

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
PAMELA K. KEMMENOE
OCTOBER 3, 2019

Q. Good afternoon. This is Kevlin Haire at The Ohio State University Archives. I'm conducting an oral history interview with Pam Kemmenoe on October 3, 2019. Pam, before we began, actually spell your last name for us. Your current last name.

A. K-e-m-m-e-n-o-e.

Q. Tell us your full name now and what your last name was when you attended OSU.

A. My full name now is Pamela Kay Kemmenoe. My name when I attended and graduated OSU would have been Pamela Kay Stockberger.

Q. Tell me when you were born and where you were born.

A. I was born April 18, 1951, at Mercy Hospital in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Q. Tell us about, I assume you grew up in Mount Vernon, but tell us about your family background: where you grew up, how big your family was.

A. There were five members of my family. I have a sister that's five years older and a brother that was 14 months older. My mother and father provided an intact family. I feel very, very privileged that I grew up with a family that – that even though life was not always smooth – my mom and dad stuck together through everything, which gave my siblings and I a real sense of stability. I did not grow up in Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon was a hot spot to visit on Friday night. Main Street in Mount Vernon, I could fulfill all of my heart's desire, which is not true today, but it was then. I grew up literally on the Licking County/Knox County line. My folks had one acre, I think it was, in Knox County. Everything else was in Licking County on a multi-purpose farm. I can remember

at one point in time there were chickens. They were the first to go, though. There were chickens. There were dairy cows. There were pigs, and there were sheep. One of the things that I value very much about my growing-up years, was that my parents taught my brother, sister and I the value of work. I can still to this day remember my father's pumping into our heads, "There's no work that's bad work as long as its honorable work." Therefore, when I was a young adult in New Zealand and living with a family and I was assigned the job of washing down the house, I threw on my bathing suit, got out the hose, and went to it, and didn't think a thing about it because it was honorable work.

Q. Even in your bathing suit.

A. Even in my bathing suit. That might not have been very pretty, but it was functional.

Q. Did your parents go to college, or were you the first, or first generation to go to college?

A. My mother died roughly three and a half years ago, and we came across her acceptance letter to, I think it was the Red Cross Hospital, I'm not 100 percent sure, but anyway to a nursing program. Her father died when she was 12. She very much wanted to be a nurse. She wanted one of her daughters to be a nurse. Neither one of her daughters became nurses, though. But there was no money to go. My father, for years I said he was the most intelligent man I ever met, and to some extent I would still say that today, even though he barely got out of high school with his grades. I think in looking back my dad had a learning disability, but my dad had an incredible mind. He would build and design his own machinery. He designed and built his own milking parlor. My husband was incredibly impressed that my dad had taken a bulldozer to test, didn't have any special props or special equipment, to raise this bulldozer up. So he devised and thought through on how he could do all this on his own, and he did. I think my dad was a practical

engineer. He never attended college. We often talked at times about trying to get him an honorary degree, but we never followed through with it. The other part of your question, though, is out of three kids, my sister, who is five years older than I am, she went on the speed plan going through college, and she went through Ohio University (OU) in three years by going year-round. She had graduated by the time I started, probably.

Q. What about your brother?

A. My brother went to a technical school, DeVry Technical School, in the Chicago area. I and my sister feel incredibly blessed that we were blessed to have a father who felt that it was more important that his daughters had a college education than his son.

Q. That's interesting.

A. He did not want his daughters ever being in a position to have to do factory work. Both my sister and I used our teaching credentials. She was a high school librarian and she went out with 35 years with her job, and I went out with 38 years in the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). I say I actually had 33 and a half years with boots on the ground because of leave of absences, because of health things going on and other things going on.

Q. How did you end up at OSU?

A. That is an interesting story. I was once again very blessed to have a Consumer Sciences teacher by the name of Jane King. She has a reputation and is known in the state Department of Education. She was a rock in our career field. She saw it as her duty and privilege to take people that she thought might be interested in becoming—back then it was called Home Ec teachers, now Family and Consumer Sciences—teachers to potential colleges. She took us to Miami, and she took us to OSU. I was not a brain. I got through

college on my perseverance. Miami did not want me the first quarter. They would take me winter quarter. I did not want to do that, so Ohio State would take me, but it scared me to death coming to main campus. That was beyond my realm of comfort level. It was too big. We were very blessed to, in Licking County, to have a Newark campus. That was back when they had one building called Founders Hall. Now they have multiple buildings, and there was a little stream that ran down the back of it, that is no longer there. I got accepted, went there, and spent the first five quarters of my journey at OSU there. It was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful place to start and I would highly recommend it to anybody. I said for years, I felt like I got more cultural exposure there than I would have on main campus.

Q. Why?

A. I'll explain in just a bit. I got to take part in more activities and do things. That's where I first went skiing. I went to more plays there. I was just more involved in campus life, and the key reason was two things: [First was] safety. Back in 1969 it never crossed my mind walking out of Founders Hall into my car, that there could be anything happen to my body. That was just not a question. Now maybe driving back and forth, but not my safety. The other reason, and this might seem hard for people to comprehend, but just simply, we knew about stuff more easily. If you've got one building, then you saw the billboards. You saw what was coming. I can remember some of the culture things. I didn't particularly have somebody to go with, but that was okay because I would go by myself and walk myself out and that was fine. Whereas, on main campus, safety was a huge issue, and this is back in 1971. Spring quarter 1971 was my first quarter on campus. One of my friends that also transferred over, she was in the shower one day and she felt

something strange and happened to look up and there was a guy looking down at her. Now nothing happened to her other than the emotional scar, but for that reason, even that far back, it was not safe to travel around campus on your own. I don't think it's gotten any better over the years.

