

Oral History Interview

with

GERTRUDE BRADLEY DALRYMPLE

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By Margaret Cutler

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Today is October 28, 1971 and I am Margaret Cutler. I am visiting with Gertrude Bradley Dalrymple in her home at 16 Althea Road, Scientists Cliffs in Calvert County, Maryland and this morning, we are going to talk about the years that Mrs. Dalrymple lived in Montgomery County as a civic leader and a newspaperwoman. But I think before we get to your life in Montgomery County, Mrs. Dalrymple, we should begin with a brief sketch of your early background.

DALRYMPLE: I was born in West Virginia on a farm in 1900. My father was a school teacher whose highest ambition in life was to give his children a better education than he had. He couldn't do this on his school teacher's salary, so in 1908 he founded a small newspaper at the county seat, Summersville, West Virginia, which helped supplement the money that he got from his school teaching. I was too young to do anything about this newspaper but in 1912, he determined that with his family growing, he could not make a living and educate his children, so he moved into a small town of about 5,000 thirty miles away where he bought the newspaper and established a printing office in connection with it. I was 12 years old then and I could make my choice of helping my mother with the ironing and cooking and washing and things of that sort, or I could go to the printing office after school and help my father in all the little things that had to be done in a newspaper office. Well, I chose the latter. And it was there that I became ambitious someday to have a newspaper of my own.

CUTLER: Mrs. Dalrymple, could you tell us the name of the town in West Virginia?

DALRYMPLE: Richwood, West Virginia and the name of the paper was the Nicholas Republican. His earlier paper had been called the Gauley Record.

CUTLER: What was the "Nicholas" for?

DALRYMPLE: Nicholas County.

CUTLER: And was the other, Gauley County?

DALRYMPLE: No, Gauley was the river that ran nearby. I went to high school

during the war years. Male teachers were drafted during World War I and it was necessary to have young students who were just finishing high school take some special courses so they could teach in public school. Well, I took this course during the summer and at 17, I started teaching 6th grade with 55 children in my classroom.

CUTLER: Where was this?

DALRYMPLE: That was in Richwood in the public school. I taught one year in the 6th grade and one year in the 4th grade. My salary the first year was \$50; the second year, the Board of Education became ashamed of itself, so they raised my salary to \$85.

CUTLER: Now was this for the entire year?

DALRYMPLE: \$85 a month; \$50 a month and \$85 a month. Even though I lived at home, I couldn't save any money or very little. I had to clothe myself and most of my money went for clothing. We had a very fine Superintendent of Schools though, and he kept urging me to go to West Virginia University. He talked to my father about it and said, "Your daughter is lost here, I think she ought to go to college". Well, my father thought that too but he didn't know just how he was going to manage it. So I went to summer school for two summers, took credit courses at the university and by that time, he decided he'd find the money some way. So I was the first of eight children to graduate from West Virginia University. I graduated in three years because of my two summer school sessions. I was the first woman editor at The Atheneum, the weekly newspaper at West Virginia University. When I first entered school, I registered for journalism. It was the first year that they had any journalism courses and my professor had come from Maryland University (where he had taught English), to set up these courses. I very soon learned that I knew very little

about English or about how to write, but with his help and encouragement, I became Editor of the paper and not only served as Editor-in-Chief one year, but as Managing Editor one year. When I graduated, I went back to my home town and ran my father's newspaper for two years. He had a pact with us that if each child would come back and work on the newspaper and help him, then he could send the next child along. Well, in the meantime, one of my sisters had married and she did not go to college until several years later, but another sister entered after me, who was five years younger. She went to school only two years and married, and after that a succession of boys, all of whom graduated. The last one, the last boy to graduate was after World War II and he was able to use his GI rights to pay his way through. The boy next to him was a football player and most of his tuition was paid by his football activities. And the brother next to him belonged to a fraternity and he waited table the first two or three years and then managed the dining room after that. Well, I liked newspaper work very much in my father's paper, but I had a feeling Richwood was too small a place and I wanted to see the world, I wanted to see what was going on somewhere else. So after my two years were up, a friend of the family was elected to Congress from our district and he asked me if I wouldn't want to go to Washington as his secretary. Well, I felt that was wonderful, so I very quickly took a course in typing and shorthand and when he was ready to be sworn in, I was ready to be his secretary.

CUTLER: And who was this?

DALRYMPLE: That was The Hon. John M. Wolverton. Unluckily, he was defeated after his first two years. In a way that was a defeat for me too, because my salary was pretty good as his secretary--nothing to compare to today's salary--but it was \$2,500 a year. And that was

a lot of money in 1924, '25, '26. So in the meantime, I had fallen in love. We wanted to get married, but my husband who was from Pittsburgh and had graduated from Carnegie Tech, was in Washington to work his way through law school. We just didn't feel we had enough money to get married. Then I was offered the editorship of the West Virginia School Journal at Charleston, West Virginia and I went back to work for them. I signed a contract to work for them for a year at \$2,500. It was the money mainly that influenced me. But we soon found out that we spent all the extra money going back and forth to visit each other, so we decided to get married. I gave up the job when I was only half way through. They released me from the contract and I came to Washington, got another job in the government as secretary to Mr. Leo Paulser, who was the Chief Examiner for the Farm Loan Bureau. He later became the Chief Examiner for the Federal Reserve System. I worked for him until our first daughter was born. I worked up until three months before she was born. I figure I worked for about 4-5 years. We lived in an apartment in Washington and when she was one year old, we realized an apartment was no place to bring up a child. So we started looking around for a place that we could rent. We had no money of course but my first husband had an aunt who lived on Rockville Pike and we used to drive out there to visit her on weekends. To get there, we had to go through Bethesda, of course. And we liked the looks of the place. So in the summer, when our daughter was one year old, that would have been in 1932, we rented a little house in Bethesda, out Old Georgetown Road and off to the west, a tiny, little house but a very attractive place which had no heat in it and no stove but we managed for a couple of years.

CUTLER: How did it happen that it had no heat. Had it been built originally for vacation purposes?

DALRYMPLE: It was built by a Miss Collins. Her folks lived on Georgetown Road

and they owned the property behind this home, and she built it as a weekend vacation place. The depression was coming along by that time and she needed more money. She ran a women's dress shop in Washington. She needed more money so she decided to rent it for \$40 a month, as is, and that meant no heat. But we got along fine. We got a space heater we found on the trash heap, an old oil burning stove which we could use to cook on and for baking.

CUTLER: We haven't mentioned your first husband's name.

DALRYMPLE: His name was J. Reed Bradley. Well, after living in this little house two years, through the generosity of my husband's mother, we were able to buy a lot in Sonoma, (which is back of the Bethesda Women's Club) and to build a house. Our salvation was the fact that it was a government-sponsored loan, to help people build their own homes. We built a house which cost us between \$6,000 - 7,000.

CUTLER: How far was this from your first home?

DALRYMPLE: It was just about 1/8th of a mile away.

CUTLER: Was your first home closer in or further out?

DALRYMPLE: It was closer in. It was between the Bethesda Methodist Church and the hospital, in that general area.

CUTLER: And then your next home was on Cedar Lane?

DALRYMPLE: It was on Cedar Lane but afterward it was called Greentree Road, the name was changed.

CUTLER: What is now Greentree Road?

DALRYMPLE: That's right.

CUTLER: Your house was on the corner?

