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Oral history interview transcript with Antoinette Dustin

H. Antoinette Dustin

Lee Swedberg

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ANTOINETTE H. DUSTIN
INTERVIEWED BY LEE SWEDBERG
EWU Women's Oral History Project
EWU 984-0094 #25
DECEMBER 28, 1982

SWEDBERG: This is Lee Swedberg interviewing Antoinette Dustin for the Cheney Women's Oral History Project. Her topic concerns the development of Eastern Washington University. The date is December 28, 1982. To start with, Ms Dustin, what was your background and your education? I know you were talking to me just a little while ago about that, but tell me again about your background and your education. Where were you born?

DUSTIN: Cedar Bluff, Nebraska, in 1896.

SWEDBERG: Where were you educated?

DUSTIN: We moved to Spokane from Champagne, Illinois when I was about four years old. My mother used to take us out to the graduation exercises on the campus of the University of Illinois. The colors of the professors in the march of the graduation, the colors of the different schools appealed to me and I made up my mind, even at four years old, that I wanted to go to college. We moved from Champagne, Illinois in 1908. My father got an idea that he wanted to try the West Coast, so we came out here and he worked in the assessor's office of the courthouse. At first, we lived out in the east part of Spokane and then we moved to West Boone because it was the closest to the courthouse and my father could walk to work. I graduated from North Central High School in 1915. Miss Bickley was the director of physical education. She was graduated from the Science College of Physical Education, Boston University. I used to help her with her class work. When she put on a dance program, I always helped her with the costumes and participated in the dance recital because that was my favorite sport, so to speak. When I graduated from North Central, she encouraged me to go on to the school where she had graduated. I graduated in 1920. When I came back from Boston, my mother says there's a vacancy in Cheney. I responded by saying I don't think I want to teach in Cheney. She said I should go out and talk to them. So I went out to Cheney and Dr. Hargreaves-Dr. Showalter, that Showalter Hall is name after, hired me. I was so pleased with the job. I was head of physical education in Showalter Hall.

SWEDBERG: Were you hired as director, or were you hired first in the department?

DUSTIN: No. Miss Heath was the one that had preceded me. She had just left that department.

SWEDBERG: Miss Keith?

DUSTIN: Miss Heath and so I took her place. Just lucky I guess (laughing)

SWEDBERG: Do you remember, or did you ever meet Myra Butler?

DUSTIN: Butler?

SWEDBERG: She was the women's coach in about 1900, and she was also manual training teacher.

DUSTIN: No, that was before my time.

SWEDBERG: Alright. Tell me what Eastern was like in 1920.

DUSTIN: There were only five buildings on the campus, everybody was housed in Showalter Hall. As you made the entrance, on the right hand side, was Mrs. Ferguson's old piano, and on the left hand side was Mrs. Louise Anderson's Home Ec Department and taught all the cooking; a space for serving when the girls had practice. There was a table where we invited guests and we had a free dinner. Beyond that was what we called the social room, where they had parties and dancing and things like that. Across from the social room was Miss-oh dear-Miss Phillips, Kate Phillips.

SWEDBERG: Was she in Home Economics?

DUSTIN: She had the sewing department. I was straight back on the right hand side of the girl's dressing room and my office was through that dressing room looking out over Senior Hall. Then the other building is Senior Hall and Monroe Hall, named after a member of the Board of Education.

SWEDBERG: And that was a woman, too, was it not? Mary Monroe.

DUSTIN: Yes. The girls outnumbered the men about four to one when I joined the staff in 1920.

SWEDBERG: What other buildings were there then? Senior Hall was built?

DUSTIN: Senior Hall was built. Monroe Hall was the first building on the campus. There was Showalter Hall, and the Manual Arts building and the heating plant.

SWEDBERG: And that was all?

DUSTIN: Was now where the Williams building is.

SWEDBERG: Senior Hall was built for women, as I remember.

DUSTIN: Yes. Monroe Hall was the first one for women.

