Interview with Charlotte West

DGB-V-D-2005-009
Interview Date: March 13, 2005
Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

COPYRIGHT

A Note to the Reader

This transcript is based on an interview recorded by Ellyn Bartges. Readers are reminded that the interview of record is the original video or audio file, and are encouraged to listen to portions of the original recording to get a better sense of the interviewee's personality and state of mind. The interview has been transcribed in near-verbatim format, then edited for clarity and readability, and reviewed by the interviewee. For many interviews, the ALPL Oral History Program retains substantial files with further information about the interviewee and the interview itself. Please contact us for information about accessing these materials.

Bartges: It's March thirteenth, and I am in Estero, Florida. We're talking with Dr. Charlotte West. Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed today. I'm going to start quickly. Can I have your name? Oh, I gave your name, never mind. Where'd you go to high school?

West: St. Petersburg High School.

Bartges: Here in Florida?

West: Yes. Just north of Sarasota.

Bartges: Did you play sports in high school?

West: Yes.

Bartges: What kind?

West: I played volleyball, basketball, softball, and was a swimmer.

Bartges: These sports were organized?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Were they play days or GAA [Girls' Athletic Association] days, interscholastic?

West: Interscholastic, low-level but interscholastic.

Bartges: Was there one level of varsity team, or was there just one team and it wasn't really labeled as varsity?

West: No, there was the varsity and then there was a second team.

Bartges: Your coaches—were they PE teachers?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Were they paid, do you know?

West: I don't think they got any kind of a supplement. I think they did it out of the kindness of their heart and the love of the sport.

Bartges: Were there assistant coaches?

West: No, but a couple of them would have open tryouts, say for volleyball, and we'd pick a team. And I can't remember back—probably one coached the first team, and one coached the second team.

Bartges: You mentioned tryouts. I'm particularly interested in basketball, but in any of the sports—so you had tryouts in high school?

West: We did tryouts. Some people made the team and some didn't, and then some were on the first team and some were on the second team.

Bartges: Do you have any idea about how many kids tried out?

West: Oh, I can remember trying out in volleyball. And I'll give kind of a little humorous story; why I remember that is they had three courts and after some drills and everything, they would move people up. And it was obvious that if you got moved up to the top court, that they were considering you as the varsity. And I had a sister two years older than me, both were adopted. And she had no skill and no interest and would not—would do anything to not

even take PE [Physical Education]. So I was moving up, and they said, "Name?" And I said, "West." And just nonchalantly she said, "Not any relation to Dorothy West?" And I kind of grimaced and said, "Yes, she is my sister." Well, she went and told the other gym teacher, and they were laughing. And so I remember going home and saying, "It was an embarrassment." (laughter) Because a friend of mine, Mary Jane, her older sister was good. And I said, "They asked Bumpus 'Is Jackie your sister?' 'Yes.' That was fine. But no, they laughed when—" (laughter) So I can remember that—moving up.

Bartges: How big was your high school?

West: Large, five hundred-plus in the graduating class.

Bartges: You played other schools, obviously?

West: Yes, we played Largo, Tampa, Clearwater.

Bartges: How did you travel?

West: Mamas and daddies, (laughs) mostly mamas.

Bartges: I'm going to deal with basketball here.

West: Well, I will say, too, on occasion we also had school buses.

Bartges: Okay.

West: So I played nine, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and so we did have buses. I can remember some bus rides.

Bartges: Do you remember if your coach drove?

West: No, the coach did not drive.

Bartges: You played six-player basketball or was it five?

West: No, it was six.

Bartges: Was it with a rover[1]?

[1] In the 1950s and 1960s women's basketball was often played with two stationary guards, two stationary forwards, and two "rovers" who were allowed to run the entire court.
http://www.ncweb.com/biz/sherock/history.html

West: Not at that time, but when I was playing high school basketball, we had a city team that was commercially sponsored, and the gym teachers asked me to play on that commercial team. So we played, and we played six players. But I think it was the year I graduated or the year after, we played in two state tournaments adjacent weekends. And we played three-on-three one weekend, and we played the roving player—I was a rover the other weekend. And it was interesting because we won the tournament with the rover like fifty-eight to fifty-nine. I remember the score because I've told this story a lot as basketball has evolved. And when we played the rover, it was—I mean, when we played three-on-three, we scored over a hundred points.

Bartges: Oh my. (laughter) When you played three-on-three, were you a guard or forward?

West: I was a forward, but I would play guard as needed depending on the strategy, but I was predominantly a forward.

Bartges: Was your coach in high school from Florida, do you know?

West: My coach graduated from Florida State and taught at St. Pete [St. Petersburg]. Excellent coach and an excellent, excellent athlete. So I had good training.

Bartges: When did you practice in high school?

West: We practiced in the afternoon, because I remember we didn't go back at night. Now you're going to ask me what were the boys doing.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: That was a long time ago. (laughs)

Bartges: I know.

West: But I know when I was swimming, we had rotation—three different schools using the same pool—and we'd have to swim at suppertime and in the evening; we rotated around. When we practiced volleyball, there was no problem because that was football, and now it's basketball. We did practice at night. The boys had the primetime in the afternoon, and we did practice at night. I don't think we practiced every night.

Bartges: That was my next question, how many times a week did you practice? You may not remember, that's okay. Did you ever practice on Saturdays, or before school?

West: I know for sure we never practiced before school. We practiced in the evening. And I'm sure there were some Saturdays when we practiced.

Bartges: Did you ever have class teams or was it just like you mentioned, a varsity—

West: It was varsity.

Bartges: Okay.

West: It was varsity.

Bartges: What kind of uniforms did you have?

West: Our teacher made them. She was an excellent seamstress.

Bartges: Renaissance woman.

West: Yes.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: Florida State had asked for some pictures, like when we got to college, and they were going back and trying to do some history of that club and all. And as I got into some of those old pictures, I had a picture of me on the high school basketball team with these uniforms, we all had these uniforms. And I thought when I looked at that how that lady made all those uniforms (laugh) for each one of us, and they were well done.

Bartges: What did you practice in?

West: Just whatever.

Bartges: Shorts?

West: Shorts. Shorts and shirts.

Bartges: But not your PE [physical education] uniforms?

West: No.

Bartges: Okay. What was your coach's name?

West: Anna Geise.

Bartges: G-i-s-e?

West: G-e-i-s-e.

Bartges: Okay. When did you graduate from high school?

West: In 1950.

Bartges: What's the highest level of education you have?

West: Ph.D.

Bartges: Where'd you go to college, starting with your bachelor's degree?

West: Bachelor's at Florida State, and I have a degree in mathematics and physical education.

Bartges: It's a dual major?

West: Well, I started out in math because there was still kind of a taboo about women in PE back then who weren't real bright. (laughs) I started out in math and finished with a double major, four years of college with—I had one half-hour elective to get that double major in. And I did my practice teaching in both fields. But when I started to teach, I taught all PE.

Bartges: What's your—

West: And then my master's degree was University of North Carolina at Greensboro. And I got my degree there in dance and physical education because in my teaching, my two years of teaching before I got my master's, I enjoyed teaching dance to the high school girls so much. And then my Ph.D. was at University of Wisconsin, and I went back into the math area and measurement and physical education.

Bartges: The measurement being—

West: In ed psych [educational psychology].

Bartges: Being geared towards PE?

West: Well, you know, the basic courses no, but any applied work, yes.

Bartges: Okay. What was your dissertation topic?

West: It was all on reliability theory and repeated measures for different psychomotor skills.

Bartges: Okay. Are you familiar with the postal tournament in Illinois?

West: No, not at all.

Bartges: Okay. You mentioned a city team. Would you consider that an industrial league?

West: Yes, exactly. R. H. Hall, Calvinators, Maytags. (laughter)

Bartges: Were those the names of your team?

West: We were R. H. Hall, and we traveled to Miami, Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando.

Bartges: And what is R. H. Hall? Is that a business?

West: It's the name of a business that would sell refrigerators and stoves.

Bartges: It was a local business?

West: A local business.

Bartges: Okay.

West: He sponsored a very prominent softball team. And St. Petersburg, you know, has the first century men's softball league, baseball league. And they always played the women, so the women—R. H. Hall Women's Softball Team was well known, and they always would go to national like the Caterpillars used to.

Bartges: Right.

West: And he went ahead then and sponsored volleyball and basketball too.

Bartges: Did you play softball for them as well?

West: A little bit. I was not an A+ softball player by (laughs) any means.

Bartges: What position did you play?

West: But I played volleyball and—a lot of volleyball—setter—and basketball. As I said, I played guard and forward. And in softball I did some catching.

Bartges: Okay. This was obviously a summer league, or did it happen during the school year?

West: The basketball?

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: Oh, it was during the school year.

Bartges: And you started playing on this city team while you were still in high school?

West: When I was still in high school.

Bartges: Was there ever a conflict with your high school versus the city team?

West: No, because neither of us had that many games. And since Anna Geise, my coach, was the head person on the city team—

Bartges: Oh, okay—

West: —she made the schedules compatible for all of us.

Bartges: So she was the city team coach?

West: She was the city team coach and player.

Bartges: Okay. What was the age group of the people on the city team, I mean a spread?

West: Oh, well, I was the youngest because they started—they asked me when I was a junior in high school.

Bartges: So about sixteen or seventeen?

West: And I would say we had people on the team maybe thirty, up to thirty. Sixteen to thirty.

Bartges: Did you have uniforms?

West: Yes.

Bartges: What were they like?

West: They were orange satin. (laughter)

Bartges: And did you have a nickname, or was it just R. H. Hall?

West: Just R. H. Hall.

Bartges: Three-player, six-on-six. And that was with a rover? Or you said you did one weekend with—

West: We did both. We did both. We played any games we could, both ways. Eventually it went to just rover, AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] basketball.

Bartges: Did you ever play five-on-five?

West: No, I never played five-on-five. I was involved with—when the Division of Girls' and Women's Sport was moving to the rover, and we had to time the rovers because some ladies were so concerned with how much activity they were having—and so Southern Illinois University, where I was coaching, we participated in the study. And every game we'd have people time the rovers.

Bartges: Time them from one end of the court to the other?

West: How many times they were active. So if you were a rover, somebody had a stopwatch on you.

Bartges: See how much physical time, minutes, you were running around?

West: Yes, uh-huh. Yes.

Bartges: And what was the—

West: It was so ironical because field hockey was accepted and we raced up and down the field the whole time, but some people were ultraconservative with

respect to what women could really do physiologically. I was a great proponent (laughs) of moving that way, looking toward five-player.

Bartges: You mentioned a sister. You say you have two sisters?

West: Just one.

Bartges: One sister? Any brothers?

West: No.

Bartges: And you mentioned she wasn't particularly athletic, so it wasn't like you played catch. Did you play catch with your dad or do anything like that?

West: No.

Bartges: Okay.

West: Neither of my parents were inclined to be athletes, but they were very supportive of me.

Bartges: That was my next question, were your folks supportive?

West: Oh, totally supportive, you know. When we started playing basketball, my parents would—my father would embarrass me because I'd make a basket and he'd clap and clap. Everybody else would have stopped clapping and he'd still be clapping. (laughter) So I got a lot of support that way.

Bartges: I'm going to skip back for a second to your high school. I asked you about practices and things like that, but when you played games, were there fans in the stands?

West: Some, but they were mostly parents, boyfriends, girlfriends.

Bartges: Did they charge to get in?

West: No. No.

Bartges: When you played on your city league team, were there fans?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Was it more than just parents and friends?

West: Some, especially kind of a carryover from the softball popularity. They'd know R. H. Hall would be in the paper, we'd be playing Tampa and we'd get some stragglers, but very small fan base.

I did want to add when we were talking about my parental support, that my father had a backboard put on the garage so I had a basketball hoop. And it was in our alley, so that would attract some boys and girls to come over and play. And I would stay out there and shoot and shoot. My mother would say, Time for dinner. And then I'd think, Okay, thirty seconds left. And I'd throw to the (laughs) telephone pole and catch it and pivot and turn and shoot. And I'd set up all these scenarios. So I played a lot in the back. (laughs)

Bartges: Did you ever play AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] ball?

West: Yes. It was AAU ball when R. H. Hall played.

Bartges: Okay. So that wasn't—

West: That was AAU. It had to be sanctioned through the AAU.

Bartges: You mentioned the championship.

West: State championship.

Bartges: What year was that?

West: If I graduated in 1950, it had to be from 1948 to 1950, those two years.

Bartges: Okay.

West: And I don't remember my junior year so much as my senior year, so that might have been the first year for a real AAUW [Amateur Athletic Union Women's] State Championship.

Bartges: Do you know where that was held?

West: Yes, Lake City.

Bartges: I've seen that on a map. That's around Orlando?

West: It's near Gainesville.

Bartges: Okay. Do you know how many teams participated in that?

West: I know Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Lake City had a team. It's interesting, the lady at Lake City that held that tournament and got the sponsorship for it subsequently was a general in the air force. And is it Chanute Air Force—

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: And she was over that, really moved up. She was a real go-getter.

Bartges: Yeah, she must have been.

West: Norma Brown. She just passed away last year, and they had quite a lot of coverage on it because she had become a very popular figure in the military.

Bartges: Yeah, in an era where there weren't a lot of women.

West: Right. It's interesting, she did her student teaching at my high school and got interested in the league and then taught at Lake City and decided they'd have a team too, and she sponsored this AAUW Tournament. So I know that had to be in the spring of 1950.

Bartges: Did you have her as a student teacher?

West: I don't think I had her. She was a student teacher there, but I don't remember her teaching the classes I was in. It's such a large high school.

Bartges: I know we had student teachers, but I couldn't tell you who they were. How did your AAU team travel?

West: In cars.

Bartges: So you drove yourselves?

West: We drove ourselves. I was telling some friends a couple of weeks ago that were here that we went down to the Everglades City, and we were crossing the original Tamiami Trail. And I said, "I remember going down there, piling up after we—" This was when I was teaching. I went back and taught in St. Petersburg for two years and still played on R. H. Hall. And we'd pile up after school, because quite a few of us were teachers, and drive down there and cross that Tamiami Trail—or no, no, erase that, Alligator Alley late at night.

Bartges: There wasn't as much traffic back then either.

West: No. No. (laughter)

Bartges: I've been across that, and it's desolate now.

West: It's very desolate.

Bartges: How many years did you play for R. H. Hall?

West: Oh, well, my junior and senior—four—first year of teaching, second year of teaching, and then I left St. Petersburg and never went back to live there.

Bartges: When you were at Florida State, did you play athletics?

West: They had pretty much zero for women, and—I played intramurals. And there was pretty good competition. I played for my sorority.

Bartges: What sorority?

West: Alpha Xi Delta.

Bartges: Okay.

West: And then they had a higher level of competition, which was a lot of fun, at FSU [Florida State University] which was called Odd/Even. So if you were going to graduate in 1954 like I did, I was an even. So I came in as being an even. A lot of the majors played that—and some others, but mostly the majors. And we always ended up with some really good competition that way.

Bartges: What kind of facilities did you have access to?

West: At Florida State?

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: Good, because remember, that used to be Florida State College for Women. And we had like eight, ten outdoor basketball courts, so if we couldn't get inside, we could play outside.

Bartges: Okay.

West: And there just wasn't a problem with having access to the gym, as long as it was after the instructional time period. And then, see, at Florida State I still played with R. H. Hall.

Bartges: Right.

West: So I would maybe go off on the weekend and meet them just in some select places, like at the state tournament. I couldn't certainly play the normal season—

Bartges: While you were in school—

West: —but I could go to the state tournament.

Bartges: You mentioned the F Club at Florida State. That's a letter winner's club?

West: That's if you played Odd/Even. You earned a letter if you were like the first team for your Odds or your Evens. Yes, I earned a letter.

Bartges: You mentioned a large number in the majors, in the PE majors. Was that a big program?

West: Oh, yeah. Florida State was very well known in physical education, and we had large numbers in our classes.

Bartges: They obviously didn't have tryouts for intramurals, it was open?

West: Intramurals were open to anybody, but you made the team for Odd/Even.

Bartges: Okay. So you played for your sorority and for Odd/Even?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Okay. I'm sorry, I wasn't clear on that.

West: Right.

Bartges: Uniforms—did you just wear what you wanted at Odd/Even sorority?

West: We wore our little gym outfits, our little white gym suits.

Bartges: Pinnies?

West: And pinnies. Oh yes, we had pinnies. (laughter)

Bartges: I'm probably one of the last era of people that actually wore pinnies.

West: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: Did you ever serve in the military or the National Guard?

West: No.

Bartges: Were you a Girl Scout?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Did you teach or coach in the secondary school system?

West: Two years. Boca Ciega, and that's in St. Petersburg. Some of the teachers I had at St. Pete [St. Petersburg] High had moved to Boca Ciega when they built a new school.

Bartges: So that was a newer school?

West: And that was a newer school. So it was interesting because they were then my professional colleagues. It was kind of fun.

Bartges: How large was that school?

West: Boca Ciega was probably about four to five hundred in the graduating class.

Bartges: Did you coach there?

West: Yes, I coached the swimming team, and I coached volleyball. I can't remember if (laughs) I coached basketball or not because I was playing then.

Bartges: Right.

West: And I think the swimming conflicted with the basketball. And even though basketball—I loved it—I don't remember coaching basketball.

Bartges: Did you compete interscholastically at your school?

West: Oh, yes. Um-hmm. By that time St. Petersburg had Northeast High School new, Boca Ciega new, and there was a Catholic high school. And we'd play

each other, and we also would play Clearwater and Largo and I think Dunedin. I'm pretty sure Dunedin.

Bartges: Was your principal male or female?

West: Male.

Bartges: Do you know where he was from? Was he from Florida?

West: Yeah, he was a local product. (laughs)

Bartges: I have a reason for asking that. Do you know if they were in favor or against girls' basketball or girls' sports in general?

West: He seemed to be supportive.

Bartges: Did you participate in a National Sports Institute or a National Leadership Conference?

West: Yes.

Bartges: When was that?

West: The National Institute in Basketball was at Indiana University for a week, and that had to be probably 1957. I'm going to be off not more than a year because I teach the History of Women's Intercollegiate Sport in the summer institutes, and I mention the National Institute when DGWS [Division for Girl's and Women's Sports] finally recognized the need to do something for the highly skilled women. And they teamed with the United States Olympic Committee, which was funded by Doris Duke Cromwell, the tobacco heiress, and they let two people from every state come. And I was one of the two from Illinois, and I was thrilled to death.

Bartges: Who was the other one?

West: Probably Maribel or Laurie Mabry, I can't remember, one of those two. They were probably there in some capacity. But I was coaching basketball by then at Southern Illinois University, so that was one reason I got selected. And then we had to promise to leave the Institute and go back and do no fewer than ten clinics. You probably have heard all this. (laughs)

Bartges: You're the first person I've interviewed that actually went to the Institute and has a working knowledge of it.

West: Well, it's real interesting because everybody was so eager for more information. And we got there, and they had a lady that coached some team out of Kansas that was pretty popular—Alberta Cox. And oh, they tried to pick the people that knew a lot. And I realized I knew more than most of them did because of playing with R. H. Hall and having a man coach that had coached a lot. I was put in the same group as Billie Moore, and Billie and I became such good friends that I talked her into coming and being my assistant coach the next year. And then Billie, of course, went on and won the national championship at Fullerton and at UCLA [University of California, Las Angeles] and was the Olympic coach.

Bartges: She was the first Olympic coach in 1976?

West: Yes, and she's Pat Head Summit's[2] mentor. Pat, to this day, brings Billie in as a consultant. So that's kind of where it all happened, at that Institute. And I can go back and name a whole lot of individuals that were there that went on: Lucille Kyvallos, that coached the Queens team, and Jill Upton, that coached Mississippi State College for women, they won a national championship and—

Bartges: Which is Delta State, right?

West: No. No, Mississippi State College for Women.

Bartges: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

West: Yeah, won an AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women] championship in (unintelligible), North Carolina.

Bartges: The first one. Was that the first one?

West: The first one was—you know, I don't know the answer to that, if that was the first one.

Bartges: I think it was.

West: I think you're right. It was in (unintelligible), and I didn't go to that. I went to the second one at Illinois State, and that's the one that Immaculata won.

[2] Pat Head Summit is a women's collegiate basketball coach, currently coaching the Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team. She holds the record for the most all-time wins for a coach in NCAA history.

Bartges: Yeah, I would hear about that from Rene.

West: Yeah, well, I watched Rene. Then I was the commissioner of national championships for AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women]. So I was there at Penn State, and I was at James Madison when Delta State beat Immaculata, trying to stop their reign.

Bartges: Who was the lady—I can't think of her name—at James Madison?

West: Oh, Lee Morrison or Betty Jaynes?

Bartges: After Betty.

West: Who coached basketball after Betty?

Bartges: Yeah, I can't—I can picture her. She was there for a long time. It'll come to me later.

West: Interesting. Oh well, when we had the national championship there, Lee was the women's athletic director and Betty was the women's basketball coach, and then I can't remember who followed her.

Bartges: It escapes me. It'll come to me later.

West: (laughs)

Bartges: You mentioned ten teaching seminars that you had to come back and give, where did you do those in Illinois?

West: Oh, well, I found more schools that (laughs) I didn't know were there, like Olney Junior college. And I went to Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Bartges: So they were all at universities or colleges?

West: That's a good question. No. No, because I went to Harrisburg High School. I went wherever they would have me.

Bartges: Did you have to go out and solicit these things or did you—was it popular?

West: At first. Yeah, at first it was, I'm having a clinic, it's free, come. And then once you had a couple, and people went, and they liked it, and they felt it was successful, then you started getting invitations—Would you come and do this?

Bartges: I see. And were the clinics that you came back to Illinois and conducted, were those on coaching or were they on—

West: Coaching, coaching women's basketball.

Bartges: Was it x's and o's or the physical aspect of it, the technical—

West: Both—

Bartges: —shooting and—

West: Both, but I would say with mine, predominantly x's and o's, how to set screens, picks, rolls and different zone defenses. I mean, you know, some of what I was relaying was what I had learned at the Institute, but a lot of it was from earlier experience coaching.

Bartges: What kind of people would come to the clinic—just coaches, or administrators, or athletic directors?

West: Mainly high school coaches and college coaches—

Bartges: Were they primarily women?

West: —and some of their players were interested in coaching. Yes, they were primarily women. There were some men there. And then I did—Converse—did some clinics for them because once you started doing those, then you started to establish a reputation.

Bartges: Sure.

West: And I can remember Converse having a clinic in St. Louis, and they invited me to come. And I can remember, I talked about zone defense and the Converse man said, "This is the best explanation and strategy and everything on defenses that I have ever heard, and I've been to all the others." And I realized very early that a lot of the men didn't break things down and explain why somebody was in a certain position, or they didn't have the teaching background. And I think we approached it maybe more academically in the teaching. But I remember that because I was so pleased. (laughs) I was so nervous about doing this because here were some of the male coaches that were doing some parts of the teaching, and I didn't know how they'd accept this woman, this no-name. And so I thought, Well, that was good.

Bartges: That is. You're the first, as I said, the first person that has been to the institutes. I do wonder a little bit about the date of the Indiana one. Some of the other people I've talked to or in some of my readings, I came across a date that was like 1965 or 1967, not 1957, unless there was one out there that I'm not familiar with.

West: No, (laughs) I think you're probably right. Let me think. Oh, definitely it's in the sixties, definitely.

Bartges: Okay. When you—

West: Because it was—we talked about—I mentioned DGWS [Division for Girls' and Women's Sports] being supportive, that was in the late sixties.

Bartges: Okay.

West: I'm only a decade off. (laughs)

Bartges: Well, and I wouldn't—I don't mean to put you on the spot.

West: I'm glad—no, I mean, I appreciate that because I came up with that, and that was too soon.

Bartges: It seemed like the series of these institutes, the five of them, there was 1963, 1965—

West: Right.

Bartges: —Norman, Indiana, and I can't remember where the first one was—[Washington] D.C. or New York or something.

West: Yeah, I don't know. We were at Indiana University, and volleyball and basketball were there at the same time.

Bartges: Yes, yes, okay. I just wanted to nail down that date.

West: Thanks for correcting that.

Bartges: (laughs) It's a long time ago.

West: (laughs)

Bartges: Did you do more than your tenth?

West: Oh yeah, across time. Across time I definitely did.

Bartges: Do you think that was a good way, at that time, for you to disseminate knowledge?

West: Oh, I think it—yeah, it was like an old telephone tree. You know, you teach a group, and they go out and teach a few more, and like the chain letter effect.

Bartges: I want to backtrack a second. When did you come to Illinois?

West: Nineteen fifty-seven.

Bartges: Where did you go when you came to Illinois?

West: Southern Illinois University.

Bartges: In what capacity?

West: As a physical education instructor.

Bartges: Had you finished your master's by then?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Had you started your Ph.D. by then?

West: No.

Bartges: As a PE instructor, were you also a coach?

West: Yes. I wanted to coach basketball, but they had a lady that had seniority that wanted to do it. And she coached it, I think, two years before she left and I got the team, which I was excited about. But I helped her some and was on the scene, but wasn't the coach.

Bartges: What was her name?

West: Beryl Evans.

Bartges: When you took over for her after she left, how did you find players at Southern?

West: Well, we put up notices around the gym that—that was extramural.

Bartges: Okay, that was another question—extramural.

West: It was extramural.

Bartges: Explain that, what that meant to you then.

West: Well, we had teams and we practiced, and anybody that really came out and stayed out got on the team. And I had as many as four teams at one time.

Bartges: So there were no cuts even though you had tryouts?

West: Right, unless somebody cut themselves.

Bartges: Right.

West: Some years we'd have three teams. We'd rate them, and then we'd get on a bus and we'd go to Eastern Illinois or Western [Illinois] or Illinois State. It was marvelous competition because if I had a really good first team, I'd rate it a five—five, four, three, two, one—five being the highest. And if my second team were really good, they may get a five too. And sometimes they wouldn't, I'd rate them lower. And the other schools that would come—Carthage, MacMurray, the smaller schools—they would rank their teams. And so we would match like teams. We'd have all these teams from all these schools. And I remember when we were hosting Carbondale, we used the armory, the high school, our arena, the (unintelligible) gym, the university school gym. And I said, "If you can arrange two games a day (laughs) for twenty-some teams with officials, you can run any kind of a tournament in the country."

Bartges: Exactly.

West: We were organized. And the young players, they played two games a day, and when they weren't playing, they were scoring or timing or officiating. So it gave them a true respect for the game and the support personnel needed, and we'd always have a social during the day—that was mandatory because all these schools belonged to the Illinois Athletic Recreation Federation for College Women, IARFCW, and we had guidelines that they had to follow.

Bartges: What kind of guidelines?

West: Well, who could play and how many times you could practice—no more than two games a day, had to have a social.

Bartges: Who was in charge of that organization?

West: Each school had a vote. Every school that belonged to the federation had a vote. And we elected our own officers, we set our own guidelines, but there was a superstructure. There was a National Recreation Federation for College Women. And I know we would have a—we had a convention. I can remember one year in Tucson, Laurie Mabry couldn't go, and she asked if I would mother her two delegates that were going, and one of those was Chris Voltz. (laughter) And I just talked to Chris this past week, and she said, "I was telling them that you took me to Tucson when Laurie couldn't go." So there are great relationships that were developed.

Bartges: The coach from Niles West, Arlene Mulder—yeah, Mulder, she suggested I interview Chris Voltz. I didn't really realize that Chris was from Illinois.

West: Uh-huh—

Bartges: She predates me a little bit.

West: Yeah.

Bartges: She played at Main West for this lady, and I thought, I should get a hold of her. She probably has some interesting stories.

West: She's a delightful person, and I invite her to speak in the summer because she's so good in marketing and promotion and fundraising and just—when she was a senior, I was coaching, and we had a controversy. It was at Illinois State, and Southern was playing Illinois State. We were always the two powerhouses. And there was a difference of a scorebook. Our scorebook was right, and the scoreboard was right, but the official scorekeeper was wrong. They had credited Chris with two baskets when she had only made one in that quarter. And so when everybody got together, she said, "I only made one," which I thought, There's a young lady with some integrity.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: Because that was hard to do—when it was a state tournament, to say, No, that's wrong. We didn't have—we didn't—

Bartges: When you had these extra—these events, the extramural teams—

West: Sports days, yeah.