DALRYMPLE: That's right, on the corner of Greentree and Oneida. Eleanor Vaughan, one of the very active workers on the charter lived at the

other end of Oneida and the same architect who drew the plans and built our house, drew the plans and built her house. So we were drawn together because of this fact and because we lived on the same street. Well, I stayed home maybe seven years after that, when my daughter was young--I just had the one child. When she was about eight, she was bored with me, and I was bored because I wanted to get into something worthwhile. So I felt with a little managing, I could take care of her properly and work at the same time. In this same year, Merle Thorpe, Editor of Nation's Business, started the Bethesda Journal for his son, Day, who had just graduated from Yale and had nothing to do because, well, there were no jobs available back in those days. Day was a polio victim. He was very bright, but very lazy. And he simply couldn't do the work or didn't do the work.

CUTLER: Did he have a title? Was he Editor?

DALRYMPLE: He and his father were the owners and he was the Editor. So his father came to me, he had heard that I had newspaper experience previously and he asked me if I would be interested in working on the paper and I said, "Yes, I would". I had started writing columns, I started writing a series of vignettes about Bethesda-Chevy Chase women, that's all I did for several months and at the end of that time, Day came to me himself and said, "I can't do this work by myself, I have to have somebody who can take over a lot of this, particularly reporting and going to meetings and things like that." So I had to work full time then. I had to keep a housekeeper because my husband said he wouldn't let me go to work unless we could have somebody in the house when Jane came home from school every day. Well, I was on the Journal for five years and I was Managing Editor. Shortly after I came there, I became Managing Editor. And then Day went to Florida in the wintertime and to Montana in the summertime and it got to the point where I was doing everything, really. It was wonderful experience.

CUTLER: Who set the policy for the paper? You said it was really born out of the need for something for Day to do more than any fostering of any political philosophy in the county.

DALRYMPLE: That's right. Day set the policy, but Day was a very liberal person. He did not approve of the form of government we had at the time and when the charter movement was founded, he was in sympathy with it. We did everything on the paper we could to further that first charter movement. But before the new charter movement came in, (Of course, that first charter movement was defeated), and before the new one got under way, Day's father had sold their home to Princess Martha of Norway, their Bethesda home in Pook's Hill, and they moved to Virginia. Well, Day moved along with the family and it was very soon evident that he couldn't keep coming back to Bethesda to run the paper, so they offered to sell the paper to me. But I had no funds with which to buy the paper. So they sold it to an advertising man from New York. He came to see me and asked me to stay on and said that he would like the community to feel that I was part owner of the paper. He thought that the paper would be more of a success if it weren't owned entirely by an outsider. And he said, "If we get along well, I intend to make you a part owner of the paper and as we get along, you can own more and more of it". Well, I was inexperienced and I thought, "That sounds good". He said, "I will not influence the policy of the paper, the policy will be yours". Well, it didn't work out that way. The very first thing, when the charter movement started, "Now let's keep out of this", he said, "let's be neutral".

CUTLER: Was he doing it for business reasons or political?

DALRYMPLE: Business reasons. He wasn't interested in the politics of the county.

CUTLER: It was an investment for him?

DALRYMPLE: Yes. "Well," I said, "our agreement was that I was to set the policy of the paper". And he said, "Well, you're going to have to learn to compromise a little". I was not willing to compromise and I said, "If I can't set the policy of the paper, you'll have to get someone else and I'll resign". No, he didn't want to do that, he wanted me to try it for a while and I said, "Well, it comes down to the fact that I am not willing to work for a man who tells me that I can do such-and-such and then he says, 'no, I don't want you to do this one thing'". As it turned out, we simply couldn't work together, so I decided to start a paper of my own.

CUTLER: Now before we leave this paper, may I ask you a question or two? I don't think we got his name.

DALRYMPLE: His name was Mel Hickerson, and he owned an advertising agency, Hickerson Advertising Agency in New York City. A very fine person, nice personality, you couldn't dislike him, neither could I work with him under those conditions.

CUTLER: Yes, I can see that. Had the paper been a financial success under the Thorpes?

DALRYMPLE: No, it had not made money, it had never made money.

CUTLER: Had it a very large circulation?

DALRYMPLE: As newspaper went in the county at the time, it had an average circulation which was maybe 3,000.

CUTLER: I understand in those days, many copies of the paper were given away, so the 3,000 was not 3,000 papers, it was 3,000 circulation.

DALRYMPLE: That's right. The paper was beginning to pay under Mr. Hickerson. He got additional advertisements for us, national advertisement that we hadn't had before and it was beginning to pay. But I was working harder and harder all the time and when I asked him for a

raise in salary, he said, "Well, now, if you're going to be part owner of this paper, we've both got to share in this investment". But he never put it in writing. Anyhow, we decided to part company over the policy that I could not support the charter. So, I put an announcement in the paper that I was leaving. Everybody rose up in arms, the businessmen rose up in arms, one of them had a dinner party for me and invited Mr. Hickerson to come. They had about 40 businessmen there. And after listening to his side of the story and asking me a few questions about my side of the story, they said, "Start your own paper".

CUTLER: In other words, this paper, under you, had become enough of a public institution that the businessmen--were they businessmen who were advertising in the paper?

DALRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: And they wanted that paper to go on as a vehicle for them?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, but lots of those men didn't believe in the charter form of government, but they -- well, this may sound immodest -- but they believed that I was putting out a good newspaper and a newspaper that people read, and they didn't want me to give it up, and they said, "Start your own paper". Well, the next week, I put an announcement on the front page that I was starting my own paper. The womens clubs got on the phone and got me 1,000 subscriptions in a week's time. I had to have something for the post office in order to be able to mail, and they sent the checks in so my records showed that I had 1,000 paid subscribers. The businessmen gave me their advertising for a whole month, instead of just saying, "Well, I'll take an ad this week". They said, "You can put this ad in for four weeks". National advertising did the same thing, I don't know why, but they did. It was really phenomenal.

CUTLER: Your capital was public backing.

DALRYMPLE: I borrowed \$1,400 on my husband's life insurance policy. These

newspapers in Bethesda had no printing plants, all of our printing was on contract. The minute you got your paper, you paid for it. So I had to have some capital. A friend of mine who had always wanted to work on the Journal, (but we never had any place for her,) volunteered to be my advertising manager, and another friend volunteered to do my bookkeeping. And they said, "We will not charge you anything until you begin to make money". Well, my husband did a lot of the bookkeeping and he did the mailing of the paper for me--he and my daughter. And we trudged the streets of Bethesda-Chevy Chase, handing out the first issue of the paper by hand and putting it in churches and stores and things like that.

CUTLER: How many issues of your first printing did you print?

DALRYMPLE: We printed about 3,000 because we had to circulate them for people to know that there was a newspaper.

CUTLER: And the name of your paper?

DALRYMPLE: The Record, named after my father's paper.

CUTLER: The Record of Bethesda-Chevy Chase.

DALRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: And what sort of a staff did you have gathering the news stories, besides yourself?

DALRYMPLE: I had no staff. At the beginning, I did everything in the editorial and writing line for almost a year. But Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a peculiar community -- I always thought it was peculiar in that I got more news in than I could possibly use every week. They just brought it to me; the clubs, the organizations. On the Journal, I had done a very fine job of publicity for the Suburban Hospital -- they opened in '43 -- just before I gave up the Journal. Even after the hospital opened, they needed publicity badly about all kinds of things, they didn't have enough equipment, they didn't have enough money, they didn't have enough members or anything. So

more stuff came in, what they called, "coming in over the transom", than I could use for a while. Now, I worked for no money myself the first year. I had \$1,800 in the bank at the end of the year and had paid off the loan on my husband's life insurance policy. But I had worked for nothing, and these girls who helped me had worked practically for nothing. Part of the year, I had been able to pay them. Well, that's how the Record was born. And it kept getting better.