Q. When you were at Newark you lived at home, obviously.

A. I lived at home and drove in, back and forth. Had my first car accident. There were hills that I had to travel, and I'd come down [State Route] 161 and buses were turning to go to Granville High School. I forget now exactly what happened to the person in front of me, but I knew that if I didn't get slowed down, that I was going to plow into the back of them. There was just enough ice on the road that I slid sideways and caught the bumper of a school bus waiting to turn. I hit the steering wheel and got the first stitches I had in a long time. I also loved the drive because when you come through Granville, they have old majestic trees, and I used to like to drive underneath those trees on my way to campus and watch the sunlight filter down. It's both a blessing and a curse to drive.

Q. Were you in any clubs? You talked about activities at Newark. Were you in any clubs there?

A. University 4-H Club was very active.

Q. Because you had been in 4-H before that.

A. Yes, I grew up in 4-H, spent 10 years as a member. It was a Knox County club but a club once again that was on the Knox County/Licking County line.

Q. Was that something that was expected? That naturally you would be in 4-H because of living on a farm and that kind of thing.

A. I feel very, very blessed to have had my mother, because in cleaning out her house – I didn't know this before – I came across a couple of her 4-H projects. Dad was involved in 4-H, some as a kid. I think mom did a wonderful job of helping to facilitate us being involved in activities. Those activities that she facilitated my being involved with, did a lot to help my weak and inferior complex that I had. It was just a natural avenue. And plus, back then especially, not so much now, but back then they were my kind of culture people that went to the Newark campus. A large percentage, you either had kids that were farm kids, or you had Newark city kids. You tended to gravitate to your kind of people. The tragedy, the one major tragedy that today is a tragedy, the guy that was president of our University 4-H, came from sort of a hard background. Phenomenal guy. He was a student. He was phenomenal in every aspect of the word. He had just become engaged to a gal who also had come out of sort of a rough background, but once again a phenomenal young lady. We were all thrilled for them. She had taught him how to swim. I think he pretty much ran the family farm and it got hot, went to the pond to go swimming, and did the unthinkable, and drowned. Bill Kirkpatrick.

Q. Was this after college?

A. No, that was during college.

Q. That is a shame.

A. That was one of the hardest deaths for me to take, even over most of the people in my life, because it was hard. It was just very, very hard. Newark campus created, it was a community, and even though you didn't know everybody's name, you recognized most people. There was a place to eat. There might have been vending machines. I don't think there was a cafeteria. I don't remember, I'll be honest. But I left early in the morning,

stayed for my classes, and I generally studied there. They had a wonderful library. That's not the library anymore, but it was like Drake Union, in the sense that the one end was all glass, and they had these wonderful lounge chairs that you could go sit and read in. The stacks were on one side, and all the tables where you studied at were all along this glass. It was new. It was fresh. It was beautifully designed.

Q. You were one of the first classes.

A. Yes, not the first because Newark campus started, if my memory is correct, at Newark High School in the evening. And then, sort of the joke is on me, because growing up in Licking County between Mount Vernon and Newark, I never wanted to live in Newark because it was dirty, it was filthy, it was yuck, yuck, yuck. Mount Vernon was always the town of my choice. Where have I lived for the past 46 years is Newark, and I am thrilled. Newark was and is blessed to have several people that grew up in Newark, believed in Newark, left Newark, in many cases made lots of money, and came back to Newark and reinvested. And Newark in my opinion is one of the best places you could live today.

Q. Good. Painting that picture of Newark back then, and then you come in the spring of 1972 to OSU main campus. Tell me your first impressions of OSU. Give me a sense.

A. I could not live with anybody that I already knew, so that in and of itself caused fear and trepidation in this little naïve country bumpkin girl. My mom later told me it was the hardest thing that she ever did in her life, maybe not in her life, but it was a very hard thing for her to do, to drop me off at Siebert Hall, which is still there, and to drive away, because we stayed, and I say we because there were several of us at Newark that were on the Family Consumer Science or Home Ec track. We could get in sync with our coursework through winter quarter, but come spring quarter, if we wanted to take our full

load, then we had to come to main campus. I ended up at Siebert Hall. One of my roommates was from Newark, and her two roommates were from somewhere else. I'm not sure where. They didn't quite know what to do with me.

Q. First of all, you're coming into a rooming situation where they've all roomed with each other.

A. Correct.

Q. You're coming in at an off time.

A. Fresh cookie.

Q. Okay, go ahead.

A. They didn't quite know what to do with me because back then – and now – I don't drink. Part of the reason that I don't drink alcoholic beverages is, I grew up with having an uncle who was a working alcoholic, and I hated being around him. Absolutely hated being around him. Then when I was at Newark campus, one of my very, very good friends, her father was an alcoholic, probably because I am looking back the effects of World War II and post-traumatic stress syndrome, I guess it would be. They didn't have the means to cope with that, so he coped with it the only way he knew how. One time, she had hooked me up with a friend of hers and her date and we were in her house. I won't go into all the details for her sake, but it was just a very uncomfortable situation for her. The other thing is, I know what I'm like with food. I'm not very good with food and I eat stuff that I shouldn't eat sometimes, and it gets me into trouble. I know myself well enough to know, that if I really like the taste of it, I could be drunk as a skunk in no time flat. I guess you can call me knowledgeable about that. I say all that to say that, one of my fun memories. They were all very nice to me. I have no qualms, but two things that

