

Getty Preservation Grant Interview

WES GRAY INTERVIEW

March 25, 2004

[First of two interviews with Wes Gray]

Wes Gray
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[Transcriber's Note: Wes Gray was employed by the WCSA as an instructor of horticulture and was the horticultural researcher from 1948-1973. Wes was in charge of the campus greenhouse and landscaping, and was the grounds supervisor. Peter Orr succeeded him as grounds supervisor in 1972.]

Transcriber's Key:

SG: Stephen Gross

WG: Wes Gray

... Incomplete sentence

[xxx]: Unable to transcribe; dialogue not clear on tape

Interviewer: Steven Gross

Interview Location: Steven Gross' office

Tape 1: Side 1

SG: ...March 25, 2004. I am in my office and interviewing Wes Gray. Why don't you start just by giving me a little bit of background, when you were born and where, these kinds of things.

WG: I was born in August 1923, in Camden Park, if you're acquainted with that.

SG: Sure, that's Minneapolis. North end?

WG: North. 44th and Washington, and then it should be...

SG: Ok.

WG: Around Camden, in that general area. Grew up on a farm in ... southeast of Osseo in the area that, at that time, was Brooklyn Center. Now it is Brooklyn Park, after the switch was made. I attended grade school and then went to high school in Osseo, and there ... I imagine you're acquainted with that area, as of now, or earlier. There were 27 people in my graduating class, and it wasn't too many years later it was in the... well over a thousand, and it has been split twice since then, I think.

SG: That area had to have seen extraordinary growth, especially right after the war, right?

WG: Right. As I said, our farm was located south and east of Osseo.

SG: What was the farm like? Was it standard mixed cropping? More of a truck farm?

WG: No, no. We ... potatoes. Potatoes and we then had dairy cows. And we had dairy cows to add income during the winter. Then, my family, as time went on, got rid of the cows and more and more potatoes, and now my nephews have a large potato farm near St. Cloud.

SG: Ok, sure.

WG: Went to Osseo high school, graduated in '40. Started at the University of Minnesota, and went there for, I think it was, 3 years.

SG: St Paul campus... or Minneapolis?

WG: Well, it was St Paul. But many of our class, well I shouldn't say many... the program I was in... the first year or so I had over half of my classes over in Minneapolis. Then the war came, and a bunch of the... group of the farmers in our area got a deferment for me. For a couple years, I just I switched to where ever help was needed... it was in [xxx] the time of the year it was... went back to the U in the Fall of '46. Graduated the following spring. Went to... got a job in, actually it was in Watertown, Minnesota, in the Minnesota Valley, which is the grower of Green Giant.

SG: That's over in the Waconia and Chaska area.

WG: [xxx] Worked on the pea and corn harvest. Got a call from the Superintendent down here. At that time, he came down. He wanted to interview me. Came down... interviews were different than they are now. He drove up, sat in the car and talked with him for a few minutes. Finally he says, "Well, I'm out here..." Ended up... he had been teaching the economics work, class and so on. Asked me if I would, if I could take them over. I said yeah. As I was getting out of the car, he said, "Do you know anything about horticulture?" I said yes. "OK, then we'll see you around the 29th of September" or whatever it was. I got out here; they had 8 different courses lined up for me. I got familiar with some of them. But we got through.

SG: I bet that. So which superintendent... that was...

WG: Allen Edson. [The previous superintendent Theodore] Fenske had just moved to St Cloud.

SG: The Rosemount station, right? Is that where Fenske ended up?

WG: He ended up in ... I know what his title was. [xxx] station. He was later... Are you familiar with how presidents were selected at that time?

SG: No, no. Let's hear that.

WG: There were four people who were working at the University. They used to [xxx] and they didn't have any vice presidents to help them. And they basically selected the president, and Fenske was slated to become the next president. We had our last graduation out here, final graduation, and he was.... the spring of 1964, I think, maybe it was '60. Class of '63 maybe '64. He was scheduled to be the commencement speaker, the final graduation. Had a massive heart attack on the way out and died.