CUTLER: You say you started the Record in 1944?

DALRYMPLE: In January, 1944.

CUTLER: At the time you started it, you already had a position on charter, so you had a political stance when you started your paper.

DALRYMPLE: Oh yes, I had a cause, I'm a great believer in causes.

CUTLER: And you think that perhaps that was a factor in the support that you had?

DALRYMPLE: It was a factor in the community, a very strong factor in the county, but most of my advertisers opposed any change.

CUTLER: But they still went along?

DALRYMPLE: They went along with me.

CUTLER: When you were first starting up and you had a lot of news coming in, still there were things happening in Rockville, in the county seat, governmental kinds of things. What kind of relationship did you have with them?

DALRYMPLE: Stella Werner. Stella volunteered to go out to Rockville every day and sit in on the commissioner's meetings and come back and dictate to me -- she would just tell it to me -- and I wrote it up then, as I remembered what she told me, everything that happened. She did that for years.

CUTLER: Was she, at that point, anything other than a concerned citizen? Later, of course

DALRYMPLE: No, she wasn't, she was just very much interested but she had not been elected to the Charter Board. In fact, we didn't have victory until '48.

CUTLER: And she had not held office or even run for office, or been active in party work or anything? She was a concerned citizen who was interested enough to do this?

DALRYMPLE: That's right, and she never received any pay for it.

CUTLER: Did she write anything under her by-line?

DALRYMPLE: Yes. At first she said, "I'm no writer, I can't do this, Gertrude, I just can't do it". But I convinced her that if she would just write it down in longhand (she didn't type), just write it down the way she remembered, I said, "I'll put your name over it so it's your column. I'll type it, though, so the printer can read it". So we went along that way. I may be forgetting the time we started to do that, I just don't remember, it's not very clear in my memory.

CUTLER: Was this a factor in her becoming known through the county as a concerned citizen?

DALRYMPLE: I think it helped Stella as much as it helped me.

CUTLER: At the time, both in your working in the Journal, and beginning the Record, what other papers were active, were then publishing in the county?

DALRYMPLE: At the time I started my paper, there were nine papers. The Journal was still in effect. It went out of business in about a year.

CUTLER: We didn't really discuss what happened to the Journal after you left.

DALRYMPLE: Mr. Hickerson brought a man in. I had a bookkeeper and an advertising person. They both chose to stay with the Journal. Their husbands were in the Army, they didn't want to take any chances, they knew that I couldn't pay them for a while, so they chose to

stay with the Journal. The girl who sold my advertising at the time has been my best friend for years and years. She lives here at Scientists Cliffs now. I never held it against her because I knew what her circumstances were, she had children, she had to pay her way. I forgot what we were discussing...

CUTLER: We were discussing what happened to the Journal.

DAIRYMPLE: An editor from out of state was brought in and he tried valiantly to put the Journal on its feet. It kept losing money and losing money and finally the printer, to whom money was owed, bought it. He carried it for a while. He was also my printer. He carried it along for a while and then later, the man who bought my paper bought the Journal too, but by that time, it was nothing more than a one page sheet.

CUTLER: These papers were in Bethesda. Was there anything else in the Bethesda area?

DAIRYMPLE: The Tribune was in Bethesda and The Tribune was a good paper, but it was a Democratic paper, very frankly a Democratic paper. And Mr. Allen ran for County Commissioner just about every time there was an election on the Democratic ticket. He owned the paper and was its editor and its advertising manager also.

CUTLER: Was he ever elected a Commissioner?

DAIRYMPLE: No.

CUTLER: You say it was a Democratic paper. Was it sort of an establishment Democratic paper?

DAIRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: But he wasn't elected to office even though he was a member?

DAIRYMPLE: No, he was not. I don't know whether you remember, but even the political boss of Montgomery County at that time, who was Brooke Lee, was never elected to office.

CUTLER: Yes, that's true, but it was interesting still that sort of an establishment Democrat never got elected. In other parts of the county, Rockville, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, what papers were there?

DALRYMPLE: There was a Rockville Times and a Rockville Sentinel in Rockville. The Sentinel was one of a chain owned by Senator Stromberg from Ellicott City. The Rockville Times was started by local people in Rockville. The Takoma Park paper was the Takoma Journal which had Republican leanings and charter leanings, but it tried awfully hard to stay neutral. It was afraid...well, it just stayed neutral, I'll leave it like that. Then in Silver Spring, there was the Maryland News, the News Post and a Mr. Musser had a paper, which he later made a daily.

CUTLER: What was it called?

DALRYMPLE: I can't remember. And there was a little paper called the Gazette up at Gaithersburg. But the only paper that was for the charter was The Record. Now, at this point, I would like to show you something.

CUTLER: From Montgomery County Charter Commission. "My dear Mrs. Bradley: I do not know how to thank you for your consistent line and courageous service to the cause of charter in Montgomery County. In sunshine and rain, you have applauded and supported us. You never sat on the fence or climbed down on the other side. You have gone far beyond and above your duty. I hope you will come out Tuesday night so that I can publicly and personally thank you. With appreciation and best wishes. Norman B. Ames. P. S. You may use this as you see fit". Norman Ames was the final Charter Commission President, and this letter is dated October 10, 1948. So this is just before that final election in November of '48. At this point, when he wrote this letter, he didn't know what would happen?

DALRYMPLE: That's right. And the victory party was held in my office. That night when the results were coming in, I had this large office at the rear of the little old building called the Guild Building in Bethesda and everybody gathered there, an awful lot of charter people and my friends to hear the results. And we really celebrated of course, when we found out that we were victorious.

CUTLER: Who was there that night?

DALRYMPLE: I don't know whether I can tell you. Lew Sims, did you ever know Lew Sims, he was on the first Personnel Board and helped set up the charter government. Dorothy Himstead, was that her name?

CUTLER: I think there was one who was active in the League of Women Voters.

DALRYMPLE: Yes, and she was on the County Council, too. She ran for office. Stella Werner was there, Alice Hostetler dropped in. Of course, she was on the first proposed Charter Board but was not elected.

CUTLER: Well, you were there watching the scene and you say you were an early supporter of the charter movement. What other movements would you pick out and who were the people who were most significant in the cause of charter government over the years?

DALRYMPLE: I think the people who did the organizing in precincts and who kept feeding me and my paper, all the papers, the Star and the Post. But I used more of it, I guess, than they did. Now, I never had a cent of money from the charter, not one cent did I ever have.

CUTLER: Maybe they all subscribed.

DALRYMPLE: I don't know whether they did or not. But I never had one cent of money, I never asked them for any money. Although if I had been a Republican paper, I could have had money to support my paper.

CUTLER: And this is because the Republican party did come out for the charter?

DALRYMPLE: No, it didn't. That was before the charter fight. When I first started my paper, I was approached by them, to become a Republican paper in the county. They said, "We will be glad to help you, we will do anything we can." But that was just for the Republicans.

