



1-31-1972

Elsie M. Haigler (January 31, 1972)

C. Richard Arena

Oral History Interview

with

DR. ELSIE M. HAIGLER

January 31, 1972
Anaheim, California

By Dr. C. Richard Arena

For the Richard Nixon Oral History Project

ARENA: This is interview #1 with Elsie M. Haigler, M. stands for Marshburn, in Anaheim, California, January 31, 1972, Arena interviewing. Mrs. Haigler, do you mind if I ask you where and when you were born?

HAIGLER: I was born in a little town in Estacada, Texas. That was way out in the prairies on the panhandle. My father and mother were married in Kansas and they went out there. The government was asking people to go out there and take up homesteads. Estacada is not on the map. It hasn't been on the map for many years. It was just a post office.

ARENA: Near what larger city do you think it was? Oh, you said it's up in the panhandle section.

HAIGLER: Up in the panhandle. Let me see, now. The town we went to for supplies was Amarillo [Texas]. I think that was the nearest town. That was about a hundred miles from where we lived.

ARENA: And the year?

HAIGLER: 1885.

ARENA: And you say that your parents were involved in homesteading around that time.

HAIGLER: Yes, they went out there and homesteaded 160 acres of land. And my uncle, my father's brother, went out with them. He went ahead of my father, I think, and settled first. And he kept after my father to come. And they each took up 160 acres of land. The government was anxious to get people to do that in those days.

ARENA: May I have your father's complete name, please?

HAIGLER: Mahlon Picket Marshburn. He never used that. It was just Mahlon P. Marshburn, mostly.

ARENA: And do you recall living as a member of a homesteading family?

HAIGLER: Yes. I can't remember exactly how old I was, but I think I was ten or twelve, somewhere along in there, when they left Texas.

ARENA: Do you recall what schooling, if any, was available?

HAIGLER: Oh, yes, they had a school, and we used to walk to school. Let's see, I can't remember how we got to school most of the time, but we went to school. It was quite a little distance from where we lived.

ARENA: Do you recall what crops your father raised?

HAIGLER: Oh, let's see . . .

ARENA: Does cotton come to mind?

HAIGLER: He didn't raise any cotton. He raised corn, and he had a herd of cattle, about fifteen cows, something like that, milk cows. And I don't know what he did with the milk. I guess they sold milk. I don't know what they did with the milk. Mother made cheese, I remember. We had a lot of milk, but I don't know what they did with all of it.

ARENA: How many years did you live there, if I may ask?

HAIGLER: I was born there, and lived there until I was about eleven years old, I guess, when we came to California.

ARENA: Did you come as one group, or did your father come first?

HAIGLER: The two Marshburn families--my father and his brother and his family--came together. First my uncle came out here to see what California was like.

ARENA: Could I have his full name please, the uncle?

HAIGLER: Dr. William B. Marshburn.

ARENA: William B.?

HAIGLER: William B. William Ballantine Marshburn.

ARENA: Would this possibly be the father of Oscar Marshburn?

HAIGLER: Yes, he was Oscar Marshburn's father.

ARENA: And your father was his brother.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: And it was these two gentlemen . . .

HAIGLER: Two brothers. They were very close, always, as long as they lived.

ARENA: And your uncle came out first.

HAIGLER: He came out. They'd been hearing about California. They were Quakers, and there was a man they knew-- I don't remember how they got acquainted with him, whether he lived in Texas to begin with, or how--but he lived in California, down at El Modeno, California. Know where that is?

ARENA: No, I don't know where that is.

HAIGLER: It's right down here, east of Orange [California]. Quite a city now. Quite a little town now, but when we came out here it was just bare country. But this man Milton Mills, his name was, and he and his family were here, and he had a little store. It was a two-story, and their living quarters were upstairs. Their store was down below. And he kept after us and wanted us to come to California. There was much more opportunity in California than there was in Texas, he said. So my uncle came out and looked it over, and he decided it had lots of possibilities and thought it was a good place to come.

ARENA: Was your uncle married at the time?

HAIGLER: Oh, yes, he had a family. I don't know how many children were born. He had several children.

ARENA: Did you possibly attend a recent Marshburn family reunion at the Oscar Marshburn's place, or possibly it was held outside of Whittier?

HAIGLER: Oh, yes. Every third Thanksgiving the two families get together, and their descendants.

ARENA: It's basically these two families. Your father and Mr. Oscar Marshburn's father that are the basis of the reunion.

HAIGLER: Yes, always, yes.

ARENA: Do you mind if I ask you what the relationship is to the Marshburn Farms that's in this area?

HAIGLER: Well, the Marshburn brothers who own Marshburn Farms are my uncle, W. B. Marshburn's children.

ARENA: I see. These would be related then to . . .

HAIGLER: They're half-brothers of Oscar.

ARENA: Because he married more than once.

HAIGLER: He was married a second time, and this family would be Oscar's half-brothers that own Marshburn Farms.

ARENA: I see. Do you mind if I ask you if your father was a birthright Quaker?

HAIGLER: I couldn't tell you that.

ARENA: Was he a Quaker when he did come out to this area?

HAIGLER: Oh, yes. He and my uncle were Quakers when they came here. They were Quakers before they went to Texas, apparently.