SG: I'd not heard that story. Amazing...

WG: I don't know who was president then.

SG: Was it Moos? It was before Moos?

WG: It was before Moos. Moos may have come in '60. There was...one president came in 1960. I don't remember for sure who it was.

SG: I have a history of the University over on my shelf. We can look at that later.

WG: I remember the fellow coming out here [xxx].

SG: Your degree was in horticulture, or was in ag economics, or...

WG: Ag economics. Minor in horticulture. Of course, I've been involved in horticulture all my life. I knew that. And I figure that I'd better learn something in a different field. But anyway, I got out here. I was assigned to the campus during summer.

SG: What was your first impression of campus and the town, the area? Had you been out here before?

WG: Never.

SG: Did you drive or did you take the train?

WG: I drove. When I worked for Minnesota Valley, well, I was a field man. I had to have a car. I don't know what my impressions were. I moved in on Saturday. I'd never been here before, and classes started Monday morning.

SG: That was...classes traditionally started around the end of September, early October.

WG: I think it was the Monday closest to the first of October. But anyway, it was 6 months.

SG: I keep hearing - and I might be stupid here - I keep hearing the school year was arranged so as to coincide with the work year, and you wanted students to start in late September, early October because everybody was really busy up to that point, but people were still in the field, it seems to me. Right? Well into October, November, or no. Am I just being dumb?

WG: No. Things were different then. We basically didn't have soybeans. Corn, the small grains and then we had corn, and at that time, corn was picked basically by hand during the winter. [xxx] So the kids, the laborers, were free about that time. It was after the middle of March when we had commencement.

SG: So, essentially from...it was two terms then. So you'd have final exams around Christmas time? People would go home for a couple weeks. What were the 8 courses that they had you doing?

WG: I don't remember. You mentioned that, asked me if I came up by train. No. But we did have the daily train. If you go up to the north entrance here you see the remnants of the train running from here to... Morris to... I think it was either, I think it was Sauk Center. I don't think there was another branch going north. The daily train went over in the morning, coming back... The first couple years, a couple, some of our students rode that train. That was during weekends. They'd go home weekends. Coal was delivered by the tracks that were out here.

SG: Was there a station or a depot of some sort?

WG: Just the "Y" out there. You'd have to know where the tracks [xxx], but you'd go up beyond the maintenance, where it is now, and there should be a break in the windbreak. [xxx] and that's where the tracks came in, about 2 deep. It was down behind the [xxx] area, probably almost to the [xxx], in that area.

SG: What was your sense of the town.

WG: I don't know. I didn't spend much time down there. [xxx]

SG: The reason I ask is that you always hear stories about people who are from the more southern and eastern Minnesota coming out to the prairie and being distressed, bothered.

WG: No, no way.

SG: Well, you had spent so much time in the field, that the prairie wouldn't have bothered you, anyway.

WG: We lived in a flat area, too. Northern area, area north of the Cities is flat for a long way.

SG: Among the courses you taught, you taught an economics course?

WG: Yep.

SG: Did you teach a course in horticulture, or....

WG: Yes. What was it called ... Yea, I had one course. I had...before I'd finished, I'd taught... Never taught any engineering classes. I don't believe I taught any English classes, but other than that I picked up odds and ends of all of them. If there was an opening and we didn't have anybody else to teach it... I wasn't asked to teach it, I was told to teach it, regardless of what it was. I stayed one day ahead of them.

SG: I think we've all been there. Tell me a little bit about the curriculum in general. My sense was that it was really geared toward the pragmatic and the practical.

WG: Yes and no. At that time, there were four classes. But in 1952, the class coming in '52, we made the change so that everybody had to go 4 years. Prior to that, they graduated at 3 years, and then those who wanted to go further in schooling, and those that, well, they had a 4th year. They were called the 4th year club.... the 4th year class. And then, occasionally, other people, high school graduates, would come out, and usually they'd pick up business. Actually, at that time, it was a very good business curriculum.

