

## Transcripts of Audio Clips

All of these are from: 10/23/09 at Home of Dolly Seacord. Alumni: Dolly Seacord; and interviewer, Jessica Griffen.

### **Dolly\_Seacord\_living\_and\_working\_in\_Normal.mp3**

Jessica Griffen: Where were you living while you went to school?

Dolly Seacord: Well that's interesting. I was living in a house at 210 Normal Avenue, which is now part of the parking lot. So, it was Normal Avenue came right up to the library. And uh I still see the young man whose mother kept thirteen girls there.

JG: Thirteen girls?

DS: Thirteen girls.

JG: My goodness

DS: And, this woman Mrs. Alsine had one son and three daughters and we thirteen girls there. two of us lived in a, in a bedroom downstairs and shared the bathroom with the family. The other gals stayed upstairs and all used one bathroom, you couldn't do it now. They wouldn't allow it probably. But that one boy lives here with his wife, so I get the biggest kick out of seeing him because I really liked him at the time. He was five years younger than I was, but he knew I was dated Jack who was a football player and he was in to sports so, that he liked me especially. And I liked him being, and teased him unmercifully, so anyway I still tease him here now, I think it so funny that he ended up living here too with his wife so... But that's where I lived. And then my second year I lived in a house in Bloomington and took care of a two year old girl so I had to have all of my classes at eight o'clock and take the bus into Bloomington and that's when I ate my lunch in that lounge, and then I had to be home by two. well that was, that got to be hard after one semester of that I wasn't... it was hard to use the library, to be home at two and then I had to get her, the little two year old, to bed and take care of her and see that she ate her supper right and everything. So, but that was for my meals [clears throat] and room and board. And I, we didn't have any money so, I had to do that or not go to school. My first year, I worked at the college hangout, which was called the co-op. it was a...it's where the Alamo is now.

JG: OK

DS: It was a book store on one part, and it was a restaurant. The co-op restaurant, and they called it co-op because it was a book store and a restaurant owned by two different families. And, um, so I got to know a lot of the students because it was a hang out.

JG: UH huh

DS: So I think that's probably why I think they voted me queen, because I knew so many of the students. But I worked just for my meals then. And I can't remember what I paid for my room. But it was right across from the Normal Theater and it was being built then and it was finally built just before um, my freshman year was over. Because as I said, when I dated you could sit on a porch swing and it was dark when they were building it. But when the lights

came on, they had a lot of lights when the theatre was built and you couldn't sit on the porch and "neck" [laughs] in the porch swing then. Any way that was the, when I was a freshman I lived there with just two other gals and um, then when I was a sophomore, after I lived in Bloomington and took care of the two year old girl, I only did that one semester. Then that's when I moved to Alsine's on Normal Avenue. And that's where I lived until I quit and went to State Farm. And then I had to live in Bloomington actually so. When I was living at Alsine's I worked for a lady who kept boys on School Street and she cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner for them. I had to go over there after breakfast and dry the dishes. They didn't want me to wash 'em, they wanted me to dry 'em. She washed 'em and I dried 'em. At lunch I simply went over, set the table, helped her get the food on, ate in the kitchen with them, with the couple, an older couple, and then did the dishes. And that took a lot of time too. Then she had me ironing. She got so she couldn't iron, and she starched the top of the sheets and the pillow cases for those eleven boys, and I ironed sheets and pillow cases on Tuesday. I was there most of the day. Just go to class and then go to her house and wash...

JG: And did she pay you for that house work?

DS: I got my meals. Yeah, I got my meals I didn't get any pay. No, you didn't get paid [laughs]. But, meals were a big thing so... And I lived at Alsines, and I can't even remember then what I paid to live there, but it was a fun place. A lot of fun gals lived there, we had fun. And I learned to smoke there. I told this kid that lives here now, I learned to smoke at your house, he said, "So did I" [laughing]. He said he had a cigarette one day and his mother said, "You haven't been smoking have you?" he said, "No it's not me, it's those girls," you know, he could blame us [laughs].