity? Did people interview you?

Marion: No, not that I know of. There were other more important people to interview. I was just one of several people there.

Warren: Today you'd have been on CNN within two minutes.

Marion: Probably. I might have sold a book if I had had an agent or played my cards right at the time.

Warren: That's quite a story. It's interesting doing these interviews because I know all these major moments in history, but, you know, you get involved talking to somebody

and you don't really do the arithmetic. Of course, I should have realized you would have been here.

Marion: It occurred while I was here. That's right.

Warren: Not only were you here, but you were central. So you were real involved in student politics?

Marion: Yes. There were two political parties on the campus then, the University party and the Independent party. The way it worked in those days was that the University party consisted of ten fraternities. It was the Red Square fraternities and five others were in the University party. The other seven fraternities were in the Independent party. So the Independent party typically always lost the elections.

What was elected was the president of the student body and maybe two other offices, like secretary – I don't remember what the offices were. Then there would be elected the president of each of the four big dance weekends, the fall dances, Fancy Dress, spring dances, and finals. They were elected offices. So each of the parties sort of put together a slate, and they'd have to keep different fraternities happy by making sure that ones got nominated, but it didn't always work out that way with only seven offices to fill and ten fraternities in the Big Clique, they called it, the Big Clique and the Little Clique, the University party and the Independent party.

So when I was in my senior year, maybe, one fraternity switched allegiance and came into our party, and then another fraternity did that, so that it became nine to eight, and it made it much closer. I guess we elected the president of the student body the year we had nine people. The following year, my first year in law school, my party nominated me and put me up for president of the student body, and had the alignment of fraternities remained the same, I would have been elected. But on the night before the election, through some, I guess, what was typical of student politicking in those days, the other party went to one of the fraternities in our party and persuaded them to

switch their allegiance on the eve of the election. So that took sixty votes from my party and gave it to the other party. So I lost the election for president of the student body.

Warren: So do people vote strictly along party lines?

Marion: That was pretty much the way it worked, yes, because it was in each fraternity's self-interest to vote for the party in which it was a member, because its turn would come to have a prestige office, either president or the particular dance head. It was a rarity for somebody to be so popular that enough votes could be siphoned off from the other party to elect that person. I mean, everybody went through the motions of it every year as if it was a truly contested election, but the minority party rarely won an office. It happened occasionally.

Warren: So when you arrived, say, as a freshman, and you are choosing your fraternity, at that point do you have any idea about all this?

Marion: Some people probably did. I didn't have a clue. I had no idea. I mean, the other fraternity that gave me a bid to membership was one of the Big Clique fraternities, but I didn't know that at the time. I just sort of went with what seemed comfortable to me.

Warren: This is complicated politics.

Marion: Oh, it is, it is. But what an education to the real world.

Warren: Really. I've heard allusions to Big Clique and Little Clique, but you're the first person who's really explained it to me.

Marion: I don't know how long that process continued, but that's pretty much the way it was during my seven years here. There were ten fraternities against seven. Then there were nine against eight. Then there was some shifting back and forth. I don't know what it went to after I left. It was very important to some people. The leaders of the fraternities were expected to get their membership solidly to vote for the ticket of the party in which they happened to be a member.

It was kind of like Red Cross blood drives in those days. Twice a year, the Red Cross would come up and have a blood drive, and whichever fraternity got 100 percent, or the closest to 100 percent, would win a keg of beer. Well, that was very important to my fraternity and a lot of fraternities. So they would get 100 percent in order to get a keg of beer. Even if people were not qualified, if you showed up and offered to give blood, even if you were rejected for medical reasons, that, of course, counted. So there was great social pressure, particularly in my fraternity, to have 100 percent, because they wanted that keg of beer. I wasn't a beer drinker, but I went and gave blood religiously.

Warren: So who was supplying the keg of beer? The Red Cross?