SG: Which is interesting, because the premise of the school originally was to teach kids scientific farming and have them go back to the farm, and help their dads, and it sounds like by the end it had more of a commercial application, and maybe offered an avenue off the farm for kids.

WG: We had some kids that were [xxx] very, very, very well [xxx]. Let's leave it at that. ...as long as you're...

SG: Do you want to talk a little bit about the kids? Were you impressed with them? Were they good students in general? No different than anybody else?

WG: No different than anybody else. A cross-section of....

SG: By the time you started, it was just a few years after World War II, so were they, were you getting returning vets? Were they older or....

WG: Very few. At first [xxx]. We had to offer, not offer, we had to [xxx] as many hours as the public schools did. We had to get it in to 6 months instead of 9.

SG: So you had to work these guys?

WG: To a degree. Actually, [xxx] they were just [xxx]. They had classes at 8:00, and if they didn't have a class at 9, or when the period ended, they were free; they could go back to the dorm room if they wanted to. They could go to the library. Maybe they'd pick up a class at 10:30 or so. But then we had an hour and a half to eat. Had to study. At least they had to be in their room. They had to be quiet.

SG: Were there study halls within the dormitories, that kind of thing? So it was just a matter of being in their dorm rooms and sort of a quiet time.

WG: [agrees] That way, we got the hours in, or almost all the hours, and then during the summer, they had to carry projects at home. And they got credit for those, and they got enough credits, enough courses to satisfy the education department.

SG: I was at the historical society, the state historical society, a couple weeks ago, and they had a collection of newsletters from here entitled "The Home Project" or something to that effect.

WG: Probably.

SG: And these were reports of all the home projects that students did in the summer.

WG: [xxx] back in the summer.

SG: What would the home projects be like?

WG: Well, basically, they picked up something that they could handle. Maybe they had a [xxx]. I have a hard time remembering. Very seldom did I go out on project visitations, but I did go out for a while, maybe 2 or 3 summers. Many of our students came from long distances.

SG: So when you were teaching, were you also still doing research? Did you have any sort of relationship at all with the experiment station?

WG: Oh, yes, absolutely. During the summer, it was strictly experiment station, and all of the full time... people that were here full-time, had a permanent... I was a member of the staff of the horticulture department in St Paul, and so were the other people.

SG: What was your research?

WG: We had the orchard, over where the PE center is now, all the way to the road.

SG: It had to have been huge.

WG: It was. There was research in it, but I think originally it was planted to supply food. And at that time, also, as far as the people go in the ag areas [xxx] budgeting. We had a certain amount of money, and we had to make, or to get funding from down in Minneapolis. That made... the orchard was planted long before, the original, was planted long before I came along. But just a couple years before I came -- the last years of the war and shortly thereafter -- we planted quite a few trees [xxx]. We had things we could sell, and also we could use. Actually, back... the one right behind ag hall, the cow palace whatever that is referred to, there was an orchard there of stone fruits but that was on its way out. I had the orchard, and of course, I was working with vegetables. As time went on, I got all the various materials basically from St Paul. At that time, I don't think we were allowed to [xxx] a project of our own. [xxx] put that out there. If I put that out, will you take care of it. I did an awful lot of work for somebody.

SG: Did that change with time? Is it still today dictated more from St Paul, or is it more decentralized?

WG: No. Well, I don't know, maybe. I imagine the swine department.... well, yes, but it's also where they're on their own. They've become the major [xxx].

SG: During the school year, were students expected then to participate in research?

WG: No, most of them [xxx]. They had nothing to do with [xxx].

SG: Did they work on campus, the majority of students?

WG: When I was here, no. It was [xxx]. Prior to that I guess

SG: But by the time you were here, the war was over, the economy was rebounding, and the kids were doing much better. [xxx] the Depression.

WG: That is the group of people who were very fortunate and made a bundle of money. When prices were going up they just rode them up.

SG: One of the few moments in American history where agriculture really did well.

