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Interview with Franklin Miller Jr.

Colin Walker

Franklin Miller Jr.

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Interviewer: Colin Walker

Interviewee: Franklin Miller Jr.

Place: Franklin Miller Jr.'s place of residence

Duration: 54 minutes and 14 seconds

Co-workers present: none

CW: Alright, so, how long have you lived in Knox County?

FM: Uh, 64 years.

CW: 64 years.

FM: In Gambier. I came here in '48 from Rutgers University where I had taught there.

My graduate work was at Chicago, University of Chicago in the '30s (inaudible, recorder moving) in the—yeah, in the 30s. And uh, I've been here since '48, '48.

CW: Great—hold on, I'm just going to check to make sure that this is actually recording.

CW: So you've lived in Gambier for—you said:

FM: 6—64 years.

CW: 64 years. And you were a professor at the College?

FM: Yes, I came here as, uh, associate professor, I was promoted eventually. When I came I was—there was a small department and I was at the bottom of the list (recorder bumped) the top, and when he retired, Dr. Johnston retired, I became the chairman of the department. And I taught astronomy and physics. Maybe you know this, there's a—observatory down there that was named for me, after I retired.

CW: I actually also take a class in the lecture hall that's named after you.

FM: Oh, I guess so.

CW: Um, so what is your connection to the radio, to WMVO?

FM: Well, I, like, uh—when I was at Rutgers I knew about radio, I didn't work for any radio station, I was teaching, I was teaching physics at Rutgers University. But, I hung around the local station a little bit; it was an AM station, of course. And when I got to Kenyon there was no radio in the county. The radio station was founded in 1955, I believe it was, wasn't it? And I thought I could do a little public service. Uh, I—I, and I, so I hired myself out nights and weekends. And the station was founded by a woman named Helen Zelkowitz, have you heard of her?

CW: I have, yeah.

FM: You didn't know her, of course, 'cause she was killed in an auto wreck about 2-3 years ago. Wonderful woman—and, she came—her husband was a, um, lawyer in Mount Vernon. He was the leading lawyer, actually, he was the head man in the law—the Bar association and he was my personal family lawyer—my wife and myself. And, uh—his wife Helen came, and they were both from Cleve—Columbus but they wanted to get into a smaller place where they could be more—do more public service. Helen's desire to found a radio station was simply a way of outlet-ing her desire to do public service. And she did all sorts of things, she was in all sorts of clubs and, uh, she and I were on the board at the, um, Mental Health Association. I played bridge with her in the, uh, Duplicate Bridge Club. Uh—and then I decided I would go out—they were just getting the station going. There was no station in the county when I came here—I came here in '48. Well in '55—I think was when the station was founded—um, seems to me it must

have been a bit earlier than that, but—I talked to Dave Bevington, you probably talked with Dave, right?

CW: Yeah.

FM: He told me '55. Uh, at any rate—so she founded the radio station as a public outlet. She didn't do it for money; they were very well off. But she did it in order to have control of a way of helping the community. And she was very proud of her for that. And, um, uh, she hired—they, they, they had guest—the radio station, the whole station was about the size of this room [20x20], not even that room [twice the size], just this size. The transmitter was in the closet, there was a switchboard here with a meter on it—I was a boardman, which means I was not only an engineer but an announcer. I read the news, I introduced programs, I played records, and I had a chance to, uh, uh, do a program, we—I had five different weekly p-programs every week. One of—the first one was, uh, called “The Voices of Kenyon”—pardon me—yeah it was “Kenyon College on the Air.” And there was a professor Schwartz, have you heard of him?

CW: I have not.

FM: He was the founder of our music department here. A—German born and he came here to found our music department just the year before I came, and I got very well-acquainted with him. His wife is still living in Delaware, Ohio, he was older than she, he died some—quite a few years ago. But, um, he and I had the idea of doing “Kenyon College on the Air.” So there was a weekly assembly, uh, in Rosse Hall and I taped all of those on a portable tape recorder. It was “portable” but it was about the size of that table [a small coffee table] (laughter) and weighed about 90 pounds. I carried that up the back steps in Rosse Hall every Tuesday to do—to tape the outside speaker and then I edited it here, not here but in the home—I lived up where Crozier Center now is.

