

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1978
INTERVIEWER: STEVE KERBER
INTERVIEWEE: MISS JANE TYSON
PLACE: DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM
TIME: 9:30 a.m.

K: Today is Wednesday, October 25, 1978. My name is Steve Kerber and I am going to be conducting an oral history interview with Miss Jane Tyson. Miss Tyson was formerly an assistant in the Agriculture Experiment Station library at the University of Florida to Mrs. Ida Cresap. This interview for the University of Florida's Oral history Project will take place in the director's conference room of the Florida State Museum at 9:30 a.m.

K: ...and as I think I told you before it's uh, a very informal uh, kind of a process....

T: Oh, yes.

K: ...And uh, if you decide you want to stop and stretch your legs after a half hour or something, just let me know and I'll turn it off.

T: Um huh.

K: We send it back to you so that you can go over it and if there is something, perhaps a first name,

T: Yes.

K: ...that I didn't have and you couldn't remember at the time, you can stick it in at that point or something that you wanted to take out, a sentence or.....

T: Yes.

K:....something, you can do it. And then it comes back to us and we type up the final version and then we send a copy of that back to you also. So you wind up with a copy of it....

T:Um huh.

K:....and we ask you to sign a legal release because eventually all these are intended to be in the University Library, the transcripts of the interviews.

T:Yes.

K:Okay. Uh, well, I usually start then, by asking you to tell me your full name, if you would.

T:Janie Lee Tyson.

K:And uh, when did you retire from the University of Florida?

T:In 1970.

K:Um huh. And what was your position at that time?

T:I was assistant librarian at that time.

K:At the,.....?

T:At the Agri, Agriculture Library, which is, has been known as the Hume Library.

K:Un huh.

T:Uh, when I first began work, it was the Agricultural Experiment Station,...

K:Um huh.

T:And then in later years, it became the Agriculture Library, for agricultural students, as well as research.

K:It was referred to when you started, as the Experiment Station library?

T:Yes, it was. The Agricultural Experiment Station library.

K:Um huh.

T:You see, uh, IFAS,

K:Um huh...

T:Institute in Food and Agricultural Sciences....

K:Um huh.

T:....was at one time, Agricultural Experiment Station.

K:Um huh.

T:And the library serviced all of the departments of the
Agricultural Experiment Station....

K:Um huh.

T:...in Gainesville, as well as over the state.

K:Um huh. Let me follow up on that for just a second now. Um,
did the library, when you started working there, also, were
the materials in the library available to the people who
worked in the Extension Service?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:Were they available to the faculty in the College of
Agriculture?

T:Oh yes, indeed. Yes.

K:And how about the students in agriculture?

T:Well, there were so few students 'way back then.

K:Um huh.

T:Uh, yes, they used the library, too.

K:They were permitted to....

T:Yes. But there were very few students when I began work.

K:Okay, let me back up a little bit again now. Where do you come
from, where were you born?

T:I was born at Wacahoota....

K:Um huh.

T:....which is a rural community in Alachua County.

K:Um huh. Had your family lived in Alachua County for a long time?

T:Yes. My father was born in Alachua County....

K:Um huh.

T:....the same place that I was born.

K:Um huh, What was your father's name?

T:John Oliver Tyson.

K:Un huh. And how about your mother?

T:My mother was born at Melrose and she was Tiny Torlay, before she married.

K:Un huh. How do you spell that last name?

T:T-o-r-l-a-y.

K:Un huh. What did your father do for a living? Was he a farmer?

T:Yes. He was a farmer. And we also had a citrus grove.

K:Oh. I see.

T:We...he had cotton, and then he had cattle, too.

K:Un huh.

T:As well as farming, general farming.

K:Un huh. What community did you go to school in?

T:I began school at a little community known as Central. It was between Wacahoota and Micanopy.

K:Un huh.

T:And there was a little country school, one-room school, where all, grades from one to eight were taught.

K:Un huh.

T:And from there I went to Micanopy to school.

K:Un huh.

T:We drove eight miles.

K:Now, was this also grade school in Micanopy? Or was this high school?

T:High school, too.

K:High school.

T:Yes.

K:So you graduated from high school in Micanopy?

T:I, I graduated. I did my graduate work, yes,

K:Un huh.

T:....from Micanopy.

K:Un huh. And do you mind telling us when you graduated from high school?

T:Oh dear. That's something I didn't bring....must have been about 1917, 1918.

K:Now, after high school, did you have the opportunity to go to college?

T:No, I did not.

K:Un huh. What did you do then? Did you find employment somewhere?

T:Um, wait a minute. I, I've told you wrong about the date....

K:Un huh.

T:...that I graduated. Um, I will go back and say, because of illness, I was not able to really attend the school, but uh, we had a teacher that tutored me. Um, no, I was not able to go to college but, must of been 1928, I went to Jacksonville. My brother lived in Jacksonville....

K:Um huh.

T:...and I went to Jacksonville and stayed with he and his wife, and took a business course.

K:Um huh. How did you come to work at the university?

T:Well, Mrs. Grace Warren, at that time, was the home demonstration agent, which is now called, a homemaker's clubs.....

K:Um huh.

T:Under the Agricultural Extension Service. And I had been a member of one of those clubs.

K:I see.

T:Um, if fact, we, my mother was very active....

K:Um huh.

T:...in that group. And Mrs. Warren knew that I was in Jacksonville and that I was ready for some work....

K:Um huh.

T:...true work, and Mrs. Ida Keeling Cresap needed someone and she asked Mrs. Warren....

K:Um huh.

T:...if she knew of a person, and she gave her my name, and she sent me a telegram. I received it in Jacksonville. Now this was during the Depression..

K:Um huh.

T:...and if you didn't live through the Depression, ... you just don't know about such things...

K:Um huh.

T:...but I received a telegram that uh, there was a position open for uh, secretary...

K:Um huh.

T:...a typist in the Agricultural Experiment Station library with the beginning salary of \$100, if I...a month, if I was interested, um, to please come for an interview.

K:Um huh.

T:I did not have the money to come, but I borrowed it.

K:Um huh.

T:And uh,.....

K:So you came over on the train? Or...

T:Yes.

K:Um huh.

T:On the train.

K:Um huh. Now I'm sure you had been in Gainesville...

T:Oh yes.

K:...many times before that?

T:Oh yes.

K:What was ... your....

T:Gainesville was really our, our home....

K:Um huh.

T:...community., because we came to Gainesville, every week....

K:Shopping?

T:Yes, yes. And my father having this farm, uh, he grew produce that we brought to Gainesville to sell. We furnished a great lot of fresh vegetables to some of the stores in downtown Gainesville.

K:So he did, he sort of did some truck farming.... to....

T:Yes. Yes.

K:Um huh. Now, do you remember, at all, the first time that you would have come to the university? Would it have, would it have been as a very small child? Just out to the campus?

T:Yes. Yes. I, the best I can remember, was when we were in the Home Demonstration Clubs....

K:Um huh.

T:They had a, a meeting every summer. And, I don't remember what it was called....but it was like a fair on the campus....

K:Oh. Um huh.

T:And we had, there was competition among different ones, especially the ladies in things that they did.

K:Um huh.

T:For instance, I entered a cooking contest....

K:Um huh.

T:....and made a salad...

K:Um huh.

T:And that's some of my first memories.....

K:Un huh..

T:But I was just a teenager then.

K:Do you remember where that might have been held on campus?

T:Yes. Approximately at, it was just east of the now Auditorium.

K:Um huh. Just to the east of that....

T:In some of those old....old buildings.

K:Um huh. And it was uh, a fair, involving the young women who were....in this club?

T:Yes..and, and the older women. You see, I lived in a community where there were no young people, my age.

K:Oh. Um huh.

T:And so, they made a special uh, dispensation for me and let me attend the adult clubs.

K:I see. So it was really for the wives of farmers....

T:Yes.

K:Not just for younger....women.

T:Yes., Yes.

K:I see, Okay. Now what was uh, the year that you received that telegram from Mrs. Cresap? You said....

T:In, In 19 and 29.

K:1929.

T:Yes.

K:Um huh. So you came over on the train and did you meet with her personally?

T:Yes, I did.