WG: There's a story of one of our students that graduated around '59 or '60... from up in the Hoffman area... and a year or so after he graduated he bought a quarter of land. He put it into wheat, and he paid for that whole quarter in one year.

SG: You can't do that today.

WG: No, you're lucky if you pay for an acre today.

SG: So, there was also a greenhouse on the campus. Were you in charge of that? Was it where it is now?

WG: This whole area down here, by the Science building [xxx]. The area that is referred to as the cow palace [xxx].

SG: So, the cow palace – the early '50s?

WG: Yes.

SG: So, did they tear down the greenhouse and put up the cow palace?

WG: The old greenhouse was right along the street and at the end of the building... Shortly after I got here, no... '54 I went back to graduate school – the fall of '54 – and prior to that time ...I'm mixed up here. Prior to that time - 1953, 1951 – a new greenhouse was put up. I imagine because the Agricultural Hall, what is Social Science now, was being expanded. And that took up the space, and the greenhouse was moved back further to... if you go back, between [xxx] where the administration offices are now [xxx] straight back down there, I don't know how far but the greenhouse was put in there. And then when I was in grad school, we got appropriations for the dormitories. So the fellows took down the greenhouse on campus here, labeled all the parts, took them up there and put it back together. And that is what is left there now.

SG: Amazing. What was here? [apparently pointing to a map]

WG: Here?

SG: Where these....

WG: [xxx] I was in this dormitory... I lived in this dormitory over here for quite a few years. There was a building back here which was the home ec building, not as large as this one... The area, which is now over here, whatever name it goes by, was the administration office. Library on one side, offices on the other, and auditorium down the middle, and it was turned. When that one was built it was turned 90 degrees. It faced here and then was turned like this. But there was nothing here, just an open area.

SG: Did the students use it? Did anybody use it? Was it a picnic area or anything?

WG: I imagine something, but basically no.

SG: It is low-lying. It's marshy. It's always very buggy in the summer.

WG: I'll tell you what was different there was... No it wasn't buggy and it wasn't wet either. We always figured that there was always a three-week period during the summer that we did not get rain. [xxx]

SG: So it was dry during the '40s and '50s?

WG: Yes.

SG: Interesting.

WG: Maybe as far as the averages. It may not have been drier. But the timing was different. And it was cooler... no I shouldn't say that. Our growing season was shorter.

SG: That's global warming.

WG: Maybe. Maybe not... we won't know.

SG: Exactly. Exactly. So were there other horticulturists on campus, or were you the only guy.

WG: [xxx]

SG: So, did you have any input at all in the planting and landscape of the campus as the horticulturist and did you...

WG: I had all of it. But we [xxx] When I came I tore out a lot of things, which ... part of my time... The fellow that was, I don't think they had a crew that was actually assigned, strictly. I tore out a lot of things, changed a lot of the plantings, and basically... The planting that was done we appropriated as much as possible of the material that was sent out from St. Paul or some other station to be transplanted in the hot, dry area... in this area. When Peter came, he ... I think he took out some of the stuff and he started ...

SG: So what kind of stuff did you pull out?

WG: I don't remember, but I think it was a lot of lilacs. They went down the "Y" here. There was a planting, if I remember correctly, of shrubs that were probably 12 feet tall around there. There was up on the end of the mall, the east end of the mall now, there was a [xxx] shrub there. There were a couple of shrubs over here... [xxx] Back here, there was a clump there, a matching clump over on the other side, things like that. It was things

that they had wanted to take out, but didn't [xxx]. [xxx] took it out and re-cleansed the places.

SG: A lot of the stuff that you put in was experimental stuff. Did you have input, or was all of this pretty much dictated by...

WG: Oh no, we got some stuff out there ...

SG: You'd decide where to plant it.

WG: I'd decide where to plant it. The Scotch pines that are over... back in the corner over there...they were there. But then I remember putting in two sunburst locusts. I think that we got three or four different conifers, and I think there was only one that survived. Not the one that is being planted now. Those two flowering crabs right over here by the... as you start going down behind the Minority Students building... I put those in. Had quite a few in there. That year I got – gosh – twenty or thirty selections of flowering crab. Just the flowering crabs were [xxx]. We got those...