SWEDBERG: And then Senior Hall?

DUSTIN: Senior Hall was built later.

SWEDBERG: And then Sutton was built for men, is that right?

DUSTIN: Sutton Hall was built for men. That was after I was on the staff.

SWEDBERG: Do you remember when Senior Hall was first built and formally inaugurated? That was in 1920 or thereabouts, wasn't it?

DUSTIN: It was a little later than that, I think. Senior was built maybe in 1923, somewhere around in there, because Monroe accommodated the girls at that time, and located in Cheney, there were a lot of commuters.

SWEDBERG: How many women compared to men, did you have?

DUSTIN: About four to one.

SWEDBERG: Four to one! How long did that ratio last?

DUSTIN: Well, I used to take the girl's team. When I first had the classes in Showalter, we went downstairs for the gym, you know. I would have over a hundred girls on the floor at one time, but the ones that were closest to me, and the ones I remember better, were the ones that represented the teams according to the seasons. Basketball, tennis, swimming, or field hockey. I had it all by myself until the '30's.

SWEDBERG: You were the only teacher?

DUSTIN: I was the only teacher.

SWEDBERG: They called it physical training then, did they?

DUSTIN: Yes, they called it physical training. The old campus school was called the Training School. As you approached Showalter, the left hand side was a two-building,

sixth grade, they called it the Training School. That's where the students practiced their training.

SWEDBERG: Tell me, in those early days, what was the emphasis on physical training? Was it on competitive athletics or was it on having fun or training the body?

DUSTIN: It was required as a physical education.

SWEDBERG: It was required as a way of keeping the body healthy?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: That was the emphasis?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: Was that your own personal philosophy?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: The emphasis on competitive athletics came later or was that only a men's emphasis?

DUSTIN: No, I think the girls beat the men (laughs)! I took the team along to the different high schools to advertise Cheney and compete with basketball or tennis or things of that kind, according to the season.

SWEDBERG: Now did you introduce that-?

DUSTIN: Yes, I did that around all the different high schools, even outside of Cheney. We went to close by like Colfax, Pullman, oh Medical Lake, Rosalia.

SWEDBERG: Was this what was called Sport's Day?

DUSTIN: That came later.

SWEDBERG: That was later. Had they not done-?

DUSTIN: This was mostly used as advertising Cheney, which was my own idea.

SWEDBERG: Oh, it was. So they had not done anything in intercollegiate athletics until you came?

DUSTIN: Until later.

SWEDBERG: Until later.

DUSTIN: I advertised until the school started to grow as a result of my taking all these different high schools. We went by bus. The ones that were close enough, like Sprague-oh I can't think of all the high schools around-that was advertising Cheney. Until the school made me stop that.

SWEDBERG: Why?

DUSTIN: Well, somehow, they didn't like the idea of competing with high schools.

SWEDBERG: Oh! You were a taking team!

DUSTIN: I was taking a team.

SWEDBERG: And you were playing the high school teams?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: I see. Did it work, did you get more recruitment?

DUSTIN: Oh mercy yes. When they stopped that, then I thought, well, we'll have a play day. So, I took the girls to Ellensburg I took them, Pullman I took them, Bosco and Bellingham, as a college competition in different sports. That again was based on whatever the seasonal sport was. We did basketball, tennis, according to as I say the seasonal sport.

SWEDBERG: Did you play all these sports yourself?

DUSTIN: No, I was the coach.

SWEDBERG: But you were able to coach all of these?

DUSTIN: Oh yes. I had Mary Porter. She went to Boston University. She was one of my former students and I had her go to Boston, so she came back, and there was an assistant and we divided the work.

SWEDBERG: She was your first assistant?

DUSTIN: She was my first assistant.

SWEDBERG: Tell me about then I know that you started several different programs when you were here. You started something called Play Day and started something called Sport's Day.

DUSTIN: Well, Sport's Day was when I had to move into the college area.

