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TIMECODE

Lucy Imholte: L-U-C-Y Lucy, G, Gibbs, G-I-B-B-S, Imholte, I-M-H-O-L-T-E and we moved to Morris in the summer 1959. And I left in '96 and Jack left in 2000.

Christopher Butler: I just want to begin by getting a sense of where you and Jack were in 1959, how you discovered Morris, what drew you here.

Lucy Imholte: Jack had graduated from the University of Minnesota that spring and he'd heard about it through the History Department at the University. Stan Kegler was a good friend of Jack's, was a vice president at the time. And so he called Rod Briggs [ph?] and we went out to Morris to interview. <Inaudible> he would note the good ones in the cities then we went out. And our car was a very old, dilapidated car so we borrowed Jack's mother's and on the way there we threw a rod, whatever that is. I have no idea what that is, but whatever it is it ruined the car. Jack's father was an automobile dealer so we called him from Morris. We had no money. We called him from Morris and he said well just buy a new car. Okay. We don't have any money though dad to buy a new car. Well I'll talk to him. So he talked to him. And Jack's mother's car was just a beautiful little car, four door, white walls, you know, everything because she was a dealer's wife and it was just-- she just loved her car. Now I don't know why we threw a-- and we stayed for lunch with Briggs. One of their daughters came in and said, "I can't stand it. They're taking the flowers out of the graveyard." And I thought, "Oh, what kind of community is this going to be if people are robbing the graveyard, the graves of flowers." But then it wasn't long and he called Jack and said, yes would he come. And the first person Jack met was Steve Granger [ph?] because he was already working. He had come earlier in the summer. It was very hot, you know, as on the prairies, that can be. And Jack walked into- with Briggs, walked in with Rod Briggs, into the office and he-- Steve said, "You're not going to start in about how hot it is in here are you?" That was the first time Jack ever- because you know how Steve is. He's you know, so that was the first thing he said to Jack. That was his introduction to Steve, so. So we moved that August. Moved in a duplex. We had two little girls and when we were having a third baby, we moved to a house on West 7th. Yeah, 108 West 7th.

Christopher Butler: But you and Jack were mostly city people.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah.

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Christopher Butler: So what did you think when you got to Morris?

Lucy Imholte: I oh-- I just, of all those terrible movies you used to see, black and whites you know, where it's just, there's nobody there, there's nothing to do. I was just horrified, just horrified. And my father called the first night we were there and said, "How is it?" I said, "You wouldn't believe it dad, if you were here." He said, "I'll send you some golf clubs for your birthday and you can start playing golf. That will help." He thought golf helped anything. So I did, Art [ph?] and I played golf together and it did help. But there was nothing. And you know, after I met Grammy, after we moved, after Jack was named Chancellor, and Grammy told me some of the stories that used to go on in Morris when she was young. I mean they would go out to play bridge at 7:30 and they wouldn't get home till 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. Then they had to take off their high-heeled shoes so people in the neighborhoods wouldn't know they were still clamping through town, those women. She said I went to bed and then I had to be up and pretend nothing had ever happened that night, that I was home and in bed at 10 o'clock, because Edward was a little strict. Her husband was a little strict about those things. So I realized that for her, it was the same thing. And she kept saying to me, you know, as I got to know her, "You'll get used to it. It will be all right." And it was, you know, because we were all such good friends at the university. Then we gradually met people in town, the Morrisons [ph?] and the LaFaves [ph?] and Stevensons [ph?] and people like that. And so it got better. It was always hard for me because I'd be so lonesome. I was, you know, from a big family, five brothers and sisters and you know, I'd gone to high school and college here and it was my home. So I used to cry a lot coming back on the bus when I was by myself, that I was going back there. But I got used to it and then I was sad when I left, you know, leaving all those people behind in the university and all that the university had meant to us and the people we had known.