Bartges: They were sports days?

West: They were sports days, yeah.

Bartges: That's what I was sort of getting at.

West: Right.

Bartges: Your team stayed intact and played another team, the Illinois State Team?

West: That's right.

Bartges: You didn't come together, mix—

West: It wasn't a play day. It wasn't a mix—no, it was—this was your team, and you practiced and you played.

Bartges: Besides you, did you have help with your other teams? You said you may have four teams, you may have three teams?

West: Oh, I had volunteer help, physical education colleagues that would go. And we would get some release time from our classes. We didn't get any pay, and it was really minimal for the hours put in, but it was a labor of love. We loved it. And so I'd always have at least one, sometimes two other colleagues go with me, because when we'd spread all out across their campuses to play and have to hustle around, they had to have somebody there with the team.

Bartges: Just being responsible for that many players is—you need help with that. Where did you get your officials? You said some of the players sometimes officiated?

West: The coaches. I officiated, and the players officiated, and then there were some people that were just officials because at that time DGWS wrote the rules and had the officiating standards. We taught officiating as part of the physical education curriculum, and we'd get some of the young women that didn't play that were in that course that would be good officials. And it was good for them. We even were rated on some of the games.

Bartges: Did you have an officiating club at Southern?

West: Not a club. We had a class.

Bartges: Were you a rated official?

West: Yes.

Bartges: National?

West: Um-hmm, for years. And I taught that course for years.

Bartges: How did you travel with your teams at Illinois State—or at Southern, I'm sorry.

West: Well, on buses.

Bartges: Okay.

West: Some teams, we took cars from time to time when—I don't know. They were university cars; maybe a bus was not available. But for the most part when we had two or three teams, we used buses.

Bartges: Did you ever go to a tournament and stay overnight?

West: Oh yes, lots of times.

Bartges: Did the university pay those bills?

West: Yes.

Bartges: Meals, housing, all that—they paid?

West: (unintelligible)

Bartges: I'm going to jump back a second. When you coached in St. Petersburg after you graduated from Florida State, did you get paid for coaching?

West: No. (laughs)

Bartges: Was that considered part of your responsibilities as the female PE teacher?

West: Yeah, just like you might be assigned to cheerleaders, God forbid. Had that my first year by default. (laughs)

Bartges: And you managed to get out of that?

West: I got out of that. I learned the system after one year and (laughs) got out of that. (laughs)

Bartges: To your knowledge, were officials in Illinois concerned with what version of the rules were used, DGWS versus the National Federation?

West: Well, they were very supportive of DGWS.

Bartges: And when I say officials, I mean the IHSA [Illinois High School Association].

West: Well, now we didn't use IHSA because I'm only talking college.

Bartges: College.

West: So it wasn't even a factor until years later when the NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] and the Federation decided to write the women's rules.

Bartges: At the college level, though, the colleges were very supportive of the DGWS version?

West: (unintelligible), yeah.

Bartges: What's referred to in literature as guides, is that correct?

West: Yes, uh-huh.

Bartges: What's the full name of that? I can only find guides in italics.

West: *The Division of Girls and Women's Sports Basketball Guide*.

Bartges: Basketball Guide?

West: Um-hmm. I still have some if we were in Carbondale.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: I'm not a saver, but I had some. I saved the ones, like, maybe I wrote an article (unintelligible)—

Bartges: Oh, sure.

West: —how to run a fast break or something. And the ones where I actually wrote an article, I saved.

Bartges: There were a lot of different things besides just the rules in those guides, weren't there?

West: Yes. There were a lot of how to do things, good drills. You could find some excellent drills in there for just teaching classes, not necessarily coaching. And then they had coaching articles too.

Bartges: How thick might one of those have been?

West: About like that.

Bartges: Okay. I've never seen one.

West: They were small. All of them for every sport was the same size, and the only thing that differentiated them was the colors. So those of us in the sixties when they had the guides would have maybe (laughs) this many because you'd save the year before, and you'd have your volleyball and your basketball and your soccer—

Bartges: Color coded?

West: Yeah.

Bartges: (laughs) In 1971 when the National Basketball Committee Experimental Rules became official, how do you think this impacted Illinois, if at all? What it was was a changeover from six-on-six to five-on-five.

West: I'm not really fluent in how to answer that because I wasn't involved with the high school programs at that time.

Bartges: And some of these questions you don't—don't hesitate to say you weren't involved with that, that's fine. At the college level, when did you change from six-on-six to five-on-five?

West: I don't know. (laughs) Whenever the DGWS rules changed.

Bartges: Did you favor changing from six-on-six to five-on-five?

West: I was supportive of it. Going from the three-on-three to the four-on-four and then to the five-on-five, I thought—considered it an advancement, that more people would understand the game and the strategy and demand more of the players. My story of my hundred points versus the fifty-nine—it was easier to score, and that's why Iowa was so resistive for so long. Fans love a high-scoring game. And it was wide open. If you played three-on-three—are you too young to have played three-on-three?

Bartges: I didn't play it, but I went to school in Iowa, and they still had their six-on-six tournament—their three-on-three tournament. And when I first saw it, I was in high school because our high school coach, before Illinois had a state tournament, took us to Iowa to see the state tournament.

West: Okay.

Bartges: And it was like going to the Olympics. It was stunning.

West: Oh, I mean the crowds were just massive, but, I mean, it was so much easier to score.

Bartges: Yeah. I mean, there were some of those Iowa girls that went on into college. And I know you know Lorri Bauman from Drake. That girl could just shoot, and those forwards—

West: Oh yeah. She still holds an NCAA—

Bartges: Fifty-two points.

West: Fifty-two points in one game. (laughter) And we had to play her so—

Bartges: I knew you'd know her.

West: Because Drake's in our conference.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: And she was (unintelligible).

Bartges: She could just flat out score. And it didn't matter if her back was to the basket or if she was at the top of the lane face up, she could shoot. And that was long before the three-point shot.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: She was an amazing scorer.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: But those teams, those little tiny Iowa schools and—like (unintelligible) and some of those places.

West: Yeah. You could see where they wanted to just maintain that. And sections of Tennessee were the same way. And being from Florida as home, I would go back and forth from Illinois several times a year on vacation—spring break. And I could remember sitting in the little restaurant in a small town in Tennessee and just loving to hear the local people talking about their women's basketball team (laughs) and on and on and on. So it was hard for a lot of people to make that change, and I could understand that.

Bartges: For you, were you still coaching at Southern when that change occurred?

West: To the five-player game? Boy, pressing my memory here. I think so.

Bartges: And the reason I asked—

West: Oh yeah. What year, for the most part, did they start—

Bartges: Would have been 1971, 1972, 1973, somewhere in there.

West: The answer is yes.

Bartges: Okay.

West: I took our team to the—the first national championship for women was at Westchester, Pennsylvania, and we were playing five-player then, I'm ninety percent sure. Maybe we weren't. Maybe we were playing rover. I have to stop and think of the players. (unintelligible)

Bartges: Coach at West Chester, Carol—

West: Eckman.

Bartges: Eckman.

West: Um-hmm. She started that, and of course they give an award in her honor. I'm trying to think if we were at five players or four-on-four there. But I

coached. Your question was, Did I coach five-player? Yes. And I know the next year when we played at Northeastern at the National Championship, and that was the year that Billie Moore won from Fullerton, we were playing five-player.

Bartges: The reason I asked that is I wondered since you had never played five-player if that was a difficult change for you as a coach?

West: Well, I had to do my homework. There were things that were different, but so many basics are the same. And I didn't recall that as ever being any kind of a difficult adjustment.

Bartges: Okay.

West: And certainly having watched the men's game for so long and enjoying it so much—

Bartges: Yeah. Yeah, because most of the people that I've interviewed, even though they maybe hadn't played or hadn't coached five-player up to that point, they were still fans of basketball. And they were serious fans. They studied the game as they watched it, and so it wasn't a jump for them. Did you belong to any group or groups that were active in the civil rights movement?

West: No.

Bartges: Billie Jean King[3] says that she hates labels and being labeled; however, for the purpose of this interview, how did you or would you characterize or label yourself during this period of your life, your professional life?

West: Well, certainly a strong advocate for women's equity, and I would label myself as a feminist. Even though we went through times when that wasn't always a positive label, I definitely was. My entire life I've been such a proponent of justice. I want everything to be fair. (laughs) I don't care if it's backyard crochet or whatever I'm in, a card game, I want everybody to have a fair chance, and certainly women were not being given a fair chance. And being the young athlete that I was and having a good experience in high school and then going to Florida State where it was zilch, I can look back and think that must have been extremely motivating for me, because obviously my life has been one of trying to create change for women.

[3] [3] Billie Jean King is a former American professional tennis player. A strong advocate for sexual equality, King participated in and won the Battle of the Sexes tennis match of 1973 against Bobby Riggs

Bartges: If you had to name a mentor or a role model or two in your life, who would those people be?

West: Well, that's a question that's been asked so many times. I think that I mentioned my high school gym teacher, the fact that she did this without pay. She made the uniforms. She taught us so well. She was a tremendous coach. I went to college knowing so much more than most of the people that I was in school with about the intricacies of the game. She would have to be a role model for that period in my life. But then those of us that became athletic administrators and coaches and all, we really didn't have female role models, and I would look to some of my professional colleagues as role models. Certainly my most beloved friend is Christine Grant from the University of Iowa. And even though Chris is two or three years younger than I am—we've worked together, we can't count the years—her behavior is so ideal that I would consider her a role model. And we mentioned Lee Morrison who was AIAW president and the athletic director at James Madison. Lee in a very quiet, laid-back way, would challenge you. I'd find her challenging me from time (laughs) to time to do more or do something in the manner that she thought was probably more constructive—so some of my professional colleagues.

Bartges: I've been fortunate and I've been able to meet Dr. Grant a couple of times, and she is an amazing woman.

West: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: Very articulate and you can—

West: Extremely articulate—

Bartges: —and you can tell her passion for it. It just—she wears it.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: It's very evident. When you were at Southern—and I know that your role was different because you were not in the high school game, and this study is really looking at girls' high school basketball in Illinois—but as one of the coaches of a state university, did you have any—well, let me ask you this—you mentioned DGWS. Did you belong to AAHPERD [American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance] as well? Obviously.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: Did you belong to IAHPERD, Illinois AAHPERD?

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: Were you active in that?

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: What was IAHPERD's role in trying to get high school interscholastic sports for girls in Illinois?

West: Well, I don't think you would say it was a direct role, because that wasn't the function of IAHPER [Illinois Alliance for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation], and now D [Dance], but as a place to meet colleagues with the like passion—like that's where I met Marian Kneer and—

Bartges: I interviewed her.

West: I saw her at a New Year's—no a super Bowl gathering and she said she'd been interviewed by you. I can remember meeting her. And we have never been personal friends, but professionally she was a mover and a shaker. And then that was somebody that you aligned with, and you would send your financial support if they were having a mailing or doing something. She wanted women to be able to play more for the high school girl than the GAA [Girls' Athletic Association]. And certainly in teaching these young women who were going out to be the high school coaches and teachers, I think that was our greatest contribution because we gave them a taste of the competition and how to run things in a proper way. And they were out, and they were motivated to have teams.

Bartges: And was that a radical change or divergence from the generation prior to you?

West: Yes, because, see, I sneaked off when I was in college to play with R. H. Hall because the teachers would not have thought that was proper activity.

Bartges: See, I asked if you had a conflict in high school, and I didn't ask about college. That didn't occur to me.

West: Oh, yes. I didn't feel that in high school, but in college we were taught that it was the instructional program and then the intramurals, and that there was exploitation of women if there was varsity sports and that. They would give us a triangle that showed basic instruction, and then intramurals, and then okay to have some things for the highly skilled. But these women had

experienced 1920s when the triangle got inverted and women were exploited. There were men's coaches, and competition was not with good standards. So it had a bad taste. And then there was this constant old history of, Women aren't physiologically prepared, and, You'd ruin your reproductive organs if you jump too much. And I mean, we heard a lot of this rhetoric.

Bartges: You learned that in college, or they—

West: They didn't pound on us so much the physiological, but I can remember saying in class with reference to the basketball, "I don't understand why DGWS women will accept running up and down that field hockey field." There were not substitutions at that point, and they questioned us running up and down a ninety-foot court, explain that. I can remember pressing that in class.

Bartges: Hard to rationalize.

West: Uh-huh, just the—but that was the feeling. And you know, I can remember even at Southern Illinois, the head of the department when I was speaking about more competition and why we needed it, she said, "Now you know you're going to disenfranchise yourself among some of these professional women. If you choose to leave here and move on, you'll have a label of this advocate for this varsity competition, which they found so distasteful."

Bartges: But it wasn't to her? She was supportive of your—

West: Yes, she was supportive.

Bartges: Who was that?

West: Dorothy Davies. Gymnasium at Southern Illinois is named after her. She was a little conservative because she was from that era, but she loved the sports days. She thought they were a healthy avenue for young women, and she always wanted us to do well. She was pleased when we'd do well, so she had that competitive spirit. And I know that because I golf with her plenty.

Bartges: Do you feel a lot of those women squelched their competitive spirit?

West: Yes, I do.

Bartges: Because it was unacceptable?

West: Yeah, that's right. That's right. I think without question that they thought, Well, we don't want to get too carried away with this. This isn't a good thing, because they'd been taught it wasn't a good thing. We had to step up to the plate and say, No, it's time to give women a chance. It is a good thing and it fulfills a need.

Bartges: As an educators, you and Marian and Laurie Ramsey and Jill Hutchison, some of the people I've interviewed were active at the college level. Do you think that's one of your greatest contributions, that you were able to have extramurals for a larger number of girls and train them, young women, to send them out and that that would be an impetus for the evolution of sport in the states?

West: You said that well. I do, because they have a wonderful experience. And you know in life you get a taste of something, and if it's good, you want more.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: And that hunger that they had for having had a great experience—and it was a wonderful experience. I look back in the late sixties, and we had the extramurals. I mentioned going to West Chester. We went in two cars, and we had to travel with seven people in one car. Billie drove a car, and I drove a car. We had to cut our team to be able to go to the national championship, and we cut. Finally the squad said, "Don't cut—." We thought we had to cut one more person to make it five and a driver and five and a driver, and we'd gotten down to eleven, and we were having a hard time with who to cut. And they said, "We'll ride four in the back seat." And I said, "This is a long trip ladies. You'll be irritable." "No, no." And you know, I never heard a negative word. We're talking three in the front, four in the back, the other car three and three, and we rotated around—had a marvelous time. I can't imagine today if you, number one, had to drive and you—(laughter) I've had the athletes fuss because they were on a commercial plane instead of a charter, and I think of those young women—they were so appreciative of the opportunity to play. We had a wonderful time. That was kind of a golden era in a lot of ways. And in response to your question, Yes, we whetted their appetite for more, and they were capable of going out and coaching and doing more.

Bartges: It's sort of an extension of the chain letter of the organization—you go to a training, and then you train.

West: Yeah.

Bartges: It's the same thing with the kids. It's really amazing how they work it. I'm going to need to switch tapes here so if you want to take a break.

(End of Tape One, Tape Two Begins)

Bartges: This is tape number two with Charlotte West. It's March thirteenth in Estero, Florida. I'm going to jump ahead here. I don't know if you're familiar with this. This is a master's thesis from Illinois State University from Linda V. Bain, and it's the last published research on the State of Illinois high school basketball. And it was (laughs) published in 1968.

West: (laughs)

Bartges: So there's a little bit of a gap there, which is what sort of caused me to get into what I wanted to do.

West: How interesting.

Bartges: One of her recommendations to the Illinois High School Association was that they involve women physical educators in the formation of policies and controls for an expanded interscholastic sports program for girls. Do you think that colleges responded to that, or that the IHSA was responsive to that in terms of—

West: Read the recommendation again.

Bartges: They wanted the IHSA to involve women physical educators in the formation of policies and controls for an expanded interscholastic sports program.

West: You know, on the college scene we literally had to demand (laughs) that we be represented in decision making with respect to women's sports, and I think that transferred—just like the coach into basketball—transfers down into the high school level. So I think we were influential that way. I taught Sue Hinrichsen, who is now the Ola Bundy[4] (laughs) in the IHSA, and she's just an example of some of the people that if you taught, and you in your position were striving to have equal representation of women, or at least women designing their own destiny, that you transfer that to the people that you teach. So I think in that medium, we were successful. I think IHSA was slow. I think they were very slow and they were very resistive. Some of us are almost antagonistic to that organization because they were so slow and they were male dominated. And quite understandably, the people that were there had to

[4] Ola Bundy was Assistant Executive Director of the Illinois High School Assocation [IHSA].

appease the men that they were working for. Like, Ola was not an independent (laughs) person by any means. She had to be certain she pleased her boss, so you could see where they were not in a position of strength by any means.

Bartges: Well, I don't know Geraldine Rennert, and I can't interview her obviously. Was Ola a philosophical change from Geraldine for the IHSA?

West: I didn't know Geraldine; I only worked with Ola.

Bartges: Okay.

West: And I thought Ola was extremely conservative and not real forward thinking in where women's sports should be. I mentioned before, I understand some of that was—I had good friends that were athletic directors in some colleges, like I had a colleague at U of I [University of Illinois] one time that didn't have a contract. She had to please the athletic director. And so I found in later years that her actions were not always reflective of her philosophy, but the philosophy of the person that she was responsible to report to. I think I was fortunate in that I was tenured, so I could be more outspoken because the worst thing they could do to me is send me back as a full-time physical education professor. And that gave me a security that I wouldn't have in a lot of situations. So some of us were a lot more vocal and pressed more for change than a lot of our female colleagues.

Bartges: Who and what did you press for change?

West: A voice for leadership, designing our own programs. And we went through a period where Illinois State and Western [Western Illinois University] and Eastern [Eastern Illinois University] all were department of intercollegiate athletics for women and a department for men. So you were designing your own program, and you were the athletic director. And I found I had a lot of young women that wanted to be athletic directors when that was the structure of the department. Once you were merged and they saw women only being subservient, there were less women that aspired to that position.

Bartges: You eventually became an athletic director yourself?

West: After I was director of women's athletics, I became the associate director, the second in line during the merger.

Bartges: When did Southern merge?

West: About 1986—1985, 1986. We were later than a lot of schools. And then when the athletic director left, I served as the athletic director for men and women, but it was an interim appointment for a year, and then we hired another male.

Bartges: How many women athletic directors, even at an interim level, were there in that period, nationally?

West: Oh, we're talking—

Bartges: A combined count?

West: Yes, we're talking fourteen, fifteen maybe...if you count real fast.

Bartges: (laughs) I'm thinking it wasn't that many.

West: (laughs) It may not have been, let's count everybody.

Bartges: Do you know what the Sports Advisory Committee was in Illinois? It would have been—

West: No details.

Bartges: Were you aware of it?

West: No.

Bartges: Okay. I'm going to list a collection of states that surround or border Illinois and the years that they implemented a state tournament for high school girls' basketball: Iowa 1926, Indiana 1975, Michigan 1973, Wisconsin 1976 and they started with three classes, Minnesota 1974, Ohio 1976, Kentucky 1920 to 1932 and then it came back in 1975, Tennessee 1965, Missouri 1973, and then Illinois in 1977. As an educator, a coach, and an administrator, how did you feel when you saw states surrounding Illinois competing in competitive state tournaments and Illinois wasn't?

West: Oh, I thought we were just dragging our feet and that people were not responding to the needs of women. And I could understand, you know, certainly being from Southern Illinois with all the small communities with one gym and they had boys' varsity and they had junior varsity and then they had the freshmen team, they didn't want the women. And they were resistant. And there were a lot of attitudes that needed to be changed, and they were very slow in Illinois. It was frustrating.

Bartges: Did the attitudes change or did personnel change?

West: Well, I think it was pressure from neighboring states, but ultimately from Title IX[5]. It got a lot of press, and there were a lot of changes. And I say absent Title IX, we'd probably see Illinois being 1980 where they'd do anything, because I don't think there was the fervor, the desire, the commitment, the philosophy, or anything with the Federation. Those are strong statements, but I believe that very strongly.

Bartges: If that's what you believe, that's—that's why I'm doing this. I want to be able to hear what people who were actually living in that period, what their thoughts on that was.

West: Oh, yeah. There was so much resistance, so much resistance. And you know, some people that were the resistors, when change occurred and it wasn't, The sky is falling, would like to say they were leaders in making the change. But they weren't leaders, they were pushed to make the change.

Bartges: In the State of Illinois, who would you label as a leader for change during this period?

West: Well—but that's hard because I wasn't on the high school scene—

Bartges: Well, that's true.

West: —and I've mentioned to you several times, Marian Kneer was definitely somebody. I was certainly pushing, Jill Hutchison was certainly pushing, and a lot of the young women that we taught. And there was—oh, I'm trying to think of—Olemyer, Eva Claire Olemyer from up in the Chicago area was a leader in the IAHPER, and I found her progressive in her thoughts. And that's one of those things where I said, You go to the state convention, you had kind of a forum where you could discuss what was happening, because we all were isolated on our own campuses.

Bartges: At one of those conventions there was a moment afoot to try and get a meeting of women who were interested in interscholastic sports and the—and I'm sorry, I always call it AAHPERD or IAHPERD.

[5] Title IX is a portion of the Education Amendments of 1972. It states, in part, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

West: That's okay. (laughter)

Bartges: I'm not a physical education—

West: (unintelligible).

Bartges: I don't mean to offend you, but—

West: No, you certainly don't.

Bartges: The IAHPERD organization denied that group a meeting. Why would they do that?

West: Well, see, the leadership then, both on the national level and the state level, were the people that were the generation before us. These are the ones where my head of the department said, "You'll be disenfranchising yourself with these women, " but they were the ones that controlled the meetings and what went on. And I can see where they had a reason not to allow such a meeting, a formal meeting, but it didn't preclude the informal meetings and people wanting to see change.

Bartges: You sort of addressed this: in talking with some retired coaches and teachers, I found the feeling that the IHSA was slow in responding to requests from the constituency in the late sixties and seventies when it came to promoting girls' sports in general. You would concur with that?

West: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. (laughs)

Bartges: Why do you think basketball was one of the last sports added in Illinois?

West: I think because it's such an important sport for high school men. It would just be like today if we had a third sex come upon us or somebody from outer space.

Bartges: Football?

West: (laughs) And here I am as a high school coach and now I'm sharing the gym with the men, but now I have to share it with the aliens; I'm going to be a little resistive, and I'm going to be better than most of the men who were highly resistive. They didn't want to share. They didn't have the space they needed, they didn't have the money they needed, and they certainly didn't want to share it with anybody. So it was an uncomfortable time for women that were pushing for change. And a lot of women don't want to be in that position.

None of us like to be the old goat. (laughs) And we were labeled aggressive, femi-nazis, everything, you name it.

Bartges: Did you attend the first state high school basketball tournament in Bloomington at Horton Field House?

West: No.

Bartges: No?

West: Never have attended a high school.

Bartges: Did you watch it on TV?

West: Yes, I did.

Bartges: Do you recall any impressions you had of the caliber of play that you witnessed?

West: Well, yes, it wasn't at the level that any of us would have preferred, but I think it started to show people that women were more capable than they thought. And there were a lot of young women that were really pretty good because they'd played with their brothers. And a lot of them go out and shoot and shoot, and they were—well, to this day they shoot equally as well as the men. And free throw average is higher for the women.

Bartges: Right.

West: And it was a start, and it was fun.

Bartges: Do you recall any thoughts you had in terms of the officiating?

West: Not really. Not really.

Bartges: Has officiating been a problem in the State of Illinois, do you think?

West: I think officiating is a problem universally. (laughs) I really do. I would like to see a more structured approach where people are really given instruction in officiating.

Bartges: Yeah—

West: And that certainly the public would treat them with more respect. It's a vicious cycle, it really is.

Bartges: What role, if any, do you think homophobia played in the development and growth of girls' sports at the high school level, particularly in team sports like basketball?

West: Oh, I think it's a definite factor. I think it remains a factor, although it's certainly much, much less now than say fifteen or twenty years ago. But it was great for a young lady to swim, play golf, play volleyball—volleyball attracted a lot of people that didn't want the label of tomboy or lesbian or whatever, but those attitudes have changed, and that's probably one of the greatest things as far as I'm concerned, the parents' attitudes. Now it's the young women that play, their boyfriends and their girlfriends all there supporting each other like it should be.

Bartges: Do you think that the AMA's [American Medical Association] endorsement for vigorous exercise helped change public educational policy towards interscholastic sports?

West: Well, it certainly could only have had a positive effect. (laughs) I don't know how much of a motivator that was, but all of our research in exercise physiology would certainly dispel any notion that it wasn't positive.

Bartges: This is a very broad question, and I'd love to sit and talk about it forever, (laughter) but I'm going to (unintelligible) because the question is, How do you think Title IX affected girls' basketball in Illinois or girls' sports in Illinois?

West: It was a tremendous catalyst, and it remains that way today because we've made great advances, but we certainly are not in an equitable situation today. And a lot of times when change is needed, it's not because it's a moral thing to do. It's because you have to do it. And early on it was very begrudgingly done. And as changes were made—the guys are some of our greatest advocates now because the guys want their daughters to play, they want their girlfriends to play. They love it. And it's not the issue today that it was, but early on it was extremely uncomfortable. And I say absent Title IX, we would not have seen the changes that we see today.

Bartges: At the college level, and I'll ask you this since you were active there then, how quickly did you see changes in funding, travel, schedules, publicity, uniforms, coaching, officiating, everything, facilities?

West: Immediately, but not to the extent that they needed to change, and there were some people dragging their feet. I sit back in 1974 or 1975 when we were making changes—if we could just reallocate one percent a year, we soon would have equity, and people just would not do it. And a lot of people, still in their minds, think that Title IX has some way distracted from men's sports. That's my greatest peeve because to this day, to this day, for every new dollar that was placed in the women's program, over two dollars, new dollars, new dollars have been placed in the men's program, and when women's sports have literally exploded, men's sports have continued to grow. And a lot of people don't get that information because a lot of the sports writers don't care to relay that or they don't have the facts to relay it. Title IX has been great for men's sports as well as women's sports, there's no doubt about it.

Bartges: Well, and people talk about men's teams being cut, but those are administrative decisions. Title IX isn't doing that, that's a choice.

West: That's a choice. And even though there have been—certainly wrestling has lost teams. And I'll tell you, the one I just really—it's funny but it's sad at the same time, is that in gymnastics some of them blame Title IX for the loss in men's gymnastics program, where the women have lost tremendously more gymnastics programs than the men, and how they can attribute that to Title IX—it's a change in attitude, it's the cost of gymnastics—

Bartges: Liability—

West: The liability is excessive. There are not the grassroots programs in high schools that there used to be; there are only club programs. And so when sports have their glory years and when they drop in interest, it can be very independent of—just like soccer grew tremendously. It didn't have anything to do with Title IX. And wrestling is not as popular with men right now. So those changes occur, and the label that some of these wrestlers have given to Title IX is really sad, it's really sad. Because they've added a tremendous number of football programs—the data shows the number of football teams that have increased. And you know, if you—Division I, the average number on a football squad is 117. So the participants have grown, they just have chosen to use it in a different sports venue.

Bartges: And it's how many thousands of dollars to outfit each one of those players? And nobody talks about that.

West: No. No.

Bartges: The late Marianna Trekell in her book, *A Century of Women's Basketball*, stated that she felt that Title IX forced the issue or role model for girls' and women's sports towards a more competitive male model of sports. Do you agree or disagree and why?

West: Well, we definitely—since we were part of the NCAA, the women have more and more emulated the male model of sports. When we had AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women], we had a chance to have a different model, and we did some things quite differently. But the very good news is that as the women have become leaders within the NCAA, we can make tremendous changes in that association. When I first worked with the NCAA, there was no appeals system for eligibility, period. And my male colleagues would say, "This is the saddest case in the world, and there's just no way we can get anybody to look at the rule change for this young man." And now there's a very fair, good appeals system. And I mean, we gave tuition fees, room and board, and the women could get a Pell grant in addition to that as long as it was under the cost of attendance.

Bartges: Right.