ARENA: Do you know if the fact that this was a Quaker community, Whittier [California], had anything to do with their coming here?

HAIGLER: They didn't come to Whittier. They came to El Modeno. Whittier, I guess, was a Quaker community at that time. I don't know whether Whittier had . . .

ARENA: It started as a Quaker community in . . .

HAIGLER: I know, but do you remember what year it started?

ARENA: Yes, 1887. It was the Jonathan Bailey home that is still standing that represented the first.

HAIGLER: Yeah, Whittier was there when they came to California, but this Milton Mills lived in El Modeno, and he thought they were going to build a nice town there,

and have a Quaker town and a Quaker college at El Modeno. That's what they planned to do. But it didn't work out. And then I guess Whittier got ahead of 'em with that, and they had the college there.

ARENA: Would you mind explaining further about this idea of their founding a college?

HAIGLER: I don't know much about it.

ARENA: This one at El Modeno.

HAIGLER: Well, no, there never was a college at El Modeno.

ARENA: They had hopes of . . .

HAIGLER: They had hopes of having one at El Modeno, but Whittier got it instead of El Modeno.

ARENA: Did El Modeno have a Quaker community?

HAIGLER: Yes. I don't know. A few families there, a Quaker community. They had a Quaker church there, and there was a school, but it wasn't a Quaker school, just a public school.

ARENA: Now, as a matter of fact, did your father have anything to do with the founding and running of the school in Whittier itself?

HAIGLER: No. No, my father and my uncle didn't have anything to do with Whittier, the running of Whittier, but when we finished grammar school they sent us to Whittier to college, what they called college. It was an academy, the beginning of college. But they sent us there to school.

ARENA: When did you enter?

HAIGLER: In 1902 we went to Whittier to go to school, after we had finished grammar school.

ARENA: And 1902 would have been what ordinarily would have been the freshman year of high school, today.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: Only at that time it was called an academy.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: And did it have a four-year program when you entered?

HAIGLER: Yes, but as I remember, it had enough high school subjects so that we could qualify if we had to and wanted to go somewhere else, we could qualify for college. But we had some college subjects besides. I think we had Latin and algebra and some other things.

ARENA: How many years did you attend the academy, yourself?

HAIGLER: I went four years, and graduated in 1906.

ARENA: Do you recall what the first graduating class was, possibly?

HAIGLER: No, I can't remember.

ARENA: During this period, had you met President Nixon's mother, Mrs. Hannah Nixon, or had you met her earlier?

HAIGLER: No, I didn't know her. I met her there in Whittier College. She wasn't in my . . .

ARENA: Oh, excuse me. Now by college you mean . . .

HAIGLER: We always called it college. It was called college to begin with, but it wasn't an accredited college. It had some college subjects and they meant to make a college of it, and they called it college to begin with. Never called it academy, although I guess that's what it was.

ARENA: I didn't mean to interrupt you when you were talking about your first meeting with Mrs. Hannah Milhous Nixon.

HAIGLER: I don't know when I met her first, but I met her there at school. The school wasn't very large and everybody knew everybody else. She wasn't in my class. I think she was in the class ahead of me, if I remember correctly. I'm not real positive about that. We were in school at the same time.

ARENA: And that picture that you showed me, which you might allow me to have reproduced, in that picture would you mind describing just what is involved?

HAIGLER: This picture?

ARENA: Yes, the one that you let me see.

HAIGLER: This was our--let's see, we called it our gym class, gymnasium class. I don't remember much about all that we did, but we had exercises.

ARENA: Is there a year, a date marked on the photograph on the back?

HAIGLER: No.

ARENA: What year do you think it would be?

HAIGLER: I've got the names of everybody that was there in this class, but I don't have the year--oh, here 'tis. No, that's when we graduated.

ARENA: It would have been somewhere, though, between 1902, of course, and 1906.

HAIGLER: I think it was all during the four years, between 1902 and 1906, and because we were a small group, not a very large group of students, all classes, everybody was in the gym class--took gym together. This was just the women's gym class that I have here, but apparently the boys had theirs.

ARENA: The boys did attend as well. They did not attend gym classes with the girls.

HAIGLER: No, we had separate gym classes.

ARENA: Would you mind reading those names . . .

HAIGLER: Oh, boy!

ARENA: . . . to the best of your recollection.

HAIGLER: If I tear this out and give it to you . . .

ARENA: That would be fine.

HAIGLER: . . . the names are all on the back.

ARENA: The nice thing about your reading it is, we'll have a better chance of getting the pronunciation more correctly.

HAIGLER: Oh.

ARENA: I really appreciate that.

HAIGLER: Well . . .

ARENA: And you see where you're beginning, you're going to read . . .

HAIGLER: Wait a minute now. Let me look at these people.

ARENA: Certainly. Or, without looking at the photograph, you can just read, we'll say, the left column all the way down, and then the right column.

HAIGLER: Yes, but I want to see which way it's started.

ARENA: Fine, that will be very helpful. Well, if you just read the way in which the names are going, we could possibly figure out later how to match up the names with the faces, but the main thing is your pronunciation of those names. And you need not match them up as you're reading them now.