Christopher Butler: I talked to a few spouses who have mentioned similar feelings as you're describing and I think that's the part that's really interesting for me is that we tend to talk about UMM and the life around it in terms of the administrators and teachers they have. But there's also this other half of that world that was really the spouses. What were some of the things you remember--

Lucy Imholte: We traveled around like in a little herd you know, because we didn't know anybody. And they were very suspicious of faculty, university people, especially--

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Christopher Butler: Can we go back. Who was very suspicious of the--

Lucy Imholte: The town was very suspicious. I don't mean they were angry or unpleasant, but I think you know, the most intelligent person usually in a small town is either the minister or the priest. There's a lot of people in small towns who had not been to college. Not that that makes you necessarily smart but because that's what people think. And the priest at that time was, you know, not good at all. You know, we were pagans and atheists and heaven knows what else we were. And I'm a Catholic and you know, we started in the church because we went to Catholic school. But we never did warm to the university and I suppose in a way it was because he was at one time and he was a very bright man. In fact Edith Ferrell [ph?] had done quite a few, she was the wife of Fred Ferrell [ph?] and she had done some work with him and took a lot of his books when he was selling them after he moved to the villa. But it was not a warm welcoming thing. And there was, as there was prejudice in big cities too but, not as blatant as it was in small towns you know, especially for blacks, Jews, you know, because there weren't any. And that was hard. You know, you weren't used to it being sort of open about it, you know.

Christopher Butler: So in your group of friends as you described it, you know, did you-- was there a sense among you that this is an area we need to try and overcome or do you think that made you more insulated?

Lucy Imholte: Well I think probably it was a little bit of both. I mean we, you know, it would have been difficult for us to take on something like that. When we started the League of Women Voters and that included not only faculty wives, but women in town too, then we really could do it. I remember we went to the high school and asked them if they had-- I can't think of what you call it, at the beginning of a book, when you're writing like an introduction, but did you have that at school? They said, no. And we said, "You have the have that. What are your plans for the school? What are your feelings for the school?" And they were outraged. Yeah, that was not pleasant at all. But then we could but not as a group. But I don't think we really thought about it a lot either. You know, we all were young and had small children. And Patty LaFave was very good about getting us over for coffee or Helen Briggs was and Harriet Stevenson and they did do coffee. I'd always called this the Stepford Wives, you know, so we just traveled in this little group that went around together. Well we didn't know anybody you know and they weren't as I say, overly friendly. I don't think they-- they didn't mean not to be friendly but they just, you know, I suppose, thought we were not friendly either.

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So we just kind of clung together. But we broadened out. It didn't take long, because some of the wives had jobs downtown or were doing teaching. So that opened up all kinds of new paths for us and it worked out fine. You know, it took time but not too long.

Christopher Butler: Did you work on campus or in town?

Lucy Imholte: I worked in the hospital for a couple of years. I was a nurse.

Christopher Butler: Right. The wives I also understand, were very responsible for the very active social network--

Lucy Imholte: Yes, oh yes.

Christopher Butler: <Inaudible>

Lucy Imholte: Yes. In fact one of the things we started that I liked the most was Ice Cream and Lollypops, which was for the children in the public schools, in any school they could bring their pictures. And then literally that's what it was. It was Ice Cream and Lollypops. It was very simple. I understand now it's gotten very sophisticated. It's a lot different than what it was, well--

Christopher Butler: I'm sorry I'm ignorant. What is Ice Cream and Lollypops?

Lucy Imholte: Well it's children in the-- we ask children in public schools and the Catholic school to draw pictures and then we have it in the spring, then we put them up in the art gallery. They weren't judged or anything but they were there for their parents and grand parents eyes. And that was a real bonding thing with the town, because that was, you know, we asked them to help us and the teachers to bring the kids. I think it was maybe second, third and fourth grade maybe. I can't remember exactly, but they still have it. I don't think they call it that anymore. I'm not sure. But that was really, that was a good thing that we did. And we had a Christmas party which now of course would be verboten. But we had been once at the University of Minnesota when Jack was there, both as a student and as a TA. And I thought they were wonderful. You got to see little kids and so we did that. But I don't think you can do that any more. I don't think that's allowed.

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Christopher Butler: We were part of the, I believe it was Clyde Johnson [ph?] and the Cold Spring Beer Rooms?

Lucy Imholte: Oh yes. Oh yes. That was-- we got that crowd, it was Jim Grammels, Clyde Johnson, Jack, do you remember anybody who was in it Jack?

Jack: Uhm.. I, no.