SG: So they would send you a number of varieties and you would...

WG: Yes. I don't think there's any [xxx].

SG: Is it fair to say that the campus itself, and the historic district itself, was considered also sort of part of the... well, it's technically not part of the experiment station, but it's seen as an experimental site. I didn't know that. That's very interesting.

WG: The thing that I'm disappointed with... down here, right? Well, adjacent to the cemetery where the trees are out now... I got three...

SG: So is that campus property? Adjacent to the cemetery?

WG: Yeah, where the...

SG: Of course it is...I didn't think about it.

WG: Three plants in the poplar family – I don't know if they had a name or were experimental. And at that time I was on a project – a regional project – based in Ames, Iowa, including seven midwestern states, three Canadian provinces, and Alaska. I think I got those free plants... The first four years they grew seven feet a year. Then I moved off campus ...

SG: They liked it down here?

WG: They liked something... but I'm thinking as long as we're thinking of biomass if those things will grow in this area, it would be something...

SG: So how big would they ultimately get?

WG: They were 28 feet the last time I measured them. They started out as seven or eight and grew to 28.

SG: So if you would have had your druthers, would you have done anything differently with the project?

WG: I'd have to think about that. As far as time was concerned, I didn't have the time. That's about what it amounted to. Eventually [xxx] here, and what is referred to as the [xxx] we had a fellow teaching in the English department, he had the English department, also

college for several years, and he was supposed to be on my crew. But when classes were out in late March he'd grab a rake, and he'd rake the entire campus. Including this whole area over here, all around the building over here...and he had [xxx] and the first of June he was done. I don't think... I think he stayed around all the time. He was from northern Minnesota. I forget...I'd have to look at a map. His father was a legislator and... Long Lake, up by...where is Long Lake...

SG: There must be 100 Long Lakes in Minnesota...

WG: Yeah, but it was very close to the town I lived in... [xxx] And he had a cabin out there for deer hunting.

SG: Was John Anderson still here when you arrived?

WG: Yes. John was in charge of the horticulture department.

SG: Yeah, but wasn't he trained in music or something?

WG: He was a musician. He was a... I don't know what he was trained in. He was quite a guy. [xxx]

SG: We don't have any photos at all of concerts or anything going on on campus. That's something we've been looking for, but we don't have it.

WG: John had... it was photography [xxx]. He had a dark room. He bought his film in bulk. Was it 35mm cameras at that time?

SG: I think so.

WG: He bought his bulk film; loaded his own bulk film and he developed it. And he was teaching a photography class. So the kids were doing a lot of stuff. But he was only here for, well, as soon as I came he was gone. He came back and taught for a couple more years. But as soon as the school year was over in the spring, he drove to California for a month. And then he came back. What he did the rest of the time, I don't know. I remember him telling that if he hit the right year driving out to the desert you could just [xxx].

SG: Actually, I think this time of year in Arizona – I was just in Phoenix a couple weeks ago – and the desert is just starting to bloom. So was the situation pretty much the same with him, where the folks in St. Paul would send him stuff...

WG: He was not a [xxx] St. Paul. It was only me, agronomic people, livestock people and [xxx].

SG: In terms of deciding what to plant and what to do, was he more on his own than you were?

WG: I imagine that he and Edson... But when I came there hadn't been anything planted for quite a few years. It was all upkeep and [xxx].

SG: So you remained on faculty through '62 and '63, when the last class graduated.

WG: I don't know if you want to call it faculty – yes. But when the experiment station... or at that time we went on strictly research. But, of course, in my work I got more work on campus. I had a two or three man crew. Because all vacations came during the summer... They had to. No winter vacations. There were times that we had to use [xxx].