They didn't say, "You can support charter". I didn't even consider it. No one ever owned any part of my paper, except I had to become a corporation. I was the President of it, and I had to have two other people. My husband was one stockholder, he owned 10 shares and my bookkeeper owned 10 shares. I never took any money from anyone except for subscriptions and advertising.

CUTLER: In your observation of the whole charter movement, why from the very beginning, did you think the county needed the charter? What was the thing that mostly influenced you?

DALRYMPLE: When I went to work, I didn't know the county too well, so I went to work on the Journal. Then I started paying more attention, occasionally, I couldn't go to Rockville to every meeting for the Journal, but I went quite often and Day Thorpe went quite often. And we could see that that was not the kind of government that we believed in. It wasn't really representative government. Here was a political boss that we were told, (now we didn't know this to be a fact), but we were told that Brooke Lee sat in on all the secret county commissioner meetings and told them what to do. He was not an elected official, he was a political boss. Now Brooke Lee was a good friend of mine and I don't have a better friend than Blair Lee, his son, who later took over his father's paper and ran it at the time I had the Journal.

CUTLER: Was this the Maryland News?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, the Maryland News. He made a very fine paper out of it. And he had a great deal of respect for me and I had a great deal of respect for him. He was not for the charter. Right almost at the end, his father came out for the charter and Blair was wavering a little bit, but he never actually came out for the charter.

CUTLER: How did the father, Brooke Lee, if he didn't hold elected office, how did he maintain such close control?

DALRYMPLE: How did political bosses, how do they? I don't know how they do!

You ask them questions, you ask them if they are the political boss. "Oh, no, of course not, I'm just a citizen, I don't have all this influence that people say I have". But he was Chairman of the Park & Planning Commission and as such, he was a power. Before that, he had been appointed as Delegate to State Legislature and had even become Speaker of the House, through Democratic friendships. He ran for the House of Delegates, but he was not elected. But one of the men who was elected resigned and he was appointed. I think Brooke Lee was a very fine man. People try to tell me he was a crook. He was not a crook, I don't believe that he was. But he held this position on the Park & Planning Commission. He knew where the building permits were going, he knew where the zoning was going to be and he was a crony of all these Democratic commissioners and he was in a position where he could make money. He would buy property in the logical place that was going to develop. And then when it came time to develop, he sold it for high. He could have gone bankrupt. He was in very hard financial circumstances once, owed all kinds of money. He could have gone bankrupt, but to his credit, he never did. He paid it all off. But he was able to do it because he was in that position where he knew ahead of time where to buy land. And he wanted to continue to do that, that's why he was against charter, I think.

CUTLER: You think that the major opposition to charter came from the real estate interests in the county?

DALRYMPLE: No, I wouldn't say that, but I would say that his interests, the reason he was against it and his political friends were against it, well, they just felt that they weren't going to be able to control it. The Republicans took over and in the beginning, it seems to me, it was non-partisan. Then later on, it became partisan. I may be wrong about that, my memory is not very good.

CUTLER: No, I think you're right. From your position of being in contact with people who both opposed and supported the charter, what did you see as some of the reasons that people were opposed to charter, aside from the reasons that you just described?

DALRYMPLE: Well, I really think that people who were opposed were afraid of the change. They thought it was going to be expensive. And they said, "Leave well enough alone, leave well enough alone. You go into these things, you're going to pay higher salaries, you're going to have more employees and the public will have to pay the bill".

CUTLER: They thought it would raise taxes?

DALRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: What do you think of the argument that seemed to be the last argument against the charter when lawyers and others raised the argument that during the month of May was the only time County Council would be able to pass legislation, and so on, and they'd be paralyzed the rest of the year. Do you think this was a gimmick that they used or this was a genuine concern?

DALRYMPLE: Well, they may have been sincere in their beliefs that it would be paralyzed the rest of the year, but it wasn't once it came into effect. It wasn't paralyzed.

CUTLER: That's a little hard to understand.

DALRYMPLE: Is the State paralyzed because the Maryland Assembly sits only three months? No, you can pass ordinances any time, other than the month of May.

CUTLER: I guess so. I am sitting here looking at this letter that you showed me from the Charter Commission that you got, and I am looking at the names on this commission and I notice the name of Donald L. Chamberlin. He was, of course, an active real estate developer.

DALRYMPLE: Yes, he was.

CUTLER: And he was active on the Charter Commission. Well, now, that's interesting.

DALRYMPLE: I don't remember the names, let me look at the names. Warfield,

he was up-county. Mr. Feiser was secretary of the National Red Cross. He lived in Bethesda. I didn't know Mrs. Fickle, I don't remember who she was. Plummer Shearin was the Executive Director, a paid employee. Mrs. Werner was an Honorary Director. Mrs. Dinwoodie was a very hard worker who later became a member of the County Personnel Board. Eleanor Vaughn was one of the hard working people they had, she organized right down to the precincts. Marie Bennett helped us. Oh, there were so many people who worked for us, it doesn't seem right just to mention a few.

CUTLER: I can see that. What was your connection with Marie Bennett?

DALRYMPLE: I first knew Marie in the League of Women Voters way back. They had a League of Women Voters in Montgomery County when I first moved out there. I didn't know anything about the League at that time, and it was discontinued for some reason or other. Then Olive Clapper came out and she and Alice Hostetler and Marie Bennett sort of revived it. Now there are probably others maybe that did more than they did, but they are the people that I remember. And I joined but I didn't have very much time of course. I had to rely on the League to write their publicity and get it in to me. I didn't have time to go to meetings, but I published everything they ever wrote and every appeal they ever made and tried to be as helpful as I could in that way. I belonged to the League for a number of years until I sold my paper, I think. After that I went to work out at National Institutes of Health. My husband was ill. But that was in 1950.

CUTLER: We really have a lot of other things to talk about.

DALRYMPLE: I have talked an awful lot about myself.

CUTLER: Well, that's what we're here for. I think that this might be a good time to stop, and we can perhaps continue.

Today is November 1, 1971 and I am Margaret Cutler visiting Mrs. Gertrude Bradley Dalrymple at the home of Mrs. Guandolo, 8202 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, and we are going to resume our conversations about Mrs. Dalrymple's years in Montgomery County. I would first like to go back to some of the things we talked about last week, Mrs. Dalrymple. You were telling me the circumstances under which you began the Bethesda Record and you said that a dinner was given to you. Who gave this dinner?

DALRYMPLE: In reality, it was a luncheon, a businessmen's luncheon. Only businessmen were invited. Henry Hiser, it was his idea, asked me if I minded if he did that, and I said, "Oh, no, of course not". And I said, "Now, I'd like to pay for it", and he said, "You wouldn't do that to me, would you, this is my party". And he said, "All the businessmen who have used your paper will be there". And they were.

CUTLER: Who were they?

DALRYMPLE: Let me see. Art Bowis of Chevy Chase Motors. Carl Bachschmidt, Tom Elwood, Henry Conner, Robert Beall. It's hard to remember back that far, that was in '44.

CUTLER: I'm impressed with the way you brought these names up.

DALRYMPLE: William Hodges, who was manager of the C & P Telephone Co. office at that time. Walter Bogley, of the Bank of Bethesda, the only bank we had at that time. Well, there were a great many more than that.

CUTLER: I think you said there were around forty.

DALRYMPLE: Yes, forty.

CUTLER: I think you made a good start. Maybe some other names will come to you but that's an impressive list of Bethesda businessmen. Then you said that the women's clubs got busy and got you 1,000 paid subscribers in one week and I was wondering what women's clubs?