Lucy Imholte: Okay. There were about, I think J. Rochelle [ph?] was probably in it. He was usually in on everything. There must have been maybe six or seven of us. And yes, we drove all kinds of places to show the Morris Liquor Store that we could get beer someplace else. It didn't bother them a bit. We probably spent more on gas than we saved on beer. But it was the thing. Jim Grammels was the one that got us started. He was the one who was irate, because I don't think Glenwood had a liquor store at that time, so that he used to buy it in Morris. And I think he was one of the instigators of that little-- we did it for what, four years? Slow learners is what we were. They didn't care at all.

Christopher Butler: One of the things I love about these stories when you take them all together, is that it really comes through even though no one says it outright, is that there is a real sense of we're in this together, with the original faculty.

Lucy Imholte: It's our school.

Christopher Butler: Yeah. Yeah. Do you think, is that true?

Lucy Imholte: Oh I think it was very true. It's even true now I think, that I get really kind of upset when I hear people say certain things about UMM and had quite a discussion with a young man couple years ago when he made some remarks about the university I didn't like. And I caught him on it and talked to him and had wrote to people, called people in Morris and had them send things to him so he would know it was different than what he had thought. And there is some now, some talk to from some of the older faculty that I don't like. And Barb [ph?] and I are looking into it to see what we can do. I mean it will always be, part of me, you know, so 36 years we were there. That was a long time. And the school was very good to us, you know. We

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enjoyed, we made very good friends and had lots of wonderful experiences. So yeah, I think about it a lot.

Christopher Butler: What you're referring to is something I find very interesting in that, because it was the creation of this campus from the ground up, that everyone had a stake in it. There's not many universities or colleges you can walk into and really make it to be the university or the school you want it to be.

Lucy Imholte: Well I think fortunately, most of the faculty were very devoted to the idea that it was a liberal arts college and it would stay a liberal arts and they fought for those things too. And they were good in the fields they were in. They did well. Well most of them, Jim Olson [ph?] just retired, Jim and Jack retire, Steve retired. I mean they stayed right through you know, till their retirement. You didn't find very many them, that first crowd leaving, because it was so important to all of us and still is.

Christopher Butler: Why is- in today's day and age when college tuitions have risen so high and the economy is down, why is a liberal arts education still the best type of education?

Lucy Imholte: Well I think it is because you're more broad-minded. You're not focused in on one thing. You have a broad field that you can work. You can be specialized in things but you still are getting some English, poetry, theater, all those things that make you a more rounded individual that makes you more of a learner. If the more you- the more open you are to other kinds of learning besides your specialty, the more intelligent you are to be able to take on the world and what's going on in it to understand politics and theater. You know, and I think that's one thing that you remember, especially in the beginning days. Everybody went to everything, you know. I remember George Vaskey [ph?] did that play about the Pacific, sailors on that island on the Pacific, *Bali High*, was one of the songs, I can't remember the name--

Christopher Butler: *South Pacific*.

Lucy Imholte: *South Pacific*, right. And lots of kids were in it because of course a lot of sailors and it was bad. It wasn't good at all. But we all just thought it was swell, you know. And as we talked about it later, we all said, no, it wasn't. I mean George did some great things at UMM but *South Pacific* was not one of them. But we all went, everybody went. And when the university then brought in, we had like eight things from

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very, you know, jazz or things like that, everybody went to those. Towns people all went. They were very enthusiastic about it. I think the university opened up a lot of things for a lot of people in that area. I mean fellows who never would have been anything, I don't mean that in that way. I said it, I don't mean-- but they went to college too. They were using a broom for work. They put the broom down and went to UMM classes. I thought that was just great. A lot of the people who worked in maintenance went to UMM, to school. I thought that was, you know, wonderful that they felt that it was theirs too and they could take advantage of things there. I thought that was- and I think it still is. I think it's still a lot like that from what I read in the paper and things like that.

Christopher Butler: And a lot of people through that opinion that, especially with regards to arts and culture and access to education and UMM really did that, broadened a lot of people to sort of access. Yeah.

Lucy Imholte: Mmm hmm, opened it up for a lot of people, that it wasn't as scary or as elitist as they thought it was going to be. And I think they were encouraged to go and if they mentioned it to a professor or a tutor or somebody, I think they encouraged them, "Oh yeah, try it." And once they tried it, they realized of course they could do it. You know, they were bright and interested and so, no I thought that was one of the great things about UMM.

Christopher Butler: I want to ask you to say a few things about Rodney Briggs.

