

quality, and I would tell my band students: “This is us in 1953.” Back when everything was in black and white, you know, no color. We played this particular piece and I would get the band master to play it. One year I told him, “If you will play Zampa Overture —; it’s my favorite.” It’s by a French composer, I don’t know if you’re familiar — Herold is his name. But anyhow, I told the band, “If you’ll play that, I’ll direct it.” I said something like “anybody can direct.” So I got a video of me as the high school principal directing the band. The conductor’s score was 28 pages long. It was quite a chore. But anyhow, I had a lot of wonderful memories of that part of FSU up on the hill before I ever went there. But I started taking social studies classes. They built the new education building over there between the — it was next to the geology building. I remember they told us not to park in the parking lot. But we started using the new building and of course I went down in the parking lot and it was unpaved and it rained, of course – Tallahassee. And I had to leave my car there for a week because it wouldn’t go up the hill. So here I was with a car, but —

**Sellers:** Now are you still in an ankle cast?

**Spiva:** No, by then I had – I had only worn that thing like six weeks. But I had a terrible time in the dorm, because they made the word “handicap” – there wasn’t no such thing. And when I went to the shower, I would wrap that thing up in plastic and put rubber bands around it. I would go down to the ninth floor shower and my dear dorm-mates would hide my crutches about half the time and I couldn’t get back to the room. And I’d be stuck in the — and of course you can’t take a wooden crutch in the shower. But West Hall was quite an experience. I mentioned that to you the other day. The beds are on slabs that are built into the wall and I thought that was — I had never seen such a thing. The dorm was new at Florida, but it had a bed.

**Sellers:** A real bed.

**Spiva:** A real bed that you could move around. But at FSU, one bed was lower, one on the other side was an upper. And then in the room next door, the lower bed was under the upper in my room, if that makes sense. They overlapped through the wall. And they just had a piece of foam rubber mattress. But it was wonderful. It looked terrible. And it had a little light and they had a little shelf to hold your clock. And I loved it once I slept in it. It was very comfortable.

**Sellers:** Was it over your head, too? Was it like a bunk on a navy ship or something?

**Spiva:** Well, it was only one. Well, the one on the one side of the room was down low — the other one was on the other side of the room and it was up high. And there was a bookcase on the front of the up-high bed and it had a shelf that pulled down and that’s what you used to stand on to climb up in your upper bunk.

**Sellers:** Amazing engineering.

**Spiva:** And of course in the room next to it, that upper bunk was the lower. So you were actually sleeping on top or beneath somebody, but they were in a different room and you didn't know it, you know.

**Sellers:** Boy. I've never been in that dorm, but I wonder if it's still like that.

**Spiva:** And each room had a sink in it, which was wonderful. Because you could, in the morning, shave and then get ready to go, brush your teeth and everything. That was just wonderful.

**Sellers:** The women's dorms didn't have that. So you guys had a sink, huh?

**Spiva:** Right.

**Sellers:** That's special.

**Spiva:** We also had an intercom. And when you would get a phone call, the intercom was just a buzzer. You couldn't talk on it, it was just a buzzer. And that buzzer would go off in your room and you'd jump up and run over to the buzzer on the wall and push a button to let them know you were there. But you didn't know which person it was for.

**Sellers:** And you didn't know what you were supposed to do once they found out you were there?

**Spiva:** Well, you knew it was a phone call. And halfway, you know, the two wings of each floor are half — in the middle down there is where the elevators are. And there was a little lounge on the circular — that art deco little curve part that faces the university was a lounge that was shaped just like that crazy teardrop shape and that's where the phone was.

**Sellers:** So everybody used the same phone.

**Spiva:** So you would take off and run halfway down the whole length of the dorm. And you know, boys don't always have — aren't fully dressed in the dorm, but it didn't matter. So you'd go flying down the hall, probably in your shorts, and answer the phone. And it worked unless somebody was on the phone.

**Sellers:** There was only one phone?

**Spiva:** Yes, just one little phone hanging on the wall. So then you would automatically go up one. It was just understood you would go up to the next floor first. And if it was busy, you'd come back and go down one. All in your shorts usually.

**Sellers:** And on stairs.

**Spiva:** Down the stairs. And the elevators, there were two elevators, and they only went to one, three, six, and nine floors.

**Sellers:** Every other floor.

**Spiva:** So you only had to walk one floor. And there were two of 'em. So of course when you got in the thing – I was on the ninth floor – going to class there would always be some idiot jumping up and down in the elevator and of course that made it stop. You know, it had a safety, so the thing would stop and then it wouldn't – it might go again and it might not. And then you'd be trapped and Mr. Green would leave you in that bus and you'd be late to class. And I can remember there was an alarm bell in the (you probably ought not put this in, I don't want to give anybody any ideas). There were alarm bells in there, to ring. And they were different tones, and it was ding and the other one was dong. And we used to race up and down with those elevators and the only way you could tell where the other elevator was, because you couldn't see, was to tap that bell. So all night long you'd hear: "ding, dong." And my roommate would say, "there go two knuckleheads racing." And then they had a freight elevator that went to every floor. And of course you'd use that when you moved in. And I think I got to ride in that thing once. And I also remember there was a trash chute on each floor. Can you imagine the wisdom of putting a trash chute in a boys' dorm? It was on fire every time I — and you had no warning, you would open that little door that was about a foot square and if it was on fire, it would be like opening a furnace door.

**Sellers:** I'm surprised the guys didn't try to go down it.

**Spiva:** Oh no, it wasn't that big. You got where you'd feel the handle. And of course they had automatic sprinklers. And I was gonna tell you when I came over there to band camp when I was in the ninth grade, there was a dorm called Magnolia Hall, right there by the old gym. It had to be a government building, it was concrete block.

**Sellers:** It was. It was built right at the end of the Second World War.

**Spiva:** And that's where we stayed and that's where I got my first dose of college dorm life. And I can remember Magnolia Hall used to catch on fire at least once a day and nobody paid any attention to it.

**Sellers:** An actual fire?

**Spiva:** No, the fire alarm just went off. And everybody would say Magnolia Hall is on fire. And I've got notes here, believe it or not. But I mentioned the elevators. And there was half, half of the tenth floor of the West Hall was the roof. So the tenth floor was only half a floor long and that's why they called it the Penthouse. And you could go up and just catch the ninth floor elevator and walk up half a flight and you'd be on the roof. And there was a little study, little lounge kinda thing up there and a place to sunbathe. It was fenced and then there was a