DALRYMPLE: Well, the Quota Club sent out a circular letter. Two of these Quota Club women who were interested in what I was trying to do were teachers at BCC High School. One was a speech teacher,

Mrs. Black, and the other was a commercial teacher, Lillian Moore. Mary Mohler who was head of the English department at BCC, joined them. They called other women they thought might be interested and these women started calling and turning in their subscriptions, and the girl at the office -- I had one of the girls who had volunteered to help me at the office -- by the way, Eugene Fry, who was the rental agent for this little Guild Building, where the Journal was located said to me, "Where are you going now when you start this paper"? And I said, "I hadn't even thought about it". He said, "Let me give you an offer, you just move out here in the lobby and I'll have a telephone installed for you and you can work from there and a little later, I'll try to get you a couple of offices". Well, that was a rather embarrassing location because the new people who had come to take over the Journal had to pass by my desk in order to get into the Journal offices. But I thought it was the kindest thing that Mr. Fry could possibly have done for me. It was really a wonderful thing and he didn't charge me any rent the first month, but he did after that. He found me an office within two weeks so that I had privacy.

CUTLER: Well, you have mentioned these two women, your bookkeeper and your advertising manager, but we really haven't put their names on the record. They should be.

DALRYMPLE: Margaret Radner volunteered to come and help me as a bookkeeper and she was my bookkeeper up until the day I sold the paper. She stayed with me all that time. The other woman who came with me was Joyce Mader. She wanted to sell advertising. She had never sold any advertising but she had sold real estate. She really wanted to try her hand at it and she really was very good. Of course, it took her a little while to learn how to lay out ads, but she was good, the men liked her, the business people, the women, too. And she brought in a lot of advertising. She worked for a couple of years but after that, she became tired of it. It was a kind

of a hobby with her because she had plenty of money herself. She didn't have to work for a living. Then I had a man who came from the Washington Post who was dissatisfied there, and he became my advertising manager.

CUTLER: Speaking of the Post and the Star too, what kind of coverage did they give Montgomery County affairs in those days?

DALRYMPLE: They really gave very good coverage. They always had a reporter at the commissioners' meeting and they gave pretty good coverage in writing up the stories.

CUTLER: Did they take a position on the charter, either on the first time or the second time?

DALRYMPLE: They did not take a position in their news stories, but both the Post and the Star felt the charter form of government was the coming form of government and that Montgomery County, as a modern county with very enlightened people, should have that kind of government. They expressed that editorially.

CUTLER: Both times?

DALRYMPLE: Both papers and with both charter fights, both the first one and the second one.

CUTLER: I remember that you said that the first issue you ever printed of the Record, you printed 3,000 copies. When you got into full swing, in its prime, approximately what was the circulation?

DALRYMPLE: My circulation was never more than 4,000. But it was paid. I belonged to the Audit Bureau of Circulation and they investigated every subscription. That was for the benefit of my advertisers. It was true that I had paid advertisers.

CUTLER: Was it during this period that you were President of the Montgomery County Press Association?

DALRYMPLE: No, it was later. It was just before I sold the paper in 1950.

CUTLER: Let's first find out just when you sold the paper. You did sell it in 1950.

DALRYMPLE: I sold it in 1950, I believe it was in June, 1950.

CUTLER: And to whom did you sell it?

DALRYMPLE: I sold it to a man by the name of Robert Jerome Smith. But the year before in 1949, I was not feeling too well--I suppose you could say I had ill health. I was 49 years old and was having difficulties. My mother was living with me and she was becoming senile, my husband was ill and I felt that I simply had to have more help than I had. I had been doing an awful lot of work myself. Roger Farquhar, from the Post...

CUTLER: You mean the Washington Post?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, the Washington Post, came to me and said that he would like to buy part of the paper, that he was tired of city newspapers, they were not personal enough. He felt that he wanted to work on a county paper where he could let himself go more and feel that he was doing something that was really valuable. So I sold him a one-third interest in the paper and I took four months' vacation. After Roger came on, he wasn't too well satisfied. He felt that the paper ought to enlarge, that we ought to become a county paper. We did try to enlarge and become a county paper, but that's a very difficult thing because there were already 7 or 8 papers in the county. Then I think Roger was a little bit sorry that he had left the Post. Anyhow, when Mr. Smith came along in 1950 and offered us a very good sum for the paper, (one-third at least would go to Roger), we decided to take it because it was just almost impossible for me to work the hours that I had been working all those years. And I was afraid that if I held on to it too much longer, that I would go in debt and I had no way to pay it off if I did, because you don't make very much money on a newspaper. At least I didn't make very much money. It paid for itself right from the very start, but it did that, I guess, because I did most of the work.

CUTLER: What title did Roger have?

DALRYMPLE: Roger became the Editor.

CUTLER: And you were the publisher then.

DALRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: And who was Mr. Smith, what was his interest in obtaining the paper?

DALRYMPLE: Roger Jerome Smith was married to the niece of one of the Woolworth heirs. And his wife wanted him...well, I think he was interested in weekly newspapers...but his wife wanted him to follow a newspaper career. He had tried a number of things and hadn't had much success at any of them. So she talked him into buying a string of weekly newspapers. And the first paper he bought was mine. He came to me and made this offer and I said, "I can't do anything about it Mr. Smith, unless Roger Farquhar wants to sell. If Roger would not be satisfied, I couldn't do anything about it, because he owns one-third of the paper". So all of our negotiations were with the two of us, three counting Mr. Smith. He told Roger that he could stay on as Editor of the paper and he would guarantee him a raise in salary and told him that he could run the paper pretty much as he wanted to run it. So we decided to sell, and we did, but Mr. Smith insisted that I stay on. That was in June of '50. Well, I had to take another vacation because I wasn't feeling too good then and I took about two months' vacation and then I came back on the paper and did whatever Mr. Smith wanted me to do, mostly write editorials and feature stories and things of that sort. And he paid me, of course. I stayed on the paper for two years but in the meantime, Roger Farquhar became dissatisfied with Mr. Smith too. Roger was a very smart man but he was...he wanted everything to happen at once instead of being patient and sort of working up on something. So he resigned. He had been paid, of course, for

his part, but he resigned and went over into Virginia and got a job on a paper in Virginia. I think there was probably a personality conflict as much as anything else. That meant I had to go back and take over the editorship of the paper and even though I didn't want to, I did because I had the check for my payments of my paper for over a three year period. For tax purposes, I didn't have to pay such a large capital gains tax if I took the payments over three years. I stayed with the paper for the three years, until I got all my money. Then I decided that I had sold the paper because I just didn't feel I could keep on working that hard and it was foolish for me to keep on working, so I resigned at the end of that period. Then, ...who became Editor?...He had a woman from Rockville, I don't remember who it was, she became Editor. Then Mr. Smith bought the Maryland News.

CUTLER: This was Blair Lee's paper.

DALRYMPLE: Blair Lee's paper. But in the meantime, Blair had given up the paper and had become Chief of the Park & Planning Commission. As I remember, that was the office he had. His father, Col. Lee was having trouble getting editors, getting people to work on the paper and he decided to sell. And when he sold, he sold the printing plant along with the Maryland News and Mr. Smith continued to publish the Record at the Maryland News printing plant, and they used a great deal of the same stories. All of the county news would be set up once and then used in both papers. He changed the name of the Record from the Record of Bethesda-Chevy Chase to the Record of Montgomery County.