SWEDBERG: Tell me about Sport's Day.

DUSTIN: Well that's when I took the girls to Pullman, Moscow, Ellensburg, and Bellingham-University of Washington. All colleges you see, universities.

SWEDBERG: And you competed with them?

DUSTIN: Yes, we competed with them.

SWEDBERG: In what sports?

DUSTIN: It was according to the season.

SWEDBERG: Basketball, baseball?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: What did women play in the fall?

DUSTIN: Well, I had to coach them.

SWEDBERG: Volleyball?

DUSTIN: Oh, yes volleyball.

SWEDBERG: Tennis lessons?

DUSTIN: Yes, Tennis.

SWEDBERG: They didn't have a swimming pool in those days, did they?

DUSTIN: About as big as this house.

SWEDBERG: That wasn't a competitive sport was that right?

DUSTIN: No, because we didn't have room, we didn't have-the sport was way over on the men's side. In a tiny little place I did well to teach them how to swim (laughs).

SWEDBERG: Was that required at this college?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: I know many colleges have required swimming for a degree. Was that true of Eastern?

DUSTIN: Oh that came very late. Way back in the '30's and '40's.

SWEDBERG: Tell me about Play Day.

DUSTIN: That, again, was when I took them to compete with the younger colleges.

SWEDBERG: Well-wasn't that with the high schools? Wasn't that different?

DUSTIN: We called it Sport's Day when we had it with the high school.

SWEDBERG: I see. Did you start any clubs among the students?

DUSTIN: Well, I changed the costumes the first thing. When I got back from Boston, it was the black bloomers and the white blouse. When I changed, the girls in regular classes

was in red and white. The majors that were majoring in physical education wore a completely white outfit.

SWEDBERG: Why did you change the colors?

DUSTIN: Well, the school colors, you see are red and white. My car is red and white.

SWEDBERG: When were the school colors made red and white?

DUSTIN: Oh North Central was red and white. When I came out here it was red and white.

SWEDBERG: Popular colors (laughing).

DUSTIN: Everybody knows my car because, I say, it's red with a white top.

SWEDBERG: What was the "W" club.

DUSTIN: Oh that's the majors. They wore letter club sweaters, white sweaters with a big letter.

SWEDBERG: Were you instrumental in starting that? Why did you start that one? Can you tell me something about it?

DUSTIN: Oh, majors, they were majors in physical education.

SWEDBERG: Can you remember some of their activities? What did they do?

DUSTIN: Well, some of them practiced teaching. If I didn't have a student teacher, I had to take over the work myself. They did their practice teaching in the lab school you see, and I was their supervisor.

SWEDBERG: So you did that also?

DUSTIN: Yes. I don't think they have it nowadays.

SWEDBERG: Can you remember some of the early students that you had?

DUSTIN: Oh goodness gracious (laughs)!

SWEDBERG: Or some of the early teams.

DUSTIN: I've got 'em all over (laughs). I can't turn in any direction without running into a former student.

SWEDBERG: Can you tell me about some that stand out in your mind?

DUSTIN: Well, Pansy Saul and her sister both were one of my early 1920-22 along in there.

SWEDBERG: Why do they stand out in your mind.

DUSTIN: Betty Hamm works in the-the one they call Seventeen over in the Fort Wright Drive

SWEDBERG: Oh, I see.

DUSTIN: Let's see, Hazel Reid, I believe her husband's name is on the campus school. Carolyn Giles.

SWEDBERG: She was your student, too?

DUSTIN: She was at the Tawanka too. Tawanka, Tawanka means suns.

SWEDBERG: Tell me about that group. That must have started about the time you first came, didn't it?

DUSTIN: Oh goodness gracious. Dorothy Carroll was president. Oh goodness gracious. There were forty one on both sides at the last meeting.

SWEDBERG: Were you instrumental in starting the group?

DUSTIN: I don't remember. I think somebody else started it. I think Louise Anderson started it. She was counselor, then I took her place after she passed away.