Lucy Imholte: Well, I think Rod was just what the university needed when it started. I think he was a, you know, he could talk your arm off and he was good at it you know. He knew what he was talking about and he did it well and he encouraged people to come. And I think for what he did at the beginning, was very good for UMM. He was a very popular man because he could talk to anybody and he was, his speech was good and he gave a lot of talks in small towns around and I think he did very well with that. I think he was-- I think after the first initial beginning of it, I think he got tired of it and wanted to change. And that's when he resigned and went to Africa.

Christopher Butler: Did he provide much mentorship for Jack in terms of your, because Jack would be a successor?

Lucy Imholte: Well no, not really. Most of that came I think, from people on the

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Minneapolis campus. Stan Kegler [ph?] was one. Stan in particular was very good. What was the other vice president's name? I think his name was Stan too, Stan Kegler and the other one. They were both terrorists and they really helped Jack a lot, unbelievably when I think of it now, but they did. They were good. I have a wonderful picture I'll give you, of Jack getting his, the announcement of Jack being named chancellor.

Christopher Butler: Okay. Oh great. That would be wonderful.

Lucy Imholte: It's huge. You can take it with you and shrink it or whatever you do to them, so.

Christopher Butler: No, it could have been more.

Lucy Imholte: Could make it a big sign they put out on campus.

M1: Kind of a billboard.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah.

Christopher Butler: Oh sure. Was it challenging, the transition from being an academic to being an administrator full time?

Lucy Imholte: Well one of the things Jack and I both agreed on from the beginning was, I did not want to know anything about what went on at the university. Didn't want to know anything about the faculty. I didn't want to know anything about meetings. There was absolutely nothing I wanted to know. So my relationship with faculty wives would be- and faculty, would be just from me to them or them to me. And when they would call sometimes and ask about something or could they talk to me, I would say, "No. I'm sorry." It's not good for me to know those things and Jack never, ever told me anything that went on at the university and that was a perfect way to go. People would sometimes say things or I'd find out things that I wished I had known, but I was glad I didn't at the time, you know. No, we entertained a great deal. We always had a homecoming party, usually about 350 people. But you know, I will ask you this though too. We had a Cougar and it would always be stolen from our house and travel. We would get cards from it from you know, Duluth or once it was in China and it went all

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over the world. And then it would come back for homecoming. It was just an ugly old, China brown sort of worn out shiny looking thing. I can't remember now who gave it to me but they wanted me to have it there for homecoming, because I think was what their plan was. And we had it up until the year that Jack resigned. And then it just disappeared. I have no idea where that thing went, who took it. But besides the Cougar, we never had one thing broken, not a burn, not a mess, nothing. All those people in that house and out in the backyard and we never, ever had any problems, never. I always talked to the police and would say to them, I usually went down to the police station and say, guess what's coming? And they'd say homecoming and they would say yes. And the people in the neighborhood were very good about people parking at our house. They never complained about it, never said a word, even when it wasn't that big a crowd. But we did entertain a great deal, so, because the motel was just being built then. So and people hadn't gotten used to that kind of-- oh and there was nothing on campus, very few things you could do. So most of it was at our house which was one of the reasons we moved so close. And but I thoroughly enjoyed it, you know. It was fun. I certainly met a lot of people. Vice President Humphrey was at our house and with the Secret Service and all, although at that time he was still a senator I believe. No it must have been after that because they had just discovered he had cancer and my daughter who at the time, she and her friend were there and the car was out in front, you know, the big limousine with the little flags on the front. Then could they please go for a ride and they were talking to the chauffeur. And he said well, you have to ask your mother. So I said, "Sure, take them." then he said to me, "You do understand that there will be a Secret Service man in the car with them because that's the way it works." So I said, "That's fine." Then I said to them, "You can't open the doors. The only way they can be opened is in the front and you can't open the windows." and they said, "Well it's hot." I said, "I'm certainly sure that limousine has air conditioning in it honey." So and we had-- my daughter has the picture, he's standing, that photographer was as good as this fellow is and she's standing under our clothes line. So it looks like he has a rope running through the top of his head, with my daughter. She has the picture, with a package-- yeah it was when he started-- she had a package of matches for Air Force 2. So that was fun. That was fun. And we did meet, I did meet a lot of interesting people and that I never would have had a chance to meet. When Peter and what was his second wife? I can't remember what her name is. Peter and--

Christopher Butler: Peter Brayon [ph?] you're thinking of?