CUTLER: So in a sense, the Maryland News and Record lost their individuality to some degree.

DALRYMPLE: Yes, they did.

CUTLER: Did Mr. Smith buy other newspapers?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, he bought the Rockville Times. He also bought the Bethesda Journal which by this time was owned by the printer. The Journal, I guess, owed the printer for printing and the printer took it over.

CUTLER: What was his purpose in buying two Bethesda papers? Were there any special assets?

DALRYMPLE: Opposition. The assets were their advertising contracts, that's all, because none of the papers had a printing plant. He didn't buy Mr. Allen's paper, the Tribune. Mr. Allen was not willing to sell, but he was the only one who didn't sell.

CUTLER: But he didn't consolidate them then into one paper. Did he dispose of any of them? Did he stop publishing any of them?

DALRYMPLE: He stopped publishing the Journal, that's all. But the Rockville Times continued to be published and the Record continued to be published and the Maryland News continued to be published. Those were the only three papers that he had.

CUTLER: How long did this continue, publishing newspapers?

DALRYMPLE: Not very long, I would say maybe two years and then he sold the papers. I think he sold the Maryland News back to Col. Lee and the plant. And he sold the Record. John R. Steelman, who was Truman's Administrative Assistant finally bought the paper. I'm not sure who bought in between. But John R. Steelman finally bought it and he made a pretty good paper out of it. He opened his offices over in Silver Spring. I think he bought it pretty much as a hobby because he liked to write and he had retired from the government when Truman was out. I don't think he went back into government. And it still was being run by John R. Steelman in Silver Spring as a county newspaper.

CUTLER: And the Journal stopped being published, and the News went back into the Lee family. Why don't we talk now about your experiences with the Montgomery County Press Association because you were President at one point.

DALRYMPLE: Yes, but the Montgomery County Press Association wasn't doing anything in particular. We met for lunch and talked about things in the county, talked about some of our problems. We usually had a speaker from one of the city papers, and we had a scholarship. We each paid in as much as we wanted each year and provided a scholarship for a journalism student at BCC, Montgomery Blair and Richard Montgomery. There were just three high schools in the county at that time. The rest of our activity was pretty largely social.

CUTLER: One other tiny little thing about your experience with your own paper. You mentioned Stella Werner's role in bringing the news back to you about County Council and eventually, you put in a column with her by-line and this was really her first exposure of her name.

DALRYMPLE: In the newspaper... But Stella was the public relations person, I don't know what they called her, in the first charter attempt. People knew her name because she was...well, they may have called her Executive Chairman or something like that. She held the same kind of job that Flummer Shearin held for the second charter fight.

CUTLER: Sort of an Executive Director?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, but she was not full time and he was. She was just part time. But her name was never brought before the public in newspapers before. But once she started writing this column, once she started bringing the news in and I wrote it for her until she felt that she could do it herself, her name constantly was before the public.

CUTLER: The thing I wanted to bring out was that you mentioned that after you turned the paper off, you ran her picture as well.

DALRYMPLE: Her picture was at the top of the column.

CUTLER: So she had her name and her picture as her identification.

DALRYMPLE: After Mr. Smith came on, she stopped writing the column.

CUTLER: Turning to the charter fights that we have just been mentioning, the victory party in your office when the charter was actually passed by the voters, then they didn't have a whole lot of time, did they, to name candidates for the First County Council. Did you have any role in the choosing of those nominees. After all, you had been very active all this time. Did anybody consult you as to who you thought would be desirable?

DALRYMPLE: No, we did that as a committee. There were a number of people named to the committee to sound out people. First the committee would decide on who might be a good candidate. Then, they would sound out these folks to see if they would be willing to run.

CUTLER: Did you serve on this committee?

DALRYMPLE: I served on that committee, but I actually never sounded out any of the candidates because I didn't have much time. But I did go to committee meetings and we did a lot of advising and consenting.

CUTLER: How many people were on this committee, roughly?

DALRYMPLE: I think there were 12 or 15.

CUTLER: Who was the chairman of this committee?

DALRYMPLE: I cannot remember.

CUTLER: Can you remember any other people who were on that committee?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, the chairman lived in Silver Spring. He had been very active on the Montgomery County Civic Federation. He was a lawyer in the government. I think I told you before I started that my memory is very, very poor.

CUTLER: That name will come to you in the middle of the night or at some odd moment.

DALRYMPLE: I don't know, but I can't remember it right now. I can find out though. Stella Werner, the last time I talked to her, has a marvelous memory and she could set me straight on an awful lot of this.

CUTLER: Are there any other people who were on that committee you would remember?

DALRYMPLE: Well, they were really all men. Let me see...I think one man lived down here on Glenbrook Road.

CUTLER: Fred Lee?

DALRYMPLE: Fred Lee! Then, there were a number of upper county people. A man by the name of Smith, a Col. Smith and afterwards he became a Councilman.

CUTLER: You mentioned that most of those people were men. You must have been one of the early professional women in our county. Do you have any comments, in these days, of the attention to women's activities, any special comments about your experience as a woman in the professional life of Montgomery County?

DALRYMPLE: My business life, I guess you could call it professional, was always very pleasant. I never met with any setbacks. The men were always very nice to me and tried to help me along, not financially, but the businessmen gave me their advertising. That's all I expected of them. The other people, the civic leaders, were always very kind to me. I went to a great deal of their meetings, I think I mentioned that I was a correspondent for the Star for twelve years.

CUTLER: Well, I'm not sure we did talk about that. Why don't we talk about it now.

DALRYMPLE: During the war, I believe this was in 1942, George Porter...I'll come back to his name. He was the state Editor of the Star. He was also in the Naval Reserve and he was called into service. He came out to the Journal when I was working on the Journal, and said that the Evening Star had always had a reporter at the Montgomery County Civic Federation meetings which were held every month, except in the summertime (I think there were two months when they were not held), and he said, "We do not have a

professional staff at the Star sufficiently large to cover these meetings, but we wondered if you would be interested". George Porter! That was his name.

CUTLER: You see, they just pop out if you let them.

DALRYMPLE: Yes. "We wonder if you would be interested in taking over the job. It doesn't pay much but we'll pay you more as you go along, depending on how you write". Well, for 12 years I covered the Civic Federation for the Star. I went to the meetings and that night, after I got home, I wrote up the story, and called it in the next morning in time for the county edition of the Star. I think it went to press about 10:00 o'clock. I had to call in pretty early in order to get it in print in time.

CUTLER: And you were able then, you had been involved for your own paper.

DALRYMPLE: That's right.

CUTLER: Well, that's quite interesting. Perhaps we could move on from your newspaper career. There were many other things you did in this community. I might make sure I have asked you all the charter questions I wanted to. You were pretty close to that second charter fight in 1948 and I do think that last time you mentioned that although Blair Lee never came out and endorsed charter, his father did in 1948. I wonder what you think was the reason that Col. Lee, after opposing the charter so bitterly the first go-round, finally did come out and support it in 1948.

DALRYMPLE: I sort of felt that he had the philosophy of, "Well, if you can't beat them, join them".

CUTLER: Then when it did pass and the candidates had to be elected to the first County Council, why do you think the Democratic party, which had been so strong, did not offer a slate of candidates. Do you have any thoughts about that?

