

**Interviewee:** Susan Shoemaker  
**Interviewer:** Matthew Gauding  
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**Gauding:** You are aware this being recorded for an oral history?

**Shoemaker:** Yes.

**Gauding:** Alright, can you please state your name?

**Shoemaker:** Susan Shoemaker.

**Gauding:** State your name as it was when you were going to school at Florida State?

**Shoemaker:** When I was going to school at Florida State, my name was Susan Freshwater.

**Gauding:** Did your name change while you were a student there?

**Shoemaker:** Yes, I did get married while I was a student there and it changed to Susan Gauding.

**Gauding:** Ok so I'm looking at Susan Freshwater and Susan Gauding were your names while you were student?

**Shoemaker:** Yes.

**Gauding:** What years did you attend Florida State University?

**Shoemaker:** 1981-1984

**Gauding:** And what degrees did you receive there?

**Shoemaker:** I got my Bachelors degree in special education and my Master's degree in special education and reading.

**Gauding:** I guess first I'll just ask you what was day-to day-life on campus like when you were a student there? Did you live on campus?

**Shoemaker:** Yeah, my first year I lived on campus in Sally hall. I chose Sally Hall because it was the only dorm that had - was co-ed and didn't have a curfew, because in the early 80s, the

majority of the dorms still had curfews and were segregated by gender and I was going up as junior and I didn't want to feel like I had all those rules I had to follow so, Sally Hall

**Gauding:** So you went to a junior college before?

**Shoemaker:** Yeah, I went to St. Pete junior college and received my AA and AS from them

**Gauding:** Were the dorms different priced, were some more expensive than others, so you might have all the rich kids together?

**Shoemaker:** Well the ones with air conditioning were more expensive than the ones without air conditioning. That was really the only difference.

**Gauding:** Ok so several did not?

**Shoemaker:** Yeah the older buildings did not have air conditioning, oh I cant remember the names.... I can t remember the names but some of my friends were staying in the ones that were not air conditioned.

**Gauding:** Did they complain a lot about that?

**Shoemaker:** Yeah... yeah I mean they were built to not be air-conditioned so they had big windows and high ceilings, that kind of thing but yeah they were uncomfortable. And also, the thing I liked about sally hall was there was a suite thing where you only had to share a bathroom with a couple other rooms, whereas some of the other dorms had one bathroom per floor, so you might be traipsing down the hallway to go to the bathroom, but the biggest thing was the rules, because the rules were pretty strict in some of the dorms.

**Gauding:** Who enforced the rules in the dorm?

**Shoemaker:** They had a resident.. .. an RA... a resident adviser for every floor and if you were going to be gone over night you had to let them know. Because this happened right after Ted Bundy - it happened right after Ted Bundy so the security was more an issue than trying to tell you what to do, they wanted to make sure people were safe...

**Gauding:** Lets talk about that for a minute, when did Ted Bundy happen? Do you remember?

**Shoemaker:** It was in 77? I was in high school... in fact one of the girls who was killed was an older sister to someone I went to high school with

**Gauding:** Wow.

**Shoemaker:** And in fact, he ended up getting institutionalized, cause he went a little nuts, he wanted to come up here, when he found out they caught him he wanted to come up here and kill him. It was scary 'cause he wasn't like somebody you thought would do something like that, you know, the way he looked and acted, he very easily got himself into situations where he could be accepted and that was kinda scary - but yeah so if we were gonna be gone over night we had to sign in and out. We couldn't have urn people stay with that weren't living there without getting it cleared.

**Gauding:** Now did they acknowledge that a lot of these rules were because of that, or was it just kind of coincidental and everyone knew?

**Shoemaker:** They told us why, because originally we had to get parent permission to live in one of the dorms that didn't have curfews and all, even though we were over 18, we still had to have parent permission.

**Gauding:** Even as a junior?

**Shoemaker:** Yeah, so we did question it when got there because we didn't really realize there would still be those kind of regulations, and they said it was that they were fairly new because of the Ted Bundy situation. They didn't want people bringing someone home they just met at a bar and have it be another Ted Bundy kind of thing, you know?

**Gauding:** What were the rules on drinking in the dorms, and how strictly were they enforced?

**Shoemaker:** We were allowed to drink.... if I remember correctly - of course we are talking a long time ago I have to remember. I know we drank and didn't get in trouble. Now the other thing to remember the drinking age was 18 until - it might have been 21 by the time I got there but if you were over 18 you were grandfathered in, so a lot of the people who lived there were allowed to drink it wasn't, you know were weren't violating an age thing. .

**Gauding:** So if you were between 18 and 21 when they changed it you got to keep it, you never —

**Shoemaker:** Yeah I never lost the right to drink. So if there was rule about not drinking I don't remember that there was but they didn't enforce it. We were allowed to have beer and stuff like that. There were not microwaves so the biggest concern were people having like hot plates and stuff like that in their dorm rooms because of the fire hazards. That was more the biggest rule, like they would check our stuff for that more than anything else

**Gauding:** How often would they check your stuff? Like under what circumstances?

**Shoemaker:** There would just be random room checks. I mean they wouldn't go digging

through your stuff, but if it was sitting out in plain sight then they would confiscate it and you got fined \$25 I think. And speaking of fire, that was the biggest thing - I don't know if you're familiar with Sally Hall, but there are two towers, and so the east tower and west tower - and people from one tower would always sneak into the - not sneak in cause it was the same key but they go in the lobby of the other tower and pull the fire alarms all the time, so we had fire alarms going off, you know 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock in the morning. And you know it was an ongoing just practical joke - I never did it - but we pull on each other. And you were not allowed you know even though you knew it was a false alarm you to go outside, the Ra's had to check the rooms and you were fined again if you didn't go.

**Gauding:** Now did they make any effort to try and catch the people after they pulled the alarm?

**Shoemaker:** Not that I know of. It wasn't as big of a deal as it is now. But, I mean the fire department would come, it was just a common "ha-ha-ha". It wasn't funny like right before exams or in December when it was cold outside though, I remember that. What was nice about - I know I'm jumping around - but getting back to the hot plate thing, we did have kitchens, like on every other floor that you could use so you could cook your own food. I did the meal plan and went down to the cafeteria in the student union but you could cook your own food and you know bake stuff, and all that so. So it was fun, I was glad I did it, because I came up here as a junior most of friends in high school had gone away to college as freshman so I didn't really have anybody to be a roommate with or anything. But they matched me with another education major and around my age, I think she was a year younger, and then I ended up meeting somebody in the dorm that I got to be roommates with the next year.

**Gauding:** What was her name?

**Shoemaker:** Jennifer... last name too?

**Gauding:** If you wouldn't mind.

**Shoemaker:** Jennifer Smith. She was one of my suite mates, she was in the room next door to me, and so we got along real well and she was more my age. The next year we got an apartment together over on Meridian Rd. - we wanted to get away from the college you know living with other students all around and everything. I don't know... other things about life on campus ... the first year it was nice because we could walk to the football games and the basket ball games were played in Tully gym back then.

**Gauding:** They also had concerts in Tully gym right?

**Shoemaker:** Some but they were more the concerts were out on Landis green. We had a lot of outdoor concerts