Lucy Imholte: No, no the president of the university, Peter McGraw [ph?]. And we were standing- it was homecoming and always down at home coming in Minneapolis.

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We had to go through and say hi to them and so they were standing there. They both had Irish sweaters and she said, "Do you like our Irish sweaters?" because I know I'm very Irish. And I said "Yes. Do you know why the Irish had Irish sweaters?" Oh no, they didn't know that at all. And I said, "Because when they went out to sea, their names, that was the clue who they were. Their names were not but the family monogram or model was knitted into that. So if all they found the sweater they know who had died at sea." "Oh," she said "That's the most depressing thing I've ever heard." And she never wore it again. But Peter did.

<crew talk>

Christopher Butler: They like their Irish sweaters out there?

Lucy Imholte: Well I think they did, although she always teases me about it. She was an interesting woman because there was always a theme when the state campuses came <Inaudible> supposed to call them that. What are they called?

M1: I don't remember either.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah, we were called something anyway, not--

Christopher Butler: Cordinant [ph?] Campuses?

Lucy Imholte: Well Cordinant Campus has got to be one of them. I know we had several names. But she always had a, not only a manual as you came in the door, but she also had the theme that it was going to be for. And we were always pressed trying to listen to the UMM game while we were at the Minnesota ballgame. And the docents were there, two of the men who were docents. They were just wonderful. I just and I don't mean this to sound the way it does but I was there so many times that I knew where everything in the house was. And she was, if I would get up she would say, "Could I help you Lucy?" and I'd say, "No I think I can manage this by myself." And we just got such a charge out of her. They're divorced now but I can't think of what her name was. She was fun but she treated us as out state campuses, you know. And of course the Duluth folk, the Duluth folks didn't like that at all. And of course with Crookston, we had Stan Sahlstrom. In fact that painting over there is one by his wife, Milly Sahlstrom who has also died. He met her when he was in the service. She was

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Russian, Faba [ph?] she called him, Faba.

Christopher Butler: Jack's tenure as the chancellor, he was credited, a lot of people the men, had said, he's just an excellent manager of different personalities. He was a very even fellow.

Lucy Imholte: Oh yes.

Christopher Butler: But the personalities-- knowing his personality from your perspective, why do you think he was successful in doing that?

Lucy Imholte: Because I think he listened to people. And I think he was you know, very low key.

<crew talk>

Lucy Imholte: Jack was very low key. He's very patient. Jack is very patient. I think people could talk about anything with Jack and he accepted it. And you know, he would-- Jack will say, I don't agree with you but that's fine. You know, because I think in an academic situation there's room for lots of disagreement. That's what it's all about.

Christopher Butler: Seems like he kept it from becoming a clash of, a personal clash.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah. It had nothing to do with you or me. It was just, that was just the way it was you know. I think that's a great part of it. Jack is still the same way. He's very patient, very pleasant, feels it's important that people you know, get to say what they want to say. We have unfortunately, some Republicans in our family. I'm not always as kind as he is. But he's much more understanding about people having different opinions, which not in my house you don't have a difference of opinion, so. But I think it was part of-- that was part of his personality. That helped a lot.

Christopher Butler: How much were you aware of and how did people- how did the campus cope with the fluctuations in enrollment? We were talking about that <Inaudible> were you aware of that very much?

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Lucy Imholte: No. It didn't worry me. It seemed to be something that just happened to our campus and to-- well we were so new. I don't think-- I remember Bettina Blake wrote a letter to the paper saying the best kept secret in Minnesota is the University of Minnesota Morris. And I think that was true. I don't think people really knew. I don't think Minneapolis did much to spread publicity about the campus. And Duluth is so, kind of overpowering, you know, so big. And I remember when they wanted to go off and be a university by themselves, not with Minneapolis or Osicer [ph?] and everybody was sort of thinking oh that'd be swell you know. Money would stay on campus and it would be better for all of us. But of course they didn't do it because they realized how foolish that would be. I mean you don't, you know, you just wouldn't have the backing. And but no, it didn't worry me very much. I know Jack worried about it but--

Christopher Butler: Ruth Tokie [ph?] said that one of her favorite memories of Jack is that, if he sensed you were coming into his office, before he could even see who you were, he would say, "If it's about money, the answer is no."