CW: Okay.

FM: That was my home, that house. And I would—during the week I would edit that tape down so that it fit 28 minutes, which is the length of a half-hour program. And then I would take it—I would read the—I would edit it down and then read the announcements that, uh—“Ladies and gentlemen, we take Rosse Hall where the next voice you hear is that of Joe Blow, the Chairman of some—whatever it may be” you know? And Paul Schwartz and I, uh—wrote and I delivered the, um, introduction, and then I'd go out to the station during the week and tape it. The introduction, I—Paul Schwartz called it the announcement and the denouncement—or the opening and the closing, and I had that all on the tape, and then, um, and then the program was in between it, and I would introduce the speaker. And all sorts of well known people spoke and all that. And, um, then I decided that there was no music on the—no classical music on that station, it was just news, do, Paul Schwartz helped me on that and, uh—I set up a program and I-I did two hours of classical music on records, everyday, during the week, five days a week I did a two hour program of classical music. Now, pretty after an hour, after, uh and—they had a pretty fair library of classical music but nobody ever played it, out there at the radio station. And I had some records and Schwartz had some records and the College had records, and I borrowed records all around. And I announced a two hour program at the house on a—using a Sunday afternoon I would tape it and then I would take it over to the station for the following week. And I-I didn't have to show up for the program, it was all on my tape. Well, pretty soon, after about—it was a very popular, a lot of people, and it was the only classical music they ever heard. And I-I got—some people would stop me

on the street and say “Aren’t you the guy that runs that program on the air?” They recognized my voice. Well I had, um, Kenyo—I had, um, called—it was called, well—“Music of the Masters.” I guess that’s what it was called. Anyhow, and so I introduced that every afternoon from, from 1 to 3 o’clock, in the afternoon I had to—so, well—after a year or two of that they found they could sell that time, so they cut me down to one hour, then they cut me down to a half hour and then I quit.

CW: Yeah.

FM: But, uh, see I was doing it all free of charge. Uh, uh, and that was Ken—there was “Kenyon College on the Air,” there was “Music of the Masters,” then I read a half hour program on, uh, “This Week in Science. I would read the teletype, uh, record it for the week, uh, I would read the magazines, the journals out here. And I gave a half hour program of current, uh, science. Let’s see that was—then I did a sportscast, uh, I don’t know if you know, uh, I was the soccer coach here at Kenyon.

CW: I didn’t know that.

FM: I-I, uh, had played soccer at Swarthmore College and I had helped coach a little bit at Rutgers, uh, I coached the Junior Varsity team, free of charge—I guess. But, um, I came here and there was a professor was coaching soccer and he left to go to greener pastures and they were without a soccer coach. So I went into to President Chalmers and said to Chalmers, whom I knew very well, and I said, I-I’d be glad to coach your soccer team for-for no charge, you know. Uh, well, he said “That’s fine,” um “I’d be glad, we need a college coach and if you want to do it we’d be happy to have you do it.” So I coached that team for four seasons. Um—and, um—uh, and if I do say so—oh, and as I left his office when Chalmers said “Okay, go ahead and do it,” he said, “Oh, and by the way we’ll give you 500 dollars for coaching, per year.” Well, of course, that’s little enough for a coach, but that—that gave me an incentive. And of course in those days we didn’t even have a school bus, we had to use our own cars to go up to Oberlin or Case Western or Wooster, wherever we had an away game. Uh, one or two of the students had cars and I had my car and we had a caravan of three or four private cars, driving up to the, uh, away games. I remember we played, um, uh, Michigan State up there at East Lansing, we drove up there in several cars that was—and I think we lost, I’m not sure. But we, uh—in those four years that I coached for fun, um, we didn’t have—we didn’t have a losing season. We didn’t have—we had a few winning seasons and few tie seasons in the four years, but never a losing season. And we played Ohio State I think 8 times, twice a year, and we never lost to Ohio State. We didn’t beat them ever, but—well, we beat them a few times and we tied them a few times. Well I loved coach—I loved soccer coaching and it was made easy—easier for me [sound of FM’s son entering the house] Hello? [FM’s son] I’m in here being interviewed by Colin, come on in here ? [FM’s son] This is my son Franklin, have you met him?