SWEDBERG: You were advisor to the students?

DUSTIN: Yes, I was an advisor.

SWEDBERG: What did the group do?

DUSTIN: Well, they gave scholarships. That money is for scholarships. They gave two scholarships in the spring.

SWEDBERG: It was made up of women students?

DUSTIN: Yeah all women.

SWEDBERG: What did they do to get the money? How did they make the money?

DUSTIN: Well, their dues was one thing, and I contributed (laughs). Oh, I can see those girls on either side. They're all married except one or two, and I can't remember their married names, it throws me off on single names when they were in school. I'll have to give that up, I guess.

SWEDBERG: Alright. The Physical Training Department was different from the Health Education Department wasn't it?

DUSTIN: Well, Miss Davidson, way, way back, taught health and hygiene-classes like that.

SWEDBERG: This was Flora Davidson?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: Tell me about her.

DUSTIN: Well, we didn't have much contact because she used to have a lecture class on the second floor in Showalter Hall, and I was way down teaching the physical. Flora Davidson. She was an elderly person. I think she was much older than I.

SWEDBERG: Did she start that department, do you know?

DUSTIN: No.

SWEDBERG: I'm going to ask you about some other people that were here, since you've already brought up several of them. There were many women of importance at Eastern in those days, since it was largely a women's school, right? Do you remember Mabel Reynolds?

DUSTIN: Here they all are.

SWEDBERG: Oh, goodness.

DUSTIN: This is in '47.

SWEDBERG: There's Louise Anderson. So that's what she looked like. Tell me about Louise Anderson.

DUSTIN: Oh, she was a wonderful person.

SWEDBERG: What was her position?

DUSTIN: She was head of Home Ec.

SWEDBERG: I see she was the one from whom Louise Anderson Hall is named?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: She was a librarian in the elementary school.

DUSTIN: Yes, children's literature.

SWEDBERG: Oh, there's Nancy Kate. That was before she was married.

DUSTIN: She married late.

SWEDBERG: She was in Home Ec in textiles and clothing?

DUSTIN: Um hum.

SWEDBERG: Amsel Barton.

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: Oh, there's Flora Davidson, right there. Here I am. Do you remember anything about these particular women?

DUSTIN: No. They're just members of the staff.

SWEDBERG: Virginia Dickenson, I remember that name.

DUSTIN: Yeah. She had French. She was a good friend with Hope Cullen. They went to Oshkosh Normal together. They didn't know where each other was until they got out here. Hope was going out to she and her brother and sister-in-law moved to Cheney and her brother told Hope to go out to Cheney and register in something that will keep you busy. You'll have something to do. So, as she was walking up Showalter Hall, Virginia Dickenson was walking back down to her home. Do you remember seeing her?

SWEDBERG: I don't remember her personally.

DUSTIN: I can't tell you where Virginia Dickenson lived, anyway, she said to Hope, "I have something to show you," so Hope turned around and Virginia took her over to her house, which is just beyond Selena Apartments. There's a house in between and Virginia lived on the corner, on that street that goes south. She had adopted a baby boy.

SWEDBERG: Nobody knew?

DUSTIN: No. I don't know yet, how she had managed, because she was single.

SWEDBERG: In those days, they didn't give children to single parents.

DUSTIN: No. She must have lied a little bit I think. As near as we can figure, she always said she was Mrs. Dickenson. I have a picture of the son, in fact, he was in the Navy. He graduated from here.

SWEDBERG: Virginia Dickenson was in Languages and Literature, right?

DUSTIN: French.

SWEDBERG: French.

DUSTIN: English, too. Then, she got a daughter. Carolyn was over here in, I can't think of the name-it'll come to me, I guess.

SWEDBERG: I see here is Cecil Dryden.

DUSTIN: You can get a lot of history out of her book. It's in the library.

SWEDBERG: I know you can, I've read it. In fact, I've read it several times.