K:Um huh. Could you tell us a little bit about that?

T:I, I went to her home....

K:Um huh. Where was that?

T:On um, north west Washington Street...

K:Um huh.

T:Which is now Fifteenth Street.

K:Un huh.

T:Four-two-five.....

K:Um huh.

T:Um hum. I went to her home and she interviewed me, there.

K:Um huh.

T:And uh, told me that I had the job. And I was to, to come to work, the first of December, which was the second day of December, 1929.

K:Un huh.

T:This was the first, sometime before Thanksgiving,,,. . . .

K:Un huh.

T:That I had the interview.

K:Un huh.

T:But I didn't start work until the first of the month.

K:Un huh. Now, uh,

T:Then I went to my parents' home and stayed....

K:And stayed there until you started?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:Okay. So I was going to ask you then, did you uh, go out and try to find room and board with someone? Where did you stay? or did you stay with your parents and commute to Gainesville?

T:No, I stayed in town. But we had a very dear friend that had lived about two miles from us in the country that had moved to Gainesville....

K:Un huh.

T:And so I stayed with her.

K:I see.

T:A Mrs. Smith.

K:Un huh. Now.....

T:In fact, she was, I was named for her.

K:Oh, really?

T:Um hum.

K:How long did you uh, continue to live with uh,...

T:I only lived with her uh, in her home, she had a rooming house, um, near downtown Gainesville, and I only lived there a short time because I had a cousin that.....

K:Um huh.

T:....had moved to Gainesville, and her father was in the hospital and, and ill.

K:Um huh.

T:My cousin's husband worked for the State Road Department and he was gone all week...

K:Um huh.

T:And so I moved in with my cousin.

K:I see. Did Mrs. Smith uh, specialize in taking in students or did she just take anyone?

T:Uh, just anyone, yes.

K:Un huh.

T:She had two grandsons.....

K:Un huh.

T:....that were attending the University.

K:Uh huh.

T:And then, she had a lot of other roomers.

K:Did she have a very large rooming house? Or just a few people?

T:Oh, there must have been uh, eight or ten.

K:Um huh. Where was her house located? Was it, what, near the square?

T:Yes. Yes. It was on um, Second....must have been First Street, south west.

K:Um huh.

T>About uh, it was near the uh, it was almost 'back of Badcock's Furniture Company,

K:Um huh.

T:...if you know where that is now.

K:Yes.

T:Um hum.

K:Okay.

T:Right in there.

K:Did you have to be interviewed by anyone other than Mrs. Cresap....

T:No.

K:....to get the job?

T:No. I did not.

K:No. Did you have to uh, sign any papers or anything like that?

T:I just, she just interviewed me and I, that's all.

K:Um huh. Now...

T:In those days, it was quite different.

K:I'm sure.

T:Um hum.

K:So you showed up on Monday morning then to start work....

T:That's right....that's right.

K:....and what sort of duties did she give you, at the very first?

T:Well, I did typing....

K:Um huh.

T:And uh, I did some secretarial work....

K:Um huh.

T:And, any secretarial, any secretarial work that was required of the library....

K:Um huh.

T:And, pardon me, we had state documents that we catalogued....

K:Um huh.

T:And I did the typing of the cards.

K:I see.

T:Also. And I, there was no other, permanent, full-time person in the library....

K:Um huh.

T:And so, our office was just, just out the main reading room, and stack room and everything, and anyone would come and want something, why you'd get up and go and, and get it for them.

K:So you really found yourself doing the work a librarian in many instances.....

T:And, anything....

K:Um huh.

T:Anything that was, that would you do in the library. In those days.

K:Um huh. So...

T:You, you see, when I began work, there were very few books....

K:Um huh.

T:I would say, not more than 5,000,.....

K:Um huh.

T:....books in the library. And, none of them were catalogued.

K:Oh. None at all?

T:No classification at all.

K:Hum.

H:The, there were a good many magazines....I say magazines,
....um, periodicals...

K:Um huh.

T:....of a scientific nature. And they were all shelved in
alphanumeric order by titles...

T:There were very few books. When I say books, I mean textbooks.

K:Um huh.

T:Most of our material was either state documents or U.S.
Department of Agriculture documents....

K:Um huh.

T:And we had foreign documents from agricultural, pertaining to
agriculture, from foreign countries.

K:Um huh. Um huh.

T:And then we had a, this number of periodicals....

K:Um huh.

T:Pertaining to um, botany and general agriculture and

K:Um huh.

T:The different fields, sciences in agriculture.

K:I should ask you exactly where the library collection was located when you started in 1929?

T:In was on the second floor, in the Horticulture Building, which is now,.....

K:Rolfs? Rolfs Hall?

T:Yes. That's right.

K:And how many room did you say you had there?

T:We had the librarian's office and long room.

K:Um huh. And that was both where the books and periodicals were shelved and...

T:Yes.

K:...and the reading room?

T:And the tab, the tables were, there were metal stacks.....

K:Um huh.

T:...in this large room, and down the side of the room were windows and under each window was a little square table....

K:Um huh.

T:...that two people could sit and then there were two or three long tables right, just as you entered the library....

K:Um huh.

T:...because the room was not full stacks at that time.

K:Um huh. Did the library remain in those rooms until McCarty Hall was built?

T:Yes, it did. Only we had, almost the entire second floor.

K:I see. So it spread out on the second floor?

T:Oh yes. Oh yes.

K:Um huh.

T:Um, there was a little, when you, went up to the second floor,

....

K:Um huh.

T:...on your left, was this little office that was a librarian's office. The next room was a very large, long room.....

K:Um huh.

T:....well, and then at the end of it was a small office. And then there was a classroom at the end of that, so you see, the, the entire length of the building, and uh, eventually, we had all of that and all the way to the east and we uh, enclosed the east end of the hall.....

K:Um huh.

T:....and put stacks in it....

K:Um huh.

T:...and we put stacks in classrooms across the....

K:Heh heh.

T:....in what had been offices, and then classrooms,.....

K:Um huh.

T:And then we had, on the left and the right of the hall.

K:I see.

T:There was, I believe, one office across the room from us, we had all the rest of that building, that floor.

K:Um huh.

T:And we had put um, cabinets in the hall, wooden cabinets that were, that had doors and locks,.....

K:Um huh.

T:And we had to store material in there....

K:Um huh.

T:Oh, you can't imagine.....

K:Heh he hheh....

T:Ha ha, how it had grown.....

K:When, well you mentioned earlier, that at first it was referred to as the Experiment Station library,....

T:Yes.

K:....did they begin to call it just the Agriculture library before the new building, McCarty Hall,....

T:No.

K:....was built? Not until then?

T:No., not until then. Not until uh, the new building and uh, then it was referred to as Agricultural library.

K:I see. Now, could you tell me a little bit about how Mrs. Cresap's duties compared to your own? In other words, did you usually work together on the same kinds of things that needed to be done? Or was there any strict differentiation at all between the kinds of things she did during a day, and the kinds of things that you did.

T:Well, of course, Mrs. Cresap was the librarian.....

K:Um huh.

T:And uh, yes, there was quite a lot of difference....

K:Um huh.

T:She had the contact withthe director.....

K:Um huh.

T:And uh, made the decisions as to what would be uh, done and had full charge of the budget and, and such. Just like the head of any department.....

K:Um huh.

T:But she also um, did some classifying because we began, oh in the earl 1930's, classifying the material.

K:Um huh.

T:And at that time, I, I did not know, I had had no experience with a classification. And as this was an agriculture library, Mrs. Cresap had made several visits to Washington, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture library....

K:Um huh.

T:And there she had studied and um, secured a copy of their classification scheme...

K:Um huh.

T:...which she brought back, and that is the classification scheme that this library has used.

K:Um huh.

T:It was not as full or expanded as large as we wanted it....

K:Um huh.

H:And so in years to come, we expanded the scheme to fit our purpose.

K:Um huh.

T:Um, yes, my duties were, I'll go back now,....

K:No, that's okay.....

T:...to the question you asked....my duties were to type the cards of the documents...

K:Um huh.

T:To help anyone that needed help....to uh, located material, to shelve material, well, you see, this material came in every day.....

K:Um huh.