CW: Hi, Colin, I think we-we emailed.

[Carry on conversation for the rest of the track]

FM: So, I, um, I did the “This Week in Science” program from—I quoted a different magazines like Nature and Science and, uh, and I read the teletype and all and—well
CW: You were saying that you did a sports broadcast as well?

FM: I did a sports broadcast. I did a—I was, I was, let’s see—for Kenyon, for “Kenyon College on the Air,” I was Professor Miller, for the music program I was, uh, I guess I

was Franklin Miller, I don't know what I call—for science I was Doctor Miller, for the, um, [coughs] sports I was Frank Miller. And then on Saturday mornings, I was the announcer, I wasn't the play in, uh—in, uh—what was the phrase for it [coughs] uh, jazz, uh, folk music, bluegrass sort of stuff, and I was the announcer for that and I was Ol' Doc' Miller.

[Laughter]

I was Ol' Doc', Frank Miller, Professor Miller, Dr. Miller, and just plain old, um, Franklin—Frank Miller. Anyhow, I had a lot of fun with that. And, and one—while I was there it was only—it was, um, um, AM only. They couldn't get a license for—

CW: FM

FM: It was FM only! That right, 'cause the air—it was easy enough to get an FM license, but the AM licenses were all taken and they didn't know—they didn't have the knowhow to make the right kind of application until after I quit my announcing business but they asked me to come in and help wire up the AM station and I took over at—what happened was that I, um, at Helen's, uh, request I went up to Cleveland and took the exam of—for radio engineering, 3rd class exam, in order to take the 2nd class exam. Then I took the 2nd class exam and passed it, so then I took the 1st class exam, all this was in the same day, one after the other. I went up to Cleveland on that one day, I took all three exams, I came back, much to Helen's surprise with—with the license.

CW: [Laughs]

FM: So I could, I could relieve the station engineer for much needed vacation, because he had been wiring up the AM station, and I relieved him and, and went on the air with my new license. I had a lot of fun with that. And I-I continued to work then at nights and weekends and, uh, I'd read the announcements of-of classical music and pop music, whatever there is, and introduce the, uh, newscasters, uh, well, whatever—I didn't tell you how I met—there was a guy named, uh, Charlie Kilkenny, did you hear of him?

CW: I've heard his name, yeah.

FM: He, uh—It so happened the my wife and I were down in Mount Vernon shopping at Pitkin's Corner, which you don't know about. DO you know Pitkin's Corner?

CW: I've-I've heard of it.

FM: It was on the corner—across the street from that bank on the corner of Main and Gambier. It's across the street from the store that burned down.

CW: Uhuh, yeah.

FM: And I was in the—we were shopping at Pitkin's Corner—it was an old-fashioned store with a potbellied stove and all the farmers were sitting around with their feet up on the stove telling anecdotes, you know, it was a really country, uh, occasion and, uh—but it wasn't broadcast, of course, the station was just being founded. And, uh, we walked out onto the corner and there was a telephone pole and there was a guy standing in front of the pole with a microphone talking and there was somebody up on top of the pole connecting his microphone to the telephone wire and that wire took that sound up to the radio station and got on the air that way. It was the first remote broadcast. It happened to be the very first broadcast ever on that—first remote broadcast ever on that—And I happened to walk by and I introduced myself to Charlie Kilkenny who was standing there, that was the first time I had met him, he became a very well known character at that station. He—Charlie founded the, uh, Food For the Hungry. You hear about that one?

CW: Mhm.

FM: Have you gotten the story on it?

CW: No, I have not.