DALRYMPLE: I suppose they thought that since the charter fight had been pretty strongly against the Democratic machine in the county, (most of the propaganda was pointed toward the fact that we did have a Democratic machine in the county, the Republican party was pretty loose back in those days) that it was useless.

CUTLER: I see. Were you at all familiar with some of the people who opposed the charter. For instance, Wes Sauter?

DALRYMPLE: I knew Wes Sauter. He was a Republican member of the county commissioners and I guess he didn't want to lose his job.

CUTLER: I see.

DALRYMPLE: Brooke John was a Republican member and he opposed it also.

CUTLER: What about Sam Bogley. He was a big name in the county in those days.

DALRYMPLE: Well, Sam Bogley was tied up with the Democratic machine. He ran for office, but he wasn't elected.

CUTLER: Do you think that was connected with why he didn't go out for the charter?

DALRYMPLE: Well, I don't think I know why he didn't go out for it. I wouldn't say that, because he wasn't elected. His father was Emery Bogley and his father had been tied up with the Democratic regime in the county and it sort of came natural to Sam, I guess. Sam was in the real estate business then. He was a businessman, and a lot of the businessmen, as I told you before, were really neutral, they didn't want change, or they were against it.

CUTLER: Would you want, in any way, to summarize the factors that you think made for final success of charter when it was finally passed?

DALRYMPLE: Well, I think it was hard work on the part of the charter organization. They really did a memorable job in organizing the county and getting publicity in the papers and holding meetings, doing everything they could. Because they thought, "If we are defeated twice, we are lost. We've got to win this time". And then we also had Plummer Shearin, who was a paid employee, who was working very hard in organizing.

CUTLER: Then he has gone on.

DALRYMPLE: He's a judge now. He was a very capable young man. After the charter fight, he worked for me for a couple of months, selling advertising, because he just didn't know what he was going to do. But he wasn't interested in it and he resigned. He realized that he wasn't a salesman.

CUTLER: Had he gone to law school at this point?

DALRYMPLE: Oh, yes.

CUTLER: He was a lawyer at this point?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, he had been in law school before he came here, but he had not passed the Maryland Bar.

CUTLER: Let's go back to some of the things you did in the community. You were a member of the Women's Club in Bethesda.

DALRYMPLE: I was a member and I was Secretary and 1st Vice President.

And if I had not gone into the newspaper business, I would have been President of Women's Club. The Vice President ordinarily went into the Presidency. I couldn't do that and work too. It was just not possible.

CUTLER: What kind of a program did they have?

DALRYMPLE: Part of it was a study program, a lot of it was social. I would say back in those early days, a great part of it was social. They had a very fine book review section which I enjoyed. I also enjoyed the social part, because I was new in the community. I think I joined in 1933 or '34, shortly after I came into the county and it was a good way to become acquainted with people. We had some very fine women; Mrs. Grosvenor, Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor's wife was one of the Presidents. There were other very prominent women, I can't remember just who they are now.

CUTLER: Was it a large club?

- DALRYMPLE: No, it was a small club. They owned their own clubhouse and it was practically paid for by the time I came. It wasn't nearly as large as Chevy Chase Women's Club, which of course, combined Chevy Chase, Maryland and Chevy Chase, D.C. members.
- CUTLER: But the kinds of women were fairly representative of the community or were they from one segment of the community?
- DALRYMPLE: No, they were fairly representative of Bethesda.
- CUTLER: Now, you did some other things in the community. What was your earliest connection with the Bethesda Library Association?
- DALRYMPLE: My earliest connection wasn't very early except to go get books in it. It wasn't really until toward the end that I was elected a member of the Board of Trustees. Unlike Winston Churchill, who said that he wasn't elected Premier until the disintegration of the English empire or something to that effect, that was practically what I did. We were growing into the county system at the time I was President. I was their last President, in fact, before they went into the county system.
- CUTLER: Had you had a term as a Trustee before you became President?
- DALRYMPLE: Yes.
- CUTLER: You had two terms on the Board of about two years apiece?
- DALRYMPLE: No, I just had one term, but I was President. I think we were elected for three year terms.
- CUTLER: So when you went on the Board, it was already destined to go into the county system, or did you have to engineer that part of it too?
- DALRYMPLE: No, it was already destined, they had made that decision. The difficulty of it was that when the Bethesda Library was formed, a special taxing area included Bethesda only. Chevy Chase was not interested in coming in, because they used the District Library system. So we had a special taxing area over here and tax from this taxing area had built up

a considerable sum of money with which we hoped to buy land and build a library. Because that was in the days before they even considered a county library system. Well, the land had been purchased before I became a member of the Board of Trustees, land over here on Moorland Lane. And the contract had been let for the new library. Faulkner & Kingsbury were the architects. Just about this time, they were told they would have to make a decision whether or not they were going into the county library or whether they were going to stay out. They could go into the county library; they could stay out, but if they stayed out, they'd be taxed twice. They'd still have to pay the special taxing area tax to maintain the library, but they'd have to pay the county tax too, that would be included in the general tax. Well, that didn't seem fair so they decided to go in. But here we had let the building contract for the building, as far as I remember. The county said they would put up part of the building that had been planned. Then before we legally went into the county library system, we had accumulated money from this special tax that the county hadn't taken over and it didn't properly belong to the county, because our people in the Bethesda area had paid it. I think we had about \$10,000. Well, decisions had to be made about what to do with that \$10,000. The things that we did, and I was President then, was we air conditioned the library; we paid for all of the landscaping; we bought Salterini furniture for the outside garden; and the very last \$1,000 the Board had, they decided to spend on publishing a history of Bethesda if I would write the book.

CUTLER: And that's how your history came about?

DALRYMPLE: That's right.

CUTLER: I have seen that History of Bethesda. How did you go about writing this book?

DALRYMPLE: While I was working on the Journal and while I was running the

Record, I had accumulated a lot of historical material. Back on the Journal, a Miss Holman, who lives here in Bethesda (she called herself a historian), had written a lot of history which had been printed in the Bethesda Journal. It had also been printed in the Tribune, but it was very long and wordy and it would have cost \$10,000 just to have printed her stories the way they were. So the library made a compact with her. They said, "We'll give you \$250 if you'll give us the rights to have Mrs. Bradley re-write these stories in very simple form so that we can afford to publish them." *[tape runs out after a few more sentences]*

Today is November 17, 1971 and I am Margaret Cutler. I am again visiting Mrs. Gertrude Bradley Dalrymple at Scientists Cliffs, Maryland and we are going to have our third conversation about Mrs. Dalrymple's experiences in Montgomery County. At the end of our last talk, Mrs. Dalrymple, you were telling me about your part in presiding over the transition of the Bethesda Library Association into the Montgomery County Library system. Was there anything else you wanted to tell me about that?

DALRYMPLE: I don't remember the last sentence, do you remember it?

CUTLER: You were explaining the history that the Association was having written.