Marion: I'm not sure. Probably it was the Interfraternity Council. I don't think it was the Red Cross. I'm not sure they could –

Warren: Talk about interesting politics. [Laughter]

Marion: I assume it was the Interfraternity Council that probably donated a keg of beer to the winning fraternity, in an effort to do our civic duty and support the Red Cross.

Warren: And the keg of beer. [Laughter]

Marion: And the keg of beer. Right.

Warren: Well, this has been a real education for me. I really have learned a lot. So am I correct in understanding that everybody really, in his heart of hearts, wanted to be in the Big Clique, but he wasn't? Not everybody was?

Marion: No, it didn't work that way. But I think, by and large, most of the fraternities that were perceived to be the better fraternities, were Big Clique fraternities. Just by way of illustration, at that time there were two Jewish fraternities at Washington and Lee because, obviously, in those days, none of the other fraternities would take a Jewish member. So there had to be Jewish fraternities, and there had to be two, apparently, for there to be some alternative. Clearly, the preeminent Jewish fraternity was Zeta Beta

Tau, which was in the Big Clique. And Pi Epsilon Phi, whichever Jewish students ZBT didn't want was in the Little Clique.

There were some other fraternities that were perceived as being not as strong. I always thought that my fraternity was one of the leaders of the Little Clique. It mean, it had good people, and nobody looked down their nose at my fraternity. But there were people who looked down their nose at some of the other fraternities, and most of those were in the Little Clique. But was it important to a lot of people? Obviously it was important to some, but most people, I think, didn't lose a lot of sleep over it.

Warren: You've given me such an education. Can you answer the question that nobody else has been able to answer for me? Why is Red Square called Red Square?

Marion: Well, my guess is it has something to do with the Red Square in Moscow, because there is a square and all the fraternities are brick. So somebody probably just called it Red Square and the name stuck. Now, do I know that as a fact? No.

Warren: Nobody seems to know. It's just always been.

Marion: That's right. It's like, why not?

Warren: Why is the Colonnade the Colonnade?

Marion: Right.

Warren: I just can't thank you enough. I've really learned a lot. You were in the Glee Club?

Marion: Yes, I did the Glee Club kind of like I did wrestling for intermurals. I did it once. I'm not a trained singer, and I think some of the people who were, recognized that my voice didn't mesh with the rest of them. So my Glee Club experience was not anything that lasted very long. I may have been in Glee Club my freshman year and my sophomore year, but certainly not beyond that.

Warren: This was not a highlight of your career at Washington and Lee?

Marion: No, it was not. I can remember we went over to Charlottesville and we sang over there once. I can remember a couple of the songs we sang. "When the day has

dwindled down to a precious few," whatever that song is, that was one of the songs that we sang in the Glee Club. But I would not remember my Glee Club experiences at the top of list of my recollections in Washington and Lee.

Warren: What is? What's at the top of your list?

Marion: Well, you've got to understand that most of my recollections of Washington and Lee have been recent recollections, because I'm living a different Washington and Lee life over the last fifteen or so years. I had a wonderful time here. I used to tell people that I spent four years in undergraduate school and then three years in law school, and that if Washington and Lee had had a medical school, I would have stayed here for that. That was a bit of an overstatement, but it expressed my view about how much I liked life here. The idea of leaving Lexington and leaving Washington and Lee and going somewhere and going to work was certainly not continuing this wonderful experience, but I had to do it.

I went to work. I went to Baltimore, I became a lawyer. I had a career to develop in the practice of law. I didn't have a lot of connection for a long time with Washington and Lee as an alumnus. I was class agent for my class for a year or so in the late fifties or early sixties. I occasionally went to a Washington and Lee alumni gathering in Baltimore. I came back to Lexington just a couple of times, but not for any kind of formal alumni reunion activity until my twentieth reunion in 1975. I came back for that.