West: And we were ridiculed and damned for doing that. And now they do that and they give even more money, (laughs) so there have been a lot of changes, much more humanistic association than when they assumed control of women's sports I look today to the NCAA as one of the strongest advocates for Title IX. When Bush attacked the law a couple of years ago, the NCAA was right behind our rebutting those false accusations that his commission was asserting. So there have been a lot of positive changes. But the basic question was, Have we emulated the male model? And the answer is yes. And you know, the public forces that, the press forces that, and you don't have the choice to have something a little different.

Bartges: Was there any scenario where the AIAW could have survived with the NCAA being what it was?

West: I don't think so. Some of us thought in the early years, Well, if we'd done this or if we'd done that. And I think that was inevitable, I really do. We had a wonderful ten-year plus growth period from nothing to forty-one championships in nineteen different sports, it's quite a history in itself, and got everybody interested enough so they wanted to (laughs) take us over.

Bartges: Right. Maybe you built it too well.

West: (laughs) We built it well, and it was needed, and it got things going. I think we have a very proud history, but I'm comfortable with our place now in the NCAA, I really am.

Bartges: Do you think that scholarships were a death knell to the AIAW?

West: I personally don't, no. I think some people say, Well, if we could have just kept the scholarships away. And that maybe is idealistic, but I'm a pragmatist, and the men were getting them. They weren't going to quit. Although the history of that scholarship business in the NCAA is very interesting if you go back, because it came very close to votes to just do, like, tuition or tuition and fees or tuition and books and fees. And tuition, books, and fees I could buy with the rest being given on the basis of need, but I don't think we're ready to go back. I think the (unintelligible) from athletes is, What more can you do for me? And there's a large segment—

Bartges: Especially now—

West: —of our population that thinks the athletes are exploited, which just really distresses me because a young athlete today gets tuition, fees, room, board, books. They have a travel allotment if they have to go home. They get five hundred dollars for incidental expenses if they still have financial need. I mean, they are pocketing a lot of money. And we have some young women athletes at SIU that had high need, that were from some of the projects, and one young lady would save money and send it home to her grandmother. So they're giving more than is needed.

Bartges: Yeah, it has evolved, even from when I was coaching at the college level. The amount of money is significant.

West: And these people that talk about adding another stipend, what they're doing, they're pricing athletics so that pretty soon all we're going to have is football and basketball and volleyball and basketball because—that's why they're dropping some of these sports, is the millions and millions of dollars they're spending. And how about these multimillion dollar coach's contract? They're obscene.

Bartges: Well, Southern with the football coach recently. Was that a week or so ago?

West: That was—

Bartges: That's not multimillion.

West: No, he—

Bartges: Percentage wise, it was a thirteen or eighteen percent from—

West: Yeah, he went from—in the last two years, from about a hundred thousand dollar salary to now $160,000, and twenty thousand came a couple weeks ago.

Bartges: Right. See, and the trickledown of that is at Western, we get a note from the AD [athletic director] with a copy of that article saying, What do you think about this?

West: Uh-huh. Well, you know, in defense of some of my male friends that are ADs, it's the market. And it can't be a unilateral decision. Somebody can't say, Well, I'm not going to pay my coach that because he's going to go someplace else for twice as much. So it's got to be a more collective approach. And I think there's some sentiment for an antitrust bill that would set some limits, like maybe X percent more than your full professor average on campus and—or not more than then college president.

Bartges: (laughs) That would be a good place to start.

West: Yes, that would be a real good place to start.

Bartges: And a lot of people I know that are faculty members, that's probably one of their biggest pet peeves is they're making more than full profs [professors] with twenty years of experience or the college president.

West: Yeah.

Bartges: Can you recall anything else that might help me understand the history of girls' basketball in Illinois from the period of 1968 to 1977, at whatever level you want to go with?

West: Not really. Your questions have been pretty exhaustive. (laughter) Not exhausting, (laughs) exhaustive, and I think you've hit on a lot of good questions and—it's fun to see the growth, and we still know that there's more room to grow.

Bartges: Well, thank you very much. I really appreciate your time.

West: You're very welcome.

(End of Interview)

Interview with Charlotte West

DGB-V-D-2005-009
Interview Date: June 11, 2009
Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

A Note to the Reader

This transcript is based on an interview recorded by the ALPL Oral History Program. Readers are reminded that the interview of record is the original video or audio file, and are encouraged to listen to portions of the original recording to get a better sense of the interviewee's personality and state of mind. The interview has been transcribed in near-verbatim format, then edited for clarity and readability, and reviewed by the interviewee. For many interviews, the ALPL Oral History Program retains substantial files with further information about the interviewee and the interview itself. Please contact us for information about accessing these materials.

Bartges: It's June 11, 2009. My name is Ellyn Bartges. I'm a Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois in the Kinesiology Department. Dr. Synthia Sydnor is my advisor. I'm in Carbondale, Illinois, at the home of Charlotte West, and I'm interviewing Dr. West. She has signed the appropriate informed consents, and we will have sort of a wide-ranging conversation beginning with the 1972 National Championships, the DGWS-AIAW [Division for Girls' and Women's Sports-Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women] Championships. Good morning.

West: Good morning.

Bartges: Thank you for being interviewed today. When I interviewed Rene Portland in February about the 1972 National Championships, (laughs) she had a box of trophies and stuff, memorabilia that she had. I had implored her to haul out what she had, and in it was the first trophy from the 1972 AIAW [Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women] National Championship Basketball Tournament and the individual awards, and it was just a wooden plaque. I have pictures of them I can show you later. I know you're aware of them. And it says DGWS [Division for Girls' and Women's Sports]. It doesn't say AIAW on it, but it does say DGWS National Championship. Why would that first one not say AIAW on it?

West: Well, we were just getting underway because the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for Women was a subgroup of the Division for Girls' and Women's Sports, and they started national championships, and then the governing association made up of member institutions wasn't formed until 1971, so it was just one of those things. Everything was happening so fast that the championship program had not developed a common trophy, which we did later. I have one of the big ones from the swimming championship with the female athlete holding up the AIAW.

Bartges: Yes.

West: And from that point on, everybody got the same kind of AIAW National Championship trophy, but just getting started, it was still under the aegis of the DGWS, so that's probably why that was happening. More things were happening than we could get organized (laughs) to have some commonality among all the sports.

Bartges: Were you on the Championship Committee?

West: No, I took over the role of Commissioner of National Championships in 1975. So in 1973, I think, was the first elected person to that position, which was Laurie Mabry, who was at Illinois State where the championship was held. But I was very much interested in and a part of those national championships, because Southern Illinois University, the team that I coached, went to the first ever invitational championship, which was the forerunner for this, and that was at West Chester [University]. And then we had the second national one, which was at Northeastern [University], and our team from SIU [Southern Illinois University] and myself as coach went to that in Boston. Then the next year it was at Cullowhee, North Carolina, and that's the one I didn't go to in my long history of attending the Women's Final Fours. And then the next one was at Illinois State, and of course it was here in Illinois and I attended, and it was so exciting to start having official national championships, not just invitationals.

Bartges: Probably one of the first questions I asked Rene was, Why was this labeled the first one? Because the West Chester State—I was thinking Carol Oglesby, but it's Eckman.

West: Carol Eckman.

Bartges: Carol Eckman. I know from my readings that they had hosted, but I didn't realize it was an invitational.

West: Right. There was no body to sanction that, and Carol Eckman very much believed in competition for women. I was kind of reconnected with that arena

last April. I spoke at New Paltz State University of New York at New Paltz, and they have a Carol Eckman Brunch every year in her honor, because she had taught there before she went to West Chester and she had coached several sports. She was just one of the pioneers that loved sport and thought women should have an opportunity to compete. So she started that championship, and it was well run. SIU was there and Illinois—no, Illinois State was not there that first year, but the second year—kind of an interesting story: Jeanne Rowlands, who was at Northeastern University, said she would host the next one. So we all went to Northeastern the next year, and both SIU and Illinois State were invited. And we had a university plane, and so SIU filled its plane with our team, and we stopped at Normal, Illinois, and picked up some of their players to help them reduce expenses, and we all flew together to Boston. And I have a vivid memory of most of those young ladies had never been on a plane, and there we were going to Boston. It was a beautiful March evening, and we flew past the Statue of Liberty, and it was so clear. The young women were in awe. And there were probably about three or four of the Illinois State team players that had to fly by themselves because we had already filled up our plane. But I mention that story because the spirit then was everybody helping everybody else and still having our national championships, and of course today I'm sure the coaches would sneer at the idea of two teams traveling in the same mode of transportation.

Bartges: Yeah. Well, when they stay in separate hotels and—

West: Oh, yes. They can't—oh.

Bartges: We—

West: Thy shall not stay at the same hotel as the person you're going to play. (laughs)

Bartges: I don't know if that's a function of how large the fan base has gotten so that your fans stay in the same hotel with you, or if they just have this mentality that we have to be isolated so that we have game face on.

West: Well, I can understand—sometimes the fans impose a lot on the athletes, so I can see keeping away from the fans for that time.

Bartges: Oh, yeah.

West: I've never thought it was so important that two people that were going to play a competitive event couldn't sit down and have lunch or dinner together or just have some kind of a social interaction, but that's the mentality.

Bartges: Well, this spring in St. Louis, we stayed inadvertently at the UConn [University of Connecticut] hotel, their home hotel, and of course all their fans were there. It was a Hilton at the ballpark there in St. Louis, so it's a huge hotel. We were eating breakfast, and the team had team breakfast back in a private room but had to walk through the rest of the breakfast area. I mean, everybody in there stood up—well, we didn't, but stood up and clapped as these young women walked through. It was mind-boggling.

West: They idolize them.

Bartges: Yeah, it's really stunning. When you flew to Northeastern, was that the first time your team had flown anywhere?

West: No, surprisingly, but SIU has an Air Institute, so we had a fleet of planes, and our president at the time gave every coach, men and women sports, a free (laughs) plane trip a year. So I had taken the basketball team down to Mississippi State College for Women, because they had such a strong team and had won the championship at Cullowhee, North Carolina. So I'd take the basketball team. I took women's golf to University of Minnesota. Our men's golf coach didn't like to fly, wouldn't fly, so to use his plane trip and give the young men a chance, I even took the men's team one time.

Bartges: (laughs) That was nice of you.

West: Yeah. (laughs)

Bartges: Was Margaret Wade at Mississippi?

West: No, Jill Upton.

Bartges: Jill Upton, okay.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: Mississippi State College for Women.

West: Wade was at Delta State. Jill Upton was—she had played on that famous Texas team, the Flying Queens[6]?

[6] The Flying Queens, the women's basketball team at Wayland Baptist University, won 131 consecutive games from 1953 to 1958. http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/19/sports/ncaabasketball/19wayland.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: And they played for the Nashville Business Institute, which was a good AAU [Amateur Athletic Union] team at the time, and she was also a PE [Physical Education] teacher and coach at Southeast Missouri State.

Bartges: Oh.

West: So I had interacted with her, and we had a personal relationship, and that's another reason I picked to go to Mississippi State College for Women. But this is interesting, is that they won at Cullowhee, and they had the Mississippi State College for Women team. So everybody had predicted them as winners the next year because they had essentially the same team back plus some other players. So everybody just thought, Well, Mississippi's going to win the first AIAW National Championship at Illinois State. Well, in those days you had sixteen teams come to a site, and you'd play winner's bracket and loser's—if you lost the first game, you still played consolation. And they played, obviously, in separate gyms, and they played throughout the day and the evening. So I had gone over to one gym knowing that Mississippi State would beat this little unknown team from Pennsylvania. I mean, who ever heard of Immaculata? (laughter) So I was over sitting in one gym watching a very closely contested game, and Jeanne Rowlands, the lady I mentioned from Northeastern that had run the second championship—was a friend of mine. And she came over, and she said, "Charlotte, you need to get back over to the other gym. This team is beating Mississippi." And I was aghast. I said, "No." And she said, "Yes, get over there. It's a great game." So I hurried over to the other gym, and yes, Immaculata did win. It was a great game, but they did beat the defending champions and the people that had predicted to win that one.

Bartges: Were those games filmed, do you know?

West: Not officially. If some individual, a parent, or some institution decided to film parts of it, but I know the full game wasn't filmed.

Bartges: Have you ever seen clips of them anywhere?

West: No. No.

Bartges: I'd like to try and find something like that.

West: Jill Hutchison at Illinois State would be the person I'd call first, because she was a party to putting that on, as was the women's AD [athletic director] at the time, Laurie Mabry. Have you visited with Laurie?

Bartges: Yes.

West: Good.

Bartges: A few years back, and I'm trying to think—it was probably 2005 when I talked to her.

West: Okay. Laurie's good about saving things.

Bartges: I got a sense of that. (laughs)

West: And she's always got, you know, some letter that was written in 1978 or somebody said something and—because AIAW was a large part of her life

too, because she served as president for two years following her Commissioner of National Championships. So she had four years of her life, as did I, devoted to volunteer service for this organization.

Bartges: She had mentioned some letters, but she also said that they were personal information in those letters—

West: Right—

Bartges: —and so she was reticent to give me, and I understand that. When did you get involved with the basketball championship for the AIAW? How did that evolve?

West: Oh, officially I became involved in 1975 as a person in charge of conducting the national championships. And we had a national championship at Penn State, and I'm trying to think—during my two years as that officer where the—oh, the other one was at James Madison.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: James Madison in 1975 and Penn State in 1976. I was in charge of those two championships. And when I discuss the history of women in sport, I like to talk about that 1975 championship at James Madison University because it was the first sellout. We had that gym packed, and to the dismay of the fire marshal, we (laughs) let extra people in until he knew it was not real safe. So we had to close the doors, and we had people outside wanting to get in. So that was a real important time for us in history, that we had our first sellout. It was ironic because years later when the University of Texas at Austin had one of the first NCAA [National Collegiate Athletic Association] Women's

Basketball Championships, as you drove up to the arena the marquee said, "First Sellout in History", first women's sellout. And I thought, Now they don't know their history. (laughs)

Bartges: Jody should know better.

West: Because they should have said maybe the first NCAA, but not the first one period.

Bartges: This is going to be a silly question in some ways, but you charged to get in those games?

West: Oh, yes.

Bartges: Do you remember what you charged?

West: No idea. (laughter) I can't remember what we charged.

Bartges: Did James Madison have that coliseum that they have now, or was it an older gym?

West: It was an older gym now. I mean at the time it was a nice gym, but it was kind of a multipurpose area.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: There were other gyms there, because we had two floors that frequently had competition on at the same time.

Bartges: What was—I'm sorry, go ahead.

West: Are you interested in any stories along with?

Bartges: Sure, whatever you want to—

West: This is—I—(laughs) it's almost embarrassing, but it's a good story. You know, I mentioned earlier so many things were happening and as a commissioner, I had a lot to deal with at that championship. One was all the pails that the nuns in Immaculata were banging on. The coaches, when they called time out couldn't—they couldn't talk to their players. They couldn't be heard, which is part of the strategy. And Delta State beat Immaculata that year and then went on to win the next year also, and they said if they kept banging on those pails that they were going to get the kazoos, and all their people were going to start blowing on these kazoos. So anyway, there was a rule which we had not had to worry about before about no artificial noisemakers. So I had to impose that, and I was not a popular person, but we called them and said, "You know this has been a rule, and you can't bring the pails into the gym." Well, Rene Portland's father was going to have an injunction on the game and blah, blah, blah, and he was irate because he was the hardware guy that supplied the pails. (laughs) So anyway, we finally stopped it, and from then on that rule that had been in the rulebook was implemented, but there was that story that went along with that championship at James Madison.

Bartges: And that story is still alive and well.

West: Is it?

Bartges: Yes. (laughs)

West: And you know—oh, it was back when NACWAA [National Association of Collegiate Women's Athletics Administrators] met in St. Louis, everybody had to tell a story and they hadn't told us ahead, so I quick remembered that one because I knew people had known about the pails and all. And some young lady on that Immaculata team at the time that I didn't know came up and introduced herself and said, "You were the old witch that made us stop"—(laughter) She said—we had a good laugh about it, but it was the right thing to do because the gym was already sold out, and you couldn't—it was impossible. And it was a rule that should have been implemented. So that was—happened there.

And then the other thing that happened was that—well, a couple of things. I went in the gym that night, and some of these people— (laughs) Cathy Rush's camp and some of the people I think she was associated with had taken it upon themselves to drape their banners around different places without permission and without paying for anything like that, because today you would charge a considerable amount for somebody to advertise a camp or—

Bartges: Oh, yeah.

West: —anything. So they had these things draped. So I had to go around and take them off—say, "You know, you didn't go through the proper procedure to get these things put up." So I wasn't popular for the second time. (laughs)

But anyway, the game got underway, and it was really a good game and everybody was enjoying it. The official of the game was a player that had played on the national championship team at Fullerton at Northeastern when that second national championship—and tremendous athlete and tremendous softball player. She was an excellent official, and as the game was underway, she was racing down the court to get ahead of the ball and slipped. And you could just tell the knee went real crazy, and I thought, Oh my goodness, they've lost that official for the game. We had no standby (laughs) official.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: Now that sounds silly today, but we're so busy getting two officials on every court and getting people to officiate. So I jumped up to go and get an official dressed and prepared to officiate, and I went around to the side of the court, and halfway around I met Fran Koenig who was a DGWS leader, excellent lady from Central Michigan. And she said, "I hope it's okay with you, but I sent Laura down to dress to come up," because at that time we had a rating system, and she was the next person rated to have called that game.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: And Fran knew that, and she'd sent her down to get her little striped shirt and her little skirt on to come up and officiate. So they attended to Rosie and got her off the court, and in walked the other official, and the game went on and nobody knew. (laughter) Nobody knew that we had to kind of go into action, and obviously from then on we always had standby officials, which we should have had at the time but—

Bartges: That was the first occurrence.

West: —everything was happening so fast, and all of these extramural events that led up to these championships, which were very, very big events here in the State of Illinois, we were doing very well to get two officials on every game. We were taking them out of any place possible just to get officials to work the games.

Bartges: And it was important to you to have rated officials?

West: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: Is that true?

West: Oh, very much so. We had such a very, very good and elaborate system all over the country to rate officials. That was one of the jobs I had prior to becoming a Commissioner of National Championships; I was the DGWS Chair of the Board of Officials, and we would develop paper and pencil tests to be sure that people knew the rules, and they had to pass those before they took the practical test—being observed on the court. So you had a Form A and a Form B. If you didn't do well on Form A, you still could take it one more time, and then depending on your grade on that test, they put you in a category, but you were not rated in that category until you performed on the court with three people observing you to see how well you did. So when somebody was selected to call that National Championship Game, they had gone through a process and become a nationally rated official.

Bartges: How many nationally rated officials do you think there were—

West: Oh—

Bartges: —in the, let's say—

West: In the country?

Bartges: In AIAW timeframe, in that ten-year period?

West: In—oh, we probably had four or five hundred.

Bartges: Okay.

West: That's an off-the-top-of-the-head estimate—

Bartges: Sure—

West: —because I never really focused on that number, but, I mean, we might have four or five at our university, as did other of the larger universities in the state. Of course, Illinois was more active than a lot of states, but—

Bartges: At the collegiate level?

West: At the collegiate level, definitely.

Bartges: What do you think happened to that system?

West: Well, quite clearly when the NCAA took over women's sports, they wrote their own rules.

Bartges: Sure.

West: And so that in itself—the DGWS was no longer in charge, and the IHSA [Illinois High School Association] had earlier decided to write their own rules, which pretty much bankrupted the DGWS, because their whole income was based on selling the rules.

Bartges: The books?

West: The books, the DGWS rules and guides. We called them guides because there were also articles in there on how to coach, how to teach, drills.

Bartges: Right, they weren't just rulebooks, they—

West: No.

Bartges: —they had (unintelligible).

West: I still have some of those—

Bartges: Do you?

West: I'm not a real saver, but I have quite a few of the DGWS guides that I either wrote an article for or was in charge of in some respects. So I've kind of saved those. (laughs)

Bartges: Do you think the NCAA paid as much attention to cultivating female officials as they needed to?

West: Not at all to start with, and I think they'd be the first to admit they regret that now. They know that there's got to be some strides made to encourage young men and women, mainly women because most of the officials now are men, to go into officiating. And of course it was not a lucrative pastime in the past. You did it because you were committed to having opportunities for women, and now people go, of course, because they—it's a good income on the side. Some housewives—I've read articles recently about how she wanted to do something, so she started officiating and has just moved up, moved up until now it's quite lucrative.

Bartges: It is very lucrative.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: How long do you think it took—and I'm not trying to bash the NCAA, I'm just trying to get a sense of the transition—how long after the NCAA took over did it take before these women started to drop off, or were they never brought in as officials? Was there no transition period?

West: There was no transition. There was no more national rating for—and so just anybody that would sign up to be an official and say, Yes, I'll do it, was accepted.

Bartges: What is NACWAA?

West: NACWAA is the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators.

Bartges: Okay.

West: That's a—and that's why we call it NACWAA, National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators.

Bartges: How large a group is that?

West: Thousands of them. It's a wonderful organization. After the demise of AIAW, there was really no organization where the women could get together and discuss their special needs and special programs for women, and so NACWAA was formed, and it has grown and grown and grown. I still am very much a part of that group, because in 1995 the lady that was the executive director started a summer institute, and it was at Bryn Mawr, where they have the famous HERS [Higher Education Resource Services] Institute for women in academics to become administrators. So the only group they ever associated with was with this athletic group, and so we have a NACWAA/HERS institute, a week long every summer to train young women to be ADs. That started in 1995, and when I retired they asked me to be the dean of the faculty—you know, plan the program and be there for the week. So we expanded the program, and it really took off. Then we started having two every summer, and we still have two every summer with a waiting list. And this summer when I was in Denver just a couple weeks ago, Jennifer, the executive director now, said, "We have trained over a thousand women."

Bartges: That's great.

West: And that is really good because it gives women a chance to get together and share their common problems and have special programming and motivate them to do things. And we're missing that now, especially in the new NCAA

format in Division I, where schools gave up their one vote per institution. It's pretty much an organization in Division I run by male commissioners.

Bartges: Of large football schools.

West: Large football. They can rule. They can outvote any of the other schools at any time on any issue.

Bartges: How did that happen?

West: Probably one of the saddest things I've seen happen, and that was some of the Division I people just wanted more power, more money, and they—some of the ADs in Division—then I-AA and I-AAA—thought, Well, we want to appeal to these people, and they may—I can remember challenging one AD that I had respected to that point, saying, "Why are you going along with this proposal?" And he said, "Well, they may just walk away." Well, they wouldn't have walked away from the—I mean, the presidents wouldn't let them walk away. So it was debated, and we lost. And I represented the Missouri Valley Conference at the first meeting after that vote where it was a newly constituted management council, and from the very first day, I thought, Why are we even here, because the commissioners have already decided what everything is going to be. We could vote, but we couldn't win.

Bartges: Rene talked about that when—even in her last days of coaching, that the coaches of the Big Ten would vote on something, and then they would meet with the athletic directors or the council—she had a word for it—and the athletic directors had voted eleven to zero the other way, and that's what was implemented, so it really didn't matter what was—

West: We had fought for AIAW to stay separately, but once NCAA took over after a couple years, I became very, very involved in NCAA work, and I served on the council. It was a four-year term, but I came in fulfilling somebody that had left.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: So I was on there, like, for almost six years, and it was very democratic. It was very encouraging to me because there was a process by which you could get things moved through from committee to the council to the convention, and so I had a very good feeling about the fairness of having a second voice heard, but once these commissioners have taken over and literally rule Division I—and I keep limiting it to one because Division III kept one vote per institution, and they're very democratic.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: But the other thing that happened was that Division I, II, and III became extremely federated. In the old system, each division would vote, and then you'd come back and any one division could question what the other division did so there would be a commonality across the association. It's gone.

Bartges: When did that happen?

West: Oh, you're making me reach back and pick out a date that—I'm going to say—

Bartges: You know I'm a date person.

West: I'm going to say about 1987.

Bartges: That early?

West: Uh-huh, I won't be that much off because if I—well, maybe a little later than that, let me see. Did we have gender equity? Maybe 1992. I retired in 1998, and I had been on that management council several years, so yeah, early nineties. Early nineties.

Bartges: I'm going to steer back to 1972. (laughs)

West: Okay, back to Illinois State first official—

Bartges: Well—

West: Official AIAW Championship.

Bartges: Official.

West: In basketball.

Bartges: And Rene talked about—I said I started off asking her about Carol Eckman, and she said, "Well, those were regional invitationals that would go to these sites." And I've never seen a list of schools that went to those first three at West Chester, Northeast, and Western Carolina, but you said there were sixteen teams that went to those?

West: Yeah, and they weren't regional. I mean, at the very first invitational that Carol Eckman had, SIU was there, Western North Carolina, obviously West

Chester, Southern Connecticut, Ohio State, University of Iowa. Now I'm just remembering back—I'm—oh, Ursinus [College].

Bartges: Yeah, Debbie Ryan's.

West: Now I have seven.

Bartges: Tennessee schools? I'm trying to rack my brain here. California, Texas, Mississippi.

West: Mississippi didn't go to that first one. The next year at Northeastern, Cal State Fullerton [California State University, Fullerton] was there, which indicates they certainly weren't just regional.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: And obviously Northeastern. That was the one—I told you Illinois State and SIU were there, Towson State.

Bartges: Towson.

West: Um—

Bartges: Indiana or Indiana State?

West: Not Indiana State, but Indiana might have been there.

Bartges: I'm trying to think of the teams that were—but they were invitationals?

West: Yes. They were very firm in not wanting more than one school per state if they could really make it broader in scope, and so that's why we went to the first one and Illinois State did not, but by the next year they knew that they were very strong, and so both of us were invited—because Illinois was very progressive as far as the extramural sports day teams had played. I came in, oh my goodness, 1957 to SIU because they had extramural events for women, and I knew that was a steppingstone to varsity sports. So Illinois State was, you know, fast out of the blocks on that, although we weren't' so fast out of the blocks on high school.

Bartges: And I don't understand that because I would have thought—and you and I have talked about this, it was a few years back, but about the pressure from the colleges being put on the state institution.

West: I would have thought. But you know, you had Ola who definitely did not support that. She definitely did not support that. She was very strong for the GAAs [Girls' Athletic Association] and the young women playing within their schools but was very anti moving toward varsity sports.

Bartges: Yeah, that's been very clear to me from the people that I've talked to. Ola had a different view on it of course.

West: Well, later.

Bartges: Later, yeah.

West: But, see, she was also—in that era, young women without long-term contracts were very concerned of appeasing whoever they worked for.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: Well, I mean, take this area with one high school gym—they didn't want the women to have varsity basketball because it was boys' varsity basketball, junior varsity boys' basketball, freshman boys' basketball, and if the poor women could get in to play GAA, that was a step, but no, they did not want to and the state rule was if you had that kind of a competition, your boys' team could be ineligible and goodness knows they didn't allow that.

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: So there was quite an effort. And Marian Kneer—

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: Have you visited with Marian at all?

Bartges: Yes.

West: I credit a lot of the advancement in the high school arena to Marian, because I remember as a young collegiate coach, I would visit with her and I'm sure contributed to their sending out information and trying to get the vote to change that women could have sports, and they were fighting Ola on that.

Bartges: She talked a lot about doing mailings and—

West: That's why we contributed. (laughs)

Bartges: —and through IAHPERD trying to get off the table sort of backroom kind of agreements to get people moving in that direction, but that the IHSA was so very resistant to that. Probably the most articulate version I've heard from a coach's perspective, a high school coach's perspective, is a woman named Ann Murray, who was at Centralia.

West: Yes, I know Ann.

Bartges: She's very interesting to talk to.

West: Yes. Yeah, she stands out.

Bartges: She does.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: And—

West: Real, I think, objective and—

Bartges: Well, and she went to Baylor, so you know I—my contention was always that the Illinois people, the indigenous Illinois people, didn't move up into and in a progressive way, that that came a little bit later, but the pioneers in Illinois high school basketball were people who came to Illinois. And I firmly believe that. They came from states that had different backgrounds.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: And Illinois, maybe because the collegiates were more progressive with their extramurals and stuff like that, they thought, Well, this is a place I can go. But Laurie Ramsey, Ann Murray—Ann Murray, her (laughs)—the funny story with her was that Jody Conradt was the graduate assistant when she was playing at Baylor.