HAIGLER: Well, I think they'll match now. I think I know. The back row, from left to right is:
Frances Johnson
Carrie Sharpless
Mabel Smith
Olema Reese
Jessie Reynolds
Anna Tomlinson
Oh, Anna Tomlinson was the Physical Director, I guess. She's the last one in the row. She's the Physical Director. Then, second row is:
Annice Healton
Hannah Milhous
Edna Andrews
Gertrude Mills
Inez Bennett
Carrie Johnson
Gertrude Cox
Stella Brown.
And the front row is:
Irene Glasgow
Helen Keech
Erma Newby
Carla Carter
Susie Reynolds
Margie Little
Della Tomson

ARENA: Thank you VERY much. That's a most interesting . . .

HAIGLER: Now, do you know how to spell all those?

ARENA: No. If you would spell them, it would that much extra. We would like to be as certain as possible. And if you can spell them . . .

HAIGLER: Do you want me to go through the list again?

ARENA: Go through and spell after each one. Excuse me. If you would, as you go along, if these names are persons you have been in contact with, if you know their married names, if you know whether or not they are deceased, if that comes to mind, you may just note it as you go along, or just simply [say] "I don't know." Obviously, it would be interesting to interview some of these persons as well.

HAIGLER: Now where do I go? Carrie Sharpless. Her name was was Caroline, but everybody called her Carrie. [Next names spelled as above.] Gertrude Mills, and it was her father that lived at El Modeno. They lived at El Modeno. And it was her father that persuaded my folks to come to California. [Continuing spelling of names on photograph.] Carrie Johnson, Caroline I guess it was. We didn't know her by anything but Carrie. [Completing spelling of names.] That's all of them.

ARENA: Thank you very much, and I will certainly take very good care of this [Laughter], make a copy, and return it in good shape. Maybe that should be cut with a scissors.

HAIGLER: No, I can't get it off without tearing.

ARENA: I wouldn't take a chance.

HAIGLER: No. I tell you, I'll cut it off at the edge.

ARENA: That would be safer. You say that Gertrude Cox has died.

HAIGLER: She's gone, yes. Now, let me see, if anybody else. Gertrude Mills is gone. She died, I guess, while I was still in college. She was a good friend of mine. Well, I really don't know where any of the rest of them are.

ARENA: I see. Well, we could check by . . .

HAIGLER: My brother would know more about them than I do, because most of them went on to college with him.

ARENA: I see. Then it is worth seeing him.

HAIGLER: The next four years they were together, and he would know quite a bit about where some of them are.

ARENA: I'll be sure to check with him. By your brother, of course, you mean Mr. Austin Marshburn.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: Fine.

HAIGLER: Well, I'm turning it loose.

ARENA: Well, I shall guard it, and it's for a very good historical purpose, this loan . . .

HAIGLER: Oh. [Laughter]

ARENA: . . . which I shall return in excellent condition. Now, so we have an idea of the sort of school that Hannah Nixon and you attended, I'd like to ask you some more questions about your teachers, about your classes, about your costs, as much as you can remember. For example, do you recall if your class day began at 9:00 and ended at 3:00 in the afternoon, or just how was the schedule at the academy?

HAIGLER: Well, I don't remember about that, what the hours were, but I guess it was pretty early, because I know sometimes we would have to run in order to get there in time for roll call. We had one big room that we all gathered in, and they called the roll. If we were late, I don't know what happened to us. They always called the roll every morning.

ARENA: Did you walk to classes yourself?

HAIGLER: Yeah, I lived in Whittier there, and we all had to walk. We had no other way to go, unless we rode a bicycle. But I lived at different places in Whittier and I always walked to school.

ARENA: Were the teachers men as well as women?

HAIGLER: As I remember, all men. I have pictures of most of my professors here somewhere.

ARENA: Oh, that would be very interesting.

HAIGLER: It's in another book.

ARENA: Do you think, as in the case of Hannah Nixon, the pictures would have the names of these gentlemen?

HAIGLER: Well, I don't know.

ARENA: We could check that later. I would rather ask some general questions, and then we could check the pictures separately, if that's all right with you.

HAIGLER: I don't care. Whatever way you want to do it.

ARENA: Fine. What did you do about lunch, do you recall bringing your lunch or going home?

HAIGLER: Well, when we first went to Whittier, my brother and I and a cousin, my uncle's oldest daughter, three of us went to Whittier together. And we lived with a woman named Falena Hadley. She had her own home and we boarded and roomed with her the first year.

ARENA: How would you spell Falena, if I may ask?

HAIGLER: Oh, boy, I don't know.

ARENA: It sounds a certain way . . .

HAIGLER: F A L E N A, I think. Falena.

ARENA: F A L I N A, just the way it sounds.

HAIGLER: Maybe "I", yes.

ARENA: And Hadley. And you boarded with that person.

HAIGLER: We boarded and roomed with her the first year. I think the arrangement we had was, we paid the grocery bill and we didn't pay anything for room, and she boarded with us, really, the way it was. We paid the bills for the groceries and she let us have our rooms for boarding her.

ARENA: And were all the members of your family attending this academy?

HAIGLER: No, no. We were the only ones. This brother that's here with me, Austin, and a cousin. She's gone. She went to Whittier College, but she's not living now. She died some time ago.

ARENA: And in the case of your cousin and yourself and Austin, did you all go on to further education?