FM: Uh, well Charlie, uh, Helen's—Helen's, uh, backing—see Helen was in back of all of this, she was the liberal person, very liberal and she, uh, hired Charlie and Charlie ran an afternoon talk show with pop music and all. And I would—I did the engineering for that show for Charlie eventually. I would—when I started working part time at the station in summers, aand on, not during school hours, but during summer time, I-I did the—and Charlie would come charging up the hill to the station for the three o'clock show and I was on the board, reading the news and so forth, and running my music program from one to three, and then Charlie was supposed to come up and if he didn't come up on time then I had to adlib it. But he was a very fine man and he started this Food For The Hungry drive. And I just chatted with Dave Bevington, he said that the Food For The Hungry Drive has made 172,000 dollars over the years, total, for the hungry people of Knox County. Now I call that a public service. Charlie initiated it out of his own brain. And um, uh, what else can I think of that—well he had his own program of course and of course they all sold advertising—they were--all the announcer were also salesman, so there was, uh, three or four of them that I knew very well. I didn't sell anything. Some people would stop me on the street, though, and recognize my voice and say "aren't you the guy on the radio?"

[Laughter]

Well anyhow, uh, there was another big, uh, you hear about the flood?

CW: I've heard a little bit about it.

FM: Well that was in 1958. And, um, there was a big flood, the Kokosing river overflowed and it took out, um, all the phone service and people were welcome to come up the station, or to—well no it didn't exactly take out all the phones, so that was another tragedy. They—but people could call in and telephone—some phones were out, and they would phone emergency calls on the station and Helen got permission from the government to stay on all night, uh, to answer requests for help, which she did. And she needed an engineer, so I stayed there all night. I slept at the board and she brought a couch and slept in the main studio. She and I had—And we, the two of us were all night, alone in the station, answering emergency calls, and helping people get in touch with people that they couldn't reach by phone. Uh, that was, uh—That was one of Helen's greater times. And she and I alone, uh, were, uh, at the station all night. That was—I was pooped, I will tell you, because I taught all day. And someone paged my at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, I was, uh—4 o'clock, I was doing a physics lab and they said call the station and they asked me could I come over that night and I did. So I stayed up all day and all night, I did an all-nighter on that. Um, and, um, the flood, uh, was so deep, you know, you know Mount Vernon?

CW: Mhm.

FM: You know the bridge over the river?

CW: Mhm.

FM: It's sort of down a little slope. Well that—the river overflowed and where mainstreet entered the bridge, at about that level, the flood waters were just above the, the top of the, uh, of car meters, the meters. The parking meters were underwater—

CW: That's incredible.

FM: That's how deep that water was in the downtown Mount Vernon.

CW: That's amazing.

FM: And um, then there was another, uh, similar, uh, occasion when the telephone company burned. There was an accidental burning. Someone was doing some soldering repairs and he had a torch, of all things, in a room full of equipment, and all the wiring was covered with paraffin wax, and insulation—and some wiring caught fire and then the whole, the whole telephone station went, went off for a month. There was a month that not a phone rang in Mount Vernon. Except they put up five or six outdoor telephone booths, and people could drive over to the booth and make a phone call.

[Laughter]

And, uh, then again, it took them a month to get that sta—that telephone company back in business. And Helen, uh, took the, uh—did what she could to help that one out. She was, as I say, a wonderful woman. She played—I played bridge with her too. Uh, and, uh—she, uh—I played bridge with, you know, Ransom? You've heard of Ransom.

CW: Mhm.

FM: John Ransom played bridge—his wife, John's wife was the best bridge player in the county.

CW: [laughs] Oh really?

FM: She was very good. Do you know anything about bridge?

CW: Uh, no, my parents play but I've never played.

FM: Have you ever heard of Goren.

CW: Uh uh.

FM: Goren was the head of the National Bridge Society. Have you heard of Colbertson?

CW: Mm mm.