T:The little post office was in the building on the first floor, and I got the mat,, the mail, and after receiving a complete volume of the periodicals, if there was money, we had them bound...

K:I see.

T:...into books. And so I prepared the material for the bindery....

K:I see..

T:We also bound the state documents....

K:Um huh.

T:And the U.S. Department of Agriculture documents. We received uh, foreign documents and some, some of them were bound....

K:Um huh.

T:As, as there were funds.

K:Did you have your binding done in town? Or?

T:No.,,, uh, in Jacksonville....

K:I see.

T:There was a bindery there that we shipped the material to.

K:Now, about this classification system....if I understand you correctly, your collection continued to outgrow the initial system that Mrs. Cresap had picked up in Washington.....

T:Yes, yes.

K:....and so you had to really adapt it....

T:That's right...

K:...to the material that you subsequently acquired?

T:Yes, and expanded the classification scheme.

K:Um huh.

T:You see, by using decimals, you can uh, for instance, 94, say, was uh, well, I'll go to 99. 99 was forestry....

K:Um huh.

T:And you have so much under forestry - you only had one number - and so you inserted many decimals...

K:Um huh.

T:...to keep all of the forestry material together.

K:Um huh. So there really was no adequate system available to you? You just had to make it up?

T:That's right.

K:Um huh.

T:Yes.

K:So, someone going to a similar library in another area of the country would not have found the same system....

T:Not exactly....um,...

K:...except in basic points....

T:Cornell University used that at one time, but they eventually went to the Dewey Decimal,

K:Um huh.

T:I believe.

K:Um huh. Do you know if, from what Mrs. Cresap may have told you, if she ever had any formal training as a librarian?

T:Um, I don't believe so. Except um, in other words, she was not a graduate of library school...

K:Um huh.

T:But she studied a great deal

K:Um huh.

T:And she took library courses....

K:Um huh.

T:As I did too, later.

K:Um huh. Let me follow up on that. Did, did she take them here? Or did she go to Tallahassee or what?

T:No, she took hers, I think, through Washington.

K:I see.

T:Yes.

K:And how about you? Where did you go?

T:Well, I took some here....

K:Um huh.

T:Yes.

K:Umhuh. Were those offered by the people from Tallahassee?

T:By the main, the main library here.

K:Un huh. By the librarians here?

T:The school of library science here,....

K:Un huh.

T:Yes.

K:I see. They didn't grant a degree though here....

T:No. No.

K:....in library science, did they? They just offered some courses.

T:That's right. Um huh.

K:I see. Okay. Now, when you began work here, were you, and for that matter, was Mrs. Cresap, on the state payroll or on the federal?

T:On the state.

K:And it was always.....

T:Yes. Yes.

K:....that way through your career?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:I see. Where did the book budget money come from? Was that also state money?

T:Yes. You see, we were a department of the Agricultural Experiment Station....

K:Un huh.

T:....which is now IFAS.

K:Un huh.

T:Just like horticulture or botany or uh animal science.

K:Uh huh.

T:And so the budget came through the Agricultural uh, Experiment Station, which was a part of the state.

K:Un huh. Was that a budget just for the library or did the departments within the station have a certain budget for buying.....

T:Each....

K:....materials?

T:Each department had a budget.....

K:Un huh.

T:Um, our little salary, everything. Now the departments had a very small amount that they spent for books that they kept in their department.....

K:Un huh.

T:So they were always right in their department.

K:Oh, they had collections separate from yours then?

T:Yes, they did.....

K:Small ones?

T:....because the research worker needed it right at his hand.....

K:Un huh.

T:....so much of the time.

K:Un huh.

T:And they had....some of the departments had acquired, oh several hundred volumes over the years, but eventually all that material was catalogued by us.

K:Un huh.

T:And brought in to the agriculture library. I don't believe any of the departments had material in their own departments, in later years. Maybe just, you know, a volume or two.

K:Yeah.

T:But no library as such.

K:Would that have been brought together before the move to the Hume library?

T:Yes, it was.

K:Was it?

T:Most of it,...

K:Un huh.

T:Yes. I believe veterinary science still had th, maintained their library, until just a few years ago.

K:Un huh. Let me ask you a few more questions about Mrs. Cresap.

T:Un huh.

K:About how old was she when you started to work here in 1929?

T:Well, now let me see. I, I've never been a good judge of age, but I would say Mrs. Cresap was uh, 35, 40.....

K:Un huh.

T:Something like that.

K:I understand that she was a widow, at that time?

T:Yes, yes, I never knew her.....

K:Her husband?

T:No. He had died sometime before she came to Gainesville.

K:Did she ever tell you how she managed, er, how she got the job here? Why, why, and how she came here?

T:Yes, um, Dr. Wilmon Newell was the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and Mrs. Cresap lived in Marianna.

K:Un hum.

T:She.....was writing at that time, for a paper...

K:Un huh.

T:....and I'm not absolutely sure how, but somehow he asked her to come to be editor....

K:Un huh.

T:But when she arrived, the changed it.....

K:Heh heh heh heh.

T:...and she became the librarian, and J. Francis Cooper...

K:Un huh.

T:....came as the editor for the Agricultural Experiment Station.

K:I see. So they came at the same time?

T:I think just about the same time.

K:Un huh. Was she disappointed?

T:No. No. She loved the library.

K:Un huh.

T:And she always loved helping people, and, and had a, wonderful sense of, what's word I want to use, she was almost ahead of her time.

K:Un hum.

T:Because she wanted to expand and do so many um, things that had never been done in a library.

K:Un huh. What did she look like? Could you describe her a little bit physically? Was she a tall woman or was she a dark woman?

T:Yes, she was about uh, five feet eight uh, nine, rather slender. Um, she had a, a little dark complexion, her eyes were brown....

K:Un hum.

T:She could be very stern but she was very good also.

K:Un huh.

T:And um, she, she lived and breathed thinking about the library and how she could um, expand it, how um, she dreamed of the move to a larger building....

K:Un hum.

T:She planned the building for the library as much as it was possible.

K:Un huh.

T:Mrs. Cresap had students that worked in the library, we had many students over the years, and the young people that worked in the library, she began to make them her personal friends....

K:Un huh.

T:And, we were more like a large family.

K:Un hum. Did she have any children of her own?

T:No.

K:She didn't.

T:She did not. Her mother and father lived with her until their death.

K:Un huh.

T:Excuse me. Here in Gainesville.

K:Un huh.

T:She had a nephew that came and stayed with her a great deal....

K:Un huh.

T:...as he was growing up, he spent every summer with her and then he came here to the University.

K:Un huh. How would you describe her uh, attitude towards the use of the library? Would you say that she tried to make it as accessible as possible?

T:Yes. Yes, very much.

K:Uh huh.

T:She was always um, wanting it used more. Um, perhaps I should say,.....I cannot give you dates....

K:Un huh.

T:....but after we began to expand the library....

K:Un huh.

T:...the students wanted, needed to use it so much more....

K:Un huh.

T:....and so there was an agricultural club of students and the president of this club came and talked to Mrs. Cresap about keeping the library open at night.

K:Un huh.

T:Heretofore it had only been open from eight until five each day....

K:Un huh.

T:....Monday through Friday, and eight to two, eight to one on Saturday....

K:Un hum.

T:But, the students also needed, because the material that the professors were giving them, was placed on reserve and kept in the library for them.

K:Un huh.

T:So, she began keeping it over, open three hours at night....

K:Un huh.

T:And for that she had to use student assistants, as we called them. They were students in school,,.....

K:Un huh.

T:And they worked during the day some hours and then they kept the library open at night.

K:I see. So neither one of you would have been there at night?

T:No. No.

K:Un huh.

T:We couldn't work all day and

K:They sure weren't going to pay you for it anyway.....

T:Ha. Well, that's right. But um, you just couldn't do that....

K:Surely.

T:No.

K:Surely. Would you just have had then, when that started, one student there, one student assistant? Or would you have had more than one?

T:We just had one that stayed in the evening.

K:Un huh.

T:At first. And then um, as we expanded, and grew larger, why then we began getting more full-time people.

K:Un huh. Now, ori....

T:In 19....now let me see, in 1942, there was still just Mrs. Cresap and myself, full-time.

