

Transcript from interview on September 24th at home of Ruth Ryder. Alumni Ellen (Petty) Hendix and Ruth Ryder; Dr. Mary Ryder, (Ruth's daughter); and interviewer, Jessica Griffen.

Dr. Mary Ryder (Ruth's daughter): Tell Jessica what you thought of Old Main when you first saw it, you coming from a little town, a little school.

Ruth Ryder: Well being a little freshman country girl, [chuckles] when I saw, walked past the library and saw Old Main there, I thought it was the biggest building I'd ever seen. It was huge. It was, it seemed so long and narrow, and three floors I could see, steps... we counted the steps in the yearbook, didn't we? [MR: about 12, I think] About twelve steps up to the big veranda...but I thought how will I ever climb those stairs to get to that building, into that building.

MR: Well you came from a country town then a small high school, so that probably was imposing.

RR: Oh it was, and then to find it had a basement in it! [laughter] [Note: They all laugh because she ended up spending lots of time in the basement working on the *Index* yearbook]

MR: What color was that dome?

RR: Oh that was what impressed me—that dome. [Oh yes] It had a clock in it, didn't it?

Jessica: Um-hum, yeah.

RR: I remember that was what really impressed me: that dome with that clock.