stand out in my mind—three things that stand out in my mind is: number one, Friday nights they would go out drinking. I have this memory of one night, they came in from drinking and they went, “Shhh, shhh, Pam’s asleep.” Pam’s wide awake but I pretended to be asleep. All of a sudden, I hear, “Ohhhh.” One is throwing up and, “Shhh, shhh, Pam’s asleep.” The other thing is, and to this day this is true, I am early to bed, reasonably early to rise. So at ten o’clock I went to bed. I thought, “Doesn’t everybody go to bed at ten o’clock?” One night, I had to stay up to get something done that was due and I thought, “Goodness me, there’s another whole life in here.” That just totally blew me out of the water, that life begins at ten o’clock. It doesn’t end at ten o’clock. That was an eye opener to me. Then at Siebert Hall, there’s a window that faces out and a window that faced back, because we were on the connecting portion to the next, and I don’t remember the dorm, but the connecting portion. Anyway, we could climb out our window and walk out on the roof. That could be the sunbathing. I didn’t sunbathe. I sunbathed enough that I ended up with melanoma carved off twice. Just that I had never experienced eating in a commons area. That was just a whole new thing. I can remember another fun thing, is I thought people looked pretty blah on campus. I can remember one time when I had class on the Oval, I made a conscious effort to look people in the eye as I passed them and to smile at them. I don’t know if I said hi or what, but at least look at them and smile. It amazed me the number of people back then, who didn’t do it.

Q. In their own worlds.

A. In their own worlds. Or, I think we think that our peers are more comfortable in their own skin than what they really are. Something that I’ve learned about my life that has revolutionized my life and continues to revolutionize my life, is that if there’s something

wrong between me and the other person, it's not automatically anymore that something is wrong with me, because that's the way I grew up. If there was a conflict, what did I do wrong? In looking back now, I think it was coming out of the '60s. I think there's just a lot of insecure people that didn't know what to do with themselves. People insecure with their lot in life.

Q. How long did you stay in Siebert?

A. I was only in Siebert one semester.

Q. You mean one quarter?

A. Thank you. One quarter, yes. Then, I moved to Harrison House, which is still there, I think. Old Harrison House was an interesting place. Three of us that had come up from Newark campus lived together, and then we had one open spot. Then we got this cute little blonde senior that joined us. One of my roommates and I shared a bedroom. It was a bedroom, you walk in, kitchen, I don't know if there was a bath right there on the left or not, but kitchen and then just a living room, then a bedroom on one side and a bedroom on the other side. My friend, she and I shared the room together. A fun story was, it was hot, and we must not have had air conditioning back then. We opened our window. Later on that night, we closed the window and attempted to go to sleep and heard this noise and we raced out of there and closed the door. Lo and behold a bat had flown in. The conclusion of the story, it took us a couple of days. I went to high school with two boys that I didn't know that well in high school, but we became good friends at college, just out of familiarity. This is somebody I know. He must have lived in one of the dorms. He came over with one of his friends, and they were going to save the day. It took us a couple of days because that bat was able to hide himself.

Q. Yes, they can get into any space.

A. And finally, finally, we got that bat out of there and I don't think we opened the door. That's when we started cooking meals together. The three of us, and I don't know how much money we put in the till for that group, but I assume somebody would buy the groceries and you would eat breakfast on your own, eat lunch on your own, but then somebody always cooked a main meal. We had a nutritious meal at night. Another fun thing I remember, going down to the laundromat down on the main floor, and I watched this girl pull her clothes out of the laundry. She had done a load of blue jeans, and she had that washer so packed with blue jeans, that I wondered how any water could have gotten to any of them. It just seemed like she kept pulling them out. In her effort to conserve money, I think she must have lost money.

Then this is funny, too. I have worn glasses nonstop since I was in fourth or fifth grade. I can remember, because we were on the side that faced campus, taking off my glasses and looking at campus. I wanted to do some kind of a psychedelic painting because the lights took on all different kinds of shapes. One of my painful memories from college came from there too. There were these two guys that ran around with us three girls. I felt like at times they laughed at me. They thought the way I talked was funny. One of the guys I was closer to than the other ones, one of the guys said to me he could tell I wasn't laughing. He said, "Pam, what's wrong? We're just laughing with you." I turned and looked at him and said, "But I'm not laughing."

Q. What did they do?

A. I don't remember, but just the power of negative talk, it took me years to get over that.

Q. Really?

A. Years. You can imagine as a teacher who uses her voice in the classroom, it took me years to get over that. Another fun story, two more fun stories that come to my mind. I will go to my grave with fond, fond, fond memories of [State Route] 315. And you look at me and say, “Why 315?”

Q. We’re talking about Route 315? The local highway?

A. Freeway, yes, because when I was at OSU, they were building 315. One of these guys, he would call up and say, “Pam, you want to go for a walk?” I’d say, “Oh no, no, no, I’ve got too much to do.” “Oh come on, Pam, you want to go for a walk?” “Oh, I’ve got too much to do.” And he knew and I knew, that whenever he called up, Pam would always go for a walk. And one of the places that we loved to go walking was on 315.

Q. Oh, good Lord. While it was under construction?

A. While it was under construction, because at nighttime it was there. I had somebody to protect me. We talked about, you name it, we talked about it. As you probably figured out by now, I’m an oral processor. I do my best thinking if I’m talking. I have no understanding of why. Maybe some college professor will tell me, so I can understand why I do my best thinking when I’m talking. Even though we graduated together, we had a very different set of belief systems. My relationship with that individual at that point in time helped me to firm up my faith in Christ, probably more than anything else I had experienced. Because he didn’t believe. I thought he should. The way we discussed that aspect of life, it was really quite fun, because I would give a hypothesis. If this is true, give me that this is true. Then if you’ll let me have that that is true, can you see how x, y and z is true? I never felt threatened. I don’t think he ever felt threatened. But it gave us a way to dialogue. It gave me an avenue to think through my faith.

Q. You were experiencing the quintessential college experience, where you come together with people of different backgrounds, and you figure things out together.

A. Yes, yes. I may add that he eventually changed his mind and is a very strong believer in faith. Both of us through our lifetimes have had major health issues, and just dealing with other issues in life. I cannot imagine where I would be today without my faith in Christ.