K:Un huh.

T:And wa, no, there was one other lady, young woman. And she hired two ladies, part-time, and I guess in 1943, then, one of the ladies um, was hired full-time.

K:Uh huh.

T:And from then on, we began getting more and more full-time assistants.

K:Un huh.

T:We had, maybe five or six student assistants....

K:Un huh.

T:And by 19 and 50, we had, I have to count, ha ha ah ahha ha ha

K:He he heh.

T:There must have been ten full-time assistants and....

K:heh heh heh...

T:and, and at least fifteen student assistants.

K:That's amazing.

T:Yes.

K:When you started, who were the main users of the library? Was
it the staff of the station? Or the...

T:Yes.

K:...student....?

T:No., the staff of the station.

K:It was the staff.

T:Yes.

K:Un huh. Did, did students have to come at that time to take
advantage of materials that were on reserve for agriculture
classes? Or had that started?

T:Yes. Um, no, we didn't have it on reserve when I began work...

K:Un huh.

T:There was, they were kept in the main library...but, it was
only a year or two....

K:Un huh.

T:...until the professors decided they did not have the material
in the main library that we had....

K:Un hum.

T:And um, so they wanted to change it...

K:Un hum.

T:....and have their students come....to the agriculture library.

Which they did. About two years I would say, after I began
work....

K:So did they then remove the agriculture material from the main
library?

T:Over the years....but it was quite some years afterwards....

K:It was a gradual....

T:Yes.

K:...process?

T:Yes. And there were not so many....

K:Un huh.

T:....then.

K:But, before that, the agriculture college must have then been
buying.....

T:Yes....

K:...books....

T:The budget.....

K:....and putting them in the main library....

T:....the budget was increased.....the agricultural college,
then,

K:Un huh...

T:uh, had a certain amount in the budget.....

K:Un huh.

T:....for assistant's help....

K:Un huh.

T:....and for books.

K:I see.

T:And Dr. H. Harold Humewas the,hum.....

K:They call him the dean or the provost or.....

T:Well, he was the provost, he was the dean first....

K:Un huh.

T:....then he became the provost.

K:Un hum.

T:And Dr. W. L. [Wilbur Leonidas] Floyd was the dean of the
college....

K:Un huh.

T:...at the beginning, of my stay.

K:Now, when you started, was it possible for anyone to actually
check materials out of the library? Or did everything have
to be used in the library?

T:The faculty could, could check material out, but not....

K:The faculty.....

T:....not any students.

K:Un huh. And the Experiment people could?

T:Yes.

K:The station's staff could?

T:Yes, Yes.

K:How long would you allow something to go out? For two weeks?

T:Yes, or a month.....

K:Oh really?

T:Unless there was a call for it.

K:Un huh.

T:If there was a call then we uh,

K:Un huh.

T:...would ask them if they could return it.

K:Un hum. Now, of course, at that time, they didn't have computer, computers and and punch cards....how did you actually check a book out to someone?

T:We had a little notebook...

K:Un huh.

T:...that um, looked very similar to a receipt book only it had numbers on it.

K:Un huh.

T:And we wrote, when a faculty member came in and wanted to check a book out, he brought it to the desk and we wrote uh, on this little sheet of paper, the title, and uh, the date, and if it was a periodical, well we put the volume number and then his name.

K:And that was all there was to it...

T:And that was all. And then, we had a large book of regular loose-leaf notebook, that we had material listed by title, in alphabetic order. So, if someone came in and wanted plant pathology, we could look under the title and see who had it.

K:I see. Let me interrupt you for a second....

T:Yes.

K:...and flip this cassette over

End of side one.

K:Oh, not at all. Now, since the uh, stacks were all in the same room as the uh, tables and chairs for people to sit at, I assume that....

T:In the beginning... yes.

K:....is was possible, yes, in the beginning, for students to go through the stacks?

T:Oh yes, oh yes.

K:So it was an open stack situation at the first.

T:Yes.

K:Did they change that later on at any time during your career?
Did they change from open to closed stacks?

T:Yes. We had to. Some years later,....

K:Um hum.

T:Must of been some time in the early 1940's that we had....of a room about three times as large as this that we used as a reading room...

K:Um hum.

T:And there were still small tables under the windows...

K:Uh huh.

T:That the students could, or anyone,

K:Uh huh.

T:...the patrons of the library could use. We had moved and had only the periodicals and the books in this large stack room.

K:Uh huh.

T:By that time, everything had been catalogued, classified, and given a number.

K:Uh huh.

T:And then we had this large reading room with a, a reference desk, and then beyond it was a, a room, a stack room with uh, all of the state documents. And as I told you, we had clo, enclosed the hall on the east end of this building and we had placed the foreign documents out there.

K:Uh huh.

T:And we had a, a long table there, so if any one needed, they could sit there.

K:Uh huh.

T:We had uh, some low window shelves put under each window and there were some tall stools and a person could sit....

K:Uh huh.

T:...to look, when they looked up something. There was no space for people to sit and so that was the best that could be done.

K:Uh huh.

T:And that was during Dr. H. Harold Hume's reign, when he was provost.

K:Uh huh. When you started, um, how much of the material, excuse me, that came to the library, came on an exchange basis, roughly, and how much would have been books that were actually purchased through the budget?

T:When I started, most of the material was on exchange because we received material from all of the agricultural experiment stations, the states.

K:Uh huh.

T:We also received it from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

K:Uh huh.

T:And from uh, some foreign countries. And that was all in exchange...

K:Uh huh.

T:For our, for the documents from the Agricultural Experiment Station here.

K:Uh huh.

T:You see, there was a um, a mailing room on the first floor.

K:Uh huh.

T:And there was a, an agreement between the librarian and the other states whereby our material was sent...

K:Uh huh.

T:...in exchange.

K:Uhhuh.

T:But it came directly to us. So the most of the material at first was on exchange.

K:Did the percentage....

T:I, would say, at least....

K:.....change greatly?

T:Oh yes. Oh yes. Very much so. By 19 and um, oh, by 1935, 40, we were buying much more material.

K:I see.

T:And, Mrs. Cresap had a very good rapport with the director and whenever there was any extra money in the budget...heh,....

K:Uh huh.

T:...that was not in our budget, but in the director's budget, um, if possible, he gave her extra money that we could use for binding or that we could buy books.

K:Uh huh.

T:And when I say, a lot of money, it was a lot of money then.

K:Uh huh.

T:Maybe several thousand dollars.

K:Uh huh. Was there any one of the directors, since you mentioned the directors, with whom she got along with a lot better than any of the others?

T:No, I think she got along with all of the directors.

K:She had a good relationship with each of them.

T:A good relationship, yes she did.

K:I see. Now, did the um, station ever uh, come to receive a portion of the general university's library budget? Or were, were your funds for acquisition always contained within the station budget itself?

T:No. um, There was a, an amount in the main library that was to be spent for books in the agricultural library.

K:Uh huh.

T:I'm trying to remember approximately when that was.....

K:Uh huh.

T:I would say about 1945.

K:Uh huh.

T: Maybe a little later. Anyway, we um, made a listing on cards and sent to the university library acquisitions department.

In other words, we had uh, secured all of the information, the price and whatever could be secured and everything.

K: Uh huh.

T: And sent it, there. And then the books came, at first they were catalogued, in the main library...

K: Uh huh.

T: By using our classification scheme. But that was not satisfactory because there was too great a lapse in the time the books were ordered until they were received.

K: Uh huh.

T: And so, it was eventually changed and all of the books that went through that budget were sent directly to our library.

K: Uh huh.

T: Now we did not have a large staff for cataloguing...

K: Uh huh.

T: But we made the books accessible....

K: Uh huh.

T: ...almost immediately. If we could not catalogue, at one time we were not able to catalogue all of the books, after we moved into IFAS...

K: Uh huh.

T: ...because of, by that time, I had worked all over the library...

K: Uh huh.

T:...reference, everything, and then, I just specialized in cataloguing. We had a, another cataloguer that was most excellent and she left us. She resigned.

K:Uh huh.

T:And after she left, it was impossible for me to keep up with the cataloguing so we used a symbol on the books and put them on a certain shelf and put cards in the catalogue, so that they could be located.