Then I came back again in 1980, and that was the first time I brought Heather. We had met the year before. At that point I just decided, with her support and enthusiasm, because she fell in love with the place immediately, that I want to get involved and get more active as an alumnus, and so I did that. Beginning in about 1980, I became a class agent again, and I became the vice president of the Annual Fund. I eventually became the chairman of the Annual Fund for two years in the late eighties. I got elected to the Law Council in the eighties. I became the president of the Law Council when I got elected to the Board of Trustees in 1991.

While all this was going on, beginning in the mid-eighties, I started attending the Alumni College, and we got hooked on that. So we come back to Lexington for Alumni College. We come back for Law Council meetings. We come back for trustee meetings. We come back for any other meetings that anybody will have and invite me to. As I say, "Just give me a ticket, and I'll be here."

So my recollection and my feelings about Washington and Lee are so much colored by my recent experience that it's hard to separate that out and think back to a lot of things that went on forty years ago.

Warren: Well, you're doing a great job this afternoon.

Marion: Well, you're testing my recollection on some things.

Warren: I do notice you have "35" on your name tag. That's one of the higher numbers there.

Marion: Yes, it's the highest one right now.

Warren: It is the highest?

Marion: Yes. Heather and I have been to more Alumni College programs than anybody else. We're one up on Jim and Jo Ballengee.

Warren: I'm impressed. I didn't think anybody could be up on Jim Ballengee on anything. [Laughter]

Marion: Well, he would like to get ahead, I think, and he may one of these days. He has a little more time than I do right now. I devote a lot of time to the Alumni College.

Warren: And do you find that it really is a continuing education kind of thing?

Marion: Yes, I mean, if you spend a week in an Alumni College, it is not like going to graduate school and really concentrating on something in an intense and extended way, but it's informative. The experiences are wonderful experiences. You've sat in on some of the programs. You know the kind of participation there is. We have fascinating teachers, and it's the interdisciplinary nature of it that's so fascinating. If you're here to learn about a country, you learn about history, you learn about geography, you learn

about culture, you learn about art and music and literature and just all those sorts of things that are woven together by Rob Fure and the way he plans these so skillfully. Rob is a – I've said this before, and I'll say it on this tape – I think he's one of the wonderful assets that this university has and that these programs are the best things the university has ever done for its alumni. I'm just committed to getting as much of a benefit from them as I can.

I've traveled now – I counted up with Heather this morning – I think we have done fifteen Alumni College Abroad trips. We're going to go to Turkey in September, and we're going to go to Africa next January. So it won't be long before I hit twenty.

Warren: And Jim Ballengee will be nipping at your heels.

Marion: He'll be doing as many of those that he can right along with us. Yes.

Warren: How long have you been a trustee?

Marion: Five years, although this counts as my sixth year. I was elected to the board in October, or sworn in in October of 1991.

Warren: And would you say there have been dramatic things that you've been involved with as a trustee? What are the highlights of being a trustee?

Marion: Well, I wasn't a trustee when we dealt with the – I mean, the two or three major things, I guess, that the trustees have dealt with over years are the decision we talked about doing away with Division One athletics back in the 1950s and the coeducation decision in the mid-1980s are obviously two very critical things. I was not on the board for either of those.

The board continues to wrestle with what are always important issues about how the university should be run, about how it manages itself, how it plans for the future, how it pays for the things that it has to pay for to keep making this a better institution in a world where every educational institution is trying to upgrade itself and achieve more important things or be better than it was yesterday. Washington and Lee is doing that, and Washington and Lee, considering its size and its sort of relative isolation in

little Lexington, Virginia, it's got wonderful national attention, both the undergraduate school and the Law School. So the board deals with all the sorts of things constantly that go into making this as good an institution as it is.

Warren: So you say you were not on the board at the time of coeducation, but I'll bet you had some point of view about the issue of coeducation.

