

would have missed otherwise. I suppose they don't do that anymore, but I'm sorry, because we all got a good background of music and art and literature, and so forth. And there would be homework assigned to the general education humanities students, and they would come in and they would like, you know, they'd just have it written down, and they'd want to listen to something by Chopin [intentionally mispronounced Choppin] or Beethoven [intentionally mispronounced Bee-thoven], and you know, just mispronounce everything and “I just love Bach [intentionally mispronounced Botch]” and I always had a good time with that. And it was a good experience for me, too. I realized at that point if I wanted to be a music librarian I had to have a working knowledge of languages. And I took German. I started with German. I'd only taken Latin in high school. And I discovered very, very quickly that I did not do well in languages. So I had to kind of rethink things. Because back then, a librarian had to do all her own cataloging. And all the music was in different languages. So you had to have a set of basic knowledge of at least French, German, and Italian. And others would have been helpful. And although you cataloged them in English you had to be able to translate.

Sellers: Sure.

Potter: So I had to face a reality at that point – that was at the end of the first, early second year, that I just had to rethink this. And I talked a little bit with my parents. I had not wanted to be a schoolteacher; my parents were both schoolteachers, and that was not something I wanted to do. But I loved books, and I had loved books as I child, and I liked children. So I decided to major in children's library, and give up on all those languages, because I knew I couldn't do it. I struggled through two years of German, and that was a struggle. So I made that decision, and this was back in the days when you could get a bachelor's degree in library, and I didn't know any better. So I took my general education program, and then I took my library classes. I talked my parents into letting me live out there the second year; I lived in North Cawthon. Then I was—I was selected to be a junior counselor.

Sellers: Oh, what dorm?

Potter: Oh, gosh, what was—it was at the other end of Bryan—Reynolds is in the middle, and then —

Sellers: Jennie Murphree.

Potter: Yeah, Jennie Murphree, I knew it was a woman's name, and somehow I had just forgotten it. So I was in Jennie Murphree my junior year, and we took that very seriously. That was back in the days when the girls were still well protected, and we were the protectors. I remember that was the very first panty raid I ever heard of, was at Jennie Murphree. We just thought it was so shocking and we just tried terribly to protect our girls against that, and after it was over, we just thought it was the funniest thing we'd ever seen. Because it was nothing, you know? [Laughs].

Sellers: Much ado about nothing, really, yeah.

Potter: Exactly. But I remember we would have teas once a week. The house mother would give a tea and you had to learn how to behave at a tea. And very strict rules. Somewhere along there I became the – I don't know how I got the job, but I became the editor of the handbook, Florida State University Student Handbook. I don't remember now—I think I only did it one year, and frankly, I don't remember whether it was my junior or senior year. But I do remember working on that, probably with someone who really knew what they were doing. But I enjoyed that.

Sellers: What was involved with that?

Potter: Well, it was all the information we wanted the freshmen to get—new students to get, but especially aiming at freshmen. And it was just a — you know, they were given their beanie and the handbook when they got there. We did have a beanie, by the way.

Sellers: I remember those. Where did you get the information? Did you simply update it from the year before handbook?

Potter: That was where we started, and then we would have to make sure everything was the same, or what had changed, you know, and we had to do a — and I don't even remember if I had help — this was a long time ago. But I do remember that we had to check on things, and I remember forever running around campus to make sure that this was right and that was right, and the football schedule was right, you know, all that sort of, just to get it all taken care of. As I said, I don't even remember whether I did it once or twice, but I did it. So here I was, having bargained with my parents to live out there one year, I'm now in my third year.

Sellers: You were doing pretty good with your bargaining.

Potter: Oh, wasn't I? And then, somehow, I guess it happened before we moved—I was elected an officer at North Cawthon Hall for my senior year. So I had to live out there again. But I managed to live out there all four years.

Sellers: And you sound so torn up about it.

Potter: I thought I pulled a pretty good one on them. [Laughs.] But I didn't drive; I could drive but I didn't have a car.

Sellers: I don't know that you were allowed to have them on campus anyway, were you?

Potter: No, we weren't. But of course my dad—my dad had bought a yellow Packard.

Sellers: Yellow.