[Laughter]

Lucy Imholte: Yes. I'm sure. Then Beth Tanner [ph?] who was a secretary for years, twenty some years, thirty some years, always said that you never knew he was in the office because he was so quiet. I don't know what Briggs was like or what other chancellors had been like since, but she said, you know, you didn't know he was there. Well because he was working I suppose, most of the time so.

Christopher Butler: Or traveling to the cities.

Lucy Imholte: Traveling to the-- oh yeah.

Christopher Butler: --His trips to the cities.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah, yeah that was ongoing. I kept saying don't they use telephones? Can't they have you know, three-way, four-way conversations? Now I don't imagine they go as much as they used to, with all the equipment, technical equipment there is. Although face to face is probably always better.

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Christopher Butler: Did you have much sense of sort of political unrest in the early like '60s early '70s?

Lucy Imholte: Oh yes. Oh yes. Yeah, yeah, because Jack was an active in politics and because of the legislature, you know, you have to play both sides. But I was and I remember one of the first meetings I went to. It was a great group. I mean there were farmers and school teachers and grocery store people. I mean it was really a fun- it was really a combination of a lot of people. And I was sitting at-- we were giving a talk and there was a farmer sitting on this side and a farmer sitting on this side and he said to me, "You know Lucy, you're like the rose between two thorns." and he said "That's what I am for the Democrats, the rose between two thorns." He always was, I always tried to smooth things over and things that you know, we didn't need to be yelling at each other. And there was one fellow there who felt very strongly about women in politics, against it. And he said to me one day, "Will you bring the coffee and donuts tomorrow?" and I said no. And he said, "Well the women always bring it." And I said, "No. Not any more." I said, "That's over. You guys want coffee and donuts, you can pick them up and bring them just as well as we can." Oh he just- he was just furious at me and the women are all going, "Yes!"

Christopher Butler: Finally.

Lucy Imholte: Finally, yes. And I was an election judge, chief election judge for about 25 years. And we had some problems with that too, you know. Students had to- if they didn't have ID with them, they had to have somebody there who would identify them. So one of the young policemen, Randy, I don't know his last name, Randy, was--

Christopher Butler: <Inaudible>

Lucy Imholte: No. He was going to UMM and he-- I said to him, you have to sit here in the bleachers and any kid that comes in you have to say yes, he's a student at UMM. And he said, "What if I don't know them?" I said, "You will because you would have seen them on campus, you know." And so then the League of Women Voters called me this year and said, "We're thinking about having, people pushing the thing to have people have picture ID and we're going to stop it." I said "Why, what difference does it make?" I said "Students on campus have been having to have it for years." "Oh well they didn't know that." Well what big difference, you have to show identification when

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you get married or you know, get a license to drive. So what's the big threat about having to have to vote? I never understood that. Well they didn't push it anyway, because it was kind of silly. Yeah and we did have a good group of the League of Women Voters. One of the women, her husband was at the-- for the National Guard marches you know, one of those places in another town and she used to come to our meetings. And she was from Italy. And she said to me one time, "I don't think of America as a melting pot." She said "I think of America as a tossed salad. All the ingredients matter but they're in and of themselves." Which I think is a much better description than a melting pot. I always remember that, Brown, her name was Ms. Brown. Well it was his name. I'm sure it wasn't her name. And it was a very good group and politically very active. But then you know, the abortion issue got involved and a lot of that stuff and people didn't want to get involved. They didn't want to argue about it. You know, they didn't want to get into it that way. So they tried it again this year for two years they tried it but it didn't go very well. So I think it was one of those things that was good at the time we did it. It was needed. But some of those things fade, you know, after a while too. I mean not the League but for that town in that time, you know.

Christopher Butler: So I was asking you also, what are the things you still miss about Morris, things that make you nostalgic about Morris?

Lucy Imholte: Well I think the fact that I could ride my bike any place I wanted to go, you know. And people would see- I got two big baskets on the side to bring stuff home. And when people would see me buying these things, they'd say, we'll drop them off at your house. So I'd sort of have service that took my stuff home. And I miss that. I miss the easiness of a small town. You know, no fear. Our kids, I never said to the kids, where are you going? What are you going to be doing? I mean everybody knew who your kids were so everybody was watching them all the time. And that was a good thing, you know, and it wasn't nosiness or anything. It was just that they all were protecting children and you didn't worry about things like that. Now you know, they're driven here and driven there. We never drove our kids anyplace. They rode their bikes and for sports and you know, swimming and things like that. I miss that. I miss the university. I miss the life that we had there. It was a very good life. I learned a lot. Went to school almost continuously when we were there and it was a great group to be with, you know, interesting people from all over the world, all over the United States. It was a great life.