Q. Let's talk about that because a lot of students, because they are so busy, whether they have faith or not, are less active with their religious affiliations. But did you belong to a church when you were a student here?

A. We didn't belong to a church. It was especially hard when we lived on Lane Avenue. Can we go back to talking about where I lived?

Q. Absolutely.

A. Once we lived in Harrison House, we had in our senior year some more people that wanted to come on board with us. I don't remember the name of the apartment complex, but we had a three-level apartment in an apartment complex on south campus. North campus, it was hard to get to church because nobody had a car. If we could come up with somebody to take us on a ride, then we went to a church, King Avenue United Methodist Church. It wasn't as liberal as what it is now. It was just a Methodist Church, and it was what we could get to. That's why we went there. Our senior year, we could walk.

Q. Because you were on south campus.

A. Because we were on south campus. We walked. We didn't do anything other than Sunday morning. If I could go back and do life over again, I would have done some other things differently. Five of the six people that I lived with on south campus had grown up in some level in the Christian church. Some fun tales about our apartment. We had the

ghetto, and that was the two people that lived on the bottom. Then there were two bedrooms on a top level. My roommate that I had had at Harrison House was my roommate there, and then the gal, she was the only one that didn't have somebody new coming in. So I think we must have advertised, and she was the only person in our group that didn't come from a multi-purpose family farm background. We were a bunch of country farming daughters. Some of the fun things were, we were very organized. We put \$25 a month in the kitty and that fed five people, three meals a day, seven days a week, for four weeks. And we had good food. It was good, nutritious food. Every once in a while, when somebody went home, they'd bring back meat from home, but that was never something we would count on.

One person, we had a real rude awakening, we decided we were going to take all five of us to the grocery store the first time. That never happened again, because everybody, what was essential to one person was not an essential to somebody else, and the vice versa was true. It was just too chaotic, so we made it out that, I think it was that one person cooked for the week, and they did the grocery shopping. Then maybe it was two people, this is rough, I don't remember exactly. Roughly two people did the cleanup in the kitchen. One person was responsible for cleaning the living room and the kitchen area on the weekends. Then everybody was responsible for their own bathroom or upstairs. We alternated cleaning the bathroom, but then your own bedroom that you shared with somebody, that was your responsibility. We ate well, very well. My friend and I, we were the skinny ones back then. She's still skinny; I'm not skinny now. We were sort of the human garbage disposals. If there were leftovers, we generally ate them up. You had to walk everywhere then. Back then, we didn't go out at night by ourselves.

I can remember then, I was very grieved to find out that Drake Union is coming down, because we would drive from south campus over to Drake Union, and park, and sit in those wonderful lounge chairs facing the glassed area, watching the water go down with the moon sparkling down. It was a wonderful place to study. We would go there quite often, or if we went to University 4-H, somebody would drive over. That lets me regress back to when we were at Harrison House, I was involved in University 4-H. There was a square dance that night and nobody danced with me, and after a while I got so upset that I thought, "Phooey with this, I don't need this." I packed myself up, marched myself back to Harrison House, and thought in some ways how stupid I was because I could have been attacked, but that was okay. I was barreling down there, walking fast with purpose, and I was on my way back.

Q. Was University 4-H the only extracurricular activity you did?

A. On main campus, yes. I didn't go to a lot of culture things. Number one, I didn't know about them. Number two, you had to have somebody go with you. So University 4-H was the main thing. I was not involved in any of the academic sororities. I got through college on my perseverance, not on my brains. I worked my rear end off. I have two sons that got through college on their brains, but I repeatedly said to them that their mother got through college on her perseverance, not her brains. Part of the reason I said that too, was because as I later became a Family Consumer Science or Home Ec teacher, I saw year after year after year kids not doing well in school because, even though they had tons of brains, they didn't use them. I saw kids like myself that weren't blessed with tons and tons, but they worked very, very hard, and I think went on to be successful in life. I have to tell you this fun story. There were five of us that ran around together, three girls and my two

guys from high school. Marijuana was a big thing on campus back then. People talked about it, "Didn't you smell the marijuana?" I said, "Oh, I can't smell the stuff." One of my fun memories was, these two guys taking me on the Oval and people were smoking marijuana left and right. They'd say, "Okay, Pam, inhale." "I don't smell anything," and I've never smelled the burning leaves of marijuana, only later on in life, I lived in an apartment by myself at one point. There was a living room/kitchen combined stairway up and a bedroom upstairs. A friend was walking out the door and she had brought me some lilacs. They were literally right in front of my face. She said, "Oh Pam, don't those smell good?" I said, "Oh, do they?" I stuck my nose in them and said, "Oh yes, they do." That was my first revelation that probably all of my live I've had a bad smeller.

Q. I was going to say, if you can't smell marijuana, there must be something wrong with you.

A. I couldn't. I couldn't. They said, "It smells like burning weeds," and I would take a sniff and say, "Nope, don't smell it." This is another thing about why I didn't drink. I remember one time getting invited to a party. A friend and I went to the party. People were just sitting around drinking. I just left there feeling, "What a waste." Because small talk does not excite me. I'll do it. I can do it, but I don't enjoy doing it. If you want to light my fire and get me excited about being at a party, give me one person that I can carry on meaningful conversation with, and not have side effects from it the next day.

Q. And remember the conversation.

A. And remember the conversation. Those were the things that got me excited about life. Give me somebody that came from a different background and would be willing to share their life with me. That lit my fire. Getting to understand and know people. My younger

son calls me an everyday philosopher. He recognizes that no, I'm not the 4.0, 32 ACT that he is, but he recognizes mom's wisdom most of the time.

Q. You were mentioning the great story about walking out of the University 4-H dance and walking home alone. And that was, I know at the time, and still is, a big issue facing, particularly women. Do you remember anything about being a woman on campus that stuck out to you, and maybe not because you do talk about the three women and the two men who hung out as a group, as equals so to speak. Not in any kind of dating capacity or anything like that.