K:Uh huh.

T:We had, I think, three cards for each book. You didn't ask me all that but...ha ha ha...

K:Well, I, I was going to come to that...but let me just double check now to be sure I understand you. Did, was the acquisition and cataloguing of all of your material done by you and Mrs. Cresap until 1940's when the library, general library started to do it.

T:Yes, yes, yes it was.

K:Uh huh. I see.

T:Uh huh, uh huh.

K:And tha, those books...

T:And they...

K:...that were purchased by the library, the general university library, they did it themselves until the change that you're talking about?

T:Yes.

K:Okay.

T:Yes.

K:I see.

T:Yes. Those that were purchased through....

K:Through their budget...

T:Through, ...yes. That's right.

K:Uh huh.

T:And actually it was um, it was called an agricultural fund...

K:Uh huh. Uh huh. But for the books and pamphlets and bulletins
and whatever that were bought by the budget in the
Agricultural Station.....

T:Um hum, yes.....that's right.

K:....you were the one who wrote the letters...

T:Yes.

K:....and you were the one who handled the correspondence....

T:Yes...

K:....with the publishers.....

T:That's right....

K:And you.....

T:That's correct...

K:...did the cataloguing....

T:Um hum. Every bit of it.

K:I see.

T:Yes.

K:I see. As long as, up until that period in the 1940's.

T:Yes, Yes.

K:I see.

T:And then, um, that fund was transferred to our budget....

K:Uh huh.

T:And so, for some, some years, there was not, we did all of the buying.

K:Uh huh.

T:...all of the processing...

K:Uh huh.

T:...of the books.

K:At the time that you retired, was that still the system?

T:Yes.

K:Was everything done in the agricultural library?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:So, they really did nothing for you in the main library?

T:No., No. Not really. Now, another thing, since the main library had a listing of the material on the campus, everything, um, some years before, we had furnished them with cards for all of our material...

K:Uh huh.

T:Since that's the central catalogue.

K:Right.

T:And we continued right on...

K:Uh huh.

T:All new acquisitions, sending them a set of cards for their catalogue. And I guess it's still done-it was.

K:Uh huh. Yes. Uh, you mentioned earlier, that when you began to work here, there was no catalogue to the collection in the station library. When did you and Mrs. Cresap put that together?

T:Uh, now I will say, there was a catalogue, but they were not classified.....

K:Okay.

T:There was a catalogue by author and title...

K:Uh huh.

T:...and and subject matter. But there was no classification number um, the material we started when....

K:Uh huh.

T:In the first, we used what was known as an acquisition number.

K:Uh huh.

T:Acquisition number being our, the number of the book, like it was uh, five hundred and forty and we put that on the back of the book...

K:Uh huh.

T:And on the inside also...

K:Uh huh.

T:And that was all the number that was on any of the volumes until sometime in the early 1930's....

K:Uh huh.

T:And Mrs. Cresap knew then that we would have to have a classification.

K:And before that, every thing had been shelved alphabetically?

T:Yes.

K:Uh huh.

T:Yes.

K:I see.

T:All of the periodicals....we had one shelf about a stack on the wall, that was about as long as this room is wide...

K:Uh huh.

T:That had a number of shelves. And all of the books were placed on that shelf.

K:Hum.

T:There were just so few...

K:Uh huh.

T:The uh, state documents were filed by state and by number as each um, as each state, you know, carried their own number, like one, two, three, bulletin...

K:Uh huh.

T:....in numerical order. The annual reports for, from the state were put all together by date...

K:Uh huh.

T:...and then the, the bulletins or whatever....because there were many different types of bulletins. There would be a bulletin, there would be maybe a technical bulletin, series, uh, uh, or circulars, and at these states, there was also Agricultural Extension Service...

K:Uh huh.

T:....that issued material and so we had that too.

K:Uh huh. Now, there were uh, I'm not sure what you'd call them, but there were sort of branch stations in the state of Florida weren't there,

T:Yes, Yes.

K:....for citrus and what not?

T:Yes, yes.

K:What was your relationship to them as far as the library?

T:Well, very great relationship. We had um, borrowed material for them, from Washington, ...

K:Uh huh.

T:And I might say, if I could just insert this, that Mrs. Cresap borrowed material from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Library of Congress, and then other libraries throughout the United States, especially um, there was one in Baltimore that she used, and there was one at Cornell, in the beginning.

K:Uh huh.

T:Um, and when the research worker, a staff member at one of the branch stations, needed a certain publication, why, she did everything possible to borrow it.

K:Uh huh.

T:And most of the time was able to secure it. Oh, we had tools in the library in which you could find um, what library had a certain periodical....

K:Uh huh.

T:And so you knew just where to write...

K:Uh huh.

T:And request it. Yes, the um, the library, the branch stations borrowed material from us. We circulated material then,...

K:Uh huh.

T:Um,....there were seven branch stations and eleven field laboratories, I believe.

K:Uh huh.

T:The cooperation was excellent between all of them. We um, they had small libraries within their own branch station, and so, in the 1950s, 1950's, we began sending them catalogue cards for state documents ...

K:Uh huh.

T:As we catalogued them here, then we sent them a copy and they could use it as a reference tool, so if they needed something, either we had it or, if they had it. Some of the, uh, branch stations had several thousand volumes that had not been catalogued and so I went to each one of the branch stations

K:Huh.

T:....and made a listing of their material. And brought it home and we, by title, catalogued their material, if we did not have it.

K:Oh, I see.

T:Much of the material we had in the library and we were able to send them the call number and then they would place it on the call number.

K:I see.

T:And we sent them uh, a set of cards for their material. We'd also um, buy rubber stamp, stamped our cards as being in subtropical station or in um, the citrus station or wherever.

K:So that the material at those substations also could be borrowed

T:Yes.

K:.....by a say a staff member here....

T:Yes. If it was not too much in demand there.

K:Uh huh. I see.

T:Uh huh.

K:Who was Mrs. Cresap's immediate supervisor? Was it the
director of the station?

T:Yes. The director of the station.

K:Uh huh.

T:And then, after it became IFAS, why it was um, now what do they
call him now?

K:I think they'd call him a vice-president now.....

T:Vice-president now, yes.

K:I don't think they'd call him a provost....

T:You know, I've gone through so many changes that.....

K:Really!!

T:Uh huh, until, in titles...

K:Uh huh. Uh huh. Let me ask you a little bit about uh the
student assistants, when you

T:Uh huh....

K:....first got them. How would one of those young men obtain a
job. Did, would it just be that he was likely a frequent
user of the library and he would come to Mrs. Cresap and ask
for a job? Or was there a student employment service
when...

T:Oh, no, not then,

K:Not them?

T:Not in the beginning, no.

K:Uh huh.

T:Um, just by someone hearing that we needed someone in the library, they would come in. When I began work, we had one, I started in December, and in January there was a young man that came in and just talked to Mrs. Cresap and she hired um him....

K:Uh huh.

T:And in a month or two, we had another youg man....

K:Do you have any idea how much they paid them at that time?

T:About thirty cents an hour.

K:Uh huh.

T:Uh huh. And do you know um, in 1936 and 7, along there, we had what was known as uh, National Youth Association, NYA funds?

K:Uh huh.

T:The students then were paid fifteen cents an hour....

K:Really?

T:Uh huh. Out of that fund.

K:I see. Did um, along those lines, did this library, in any way, have any connection with the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression?

T:Um, not any, any special way that I can remember....

K:Uh huh.

T:It seems to me that there was some group that came and wanted to make a list of some material in the library and I'm sorry, I do not remember just what it was.

K:Uh huh.

T:It was federally funded

K:Uh huh.

T:...and they came in and made a list of our material and I do not know what they did with it.

K:Uh huh. But for some kind of federal Project during...

T:Yes, Yes, it was.

K:....the Depression? Okay.

T:It was just more like a list of the periodicals.

K:Uh huh. Uh, you mentioned a little bit earlier that as you acquired more help in the library, your duties uh, came to center mainly on cataloguing, is that accurate?

T:Yes, yes.

K:By what time were you mostly involved in doing the cataloguing?
Just roughly.

