

Interviewees: Robert Maurer and Verda (Stahly) Maurer

Interviewer: Jessica Griffen

Date of Interview: 11/10/09

Place: Maurer apartment in Bloomington

RnVMaurer_alcohol_dance_marriage.mp3

Robert Maurer (RM): Even if you worked where alcohol was being served you couldn't work there. You had to give up your job and take a job where alcohol was not even being served. Let alone if you ever drank any. Out!

Verda Maurer (VM): If we had drank or smoked a cigarette that anybody knew about, the next morning we would have been out of School.

RM: You never smoked on campus.

VM: Well you weren't supposed to Smoke period.

RM: And yes you drank, if you drank anything you were out. A beer. If you drank a beer and they found out about it you were out. Uhhh, a married lady could not go to college.

Jessica Griffen (JG): No?

VM: No.

JG: Why not?

RM: If you were married you had to leave college.

VM: Well you're husband was supposed to be the one that would make the living.

JG: So the only women who went to college were ones who were not married?

VM: Not married.

JG: Or not intending on being married?

VM: Well, I think they could intend to be married but they wouldn't be while they were in school.

JG: So if you were married you had to keep it a secret?

VM: And that happened.

JG: Yeah?

VM: We stood up with a couple that got married and no one went to ?? Missouri to do this. So nobody...no.

RM: So she could finish the year.

VM: So she could finish the year.

RM: Then she couldn't finish the year and dropped out.

VM: She didn't care.

RM: Yeah.

VM: So it didn't matter but rules were really tough. Uh, for instance there, this no drinking thing. When Bob and I were at ISU there was a little dance...kinda out just at the edge of Normal. And it really, I never saw anything wrong happen there. But it was a rule that no student could ever be in that place.

JG: The dance hall?

VM: No Student. Well this couple that had sneaked off and married were such good friends of ours, and he had one of the three cars that was on campus. Three cars. And so we'd ride with them, but we'd go very quietly to this little dance place, and dance, and go back home. And I came back to the home that I lived in, the woman saw me come in and she said uh, "Ms. Ramble (SP?) called, she was dean of women, and you are to appear in her office at nine tomorrow morning." And so I called Bob and I called the other two people and I said "you're going to be on the outside of the building, I'm probably going to get kicked out of school." Well my parents loved this and so they sat in the car and waited to see what was happening to me. Well luckily I was being asked to be an honors student [laughing]. Can you imagine? I went out and heaving the biggest sigh of my life. Cause I was asked to be an honors student.

JG: So you didn't get kicked out of school. Did anybody ever get you in trouble for dancing?

VM: No. I don't think anybody ever knew. And yet, they were having sock hops on Fridays in the school. You had to pay a nickel. Now that was permissible.

JG: Was that like, chaperoned maybe?

VM: Oh yeah, you bet. Faculty were there.

JG: They probably wanted to keep a closer eye on you than that dance hall.

VM: Oh yes. Everything that we did was to be supervised.

RM: Oh yeah, always supervised.

VM: And somehow, I don't think we ever resented. We just felt so lucky to be in school. Cause when you are one of only of about three of your friends who go, you know you're lucky.