A. In reflecting on that question, I can't say that I ever felt persecuted or put down as a woman. Number one, on the Newark campus I always felt like, you can pick out from this, I'm a talker and I never felt like my ideas in the classroom were slammed or disrespected in any way. Several of our professors came from main campus and drove out. On the Newark campus, there were definitely professors that thought differently than I did, but I never felt like I was disrespected because of my belief system. Then I think when I came to main campus, probably 90 percent or maybe even more than that. And my classes were in Campbell Hall. That's a predominantly women's college back then.

Q. Yes, that's the home of Home Economics.

A. Having said that, as a teaching professional, I had the most disrespect from other women than I ever did from any of the men that I ever worked with.

Q. Later, when you were a teacher?

A. When I was a professional in my field.

Q. Okay, gotcha.

A. That's sort of a thing of mine. I think, I never felt like the men had anything that they felt they had to prove. I felt put down and disrespected because I'm an oral processor, not an internal processor. An internal processor spews forth the finished package. The external processor throws out the nibble and then as the nibble is thrown out, the idea is thrown out, then the brain kicks into gear. I felt disrespected because my style of operating was not respected. On the flipside, and let me just throw this out there: My sons at this point are 32 and 29. When I was struggling as to whether I would take any time off after they were born, it was the men that I worked with, my supervisors, that said, "Pam, we take care of everybody else's kids; it's important we take of our own." It was the women that I worked with that said, "How can you take that much time off your work?"

Q. That's interesting.

A. On the flipside, were they supportive once I had done it? Did they help in that regard? Yes, they pulled out the stops, and in actuality they probably had to work hard because I was off. I never once felt from any of my men colleagues or supervisors, slammed as a woman. It was the women who made me feel incompetent and inferior.

Q. Did you ever feel that in Campbell Hall?

A. No.

Q. With the other women students?

A. No.

Q. That's interesting.

A. I was not in any of the professional organizations directly connected with Campbell Hall. There was no power play in there. I was just a lowly underclassman struggling to survive

life and get out. The professors, they were phenomenal. They were comfortable in their own skins. They didn't have anything they had to prove.

Q. Do you remember any in particular?

A. At Newark campus, I had a chemistry professor, and I won't give her name, but I was in a chemistry class that was geared totally to Ag students, Home Ec students and nursing students. We were just praying for a D to get out of that class because she was one hard cookie. She basically told us that, even if we were on our way to our own funeral, we better stop off at class. To her credit, let me just say that I went in and asked for help, which I desperately needed, and she never once turned me down. She never once made me feel inferior. She was very, very nice, but in the classroom, she was a living terror.

[Another professor], I think it was [Assistant Professor Ruth] Marshall, she was a clothing teacher. She was wonderful. There was [Professor Mary]. Green. She was more old school but very competent. There's another lady that comes to my mind. She taught management. Once again, phenomenal woman. Comfortable in her own skin and so much so she made you feel comfortable in your skin. One fun thing that I didn't include that I think is sort of fun. Spring quarter of my senior year, one of my roommates and I and maybe it was my two guy friends. I don't remember who the other two people were. We went to Mirror Lake and we played hide and go seek in the bushes at Mirror Lake. I just look back on that and think how stupid. It was all dumb and naive. It was all good clean fun. We had a whale of a good time just being stupid kids. But I look back and think about the physical ramifications, of what somebody could have done to us and I think, "Oh my." Not smart.

Q. Getting back to teachers, even though it wasn't Home Ec, can you tell me about the math teacher with the WFF' N Proof game. You recently donated a game to the archives which I received. But there's a story behind it.

A. Two things drew me to Ohio State Family Consumer Sciences big time, big time, big time, big time. Number one, I did not have to have a foreign language. Most schools, colleges, back then you had to have a foreign language. My rationale was that I had a hard- enough time with English, how on God's green earth was I ever going to master a foreign language? I was thrilled about that. The other thing, I did have math in high school, but the way this woman's brain works, I'm a big picture person. I am not a detail person. In order to be successful in math, you have to do your details. I could get the processes down and I got the processes down good enough that I proficiencied out of a math requirement in college before I took my chemistry. But I'm not a detail person. In high school, I didn't do that well in math, because even though I understood the concepts, I'd make some stupid dumb mistake and I'd end up with the wrong answer. That would throw the whole question out the door. I got through high school and got through college, no foreign language. Later on, I attempted to learn Spanish some when I was with somebody in Mexico, and I would attempt my few words in Spanish and the person would look at me and I would just let the other person do it all. With the math, my senior year, and I think it might have even been spring quarter my senior year, sometime my senior year, they threw on the requirement that we had to have a five-hour math class in order to graduate. I went into a tailspin. There must have been a few other people that went into a tailspin over this deal because the University came up with—I can't tell you he guy's name, but a wonderful professor. He would dress in these same kinds of shirts. I

don't even know what kind of shirt. They use the kind of style of shirt each day, and it wasn't a button-down dress-up color. No shirt, no tie either. That was fine. He was just sort of a laidback math professor. He introduced us to a game of logic called WFF' N Proof. We played the game of WFF' N Proof the entire semester, and I think I got a C in it. It was all a game of logic, and I could have done handstands that the University provided me a way to meet my five-hour math challenge by a game of WFF' N Proof. I kept that game for 47 years before I gave it to the archives.

Q. We have it and we're glad to have it, because it's a great example of teaching method really, and a successful one for you. That was your senior year. Let's go back, I want to ask you about having any jobs on campus, because I can't remember if you told me you worked.