West: Jody must have been the GA [Graduate Assistant] at Baylor before she went to Texas Arlington.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: In Arlington before—and it's interesting, you know, you're aware of the—around 1967, USOC [United States Olympic Committee] DGWS [Division for Girls and Women's Sports] Institutes?

Bartges: Yes.

West: They take two on every state. We went to Indiana University for a week to get this high-level training, and when we got there, we found out that many of us that had played industrial league ball—like I played on a city team in St. Petersburg when I was in high school, and we played in Miami and Jacksonville, Orlando and Tampa, had a man coach, and I learned a lot. And when we got to this institute in Indiana, they had brought in some women that they thought were the most knowledgeable, and some of us knew a lot more than they did. But the whole attitude there was, We're here to share, and you had to pledge that if you were invited to that week-long institute that you would return to your area and give a minimum of ten clinics spreading the word. (laughs) So it was at that institute that I met Billie Moore. And I knew

right away Billie knew as much as anybody about offense, and I convinced her to come here and be our GA [Graduate Assistant] with me the next year.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: And so Billie came and was my GA for two years, and so she was with me when we went to West Chester, yes. And then she was recruited away to Fullerton, and she brought her Fullerton team to Boston the next year and won the national championship. (laughter) And then UCLA [University of California-Los Angeles] saw her there close by with all this success, and so they recruited her to be the coach at UCLA. After a couple of years she won the AIAW national championship. I think that was in 1975.

Bartges: So Annie Meyers was playing for her?

West: Annie was one of her players, and then in 1976 Billie was our Olympic coach.

Bartges: Yes.

West: And she is Pat Head's[7] mentor. Pat just idolizes Billie. But that institute, it's real interesting. If you pick the ladies that went to that institute, Lucille Kyvollas from Queens College, Jill Upton from Mississippi State, you know, myself, Billie, and all of us (unintelligible) the people that we coached, and who they coached, it'd be like a big family tree. That was just kind of the start of the whole thing. Well, I got off on that when you mentioned Ann because I came back to this area, and I had to give these ten clinics.

[7] Patricia "Pat" Head Summit is a former head coach for women's college basketball. She holds the most all-time wins for a head coach in NCAA history, and now serves as head coach emeritus for the Tennessee Lady Vols.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: So I had to invite myself, and I would invite myself to Southeast Missouri State and give one there and (unintelligible) College and into St Louis. And I went over and gave one in Harrisburg. I don't know how I got over there to Harrisburg, whether I invited myself or—I think I had a student that I had taught that was over there, and I said, "I can come over and do this." She helped me put it on. Ann was there.

Bartges: Oh.

West: And I picked her right out as somebody that was, one, interested in finding out whatever she could and knew what I was—knew enough about basketball, so she was kind of the star person. And I found out later that she'd gone back and given some clinics.

Bartges: We talked about that—

West: And that made me feel real good because that was the grassroots movement in this country to get more people involved in competitive basketball. And I saw her probably five or six years ago at a golf tournament, and we talked about it—talked about those (unintelligible).

Bartges: She was a little bit laconic initially because here I am a stranger, and she didn't know where I was from or anything else like that. I'm just kind of out of the blue, but she was kind enough to talk to me, and she warmed up and got more comfortable. It was very interesting to hear her talk. And she obviously had a handle on what was going on. And she would have stood out. I have no

trouble seeing that she would have stood out as a younger person, because she was big to start with.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: So you see somebody like that, and you know she could just be down on a post abusing somebody. (laughs)

West: Well, you know as a teacher when you're lecturing to a class, you know who's connecting with you and who's not, and the same with the coaching. She was connecting and asking questions and helping others and (unintelligible).

Bartges: In the first high school state tournament here, Centralia beat in the first round game—it was like Mississippi College for Women getting beaten by Immaculata—Centralia beat Joliet West, where Cathy Boswell played.

West: Interesting.

Bartges: And I remember being at the hotel there in Normal, going to Normal, and we all stayed in the same hotel. It was a Ramada Inn or a Super 8 or something like that. And they came in, and there was a big entryway that had a balcony on it, and you could look down into the lobby area. And I can remember us, because Joliet West just—Joliet West just always frustrated us. We'd lose by one, they'd beat us by two, and they were always really tight, physical games. And when we found out Centralia beat Joliet West, we thought, Wow. And we stood on that balcony, and we kind of clapped and said, "Congratulations, Centralia! Centralia!" It was—it's kind of corny now when you think about it, but—

West: No, that's great. No, those are the good times to remember.

Bartges: They really—and of course we didn't see that game, but I can imagine that must have been a very good game. They must have really shut Bos [Cathy Boswell] and their guards down, because Joliet West was just unbelievably good.

West: Ann would have been a good coach.

Bartges: Well, and they won, I think, two state championships and were runner-up in two others. I mean, they had very successful programs. And when she talked about gym space—because Centralia has a storied boys program as well.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: She said they were late to get started. They didn't start playing basketball until 1975 or 1976, and then that first state tournament was 1977. And she said she had a hard time getting gym space, but after the first championship, which was maybe the next year or the year after that, she said, "I didn't have any trouble getting gym space." (laughter) What was your role in 1972 in the AIAW?

West: I think just an interested observer. I don't think—well, you know, I was probably being Chair of the Affiliated Board of Officials. I don't know if I had an official function there or not, I can't remember.

Bartges: Well, I wasn't trying to trap you. (laughs)

West: No, I—I'm thinking back. I remember certain things. I remember going to a party at Laurie's house that invited all of the coaches and AIAW personnel—probably had some state office here with ARFCW [American Recreation Federation of College Women].

Bartges: I've never heard of that.

West: But anyway—American Recreation Federation of College Women coordinated all the extramural events in all the states before AIAW took over.

Bartges: Trying to remember—when you said a Committee on Rules, would that have been an Infractions Committee or an Officials Committee?

West: Not an Infractions Committee. I don't think we were that organized (laughs) at that time. I honestly don't know. I might could go back into some old curriculum vitae and see what I was doing in 1972, but it's not back here in my mind.

Bartges: Okay, I'm going to show you this, see if this elicits a—remember that program?

West: Not really.

Bartges: Okay.

West: That—interesting that they say DGWS too.

Bartges: (unintelligible). I'm going to go to this. That's the inside of that program. I have some other—

West: Oh, great. When you were down and talked to me in Estero—

Bartges: Uh-huh.

West: Did you by any chance talk to Phebe Scott?

Bartges: Yes.

West: Good.

Bartges: Yeah, Phebe was very interesting.

West: She is an interesting lady. Now, see, Phillips University—I can't even remember knowing where they are.

Bartges: I don't know where they are either.

West: Thornton was at—this was the Illinois State one?

Bartges: Yes.

West: Long Beach, Indiana U [University], I know they were early on. Northern had a good team. Queens did. South Dakota State—I would not have remembered that. Southern Connecticut had a very good team. Tennessee at Martin—

Bartges: (laughs)

West: That would have been Pat Head, because we played them all the time. Marie used to always—poor soul had to guard Pat.

Bartges: Oh, really? (laughs)

West: Yeah. They both were chosen for the Student World Games tryouts, and that was the nucleus that was Billie's 1976 team and very, very good players. She made it all the way down to the last cut.

Bartges: If it got dark just touch—

West: Washington State, West Chester State, Utah State, I remember (unintelligible). Great. That—

Bartges: And that's one of the things that was in—I meant to bring Rene's scrapbook.

West: (laughs)

Bartges: I told you she had this box of stuff—

West: Uh-huh?

Bartges: —that were trophies and plaques and things like that, and I took some pictures of those—

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: —to put on my—

West: Do you want a chair?

Bartges: No, I'm—

West: Okay.

Bartges: But all of her scrapbooks, her four scrapbooks from her college years were there and she said, "Take them." I said, "I can't take all four of these: A, I'll get lost. You won't hear from me for a while because I get lost in that stuff." And I said, "Secondly, I don't want to be responsible for having those items all in one mass." So I didn't take them all, but I did take the one from 1972, and I took a bunch of pictures as you see. I have some of them downloaded. Here's—she says she doesn't know what (laughs) happened to the basketball that was on it. That's her player plaque from 1972.

West: Interesting.

Bartges: And the trophy for this—these were the individual trophies that they gave the—

West: The players?

Bartges: The players.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: And it has their names on it—says Rene Muth on it and then AIAW National Champs. Now, on that it says AIAW National Champs.

West: On here?

Bartges: Yeah.

West: Uh-huh. The AIAW—there's probably something that I can clean that with—but this is what everybody got afterwards.

Bartges: Oh.

West: This one, of course, doesn't have a plaque on it or anything, and as the Commissioner of National Championships, I got this because at one championship we had one more than—that I didn't give out, so I copped it, (laughs) and I reported, you know, because we sent all the others back. And I said, "I want this as a souvenir." Well, I've got one like this—

Bartges: I'm going to show the camera this.

West: Okay. I've got one in my office at school that's about that big, because it was National Championship Team Trophy.

Bartges: Oh.

West: And I mean it just stands about like that.

Bartges: So it's huge?

West: Yeah, it's huge.

Bartges: We're going to just—that's the trophy she's talking about.

West: And I noticed at our NACWAA auction, we always have—every year a couple of these have shown up, and they've gone like crazy.

Bartges: Oh, really?

West: Yeah, because people—and we commissioned an artist to do this. We told him what we wanted. We wanted a woman athlete holding up the AIAW logo. And the first one they gave us (unintelligible) if you went—she'd fall over, and we said, "No, these women are muscular. We want them—" and we had a hard time. And even so, her little arms are not (laughs) strong women's arms, but they're so much better than what they first gave us.

Bartges: Who was the artist?

West: (unintelligible).

Bartges: (laughs) I'm here to test your memory.

West: It could be found out. I have no—I couldn't have told you the next year because I wasn't communicating with—Judy Holland was the president that—we got these—synchronized all of the sports the year that she was president so—

Bartges: This is a photograph. I'd like to get my hand on one of those. Would—this is from the grouping that you said was fed into the Olympic trials, but you had a name for it where—

West: The World University Games.

Bartges: Yes.

West: Yes.

Bartges: Is Marie in that picture?

West: Was this taken in Iowa?

Bartges: No. I don't know when it was taken.

West: Um—

Bartges: This is probably 1973 or 1974.

West: No, she had preceded that group probably. See, that's Charlotte Lewis, isn't it?

Bartges: That's what I thought, yeah. She's the only African American there.

West: That's interesting. Oh, here's somebody.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: If I get it up closer—I mean, I know the basketball players through the years pretty well. That's not so clear that I can pick out some of them. I did her because of her—

Bartges: Her fro [afro].

West: (laughs) This is 1970?

Bartges: No, it's not 1970; it's either 1973, 1974, or 1975. I'm not sure. Rene didn't know. I'm guessing it's 1975 or 1974.

West: Um-hmm. That would be—

Bartges: And one of the reasons I say that is because Charlotte Lewis, I know when she graduated from high school, and she would not have been in college yet, so it can't be 1974. It can't be 1973, it might be 1974, but I'm thinking it's 1975 just because of when Charlotte graduated from high school. You know she died?

West: Yes, I heard that.

Bartges: I have a PDF that I can show you this that you can zoom out. You can get it big so that maybe you could pick out some people. So you went just as a coach, as an interested person in 1972 to the National Championships?

West: The best of my knowledge, (laughs) I was trying to think what my role might have been if I had an official capacity but—because we didn't have a team there—may have been something with officials.

Bartges: Well, that's sort of what I meant in terms of an Infraction Committee or an Officials Committee. I have about four minutes left on this tape, so—

West: Rating officials or, you know, we had a system once the tournament got underway. We even let the coaches rate. We didn't let coaches say, I want so-and-so, but we had a system where they rated the officials that called their

games. So it might have been in that capacity, getting their evaluations after each game and looking to see which official should move up to the semifinals and finals.

Bartges: They don't still do that?

West: No. I don't think the coaches have any input anymore.

Bartges: I don't think so either. What did you think of the level of play at that 1972 Championship Tournament? Did you think it was a pretty high level of play?

West: Yes, compared to what we had been seeing, it was a step up. Yeah. I can vividly remember Marianne Stanley and Theresa Grentz, who really drove that Immaculata team—you know, great point guard and just a steady, steady force—and Theresa in the center, and I was impressed. They had a balanced team. I remember Rene as forward, but—of course, each year it got better. Like, I can talk about when Delta State beat them the next year, they got better and everything got progressively better. I mean, in the seventies I have a favorite story that I think demonstrates the tremendous increase in level of skill, because I took over that championship—Director of the Championships in 1975, and my first job was with the Swimming Committee, and we had kind of contention on the committee. I felt like my first conference call was in a hornet's nest because we had a group that just really wanted the qualifying standards to be extremely rigid, another group that wanted them a little more relaxed so more people could get to the championship. So I said, Well, let's—they're already set for this year, so we'll go to Arizona State, and we'll swim, and then we can convene afterwards and set the standards for the next year. So we did, and there were over 520-some swimmers at that AIAW Championship at Arizona State in 1975. So we convened, and you can

imagine the rigid ones were saying, We've got to cut this time. This is not an all-clubbers meet, blah, blah, blah. So we set the time so far back. And, you know, I had coached swimming at Boca Ciega High School in Florida, so I knew my swimming times. And those kids I coached grew up swimming before they walked. So we set the times, and I remember our swimmers here saying, "Dr. West we can't make those times." "Yes, you can. Yes, you can." So long story short, we met the next year in Miami—outdoor pool, beautiful glorious weather. How many swimmers qualified? Over 500. So the next year we had the championship, I was no longer commissioner, but I checked the numbers at Brown University, over 500; next year at Duke, over 500; next year at Pitt, over 500. So that is a demonstration of what skill level was like 1975 to 1979. And also in that time period around 1972, Don Schollander, looked like a Greek God, won the United States medal, Olympic medal, 400-freestyle, and it was two Olympiads, just eight years later, the women broke the record.

Bartges: Wow.

West: So as I talk about the history of sports, I talk about the level of skill change in the seventies. You asked me about the basketball, and it was great competition, great competition and a good skill level, but every year it got better. Every year it got better.

Bartges: With the swimming times each one of those years that you just talked about, were the times cut back each one of those?

West: Oh yes, drastically, drastically.

Bartges: But consistently they rose to it?

West: Yes. And that's—that's two lessons—you set a goal and you can meet it, but it was just that women were finally given the opportunity, finally encouraged to train and have experience competing, and yes, they were cut back drastically every year. And it's a good story in swimming…

(End of Interview)

Interview with Charlotte West

DGB-V-D-2005-009
Interview Date: June 12, 2009
Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

A Note to the Reader

This transcript is based on an interview recorded by the ALPL Oral History Program. Readers are reminded that the interview of record is the original video or audio file, and are encouraged to listen to portions of the original recording to get a better sense of the interviewee's personality and state of mind. The interview has been transcribed in near-verbatim format, then edited for clarity and readability, and reviewed by the interviewee. For many interviews, the ALPL Oral History Program retains substantial files with further information about the interviewee and the interview itself. Please contact us for information about accessing these materials.

Bartges: All right, it is June 12, 2009. This is Ellyn Bartges from the University of Illinois, and I'm interviewing Charlotte West in a second day of a two-day interview. Thank you for your time yesterday and for giving me some time this morning. I don't want to wear you out. The books that you loaned me yesterday were very informative.

West: Good.

Bartges: There were a couple of really well-written, succinct articles in there that gave me some information that I hadn't had. And I know some of this may seem

redundant, but part of it is with oral history, establishing a relationship and trust and a feel for people's lives, and because I—it's one thing to read it, but it's another thing to hear it. So if—

West: Well, one of those—I'm not sure if you read that particular article, but there's a local newspaper, and the person that interviewed me for that *Heartland News* or something, I thought she did a very good job from a more personal perspective.

Bartges: That was a very good article.

West: And another one that really hits on the personal side was the young lady that wrote the article about my retirement for the *NCAA News*. And I don't think that was in any of those, because I didn't give you the retirement booklet—

Bartges: Right.

West: —but I thought she did a particularly good job too.

Bartges: Well, and I took some dates of publications down, and there was a 2002 article from the *Daily Egyptian,* and that *Heartland Women* one from 2006, and then an NCAA issue. So I thought that those were all very interesting. I have sort of an odd question for you. (laughter) When I was looking through the pictures and stuff, you suddenly decided to grow your hair long.

West: No.

Bartges: No?

West: No. My hair has always been pretty long. It's probably a little longer right now the way I wear it, but my hair is real, real fine.

Bartges: Yes.

West: And when I was in the third grade, I had my first permanent. I can remember it like yesterday, and I was so proud I was going to go have this permanent. And the lady that was doing my hair said, "Oh, this poor child." And she said, "She's going to have trouble with her hair the rest of her life," because it's like corn silk, and yet it's kind of stretchy. So through my professional life, I always had it done at the beauty shop by a special person, and they backcombed it.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: And so for a while that was the style, so I was okay, but I continued doing that because it gave me some body that I don't have, because my hair won't take a permanent.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: And I mean, I can go in and have a permanent and come out and just be just about as straight as when I went in, a few kinks maybe, this way or that. So all the time I had to have it backcombed. So when I retired I thought, I don't have to do that, (laughter) because, you know, if you have it backcombed and some hairspray and you get it the least bit wet, you've got sticky—

Bartges: Yeah.

West: And it's a mess, and we have—this isn't anything you want probably on your tape, but a real funny story, I think, is, as you know, working with the WBCA [Women's Basketball Coaches Association], and it was in Charlotte [North Carolina]. We went down, had our board meeting and everything, and before the events really started, they had a golf outing. So Beth Bass and Karol Kahrs and myself, and another young person I had just met that was a volleyball coach, and I can't remember her name, we were a foursome. And we got out there and started playing, and it start raining. I had just had my hair done, so I reached in my golf bag and got out this shower cap—put this shower cap on. And Karol Kahrs said to me, "You wouldn't happen to have another one of those would you?" And I said, "Oh, indeed I do. I keep a supply." So I get in there and I get out Karol's, and Karol puts her shower cap on. And then when Beth sees this, she said, "Well, I've just had mine done too, and we've got this convention coming up. No way you have a third one, do you?" And I said, "Yes, just a minute." (laughter) So Beth and Karol and I have these horrible motel shower caps on.

Bartges: Oh, my.

West: And we play, because it's still drizzling. Well, when we made the turn, they had a photographer there. And so I said—we're wearing our uniform, and I was teasing Beth at the time because she was—she'd been with Nike, and I said, "This is the new Nike reindeer." Anyway, they took our picture, and then the guy came up, and he said, "What's your name?" And I said, "Billie Moore."

Bartges: (laughs)

West: Karol said, "Pat Head Summit," and we gave them all the bad names. So everybody there was having a wonderful time, and we got the best dressed team. (laughter)

Bartges: And did that picture show up anywhere?

West: No, thank goodness. No, it didn't show up, but we've had a lot of fun with it, because, I mean, we didn't—we weren't too stylish. I just had to do that because I had a very, very difficult head of hair. So when I retired, I just combed it out. And I can play golf today, and it can pour, and I couldn't care less.

Bartges: Well, and I hate to be like one of those news reporters asking inane degrading questions to women, but I—there was a distinct break—

West: Oh, yeah. After I retired I still had my hair done every day and, you know, you mow the yard like I did last night, race around with him, and you're sopping wet. You can imagine it was like wearing a wool hat.

Bartges: Yeah, I can.

West: It was like wearing a wool hat, so I said, "Forget the looks. I've worried about looking professional, now I'm going to look comfortable." (laughs)

Bartges: You're truly liberated now.

West: I'm liberated. And my secretary—one time at a local golf outing, it was raining, and I pulled out my little shower cap and was out there, and she was still registering people and kind of clearing up the table, and some lady came

in and said, "Would you believe it, there's some lady out there with a shower cap on." And my secretary is kind of a sarcastic person anyway, and she said, "Yes, I know." (laughter) So we had fun.

Bartges: Who are they letting into this club?

West: Had to laugh about it, otherwise you'd cry. (laughs)

Bartges: I thought you were going to say one of those little plastic doodads like my mom used to have that she would tie.

West: Oh, we had—oh, yeah. We played in Salem last week at a really large tournament, and it was raining, and the two ladies that we played with got out those little hats. I know exactly what you're talking about. Yeah, they were popular in the, what, fifties?

Bartges: Yeah—

West: Fifties and sixties.

Bartges: Sixties, seventies even—into the early seventies, my mom would wear them. And you graduated from high school when, in 1950?

West: In 1950, 1950.

Bartges: You're the same age as my mom.

West: Okay.

Bartges: And I mean that in a good way.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: (laughs) And so that's what she used.

West: High school in the fifties and college 1954.

Bartges: One of the things that we haven't talked about is your service with the USOC [United States Olympic Committee]. How did you get involved with the USOC?

West: Okay. Well, when AIAW grew so large and we were doing so much, we had this nation's largest grassroots program, and so that's how you got representation on the USOC. So they allotted so many slots to NCAA and to AIAW, and as president I got one of those slots.

Bartges: And how long did you serve on that?

West: Just a couple years during my presidency. Now, see, that is one of those political reasons—another reason that the NCAA wanted to take over the women, because there was always that USOC and NCAA pulling and tugging about eligibility and control of athletes and that kind of thing. And the women were getting some slots. We were getting slots on the Basketball Committee, all the different sports groups too.

Bartges: Because you were NGBs [national governing bodies]?

West: We were national governing bodies, right.

Bartges: Was the AIAW a NGB for basketball?

West: Oh boy, I'm trying to think of the timing of that. See, the Amateur Sports Act[8] wasn't enacted, I believe, until 1978.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: And I worked on that, testified before Senate Committee on that, really worked on being sure that the Amateur Sports Act incorporated things that AIAW wanted incorporated like representation of athletes and Bill of Rights of athletes and women being on committees, so I don't think they officially called NGBs until that time, but then we definitely were.

Bartges: But that was after the first Olympics, so there was no governing body for that first—

West: You're making me stretch back—you're asking the question, like, in the 1976 Olympics, who really selected the women's team?

Bartges: Yes.

West: We mentioned that Billie Moore was the coach, Jeanne Rowlands was the manager, and I'm thinking they were selected by the Olympic Basketball Committee, which at that time I think was coed—may have had a woman on

[8] The Amateur Sports Act of 1978, signed by President Jimmy Carter, established the United States Olympic Committee, provided National Governing Bodies for each Olympic sport, and provides legal protection for individual athletes.

it, but I don't know who. I don't think they did at that time—have to ask Billie.

Bartges: Because women were not very involved in the Olympic movement—

West: No, no.

Bartges: —at an administrative level?

West: Right.

Bartges: So did you just serve a two-year stint on that while—

West: That's right.

Bartges: You mentioned your department chair as being—when you were looking for jobs, and how she had a connection to Southern, and then a conversation about that. Who was that department chair at UNCG [University of North Carolina at Greensboro]?

West: Ethel Martus.

Bartges: Mortus?

West: Martus, M-A-R-T-U-S, quite an outstanding woman. And she just said, "You know, every young professional needs to get out of their region," and, "Everybody should work some in the Midwest," and all these kinds of things. And it was funny because I came up here, and I wasn't the least bit impressed and drove out and said, "Goodbye, Carbondale." Well, Dorothy Davies, who

this Davies Gym is named after, decided that I definitely should be here, and she—I knew she would call and was going to offer me the job, so I left my dorm room, and somebody there had told her they thought that I'd gone to the Student Union, and she had me paged.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: So anyway, Ethel Martus said, "You take the job. I think you'll like it, and if you don't, I'll put you anyplace you want to go." And she had the power to do that. And I said, "Okay, I'll go for a year." Forty-two years later, I'm still here. (laughs)

Bartges: Was she on your thesis committee?

West: No, not at all, uh-unh, pure administrator. My thesis chair was Gail Hennis, who—her specialty was measurement. And trying to think who else was on there, but she was the driving force—probably Rosemary Medi. I think the two of them were on it.

Bartges: You said that Ethel had a connection or thought that people should spend some time in the Midwest. Was she from this area? There was a connection to Southern, somebody she knew here?

West: No. I mean, she knew Dorothy Davies professionally but not well.

Bartges: One of the things we didn't talk about yesterday was your 1969 golf team.

West: Yes.

Bartges: When did you start coaching golf at Southern?

West: Probably about 1965, but you'd have to give or take a year. I'm reaching back there. We were adding sports, and I very much wanted us to have a golf team. I was not a proficient golfer, but I believed I could organize a team and get a team going. And so we started out—had some good teams, and back in the sixties, the national championship was just two lady teams, which now of course—

Bartges: So essentially a dual (unintelligible)?

West: Well, it's like two women constituted the team from SIU, and two women from Western—

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: It was at Duke University. And Paula—I'm trying to think which of the two won. Dorothy Germain and Paula Smith won that championship. And Paula went on to coach at U of I, and just retired several years ago. She was—

Bartges: She was there for a long time.

West: Yes, and a very nice young lady. She was back just this January when we had this big reunion, and she came back for my retirement, and we've been close through the years.

Bartges: These were extramural teams—the golf team in essence—or was golf different because it was one of the accepted women's activities?

West: It was treated as a varsity. I mean, we were funded by the University, and it was Southern Illinois University Golf Team. I don't know if we declared a label at that time, that this is varsity versus extramurals, because as we were getting toward varsity, we would just have the Southern Illinois Women's Volleyball Team won to so-and-so. Well, in 1969 it would have been a varsity team, because we'd already started having the CIAW championships.

Bartges: How many—

West: I have a good story about that. We won that national championship and the *Southern Illinoisan* had an article, "Southern Illinois University Women Win National Championship", about two column inches. So that was in the spring. In the fall our Women's Caucus decided to have a male chauvinist pig luncheon.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: And we made pink placemats and pink napkins, and all of us, each one in the member of a caucus could invite a pig. (laughs) We had kind of copied the idea from another school that had done it and had written it up in some newsletter, and that it was done in fun, but it got some points across. So everybody was saying, Well, who are you inviting? Who are you inviting? And I said, "I'm inviting the sports editor of the *Southern Illinoisan*." So we had our luncheon, and then each one introduced, and I stood up and said, "This is my guest, Merle Jones, who's sports editor of the *Southern Illinoisan*." And I had my little article on a little poster board. And I said, "This is the coverage one gets for winning the national golf championship." (laughter) He was a good sport about it. The next year in the fall, before our season really got underway, we got about a half-a-page coverage in the

Southern Illinoisan. So I always tell the NACWAA/HERS classes that you can do a lot with humor. You can make some good points. And on campus it got to be the thing to be invited, you know. I was reporting to the Vice President for Development and Finance at that time, and he kind of got his nose out of joint because he didn't get invited. And he said, "Why didn't you invite me?" And I said, "Well, you're really qualified, but I had to invite somebody else." (laughter)

Bartges: How long did that go on, that luncheon?

West: Oh, just—it was just a shot in the dark, one day, one—

Bartges: Oh no, I meant how many years?

West: Did we repeat that?

Bartges: Yes.

West: Oh no, it was just that one time that we had—

Bartges: Just the one shot?

West: Yeah.

Bartges: I don't know if people would take that the same way today. The sense of humor is much narrower in some ways.

West: Yeah. You'll have to flash back, it was, like, 1970, because we won in 1968 or 1969, so it was right there. The feminist movement was just starting, and

everybody was calling everybody else a male chauvinist pig, and it had to be handled delicately, but it was, and it was fun.

Bartges: That's good.

West: I know today they'd think they were going to be sued, you know, whole different tenor. (laughs)

Bartges: Yeah. We are a litigious society. You talked about testifying and being a federal government consultant for Title IX—

West: Title IX, right.

Bartges: —as that was being written. Did they contact you because you were involved in the AIAW or because of your involvement at Southern? How was that connection made?