DUSTIN: Hope and I drove her around to get information.

SWEDBERG: You were good friends with Cecil Dryden?

DUSTIN: Oh yes. She's the-I'm the last one after Cecil passed away. I feel like a lost sheep.

SWEDBERG: You must miss her. Esther Gingrich.

DUSTIN: She was art, I think.

SWEDBERG: Yes. Evelyn Goodsall.

DUSTIN: She was music. She's still alive as far as I know. She's over at the Riverview Terrace.

SWEDBERG: Doreen Guthrie, Florence Hiesler.

DUSTIN: The Hass girl. She was in high school-former student out here.

SWEDBERG: She's a librarian?

SWEDBERG: Charlotte, is it Hepperlee? German.

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: Well, this is a fascinating book. Alice Hitchcock. Ruth Johnson Riddle. Louise Johnston.

DUSTIN: Pendergrath. She taught first grade.

SWEDBERG: She would have been at the campus school?

SWEDBERG: Margaret McCallister, who taught speech.

DUSTIN: Yeah.

SWEDBERG: Mary Ellen Miles. These, of course, did not all go back as far as you do.

DUSTIN: No, no, this is *Kinnikinnick* 1947. Marian. She's still around.

(Tape 1-side 2)

DUSTIN: Around the campus, Showalter Hall was number one. The dormitories was Monroe and Senior Hall. And then the Manual Arts building and the heating plant, and the old training school. Those were the five buildings that were on the campus when I joined the staff.

SWEDBERG: What was men's P.E. like when you joined the staff? How was it different from women's P.E.?

DUSTIN: Well, Red Reese didn't like the office way over and I went abroad to study folk dancing and costuming and when I got back, I had a lecture room for methods and so forth. Red Reese had moved his office over there. That was another thing I have against him. So he had his office in my classroom and I didn't have a classroom. That was something else I didn't like about Red Reese.

SWEDBERG: Did you get it back?

DUSTIN: No, I didn't get it back. I guess this other trouble came up (laughing) and he had to get out of there.

SWEDBERG: I see. Was men's P.E. better funded than women's P.E.?

DUSTIN: The boy's sports were always better, you know. But we did pretty well, because growth of the school began back in the '30's and '20's.

SWEDBERG: Wasn't the fact that it was primarily a women's school-a girl's school for many years-wouldn't that help the amount of funding that was given to women's athletics as compared to men's?

DUSTIN: Yeah, but evidently Miss Keith gave it up to the men because we only had one gym in Showalter and the men's office was over on the other side, so they could go out to the fields.

SWEDBERG: And only the men used that gym, did they?

DUSTIN: Well, it was supposed to be the men's.

SWEDBERG: Was there one for women?

DUSTIN: No! There was only the one gym.

SWEDBERG: So what did you do with the women when they practiced?

DUSTIN: When the men practiced?

SWEDBERG: When the women practiced.

DUSTIN: We had to go outside (laughs).

SWEDBERG: Oh, I see.

DUSTIN: I had them during the day. I had to work in my classroom work, and my team work, during the day because the men had the basketball inside sports except for basketball, football, oh boy! I had a good time then.

SWEDBERG: When did you retire?

DUSTIN: In '64.

SWEDBERG: Has it changed since.

DUSTIN: Oh my, yes. I didn't get a chance to practice in the new facilities.

SWEDBERG: You never did?

DUSTIN: Huh uh.

SWEDBERG: When would that have been?

DUSTIN: Well, that was after '64. Because they have their own building now, you see. Women and the men's gyms are separate.

SWEDBERG: Can you tell me something about the Depression years at Eastern? What effect did the Depression have on the college?

DUSTIN: Well, of course, that was financial it was the Board of Regents would have had to take care of that. I didn't have anything to do with it.

SWEDBERG: Did you see any difference in the student body?

DUSTIN: I didn't notice it particularly.

SWEDBERG: You didn't feel that the Depression made much of an impact on Cheney?