I had two people... One person working for me... [xxx] I had two people that did the mowing, basically, who worked out of the heating plant. They had to keep the heating plant operating. We had 4-H kids come in for 2½ days, one week of 4-H, [xxx] the entire area. Had to keep the heat [xxx] so they had hot water. They left the latter part of June and the hot water was shut off and those of us who were living in the dormitories were taking cold showers and so on...

SG: When did Peter take over?

WG: I want to say 1972.

SG: So you were in charge until 1972?

WG: Yes, basically the first ten years.

SG: Were there a lot of changes that occurred in the first ten years?

WG: I don't think so. Nothing major. Building projects. Of course, at that time horticulture didn't need anything... [tape ends]

[Tape 1: Side 2]

WG: [xxx]

SG: So what's your favorite part of campus, in terms of landscaping and horticulture? If there were one thing that you had to insist that would be preserved, what would it be?

WG: You've never heard of that have you?

SG: What's that?

WG: The answer to your question.

SG: No. No.

WG: That big square right over there. Which was mine. The rule was that you do not walk in that area. Period.

SG: It's now the mall. You guys called it the square.

WG: Yep. If they wanted to go out there, there wouldn't be time. Kids come in the first of October. [xxx] March at that time [xxx] early spring [xxx]. You know, people that come back now? They give me a bad time. "Look what happened here on the mall. Why couldn't we go across there?" [xxx]

SG: All grass? Was there... no formal gardens or anything?

WG: No. Later time, we had... I think it was three days a week... we had... from about 11:30 to twelve o'clock we had a program in the auditorium. When it was over with... what's the first thing you want to do? Get to the dining room. Right across there. No, you can't do that. I was in charge of that so I... I'm the culprit. So that's the one thing [xxx].

SG: So it didn't have all the berms built, it was just flat?

WG: No, it was just flat.

SG: What about the little pool behind engineering?

WG: That was there... I've got a slide in here so maybe you can see... I've got to give it to Sue because...

SG: Let's take a look. Oh, that's beautiful. This is a slide of a pool and the plantings around it.

WG: Here's one wing, here's the other wing. And that was in between. And the pool...the plants in the back were up against the wall of whatever that building is called now...

SG: Community ed.

WG: Okay...

SG: It used to be engineering.

WG: Yep, yep. Then this formal planting...

SG: Is that really the only formal planting on campus?

WG: No, I think there were a couple others, but they were dropped.

SG: What is the history of that? How did it come into existence?

WG: I imagine they wanted...

SG: Was the superintendent's house...?

WG: Oh, my let's see... the superintendent's house would be right about here. And you see the circular formal garden in front of this at the end of the superintendent's? Those two were basically the only formal gardens. There were other plantings but I wouldn't call them formal gardens. And I don't know who is supposed to get this, but I'll give it to Sue and work from there.

SG: So, what finally happened to the pool? I think I've heard this story but I want to hear it from you.

WG: What did you hear?

SG: I heard that a kid fell in and almost drowned, so they decided to...

WG: Yeah, we had people out here one day. It was... I imagine due to the fact... whoever was around... and, oh boy, he was about 2-2½ years old... I don't know who else... there were other kids about his age... Anyway, he fell in and it wasn't very deep, but it was deep enough.

SG: What was the time frame? 1950s?

WG: I'd say 1955 or 1956, somewhere in there. Because his father was a graduate of this school, and he came back here. His father went to Minnesota for two years, and then got a scholarship to the University of Hawaii. Then when he came back here and then he went into the [xxx] ag program. And that was... he was near the end of the program, so that would be about right.

SG: How restorable is that area, do you think? Did they just fill it with dirt? Could it be easily excavated and restored?

WG: It should be, it should be. I don't know because...

SG: That would be a great project for the alumni association.

WG: I may be wrong on my dates because when I stop to think about, it could have been before 1954, because I think they filled it in when I was gone.

SG: Okay, okay.

WG: I was not familiar with filling it in.

SG: Sounds like a great loss.