HAIGLER: Well, I left Whittier when I graduated, and meant to come back and go to college. My plan was when I left Whittier, I wanted to come back and go on to college. One of the women in the college worked her way through college. She went to Redlands [California]. I guess she stayed out one

year and worked and then came back to Whittier College, and I went and took her job in Redlands, stayed a year, and then come back to Whittier College. I meant to come back, but when it came time to come back I didn't feel like I had the money and the backing to go to college, so I stayed in Redlands and I took a nurse's course at the hospital they had there and graduated as a nurse, and stayed there and nursed for three years. And then came back to Los Angeles [California] and went to an osteopathic college in Los Angeles and became an osteopath and practiced in Los Angeles until I retired, even after I got married. I was out for a while and then got married and I didn't practice for a while, and I happened to take another doctor's practice and went back into practice again, and practiced there until I retired, in Los Angeles.

ARENA: And your brother?

HAIGLER: My brother went on to Whittier College.

ARENA: And he did graduate.

HAIGLER: He graduated from Whittier College. He was a hustler. Boys could find work to do when they were going to school, and work their way through. But girls didn't have as good a chance, it seemed like. He worked as janitor for several banks there, after school. He'd go and clean up the banks and take care of the banks, for two or three banks in Whittier. And then he--I can't remember what else he did, but he did all kinds of things. After I left school and he went on to college, I don't know much about what he did, but he tells about how he farmed, raised tomatoes, I remember. Made good money and he bought a piece of land, and oh, I don't know much about that, but anyway, he worked for himself from then on, I guess. He graduated from college in due time.

ARENA: Although you say you were not in the same year as Hannah Milhous, did you have occasion to meet her in common school affairs? For example, when attendance was taken, everyone in the school would meet together, did you meet, say, in the morning, regardless of the year, or would that be just a particular class?

HAIGLER: No. We were so few people, we were just like one big family.

ARENA: Do you recall how many were in your graduating class? Oh, would that have been it?

HAIGLER: That picture will show it. What type of a picture?

ARENA: Was that the one with the gymnasium group?

HAIGLER: Yes. There's another one, I guess, our class, our special class. But Hannah . . .

ARENA: She was not in that class.

HAIGLER: . . . not in our class. I can't remember definitely whether she was ahead of me or behind me, but I think she was ahead of me. We were all like one big family. Everybody did the same thing.

ARENA: Do you recall any programs where Hannah Milhous ever appeared, say, to recite poetry, or any school groups, maybe the choir, in which you and she participated together outside of the classroom, such as the gymnasium where, although you were not in the same class, you participated together?

HAIGLER: Yes, and everything that happened, we were all together.

ARENA: Do you recall any special trips that the school took, maybe to [Santal] Catalina Island [California], or a picnic, or anything like that?

HAIGLER: No trips that I know of. The only trips that we might have had, not trips but just parties and camping, just going up in the hills and taking our lunch, for an outing or something like that. I don't really remember if we ever did THAT or not. We never went away from Whittier anywhere. There was no way to get anywhere. Didn't have any cars. Weren't any automobiles then.

ARENA: Do you recall if you had assemblies, where there were some interesting outside speakers, and you might recall some who left an impression?

HAIGLER: No, I don't.

ARENA: For example, you don't recall Mr. William Jennings Bryan ever being on your speaker's platform.

HAIGLER: I don't think that he was. I would have been sure to remember it if he was. Wasn't he after our time, anyway?

ARENA: Well, right around that time. See, he ran in 1896--that was a very famous election--and lost against [William] McKinley. But he was still running in 1912, where [Woodrow] Wilson won the election, but he was one of the candidates, and went on to become Secretary of State, so he's still an important figure. The reason his name came up was that just the other day someone mentioned his being a speaker in 1913 in the Fullerton High School, as one of the assembly speakers on what was called the Chautauqua Circuit. I don't know if they had that in your day.

HAIGLER: Yes, they had the Chautauqua. And I remember, it seems to me, the Chautauqua down at one of the beaches, down at Santa Monica [California], or somewhere. And I remember the Chautauqua, and we must have gone to some of that, but I don't remember much about whether we did or not. But, of course, I know you know about Bryan, but I don't know if he was around when I was in school or not. I would surely have remembered it if he'd been there.

ARENA: I'm sure you would have. They say he left an impression on anyone who ever saw him or heard him.

HAIGLER: I don't remember of ever seeing him.

ARENA: Do you recall any unusual emergency, or any unusual event that took place during this period between 1902 and 1906, when you were attending the academy?

HAIGLER: Emergency?

ARENA: Well, maybe a flood, maybe a minor or serious earthquake, anything that had left an indelible impression on your mind for that period, 1902 to 1906.

HAIGLER: Wasn't that the time of the San Francisco [California] earthquake, 1906?

ARENA: I believe it was.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: I was wondering if you were aware that there were any repercussions in the Whittier area.

HAIGLER: I think I was in Redlands. I think that happened after I left school.

ARENA: Do you recall the nature of the city of Whittier itself around this time, from the standpoint of, were the streets paved, like Greenleaf [Avenue]; were there anything like lights on the corners in the evening; was there police and fire protection at this time; and were the bank buildings rather substantial, for example, between this period?