T:About 19 and 54, 3,

K:Uh huh.

T:Somewhere like that....

K:Uh huh. As....

T:Mostly cataloguing then...

K:Uh huh. As, as the library staff expanded, could you give me any idea of the uh, the kinds of skilled person that you acquired in order, in other words, when you started to get more full-time help...

T:Um huh.

K:...did you start to get, say, a reference librarian person first, or did you get uh, an acquisitions librarian person, or were you interested in that kind of distinction?

T:Yes, but we did not get uh, professional people.

K:Uh huh.

T:There was not funds for professional people.

K:Uh huh.

T:And uh, by that time, World War II and the veterans and families

K:.....Uh huh.

T:...had come back to school

K:Uh huh.

T:....and so we had many student wives that worked with us.

K:I see.

T:Uh, they were giving some training in the library as to how to use our material and tools and so forth, and most of them were college graduates.

K:Uh huh.

T:First we had acquired someone to stay at the circulation....

K:Uh huh.

T:...because by that time, the library was open at night and uh, we kept a full-time person at night as well as a student assistant or maybe two student assistants.

K:Uh huh.

T:And then, we had the acquisitions, well the person that did the buying, also did the um, the secretarial work for Mrs. Cresap.

K:Uh huh.

T:So, we did rather become de, you might say departmentalized,....

K:Uh huh.

T:All together, but um, for instance, Joan Lowe had charge of the um, circulation, and we always look to her and then there was um, Katherine, was in acquisitions, and she was the one that you went to for something there, and uh, this uh, librarian, the uh, cataloguer that came, uh, Lillian and I did the cataloguing.

K:Uh huh.

T:And so it was either one of us.

K:So it, it was really the uh, you and Mrs. Cresap, as you acquired people were departmentalizing them,

T:Yes.

K:but that they were not coming to you as professionally trained librarians....

T:That's right. Yes.

K:....in acquisitions or whatever....

T:Yes, it was a long time, in fact it was....after we moved uh, uh, to IFAS, and to these buildings...

K:Uh huh.

T:and the first, um, well now, now, the, the cataloguer that I spoke of, Lillian,....

K:Uh huh.

T:....she was a, a professional librarian.

K:Uh huh.

T:And she had been with us for some years....

K:Uh huh.

T:...five or six.....

K:What was her, her name?

T:Lillian Urschel.

K:Urschel? How would you spell that?

T:U r s c h e l. Urschel. I'm leaving something out here.

K:Wou, would you like to go ahead and uh, and and talk about any
of those points?

T:Uh...

K:Because I was going to ask you when I got done to talk about
any of those....but there's no reason we can't do it now....

T:All right, no, I'll go on with this then.

K:Okay.

T:Um, after we moved into the new building, IFAS, Lillian Urschel
moved over with us, and my, we moved that library, which was
a job. And then she, resigned, and after she resigned, the
person that replaced her was Albert Strickland who is now
the librarian.

K:I see.

T:Um, next, we didn't have any other trained professional people
until after Mrs. Cresap retired.

K:I see.

T:I....and I guess the next person, professional, was Bill
Weaver, who is still reference librarian, wait a minute,
someone else came before Bill Weaver and his name was
McCloskie...

K:Uh huh.

T:....and he was trained.

K:Un huh.

T:....and the Bill Weaver. And after uh, Alber Strickland and I shared the cataloguing. He did most of the cataloguing for the material that we acquired and I was going to the branch stations and keeping up with their material.

K:Uh huh.

T:Um, and then we secured um, an acquisitions librarian and she's still here...Anne King.

K:Uh huh.

T:In the meantime, Mrs., before that, Mrs. Cresap had retired, Mr. Strickland was Acting,

K:Uh huh.

T:Until Fleming Bennett....Mrs. Cresap retired in 1963, and Fleming Bennett became our head librarian in 1964.

K:Un huh.

T:And then Albert Strickland came back to his uh, duties in cataloguing.

K:So most of these people you have just referred to came either in the 1960's or the....

T:Yes,

K:....1970's

T:Yes.

K:Uh huh. Uh huh. Could you tell us a little bit about the move to the new library? I'm sure that must have been a very challenging job.

T:Yes, it was. But, by that time, the material was all catalogued.

K:Uh huh.

T:We had,three, three stack levels.

K:Uh huh.

T:And we decided what material would be placed on each level...

K:Uh huh.

T:Well, all this material was on the second floor in Rolfs...and
so Mrs. Cresap talked to Mr. George Freeman who was head of
a group of men that worked for the Agricultural Experiment
Station...

K:Uh huh.

T:Really, farm helpers,

K:Uh huh.

T:And they brought in orange crates...

K:Huh.

T:And there was one person that stayed with 'um, in the libr, in
the old library, and we showed them, book by book, which to
put in an orange crate...

K:Uh huh. Huh.

T:And the orange crates were tagged by the next person, like, we
began with one,,,.

K:Uh huh.

T:...and went right along. And they built a chute from the
landing on the second floor down to the truck....

K:heh heh heh...

T:Ha ha ha and the material was put down the chute and the
truck went then to the new building and we had two of our
regular uh, helpers over there with some student
assistants,...

K:Huh.

T:And uh they shelved the material. It was quite a hah ha ha....

K:It must have been something to see....

T:It really was. But you would be amazed how quickly it was done. Because we worked very fast but still the material was placed in its proper order

K:Uh huh.

T:...on the shelves....and one person had charge of moving the card catalogue because by that time, there were many thousands of cards...

K:Uh huh.

T:And we had a new, ...cat, catalogue over there. So um,

K:How long would you say the whole process took as far as moving the collection?

T:About two weeks.

K:Two weeks? Well, that's not bad.

T:No, it was remarkable. It was in October. Ha ha.

K:I, I assume you, you had to shut down during that two-week period.

T:We did. Yes.

K:Uh huh.

T:Yes. But that was all.

K:No, that's not bad.

T:No. Then we opened right up.. I think maybe there was uh, uh, maybe we didn't quite take two weeks because we moved in completed, I'd say, on Wednesday, and on Friday we, we asked the, had open house for the libraries on campus...

K:Uh huh.

T:...and then we opened on Monday.

K:Huh. Do you, excuse me, do you remember ever hearing Mrs.
Cresap talk about Cora Miltimore?

T:Yes.

K:...who had been the main librarian?

T:Yes, I knew her, too.

K:Oh, did you know her? Was she still here when you arrived?

T:Yes, yes.

K:Could you tell us something about her, her personality and her
character?

T:Well,now my um, I don't know what to tell you here,....uh,
I didn't have uh, really personal contact with her very
much...

K:Uh huh.

T:At one time, between she and Mrs. Cresap, there was a rivalry,
a jealousy you might say.

K:Uh huh.

T:And, and I can not tell you the, the whys of that because I do
not know.

K:Uh huh.

T:Except uh, some of the people in other colleges came to us and
we would borrow material for them, and they said they
received it so much quicker.

K:Ohhh.

T:And, I, evidently there was some jealousy in that...

K:Uh huh.

T:...way.

K:Uh huh.

T:But, uh, otherwise, they got along all right.

K:Uh huh. Did you ever hear Mrs. Cresap say anything more a,
about her, about the way she ran the uh, main library or
anything.

T:No. No. No.

K:Uh huh.

T:So far as I knew, all right.

K:Uh huh.

T:Uh, evidently, you know, back then, as I guess always in
libraries, there were growing pains, because you were
getting so much more material

K:Uh huh.

T:...then you had personnel to take care of and to classify and
to catalogue. I remember especially in the biology
department, that the, the uh, men, came to Mrs. Cresap ...

K:Uh huh.

T:...and asked her to, to secure material that they needed to,
um for research....

K:Uh huh.

T:...not to buy, but just for a loan.

K:Uh huh. I've been told by more than one person that Miss
Miltimore was very strict about the use of the library.
Have you heard that sort of thing?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:Do you think Mrs. Cresap was more anxious to have people actually get ahold of the material?

T:Yes. Uh, Mrs. Cresap always said she would like for the shelves to be bare...

K:Uh huh.

T:She always wanted the material used...

K:Uh huh. And you, at some point, have heard, that Miss Miltimore was a little bit more restrictive about...?