Christopher Butler: You sent three children there. But say you didn't live in Morris and you didn't have that relationship with the school, if someone's asking you, should I

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send my child to UMM for college, why would you tell them they should?

Lucy Imholte: Well of course, I don't know what I'd say, you know, if we lived in St. Paul, because I probably wouldn't have known that much about it. But I say it frequently to people now.

Christopher Butler: Why? What do you tell-- what are the reasons for doing that?

Lucy Imholte: Well one of the reasons is because there's so much freedom there. You have such a good chance to learn. You've small classes. You have good professors. You have a lot of interaction kids do with each other and with faculty, because it is a small campus and you get to know the faculty and you can really work with them and I think they work with you. I think they're willing to help you, you know, if you're looking for something and you need advice. I think you can go to them and talk to them, because I think it's you know, a great school.

Christopher Butler: In the sum total of your experiences, you know, what do you feel the university meant to you and Jack?

Lucy Imholte: Oh, I think it was opening our eyes to just a multitude of things, you know. People, people we never would have met or known. As I say, from all over the world, all over the States, the education, being in a group where you might have them for dinner and you might have a biologist sitting there and a psychologist sitting there, historian. And you know, their viewpoint comes from what they're teaching and it's different. You never would have thought that Ellen Ordway [ph?] you know, bugs, bees were her thing and she could bring that into conversations that we were talking about literature. And you know, you learn things from so many different perspectives. It was just-- sometimes I get home at night and I think, nine people were there and there were nine different groups, I mean people who taught nine different things and you learn something from every one of them, because it was always a conversation. We talked a lot about religion which was interesting the me because having, you know, I went to a Catholic grade school, Catholic high school, Catholic college and was mostly with Irish Catholics all my life. So going to a small town like that where you would know your church, but those were German Catholics and they're not a friendly lot, I'll tell you that right now. And I remember the first time I went down to bring a cake or something, no one talked to me. So I took my cake and went home. And I just decided you know, I would do it the best I could. But it was just opened a whole new world for me. I think

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I'm much more a liberal. I'm much more understanding. I think I can take people from almost any group. I account for the church and everyone of them are Republicans except me. And even I can even accept them a little bit. You know, I told the fellow who was the head of the county group, he's a banker. And I said, "You're certainly getting rolled over these days, aren't you?" And he said "Yes but--" and I said, "You don't have to explain it to me because I probably wouldn't believe you any way and you are a Republican." And I said, you know, "What can I say?" So he's very understanding. Well they all laugh at me all the time, because I kept saying, well wouldn't have happened if Bush had been in office or if we hadn't had all those Republicans that probably never would have happened. So you know, but it just makes me- leaves me, I think, maybe a better person, more understanding, more willing to put up with other people's idiosyncrasies you know. Yeah.

Christopher Butler: You know the story about taking the cake to the German Catholic church, that's an interesting story, because that's sort of a challenge. But the second question Mike was wondering about is, do you remember at what point or can you, that you said, you know what, this place is my home. This is a good place.

Lucy Imholte: Well you know, I think it was when my daughter Sarah who is the oldest was at St. Mary's. There was a great group of nuns. They were Franciscans. And the principal at that time was a very interesting woman. She decided that the teachers would have one day where they just, they didn't have to be sick. They just couldn't handle those little kids anymore. So the public school thought that that one might be a good idea for them too. So they went together and did that and that right away made me think, okay, they're not going to be that- it's not going to be that choppy. It's not going to be six years at St. Mary's and then into this. And it wasn't. And we got to know a lot of the public school teachers and a lot of them were good friends of ours. And I think that was it, when Sarah started at St. Mary's school and I thought, this is home. Yeah, yeah, I think that was it for me.