DUSTIN: No. I carried on my work the best I could.

SWEDBERG: Did the student body decrease? Was it smaller?

DUSTIN: I didn't notice it. If anything it grew.

SWEDBERG: How about World War II? What was the effect of World War II on the college?

DUSTIN: Oh, that was before my time.

SWEDBERG: World War II was the one in the '40's.

DUSTIN: Oh. Well, we just kept on teaching.

SWEDBERG: Was there a difference in the student body there? Did the men disappear?

DUSTIN: Well, of course, I didn't have much to do with the men, until the other coach. That was after Reese's time in '53. They decided that the men should have some rhythm work. I tried to teach them two-steps and waltzes. They all had three left feet, I think (laughs). I had to push them a lot. I had a wonderful time (laughing), I got stepped on and everything else, but I had a good time.

SWEDBERG: Was it harder to teach the men than the women?

DUSTIN: Oh, mercy, yes! They didn't know rhythm or what it meant (laughing). I had a boyfriend myself, for ten years. But I enjoyed teaching, so I decided I better let him go. We had a lot of fun dancing. He'd come out and be my escort. We went skating and we went to the movies and we did a lot of things to have fun. They used to dance every Friday night down in the old gym at Showalter.

SWEDBERG: Where was that old gym. Is that where the registration room is now?

DUSTIN: The girl's dressing rooms were on either side and then you went downstairs into the gym.

SWEDBERG: Did you feel that you couldn't continue teaching if you had married?

DUSTIN: I didn't want to get married. Really I wasn't in love with him you know and I was having so much fun teaching. I kept in touch with him and I went to his mother's funeral. He lived not too far away from me. Weekends, I'd go into town and then he'd drive my car and we'd have fun. But now, he married a girl that was working in my dentist's office. She passed away with Parkinson's Disease after two years. Then he married again. He lives in Spokane, but I understand he is all crippled up with arthritis. I don't even seem him. He had a good job. He was a graduate of Pullman, and a civil engineer with the telephone people.

SWEDBERG: Was there ever a minority influence in Cheney that you remember? Were there blacks, Chicanos?

DUSTIN: No, most of them were white. I didn't have foreign students like they have now.

SWEDBERG: Did you ever have black students?

DUSTIN: Not many more than one or two.

SWEDBERG: A year, or throughout your history?

DUSTIN: Mostly white. Big percentage.

SWEDBERG: Were there ever any black faculty members?

DUSTIN: Yes, one that is still there. Edmond?

SWEDBERG: Edmonds? The pianist?

DUSTIN: He was the only one on the faculty when I was there.

SWEDBERG: You must have been old enough to remember the period between 1915 and 1925. Do you remember anything about the Temperance Movement or Suffrage? Do you remember the fight for women's suffrage which culminated about 1920.

DUSTIN: No.

SWEDBERG: That wasn't of any interest to you?

DUSTIN: No.

SWEDBERG: What would you say was the most fulfilling part of your job?

DUSTIN: I don't know, the whole thing was just-

SWEDBERG: You just enjoyed everything you did?

DUSTIN: Everything I did. I was a popular teacher, even if I do say that myself.

SWEDBERG: How did you know? How did they let you know that you were popular?

DUSTIN: Well, the way the students that had to take the class with me, they would recommend, "You've got to get in class with Miss Dustin."

SWEDBERG: Well, that must have made you feel good because they must have told you that?

DUSTIN: Yeah.

SWEDBERG: What was it about your teaching that made you popular? Can you put your finger on it?

DUSTIN: No. Just my method I guess.

SWEDBERG: What was your method?

DUSTIN: Well, I can't explain that, it was just personal. I just enjoyed it.

SWEDBERG: Did you take a personal interest in your students?

DUSTIN: Oh yes. My seniors, I loved every one of them.

SWEDBERG: Did you know them personally?