A. I did not work on campus. When I graduated from high school, my sister's best friend in college got a job as a Head Start teacher. That was run out of my local elementary school. She brought me on board as her teacher's aide. That was a huge, huge, huge eye opener to me. I grew up in a family where my basic needs were always met. Some of my frivols were met. We always took—once we started taking family vacations—we camped. Just a little side note to show you how things have changed. My parents took a month-long vacation. My dad was a farmer. They hired somebody to do the chores. We went across the Trans Canadian Highway down to Los Angeles and back up through Grand Canyon. This is the point, to show you how finances have changed. When we were in Los Angeles, we pulled out all of the financial stops, and we spent \$25 to get five people into Disney Land and we bought the most expensive ticket you could get. We couldn't use up

all the tickets. Then we did the unthinkable and went over to Universal Studios and did the same thing. In Los Angeles, we spent a grand total of \$50 and had a blast.

Q. For a family of five.

A. For a family of five. That's just how things have changed.

Q. Definitely have changed.

A. You couldn't probably use \$50 to get into one place for one person.

Q. No, you can't. So, you were the teacher's aide.

A. Yes. That was a major, major, major eye opener to me, because this Head Start teacher served my school district. I went on home visits with her and I still remember three sets of those kids. I had no concept of the level of poverty that survived around me. One was a little tiny, it was a two-room house in a little tiny burg in our area. I'll never forget that woman because she displayed her very, very humble surroundings, with the most elegance, the most self-composure. She was the most phenomenal hostess I have ever experienced. When you walked in, there was a single bed. She had a little boy at the kitchen counter, and he was doing dishes. She invited us into the living room where we sat down. If my memory is right, she told us to please excuse her, but that she had just recently experienced a miscarriage. Her son, which just broke your heart, had seizures and she shared with us the reason he had seizures was because he got sick and his temperature got up too high, and before they could get it down, he had developed brain damage. I've never forgotten that woman. That's over 50 years ago. I don't care how much money you have. You can have all the money in the world and be a snob and be selfish and be rude and arrogant and prideful. Here's this woman that was barely able to feed her family and clothe her family, and she treated us with more elegance and more

grace and more humility than anybody I've ever experienced. There was another home where it was, we picked up a little brother and sister, I don't remember if they were twins or not, but that poor little boy was so scared silly when he came, that he wouldn't even tell us that he had to go to the bathroom. One day, there was a puddle under his chair. It was just a major eye opener to me, to understand that that level of poverty. We were not rich. I would say we would probably say we were lower middle income growing up. Let me just say, I came through college debt free. My dad paid for two of his three kids to go to college debt free. My brother had to pay for his schooling. My dad was a very logical man because my dad knew that if he had to pay for it, my brother hated school, but he would do better. Instead of paying for his college, my dad helped him or gave him the money that he would have given to us, to pay the down payment on his farm. My first tuition bill at Ohio State Newark campus, for my fall quarter 1969, was \$199. I think if my memory is right, my last tuition bill was roughly \$258.

Q. I think it was. We actually have here your bills now in the archives, since you donated them, and thank you.

A. My mother did not work. My mother worked very, very hard, but she did not work off the farm. She didn't work on the farm, but she worked at being a homemaker. She had a garden that was huge, and she did most of the work. She canned. She froze. She made our clothes. She cut our hair. She ran us around.

Q. That was good experience for life really.

A. It was because, as I said before, one of the top, not the top but probably the second most important thing that our parents taught us, was how to work and enjoy it. The only negative thing that came from that, and this was an a-ha moment. I think here at Ohio

State in some kind of conference, was my self-worth and my identity came, not because of my intrinsic value that I was a human being, born and made in the image of God, but my worth and my value came from my ability to work. That doesn't hold up water because case in point, Joni Eareckson Tada [an evangelical Christian author and radio host], who is now 70, at age 18 became a quadriplegic. She has changed her world. She can't work with her hands or her feet. Where our worth and our value comes from and our concept of what gives us work and value, totally affects how we do life.

Q. That is true. Let's go back to academics because, do you remember, I just want to know if you remember any other specific classes or teachers, here at main campus? If you don't that's okay. I just want to make sure we get that in there.

A. Dr. [Lena] Bailey eventually became the Dean, if my memory is correct, of it was called then Human Ecology, not Home Ec. She was phenomenal. She was my methods teacher. If I could have redone my Family and Consumer Science educator curriculum to prepare us for teaching, we would have had more than one methods course. But she was our methods teacher, and she was phenomenal. She walked the walk that she talked. She modeled in every aspect, how to be a wonderful teacher. She was great. I said [Prof.] Green. She taught foods and nutrition. She was good. She was very, "you better know your stuff," but she was still a good teacher. I think it was Ms. Marshall who probably taught clothing construction and clothing design, if I remember right. I wish I could remember the home management teacher, because she was another one. I think I had two classes with her. She was another lady, she was comfortable in her own skin. She was a tall and stately lady, but she was very, very good, and had an incredible ability to connect

with her students. Mrs. Eckhart, she taught housing and design. She was very good. She was very strict. She knew what she wanted, and she wanted what she wanted.

Q. Did you graduate with a degree, I don't know if it was Home Economics or it changed to Human Ecology at that point, or in Education?

A. My official degree is Bachelor of Science in Home Economics. I'm not sure if it was Home Economics Education or just Home Economics. I'd have to go back and look.

Q. Did you go on and get a Master's?

A. Yes, at Marygrove College. I didn't have to back then. I eventually went on and got a Master's. And that's a whole story in and of itself. I tried to get a Master's while I was teaching before I was married, and I found I couldn't do it. I couldn't drive over here and go to classes and do what I needed to do for my job. Physically, I couldn't do it. I took maybe two or three classes, I don't remember, and decided that I can't pull this off and survive. After I was married, had our two sons, my husband kept saying, "Pam, you need to get your Master's." I said, "No I don't, thank you very much." He kept saying, "Pam, you need to get your Master's," because he works at Ohio State. He's worked at Ohio State now for 34 years, roughly. We had two sons. I knew if I couldn't do it then, how was I ever going to do it now? That was back then when all the creative ways of educating people came into being. Where I went to church there was a nurse, a school nurse, and the school nurse knew a music teacher. Somehow, I don't remember how, I got hooked up with them and I did my master's in education from Marygrove College and it was God's perfect timing, seriously, because I could not have done my Master's and survived it if I hadn't had done my Master's while I was experiencing cancer. You might ask yourself, "How does that work out?"