Marion: Well, I'll tell you, my view at the time as the debate was going on – and I did not have the information that the trustees had. I had some of it. I remember that the trustees authorized a poll of some sort of the alumni, and I can't tell you exactly how I filled that poll out, but I probably said, as I suspect a lot of people did, that all of the things being equal, my preference would be to keep the university all-male, because that's the way I remembered it, but that if it were a question of preserving the quality of the institution, then I thought we ought to accept women rather than see the quality of the university go down. I understood the arguments then, apart from quality, for admitting women, and I sympathized with it.

My view today is much stronger that it was the right decision. As soon as the decision was made, I supported it wholeheartedly, although not everybody, I think, was prepared to go quite as far as I was at that point. When I did know was that the admission figures for entering classes of students had been declining steadily over a period of about twenty years. What I did not understand at the time the board made the decision was the practical effect of Washington and Lee's trying to preserve its single-sex education and competing for a steadily shrinking pool of male students who only wanted an all-male education. That number, even among male students, was getting smaller and smaller because of just changing habits and culture. More students were looking for coeducation by the time we got to the 1980s.

So the board made, clearly, the right decision. I think it's been proved to be the right decision by the result of what has happened since. All of the things being taken into consideration, the transition was very smooth. I think you had to work your way

through four years of classes where there was some students who continued to take pot shots, I guess, of having women on the campus. But now that that's behind us, you know, the women are strong students. I think the board and the administration were surprised at how quickly the numbers of applications increased for both males and females and how many females they could accept and how strong their qualifications were. The university has only been strengthened by the quality of the students who have come here ever since, both male and female.

Warren: Yes, it sure seems that way. You said you were on the alumni board. Were you involved in Fraternity Renaissance in any way? Was that going on while you were —

Marion: No, I was not on the alumni board. I was on the Law Council. I was on the Law Council during the mid- to late eighties.

Warren: Were you aware what was going on with Fraternity Renaissance?

Marion: Well, I knew about the decision. What you describe as Fraternity Renaissance, it's at least a two-step process. One was upgrading the quality of all of the fraternity houses, which were in pretty sorry shape, and, secondly, was the university taking over ownership and control of the fraternity houses so that they could monitor the conduct and the upkeep of those houses in which students are permitted to live sort of as tenants. Something had to be done about having students living in houses that they would trash for four years and leave to people coming along behind them without any regard to the conditions that they were bequeathing to their juniors.

So I knew about all of that when it was going on, for a couple of reasons. One is that when I became the chairman of the Annual Fund in 1987, I was invited to attend trustee meetings in that capacity. I'm not sure whether it had been done, and if so, how effectively before that. Jim Ballengee was then rector of the board, and Farris Hotchkiss came and talked to me about doing this job, and I accepted it, and he told me that I

would be invited. He said, "None of your predecessors for the last several years has been interested enough to accept the invitation of coming to the board meetings."

I said, "This is wonderful. I'd be happy to attend the board meetings." So I started, and so for two years I was invited to all of the board meetings as chairman of the Annual Fund. Then there was a gap of maybe a year when I didn't go to any meeting, but then I got invited again for a year as president of the Law Council because Jim Ballengee also had decided during that period that both the president of the Alumni Association and the president of the Law Council should be invited also to attend trustee meetings and to give a report and to be able to just sit in and get a sense of what the board does. So I was almost a regular in attendance for several years before I got elected officially to the board five years ago.

Warren: That was a real opportunity to get groomed, wasn't it?

Marion: Well, I think that is one of the things that the board is doing now. It looks at people who hold these positions of alumni leadership and certainly considers them as prospective members of the board of trustees. I've not been the only one who's been in a position like that who has subsequently been elected to the board.

[Begin Tape 2, Side 1]

Warren: This is Mame Warren, tape two, with Hardin Marion.

You mentioned little Lexington. We haven't talked about Lexington. What was Lexington like in the fifties?