West: Well, in 1972 SIU had been pretty progressive with their extramural teams and had this high-powered gymnastics team. And then JoAnne Thorpe was president of—well, vice president but the head person in DGWS. And we had been very vocal about varsity sports for women, so I think it was natural for people to say, Well, here would be a place to visit. After the Title IX was enacted, they had to write the regulations. It took them three years. They weren't published until 1975, but after the law was enacted, then—I cannot think of the—Gwen Gregory, I think, was one of the women that wrote the regulations, but two of them came here to campus and spent the day with us. And we had the opportunity to say, Now this should be in the regulations and this should be in the regulations. So we gave them early input, because we'd both been involved in—JoAnne coaching volleyball and me basketball—and

were able to at least direct them like we thought it should be written. And you know, that was done very, very well, I think, because between 1972 and when the regulations were published, they had—HEW which is now OCR [Office for Civil Rights]—had hearings in ten principal cities around the country and they gave their draft of the regulations to the public. So everybody could come and say, This is ridiculous, (laughs) or, This is wonderful and you need to expand it. And I can remember going to St. Louis, and the input from the men and the women involved was heated but good and needed. So they listened to all of this debate one way or the other and went back and then issued their final draft, which still has the effect of law today.

Bartges: It's very simply worded.

West: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: But like you said, getting the rules down on paper and getting that took time. During this process when they went to the ten cities, did the women of DGWS try to come up with a codified approach to getting people to view those things and provide their input? Did they do mailings or—

West: No, but if you'd step forward five years and something would come up about Title IX, AIAW would have—we'd have had instructions to our members about how to go about it and why we wanted a certain thing, but at that point no. The DGWS women turned out at each of the locations because of interest, self-protection. But you know, it's really interesting if you read those 1975 regulations, which I'm sure you have at some point in your life. They really provide schools with good direction and a lot of flexibility. And in all the time that has passed, there has not been a need for much clarification.

Bartges: No, the clarifications have been political.

West: A lot of it. A lot of it and really—because some of the people that didn't want to move toward equity wanted to say, Well, it's not really clear. Yeah, so they make it a little clearer, and then they're really not too excited about that.

Bartges: Were you involved in the movement to stop the Tower Amendment[9]?

West: Yes. Yes, we were. I have a memory of being on the AIAW Executive Board, and we were in Dallas meeting, and the Tower Amendment was before Congress, and—

Bartges: The first time?

West: I don't know if it was the first time or not. I think it was, but I can remember our AIAW legal counsel was invaluable for keeping tabs on this kind of legislation and giving us good direction for press releases and public positions and alerting the membership—Call your senators, call your so-and-so. And we had an AIAW telephone tree that was very active. So if something came up, they had key people in every state that we'd call, and they may call five, and those people would call five. So nobody was too overburdened. But we moved. And I say if we had had e-mail or faxes, then we'd have been even more dangerous—

Bartges: (laughs)

[9] In 1974 Senator Tower proposed the "Tower Amendment", which would exempt revenue producing sports from the stipulations of Title IX. The amendment was not passed.
https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/en/home/advocate/title-ix-and-issues/history-of-title-ix/history-of-title-ix

West: —because we were dangerous with just telephones. So yes, we had an organized approach. And as somebody that—embarrassed to say this—that was not really at all politically astute, I started learning in a hurry what happens in Washington, D.C. And Margot had a lot of good contacts in some of the different offices. Oh, I want to be sure and point out that it was around the 1975, 1976, along in there when you had to really keep your pulse on Title IX constantly. AIAW convened other women's groups, and that was the time when the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education was formed. And it was very loosely organized. You could take your nosebag lunch or you could grab a sandwich on the way, but we'd get together and discuss all these things like the Tower Amendment and anything else that was happening. And I don't know if you've ever gone to their web site, N-C-W, the Women's—

Bartges: N-C-G-W-S?

West: National Coalition of Women and Girls in Education.org, but you use just the initials. It's comprised of about forty or fifty different organizations, and in the 2002 Bush attack on Title IX, that was the group that led the opposition. If you wanted to know what happened at each of the hearings, you'd go to that web site. And the big leaders in that group are the National Women's Law Center, the American Association of University Women, the National Association for Girls and Women Sport, NACWAA, NCAA—we all had reps on that coalition. That's what it was. It was just a group of women getting together, but we could say, Look, we represent Jewish Women's Association. We represent six million women. It was a powerful group, powerful more from knowing the strategy and knowing, Well, she works in HEW so she's keeping her eye out for so-and-so, somebody else does this, and somebody is an aide to this congressman, and we started learning the politics and the strategies in D.C.

Bartges: Who are some of the up-and-coming leaders?

West: For AIAW?

Bartges: Well, in these organizations. Like in 2002—when we went to the softball field yesterday and we looked at the plaque and you looked at the names that contributed to that, there is a consistent theme there among some of those people. Their lives have been dedicated to advancing women and girls in sport. They've dedicated—like yourself. Your entire being has been involved in that. But time moves on and somebody has to—you know, like when we met—

West: Pass the torch.

Bartges: —Kathy—to fill your shoes or to pass the torch. Who are some of the young stars now? Where are they coming from, or is there a need for more?

West: Oh, there's a decided need for more, and that's the driving force for me to keep working with NACWAA, with these institutes, and to encourage young women to step forth and be leaders, and working with them on strategies that they can use on their campus where they are not necessarily going to jeopardize their positions, who to turn to, who to network with. The networking is so vital. Sharing approaches, you know. If you know you're, for instance, out of compliance in an area in a university, we talk to them about, Okay, how do you go about addressing this? And naturally you go to your athletic director first. And Judy Sweet's good about telling them—she was saying, Well, when you go home now, wait a little bit and then just say, 'Well, when I was at NACWAA/HERS—' (laughs) 'When I was at the

institute, and we had a session on Title IX, we found out blank and blank, and I'm concerned. We need to do something to correct this.' So you're working with somebody and trying not to be threatening. And here are some of the approaches that we can use in our plan to correct this, teaching strategies.

Bartges: Well, and one of the things that I personally have found as someone who has spoken out and had ramifications for that—so I understand the job thing, but I've always found it frustrating from the time. I was an athlete in high school and I am a Title IX child; I was a freshman in 1974. Everybody always said, You have to be patient, you have to wait, you have to be patient. And after fifty-two years, from the time you arrived here at Southern, fifty-two years later as we sit here today, why do you think it is that we still have to be concerned about losing our jobs when we talk about equity and fairness?

West: To me that's very sad. It's very sad. People are so resistant to change. And that's one of the best things I've seen about this certification program is people forced to make a plan, because if you take one step at a time, you get there. Now what's been so bad is people haven't been taking steps, and in the eighties they even took some steps backward. So I have too much patience sometimes. I've learned to be more patient. When I was younger, I think I was—attacked more things rather than being a little patient and looking to see where I really needed to put my gunfire. I had a gentleman that was the assistant to the man that I reported to, and the gentleman that I reported to that was—didn't get invited. We ended up being great friends, but we did have some great wars and some good shouting matches, and his assistant said to me one day, "Charlotte," he said, "you land too often." He said, "You need to learn to circle. Circle a little bit before you land." And you know, that was real helpful to me. I thought about that a lot. I'd sit in a meeting, and I'd think to myself, Should I keep circling (laughter) or should I land? You have to

pick your battles, another way of saying that. You pick your battles. You can't do it all. But I would say the most disappointing thing to me is that some of us did put our heads on the chopping block. And I had a person I reported to saying, Well, if you just keep being so vocal, we'll have to see about somebody else taking your place. So I've put up with the threats, but you know it's the right thing to do, and you try to go about it in the right way, and you take great pleasure in that. The thing that disturbs me is I don't see a large number of women in my next immediate generation, the people that we're handing our jobs to, be willing to do that. I can go down the line and some of my colleagues, we discussed this, how disappointed we are in this very next generation, that next generation that is—

Bartges: This is my generation?

West: I would say they're women in forty-five to fifty-five that have, some of them, extremely high-paying jobs, some prestigious jobs. Even take the certification program with their institutional plan for equity; they're not pushing to get any more done. They're going along with what the male AD says even though they know it's a violation of Title IX. I see that. Chris sees it. Other people see it, but she's the one I—we groan about this. We have some young women that are stepping up. I was excited to death this last week. I met a young women in an institution—I don't want to name her name, but they just went through a lawsuit. They had called her in the spring and told her her team was eliminated. Well, they even had legal help to say how they were going about this was okay. They were going to drop that team and add cheerleading. And she finally—we got her to tell her story, and she was remarkable because she got the team behind her. They did it when the team was there (laughs) which makes a difference.

Bartges: Unlike Western [Western Illinois University].

West: And the whole thrust was, We're going to take the high road throughout this, but we are not going to let this happen. And they prevailed. They got the state ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union] behind them. I just know that that young lady's going to keep moving up. She's been working in D.C. in a political scene, but that was not her (unintelligible). She has a family, and she wanted to have a job where her husband had a job, and she loved coaching and wanted to keep the team, and she's got it. So I could tell several instances of this, of these young ladies when we have sessions of share your stories and we have strategy planning sessions.

We have some young women coming up that are willing to speak out, but, I mean, I see this here. Elaine Blinde, our sports sociologist, had several coaches and myself—and all for her graduate class—to talk about Title IX and what progress we're making, and a couple of our young coaches were saying, Well, it's just terrible that with Title IX they're dropping teams, and it's not fair to the men. And that's kind of a sweet political position—they think they're appeasing everybody in the group. They're not willing to say (laughs) Title IX is not the cause of dropping the sports. Those are administrative decisions. I mean, I've got all kinds of—I love to give a speech called "Debunking the Myths" in a PowerPoint, and I mean, I just love to speak like that. I'm a gentle person, but I get so enraged I just want to go up and slap them. (laughter) I don't. I don't. I'll sit there and growl to myself. But they're just setting people back, so to me that's the greatest disappointment, and we're working to correct it.

Bartges: It's a dangerous disappointment too.

West: Oh, it's dangerous. They're so pleased with their salaries and their position and to appease whoever's in the athletic director's chair—do what they want even though they know they're not advancing the women that are coming behind them. We didn't do it for us. We didn't gain anything. If anything we suffered some advancement, but it was the right thing to do. And yes, I see some women coming along that I know have that fervor. They're not the numbers I'd like, and that's why I get excited about these institutes because in a class of forty, we'll find, oh, a good handful that I think are going to be out there.

Bartges: Do you think part of the difference in the generations is the difference between athletics that was driven by the phys ed [physical education] movement versus professional coaches and administrators?

West: Yeah, I think there was—there's a philosophical difference between—if you can generalize between both groups. I mean we—the early women in AIAW believed so strongly in giving everyone a chance to participate and encouraging more participation, thinking that sport was empowering to women, and we find a lot of the younger people today it's, Win and be recognized. I'd go to the—well, you were in Tampa. We went to the WBCA [Women's Basketball Coaches Associatin] convention. And having served that association for so long, Beth had sent me credentials to go to any of the meetings I wanted to attend. So one day I went over there just to go through the exhibits and go to a couple of the meetings. Well, all the younger coaches were out sunning and shopping around. They were poorly attended.

Bartges: Really?

West: Very, very few people inside. There were usually a fairly decent response to the X's and O's, somebody showing how to break so-and-so press or, you know, something like that, but if there was something on legislation or something on improving ethics in our profession or a topic such as that, they're not showing up. That's real sad to me.

Bartges: I have not been to the meeting since I got out of collegiate coaching because of the fee to go to the conference. I still am a member. I've maintained my membership actively. But as a coach, did you ever encounter negative recruiting when you were coaching?

West: Well, I coached at a time where the recruiting is not anything near like it is today, but I experienced negative recruiting from the coaches coming to me upset and irate because so-and-so said this or so-and-so is doing this, and that was back even in the seventies. I can remember calling a colleague at a large university to say, Your coach—who was a male volleyball coach—is starting some very negative recruiting. I thought that was a way to go about it, is talk to the athletic director and say, We don't want this to happen and some of the women coaches in the State of Illinois are concerned. They were recruiting some really good volleyball players out of Chicago, and he was saying, Well, don't send your athletes to school A, B, or C because it's a woman coach and they have lesbians on their team, and if you come here, I can protect you. That was in the—around 1977.

Bartges: That early?

West: Yes. And my volleyball coach came and said, "I haven't been a target. I'm friends with this coach, but this is a concern, and what do you think I should

do?" And I said, "Well, I don't think you need to do anything. Let me call the AD and have her talk to him." I don't think she ever did.

Bartges: I wouldn't have guessed it would have started that early.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: And I knew when I was coaching, it was becoming more prevalent, and that was late eighties, early nineties at the collegiate level.

West: This was definitely in the seventies. When I say around 1977, you're going to give me a year. (laughs)

Bartges: Oh, absolutely.

West: But it was close. It was close. Surveys and personal interviews with coaches at the—recruiting is what is driving quite a few women out of the profession, because it can get ugly. It can get ugly, and I hate that.

Bartges: Yeah. And the NCAA has certainly put in a lot more rules that have narrowed down the period of time of recruiting.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: I mean when I was coaching, I would be gone—and, of course, I was coaching two sports, so I was recruiting for two sports—but I would be gone from the fifteenth of May to almost the fifteenth of August.

West: Right.

Bartges: And that's brutal.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: I don't know how people who had children would have been able to do that without a very supportive spouse or partner.

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: So I can see, during that timeframe, why there was a precipitous drop in female coaches.

West: Um-hmm, right.

Bartges: You've talked or mentioned a growing national obsession with sports, and that that was one of the reasons that you got involved in some of the things you got involved in. Do you think that obsession has gotten out of control?

West: To a certain extent, I definitely do. I see these itty-bitty basketball teams and parents driving their kids early to be stars and all-star team. I have a young couple here on the staff that had a young son that was very, very good in soccer. And I would go and watch his games because he'd say, Charlotte, are you coming to watch? And I would go and I—I think it's good to get out and see what's happening with youth sports. Then I got more and more concerned because it was the local team and then the all-star team, and then the all-star team with the all-star team, and, you know, it was getting to be a year-round production, and it was indoor soccer and outdoor soccer. I think that's too much of a good thing. Kids get overexposed, and so I'm also concerned that

their schools are not requiring physical education. The old DGWS model was a triangle with broad-based physical education instruction and then a good intramural program. And if both of those were solid, then have the varsity sports, which was the peak, and I think we've just flipped it over. There's a pittance of instruction, on certain campuses really pretty good intramural. That's encouraging, but the intramural, a lot of it, of course, is physical fitness.

Bartges: To stay fit.

West: Stay fit. I mean, I think your normal college woman is more likely to go over and use the chair step or the weight training and keeping physically fit than maybe being a member of a club soccer team.

Bartges: Why do you think that is, with the exponential growth with female participation at the high school level nationally from 1975 until now?

West: Over three million now, yeah.

Bartges: That they wouldn't choose to go play intramurals? At Iowa State where I was an undergraduate, they had a very active intramural program, and there was not a day even as a varsity athlete that I didn't go play intramurals (laughs) too.

West: Well, yeah, I played a lot of intramurals in college because that's all there was, but I think it's also—you have to—and I learned this very quickly on the Gender Equity Committee. I was projecting nationally what was happening here, and that was not right because as I realized that this was not real typical, I started visiting with my friends and their intramural programs had more competitive sport and certainly a whole lot more club sports, which we lacked

here. So we're a low-economic area, first-generation college students, and I was seeing much less women wanting to participate. Because I had for a long time wanted to add soccer and one—a good friend of mine is in charge of the intramurals, and I kept saying, Bill, are you getting any women wanting to play soccer? Not a one, not a one. We put up signs and everything. Not a one. So I had this attitude that it wasn't as broad as it is like University of Iowa, huge club sports, huge intramurals, so I had to do a little bit better job of seeing what was happening nationally.

Bartges: Can you attribute that partially to the high school association in Illinois?

West: I don't know. I've never thought about that relationship.

Bartges: And I'm not trying to accuse it, but when I hear that, I think, Well, I know that some of the girls that I played sports with in high school—it was a very limited group of girls, and we went from sport to sport to sport.

West: Right.

Bartges: And they had intramurals at the high school level, but a lot of people didn't participate, and I went out of state to school, so I had a different intramural experience. I'm surprised you didn't have that kind of intramural—or I wonder what the intramural experience across the state would have been. That's an interesting question.

West: I don't know. As you know, Illinois was held back a while on the—moving toward more sports for women.

Bartges: I haven't really asked you about your time at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and I ask you specifically about that institution probably because I know more people who have graduated from UNCG, but in my master's study of Illinois High School basketball, one of the things that became very apparent to me was how influential UNCG was because of the (laugh) number of people that I talked to who had some degree from UNCG, and—

West: Yes.

Bartges: —in one of your letters to me, you said that JoAnne Thorpe and Joan Hult were two of the people who were at UNCG when you were there.

West: Right.

Bartges: What was it about UNCG that made it so influential?

West: Well, you know, when I graduated from Florida State and then taught two years, I started really doing my homework about where do I want to get my master's. And so many people—you know, it's one of those things that it's good, and people go there and get a great education, and then they spread the word and it keeps growing. So I would ask my ex-professors at Florida State and other people that I knew, Where is a good place to go, and the school UNCG kept coming up. Texas Woman's was another place at that time. So at the national convention, I sat down and visited with Ethel Martus who was chair of UNCG and Duncan—Dugan—forget her name. I certainly shouldn't, outstanding woman that was head of TWU [Texas Women's University] and she was very, very pro-dance. I had thought about just going into dance, and probably TWU had a little stronger dance program than Greensboro. And I

weighed that, but I liked Ethel Martus so much, and I was able to get an academic scholarship there so I—I was too late when I decided to go to Greensboro to get a graduate assistantship, but it really turned out better for me to get an academic scholarship—had to take more classes, and I got through in a hurry. So I went there. And I don't know—did I tell you the story about Jo Hult?

Bartges: No.

West: She lived next door to me, and we both loved to play basketball, and we talked about her playing on Gary, Indiana Industrial Team and I played on the St. Petersburg team. And we met some lady there socially—well, a young woman at that time, our age, that said, "Oh, we've got a league in town." Oh we said, "Can anybody go play?" "Well, no, but you two can certainly come down and play and tryout some night with us." So we parade down there and play in this basketball game with a man coach, and we kind of had a makeshift uniform because we're not part of a team, and we played, and the coach liked what he saw. He kept saying, "Now you girls are coming back next week aren't you? Now you'll be here for the season?" And we said, "Oh, yeah." And he said, "Well, I'll get your uniforms." And so we're all excited about playing in this league, and when we get to the gym in the morning and go to our mailboxes, we each had a note from Ethel Martus the next morning, and it said, "Please see me." So we parade in there, and she said, "I do not like the idea of any of my girls playing in this league. It sets a bad standard for the undergraduates." And she said to Jo Hult, "You are a graduate assistant, and I am telling you, you cannot play down there." And she said to me, "I can't tell you that, but it probably is in your best interest if you don't go back there."

Bartges: (laughs)

West: Needless to say, we were embarrassed to call the people that were so nice to us and then we told them we would be back saying, We don't think we can come back. (laughs) If that doesn't demonstrate the feeling in 1956 about women playing highly competitive sport, no story does, because that was the attitude. So I said, "You know, Ms. Martus," I said, "I love competitive sport, and I believe in it, and that's one reason I'm in PE, not just in dance. And I miss playing." And she said, "Well, why don't you organize a league here on campus, and we'll have freshmen, sophomore, junior, seniors, and graduate students, and you can play a round-robin." So we did that, and it was fun, but she thought that was the solution, and all it did was give you a taste to have a little bit better skill and play a little bit better-skilled teams. (laughs) But that was the attitude, and my own boss here, Dorothy Davies, when I was asked one time to speak at MAPECW on why we should have varsity sports and scholarships for women, she just said, "Now that's fine. If you want to do that, that's good, but you know you're jeopardizing your professional position, because most women in our profession don't agree with that." And I said, "I realize that. I realize that and thank you, and I'm glad it's okay with you if I do it." It's fine with her if I do it.

Bartges: Amongst your peers, was the prevailing attitude similar to yours, that competitive sports was the way to go?

West: Um—

Bartges: Or necessary?

West: Mixed, real mixed. I, obviously, working in the state extramural program and everything, interacted more with women that had my philosophy than the ones

that chose not to coach, volunteer with no pay and no relief time, you know. We self-selected ourselves to do those jobs. People that didn't believe in it or had other interests, they didn't step up to the plate and say, Yeah, I'll take the badminton team to Eastern, or, Yes, I'll go with you as a softball team and be with the third team when we go to Western—because it was all volunteer. I can remember going in and pleading with the physical education chair to give me two hours, that's in lieu of one activity class, to direct a whole WRA program.

Bartges: WRA?

West: Women's Recreation Association, which coordinated the leadership club for the students and what sports we had and that kind of thing and, you know, what evolved into sports days and extramurals. And I said, "I'm spending evenings over here, and I'm doing this on the weekends, and it's certainly worth at least release of one activity class." So I got two hours release time, and a little bit later I got another, so it was four hours. So that was a third of a normal load, but we had to inch into it.

Bartges: Why do you think you prevailed?

West: Because it was reasonable, and I was taking one step at a time. I got the two hours when I probably deserved at least half-time, and then I got the four, and they saw success, and people—more and more women got interested.

Bartges: We're running out of time here. I have a quick question for you, and I'm going to want to return to this at some point in time.

West: Okay.

Bartges: You talked about the 19—you said 1964 Olympics, but I'm wondering if it wasn't the 1960 Olympics—the poor showing that the women had and how that was sort of an event, a noteworthy event that said, Hey, we need to get our women more active so that we could be more successful—

West: Right—

Bartges: —at this kind of a competition. Do you think that Title IX was a result of the Cold War?

West: No. No, I don't. It certainly may have helped it, but you have to remember that when Title IX was enacted, no one thought it applied to athletics to start with. It was a nonfactor. The Title IX is called the P.T. Mink Equity in Education Act now in her honor. And Patsy Mink, the senator from Hawaii, when she was in high school, she wanted very, very much to be a doctor, and she applied to twelve medical schools, and she was accepted at none—high grades, high entrance scores. She thought, Well, if I can't be a doctor, maybe I can be a lawyer. This time she was smarter, and she applied to several law schools as P.T. Mink, and she was accepted at the University of Chicago. She was one of the driving forces behind Title IX. It was purely for academics, because at that time two people—two twins, a boy and a girl could apply, same grades and everything, the guy would get accepted, the woman would be rejected. And in some medical schools, if schools did take women, they were quotas. So they were focusing totally on education—and if you wanted to take shop, you couldn't.

Bartges: Oh, I know that.

West: And so (laughs) that was what was behind Title IX—was the academics. And of course, it's worked in the academic area. And then after it was enacted, somebody said, "Well, does this apply to all of education? Is athletics included?" And they said, "Yes." And that's when NCAA said the sky is falling, it can't apply to athletics, but it did.

Bartges: In your testimony, in your formation, in your participation in establishing the guidelines and things like that, there was never any mention of athletics?

West: Oh, in my participation? Oh definitely, definitely, but I thought you were saying the impetus for the law.

Bartges: Oh, I was, I was.

West: So once Title IX was enacted—oh, person child, you know—then it was, Okay, to whom does it apply? And immediately, Yes, it applies to all educational programs.

Bartges: So you weren't involved—

West: Then I got involved.

Bartges: Okay. That's what I needed to ask.

West: 1972. I think I served HEW in 1972. I mean, it was immediate.

Bartges: And who asked that question about athletics? Where did that come from?

West: I imagine when they started talking about writing the regulations.

Bartges: Who was part of that group?

West: That was HEW.

Bartges: Health, Education, and Welfare?

West: It was all political. Right—Health, Education, and Welfare. And they thought, Okay, now how are we going to implement this law? We need some rules and regulations. Okay, to whom does it apply? What are they going to have to do? And that's when—yes, it applies to athletics. And see, NCAA had a legal firm in D.C. saying, No, it can't apply to athletics. Well, it does. And then all the scurry, you know, the Tower Amendment and the Javits Amendment[10] and the this and the that and the—and I wasn't—I'll take that back. I wasn't involved in 1972 in D.C. because they came here, and we talked about it, and then the regulations came out, and I'm not sure when I went in. They had a couple of different groups go in with male ADs, and they went through all of this, Should we look at compliance on a cost-per-athlete basis?

Bartges: That'd be interesting.

West: And Chris was on that committee, and she has lots of good stories about why some wanted that and why some didn't. So they had to answer all those questions. And so several of us were invited in to meet with people and

[10] When Senator Tower's amendment to Title IX failed, Senator Javitz submitted an amendment calling for "reasonable provisions considering the nature of particular sports," which would make allowances for sports that draw a larger crowd and have more expensive equipment costs. https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/en/home/advocate/title-ix-and-issues/history-of-title-ix/history-of-title-ix

discuss certain aspects of the regulations. So they were drafting them when we were involved.

Bartges: Did you know Patsy Mink?

West: Not personally, no. I only know by word of mouth and reading about her.

Bartges: Have you met Birch Bayh?

West: Oh, yes. (laughs) Oh, yes. What an ally. To this day he is an ally and helped the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education—helped them tremendously in 2002 on how to counter this attack on the—it was aimed at the proportionality aspect of Title IX, the Prong 1. And he was very good, you know, saying we've got to work with the Republican people there that could be convinced that now is not the time to rile up 80,000 soccer moms. This—for them politically, it's not a good stance to take.

Bartges: Or hockey moms.

West: Or hockey moms, softball moms and dads, for goodness no.

Bartges: I had the pleasure and the honor of meeting Birch Bayh in 2007. And, I mean, I literally got verklempt. I mean, I started to cry when—because my life had been so affected by him. I'm that way now.

West: Yeah. He was honored by NACWAA at our annual luncheon. He got the award because he's done so much. And I was interested—last week I was talking to Judy—or Judy was talking to a group, Judy Sweet, and she said, "Well, I just talked to Birch about so-and-so and so-and-so." She keeps—

they're very close, and I think she feels, as smart as she is and everything, that he gives great advice and knows the political system. Like on a ten-point scale, I'd probably be a negative one and he'd be a ten knowing the political system, so he's guided us well through the years.

Bartges: Is Evan any legacy for that?

West: I don't know the answer to that. I would only suspect yes.

Bartges: I just wondered out of curiosity.

West: Yeah. I don't have any firsthand information to say, Oh yes, he's—

Bartges: Yeah, and I don't either. Do you stay in touch with Birch Bayh or is he just somebody you've encountered over the years?

West: I don't stay in touch with him, but if we were both at a meeting, we would know each other and kind of reminisce and talk some, you know.

Bartges: Did you know Edith Green?

West: No.

Bartges: From Oregon or Washington? I think she's (unintelligible).

West: Ally back—in my earlier days, Bill Bradley was very pro and very helpful with Title IX as we moved along.

Bartges: Okay. Well, I think I've picked your brain enough for today.

West: (laughs) What brain there is.

Bartges: No, there's a lot (laughs) of brain there. I want to reserve the right for another interview at another time.

West: Okay. (laughs)

Bartges: I really appreciate your time.

West: Well, that's good. I'm happy to help.

Bartges: And thank you again, and have a good golf outing today.

West: I hope so. (laughter) Hope we get it in. It looks kind of cloudy out there, doesn't it?

Bartges: Yeah, but they're not calling for rain until later.

West: Oh, good.

(End of Interview)

Interview with Charlotte West

DGB-V-D-2005-009
Interview Date: August 6, 2011
Interviewer: Ellyn Bartges

A Note to the Reader

This transcript is based on an interview recorded by the ALPL Oral History Program. Readers are reminded that the interview of record is the original video or audio file, and are encouraged to listen to portions of the original recording to get a better sense of the interviewee's personality and state of mind. The interview has been transcribed in near-verbatim format, then edited for clarity and readability, and reviewed by the interviewee. For many interviews, the ALPL Oral History Program retains substantial files with further information about the interviewee and the interview itself. Please contact us for information about accessing these materials.

Bartges: This is Ellyn Bartges. I'm a fifth-year Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois. Dr. Synthia Sydnor is my academic advisor, and I am in Carbondale, Illinois, on August 6, 2011. With me today is Dr. Charlotte West, and this is—Charlotte and I were just talking—this is about the fifth interview over a period of six years that I have conducted with you, so I appreciate your time, expertise, and candor. The previous interviews that we've had—we've had pretty wide-ranging conversations about your professional life, about AIAW, your academic background and training, and some of the things that you did as an adult, post-eighteen-year-old, and today I want to kind of focus on your younger years.