Q. Let's back up. First, tell me what year or years that this was.

A. 1998.

Q. That's when you started the Master's, or were you diagnosed with cancer first?

A. I started the Master's I think in the summer of '98. Let me back up just a little bit. Roughly March/April of '98, I was taking a shower and in the process of taking a shower I felt a lump in one of my breasts. I said something to my husband, and he worked at Ohio State and said, "Let me get you in for a mammogram." He got me in for a mammogram. Came for the mammogram and they pronounced me fine, follow up with your family doctor. The lump was as big as the first joint on your thumb. Nothing showed up on the mammogram. I was in the midst of teaching. I was in the midst of doing my Master's. Who has time to go running off to a family doctor when the mammogram pronounces you fine? I go on my merry way working on the Master's. Let me back up a little bit about this Master's. The Master's, our lectures came on cassette tapes. Our books came in the box with the cassette tapes. We had to meet as a group of three and dialogue and discuss our assignments. There was no driving anywhere. If it was, it was just local. Following up with the family doctor, I was also having some gut issues then. When I talked to the nurse I had talked about the gut and that I'd found a lump. She said, "You've got too much. The doctor doesn't have time for all that today. You decide what you want to talk about." I thought, "Well the gut is what's in my face." I made a follow-up appointment for my annual checkup, for a female checkup. I'm well on my merry way working on my Master's thinking that all is well.

Then I did my annual checkup with the doctor and she did her thing, and on my way out I said, "Aren't you going to do a breast exam?" Pat, pat, pat, you're fine. I had

done everything that they tell you to do. That's in roughly July, and then in October I was feeling stressed. This is why I say, the providential grace of God of the timing of my Master's, because I'm not somebody that consciously walks around and thinks that I'm stressed, I'm stressed. Between the teaching, feeding my family, taking care of my family, doing all the homework that goes with teaching, all of that. My kids were 8 and 11 at that time, running them to sports stuff or whatever they were involved in. All of a sudden, out of the blue, I felt a pain in one of my breasts. I happened to go home that night and say to my husband, "Brian, I had a pain." "Pam, maybe we need a second opinion." Then he went and networked around with the people he worked with and came home with three different names. He said, "I'll start at the top and work down." He walked over to Dr. William Farr's office and Dr. Farr just happened to be walking out of his door. Brian said to Dr. Farr, "I need to talk to you." He said, "Sure." My husband gave him the story. He said, "You go down to my secretary, tell her to get her in to see me on Tuesday." Tuesday, by the time he was done with me, he had done surgery and taken out the lump. I had to go in for cleanup surgery, but the lump itself was gone. Dr. Farr and I have aged together. We are 21 years in our relationship, and I say that I am alive today because of Dr. Farr. And my husband and my God. Because if I hadn't have gotten the pain, I would have gone my merry own way thinking, "I'm fine," if my husband hadn't happened to walk over, and Dr. Farr agreed to talk to him, I would have gone on my merry own way. I'm fine, and I would have been another statistic.

It can tear me up a bit because about six months before I was diagnosed, Stefanie Spielman was diagnosed. She had two kids, I had two kids. She was very public about her journey. She had round two, I think, before I had round two, but I went for my 10-

year checkup, five years you've jumped those hoops. Aren't you good? Well ten years, it was the only time in the 21 years that my husband didn't go with me to the appointment. He wanted to but the boss wouldn't let him off. There was some reason. That was round two. She was in round three or four at that point in time. I can remember, I had gone on round two, I talked to the nurse practitioner that was in with Dr. Farr, that I wanted a double mastectomy. He didn't want to do it. I said, "I'm done with mammograms." Anyway, after my double mastectomy, [Stefanie Spielman's] calling hours were going on. I can remember, we stopped off at her calling hours. I was wanting to give comfort to Chris Spielman. I balled like a baby. He was wonderful. There's no rhyme or reason in my little mind why some of us make us through and some of us don't. All I know is, God gave Stefanie the grace to walk her road, and He has given me the grace to walk my road. It's not that one person is any better or worse than anybody else. Only He sees the big picture.

Q. Even after her death she still does good in this community.

A. She does.

Q. It's amazing, her legacy.

A. She does. The Spielman Breast Center [Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center]. At some point in time, you were going to ask me the question about what has been my connection with Ohio State after I graduated, and I said that I came back and did a couple of classes. I've come to a few Ohio State football games. My one regret is that I didn't buy the lifetime membership for \$125 back then.

Q. I know, but that was a lot of money back then.

- A. It was a lot of money back then, but I wish I had done that because I have some friends that did that. Needless to say, I don't have any membership now. I did classes. I made some donations to the Spielman Center. My big connection to Ohio State since I graduated is through breast cancer and cancer in general. I have the reality of coming from a family of five where every member of my family has experienced cancer. My dad died just barely hitting his 69th birthday of a brain tumor. My brother had superb care in his 18-month run of neuroendocrine cancer, and he could not say enough good. My sister-in-law could not say enough good about the doctors and the compassion and the caring that my brother received. I've gone through breast cancer twice. My sister has gone through once with breast cancer, and once with thyroid cancer. I cannot say how far Ohio State has come. Probably, I'm guessing, 30 years ago, I have a cousin whose wife had gallbladder cancer, and he could not wait to get her out of Rhodes Hall because of the care that she got. The facilities were dirty. He had nothing good to say about them, whereas now I hold no reservation in recommending somebody to the James. I have a friend who currently has stage four ovarian cancer. She can only give raving reviews on her doctors, her caregivers. They are phenomenal. I could give a testimony to Ohio State.
- Q. We're lucky to have that here. It's truly a gem in Columbus. Is there anything else you'd like to add? Let me ask you about college education when you were here. You mentioned some things like how much it cost, etc. Do you see any differences between college education then and now in terms of what you're taught, how it prepares you, at least in education? I know we've talked about kids today, at least in high school, at least in your area of expertise, might not be getting the kind of education they should be. I don't know if you think the same with college.