Marion: Well, Lexington was little. Lexington was very much like it is today. My recollection is it was 6,000 people in 1951 when I got here, and it's probably still about that size today. I'm not sure of the exact population. A lot of the houses look the same today as I remember them then.

One thing I can really tell you about Lexington, but, again, it's not from my student days. I told you I came back to my first reunion in 1975, my twentieth reunion, and I came back again in 1980. Between those five years, Lexington revitalized itself

and spruced itself up, I think with some Bicentennial money it got. Some of the lighting, I think, wiring was put underground. The streets, some of the streets, were bricked. Lexington cleaned itself up in those five years, so that there was a real noticeable difference when I was back in 1980. Lexington looked a little down at the heels in 1975, at least by comparison as I thought back on it when I got here for my reunion in 1980.

I think Lexington is a gem of a city. I wouldn't be surprised if I weren't living here, myself, when I decide not to practice law any longer in Baltimore just because through my involvement with Washington and Lee, I've got – if I discount my law firm and the people I know through my law firm in Baltimore, I probably know more people in Lexington than I do in Baltimore.

Warren: That's the way I felt in Annapolis.

Marion: So you know, little Lexington is little, but there an awful lot of people here that I know, most of them, of course, connected to the university.

Warren: What were the hangouts back in the fifties? Where did you go?

Marion: Well, since I was a Phi Gam, my traditional path each day was from the Colonnade back to the Phi Gam house up Lee Street, and Doc's was the hangout of choice for our group, particularly for those who drank beer, but I was always with people who were drinking beer even when I wasn't, so I would sit with them. Doc's was the place.

I remember hearing stories about Liquid Lunch and some of the hangouts on Main Street, but that was primarily for the Red Square and fraternity people and for those whose path took them a different way from the campus than mine did.

What other hangouts were there? There was the State Theater and there was the Lyric Theater. A typical Sunday afternoon found everybody in my fraternity eating Sunday lunch at the fraternity house and then going down to the State Theater for the two o'clock movie, and making comments, probably being boorish as far as the local

residents were concerned, but trying to top one another with funny comments about what was on the screen. Probably sitting up in the balcony of the theater. We'd go to the Lyric occasionally to see a movie that wasn't a first-run movie, maybe an arty-type movie.

In law school, when I lived in the freshman dorm, I can remember frequenting—I don't remember the name of it, but it was essentially where the Willson-Walker House is today—a restaurant that was a pizza place. I just don't know the name of it, but it had what I considered to be the best pizzas in the world at that time. Of course, they were the only pizzas in the range that I could walk to. I loved them. I put on a lot of weight by going down there frequently at midnight for a pizza. I remember the pizzas, and I remember Fats Waller music on the jukebox down there.

Warren: Where was this?

Marion: On Main Street, on the west side of Main Street across from where the McCampbell Inn is, and it had to be right about where the Willson-Walker House is.

Warren: Was Jabo's in there somewhere?

Marion: Somewhere.

Warren: But you're not talking about Jabo's?

Marion: I don't think so. I think that was a place that sold beer.

Warren: Yeah, that's what I thought, too.

Marion: There was something on the other side of the street. That may have been the Liquid Lunch, and that may have been Jabo or Jabbo, where the McCampbell Inn is today. But there was something, I think, in the pizza place that I recall, as late as the early eighties, before the Willson-Walker House. I think that's where it was, but it might have been one of the other places right in that same neighborhood. But there was a place where you went in and maybe sort of went downstairs, and they would have bluegrass music, something of that sort. I remember being there the first time I came

down for a class agents' weekend in 1980, 1981 and going to that place. Then within a few years, it was the Willson-Walker Restaurant, I think.

Warren: What you're talking about was when it was the White Column Inn.

Marion: That's what it was, yes. Now, the White Column Inn, I think, was the pizza place by whatever name it was known in 1956 to '58.