Christopher Butler: Once you realized that transition from the Catholic school to the public school would be smoother.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah, yeah that it wouldn't hurt them at all, that it might be a very good thing. My son Joseph who was the youngest, inherited if you can say that, all my father's golf pencils, those little sort stubby things. So I got a not from his teacher saying that she wanted to talk to be about a pencil problem they had in school. And I was mystified by that. So I asked Joseph about it and he said, "Oh she's just an old bat

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mom." And I said okay. So I opened the door to the English room and sitting there is the prettiest young woman you've ever seen. And I said to her, "Would you be the old bat who teaches English?" She said "That would be me." So I explained to her that he inherited these from his grandfather. And she said "Would you put an eraser on it?" Now the pencil is only about this big. But you know, it was that kind of a thing, you know, we just you know, I got to know a lot of them. We had a lot of fun with them. They played bridge with us you know and we went on shopping trips together. So you know, eventually it does become your home. And then we stopped going to St. Paul for Christmas and Thanksgiving. We had Christmas with the Tanners [ph?] for about 34 years I think and Christmas with the Grangers [ph?] and you know, we didn't even think about coming to St. Paul for the holidays anymore. They were our holidays there and the kids- and the kids too, you know. They got skates. They didn't want to go to St. Paul with their skates. They wanted to stay in Morris and they had friends. Sarah still has very good friends. They all do. Joseph was down in Morris not too long ago visiting a friend of his. He's blind, is home of his parents. So they have good memories of it. We had one son John, who was dyslectic and the school did good things. They had the dyslectic kids all read together until of course somebody came along and said it was discriminatory, so they then they couldn't do that any more. But that really helped John a lot. And then he was, he wanted to be a hunter because his Grandpas were hunters and-- not his father but his grandfathers. And so I said, I had him declared a state dyslectic because that means your tests can be given to you orally. It did at that time. I don't know what it is now. But the fellow who was the- the fellow who, not the game warden, but the other fellow, whatever his title was and he said to me, "I'm not going to give his test orally." I said "You are, or I'm going to go to the state about it." And it was on yellow paper with purple ink. Can you imagine even how difficult that would have been for somebody who couldn't read that well? So he said okay and John passed with 98 you know, so and I knew he would. But you know, you weren't afraid to say what you needed to say to people. You know it was done in fun or you know, I wasn't going to be angry the rest of my life. I was going to handle it and get over it. And yeah, I think it did become home, you know. And as I say, I talk to Barb at least every other week. I talk to Ruthie often and Arden. And when we first moved here it was sort of a place to stay overnight when you got off the airplane. They came here, you know, Roland was here many times, Bettina and the Watskys [ph?] and lots of people you know, coming through. It was, you know we said we've got the bedroom, come and stay and it was fun, you know, so yeah.

Christopher Butler: Yeah I just don't hear that on many other campuses. I mean you know, not that I have extensive experience but I just think in bigger places it doesn't happen.

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Lucy Imholte: Well you tend to stick within your own group, because you know, your faculty, like in history, you know. The woman who was the secretary in the History Department when Jack was there getting his PhD, she said to Jack, "Well as long as your wife is going to continue to have babies, you might as well be a TA." And Jack was telling me this. So I said, "What, does she think I just go out and buy them off the street corner someplace? What is it with this woman?" So we had GI and then we had TA. And then I worked full time as a nurse. Got through, graduated school in five years, yeah, got his Masters and PhD in five years. I think that Jack never discussed his until the day he said to me, "I'm going to announce at the faculty meeting today that I'm going to resign." which was fine because I did not deal in any of that anyway. And when we talked about it later, he said, "The same problems I solved 20 years ago are back and I don't want to do that again." And Jack liked the classroom. He liked teaching. He liked young people and he liked teaching. And I think going back to teaching was a great way to end it. I think Jack really enjoyed that and it was what he set out to do and I think it finished his career at the university very well.

Christopher Butler: And so mostly you guys sensed that administrating was something he had to do for what he really loved. So for the sake of the university he did it.

Lucy Imholte: Yeah, because I think at the time he was named chancellor, because Kegler and what is that other guy's name, starts with a W? When you see the picture, Stan, but anyway I think they thought, they talked to Jack about it and they thought that he would be the one who could lead the university. And I think they were right. I think it worked well. But I think going back into teaching was something that Jack enjoyed a great deal. Did you ever see the pictures of Jim Grammels' office and Jack's office? It was in the student's newspaper. It was a disgrace. There were paths to their desks because there were so many books.

Christopher Butler: <Inaudible>

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