West: You make me remember back even farther. (laughter)

Bartges: I am. I should have started with that, shouldn't I? If I'd have thought it was going to be over six years, I would have. One of the things—and this is part of the ongoing conversation—when I first interviewed you in 2005, I was working on a master's project, an oral history on girls' high school basketball. When I looked at my questions and I was constructing them, I knew I was dealing with a group of women that were primarily older than I am, and I wanted to be polite, so instead of asking when people were born, I asked (laughs) when they graduated from high school.

West: (laughs)

Bartges: —which is, I guess, an old method of doing it, but for the record, I would like to ask when you were born.

West: September 19, 1932.

Bartges: Okay.

West: Soon to be seventy-nine.

Bartges: You don't look a day over sixty.

West: (laughs) I wish. I play in a lot of golf tournaments in the summer, and recently a couple of the clubs have had a slight advantage for women over seventy, and I'm real excited about that because as you age, you lose distance. I play in Carmi, Illinois—nine-hole. The first time around you play the red

tees, and the second time around you play the gold, farther back, and they say if you're over seventy, you can play the red all the way around. I like that.

Bartges: Those are good benefits.

West: Yeah.

Bartges: And I know other people who have (unintelligible), "Boy, next year I'm going to be this." We were talking earlier about Marian Blackinton at West [Western] Illinois University, and we used to ski with her. When she got to the age that she got the senior season pass in Utah to ski free, she was ecstatic. And not only was she ecstatic, but she rubbed it in. (laughter) "Oh, you guys have to pay this amount of money." "You're paying fifty bucks a day to get a ski ticket, and I get to ski free." So—

West: Good for her.

Bartges: There are benefits to—

West: There are some benefits, yeah.

Bartges: Well, you're amazing. You said you golfed in seventeen—

West: Seventeen tournaments so far this summer.

Bartges: And when did you get your first hole-in-one?

West: My only hole-in-one. It was a couple of summers ago in June.

Bartges: Yeah, I think it was actually the June that I was here of—what is this 2009—but I was—you put me to shame. (laughter) So, that's—

West: One thing—when I got it, I got it in front of a good audience. Our golf coach at SIU was a member of the group.

Bartges: Oh, that is a good audience. Was it a car hole? Did it win a car?

West: No, (unintelligible) win the car, but it was a golf bag.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: So that was good.

Bartges: One question I have, and I know I said we were going to talk about your younger years—you mentioned this in an earlier interview and I have gone back and listened to those. As one of the AIAW presidents, the papers from your presidency were to be archived at the University of Maryland, is that correct?

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: What happened to those?

West: You know, this is interesting. Maryland did such a good job for so long, and I sent two boxes there of very special AIAW materials. And I had really organized them. In fact, when they first got there, the archivist wrote and said, Would I like a job?

Bartges: (laughs)

West: Because he liked what I had done. They lost the second box. That was really disturbing to me, and it hasn't turned up yet. I was excited—will be three years ago now that Smith College is starting an AIAW Library.

Bartges: Oh.

West: And the legal counsel for AIAW, which was the Renouf & Polivy law firm out of Washington, D.C., they just last summer sent all of their materials to Smith College. Now you know if you have somebody at an institution that has a real special interest, like in AIAW, which Chris Shelton does and she's at Smith—she teaches a lot of sport sociology courses. She was instrumental in getting that library started. So I would refer most graduate students to Smith now. But University of Maryland still has—I know they have 106 boxes of AIAW materials, so I'm sure my speeches are there.

Bartges: Okay. That's one thing I haven't really looked at because I'm looking at creating and documenting, and I'm not really writing about events per se, because I've tried to capture the individuals—not literally speaking.

West: There's an excellent young woman at the University of Iowa now, Amy Wilson, and she's doing her dissertation on AIAW and how as an organization they worked through things. And the last year that AIAW existed, the University of Iowa had a workshop, and it was a weeklong workshop, and each day an AIAW president would present what happened during their term of office. So first day president one, in the afternoon president two, the next day in the morning president three, afternoon president four, and then we'd always have a discussion with all the people that came in the graduate course.

And she's gotten old beta films and had them changed. So as she got into that, she wrote and asked some of us for our speeches or our notes from when we presented. I was surprised—I went and I found mine for her. She was thrilled because she didn't have to transcribe everything. She could just watch the film and see what I said. But that would be a really significant piece of history on AIAW. And she's probably in about the state you are with your dissertation.

Bartges: I had met her, I don't remember where, but Christine was there and—well, some academic—

West: Was it Boston?

Bartges: —conference.

West: Oh. She is a bright young woman.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: Her background is English literature.

Bartges: Oh.

West: And she's a very much feminist, forward-thinking young woman. She's probably somebody I will talk to when I quit giving speeches on the history that might be interested in doing that.

Bartges: Yeah. The box that was missing—the box that was lost, do you have an idea about what was in that box?

West: Not up here, but I do on paper.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: Because I made a list of both boxes, what the contents were, and I could go back and look at that.

Bartges: Sure.

West: But one thing about it—I just don't know how much they had at Maryland because I haven't been there. They one time wrote and told me that they welcomed my material, that they currently had 106 boxes—and that always stuck with me, and then my missing box. (laughs) I had been so careful in going through the material, not to send material that I thought would not be important in the future, you know—

Bartges: Sure.

West: —and getting it very much organized and wrapped it extremely well, because it's heavy when you send large boxes of manila folders and papers. But (unintelligible) I don't know, I got (unintelligible), who has a vital interest in history and was emeritus professor at Maryland, to see if he can do anything to help, but she wasn't able to.

Bartges: Interesting. You sent me a couple of years ago the—I think there were six AIAW presidents who got together in (unintelligible) 1987.

West: At my house.

Bartges: Oh, it was at your house?

West: At my house.

Bartges: Oh.

West: (unintelligible).

Bartges: Okay.

West: Yes.

Bartges: Ah. And you shared that DVD with me that Amy had worked on, and it was very interesting to see the dynamics of the individuals.

West: Yeah, some people very assertive and kind of took over most of the conversation (laughs), and others with the wealth of knowledge that were a little bit more subdued.

Bartges: Yeah. Also the age difference. Now Marilee Dean Baker was the last?

West: Yes.

Bartges: And I think that there was—even in that period of time, ten years age difference would be a big difference in experience and where the AIAW was, so—I have not been to Maryland. I need to get there, kind of have a look at things as well. I'm curious more than anything. And so when I'm back East

sometime, I'll have to do that. A colleague of mine who's now at Penn State who was at Maryland, Jaime Schultz, who was an Iowa grad—

West: Right.

Bartges: Do you know Jamie?

West: Well, you mentioned my name to her, and she wrote and asked you about the USOC and DGWS Institutes.

Bartges: Oh, yes.

West: So yes, I've had conversation with her as a result of that, sent her some material.

Bartges: She has some connections there at Maryland too, and I thought maybe I'd work through her. I've met Joan, but I don't know her very well. That answers my questions about the AIAW (unintelligible) that I've been kind of chewing on, because you had mentioned it in an early tape, and I'm just doing a little bit of cleanup work here. So 1932, you're born?

West: I'm born.

Bartges: Tell me a little about what it was like to grow up in the West household.

West: Okay. Well, I think I mentioned before that I was adopted. My parents lived in Wellsville, New York, and my father had a shoe store there. And they had adopted my sister, who was about two years older at a home for unwed mothers in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They knew about that home because my

mother's brother had adopted a child there. So they went to Michigan and picked me up and brought me back to Wellsville when I was three weeks old. I always wondered was I three weeks younger than September nineteenth, or was that the right date, but that definitely was the right date because subsequently I met my biological mother and talked to her, and I really was born September nineteenth. So it was a very loving household and very traditional I would suspect; you know, father was off to work, mother's a homemaker, and we were odd in the fact that when I was just a very small child, we were snowbirds.

Bartges: Oh, really?

West: Yeah. We would leave Wellsville, New York, like November—first of November or late October when it started to get cold—go to Florida for the winter, come back up March, April. And we continued that way. So it was interesting for a young child. I would start school in New York, go for a couple of months, plucked out, (laughs) taken down, put into school in Florida, then up again, back to New York, back into school. You learn to make adjustments pretty quickly. I'd be well ahead of the class in some aspects and well behind in another. I have a vivid memory of returning to Wellsville probably about the second or third grade and knowing everything they were doing, and the teacher sent me to the board when they had a big sheet on the board and they had been drawing a farm scene and told me just to crayon in, or maybe it was even a regular blackboard with colored chalk—probably was. But I remember being there with green doing the pasture (laughter) for the farm scene, and then kind of still very much interested in what the class was doing, but she had kind of thought, Well, you know all of this, so get out of the way. And when my sister was in the fifth grade ready to go into the sixth grade, she had had a very bad year academically. They

called my parents in and said, "This out-and-in is too difficult for her," and they suggested that they get her a math tutor in the summer in New York and then either keep her in one school or the other. So I was then going to go into fourth grade. And my mother was very, very deft on getting her in school one place and staying there as much as my father wanted to stay a little bit longer in New York. She said, "No, we're going to start school and end school in Florida." And so we did from then on. So I think of St. Petersburg, Florida, as home, but in going back up in the summer to Wellsville, I had no friends really, and I learned very early how to entertain yourself. I could do a lot of things because I didn't have that group of friends that I would have had I remained in St. Petersburg. Certainly I had some friends but very, very few. That became more important as I got older, especially when you were in high school, and you wanted to have dates, and you had a boyfriend, and (laughs) you had to leave. That was not good, but it all worked out.

Bartges: What were your folks' names?

West: Charlotte and Floyd. (laughter) My mother named my sister. She had the choice of names. So when I was adopted, my father had the choice, and he wanted Laura. My mother didn't want Laura, so they said, "Then we'll name her Charlotte". And she said, "You can't name her Charlotte too because I'm a Charlotte." And he said, "Yes, I can. We'll have Big Charlotte and Little Charlotte." (laughter) Sometimes on the phone people would call and say, "I want to speak to Big Charlotte or Little Charlotte."

Bartges: Oh, really?

West: Yeah.

Bartges: Did they have a nickname for you or anything?

West: No.

Bartges: They didn't call you Charlie?

West: No. I didn't have a nickname. I can remember mother saying, "Don't let them call you Lottie." Evidently she didn't like Lottie, and she went through that a little bit when she was real young. And I said, "Okay," but nobody ever tried to call me Lottie, so I was Charlotte.

Bartges: I think I told you one time, Charlotte was one of the names that my mom had picked out for me. And she told me when I was older, "I wanted to name you Charlotte and then call you Charlie." And I thought, Well, that's odd. If you called me somebody—something—that you call them that. But obviously my name's not Charlotte.

West: I think I might have—and I don't know if this is true, but I think in your high school annual, when you have to give a nickname, when they asked me that, I thought, Oh dear, and I think I might have said Charlie because I couldn't think of anything else, but I really wasn't called that.

Bartges: Yeah. Did you vacation as a family? Did you have recreational pursuits?

West: Well, during the war you couldn't travel as much, but I remember my father was so interested in going North that we went on the train. That was quite interesting during wartime because you had to run on and get a seat, and yet you didn't want to take a seat if there was a serviceman that didn't have one.

Bartges: Right.

West: But we went up North that way. Then one summer we didn't go North, we went to California, and that's when you said you would do something recreationally. My mother and my aunt who were visiting decided they needed to get physically fit, and so they went to this bowling—they were having free bowling lessons. So my sister and my mother and my aunt and I went. And so we started bowling, and we did that as a family. We did that all that summer. Once or twice a week we'd go bowling. And my father was anything but an athlete, but he was a pretty good sport. He'd go. And my sister and I liked to swim, and we would go off swimming a lot during the summer but not with parents; we'd go off by ourselves.

Bartges: Ocean or lake or river?

West: In Wellsville, until I was around eleven, they had no pool, and if you wanted to swim, there was a river. And you talk about ice cold, because we're in the Allegany Mountains in New York. But there was enough water there that you could swim. Then there was another place where you could jump off a bridge. (laughter) The bridge went over the river, and people would swim in the river. Well, people thought a city the size of Wellsville should have a pool. So a friend of my father's was a mayor and very instrumental. He hit up my father, because he said, "You have two children, and they will enjoy this." And he did. So Wellsville finally built a pool, and we were there a lot in the summer.

Bartges: Were your parents from New York?

West: My father was from very close to where Wellsville is, in a little town called Hornell.

Bartges: Cornell?

West: Hor, H-O-R, Hornell. Rhymes with Cornell but it's an "H". And my mother was from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. And Wellsville is just fourteen miles from Pennsylvania. It's right close to the border so—they were familiar with that area.

Bartges: Were your grandparents alive when you were young?

West: Neither mother or father of my father were alive, and only the father of my mother was alive, but he—so I had one grandparent that was alive when I was born, and he died probably when I was about five, and so I really didn't have grandparents.

Bartges: You mentioned your sister Dorothy. Were you guys close growing up?

West: (unintelligible). You know, by necessity, like when we were in California and we knew absolutely no one else our age. We were allowed to go to a movie once a week, and we did some other little things, ride up and down the beach together, so in that text we were real compatible, but we were so very different, (laughs) so very different. When we were, like, in St. Petersburg, I definitely had a circle of friends apart from her.

Bartges: And she's two years older than you?

West: Yes. She lives in Tacoma, Washington. She liked art work and wanted to be an interior designer, and she went to the Ringling School of Art. She started out at the Memphis Academy of Arts for two years and then went to the

Ringling School of Arts. Her senior year she quit and got married, and she has four children, three boys and a girl.

Bartges: So you have nieces and nephews?

West: I do.

Bartges: Are you close with them?

West: No, not anymore. When they lived in Florida and I lived in Florida and was teaching in Florida, in St. Petersburg, they were in Sarasota. And so my mother and I would go down there frequently and visit with them, and they'd come up, and so we stayed close, but once my mother died, my sister moved immediately to the West Coast. She's currently in Tacoma, and we're friendly but distant.

Bartges: It's hard sometimes to—when two siblings are so radically different. You're expected to just get along with your siblings just because they're siblings, and it doesn't matter that they're—

West: We kind of laugh because she's been married five times, and I haven't been married. And I said, "Well, together we're the national average, I think—two." (laughter)

Bartges: That's true. Let me back up. You said you went to California. Did you drive to California?

West: We drove. And it was great because my parents were very good. They made it a very educational trip for us. We did everything. And in fact, last summer

I found an old scrapbook that I did in the ninth grade that was called, "The Wests Go West." And all the way out there, I saved postcards, piece of stone from the Petrified Forest, which you're not supposed to take. I mean, I saved up a lot of things. I was really interested in the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, Yosemite. I mean, we did a lot of sightseeing, and I put that all together. I had fun reading through the trip, and I had taken some—our parents had taken some pictures—us at different places. And well, it's time to get rid of that. I got rid of it, but it was still kind of fun to go through, you know.

Bartges: I bet. What kind of car did your dad have, do you remember that?

West: Probably a Packard, which we don't have anymore, but he was very, very—I'm ninety-five percent sure it was a Packard that we drove out there. We made two trips out there because my father had very little family left. He had a brother that he was extremely close to in Memphis, and we spent many Christmases in Memphis—my family and his brother's family, close to them. And the only other person he had was his uncle that had gone to California, so we went out there. We spent two summers there. The first summer we went out we stayed with them for a while before we could find a place, and the next summer we went out we rented a place. My father would have liked to have moved out there, but my mother said, "No, that's too far from everybody we know."

Bartges: Yeah. That would have been a big move.

West: That would have been a massive move.

Bartges: Did you have cousins?

West: Well, the family in Memphis was Floyd's brother Fred, who had two children, Wells and Ruth. Ruth had a fairly early death, but Wells and I stayed very close the rest of our lives. We were close. In fact, Wells spent Christmas here with me until the year he died, so we would see each other a couple times a year. And his health was not good near the end. I would go down and pick him up and bring him back, and he always enjoyed it because by then he didn't have a lot of family. He didn't have family. One sad thing about—Wells was a tank division, a lieutenant colonel or some high place, in Patton's Army in Germany. He had a lot of war experience. He enjoyed looking at war movies, so whenever he'd come up for Christmas and it would be cold and snowy and (unintelligible), we'd always settle in, and we'd eat well and watch a lot of good war movies. (laughs)

Bartges: Wouldn't he have loved the History Channel?

West: Oh, wouldn't he? He would. He would really like the History Channel.

Bartges: Some of the things that they can do now with how they lay out the battles and—

West: And I started to say, when I think of Wells, he wanted to go back for the D-Day celebration, and he asked if I would go with him. I didn't particularly want to go at that time because of my work, but I said, Yes, I would go, and so that excited him to death. And when he got back home, his doctor said, "There's no way that you're going to fly and go over there," so he had (unintelligible). And I always felt bad about that because he would have loved it.

Bartges: Yeah, that would have been amazing and also cathartic to people who—

West: Yes, I think so because he—during his funeral, his best buddy in Memphis came up and we were talking about Wells, and he said, "He saw some horrible things in the war that he never talked to his family about. Did he ever talk to you?" And I said, "No." He said, "Well, he saw some pretty bad things."

Bartges: What do you remember from that period of the war? And coming into it you would have been eight, so that's pretty young still.

West: I can remember December seventh riding my bicycle, because, of course, my father was glued to the radio when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. And I can remember riding my bicycle that Sunday thinking, We're at war. I didn't really have any concept of war, but I knew it was serious. I thought, We're at war. And I remember that. I can know right where I was.

Well, my father was older and he didn't qualify to go in the service, but he was our air raid warden. He had a certain area that he had to patrol, and they'd go to a checkpoint—because a lot people don't realize the German submarines were off the Coast of St. Petersburg, off the Coast of Florida all around. And we had these strict air raids, and he had no sense of direction. And from the time I was six or seven, my mother would say, "Watch where your father parks, so you can get back to your car," (laughter) or, "Watch for so-and-so." And I did and I—that's one of my few talents now. I mean, I'm really good with directions, but it came early.

So I remember going out with him at night to be assured we had total blackout. We had a lot of elderly occupants in our zone. It's a tourist retirement area. And like you at the door today, I didn't hear you. So we'd

have to pound real hard on the door and say, "Lights out everybody, lights out." And we'd get the place black and then go back to the checkpoint. When we'd get to the checkpoint, I'd have to hide because there was only supposed to be one person—the warden.

I also remember soldiers marching up and down our streets. They had to—St. Petersburg, again, is a tourist place. We had coast guard, maritime, and a lot of different service units, and they'd have to get out and walk so many miles and everything, so they were up and down the streets. I can remember them stopping in front of our house, and we're bringing them out water. We were about five blocks from Tampa Bay, the bay part, in St. Petersburg near where the beautiful pier is, and there along the water they had obstacle courses for training. So when the servicemen weren't there, some of us would go down there and play on the course. We'd run up the ramps, grab the ropes and swing off, and belly on the ground under the barbed wire, and do the things they did. And during the war then, I know I turned twelve because I can remember taking my accordion and going down to the USO and playing songs for the soldiers. (laughs) And I thought, Oh boy, I don't know if I'd want to hear her. But they'd stand around and sing and, you know, it was something away from home for them so—those are memories I have of the war.

Bartges: I don't think I've heard about the accordion before.

West: Oh yeah, I play the accordion.

Bartges: Do you still?

West: No, I gave it away last summer. Got it down from the attic, got it out, played a few songs, and I had a hard time reading the music just because of eyesight.

I'd get my glasses on—I got implants this year, so now I'm doing pretty well. But anyway, it's heavy and I'd have to—when you play the accordion, you have to—and I had a big one, 120 bass, one of the big bass accordions, and (laughter) so I thought—

Bartges: Accordion, golf, accordion, golf. (laughter)

West: Rather than leave it up in the attic to further deteriorate, I gave it to a friend.

Bartges: Interesting.

West: Anyway, I went down and played at the USO. I can remember that, so those are some memories.

Bartges: Do you have any recollection of the Depression?

West: No, not at all. Well, I shouldn't say no so quickly. Living in Wellsville, there was a railroad that paralleled the main street and was just about a block behind the main street, and our home was a couple blocks up the hill from the railroad. So I'd always lie in bed and listen to the railroad (unintelligible). I think that's an interesting sound late at night. But we had frequent transients, hobos as they were called in that day, that would come and sit on our back steps at night during dinnertime to hope there'd be something left over to give to them. So that was a follow-up, must have been four or five from the Depression in the 1932—1931, 1932.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: That was pretty common then. And I can remember my mother sometimes would just put a piece of bread with roast gravy and a few pieces of roast on it if we had that left and take it out to them in the back.

Bartges: My mom talked about (unintelligible) in a coal town in Pennsylvania.

West: They'd ride the railroads and they knew certain homes that would feed them. And I mentioned my father having shoe store. They'd come into him often because somebody came in hungry, he would write one hot dinner at Texas Hot, and that was a restaurant, oh, three or four blocks away from him, and they could take that and go down and get a hot meal. He'd never give them any money because he said if he give them money, they'd go get something to drink—

Bartges: Right.

West: —but if they were really hungry, they would go down to Texas Hot and get a meal, and then they kept a tab for him down there. So that was all aftermath of the Depression.

Bartges: See, you do remember things.

West: Yeah, I remember certain things. One thing flickers something else.

Bartges: My parents would both talk about dump trucks that would come in, maybe when apples were picked or something like that, and there would always be people who weren't necessarily from town—and it was a small town in Pennsylvania. They would bring them in. But there would be people there kind of like you're saying, that they'd come in on the rails or down the rivers

and that was—it was pretty common. And like you say, they would sit on the back porch or out at the barn and hope that there was some kind of work that they could work for to get something to eat or somebody would give them something to eat. It's hard to picture—we've sanitized poverty in such a way in this country that most people don't see it the way you used to see it.

West: Right.

Bartges: And one of the big conversations in higher education now is the exponential gap that has been created based on socioeconomic status for our incoming classes, and it's just getting bigger, and it's really kind of scary when you look at it. So you graduated from St. Pete [St. Petersburg] High?

West: Yes.

Bartges: What kind of stuff did you do in high school? Well, let me back up. Did you have, like, a separate junior high or did you just go—

West: No, we—I started at North Ward, and that was very—a local school.

Bartges: Public?

West: Public school, still there. I walked to school or rode my bike to school, and then that went through one through six. Then I went to Mirror Lake Junior High, and at Mirror Lake Junior High I had the pleasure of being on the basketball team. We had a little bit, not much—and I don't even remember playing another (laughs) school, but I'm sure we did because we had a team, but that was sixth, seventh, and eighth. And then in the ninth grade, I went to St. Petersburg High School, and that was a large school. We had 525 in our

graduating class. It was an excellent school, and I did a lot of different things. I was in clubs—Future Teachers of America—I'm trying to think of some of the other clubs—and definitely into sport. I played volleyball, basketball, softball, and even did a little swimming, and was fortunate to have that experience because you can imagine, that was 1946. That was rare. We had a wonderful high school physical education teacher that made our uniforms. I thought if I had to make one pair of shorts and one blouse to match it, it would have taken me a year. She made these uniforms for everybody on the team, and they were nice.

Bartges: I remember you talking about those. They were like satin. Was that high school or was that your—

West: Well, no, the satin was when I was a junior in high school—I was invited by a city team, an industrial league team, to play for them, and those were orange satin. (laughs)

Bartges: I thought I had a memory of that.

West: That was R. H. Hall, Maytag, and Kelivinator Sales, and the owner of that large appliance store sponsored this team. And that was a tremendous learning experience for me because we played in Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville, Tampa, and I played with older women, but you learn the sport. When I got to Florida State, I knew probably more than some of my teachers about strategy of different sports and skills because wonderful high school teacher and a wonderful experience playing with better players, you know, and good level of competition. But I played for that industrial team in just volleyball and basketball. They had a more popular softball team, but I wasn't that good in softball so—(laughs). A ball comes to me and I wanted to—I was

so afraid I was going to get hit, I was—I looked away. I was not that good in softball, so I didn't play for them in softball, but I was good in volleyball. I could play volleyball well and basketball well so—

Bartges: Did you like to play for the physicality of it, or did you like to play because you were competitive, you wanted to win?

West: Oh, I always wanted to win. It could be backyard croquet, it could be ring toss—you asked about the family doing things together, I can remember we had kind of a long, narrow living room in Florida, and one Christmas they got us this game, a wooden board, you know, with some stakes, and it was ring toss. We would spend the evening with that ring toss, and I would ace it. I'd work on that, work on—(laughs)

Bartges: I'm thinking Dorothy didn't work on that.

West: No, Dorothy couldn't have cared less. And she was good to hit near the board, let alone get it on the board, you know, just difference. No, I was always very, very competitive, but I loved being able to move, I loved the test of skill, and I like the camaraderie of playing. We'd take bus trips, and we'd have a lot of fun just going and coming, let alone being there when you're playing. So I enjoyed it. I enjoyed it a lot.

Bartges: What kind of stuff did you do on the bus? I mean, I played and I coached, so I understand sort of a bus culture. What kind of stuff did you guys do when you were—

West: Oh, just a group would get together, and we'd talk about what was happening in school, and who was going with who, and what we liked and what we didn't

like, and were you going to go to this event or were you going to go to that event, just high school teen jibber jabber.

Bartges: Did you ever play cards or anything like that?

West: We didn't play cards then; no, we didn't.

Bartges: Do you like to play cards?

West: I love cards. That's—I keep—one thing kind of triggers another. My parents played bridge, and that was a key form of entertainment for them, and so they would have different couples in and play bridge. I always wanted to learn to play, and my father said, "If you're quiet, sit there and don't talk." I would sit on the arm of his chair or I'd pull up a chair, and I'd watch. I couldn't talk, you know, but I'd watch them play, and I loved to play bridge. So when we traveled at night, we'd play bridge some. And my mother had to always arrange it so that she would play with my sister or I would play with my sister, (laughs) because my father would get so annoyed with her because she would do, in his mind, dumb things (laughs).

Bartges: Like way overbid her hand?

West: Just (unintelligible) what she didn't need or how she played a hand or something. It was not her forte, and so it was like I said, my mother would play with Dorothy or I would. We'd say, "We'll take you on," my sister and I, but I'd say, "We'll take you on." Of course they beat us.

Bartges: But the beauty of that is they weren't afraid to beat you.

West: Oh no, they beat us right. They beat us. And then, I mean, they were good to say, You shouldn't have done so-and-so, and that was fine with me. I wanted to learn. My sister—if they'd say, Now you did—Well if you're going to fuss at me, I'm not going to play. (laughs) She took it very personally. She didn't feel comfortable with the game and so—but we worked it out. I mean, there weren't tears or crying times, because that had preceded this mother play with Dorothy or Charlotte play with Dorothy. Daddy won't play with Dorothy. He would, but it was better if he didn't because he was very competitive and a very good bridge player, unorthodox but very good. And so I loved to play. I don't get to play that much.

Bartges: Not very many people play bridge anymore. We have a bridge—they call it Faculty Wives at St. Cloud Sate—that they send out this stuff. And of course, I'm the EEO [Equal Employment Opportunity] Officer—why is it just Faculty Wives? (laughs)

West: Yeah. But they probably wouldn't think—and if you said, Can I play, they'd probably welcome you.

Bartges: Oh yeah, I'm sure they would.

West: But like in St. Petersburg—in Estero where I am now in Florida, the lady next door to us, that's her—other than watching home movies, her bridge is her life. And she said, "Do you play bridge?" And I said, "Oh yeah, I love to play." And she said, "Want to play some time?" And I said, "Yes." And she said, "Well, how many master points do you have?" And I said, "Absolutely none." (laughter)

Bartges: But I could get some.

West: I said, "Absolutely none." I said, "You're not talking"—you know, I said, "I don't bid well." I've never gone and learned certain systems. So I explained that to her, and she said, "That's okay." So three or four nights a year in Florida I get invited to their bridge when they need a fourth. It's fun, I love it.

Bartges: Yeah, Bridge is fun. We touched on this and I'll bring it back in: when you played basketball, you weren't playing five-player basketball, were you?

West: No, three-and-three.

Bartges: And you were a forward?

West: Forward.

Bartges: Were you a rover?

West: When it moved from three-and-three and it went to four-on-four, yeah, I was a rover.

Bartges: Okay.