Warren: All right. That's something I'll have to find out about, because I knew it as the White Column, but that started in the early seventies or mid-seventies. I'll have to find out. You're the first person who mentioned pizza in Lexington.

Marion: There was a pizza place there, and it played Fats Waller music. That was the era of—I don't mean Fats Waller, Fats Domino. Fats Domino. What's the song that I remember from that? I'll think of it, maybe.

Warren: So do you think there's any connection between pizza, Fats Domino and Domino's pizza?

Marion: I don't think so. You can draw that connection, but I'm not sure.

Warren: Maybe the guy who started Domino's Pizza went to W&L in the fifties. Well, I think we've gone through my list. Was there anything else you'd like—I mean, you had Alben Barkley up your sleeve. Do you have anything else up your sleeve?

Marion: No, I threw in Alben Barkley. We've talked about my one big venture into campus politics.

Warren: How about Fancy Dress? We haven't talked about dances or any of that.

Marion: I'm not a great dancer, and I was not a great dance attender. I went to Fancy Dress my freshman year, and I remember it cost me an arm and a leg to rent a costume and buy a corsage for a date. I think I decided after that I just wouldn't bother to put on a costume. I'm not much of going over to a huge crowd of people. I'm not a great dancer. I generally sat on the fringes and watched other people dance in the fraternity house.

Warren: Something you've alluded to a couple of times is that other people were drinking beer but you that weren't. Was that a big deal back then? I mean, certainly, keg parties are a big deal now. Was drinking beer –

Marion: Yeah, drinking beer was important to most everybody I knew then. I didn't drink anything when I came to Washington and Lee. I had my first drinks under the constant social pressure of my fraternity brothers. "Oh, come on. Try a beer. Try a beer." So I had a couple of beers in April of my freshman year, and I then drank probably something else with gin in it. Those are the only two beers I have ever had in my life. I did not like the beer, and I am that aberration from Washington and Lee of somebody who just doesn't drink beer. I did learn to drink whiskey and gin and the rest of those things during the course of my stay here, but I've never been a beer drinker. But most everybody else that I knew, they would drink beer. They would complain about the different alcoholic content of beers. I don't remember what it was – 3.2 as opposed to some other number that was higher. They would complain if they could only get the weaker beer from Doc's on the corner. I don't know whether Doc's sold the other beer to them if they weren't twenty-one. I don't know how that worked.

I remember that the only liquor that you could buy was at the ABC Store, which was in the same block as the State Theater on the other side and close to the corner of – is that Washington Street?

Warren: Mmm.

Marion: People would have to go buy a bottle of whiskey on the weekend and carry a bottle around. They went to parties which was – I always thought it was a self-defeating kind of a proposition, because you'd buy more whiskey than you could use in the course of an evening and were then under the temptation or the pressure to drink more than you could safely handle. People periodically passed out or went to sleep or retired from parties because they had too much to drink. I don't think it was binge

drinking as I hear about today. I don't think people drank solely to get drunk, but they clearly drank too much. Now, I include myself in that group.

Warren: It must be part of the mystique of this place – alcohol.

Marion: Yeah, that's one of the things that has come to the attention of the Board of Trustees, and along with it, not only the concern about student drinking, but the perception on the students' part that the board and the alumni, in general, want the university to have a reputation as a big party school. That's kind of tough to deal with, because the board does not want students to believe that it does not tolerate drinking in anyway shape or form, but I think we've got to get the message out. The board does believe that drinking has got to be done in much more responsible way than students too frequently do it. Most of us probably know that from our own experience as students, as well as by what we see and hear today.

Warren: I expect that's true. Are there any final things you'd like to say as we wind this up?

Marion: No, I think this is a wonderful project. I appreciate your inviting me to participate. I'll forward to whatever it is you're going to put out.

Warren: I look forward to it, too.

Marion: I look forward to see what I have to say at the time and what everybody else says. Thank you very much.

Warren: Thank you. I appreciate it.

[End of interview]