WG: Because we... In the pool we grew, had water lilies. We'd store them in wooden buckets. We'd take the buckets out in the fall and put them in... I think we put them back in the greenhouse. But the greenhouse was open... the greenhouse was in operation twelve months of the year. Steam heat. We had radiators in there. Had to provide flowers for the events...plants and flowers for the various events on campus.

SG: Do they still do that?

WG: I don't think so... I don't know. I doubt it. I remember it being hot and humid in there. The bougainvillea plant... it grew up and went along the ridgeline across the whole greenhouse. Plus...the flowers we'd ship and so on. [xxx].

SG: So, if the mall – or the square – is one of the worst things that has been done in the past thirty years or so, what is the best?

WG: The same thing.

SG: Same thing? Okay, that's interesting.

WG: When I had it, there was no watering. Now there is a watering system in there. I don't know how long they'll keep it open. The person responsible for resurrecting it is gone. [xxx] built the stage, and the walkways which are actually... they were waiting... the students outlined where they should be...

SG: That makes perfect sense. Is there anything you'd like to redo on campus?

WG: If I were doing it now and had the facilities... they have a lot better plant materials now than we had then, an awful lot more. I think a lot of it could be incorporated, I don't know.

SG: It seems to me that the obvious thing for people to do if they were doing it today, would be to try to make the campus at home with the prairie environment. Do you think that would be a good idea or not?

WG: [xxx] Of course, when I first came here that was...

SG: The last thing you want to do was remind people of the prairie.

WG: Over here in front of the dormitory is there a [xxx] in there now?

SG: I don't know.

WG: We had a full [xxx] spirea starting back in here somewhere beyond where...

SG: In front of Pine?

WG: In front of Pine... where the drop is... [xxx] over there very close to the road there was a row of [xxx] and then in front of it was... I think it was peonies.

SG: So that's the road that goes by the cemetery? So it's out there. Okay.

WG: Yeah, yeah...

SG: At the west end of campus...

WG: Yeah, but the planting was in front of the dormitory.

SG: In front of Pine, okay. I have to point this out because the tape recorder doesn't know directions.

WG: Basically over on the south side, we didn't do any plantings because the street in front of... on the east end of the mall extended...

SG: Right, yeah... All the way through... yeah, yeah.

WG: And that was that road there. And then on the east side of that there was a planting of lilac? Shrubby [xxx] plus some special pine that, I don't know where it came from and I don't know when it was planted, but I think they were probably [xxx] or something like that... Much closer in the row, and much closer together... and that was... I think the idea was [xxx] were going to be planted on campus, or used to plant on campus. Never got done. [xxx].

SG: What do you think about the windbreak to the... what street is that?

WG: Second?

SG: Yeah, yeah...behind the Science building.

WG: Behind the...?

SG: My directions are goofy, I'm sorry.

WG: There is one over... maybe you're thinking of the area...

SG: It's right on the edge of campus.

WG: Right down from the [xxx] up there. I don't know what this is called.

SG: What street is the LaFave house on?

WG: That's the one. I don't think this is a windbreak. It was much thicker when I came. We had the practice football field...it was down where the parking lot is now and extended up to basically west side, the older side of the building. The football field was taken out, it was fenced and that area was a sheep pasture. And I think this bunch of conifers were just plunked in there without really much of a purpose. These trees here, along behind Pine and then going out along [xxx], and the other one going east and west – no north and south – no east and west – [xxx] windbreak. [xxx]. I was told I could put in 400

- Spruce... and in the drought years, all except three of them died. And I can't identify the tree now, and before I gave up, about two years I [xxx] we planted that whole area [xxx].
- SG: Would that happen today if we had really a severe drought or would people have more money and more resources to water and keep things going.
- WG: They have more resources. They'd have more water because there are more people. I was told that traveling from here to Villard – or in that area -- there wasn't a single tree planted. That was in '34, or '32-'34, and up to '36 maybe.
- SG: I think that's what Les was saying that he started in '34...
- WG: He started in '32.
- SG: It was just a terrible year...
- WG: It was.
- SG: Out here they really did have hard times. Well, I think we're going to wrap it up. Thanks.