West: And I roved with the AAU team, the industrial league team, I roved with them. It's real interesting. The rover game didn't come in colleges until I was already up here at SIU, and it probably was—if I came in 1957, it was probably about 1960 that it came in. And so having had that experience in high school of roving—I don't think it was high school. I think that was when I was in college and I went to play with that R.H. Hall team I was roving, but it was in the fifties. We played in a state tournament with this R. H. Hall team

where we played three-on-three, and it was the same teams in a second championship that we played the rover game. And we played AAU roving player, and we won the state tournament fifty-nine to fifty-eight. And the next weekend we played three-on-three, played the same team, and we won, and we scored over one hundred points.

Bartges: Wow.

West: It's a real example of how much wide open and how much easier it was—like at Iowa (laughs)—scoring when you weren't congested and you had just three-on-three.

Bartges: Yeah, if you knew how to move and how to cut and pass--

West: Aw, yeah—

Bartges: —you could just tear somebody apart.

West: Yeah. And I mean, those were the same players and the same two teams got to the finals. We played different teams to get there, but the Jacksonville and St. Petersburg team were in the finals. And I always use that when—went four-on-four the scores were lower to start with because there was more congestion and even more congestion when the game went from four to five-on-five.

Bartges: Yeah, I think we're just starting to get to the point scoring-wise, the parity and the skill of shooting—I mean, not that there weren't good shooters in the past, but—

West: (unintelligible) to pull up and— if they have to shoot up and over somebody, yeah, it definitely requires more skill.

Bartges: It's pretty amazing.

West: You were asking me my enjoyment of sport, and I said, "Oh, I'm very competitive, and I like to move," and, you know, I did a lot of dance. You're probably aware of that. I took dance lessons from when I was probably eight or nine, and I took ballet and tap. I loved it, just absolutely loved it—and did toe tap. I taught tap dancing here. I loved tap dancing. So it was the movement as well as the competition, but I would always be giving myself challenges. Like being in Wellsville and not knowing anybody around, I can remember spending hours outside of where we lived; it was an old sister's convent, Catholic Sisters' convent that my father bought, and he had it remodeled with an apartment on the bottom floor, and then our apartment on the top floor. But it was three-bedroom—I mean it was big. But down below in the back there was, for some reason, a little hole in the side of the house, and I can remember standing out there and pitching to that hole and trying to hit it as hard and as accurately as I could and just standing out there for forty-five, fifty minutes working on under-arm pitching. So we have a big joke around here in town with my friends that one summer they said they wanted us to have a summer softball team. I told them I wasn't real good in softball, but they said, "Well, we can still have fun." So we all got together. Kay Brechtelsbauer, our softball coach, was shortstop and Jean Paratore, our assistant chancellor of student affairs, played for us. I mean, these people are still around—Julie Illner. our hockey coach that I've mentioned. and Marie played with us. and we got this team together, and they needed a pitcher. I said, (laughs) "I could put it across the plate practically every time," but I said, "everybody will hit it." They said, "Well, that's okay, if you can pitch." So I

pitched that summer, and we played until practically the end of the summer and never walked a soul. There were people that could hit, but some of them would swing so hard—because I didn't pitch that fast, you know. One girl fell down swinging.

Bartges: (laugh)

West: We're still laughing because we got out to this little town south of here called Boskeydale, and I started pitching. It was ball one, pitched again, it was ball two, and they were all saying, "What's wrong with Charlotte? She never walks anybody, (laugh) she never walks anybody." First person walked, you know, and the second person walked. And finally I said, "This distance is not right." I said, "There's something wrong"—"No, no, it's an official thing." So anyway, at the end of that inning, I went back and we paced it out, and it was, it was off. But see, I had been so trained and condition from, I'm sure, standing out there, this twelve, thirteen, fourteen-year-old to my make-believe—and I'd say, "Well, this batter is up now, I'm going to do so-and-so." So I entertained myself like that sport-wise.

Bartges: Where would you see something like that at that age?

West: I never saw anybody doing that, no, but I had to keep myself busy. I can remember standing out there banging against that wall, banging against that wall. Oh, my father was really very good. During the war you couldn't buy basketballs because the rubber and all that kind of stuff, but I wanted a basketball. And we were on our way to Memphis. It was Christmastime, and we stopped in Dothan, Alabama, and he went into a sports store, and he found a basketball. And he got a ring, and when we got back home, he put that ring up in the back of our garage in St. Petersburg in an alley. I can't tell you the

hours I spent back there shooting baskets. I had this all worked out—I'd pass to the neighbor's garage and get it—hit the telephone pole and get it and shoot with thirty seconds left. (laughter) I'm sure you've done that. You do that over and over. And I'd have all these little routines like that I would do. And of course, with that there I started having some boys and girls come and we'd play back there, and it wasn't a nice paved alley.

Bartges: No.

West: It was sandy in some places, grassy in some, probably rocky in some. We had Charles Harris. We were in high school...well, or junior high. He was all arms and legs and gangly, and when we'd split up teams, nobody was real excited to have Charles on their team, and later he became the starting center for Vanderbilt. (laughter)

Bartges: Grew into his body.

West: He grew into it, but back when we were in junior high, he was all arms and legs so—I did a lot of self-entertainment in sports related.

Bartges: It's interesting to me that as a child growing up you play by yourself or you're self-entertaining that you grow up to be a very gregarious young women from all accounts that I can tell in your stories. Do you find any dichotomy in that?

West: I think basically I'm an introvert and shy, but I think sports helps you get out of yourself into your team, so that was probably good for me.

Bartges: Were you lonely as a kid?

West: I don't remember being lonely. I can remember saying to my mother, "I don't know what to do." And she'd say, "Go to the library" (laughs). So my sister and I would go down in Wellsville to the public library and get some books. I can remember I got this little craze—it was short-lived—but wanting a horse. I thought I'd die without a horse, you know.

Bartges: Sure.

West: And I kept saying—they said, "You can't have a horse and go back and forth." "Well, I could keep him up here in the winter," and blah, blah, blah, blah. So this guy that my father knew that worked with him in the shoe store had—they were a Catholic family, they had six kids, and they had a few horses, and so he said, "Some night I'll take Charlotte riding." Well, I can remember that. I just thought that was the grandest thing in the world. And my mother was good, she took us out to the stables. You had to pay to ride, but she took us out a couple of times to ride. I enjoyed that. So I did say from time to time, like, I don't know what to do. And when I was in California, I'd play with my father's uncle. My Uncle was considerably older than my father (laughs) and we'd play—I can remember playing cribbage. I wouldn't know how to play today if my life depended on it, but we'd play, and I'd tell my mother, (whispering) "He's cheating."

Bartges: (laughs)

West: She said, "Well, he's older; just let him cheat." She said, "Just let it go. You'll win plenty." Okay. (laughter)

Bartges: Yeah, cheating was not good. That's funny. Obviously when people look collectively at their backgrounds, they don't really think of themselves in a

certain place or how their parents fit in it. It sounds like you had a relatively, I don't know if I'd use the word affluent, but well-off—

West: Um-hmm.

Bartges: —kind of an upbringing and situation.

West: Oh, I think so. I think we did. We had a lot of advantages, but my father and mother were both very thrifty. And we didn't get toys, fancy toys, or stuff like maybe other kids got, but we got to do things like the dancing lessons, my sister's piano lessons, the traveling. And you know, I mention meeting my biological mother, and she is such a lovely lady and everything, and after we got to know each other a little bit better, and she said, "Did I do the right thing? Did I do the right thing?" And she said, "I think about that." And she said, "I could never have given you the opportunities that your parents gave you, the travel and the going to college and the different things." And so I think it gave her some peace of mind that they weren't rich, but they were well off.

Bartges: How old were you when you met your biological mother?

West: Oh, forty-something.

Bartges: How old was she?

West: Well, she was nineteen when she had me, so if I was forty-one, she'd be sixty. Yeah.

Bartges: Is she still alive?

West: No, she died summer before last. She was ninety-three.

Bartges: That's good.

West: My biological father, who never knew I existed—she sent me his obituary and he lived to be like ninety-one, so both of them lived in their nineties. I have a good friend here in town that is so into this ancestry.com, and she's having more fun with my family, (laughter) because she's got two family trees. She's got my mother, Charlotte Stewart West, and my fathe,r Floyd Ellsworth West, and she's got as much as she can find out about them, and then she's got my mother and my father, who never knew I existed. She's got that whole tree, and she's arranged that tree so it's very confidential, because that—his family, you know, if they ever got in there to look up his name and the background and found what she had, it might be hurtful to some of them. I don't know that it would be, but—but I have in his family, my father's family, he had four boys and in my mother's family when she married she had two boys, so I have six half-brothers whom I've never met. And the one son of my mother I've talked to on the phone, because before she died she told him about me. So his wife's real interested and wants us to get together and all. I have invited him to Florida, but he doesn't like to fly. So he said he'd come here sometime, because he's a Cardinal nut. He was a coach.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: And he said, "I've driven through Effingham, and that's not too far, is it?" And I said, "No, that would be real close." So I guess if I'd do a little bit better job about getting tickets and saying, Now come and we'll go to two or three Cardinal games, he'd probably come.

Bartges: Yeah. I wondered if they knew that you existed.

West: Yeah. Elizabeth's two boys know; she told them. And see, when she had me and I was illegitimate, nobody knew except her aunt in Grand Rapids and her father and her sister. Nobody ever knew. Because she had an aunt there, she could go to Grand Rapids and that was not suspect. And she came back and put herself through college and was a teacher. And she married. So before she married, she told her husband about me. And she said that there was never a time that he didn't make a nasty comment about it and throw it up to her, so they eventually got divorced. So she said then, "I'm not telling anybody else." So when I found her, I said, "I don't intend to disrupt your life. I won't tell anybody or, you know, do anything like that." So it was shortly after that that I was coaching our golf team and I was taking the team to Michigan State, and I had written her about that—we were writing back and forth. And she said, "Well, I didn't feel right not telling Mel." Mel was who she'd remarried. He was a wonderful man. And she said, "I didn't feel right. And so I've told Mel now, and Mel's dying to meet you." (laughter) So I said, "Okay." She said, "We'll drive up, and we'll see you at East Lansing." It was not that far for them. So they drove up, and I met him then. And then I think I've told you this, subsequently I visited them in Florida.

Bartges: I don't think you told me that.

West: I was doing a lot of NCAA traveling. We were in Orlando, and then I was going to Tampa to meet a friend. So I thought, Well, I'm driving right by Winter Haven, I'll go over there and see Elizabeth and Mel, so I drove—and oh, they were thrilled I was coming, so I came and I stayed there. I played golf one day with Elizabeth and her Ladies League and had dinner and

everything. Mel was fascinated, because he'd sit there and he'd say, Now do you like so-and-so? Do you do so-and-so? And there was so much similarity that it was eerie.

Bartges: It's amazing.

West: Never had been together. And she said, "You like to work crossword puzzles?" Did I tell you this before?

Bartges: No, but I know you like puzzles.

West: I said, "Oh, I love them." And she says, "Oh, I do too." And so she'd cut out a puzzle from the paper, and this was after breakfast. She gave me a puzzle, and she did a puzzle. I'm sitting there working mine, and she said, "Okay, I finished mine." (laughter) "I beat you," she said. And I said, "Well, give me a few more minutes." And so I did, and I got it. And she said, "Well, to be honest, I took the easier one." (laughter) But you can tell she was real competitive. And the night before, we were watching—oh, what's that, the one with the words they—

Bartges: Password?

West: They show parts of the letters and you have to—

Bartges: Oh—

West: Can't think—

Bartges: Vanna White and Pat Sajak.

West: Oh, yeah.

Bartges: I know what you mean.

West: *Wheel of Fortune*.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: (laughs) We watched Wheel of Fortune, and it was a—we were really duking it out. (laughs) It was fun, I mean, fun, fun.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: But he just would shake his head. He'd shake his head. He said, "Too much alike."

Bartges: Well, and that—I mean, that really is like a living laboratory of nature vs. nurture.

West: Oh, absolutely. And you know, my mother that adopted us, she adopted Dorothy—she named, and Dorothy was her little baby. Dorothy had auburn curls and beautiful blue eyes and these long lashes and just would go to anybody. I mean, she was just—and my mother thought she had died and gone to heaven with this beautiful little child that would just go to everybody. And then here I come along, (laughs) won't go to anybody, (laughs) scream if they'd pick me up, didn't have any hair, (laughter) bald as all get out. And so anyway, as we grew up and we really matured and got our own personalities and everything—and my sister, she'd try to get her to do some things and—I

mean, little things like I can remember on Monday mornings we were supposed to—our bedrooms were upstairs—come down with our laundry to—we had a lady come in and do the laundry every Monday. And she'd look at mine and say, "Now you only wore that shirt once. Take that shirt back up. You only wore that to go to so-and-so and came right back home." And I was bringing down everything that might even look like it'd been worn. My sister would come down with next to—my mother would have go up and go through the closet and pick out her clothes. So finally by the time we were in high school, she said, "Don't anybody tell me about environment; it's all genetic." (laughs) It's all genetic, because they've both been raised the same. And it's just—and that was back—who was the great guy that was nurture and nature? Anyway, she said, "I can testify to that. It's a whole lot more about genetics than environment."

Bartges: Yeah. I have some very, very dear friends from Iowa State and four kids—two kids, two different families, and they're all from the same agency in Sioux City, but they're varying ages and just—that's what both of their mothers would say, that—

West: You could do so much, and you can encourage them and give them opportunities and everything. It was really kind of hurtful for my mother, because she tried so hard and I grew up thinking that she liked Dorothy and not me. I mean, I believed that, you know. And as we matured—and I lived with my mother a couple years when I first started teaching because my father had died and I felt like I should go back there and be with her, and we talked about this, and I said, "You always favored her." And she said, "Yeah, but you were always taking advantage of her." (laughter) But I mean, I can remember if we started fighting or nobody wanted to wash the dishes, and I'd

say, "I washed the last time." "No, you didn't!" Mother would say, "Charlotte, wash the dishes!" (unintelligible).

Out of the kitchen, we had a little porch with the canvas awning, and one day my parents went out there and there's a hole in it, this nice canvas. And she said," Charlotte, what did you do to this?" And I said, "I didn't do anything to it." "Oh, yes, you did." Well, finally my sister said, “I did it, I did it”. But it was wet and had gotten a little water, and she went out there to push the water up, and the broom handle went through.

I could go through a series of things like that. Even a friend of my mother's that came down for the winter and stayed with us, real close to the family, and she had a daughter between my sister's and my age. As the years went on, Joan, her daughter, told me when Millie came back and she said, "Charlotte really picks on little Charlotte." (laughs) She wasn't picking on me. She felt very defensive, very defensive about—she thought maybe I was taking advantage of my sister even though she was older. So that was an interesting. I knew I was kind of daddy's girl, although he never expressed—he never expressed anything like that, and he was not very vocal; he read a lot. He would not say, "Charlotte, you do it," or—like my mother would say, "Now, Charlotte, you wash the dishes." And so I said, "Why were you always like that?" And she said, "Because she needed more help." She needed more help. And I thought back on that and I thought, Now I understand better. I can remember I did take advantage of her a little bit, like we were in California and we'd go to a show once a week, and she'd want to see Show A and I'd want to see Show B. And I'd say, "Okay, okay, we'll go to town together, and you go to A and I'll go to B," knowing full well she wouldn’t go by herself. (laughter) So I thought, You know, maybe my mother saw some of that that even I might not have been aware of.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: I mean, and the bowling. She couldn't bowl. I beat her in bowling even though I was two years younger. Even though I took accordion, I could play the piano better than she could after she'd had all those lessons. And so I understood that was not—that was probably not real good for me. (laughs) I don't know, but—

Bartges: But you know as a sibling, you know what your sibling's strengths and weaknesses are.

West: And we'd—I can remember little things. I can remember us having a drawing contest. It was some politician, and we were each going to draw this politician. I don't know if it was Harry Truman or (laughs)—it didn't matter. And she drew hers and I drew mine, and then we would say, "Okay, now we're going to let mother decide which one is better." And I knew mine was better. She—now I can't draw, but it didn't do much to have to beat that one. Mother would pick Dorothy's. (laughs)

Bartges: How old were you when your dad died?

West: I was a senior in college—March of my senior year, then I graduated that May-June.

Bartges: What'd he die of?

West: Congenital heart failure.

Bartges: Was your mom still alive when you connected with your biological mother?

West: No, I wouldn't do that. I didn't ever want to hurt either one of them. She would say, "Are you interested?" And I'd say, "Yeah, but I've got two good parents." And you know, the irony of that is had she been still living when I did that, I don't think it would have been any kind of a problem, because I still thought of her as mother. I was very, very fond of Elizabeth, but she wasn't really mother, you know, at all. She was real kind to me and real nice, and we got along real fine and everything, but—but no, I didn't look until after I'd lost both parents, and then I started looking.

But they didn't hide things. Because during the war and everybody's talking about displaced persons and this, that, and the other, and I said, "I don't have a birth certificate." I got real fussed up about, I don't have a birth certificate. So mother and daddy said, "Well, we'll write and try to get you one." So they wrote to the lawyer in New York that had been involved in the adoption, and they got mine. And I knew I was named Mary Ella, and I was the daughter of Elizabeth Scott and was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They had her hometown in Michigan listed, so I knew her name and the hometown. They never could get my sister's. They had an official document who she was, but they never could get the birth certificate. So they gave me mine and my sister's papers, knowing that I'd be a good caretaker for them. And let's see, when my sister was twelve, my mother— I remember her taking her for a walk, and I thought, They never go for walks. And I thought that was so strange, but it was my sister's birthday, on her twelfth birthday she took her out and told her she was adopted, because back then that was—they thought that was a good age.

Well, she never talked to me about it, and one of the reasons was my sister had a temper. One time my parents were gone, and we were staying with this friend of my mothers and her daughter, and we all were playing and everything. And Joan and I and the other one, I guess we were teasing my sister or something to make her mad. And she had this temper, and she turned around and she said, "You're not my sister and you never have been and you never will be, and you're—you've always been adopted," and blah, blah, blah, blah. And that's how I found out, officially. And so, you know, with her blasting this out—and I was about eleven, I guess. And so Joan said, "Oh, I didn't know you knew. I knew Dorothy knew and I know, but I didn't think they told you yet." And I said, "Oh yeah, I knew for a long time." (laughs) And so when my parents came back, my sister told them what she'd done "I did it, I did it, I told and I wasn't supposed to," and everything. My parents never said a word.

Bartges: Never said a word to you?

West: Never said a word.

Bartges: Wow.

West: They were extremely tightlipped, extremely tightlipped. They were just kind of like, That's how it is, just let it go, and would never make any deal out of it. So they knew I knew, but that was it. They didn't go into any of this business like, Oh, we wanted you, and we got to pick you, you know, like parents will do. Never said a word about it. Never said a word about it.

Bartges: Were you raised in any particular church or religion?

West: Yes, they were both Christian Scientists. That's where they met—in church. My father had been married before and his wife died, and they had been going to church. Then my mother's father had moved to Wellsville. He was what we call today a financial planner—sold stocks and bonds. And so she moved there with him. And she always laughed and said she talked to her father and they said, "If that Floyd West ever got to church on time, the church would fall down." (laughter) So she said when he asked her to marry him, she said, "On one condition." And he said, "What?" She said, "You get to church on time." (laughter) So yeah, they were both churchgoing, very much—belonged to Christian Science Church. My father had been a reader in the church, and they were ushers in the church in Florida, and, you know, involved in the church.

Bartges: Is that something that you've maintained?

West: Yeah. I never joined because I don't endorse all of it, but I still go. The church is like a lot of very traditional churches, just getting less and less population. Our little church here in Carbondale—last summer we'd go and there—might be twenty, twenty-one people. Now there are twelve, thirteen people, and I doubt if they can keep going. The two really big mamas in the church—one had to move to Florida and be closer to her children because she's widowed now, and the other one that was a leader died in her sleep the first weekend I was back.

Bartges: Oh, my.

West: Good big family (unintelligible) and wonderful, wonderful woman. So it was like, to our church, you know, the two that ran everything.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: So I don't know how long they'll last.

Bartges: And when you lose those lynchpin people, it affects the whole mechanism.

West: Very definitely. And the third one in charge that you think would keep everything together goes to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, every summer. She'll come back as we leave, so I don't know. It's interesting. At St. Petersburg we had a mammoth church, I mean beautiful, beautiful, huge church. And there are so many Christian Scientists there that they built a second church that was a really lovely church. It's not anywhere as big. Then they soon had a third church. And when I was down there in St. Petersburg, about four years ago. I think that was—got that NACWAA legacy award, I went by the larger church, and it had been sold.

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: I can't remember when it was, but we were at the NACWAA convention down at the bay, and a couple of us went out walking, and we walked up past this beautiful church that I went to all my life, and it's no longer the church; it's a concert hall or something—theatre kind of a thing. And I thought, That's a real demonstration of how the membership is really going down.

Being a Christian Scientist was kind of embarrassing to me at times. I can remember going to school and having come—this was before one school or the other—coming to Florida and enrolling in the school, and the principal taking me in the bathroom and pulling up my dress and seeing if I had any measles. Evidently they had some problems with kids from the North

bringing measles into the—and I can remember being embarrassed, and I thought, That's because we're Christian Scientists, and she thinks we have something and don't know it. I didn't understand at all.

Bartges: You want to take a short break?

West: Whatever.

Bartges: Well, we can keep going. I mentioned when we were talking before we started our interview—I'm going to jump ahead more towards the end of your professional career. There were two occasions that you—there was an opening in the athletic director position at Southern Illinois in Carbondale, and the first one appeared to be in 1985 and the second in 1988.

West: The first one, yes, when Jim Livengood was hired, and the second one when Jim Hart was hired.

Bartges: Yes, yes, exactly. Apparently you had to be named Jim to be hired. (laughs)

West: (laughs) That's true. Hadn't thought about that.

Bartges: I'm trying to be funny.

West: (laughs)

Bartges: I tried to get in touch with Jim Livengood. I sent him an e-mail, but I haven't heard back from him.

West: He's at Las Vegas now.

Bartges: Yes. Yeah. Of course he would get a stray e-mail from somebody that he has no connection with, and I imagine he's pretty busy. I kind of was curious to maybe talk to him a little bit about your professional association.

West: Well, yeah, try to get in touch with him. He's a good guy. He goes off in twenty different directions, and he comes across maybe as a used car salesman, but he's a good guy.

Bartges: You had good things to say about him.

West: Oh, yeah. We got along famously.

Bartges: In 1988—and this is from that article— you didn't get an interview when you applied for the—

West: That was in 1985.

Bartges: In 1985. I'm sorry, yes, you're right.

West: Never got an interview.

Bartges: And why do you think that is?

West: Oh, the president at the time didn't want me to be the AD, you know. I think he knew that I would be very, very troublesome for the boosters, some of the boosters. It's hard for people today to understand the attitudes, because you've read some of the articles. A car dealer in Harrisburg said there wasn't a woman in the country that could do that job. That was published in the

Christian Science Monitor. It was published all over. And it's interesting, I talk about the history of how people change attitudes—it had to be ten years later, he told the development officer, "You know, I've come to the conclusion they should have given that job to Charlotte West." Now we're talking about an old Southern Illinois boy, a car dealer, that made the statement, "No woman in the country could do that job," but—

Bartges: But they probably had one of the few women in the country here that could have done that job.

West: (laughs) Yeah. And I tell you what, by not giving me an interview, that incensed a lot of people because they thought it was unfair and rude. They might not have wanted me, but they thought, Well, they could have at least interviewed her. So I know of a—thinking of one man that's—Bud Stotlar that is recently deceased, but he was a professor in physical education, and it made him so mad, he went to the president. And the president liked him—he had done some things socially with him, and he just said, "This isn't right. It's just not right." So some people were annoyed with that.

Bartges: What was his last name, Stallings?

West: Stotlar, S-T-O-T-L-A-R, Stotlar. Interesting, his son is chair of PE at Colorado State.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: Yeah, Stotlar.

Bartges: In 1988—who was the president in 1985?

West: Oh, (laughter) Albert Somit, S-O-M-I-T.

Bartges: So then in 1988, I read a *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, and there's a fellow named John Guyon—

West: Guyon, G-U-Y-O-N

Bartges: —and he talked early on in the article. The article, as you are well aware—the date on the article is July 13, 1988, and it talks about the differences between you and Jim Hart. Jim Hart was, well for the record, a professional football player. He had connections with the Cardinals. He was an alum of Southern. I wondered if you had taught him when he was—

West: No.

Bartges: Because he had a PE degree, I think.

West: He might have, but, see, things were so separate then that he would have taken the required course over there.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: The arena. We were real separate.

Bartges: John Guyon—his comment that stood out to me in this article was that he needed to stay focused to keep the campus from pulling apart, and that's what he says, from pulling apart.

West: I remember that, yeah.

Bartges: And it was a split committee vote. I found it also very interesting the amount of detail on a hiring motion. It talked about a split committee at five to four or six to five—something like that—in your favor, and then it going to the president to have to make that decision. Do you have any idea who wrote the letter of support for you?

West: Who wrote letters of support? Quite a few people, I know. Of course, I never had access to any of those. If somebody didn't tell me or they didn't carbon me—I had some professors that I had worked with on campus that wrote letters of support, important people—men, a lot of men, there were a lot of men. The women in the women's caucus wrote letters, our AAUW [American Association of University Women] group wrote letters, very outstanding guy in the psych [psychology] department wrote a letter. Celeste Ulrich from the University of Oregon wrote John Guyon the most blistering letter I believe I've ever read when he decided on Jim. But at least John was upfront about things. When he made the decision, he came over to my office to tell me he was selecting Jim. And, I think, to be real honest with you—I would be hard-pressed to prove this—but I think John got pushed from above.

Bartges: What's above?

West: The board, members of the board, and some political people.

Bartges: I did see a former governor's name.

West: Yeah. We had Lawrence Pettit. I don't know if John was president and he was chancellor—they switched those titles. I would have no way of telling

you if this was true, but knowing the political system and knowing the people, I think John got some pressure. I really believe that. He could not have been more accommodating to me (laughs) from that point on, and not because he thought I would sue or anything like that.

Bartges: Sure.

West: I worked with him so well. If he wanted information about Athletics, he called me, even after Jim was here, and he'd put me on key committees. Like, I was on his—nothing to do with Athletics—but on his University Budget Committee. And I was president of our A/P staff council, so I was at board meetings, and we had a very good relationship.

Bartges: That's good.

West: We had a very good relationship, and I felt very secure. When Jim took the job, he had mentioned that he would like some young guy at Washington University to be his assistant, and I'm sure John told him no, he—I would be the associate, I'm sure. And then Jim and I worked well together.

Bartges: How long was Jim Hart here?

West: He was here when I retired. He was still the AD when I retired. And it was a very comforting position for me because I could do whatever I wanted. I could make suggestions to Jim. He could take them or he could not take them. And I think he took all but one in all the time that we worked together.

Bartges: Were you the Title IX Coordinator?

West: You know, that was not in Athletics, but I—anything to do with gender equity for the department, I handled. And this is a good example when you ask that question: John, my president, was asking me one day, "How are we doing?" "Good." And I was saying, "You know, I'll give you a report on exactly how we're doing." And I wrote him about a thirteen or fourteen page report about each section, about what we needed to do, and what we didn't need to do. He was extremely appreciative of that. And it was good for Jim too because it was a directive from the president, and we used that as a roadmap. When I retired we had full scholarship funding, and we had equal funding for per diems and that kind of thing. We had some areas where we needed to work, but we were not bad. We were pretty darned good. And so I told Jim, I said—one year we were like one and nine in football. And I said, "I'm so glad you're the AD." I said, "If it were one and nine in football, I can't tell you what this would be like."

Bartges: If you had been the AD?

West: (unintelligible) AD because I said, "They'd crucify me, crucify me. It's true." He said, "I know."

Bartges: Do you stay in touch with him?

West: Oh, yeah. He lives in Florida year round, about eighteen miles from us.

Bartges: Oh—

West: Here in Naples.

Bartges: Sure.

West: We get together, and we have dinner at least once a year. Jim and his wife are busy like we're busy. We all grumble about too many visitors, too many visitors, but—

Bartges: Retirements (unintelligible).