DUSTIN: Oh yes! Yes. I couldn't help it (laughs). They were after me as well as I was wanting them to come and register in my class.

SWEDBERG: Did you ever use your own home as a place for students. Did you ever invite them into your home?

DUSTIN: No.

SWEDBERG: You did it all at school?

DUSTIN: I was a house mother over at Senior Hall at one time.

SWEDBERG: Oh you were? How long a period was that?

DUSTIN: Just one year, I think, I did that.

SWEDBERG: Do you remember anything from that period? That year?

DUSTIN: No, I don't think the girls tried to put anything over on me (laughs). Before I, well, there was one girl that had been out with a boyfriend, who was a dentist here in town, and she climbed through the windows and got back in after hours. But, I didn't know it. That wasn't when I was there. That was when-oh, I can't think of her name-the secretary to the President-lived over there. They put it over on her (laughs). Most of the seniors-I say I've actually raised half of Cheney because of the senior citizens, that I'm a member of now, are parents of the students I had. Course, Cheney itself has grown. I get lost after 44 years on the campus. I get an invitation for this and that and I have to look it up to see where I have to go (laughs).

SWEDBERG: So, the college has changed more than the town?

DUSTIN: Oh, yes.

SWEDBERG: You've lived in Cheney all this time. How have you seen Cheney change?

DUSTIN: Well, I used to go back and forth when I drove. I used to use the old that came here before I got a car down at the depot. And then we had the buses. I used to go home from Cheney for the weekend with my parents. In the wintertime, when the roads were bad, the weather was bad, I had an apt, or house, or a room in a house here

SWEDBERG: Do you feel that there was a lot of town gown feeling between the college and the town of Cheney.

DUSTIN: I know at one time, probably still, that the faculty felt a little above. I never felt that way.

SWEDBERG: Did you feel that you were accepted by the people of Cheney?

DUSTIN: Oh, mercy, yes. Soon as I entered a door, anyplace, no matter where it is, "Oh, Toni!" (laughs).

SWEDBERG: (laughs) Do you think that women were important in the development of either the town or the college, or both?

DUSTIN: To me it was.

SWEDBERG: Why do you say so?

DUSTIN: They were all wonderful people.

SWEDBERG: Can you put your finger on what women contributed particularly?

DUSTIN: No, except finding boyfriends (laughs). And those that I thought we were just going out and teach a while. A few of them did, and then they got married, then they had their families. So that made things different.

SWEDBERG: Who do you think was the most influential women on the EWU staff in all the time that you were there?

DUSTIN: Of my students?

SWEDBERG: Students or faculty or Board of Trustee?

DUSTIN: Well, one of the finest ones was Alice Free over in Ellensburg. She taught on the campus.

SWEDBERG: Here?

DUSTIN: No, in Ellensburg.

SWEDBERG: How about here on this campus?

DUSTIN: Oh, goodness. I don't know. I was so interested in my own department maybe that was a mistake.

SWEDBERG: Did you know Mary Monroe who was Chairman of the Board, at one time?

DUSTIN: Yes. That's what Monroe Hall is named after.

SWEDBERG: Did you know her at all?

DUSTIN: No. I think she had passed away when I joined the staff.

SWEDBERG: Was she influential?

DUSTIN: The only one I knew was Mrs. Wilson.

SWEDBERG: Mrs. Wilson? On the Board of Trustee's?

DUSTIN: Board of Trustee's.

SWEDBERG: How about Mrs. J.W. Fancy. Do you remember such a person?

DUSTIN: Oh, yes, I knew Mrs. Fancy.

SWEDBERG: Tell me about her, Mrs. Fancy. Can you remember anything particular about her?

DUSTIN: Well, she was on the Board of Regents.

SWEDBERG: When was she on the Board?

DUSTIN: In my early days, I don't remember exactly. When they named the dance studio after me, that was a surprise.

SWEDBERG: What did they name after you?

DUSTIN: The dance studio.

SWEDBERG: The dance studio?