HAIGLER: [Laughter] We had banks. I don't know how substantial the buildings were.

ARENA: The buildings as well as the deposits.

HAIGLER: The hotel--what's the name of that hotel?

ARENA: ,There is a Hoover [Hotel] and there is a William Penn Hotel.

HAIGLER: William Penn Hotel, I think, was there when I was in school. I'm pretty sure it was.

ARENA: Were there ever any performances or plays that were put on, to which the community was invited, by the high school?

HAIGLER: By the college? By the school?

ARENA: By the academy?

HAIGLER: By the academy? It was called a college. Oh, I don't remember of ever having any.

ARENA: As a matter of fact, did the college, as far as you recall, allow dancing?

HAIGLER: No, no, they didn't. Nixon was the first one to introduce dancing into Whittier College.

ARENA: And here, you mean Richard, of course, the President.

HAIGLER: The President, yes.

ARENA: And before that time, at the academy, as well as the college later on, that was not allowed, from your recollection.

HAIGLER: No, not as long as I was in school, and I understand that Richard Nixon was the first one that had them allow dancing, and there was quite a stir, and quite a time about it.

ARENA: Do you recall that youngsters who did dance, who were maybe high school age, and certainly college age, would have gone to areas outside of Whittier-- that was one of his arguments--and if they go outside they might as well have it inside the community. But do you recall, personally, youngsters going to Los Angeles or any surrounding area?

HAIGLER: You mean the students.

ARENA: The students, in either the academy . . .

HAIGLER: . . . during my years in school.

ARENA: Yes.

HAIGLER: No, I think they were pretty well indoctrinated. I don't think any of them would ever think of such a thing. If they did, I didn't know anything about it. [Laughter] They sneaked out.

ARENA: Do you mind if I ask you what you think of the quality of the teachers you had, from your recollection at that time?

HAIGLER: I thought our teachers were good, very good. I remember my English professor better than most of them. I don't remember him any better, but I thought he had a way of teaching that brought us out, you know, and made us express ourselves, and tried to teach us how to express ourselves.

ARENA: You don't recall his name, by any chance?

HAIGLER: Yes. Wait a minute now. Yes, I ought to know his name well enough. If I can just find these pictures. I've got a picture of him. Oh, what was his name?

ARENA: While you're looking for him, do you recall any other particular subject where you thought you were well-taught?

HAIGLER: Well, I thought we were well-taught. The way I remember it, we were well-taught by all of our professors. Now, I remember we had a Mrs.--forgot her name--that taught us Latin. We had Latin, two years of Latin, and she was a good Latin teacher, I thought.

ARENA: Was Latin taught for the entire four years?

HAIGLER: Oh, I think it was the last two years. We had two years of Latin and we had two years of German, but whether we had them both in the same years, maybe we did. I don't remember how that was.

ARENA: Do you recall if any other language besides German and Latin

HAIGLER: No, that was the only foreign language.

ARENA: No French or Spanish?

HAIGLER: No, those two were the only foreign languages that we had.

ARENA: How about chapel hour, or religious instruction in any way? Did the day begin with a prayer or reading from scripture?

HAIGLER: No. I think we had a chapel, where we were supposed to attend. Some hour during the day we had a chapel, seems to me. I'm not real sure about that, either.

ARENA: Do you recall if there were any other high school level schools at that time? Was there a public school, for example, in addition to this, which would have been . . .

HAIGLER: In Whittier?

ARENA: In Whittier.

HAIGLER: Oh, there must have been. I don't remember much about it, but . . .

ARENA: You don't recall competing sportswise, for example, with them, or participating in debates, possibly, with them?

HAIGLER: I don't think we competed with anybody in Whittier, but we competed with other schools. We had debates, debating classes. And Occidental [College] was one of them that we debated with. It seemed like the men were the debaters. I don't remember the women having any part in that, but we debated some schools.

ARENA: Do you recall, in any case, that you belonged to a club in which Hannah Milhous, the President's mother, was also a member, and where she took an active role as an officer, or any leading role at all?

HAIGLER: No, I don't think so. I don't believe she did. I don't remember that she did. She was a very quiet, retiring person. She didn't mix too good with people; that is, she seemed to stay quietly to herself, mostly, when she was a student. She was a very serious student.

ARENA: Do you recall that there were particular subjects that appealed to her, for any reason?

HAIGLER: No. I wasn't intimate enough with her to know what her choice was.

ARENA: Did the girls wear costumes, or a set dress?

HAIGLER: No.

ARENA: Was there anything like a dress code, or style of hair?

HAIGLER: No. We just wore whatever we wanted to.

ARENA: Do you recall that there was anything said about the use of lipstick or things like that, make-up?

HAIGLER: No, I don't think they used lipstick in our day.

ARENA: And that would have been not just the school, but
. . .

HAIGLER: Now, that's where I might have been segregated from the public. My college, it seemed, was my whole life, and I didn't get acquainted in the town, and I don't know what the outsiders did. They might have used lipstick and all that, I don't know. I'm sure we didn't in school. Never thought anything about it.

ARENA: There wasn't too much contact between, as far as the school students were concerned, the school and the community.

HAIGLER: With the community, no.

ARENA: Now, was there a tie-up between the academy and the Yearly Meetings that you had some contact or association with while you were a student?