FM: Well you're-you're—well Goren was the head person in the country. And we were sitting in the YMCA downtown here, having our Tuesday night bridge session and a stranger came up the steps and said “Can I play with you people tonight?” I said “Sure, what's your name?” “Charles Goren,” it was the head bridge player of the United States and he comes up our stairs without any previous announcement. And we said “Sure, who are you?” and when he said “Charles Goren,” we just about fell over.

[laughter]

We all got to play a round, a couple of hands with Goren, against Goren, I mean, he brought his own partner with him. He was actually the head Beaver of the National Bridge Society and he was inspecting—we were a chapter of that society, so it was his job as head, national head to view all the different chapters, so he was doing his duty doing that. Well, let's see, what else can I think of about the—the radio station. It's no exaggeration to say that Helen Zerkowitz came here and founded the station out of a desire to do public service. She wasn't doing it for the money and she wasn't doing it for the glory, she was doing it for any way she could do a public service in the county, she did it.—uh

CW: Do—

FM: And as I say, her husband was the best lawyer in town and her was my personal lawyer too. And he was—Helen would have a Christmas party for the staff in her home, which is now, uh, now the YMCA.

CW: Oh, I didn't know that.

FM: Not the YMCA, the, the Red Cross—we played at the YMCA. But the Red Cross, you know where they are?

CW: Mm mm.

FM: You know where The Living Center is?

CW: I don't.

FM: There was a hospital there, The Living Center was a hospital, right on main street, across from that b—church there, Congregational Church, a big building with a big parking lot, right on main street about two blocks north of the Square. And Helen's house was next door to that, and when she got too old to pop, Helen went into the nursing, uh, the, uh, the Living Center which is non—non-health related. And then there's the Country Court which is—I-I—nursing center, which is owned by the same group. And Helen lived in the house right across the street from the Living Center and when she decided to go to the Living Center she donated her house to the, uh, Red Cross. And their headquarters are in that house. Now—um—I can't think of what else. Do you have some more questions?

CW: Um, yeah, I have another question.

FM: Go 'head.

CW: Um, yeah, do you—I don't—do you still listen to WMVO ever?

FM: I don't—I don't listen to them now because I can't really find them on my—on my new—my, my, my receiver—here in this house I don't really listen to it any more. I would if I could. I-I listened to them in the old house. I had—this, uh—I'm sure they come through, but I can't really locate them. I can locate WOSU—I listen to them, but I don't really listen to WMVO any more.

CW: Do you—Do you think that it changed over the years?

FM: Oh, I think they have—well they have a very active, uh, staff and they do, uh, all sorts of do-good projects. Charlie Kilkenny died, of course, uh, and, uh, Dave Bevington came after I quit. I-I—he came in about 1975 or so and I—my work was all done in the '60s and the '50s, and I did it for fun. And, um, yes, I think they have matured quite—of course they sold out, it is no longer locally owned, which I regret. I think as a locally owned station they did a lot of good, more than they do now, I think.

CW: What, What do you think the role of radio is in a community like Mount Vernon?

FM: Well, just about what they're doing, I think. I think they're doing a good job. Um, people have—they have things like talk shows and, uh, Dave Bevington he runs a talk show, he's probably on the air right at this minute. No, he isn't, he comes on at 12:30, um, and he does a, um, auction, I mean not an auction but, uh—you can call in for something you want to sell, uh, I don't know, what do they call it?

CW: They call it "Tradio."

FM: "Tradio," yeah. They founded that "Tradio," Charlie Kilkenny founded it, I think. Well that's a public service, that "Tradio." But they don't do any classical music anymore. And, um, they do sports of course, that's- that's something that nobody can get anywhere else. The nighttime sports broadcasts, they can—they have the local high school. I once was pushed into serving—I did a play by play at the high school basketball game, once. The sportscaster, whoever it was, was ill, so they pressed me into service—they were playing, um, um, Arlington, Upper Arlington from Columbus, had come up here for a game. And I happened to be pressed into service, so I did the p-play by play of that game. And there was a young, uh, high school kid, uh, young active kid, he was

blond headed and he was running up and down, leading the cheers, the cheering section and all, and someone pointed him out to me and said “That guy’s a very good golfer and his name is Jack Nicklaus, you’ll hear from him someday.”