West: I mean, I hear from Mary, his wife, at least five times a week. She's the one that's on e-mail all the time sending jokes or writing comments, so we communicate. So you know, it was sad to me not to be given a chance. I definitely feel like I deserved it, but I feel like I could do just as much if not more in a very protective, comfortable atmosphere. If I wanted to come in at twelve noon, I could go in at twelve noon. I could work until two and go home if I wanted to. I didn't, of course.

Bartges: Sure.

West: But, I mean, he trusted me. And of all the time we worked together, we had only one little spat. It was a little spat, but Jim will say, "Yeah, we had one fuss, and I was right," (laughter) and he probably was. We had disagreement over the replacement for Mitch Parkinson, our sports information director that I hired when he was a young (unintelligible). He was wonderful (unintelligible), just—I loved the guy, and we were closer than a brother and sister could be. Loved him to death. He lived just two blocks down. He died in his sleep, forty-six years old.

Bartges: Was he the one the press box is named after?

West: Yes, Mitch Parkinson. And I'm still in touch with his wife. He was marvelous. So when Mitch died, Jim wanted me to hire the men's assistant. Well, we were combined by then, but it was Mitch doing the women and Fred doing the men and Gene Green, the person I'm talking about, had been Fred's assistant, and he was supposed to work with both, and he did, but Jim wanted to hire him right away. Of course Jim had the choice, but I said, "No," I said "He's not demonstrating to me his commitment to women." I asked, "How has he shown it and all this?" And so I said no. And I know Jim went to the president—and that was a new president, the one that's president of Wichita State now, Don Beggs. Don said, "You let Charlotte hire who she wants", he told Jim that. Gene was a good guy. He was a good guy. So I started putting together a search committee, and one of the people I wanted on it was our young man that was academic advisor that I thought the world of. I said, "Brian will you be on this committee?" He said, "I don't want to serve on it because," he said, "I think Gene should have the chance." Well, that made me think, There's a lot there about that guy, because Brian was very principled. Then one afternoon I was working in the office, and Gene came in, and he talked to me, and he said, "I really want this job." I know you don't want me, but I don't know why you don't want me. And I said, "I can tell you why I don't want you—what have you done for women's (laughs) sports?" So we had a real knock-down, good conversation, and he convinced me—he convinced me that he really would do a great job. And he did. So I went to Jim and I said, "Okay, we'll give him a chance." And he couldn't have been better. And he got out of Athletics, and now he is our writer for our SIU Alumni Association.

Bartges: Oh, okay, yeah.

West: He does the magazine. He's a good guy. He really promoted our women's basketball as well as our other sports. He was saying, "You know, I was hired by Fred. Fred was real sexist, men's Sports Information, only cared about men, didn't care about the "goddamned women", Okay?"

Bartges: Nice.

West: Uh-huh. You're not over there doing anything for the you-know-what women.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: So Gene was saying, "I worked for him, so I had to please him."

Bartges: I wanted to talk about that a little bit, because it's unusual to have two opportunities like that in such a short period of time, and the second time you had an interview which was—they probably learned from the first time.

West: Yeah.

Bartges: I just kind of wondered what your thoughts were on this?

West: Well, it got—I would say it got very, very close the second time, which was a victory in itself. I can remember each of us had to make a presentation at the student center in one of our formal areas there, and, I mean, I was really prepared. I said things that I had in mind that I would do and goals that I would set, blabity blah, blah, blah, and just, I think, twelve people came. Instead of listening and trying to think, You know what will this woman do, what are her goals, or anything, they couldn't care less. Jim comes to make a

presentation—big room, better audience, fair preparation, didn't know the current athletic landscape—

Bartges: (unintelligible).

West: —didn't have a formal presentation. He'd answer questions. And he's a bright enough guy and sincere and everything, but he had no athletic administration experience. He had athletic experience but no administrative experience. So I went to hear him, and right then I knew—there were people who turn out because they wanted him as AD. And people loved Jim. I'd go places with him—I can remember having dinner in Springfield, Missouri once, we were down there for some meeting or something, and we'd get ready and the waitress will say, "Somebody picked up your tab and said, 'Congratulations, Jim'" or something. Wherever he'd go, people still idolized him as the Cardinal quarterback, and they still do. And he's very gracious—very gracious guy, social, very astute socially. So things worked out well. Things worked out well.

Bartges: How do you define leadership?

West: Oh, it is so multidimensional. There's a lot of different ways people can lead well. You can lead by example. There are quiet leaders; there are forceful leaders. I've spent a whole day with a group talking about leadership. (laughter) I'm up to here with leadership, but—

Bartges: I'm thinking about how you led.

West: How I led? I think how I led was probably being explicit with people—what I thought their job entailed, what I expected of them. They always knew that if

there was an issue, I would talk to them directly. And I tried to reinforce good behavior. If somebody did something that was good, I always tried to praise them for that because I think we all work better when you feel appreciated. They'd know it was sincere if I said, "You really did a good job," and help them create more goals so we can do so-and-so better—working on a team approach. We had a very, very congenial, unified women's athletic department, and we did a lot of the projects together, a lot of big projects together. I think that reinforces that team approach and wanting to do well and knowing they can do better the next time, learning by experience. If we had a Gateway Tennis Match, I would encourage everybody to contribute in some way possible, and I can't tell you how many times I've been out, like, at a cross-country meet where we were running against Eastern or Murray State or something, and the coach saying—and this is years ago—"It's so nice to have an administrator out here that cares about the team." There's so many places where if it's cross country, it just wasn't worth getting up and going out on a Saturday morning. We had a group that supported each other. If it was a volleyball match, the swimmers were there. If it was a swimming meet, other people were there that could be. So I think creating a team atmosphere and a we-can-do-it attitude, reinforcing good behavior, and their having the satisfaction of knowing that if they did something that I didn't think was good, that they'd hear it from me.

Bartges: There was a lot of change here at Southern during your time. Last time that we were here you took us around and showed us a lot of new venues and the facilities. Where's your place? Where are you situated historically in that, in your opinion? I've seen them so, I mean, I know what I saw. Obviously the softball stadium is named after you.

West: You will not believe now—we have a new football stadium.

Bartges: They were just digging ground on that.

West: Fabulous. We have a new football stadium, and there's a patio and a cemented area and a big huge section that's attached to the arena, and that section—it's men's basketball, women's basketball, and football. And the men's and women's basketball (unintelligible). You would walk in there and go—it's—you walk in and the women's lounge is about (unintelligible), black leather furniture, big, plasma TV, little sink and icebox, and a little thing they need to do their snacks, computers. The locker room itself is all curved and lighted, but it's modern, and attached to that is their own shower and dressing room, and then a video room with tiered sheets, big screen. That's women's basketball for the players, just for the players. Then the coaches have their own lounge, dressing area, locker room, and video room of their own. I mean, it's just like (laughter), you can't believe it.

I don't know that you know this, but last summer my project—and this may answer your question—was to see that the women's basketball locker room would be named the Cindy Scott Locker Room. She coached for us for twenty years. And the old one, very small, not-so-nice one, although we tried to fix it up, was the Cindy Scott Locker Room.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: Well, you can't have two places on campus (unintelligible). I know that now, but we can take it off one and put it on the other. No, no, no. So I went to our Foundation, head of the Foundation, and said, "What'll it take?" "A half a million dollars." And I said, "Get real." (laughs) I said, "You'll wait a lifetime or two lifetimes. Nobody's going to give a half a million dollars to

name the locker room Cindy Scott Locker Room." Well, that was the fall that my friend Marie was going through all the breast—three breast surgeries and had double mastectomy, and that had my attention. So I went to Florida, and when I came back, I thought—this was last year now when I first came back—I thought, That's a project I want to undertake. So I went back to the Foundation, and I said, "Okay, Rickey, now (unintelligible) something more reasonable." He said, "If you can collect $100,000—$100,000, we'll name that locker room in honor of Cindy." So I said, "That's not going to be easy to do in Southern Illinois when every person that's interested in Athletics has been banged over the head for our eighty-three million dollar athletic renovation projects—eighty-three million dollars. And to get tickets to do anything, our Athletic staff was just beating everybody over the head. But I worked with the athletic director. I went over and I talked to him, and I said, "I want to do this." And he said, "Well, we'll be behind you all the way. Anything we can do." I said, "Well, Mario, it's like starting a one hundred yard dash, only putting me 15 yards back, because you all have hit up all these people."

Bartges: Sure.

West: He said, "If you can get $50,000—if you can get $50,000, I would be thrilled." And he said, "I think you should try to talk Rickey into $50,000." So I tried to talk Rickey into $50,000.

Bartges: Is that the Foundation guy?

West: He's the Foundation guy. He said no. He said, "We've got too high standards. That's not enough." I said, "Well, if we get $50,000, and then Cindy and I would help you sell the lockers." They had sixteen lockers in there at $1,500

a locker. That would bring in about $28,000 more. Well, that might help. I said, "Well, I'll try, but if I only get to fifty, or if I can get to fifty, I'll be back." He said, "Okay." So he kind of without saying that's okay, let me go off and running. I got Vicky King, who was a friend of Cindy Scott's. She was a high school principal. And I invited Trish Guyon (unintelligible)—John just deceased two years ago. He and I were a year apart in age and pretty good buddies. Anyway, we sat down one day and talked about it, could we do this or not. And my first thought was, If we could get twenty people to give $5,000 each—well, couldn't do that. I went out talking to people that are money people, and they said, "Charlotte, we gave $20,000 to the Saluki (unintelligible)," or, "We gave $10,000 to Saluki (unintelligible), and we can't give (unintelligible)." So Vicky and I—Trish kind of was there to help us, but she's kind of controversial. So Vicky and I started out—long story short we collected $85,000.

Bartges: Wow.

West: (unintelligible).

Bartges: Without the lockers?

West: Without the lockers.

Bartges: That's great.

West: It was great. They couldn't believe it. They couldn't believe it. Then—so you say, How do I feel about those? That was a goal that I (unintelligible), because she deserves that. I feel like I've been honored with the stadium. I

don't have to have my name anyplace—I mean, you can't have your name anyplace else.

Bartges: Sure.

West: You can't. And we had to sign some papers saying that she relinquished the other room and all this kind of stuff. But October seventh, eighth, and ninth now Cindy's coming back. We'll have a big reception to honor her and name the locker room, and then Saturday Mario's going to have a tent tailgate with food, chairs, and tables in there, so people that knew Cindy can come by, and then she'll be honored at halftime at the game.

Bartges: Nice.

West: So it'll be a wonderful weekend for her and her family. I'm thrilled to death about that. And Cindy came back about—just about a month ago, just for two days here, mainly visiting Vicky (unintelligible). And she went in there, and she's kind of tough, but she said, "I had a hard time not just bawling." She said, "I could not believe those facilities." She said, "I've been all over the country with women's basketball facilities." She said, "This is like Tennessee" (laughter). So I'm thrilled to death about that, and I have another little private thing in mind that I think another one of our coaches needs to be honored (unintelligible). It won't be anything that grand or like that, but to pick an area. I'll share with you—the old women's basketball locker room I would like to have named for one of our women's coaches and (unintelligible) special for that team. (unintelligible) catch my breath this summer, but next summer (unintelligible) that'll be a goal.

Bartges: That's great that you're doing that because what would happen to those spaces if somebody wasn't advocating?

West: Exactly. That's what Cindy was saying. She's so appreciative. She said, "Never (unintelligible) this." And Julie (unintelligible) was her assistant, and she worked here for years afterwards, and she just retired, and she said, "You shouldn't (unintelligible)." And I said, "Julie, I'm doing this (unintelligible)."

Bartges: Right. I think for me initially—I asked about leadership. I remember Cindy Scott. She wouldn't know me from the man in the moon, but because of my intellectual interests and my involvement in basketball—you know, when Cathy Boswell was playing at Illinois State, one of my high school teammates was also there, Dawn Hallett—big, left-handed wing player that I played high school ball with. And I had friends at Western that played, and we would—I'd kind of go different places around the Midwest and watch basketball games. And I can remember (laughs) going into Horton Field House at Illinois State, and I think I might have—maybe I even told you this, but Cindy—

West: (laughs) You told me.

Bartges: Cindy was not on the floor. She was sitting up, you know, at the hash line smoking. So when you said that, I thought, Is she still alive, because I don't know anybody that has used her name anywhere.

West: She's the Assistant Athletic Director at Bentley College, Boston.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: The year I retired, she went out there. She was real close friends with Barbara Stevens, Barbara Stevens who was—she was one of the three women that has eight hundred basketball wins. She was honored this year with Tara. She got hers like two or three nights before Tara VanDerveer got hers, and she was on ESPN—Barbara Stevens, Division 2.

Bartges: Where does she coach?

West: Bentley.

Bartges: Oh, at Bentley, okay.

West: She talked Cindy into going out there. So Cindy's the Assistant Athletic Director and has got a real good job, and Barney obviously has a very good job.

Bartges: That's funny. We haven't really talked about professional memberships for you. I know that you have a plethora of different organizations that you belong to—obviously your work with the AIAW.

West: Well, currently I'm down to—I'm a member of AAUW, and I'm a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, and I'm a member of NACWAA. Now I'm going for—I have a new one that you probably don't know about, the Alliance of Women Coaches.

Bartges: You're right. What's that?

West: That's brand new. You know, I mentioned teaching in the NCAA—one of the Coaches Academies.

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: And they're run by Celia Slater. Do you know Celia?

Bartges: I don't know her.

West: She was one of our first persons in the NACWAA Institute, and she had this dream that there was a lot more to coaching than x's and o's, that coaches need to be trained about and talked about (unintelligible). So she got a grant from the NCAA. Judy Sweet was instrumental in getting that for her. She started having these coaching academies, and now the NCAA sponsors them. Then last year I did the December one and two in June, and these coaches come from all different sports, and they love that getting together, and then they have training and history, Title IX, manners and marketing, and you name it. They spend four days, four-and-a-half days together. And they kept saying to Celia, "We need to do this. We need to have more affiliation with each other and more networking." We talked a lot about networking, job interviews and resumes, and everything. So Celia said, "Well, if we started this organization, would you join?" And they said, "Yes." So Celia Slater and Judy Sweet started this Alliance of Women Coaches, and they have over three hundred members now in less than two or three months, and they'll have some programs around the country, regionally, nationally—they'll have a newsletter.

Bartges: Is this a nonprofit?

West: Nonprofit. For sure, it's a nonprofit. So in support of them, I joined. (laughs)

Bartges: So you're still a joiner?

West: Well, I thought that was real important to—and then being—lecturing at the—where all those young women have gone, I felt it was (unintelligible). Those are the things that I have—ACLU [American Civil Liberties Union], American—I mean, I'm into all these, like Animal Legal Defense Fund, Human Rights Commission, I joined. That's probably one of the strongest organizations on behalf of gays and lesbians in the country. I think they do tremendous work on an educational level and politically, so I join that every year. But I was thinking of really professional, not personal kinds of things like ACLU. Don't always agree with them, but I think they've done a lot of good things through the years. When I was active, obviously I was very involved in the Missouri Valley Conference. That's not an organization that you join per se, but—

Bartges: And you're in their Hall of Fame too. You mentioned earlier MAPECW.

West: Midwest Association Physical Education for College Women.

Bartges: Talk to me a little bit about that organization.

West: Well, teaching physical education on a college level, that was an association that all of my colleagues, everybody joined, and it was probably one of the most inspirational that I went to. We had a meeting every fall—the Midwestern States: Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois—and had excellent speakers. It was just a place to be. (laughs) It was where we learned about issues, we discussed issues, we had some lively debates on topics, and there was also a good opportunity at those annual meetings for social interaction. They had banquets and meals, but they would have a golf outing and different

things that people would want to do depending on the site where we were. So that's where I met a lot of my professional colleagues.

Bartges: Is it still—

West: I don't think it's functional now. I've kind of lost touch with AAHPERD. I don't pay dues to that organization anymore. And whether they have regionals—I know they have state meetings; I don't know if they have regional. See, we'd go to the College Women, we'd also go to the regional AAHPERD convention. And those were good, broader in scope because they covered everything.

Bartges: The Midwest Region, did you have your meetings, like, at sites of colleges and universities, or did you go to big towns?

West: We went more to recreational parks—

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: —like Pere Marquette, Zion, Brown County in Indiana. We'd go to—or campsite locations.

Bartges: I was going to say, Did you camp?

West: No, I mean, they always had a lodge there.

Bartges: Oh, okay.

West: I can remember going all the way to—was it West Virginia to—

Bartges: This is like a 90-degree turn. When your family drove out West, did you camp or did you stay in motels?

West: Oh, motels. My father wouldn't have camped if his life depended on it. (laughter)

Bartges: I didn't think so, but I thought (unintelligible) to ask.

West: Oh, no, no, no, no, he wouldn't have camped. But it's so funny because my freshman year in college, I signed up to be a counselor at Skyline Camp in North Carolina. So he took me and a friend of mine from college that also lived in St. Petersburg—she was a year older than I was, but she was going to be a counselor there too. They drove us up to North Carolina and took us to this camp. It was before the campers got there, so all the cabins were kind of shut, and they had to be opened up.

Bartges: Sure.

West: You know how private camps are. They're rustic. You know, the old beds and cots and everything. He was horrified.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: He was horrified. And my mother told me later, she said, "Your daddy couldn't sleep that first night. He said, 'Why would she want to leave us and stay there instead of going to California?'" (laughs) And my mother could kind of understand it because she—when she was younger, she had camped a

little bit with her brother in Michigan and—but no, not Floyd, unh-uh, he would have thought that was gross. (laughs)

Bartges: Did you ever go to camp?

West: Not overnight, no.

Bartges: I didn't think you had based on the—

West: I went to a couple of day camps, Girl Scout Day Camp or just public recreation camps for kids in the summer where you did arts and crafts or played some games or something like that, a couple of those.

Bartges: Not your cup of tea?

West: No. Not the craft thing. I was not very crafty.

Bartges: (laughs) I'm not very crafty. I'm going to turn back (unintelligible). Did you see the movie *Up*? It's a cartoon about the house on balloons and stuff like that?

West: Oh, no.

Bartges: It's cute if you ever get a chance—if you like cartoon movies, which I do. And there's dogs—a lot of animals in it, and the dogs get distracted with squirrels all over this island. All of a sudden the movie will be going along, and you're at a really intense point, and—squirrel, and all the dogs are—

West: (laughs) You say that, and he knows that word.

Bartges: Oh. I have those squirrel moments. You mentioned lively debates in the Midwest Association for College Women. What kind of stuff would cause a lively debate?

West: Well, one of the first chances I had to present that I was excited about was at a Midwest meeting, MAPECW, and they wanted me to speak about athletic scholarships for women.

Bartges: (laughs)

West: And I told the head of my department that I'd been invited to speak, and she said, "You're aware that if you speak in support of those, you're going to disenfranchise yourself from many of these women in the Association," because that was really—that was a no-no to some of the older, more established people. But I believed in them, so I did it. And I felt good about it, got some nice comments, and I'm sure I disturbed some of them, but I talked about why there should be athletic scholarships for women. So that was a controversy. Then after (unintelligible) presented, people discussed the pros and cons—Well, do you think so-and-so, and, Why do you—this, that, and the other. So we answered the questions and had the debate.

Bartges: We don't have enough of that these days.

West: Uh-huh. But it was open, I mean, you know free to—

Bartges: Would this have been in the mid-sixties or earlier?

West: Early sixties. I came here in 1957, and I wouldn't have been invited right away, so it had to be—I'm just guessing, maybe 1963, 1964.

Bartges: I just wondered. Was Phebe Scott in that organization?

West: Oh, yes.

Bartges: Did you have much interaction with her?

West: Not then. I thought she was—she kind of scared me. (laughs) She seemed real kind of rough and abrupt, but I respected her, respected her very much. You talked to her when you came down and visited?

Bartges: Yeah. Is she still alive?

West: Yes.

Bartges: (unintelligible) very well?

West: No. We have a group in Fort Myers that every Super Bowl, Diane has this party at her home for all the PE people and the athletic people in the area, and this is the first year Phebe wasn't well enough to come.

Bartges: Sorry to hear that. She had a very distinct voice—

West: Yes.

Bartges: —and opinion.

West: Yes.

Bartges: —when I talked to her.

West: Very definitely. (laughter) And I'm kind of like, uh—(laughs) But she's a very charming person (unintelligible).

Bartges: She was very gracious with me, and I was—I do have time issues sometimes, not at that point, but I was not as experienced interviewing, and so she was patient with me and realized when there were things that I might not have the knowledge to ask what question, so I appreciated that.

West: We recently honored her, NACWAA, and invited her when we were in St. Petersburg—she was fairly close by, and some of the younger people had said, "We'd like just some of the ladies to come back and kind of tell history stories," kind of like what it was and this kind of thing. So she came back, and she was a part of that panel, she and Merrily Dean Baker and Sharon Taylor and myself—the four of us put on a program. And that was fun. It was fun.

Bartges: I'll bet. Is there anything today that you can think of that we've—areas where we may have delved into a little bit that you have anything you would like to add or that I have missed asking a followup that would have been—

West: I just think maybe what a lot of people don't do today—and I guess maybe this is true of young researchers as well as young coaches—is that we worked hard, and I sometimes wonder just how hard some of our young staff works today. I know a lot of people do, because I've worked with some people and I know you work hard, but I'm talking more generally. I've talked a lot with

these young coaches, and it's kind of like they want to be Pat Head tomorrow, pay their dues and work hard, and I think—I look back now, I get tired thinking about it. (laughter) I really do, you know. We were trying to get tenure in PE and at the same time, we had the love of athletics and started out being a lot of volunteer work, soon got compensated for it time-wise, and then eventually money-wise, but never rich. (laughs) And it took a lot of—lot of work. I can remember working hard all day long, and then coming home and having dinne,r and then going into that study and working into the wee hours doing a lot of dictation. Back when we didn't have computers. I dictated a lot. I would dictate maybe fifteen, twenty letters a night, especially during AIAW time, get up and go again the next day. Didn't have a lot of free time at all.

Bartges: Probably not a lot of time for entertainment pursuits.

West: Right, right.

Bartges: Is there a sense of entitlement among younger administrators and coaches and players?

West: I answer that from a Title IX perspective, you know. We like it when the young women feel they're entitled to equal opportunity, the same benefits as their male counterparts. I like that, and I think that shows me the world has changed, that they just think this is par for the course. On the other hand, it annoys me that they don't appreciate how they got it and that they have it, because, you know, it's still—it's a privilege; it's not a right, and I think a lot of women don't really appreciate the opportunity that they have. I love it that they have it, and I want them to appreciate it, and sometimes I think they don't.

Bartges: I don't know how closely you've looked at curriculum, and I know it's been a long time that you have been in an academic classroom, but do you think that there's a lack of interest or desire to know their history?

West: Oh, yeah. A lot of them couldn't care less, a lot of them couldn't care less. But I think that sometimes once they're subjected to it, it kind of excites them. I think of—and I've talked about this NCAA Coaching Academy.

Bartges: Um-hmm.

West: It wasn't this year but last year—and we worked hard on getting minority students there, minority coaches. So we have been having a pretty good number. It was in Atlanta, and I came in and I had to cover the history. And it was right before diner, and I'm thinking, They're tired, they've been here all day, it's four-thirty in the afternoon and they're going to have to hear me until six. So I spoke, and it was well-received, and this young African American woman came up and just hugged me, and she had her friends with her, and they hugged me, and they said, Could they take pictures. And I said, "Oh, yes." And she said, "Well, you were so wonderful." She said, "I have to admit." And I said, "What do you have to admit?" And she said, "When you came in, I thought to myself, What can this old lady teach me? (laughs) What can this old lady teach me?"

Bartges: (laughs)

West: And she said, "You were wonderful, and you taught me so much, and I need to know it." Now they're all not like that. I'm sure some of them are thinking, Oh—but this—because we've had a change in NACWAA—got a copy of the

evaluations. And that's important. I mean, I'm glad I did. I think most people are real receptive to hearing the background and need to know it, and they recognize that. So many of them say, I didn't know any of this. And I get nice little cards from them saying, Thank you, thank you, thank you for paving the way, or, I have my job thanks to people like you. I get a follow-up of that after each of these, and it's enough to have kept me going until now anyway, (laughs) but I'm not sure how much more. So yeah, there maybe were two out of seventy-eight that were in the classes that think, Well, that was a little long, or, I don't know if we need to know all that. Maybe there were two negative comments. So that makes me feel good.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: Because I'm always thinking, Oh my Lord, do they want to hear all this?

Bartges: Well, you—

West: (unintelligible).

Bartges: Well, yeah, but I mean you also, you have been preaching this—and I use that in a religious sense—for how many years?

West: I know.

Bartges: For fifty years? That's a long time to carry the banner.

West: Um-hmm. Right. And I let them know, you know, it's not easy to speak out. So many of them want to be popular. I could punch out a couple of our coaches here that don't ever want to say anything that the men might not like

even though it would be important to say and you could say it in a nice way—let them think about it. So I kind of say one of the challenges for them is that you may be only one of ten, but if you believe it, you say it. You say it.

Bartges: They might surprise you. Give them a chance at least to respond.

West: Yeah.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: That's good.

Bartges: Well, this has been—I don't know if we'll have a chance to talk again like this or not, just because of where my research is, and I've taken a huge amount of your time over these last six years (laughter).

West: That's okay.

Bartges: I appreciate your hospitality. And as I've always said, I appreciate what you've done, because I'm one of those people that benefited from the things that you did. I haven't been shy about voicing that because it's important to me, but I hope that when whatever form this takes, that it will be an adequate representation for a life that has been amazingly lived.

West: Oh, I'm sure (unintelligible). You know, I think what helps too, I want to mention is that at these NCAA Coaching Academies, I mentioned Celia Slater. I think a lot of it is how it's presented, and Celia is so appreciative. She had the opportunity that when she introduces you or talks about you, she'd say, "I wouldn't be here if it weren't for Charlotte." And she starts in like that,

and she's their mentor, and they're thinking. So I think a lot of it is our—people like you and like Celia, they get the message across to people that's important to know how we all got here.

Bartges: It's people who aren't even really interested in athletics. When they ask me about my dissertation topic and they ask—I explain that it's an ethnography about an individual, and I talk about our conversations, they're like, Wow, she sounds really interesting. (laughter) Well, she's had an interesting life. And I mean, when you are on the cutting edge of something, you have that opportunity. Not everybody grabs that opportunity or has a belief in that opportunity, and I think that those are what make individuals like yourself, and like Christine, and Carol Oglesby, and that group of people—that's what differentiates them from people who were very successful academics, were interested in sport, and did a lot in terms of being a teacher, but that extra work that was required, that takes dedication.

West: It does.

Bartges: Yeah, a drive. So thank you.

West: A passion.

Bartges: Very much so.

West: It's a passion.

Bartges: It is, exactly.

West: It's so exciting to me to see young women have all this opportunity to play. We were laughing a couple of times in our recent golf tournaments—some of these ladies had brought in some of these collegiate golfers. Maureen and I played in a tournament in Carmi where it was a two-lady, and there are two strong collegiate golfers. And I'm saying, We can't play with these flat bellies. And some of the clubs—well, two that I know of already are saying no collegiate golfers. I'm saying, I support that because I said, "I've worked hard for them to have the opportunity," and I said, "They play all fall, and they play all spring, and there are lots of tournaments in the summer that are open tournaments." Like Diane, our golf coach, played in Chicago this week Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Illinois Open. And she said, "I'm up here, I'm the oldest one. I'm fifty-five and I'm playing with all these college kids."

Bartges: Oh, no.

West: But, see, that's where they should be.

Bartges: Yeah.

West: So I said, "Something's wrong here." I'm saying, Don't let these college (laughs) golfers play with us. This is our one opportunity. This is our opportunity to play so—(laughs)

Bartges: Yeah, if you're going to do that, like tennis does do it in age groups, and that's the way to go, and then you can have sort of the best of both worlds.

West: But sure.

Bartges: Because I think it's great that they would be as a competitive person to even kind of try it, but then on the other side, because you're competitive, you—I mean for me, I still have that pride factor, and I'm not the same physical person that I was when I was thirty—

West: Right—

Bartges: —or forty.

West: Uh-huh.

Bartges: So my pride's kind of wounded with that. (laughs)

West: Well, yeah.

Bartges: Something that I can't control, but interesting, yeah. I'll take that. I'm sorry (unintelligible) time.

(End of Interview)