T:Yes, I hate to say, she didn't want the material used but, but they wouldn't check the material out....

K:Uh huh.

T:And, students were not permitted to, the agricultural students, now that's all I'm,

K:Sure.

T:....can speak for. But they were not, at that time.

K:Uh huh.

T:And after we began keeping the library open at night and letting the agricultural students use the material, there was some materials that they could check out.

K:Uh huh.

T:Now, if a professor had put the material on reserve, of course they could not. Unless he said it might be checked out.

K:Uh huh. Was there any particular contact between the uh, librarians in the main library and and you and Mrs. Cresap? In other words, were your contacts more naturally with the people in agriculture, or did you really have many

friendships with, with the people working in the main library?

T:We, we had some friendships, yes, with the people in the main library. Even before we began uh, this uh, they buying and and do forth. We had some, some friends there.

K:Uh huh.

T:And uh, but we did not uh, I'm sorry I pause so, but I'm trying to get my facts together...for you...

K:Uh huh.

T:We had contacts, and then after we began sending them cards for the central catalogue....may I go back?

K:Surely.

T:And tell you that in,....there was a librarian, a Dr. Koolman, that came to the lib, to the University of Florida and made a survey of the libraries on the campus.

K:Uh huh.

T:And made a recommendation. And it was through his recommendation that the main library became a central library for uh, the cards ...

K:Uh huh.

T:...all over the campus.

K:Uh huh.

T:And after that time, we had more contact because um, the catalogue department from the main library sent a few people over to our library and with a typewriter, and they just sat for days and copied our card catalogue.

K:I see.... uh huh.

T:So much of it.

K:So after that you, you had more frequent contactwith....

T:Oh yes, yes. We had, and and uh, contact in calling back and to or we could go over or something.

K:Uh huh.

T:And then, about then, is when um, the fund was in the, the university library. And we sent them the cards for the acquisitions of the books. And we had contact then, very pleasant contact with uh, the different departments.

K:I see. I've also been told that Miss Miltimore tried to be very strict with the personal lives of the young women who were working for her. Is that your impression?

T:I'm sorry, ...I could, have no idea about that?

K:You just don't.... Did you know Miss [Henrie May] Eddy? From the library?

T:Yes, Yes.

K:What was she like? Or did you know her very well?

T:I didn't know her very well, but it seemed to me that she changed things a little bit, that uh,....

K:Uh huh.

T:.....she wanted the material used more than had been before. She was more, there seemed to be a, maybe a better contact or uh, relationship, or working together,...

K:Uh huh.

T:...with Miss Eddy. Of course Miss Eddy was only librarian a short time....

K:She was killed in an accident, wasn't she?

T:In a plane accident, yes.

K:Someone told me that she was on her way to visit the Rolfs family...

T:Yes, in Brazil....

K:Is that true?

T:Yes.

K:Uh huh. Did you know Dean Rolfs at all?

T:Yes. Yes. Yes. They came back. See, they, he had been dean of the agricultural college and then he went to Brazil.....

K:Uh huh.

T:...and uh, Dr. Wilmon Newell was our director then.

K:Uh huh.

T:Well, after Dean Rolfs came back to the United States, he came in to the library quite frequently and used the materials.

K:Wha, what....

T:So I did know him.....

K:What sort of a person was he?

T:He was uh, very highly educated, he was a very tall uh, man, and you, one that you felt you could look up to....in many ways, he was kind.

K:Uh huh.

T:But he, he knew what he wanted,

K:Uh huh.

T:He knew how to ask for it and uh, he was very, very fine.

K:How about Dean Newell? Could you tell us a little bit about him?

T:Yes. I never had much contact with Dr. Newell. Dr. Newell was dean of the college. He was director of the Experiment Station, and he was head of the, uh, Plant Industry.

K:Uh huh.

T:All at the same time! So um, he was in his little office and it was only the department heads really, that had contact with him,....

K:Uh huh.

T:He was very friendly, if you met him in the hall or anything like that....

K:Uh huh. He, himself, did not have much occasion to use the library?

T:No. No. He did not. And you see, then, um, when we had the fruit fly infestation, he left the university and went to Orland and had charge of that....eradication....

K:Uh huh.

T:Well, now, that was really before I began work, but he came back after I had started work.

K:I'm going to stop for a second and put a fresh uh,...

T:All right.

END OF TAPE A - SIDE TWO.

K:Okay, I'd also like to ask you a little bit about Dean Hume and uh, if he had uh, a supportive relationship with the library, and what you thought of him.

T:Yes, Dean Hume had a very supportive attitude and uh, he was in the library quite frequently....

K:Uh huh.

T:Dean Hume was a, a person that always seemed to have the most wonderful memory....

K:Uh huh.

T:...because the, if you asked him, if he asked you where a certain place was, or, or, we had large maps and maybe he wanted something and you'd say, "oh, I don't remember,""if you ever knew, you know now," he would say.

K:Heh heh heh

T:Anyway, he had a very good relationship and he was in the library. It was un, during his administration that um, we secured more funds....

K:Uh huh.

T:....for student, books, and I was telling you a little bit ago about these window ledges....

K:Uh huh.

T:He came in one day when Mrs. Cresap was not in and told me he wanted to put these window ledges in and I said, "Well, Dr. Hume, I'll tell Mrs. Cresap." And he said, "Miss Tyson, I'll put them in." Ha ha ha ha ha ha.

K:ha ha ah ha ha ha ha.

T:He had the authority, of course,...

K:Uh huh.

T:But I always referred to Mrs. Cresap....

K:Oh, surely. Uh huh. He sounds like a very decisive sort of man....

T:He was, yes. He, he uh, very, he was very fine. He was very good to work with...

K:Uh huh. Can you tell me anything about Dr.[Wilbur Leonidas] Floyd? Or did you get to know him at all?

T:Yes. I knew Dr. Floyd. Now, I, I didn't know him so well but he was the dean of the college and he did come into the library quite often and he had, um, I don't remember why, I, I went to the office a number of times, something about books, pertaining to books or magazines....

K:Uh huh.

T:And he was always very pleasant, very kind man.

K:Uh huh.

T:One of the kindest that I have known.

K:Did, did he have much contact with students? Are you aware of th.....

T:Yes. Oh yes, he did.

K:Did he?

T:Yes, he did.

K:Uh huh.

T:As the students came in, they always went, the agricultural students, went to his uh, well it was uh, right all under his jurisdiction.

K:Uh huh.

T:And so he had quite a lot of contact with the students.

K:Uh huh. Did you know Thompson Van Hyning? The man who was the director of the museum? At all?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:What sort of a character was he?

T:Dr. Van Hyning had served as part-time librarian before Mrs. Cresap.

K:I see.

T:Half-time I believe. Half-time with the museum and half-time with the agricultural library.

K:Uh huh.

T:And of course, the Experiment Station library.

K:Uh huh.

T:Um, yes, Dr.[Mr.] Van Hyning um, came in and and um, consulted with Mrs. Cresap quite often....and I didn't know him to well.....

K:Uh huh.

T:He was very pleasant to just pass the time but that's all that I knew.....

K:Did, did she ever discuss, in any way, the kinds of things that he might have done with the library? I'm sure that there wasn't much and that there wasn't much that he would have done with it....but....

T:No, there wasn't much that he cou, I'm sure could have done, except perhaps, uh, buy some few books and and get some together as,

K:Uh huh.

T:....because when Mrs. Cresap came, the library was in one room...

K:Uh huh.

T:...in Newell Hall [Experiment Station Building].

K:Uh huh.

T:And after the horticultural building [Rolfs Hall] was erected, then it was moved to the second floor.

K:I see.

T:And that's where Dr.[Mr.] Van Hyning was part-time librarian.

K:So it's your understanding that he was the, the part-time librarian immediately before she

T:Yes.

K:There, there was nobody else that you know of in between....

T:Not that I know of, no.

K:Uh....

T:She came in 1923.

K:Uh huh. I meant to ask you if there were certain parts of library work that Mrs. Cresap preferred or enjoyed more than others? Was there anything that she particularly enjoyed?

T:I think she uh, especially enjoyed working with thethe branch stations, and that's something that I wanted to tell you about...