DUSTIN: It's in the Phase. Phase II.

SWEDBERG: And that is still the Dustin studio?

DUSTIN: Yeah. My picture is still hung up.

SWEDBERG: Was there a ceremony that surrounded that?

DUSTIN: Oh yes.

SWEDBERG: Oh, tell me about the ceremony. Let's talk about the dedication of that dance studio, to you.

DUSTIN: That was in '74 wasn't it?

SWEDBERG: 1974. That's what this says, yes. Now who was this?

DUSTIN: Betty Simpson-Hammond is her married name. She gave a little speech about me.

SWEDBERG: I see that President Schuck here, must have presented the-.

DUSTIN: He was president at that time.

SWEDBERG: And did he present a speech?

DUSTIN: Yeah, he gave a talk, too. Those were all my-Mrs. Wilson is there.

SWEDBERG: Mrs. Wilson is on the Board of Trustee's?

DUSTIN: Yes.

SWEDBERG: Now who is this?

DUSTIN: That's Hannah Salburg. They were my escorts. That's Hannah and myself. That's Hannah again with Mrs. Wilson.

SWEDBERG: Did students attend this? Your old students?

DUSTIN: Oh yes. Everybody that was invited and wanted to come.

SWEDBERG: How big of an audience did you have?

DUSTIN: Oh, mercy, I don't know, I was so excited, I don't remember.

SWEDBERG: Was that done for your benefit, this particular dance?

DUSTIN: Where?

SWEDBERG: Was dance your particular interest?

DUSTIN: Yes, that's why the dance studio was named after me. That was my favorite sport. The dancing they have now, she's doing beautiful work. But, I had folk dancing, square dancing, tap dancing and social dancing.

SWEDBERG: Well, you did them all.

DUSTIN: Well, she does more of the ballet type. Really beautiful work, but not my type. Gee, that was a surprise when I got this notice that I was going to have a dance studio named after me. I don't know who started it but I have a hunch it was Cecil Dryden. I don't know I just got that feeling. I put on a dance recital one time, I don't even remember the year, I put on a dance recital at Showalter Hall auditorium, I did a Russian dance. Cecil Dryden never forgot that. That's why I think she probably started this. Maybe so, maybe not. She never said so, and I never asked her.

SWEDBERG: There are others I'm sure it could have been too. There are probably others it could have been because you have many admirers.

DUSTIN: Oh, I had to buy this new formal dress, and I hadn't had on a formal dress for so long (laughs).

SWEDBERG: I'll bet that was fun, just getting ready for it.

DUSTIN: Showalter was first. He was the one that hired me. Then, I went abroad, as I said before, to study folk dancing and costume, when I graduated North Central, I said to myself that I hoped someday I could work with or under Dr. Hargreaves. He was a wonderful man, and so was his wife. When I got back, he had been hired out here, by Showalter. Then...which never should have been hired. He was on the faculty. He was a different man after he lost his son and his wife both. Used to cuss you up and down. He didn't cooperate with anybody. Freeman was the President when I reported Reese, then Cabot, Patterson and then Shuck.

SWEDBERG: You were under a lot of different people.

DUSTIN: Several administrations.

SWEDBERG: Did you see definite changes go on as a result of a change in administration?

DUSTIN: Oh, yes. Some of them were cooperative and some of them were different characters. I think they're all gone now except Shuck.

SWEDBERG: Would you like to see a woman President?

DUSTIN: No.

SWEDBERG: Why not.

DUSTIN: I think it's a man's job.

SWEDBERG: Why do you think so?

DUSTIN: I just have that feeling. A man can handle it better.

SWEDBERG: There was a time when more than half the faculty was women, wasn't there?

DUSTIN: Oh yes.

SWEDBERG: But the president's were always men.

DUSTIN: Yeah. Women outnumbered the men. There were only two men in the training school. A lot of men were head of the departments when they were hired, but they were hiring women.

SWEDBERG: Thank you.