A. The only thing that I had to compare that to, and this is a fun little story, as I said I had two sons. The older one always wanted to be a teacher. I taught my whole entire teaching career, apart from my student teaching, was done at Newark, Ohio, because people think I'm saying "north." That's why I spelled it out for you. That was my whole entire point of reference in teaching was there. I go on to say that when we started getting student teachers from Mount Vernon Naz [Mount Vernon Nazarene University], my ears perked up. When I started hearing my colleagues rave about their student teachers, then I thought we better go take a look. Because my husband has worked for 30 some plus years at Ohio State, I preached to my sons as soon as they could hear, "You will go to Ohio State. You will live at home, and you will come out debt free." The thought of going to Mount Vernon Naz and incurring debt, I didn't like the idea. But when we drove off campus, we all three looked at each other and we all three knew that this is where he was supposed to be. How things have changed, education-wise. You've got to realize you're comparing an elementary school teacher to a Family Consumer Science teacher. I also have a Bachelor of Science. We had to have 15 hours, 10 or 15 hours, I probably had 10 hours of chemistry, which impresses my engineering son. Ten hours of chemistry and then I loaded up on the social sciences. I had psychology, sociology, all of that good stuff. I just ate up that kind of stuff. I really enjoyed that kind of stuff. My son, I think was much, much, much better to become the elementary school teacher that he is. Because I think his sophomore year, he was out in the classroom. He had so much more practical hands-on experience. We had a field experience where, I think mine was downtown somewhere in Columbus, where I was introduced to more of a diverse population than what I grew up in. We didn't have, much to the people that might be listening to this, my son gets a

ton of his wonderful teaching ideas off the Internet. We didn't have that. I am not a bells and whistles kind of teacher. I'm a "get 'er done" woman. Any kind of creativity that I could bring into my classroom, I had to beg, borrow or get off somebody else. I'm not a natural creative thinker in that respect. I think in education in general, they have given people many more actual teaching experiences, which I think is critical. Do you want me to share anything about how teaching has changed in my lifetime or any of that?

Q. If you want to, a little bit.

A. One of the things that grieves my heart is probably three-fourths of the way through my teaching career, we had a principal that had us on track. I was boots on the ground at Newark High School 33 and a half years. My sister, who was a high school librarian, thought I should go down in the Guinness Book of World Records as the teacher with the most number of leaves of absences. I won't take you through all those reasons. It was a combination of three different reasons why.

Q. You were boots on the ground back then.

A. We had this principal that recognized that there's more to high school education than the college track, that we learn differently, and just because I'm not an academic guru but I'm a hands-on learner, that I'm just as valuable as somebody who can crank the wheels. I think we in Ohio have shifted to where you have to pass the test. You have to pass the test, you have to pass the test. I grieve in my heart, as I look over my teaching career in the last ten years, somebody is always changing the standards. Somebody is always changing the goal. By the time the school systems get set and they get their population good at meeting that goal, then they change the goal to something else, and then they shame them because they're not meeting the new goal the way they think they should

meet the new goal. I wish as an educator that they would get rid of the tests. They would bring back the reality that students that have lower IQs really don't need algebra, but they need to know how to manage their money and how to do life in a digital technology world. We need people skills and communication skills, where I could cry buckets of tears, when I look at the content of the material that I used to teach in my Family Consumer Science classroom, on personal development, independent living, marriage and family, food and fitness, all of these courses that at some point in time I taught. I grieve for the population of kids today that are not exposed to that content, as families break down more and more. My daughter-in-law's aunt is a pediatrician in our town which is Newark in Licking County, and I think I'm safe to say she sees more dysfunctional families of kids coming in and the ramifications of kids growing up without a two-parent home than people ever used to be. There's a few things that haunt me in my life, and when I was probably in middle school or high school—I have to go back and figure out the years—but something that was like somebody took a branding iron and branded in my brain, was when the Cold War with Khrushchev, and Khrushchev said, "The United States will not die from without; we will die from within," and I think he is 100% percent correct. Because our respect for humanity, we have lost the concept that every person, no matter what they look like, no matter what they sound like, what their religious belief is, their physical abilities, their mental abilities, that we all made in the image of God, and because of that, we all have worth and value. So we treat each other like dirt. We knife each other. We shoot each other, and we're falling apart. Our suicide rate is going up. Why?

Q. I think there are many reasons.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you want to add anything else?

A. I was thinking about this, and yes, I do. On some of the talk shows, they talk about their note to themselves. If I could, I've spent a lot of time thinking about this just recently. What if my note to my 18-year-old self graduating from high school, would be, "Pam, don't look to other people for your worth and your value; don't look at your ability to do stuff and to produce stuff. Pam, don't listen and don't pay attention if other people don't affirm you and build you up." I would say to myself, "Pam, look to Jesus Christ and what does he say to you about who you are? Look at the giftings that he has given you, and don't minimize my design in you. Don't downplay my design of you. But live in the fullness of my love for you. And stand firm that I will confirm it no matter what the world throws at you."

Q. Those are good words to end with, I think. Thank you, Pam, for joining me today. This has been very, very interesting and fun. Thank you.