CW: Wow.

FM: And Jack Nicklaus was doing the cheerleading in the game that I was, I was broadcasting.

CW: Was he, was he with Upper Arlington, or was he?

FM: Yeah, he was a high school kid.

CW: Okay.

FM: He was a student at the college, at the, at the high school. And he didn’t play basketball he played a good game, uh, a good game of golf, from what they all said.

CW: Right.

FM: I never played golf myself. I-I never met—I don’t believe I met, uh, Jack, but I saw him, I, I announced, uh, the same game that he was leading the cheers at. Uh, I don’t know what else they could be doing. Do you have any idea?

CW: Well, um, I think I—I think I agree with you that now that it’s not locally owned it doesn’t seem as—obviously I didn’t know it back in the day, but, it seems like it was a lot more about community outreach and a lot more about the public service as you were saying. Um, and they do still have some local programs, they do still have Dave Bevington and “Tradio” and what not, and they still do Food For The Hungry, but it doesn’t seem like it’s as integral a part of the community.

FM: Well I thin you’d have to talk document that somehow. I wouldn’t want to say off-hand that that’s true.

CW: Right, right.

FM: I think that they do do all that they can, really. I don’t know how—what else they could be doing, and still earning money. They still have to sell commercials. And, um, did you ever hear about the time that they were stolen?

CW: No.

FM: Well, one day, uh, Helen Z., Helen Zerkowitz, uh, took a very strong hand in the—she a morning program, for example, called “Coffee Cup,” “Over the Coffee Cup,” and I engineered that program for her. I—it was in the farmhouse next to the station, there’s a farmhouse. The station, as I say, was about the size of this room, maybe about the size of that living room over there, not any bigger. [See aforementioned estimates]. And um, um, they had the one studio just about half the size of this room with a switchboard in it, that’s all, and a couple of chairs. And, uh, Helen, uh, was acquainted with a fellow down in Columbus, her hometown was Columbus, and she, she kept—so she went to the synagogue in Columbus. She and her husband were very active in the synagogue and this, uh, fellow in the—and Helen was acquainted with the professional radio people in Columbus. And one of them was very well known, she palled around with him a little bit and she invited him to come up here and visit our station up here. So he came up one afternoon and she showed him around and at that time there was, you know where the station is, at that time there was just the one building, the size of this room, and then across the field was this farmhouse. And they had their office in the farmhouse and that’s where, uh, Mrs. Zerkowitz ran “Coffee Cup,” from the kitchen. And I did the remote broadcast with the remote amplifier in the kitchen, and I would introduce them and announce them and denounce them. And, uh, Helen had had guests, uh, everyday she

would have a guest and interview them. Well, um, this fellow, whose name I forget, with very big wheel in Columbus radio, he came out and thought very nicely of the station, but, he said, you know this is very isolated. There was no—that, that hill was just the station and the farmhouse. There was no, there was no, uh, shopping center, there were no stores, there was nothing, it was just wilderness. And he came out and said “this house—this is awfully isolated out here, you sure you’re not going to get robbed someday?” he said: “Are you insured?” Helen didn’t know, so she went back to her husband that night, the lawyer, and says, uh, “Charles, are we insured?” and Charles says “No, we’re not.” So she says “We better do it today, do it right away.” So she—so they took out, uh—that was a Thursday, I think, or maybe a Tuesday, it was a Tuesday. So, they went down the next morning and insured the station against robbery. And wouldn’t you know it, the following Sunday they went out to open up and the station was gone. The transmitter had been stolen, overnight. The very week that they had took out the insurance policy.

[laughter]

Very, very fortunate.

CW: Yeah. Very lucky.

FM: Some, some high school kids in the south, south part of the state had been going around robbing stations and, of all the nerve, setting up their own station. And as soon as they started broadcasting, of course, the government cracked down on them.

CW: Right.