K:Uh huh.

T:She organized after talking to the director, what we called a library workshop.

K:Uh huh.

T:...for the branch stations. It began in Gainesville by uh, one or two members from each branch station and maybe a secretary, coming to the meeting and it was known as a library workshop, and where we had a two-day meeting,...

K:Uh huh.

T:....discussing problems and how we could help the research worker, how we could get the material to them best,

K:Uh huh.

T:...uh, see what they wanted....and she uh named that the uh, the "Bridge", to bridge the gap between the research worker and the literature.

K:Uh huh.

T:And we had a workshop every year, from from the first inception.

K:Uh huh.

T:Um, we did not always have it in Gainesville. We went to a branch station....

K:Oh.

T:Um, maybe we went to north Florida, up at Quincy, and people from all over the state came...

K:Uh huh.

T:...and we held it in that uh, branch station....

K:Uh huh.

T:...and that way, when you see the, the needs of, of north Florida, you can better understand and know how to help them.

K:Uh huh.

T:....and uh, we went to uh, Homestead, to the subtropical experiment station, we went to citrus, uh, the different stations all over the state.

K:So she really had two purposes in mind: to acquaint the people in the field with the literature that was coming out and....

T:That's right.

K:....also to find how she could better acquire material

T:Yes. Yes.

K:Uh huh.

T:Yes. And that, the beginning of that, was when we began going to the branch stations, then, to catalogue their materials.

K:I see.

T:Many, much of the material was in, well, one professor's office or another professor's office and um, um, Mr. Smith didn't know what Mr. Jones had....

K:Uh huh.

T:And maybe Mr. Jones then would buy a copy,

K:Uh huh.

T:...and need it too, ...

K:Right.

T:....and so when I went to the branch stations, then we'd pull the material out of all the professors' offices and set it up in one room.

K:Uh huh.

T:And if, they uh, uh, one of the professors or one of the research workers, because that's what they were there, one of the research workers needed a book all the time in his

office, there was still a record as to where that material was.

K:Uh huh.

T:So if someone else needed to see it for a few minutes, he could just go to his office and and see it.

K:At least he knew of its existence anyway.

T:Yes. Yes.

K:I see.

T:And that, that uh, was, was, she enjoyed that very much.

Actually I would hate to say what Mrs. Cresap enjoyed the most because all of it was, she just lived it day and night....

K:Uh huh.

T:....to get more um, literature into the research workers' hands...

K:Uh huh. What did she do after she retired? Did she keep any connection with the library?

T:Yes, but Mrs. Cresap had become very much involved with a public library in Gainesville....

K:Oh... Uh huh.

T:And she'd been on the library board for some years, and when the library was built, which is, uh, was before the present one, ...

K:Uh huh.

T:She was very instrumental in in uh, helping that. And she did, up unhtil her death.

K:I see.

T:Uh, was still, I believe, still on the board of the library.

K:Uh huh. I see. I believe you mentioned, a while earlier, that she did have some input into the designing of the Hume Library? Is that right?

T:Yes, she did. Uh, she had uh, the plans, in fact, she drew plans....

K:Uh huh.

T:But, those plans had to be altered. You know, in a library, you have a certain formula that you plan so much material for certain number of years. Well, she started out with room for twenty-five years, and every, nearly every year, they'd say, well, they didn't have enough funds.

K:Uh huh.

T:So, she'd have to go, re-do,....

K:Uh huh.

T:...the plans. "Well, we'll have to uh, make this a little bit smaller," and she did that either two or three times, and the last time, um, they asked her to plan for ten years....

K:Uh huh.

T:And she said uh, "Well," she'd plan for ten years but she would never touch it again. And so, she did plan,...

K:Uh huh.

T:...the library part. Of course, the auditorium she had no nothing to do with that....

K:Uh huh.

T:She was just told what space she would have and then she planned within the space.

K:I see.

T:Was she very pleased or, or disappointed do you know, that the building was on several level, levels, the library part, I mean.?

T:It was all right, the stack levels, that was just fine.

K:Un huh.

T:But, uh, she was displeased with the way you have to get into the library...

K:Uh huh.

T:Because in the beginning, people couldn't find us. And uh, you see, there was no entrance, ground floor, and uh, there was no name anywhere....

K:Uh huh

T:...except right over the door into the auditorium, there was a name.

K:Uh huh.

T:But only the people coming through McCarty Hall could ever see it. So she was displeased in that.

K:I don't blame her. I had a small criticism of the library that way myself.

T:Uh huh.

K:That's all the prepared questions that I wanted to ask you.

Would you like to talk about any more of the points that you have there?

T:Yes. I wanted to go back and tell you that, one thing especially,...

K:Uh huh.

T:...and they had a branch library in Atlanta for forestry. I believe it was about 1951 or 2, um, Congress had some of the branch libraries closed, or some, some, anyway,

K:Uh huh.

T:...this library was closed. And all of their material was brought to um, was sent to our library, agricultural library....

K:Ohhh.

T:And we absorbed it and put it in our collection and reclass, catalogued it...

K:Uh huh.

T:And then serviced the uh forestry department over the southeastern states. There was a fund set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture of several thousand dollars, enough that we were able to have one full-time person and uh, we had a, to take care of the circulation of this material and they would send us from Washington, material to be routed....

K:Uh huh.

T:...you would make a, a list and it would go to maybe a station in uh, Louisiana, and they's send it to another station in, and before it came back.

K:Uh huh.

T:And maybe there would be a dozen copies of one periodical and then we kept one copy or maybe two copies in the library permanently, ...

K:Uh huh.

T:...of this material.

K:Uh huh.

T:And that was uh, carried on for oh, five or six years.....

K:Uh huh.

T:Before there was not enough funds and uh, we were not able to
continue it.

K:But the.... the material ...you gained.....

T:But the material remained.....

K:Uh huh.

T:Yes, and became a part of the agricultural library.

K:That must have been quite an acquisition.

T:Yes, it was.

K:Uh huh.

T:It was. They even sent some of their files....

K:Huh.

T:...and uh, some typewriters, some equipment....

K:Uh huh.

T:You see.

K:I see. Are there any other points that you, you'd like to um,
mention?

T:No. I believe that's the most um, that I had, um,....

K:I don't think I asked you if, if your term of service at the
university was continuous between, between 1929 and and time
that you retired?

T:Yes. Yes.

K:Straight through.

T:Yes. I began in 1929....

K:Quite a stretch...

T:And retired in 1970. Yes. And I came in, as I said, as a secretary. And um, in 1957 I was made a member of the faculty....

K:I see.

T:...given the faculty status.

K:Do you uh, get over there very much any more?

T:No. No. Not very much. But uh, real often, even until just recently, Albert Strickland will call me and tell me things that they're doing, and ask if, "do you remember did we ever have so and so?"

K:Uh huh.

T:You know, when you grow up with something you, you remember it.

K:That's right.

T:And uh each book or each move, and he will call and say, "someone told us that uh, we received such and such a person's desk." "Did we?" I said, "No. We didn't ever have that man's desk".

K:Uh huh.

T:I, I questions that um,.....

K:Uh huh.

T:....so he does still call me.

K:That must be a nice feeling.

T:It is, it's very nice, yes it is.

K:Uh huh.

T:I enjoyed my work. It was very, very um, strenuous and at times, because I had been there so long, when we moved in to

uh, Hume Library, Mrs. Cresap had my office placed the first office after you go through the reading room into, by the circulation desk. So, anyone at circulation that want, didn't understand or didn't know, came and asked me,,, "Do we have so and so, where is it?" ,and I just knew, I don't know. ha ha ha

K:Ha ha ha.

T:Most of the time.

K:Uh huh.

T:And there were many of the faculty that um I had helped over the years that even though I only did cataloguing, I was supposed to do, they still came and asked me about certain materials.

K:Well, I'd like to thank you very much and um, once again, we will be sending a copy of this back to you, probably in between six or eight weeks.....

T:Uh huh.

K:And if you get a chance to go over it, we'd appreciate it.

T:All right, I'd be glad to. I um, I hope some way, this can be pulled together and not rambled like I have because....um...

K:Well, I don't think that um.....