HAIGLER: Oh, yes.

ARENA: Would you explain that?

HAIGLER: While we were students. . . . Now, here's a picture of the Yearly Meeting. They never had Yearly Meeting [during school]. They did it purposely. It came as soon as school was out in the summer. Then they had the Yearly Meeting. And these are all college students that went over to the church.

ARENA: And by college, you mean the academy?

HAIGLER: Academy, academy, academy. I'm not talking about the college department, because I don't know anything about it.

ARENA: I understand.

HAIGLER: But this was the academy group, that went over to the First Friends Church in Whittier, still the First Friends Church there.

ARENA: On the same site, only today it's brick, of course.

HAIGLER: Yes. They're building a new one now, they're going to.

ARENA: Would this be the original church that's in the background of the picture?

HAIGLER: Yes, and they held their Yearly Meeting there. Had sessions, and they had lunch at noon, and what we did was wait on the tables, giving our time to the church, you know, and helping.

ARENA: This would have been voluntary. You were not paid for that.

HAIGLER: No, voluntary.

ARENA: And would Hannah Milhous be one of those who did that, as well?

HAIGLER: I thought she was, but her picture's not in here, if she did. I don't see her picture.

ARENA: Was there any other sort of labor that was contributed in addition to waiting on tables? Did someone, for example, wash the dishes?

HAIGLER: No.

ARENA: Did someone volunteer to do the cooking and sweeping up?

HAIGLER: No, they hired a cook, I think, a man and his wife to handle the cooking. I guess they handled the kitchen. We just waited on tables.

ARENA: Could I ask you, going back to that main picture, just what faces you do recognize in that picture that you showed me about the Yearly Meeting? What names do come to mind as you look or glance over it?

HAIGLER: [Laughter] Their faces are familiar, but I don't know if I remember their names or not.

ARENA: That's quite all right. Whatever does come to mind.

HAIGLER: There I am, right there.

ARENA: I see.

HAIGLER: I don't see them very clearly.

ARENA: What year do you think that picture would belong to? Again, between 1902 and 1906.

HAIGLER: Yes, it was. Yes, but I don't know. It might have been the last year we were in school, in 1906. I think maybe it was. Well, their faces are familiar but I . . .

ARENA: Was there a committee set up for those who did do volunteer work?

HAIGLER: Any what?

ARENA: Were you a member of the committee that did do volunteer work?

HAIGLER: There was no committee.

ARENA: You were just asked . . .

HAIGLER: We just offered our services and they took us. There's Mr. Johnson. He and his wife were in charge of the dining room and kitchen.

ARENA: Mr. Johnson's first name?

HAIGLER: I don't know what his first name was.

ARENA: What was his full-time interest? Was he a local resident?

HAIGLER: They hired him and his wife--that was the college. He and his wife did the cooking and dishwashing and everything, I guess, in the kitchen at the college. And some students waited on tables to get their lunch in exchange.

ARENA: Did the students, and did you yourself, for example, attend any of the Yearly Meetings?

HAIGLER: Yes, oh yes. I attended most of them, I guess, after school was out.

ARENA: Is it likely that Hannah Milhous would have attended them, as well?

HAIGLER: Well, I think she must have. Of course, her home was out, well, you know where the Quad is now.

ARENA: Oh, yes.

HAIGLER: That was the Milhous home. You know that. Somebody told you that. Oscar told you all that.

ARENA: I have been in the home, which has been moved just off the Quad.

HAIGLER: You can see it from Whittier Boulevard, if you know just when to look as you drive by. You can see the house in the back there.

ARENA: Right.

HAIGLER: That's because Olive [Milhous Marshburn], that's Hannah's sister, Oscar's wife, she just wasn't going to part with that old home. No, sir. She didn't want to sell the property at all. But finally, she conceded to sell it if they would preserve the house. And so they agreed to have it moved back. They had a lot back there and put the house on it. And I don't know whether they told you all this or not, but Olive took a lot of things--did she tell you all that? And they've got them in their present home, now.

ARENA: Such as the doors.

HAIGLER: And their mantle in the den, their mantle was a tree, a kumquat tree, or some kind of a tree on the place that she thought a lot of. She didn't want to see that destroyed, so she had a mantle made for their fireplace in their den.

BEGIN SIDE II OF TAPE I

ARENA: Is there a recollection that you had attended, or entered this home, even when you were in the academy?

HAIGLER: You mean the Milhous home?

ARENA: The Milhous home.

HAIGLER: Yes. Hannah had me out over the weekend. I was going to say Hannah--her folks lived there, and I guess they had a horse and carriage of some kind. Anyway her dad would come sometimes, and I guess always at the end of the week, and take her home for the weekend. And she had me go with her several times. I spent the weekend in their home.

ARENA: In other words, you are saying that Hannah Milhous did not live at home and come from home every day to school. She lived, also, near the school.

HAIGLER: I'm not sure whether she always did. I can't remember about that, but I know sometimes she must have, because I went home with her. I have a faint memory that she lived in the dormitory, maybe one of the years that I lived there. I'm not sure, but surely she must have. I seem to remember it that way. It's been so long ago, sixty-six years ago.

ARENA: In addition to renting or boarding with private citizens, as you did, was there also a separate dormitory that was under the school?