FM: And they were, they were arrested. And, but by that time they had rebuilt the station out here. They had put a new transmitter in, they had to, they didn’t have any—they were off the air for a couple of weeks. And that, that was really amusing that that was within a week of when they were persuaded by the guy in Columbus to insure yourself, they needed it.

CW: Yeah, yeah. That’s, that’s great. Um, just one more quick question, um, how do you think—have you seen—I guess, what changes have you seen in Knox County, Mount Vernon, since you’ve lived here.

FM: Well, I seen a lot of factories have gone. There was Cooper Bessemer, which was sold out to Rolls Royce. There was the Mount Vernon Bridge Works, you know where they were?

CW: Mm mm.

FM: They were west of Cooper Bessemer, and that was run by a family named Conley, who I knew very well, uh, married a, married a Kahrl, uh, and there was—K-A-H-R-L, do you know that name?

CW: Mm mm.

FM: There was a Kahrl relative on the staff here, director of A—something to do with alumni office. And she’s, she married a Kahrl, uh, who had been the vice-president of Cooper Bessemer. Well, what—answering your question, though—that’s gone. Cooper, the, uh—the Bridge Works is gone, the glass factory is gone, there was a Pittsburgh Glass, and these are large factories. And there was another factory up on the north end of town, uh, what was it called, not Cooper Bessemer, north of Cooper Bessemer there was a—they’re, they’ve been torn down, they’re gone. What was that? Oh, I know it as well as I know my own name. What was that?—my wife worked there actually. My wife had been a physics major in college, but she was a painter also—these are her paintings

around the house that you see. And she's long gone, but, uh—uh, she, uh, illustrated a physics text book, that's on the wall there, for instance [unintelligible] she wrote three books, then she went into theology when we came here. She, uh, commuted while we were at Rutgers, she went into theology, and she studied with one of the best theologians in the country. Uh, by commuting up to, uh, Columbia University, the guy's name was Paul Tillich, ever hear of him? No, you haven't heard of anybody.

[laughter]

And she wrote three books and published three book on theology, my wife did. And, um, uh, what brought that to mind was, uh, where she worked, that's gone. That was called, uh, oh gee, how come I can't remember? They were headquartered in Newark, this was their branch factory, and they were really pretty big. And my wife had physics training, and she did—worked in the quality control lab. And I—somebody had to drive her and a couple of other people up here, they took turns driving in for work every morning. And I would have—a week at a time I would have to drive them in before class. Uh, but, they say, that—not Cooper Bessemer. Oh boy, it suddenly escapes my mind. But that factory, Cooper Bessemer is not the same thing, the, the, uh, Bridge Works, they built a lot of really big bridges all over the country, they're gone, uh, the Pittsburgh Plate is gone. And, um, something is taking their place now, I don't—that factory is, is empty, so there's a loss of factories, um, on the other hand, I think the schools are as active as, um, really more active than they were then. Uh, and there was the radio station has come, of course. Uh, I don't consider myself as living in Mount Vernon, I'm living in Gambier.

CW: Right, right.

FM: [laughs] Gambier has changed quite a bit, of course, all these new buildings. When I came here there was no—there was all the upper—they, they tried to start, mistakenly, they tried to start a women's college. And they had a Dean of Women, she brought in for the purpose, named Dean Crozier. I knew Dean Crozier, in fact entertained her in our house for the day she came, we showed her around. We later on bought the house, that was our house. Later on the College—we bought the house from the College—

CW: Or they bought it from you?

FM: No, we were renting it from the College at very low rental and the College, in a sense, were going to kick us out anyhow, 'cause they were going to make the Crozier Center out of it.

CW: Gotcha.

FM: And, so, um, we bought this house here, and that was in 1965 about. This house was a very old house, oh, 125-150 years old. And uh, I could share, I have some anecdotes about the house, but you have something to do. What time do you have to leave?

CW: Um, what time is it now?

FM: Five minutes to 12.

CW: I should probably head out pretty soon.

FM: Huh?

CW: I should probably head out pretty soon.

[The rest of the track is personal information about the interviewer]