HAIGLER: That one building, they called it Founders Hall here in recent years. But it burned down not long ago.

ARENA: That's right. Had that been a part of the original academy?

HAIGLER: That was the only building there, when I went to school.

ARENA: Oh, that was the same building used for the academy, which later on continued to be used for Whittier College.

HAIGLER: Oh, yes.

ARENA: . . . until it burned down a few years ago.

HAIGLER: It burned down, and they had a lot of papers stored in there.

ARENA: I see.

HAIGLER: Some valuable documents that burned. And that wasn't too many years ago. I guess it's since I moved out here; I'm sure it was that that burned down. I remember I took a trip to Europe in 1958, a tour with a group, and Dr. [C. Milol] Connick, a professor of religion at Whittier College, took a group every two years. This was in recent years, you know. This was in 1958 that I went. And I know they were talking--a lot of people wanted to get rid of that building they called Founders Hall. Many people wanted to get it out of there. It was so old-fashioned and they wanted to put up something new. So there were just enough old-timers that kept it intact. He was asking me, I remember, on our trip, what I thought about doing away with it. And I said, "Well, it's an old, historical building, and I kind of hate to see it disappear." And I said, "If it's lost its value to the college, why, I guess it would be all right to tear it down." It was an old frame building, and I suppose it must have been a fire trap. I would be surprised if it hadn't been condemned, but I don't know whether it was or not. Anyway, it finally did burn down.

ARENA: Have you been to the campus and seen the site where the building was?

HAIGLER: No. I haven't been there since it burned down.

ARENA: If I'm not mistaken, there's no building replacing it. It was on a little rise, and that rise is just there.

HAIGLER: And there was a wide walk that went up from the street to the building, and along side of that walk there was a rock that jutted up. Do you remember that rock?

ARENA: I believe that rock has some special tradition . . .

HAIGLER: Yes. Did my brother tell you about that rock?

ARENA: Would you mind repeating it, just to be sure? I've heard stories about it, but I want to be sure it's on tape.

HAIGLER: Well, my brother Austin [Marshburn] had graduated from Whittier College, I think the year before . . .

ARENA: By the year before, the year before you?

HAIGLER: No, no, that's Whittier department, Whittier College.

ARENA: Now we're talking about the real college.

HAIGLER: Yes. He graduated in 1910 from the real college. And I think the class that was going to graduate the next year had a notion of wanting--somebody had seen a rock up in the hills and they wanted to get it down to the college, thought it would be a nice thing to have there. So my brother had a team of horses and some kind of a wagon. I don't know what it was. They asked him to take his team of horses and get this rock. He'll tell you who went with him, but I don't remember who they were. And he had some men go up with him and they got that rock on the wagon, on the flattop, or whatever it was.

ARENA: That was your brother who actually brought that rock, which is still there, now.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: And one of the traditions is to paint it a different color every year.

HAIGLER: They got it down there sometime during the night and got it off the wagon. I don't know how they got it off, but they toppled it off somehow. And they were going to set it up, I think that's the way it was. The next day they were going to put it halfway in the ground, or something. Anyway, the next morning they found it was gone. They thought it was gone, but somebody had dug a hole and buried it, the whole thing, some other students, you know. Anyway, they got it out and got it up, just where it is now. And it's been there ever since. But he was the one that took his horses and wagon and went up and got that rock. And every year I guess they have trouble, other schools come in and try to paint it something, you know. They guard it. Now they have a little magazine that comes out every three months, called The Rock. That's why it's called The Rock. It's named after that rock.

ARENA: Do you recall that you kept in contact with Hannah Milhous while she went on to attend Whittier College?

HAIGLER: No, I didn't.

ARENA: Did your brother, by any chance, keep you informed of her, in any way?

HAIGLER: No. Of course, we didn't have ways to get around much in those days, and I don't think I ever came back to Whittier after I left. I can't ever remember, during the four years of the regular college course, I don't think I ever got back there. And I didn't see Hannah much anymore after I left school.

ARENA: Would you mind describing, as much as you can, what you recall about one of your visits to the Milhous home?

HAIGLER: Well, they're very vague. You know, they were a very quiet family, didn't have much to say. It was just quiet around there. And I remember she had a brother. I don't know which one he was.

ARENA: One was called Ezra [Charles Milhous].

HAIGLER: Ezra.

ARENA: Do you recall Ezra? He was a full brother. Another brother was a half-brother from a previous marriage who taught music, and his name was Griffith [William Milhous].

HAIGLER: I don't think I ever saw him. But I guess it must have been Ezra, he was just a little boy, a small kid. I saw him around there, but he didn't have much to say. And Hannah didn't talk. They didn't have much to say. And the parents, none of them had much of anything to say; they were just the most quiet family you ever saw. They went about their duties and their business and didn't talk.
[Laughter]

ARENA: That means that there wasn't any arguing or bickering between brother and sister, even.

HAIGLER: No.

ARENA: . . . as far as you recollect.

HAIGLER: As far as I know, there never was any argument at all.

ARENA: You know that the President plays the piano, and you might be aware that he learned from one of Hannah Milhous' sisters, who later became Mrs. Jane Beeson, but her name was Jane [Milhous]. Do you recall the sound of music or singing during this period of your visits?

HAIGLER: No. We were there Saturday and Sunday. I guess I went out Friday night and stayed Saturday and Sunday. There was an orange grove, I think, then, and the big house.

ARENA: You don't recall staying for Sunday dinner, with or without company, by the way? Do you recall what the table was like?

HAIGLER: No. Never any company when I was there. I don't remember--we must have gone to church, but I don't remember of going to church when I was out there. But we must have, because they were a very religious family.

ARENA: Do you recall grace being said, or it just doesn't come to mind one way or the other, for example?

HAIGLER: No, I don't remember about that at all. I don't remember what her mother and father looked like. I just remember their objects. I just remember them moving about the house, and each one doing his own duty, whatever they had to do.

ARENA: Do you recall where you slept, and would you describe as much as you can about that?

HAIGLER: No. [Laughter] I don't remember at all if I had a room by myself or what. I can't remember where I slept. Didn't impress me, I guess. It wasn't an exciting experience; it was very quiet and subdued.

ARENA: To be sure, I take it you and Hannah were not being escorted by young gentlemen. There wasn't anything like double-dating at her home, or anything like that.

HAIGLER: No.

ARENA: That would probably have left a memory. Do you recall that the home itself stood out among the homes that there were in Whittier?

HAIGLER: Well, it was a big, two-story house.

ARENA: We know what it looks like today, of course. I was just wondering how it compared with the homes of that time.

HAIGLER: Well, I think it was bigger than most of the houses in Whittier that I remember. Some of them were just one-story houses in Whittier.

ARENA: Do you recall, if you don't mind my being personal, was it larger and more pre-possessing than your own home where your parents were living?

HAIGLER: It was a much bigger house.

ARENA: It was.

HAIGLER: Oh, yes. It was a big house. It had an upstairs, a two-story house, I think. Yes. The bedrooms must have been upstairs.

ARENA: Would you call it a fancy home, with more than ordinary ornaments for a Quaker family, in any respect?

HAIGLER: No. It was a very plain home as I remember it.

ARENA: Do you recall some of the things that you and Hannah would discuss at any time, either in school or in this very quiet time.

HAIGLER: [Laughter] I don't believe we ever discussed much of anything. And we weren't very intimate in school. And I don't remember ever having any discussion. We were friendly when we met and run across each other, and all that.

ARENA: Are there ladies of that period who do stand out? For example, some of these names that you have mentioned in the picture. Were there some girls who left a sharp memory in your mind, for one reason or another? There were, maybe, outstanding athletes or maybe they were exceptionally sociable.

HAIGLER: You mean the girls, women?

ARENA: Any of the girls that you knew.

HAIGLER: Oh, yes. I had some very close friends, but Hannah wasn't one of my close friends.

ARENA: I see. Would you mind describing them? You need not give the name, but give an idea of what young ladies of Whittier were like from people of that period, such as yourself. How would you describe some of these young ladies, especially those you knew very well? What were they interested in? What type of music? Did you attend social affairs with young men? Were there chaperones? Were they May [Day] dances, this sort of thing, and so forth? Whatever comes to mind.

HAIGLER: I don't remember having any parties at college.

ARENA: Not in any private home, even?

HAIGLER: No.

ARENA: How about birthday parties?

HAIGLER: We didn't evidently come into contact with the town, it seemed like.

ARENA: Unless it would have been through Hannah Nixon, and that type of situation.

HAIGLER: Well, I went to her house, and that's the only place I ever went, but I can't remember . . .

ARENA: As a matter of fact, do you recall the occasion? How was it that you were invited to her home?

HAIGLER: Well, I don't know why. She asked me to go home with her.

ARENA: It was she who asked you to go home with her.

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: Did you ever, if you don't mind my asking, invite her to your home?

HAIGLER: Well, I didn't have a home in Whittier.

ARENA: I realize that, but out of town.

HAIGLER: I never went back to my home out here. It was too far. Only once or twice while I was in Whittier.

ARENA: All the four years?

HAIGLER: Yeah.

ARENA: Did your parents come to visit you . . .

HAIGLER: Yes.

ARENA: . . . from time to time?

HAIGLER: No. They did come. My father came once or twice, I think, and took us home, with a horse and--whatever you call 'em--two-seater. I forgot what they called 'em. Anyway, but it took all day. And I don't remember of them coming very often.

ARENA: During the summers would you be at home when school was over?

HAIGLER: I guess so. I guess I went back home and stayed during the summer.

ARENA: Did you, by any chance, travel, in addition to Hannah Milhous' home, to any other areas; for example, to the Mexican border or to Canada, or anything like that during this period?

HAIGLER: I don't think so.

ARENA: Did you find Whittier quite different from your own community, where your folks were living outside, and especially quite different from the area in Texas that you had left? Did you find it very difficult to adjust to this type of community?

HAIGLER: No, it wasn't difficult. Of course, when we came here I was only eleven years old, and it's not hard for a child that young to adjust, very naturally, to his surroundings. There were more houses and more contact with people. In Texas, we were so far a hundred miles from any place.

We never saw anybody. But here we had people all around us, down there at El Modeno and at Whittier. It's time for my dinner. What am I going to do?

ARENA: We'll just call this interview to a halt, and thank you very much for being so kind.