DALRYMPLE: Yes, I went to work on the material. First though, I had to get a publisher, some printer who would sign a contract to publish this small book for \$1,000 because that's all the money I had. Mr. Moreland, who was the county librarian at this time, (he had been hired as the county librarian and he was very cooperative) thought such a book would be very helpful, not only to the Bethesda Library, but to the county library system. So he said, "I'll help you get a printer". He contacted a printer in Gaithersburg who said he would be willing to do the work, but I would have to keep it within, I think it was 100 pages. As it turned out, it was 122 pages, but he was very nice and decided to let us have it at no extra cost. The book came off the press and then I had to find someone who would be willing to sell it. So I went to the Cucumber Book Shop in Bethesda, and George Carpenter who owns the shop, agreed

to sell the book without charging any commission. We decided on \$1 for each book. If we sold 1,000 copies, that would pay for the money we paid out to the printers and the library would be repaid for putting out its \$1,000. Mr. Moreland asked that 20 copies...be bound in hardback, which cost us extra money. Those we gave to people who had been written up in the book, members of the last Board of Trustees of the library and to Miss Holman who was responsible for half the historical material. Then the printer said, "Well, while I have this type set up, I think it would be a fine thing if you would order another 1,000 copies. I can let you have them for \$400." The library had no more money, so I put up the \$400 myself for the second thousand. Of course, they really belonged to me but a great many of them, I would say at least half of them, I gave to the library, from time to time. The county library system had them bound so they would be more useful and last longer. Perhaps half of them were sold. I think I may have gotten back my \$400. I didn't keep any records of those because they were my own and I was not responsible to the library system. All of the first printing were sold, the money didn't come to me but was deposited in an account at a Bethesda bank. The Bethesda branch librarian could co-sign with me to write checks on the account. The Board of Trustees thought that a good way to use this money as it came in, was to set up a collection of musical recordings in the Bethesda Library for the use of the Bethesda Library only. All the money as it came in was spent for that purpose. That's what started the first collection of library records in the county and soon it spread to the whole county system.

CUTLER: So you could say, a few minutes ago and I guess perhaps in the last interview, you said that the last \$1000 went for the history. It went for the history but the money from the book sales amounted to \$1,000. This started the record library?

DALRYMPLE: That's right. So far as I was concerned, that was the end of my

job as President of the Association. All I had to do then was to take the minute book, make an accounting of the books sold and the fact that the proceeds had been turned over to the Bethesda Library, and file all these things with the librarian. So far as I know, those records are still a part of the library. So that anyone who wanted to go and check, could do so.

CUTLER: At the time that you became President of the Bethesda Library Association, was the Montgomery County library system under way?

DALRYMPLE: It was under way and we had decided to go in.

CUTLER: Did you have any opportunity to participate in the beginning of the county library system or to observe its beginning?

DALRYMPLE: No.

CUTLER: Because in the nature of things, that's a fairly recent occurrence. We went for a long time without a county library system but that was really not part of your involvement then.

DALRYMPLE: Really, I had nothing to do with the county system as such. I worked with Mr. Moreland, who was the county librarian. But this book came out in 1956, I believe, and by that time, the library system had been in existence for several years.

CUTLER: It seems to me that you were present at the birth of another rather important institution of the county. Weren't you involved with the beginnings of the Suburban Hospital?

DALRYMPLE: Well, I was involved only through the newspaper. I did not own it, I was the Editor at the time, -- that was the Bethesda Journal. The Suburban Hospital was a community project. The community had to raise a certain amount of money through pledges to give silverware, to give dishes, to sponsor rooms, to sponsor surgical instruments, to do all kinds of things. All of this had to be done before the federal government would promise to match funds and build the hospital. Really, all that I did at that time in the beginning, was to give them all the publicity they wanted. It was while I

still was on the Journal, in fact about a month before I started my own paper. The hospital was opened and dedicated and one of the last things I did on the Journal, was put out a special edition of the paper about the hospital, about its history, about how it came to be, show a picture of the new building, telling who the officers were and the administrator of the hospital and the supervisor, things of that sort. It was later on, I can't remember just exactly when, but I was on the Board of Trustees for a period of three years. I think the Trustees changed, the terms of office were three years, people went off the Board every year and it was then that I came in. I think I went off the Board in 1954, after I had sold my paper. So I must have been in, in the early '50's.

CUTLER: At the time the hospital was getting started and you were giving it this publicity, who were your chief contacts, who was feeding you new material, etc.?

DALRYMPLE: Marjorie Garfield, who was on the Board at the time. Virginia...I can't remember her last name, but she was Publicity Chairman for a year or so then Marjorie Garfield was Publicity Chairman for a year or so. They sent the material to me and then I had reporters who went out on special assignments to check on various things.

CUTLER: When you were on the actual Board, what were you involved in? Did you have any special responsibilities, were there special decisions that confronted you?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, when I was on the Board, we had decided to expand the hospital. The early hospital was a frame building. It was designed as a sort of temporary hospital. By that time, the hospital had grown to the extent that...I mean the community had grown to the extent that the hospital was not adequate. I was on the Board at the time we made the decision to raise money to start the first permanent building. The new building was designed in the form of a Y and as they built this part and that part, they would take down part

of the old hospital. I remember that I was on the Board when they decided to do that. The Board had tried to get people to give, to make gifts to the hospital again and all members of the Board made donations to the hospital. My donation was not very big because I couldn't afford to do as much as some of the Board members who were rather wealthy people, but I gave what I could.

CUTLER: Who were the moving forces on the Board at that time in promoting this decision to go for a big hospital?

DALRYMPLE: Well, Mr. Morgan, what was his name?

CUTLER: Charles Morgan?

DALRYMPLE: Charles Morgan as I remember it, was President of the Association at that time. Mr. Banfield was still there afterwards. Mr. Morrell, who died very recently, was the first President of the Hospital Association.

CUTLER: Who was Mr. Morrell, his name is not familiar to me.

DALRYMPLE: He was a lawyer, he lived on Montgomery Avenue down past the Post Office and he was very active in the early civic life of Bethesda.

I can't remember whether Randolph Bishop was on the Board, but Randolph Bishop at that time was connected with the National Red Cross. He was one of the men who worked hardest to get the hospital. He worked with Mr. Morrell and Mr. Banfield and all the early people who later became members of the first Board of Trustees. Most of those people have died. Mr. Banfield I think, is still living; Mr. Morrell is dead; Mr. Bishop is dead.

CUTLER: Fund raising was perhaps their chief talent.

DALRYMPLE: Fund raising and making the community aware of the need for a hospital. That wasn't easy to do.

CUTLER: Seems to me that I saw on the masthead of your paper, "Bethesda, The Health Capital of the World".

DALRYMPLE: "Health Center of the World". I adopted that because of an interview with Randolph Bishop back when I first started my paper. He was a man with a vision and he could see that with the National Institutes of Health, the Naval Hospital on the right hand side of Wisconsin Avenue and the Institutes on the other, and the Suburban Hospital as a new child just beginning, he could see that Bethesda was some day going to be a wonderful health center. In fact, I think he suggested that I adopt that as my motto. He also suggested that I use a little picture of the tower of the Naval Hospital featured between "The" and "Record". I carried that for a number of years. In fact, I carried that all the time I owned the paper and Mr. Smith, who got it, dropped it.

CUTLER: But he suggested that picture?

DALRYMPLE: That's right.

CUTLER: Very interesting. He had quite a sense of public relations, didn't he?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, he did. He lived in Bethesda and his wife, who died also, was very active in the beginning of the hospital. Many of the women in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area helped out, organized the hospital auxilliary and worked themselves. I belonged to the auxilliary, I paid dues, but I never did any work because I was either employed or had my own newspaper and had no time to work at the hospital.

CUTLER: You were contributing in other ways. Then later, you actually worked for NIH. Did you get any special insights into health institutions?

DALRYMPLE: I went over to NIH in '54. My mother was living with me, in very poor health, and was failing mentally. My husband had had his first cancer operation, of which he died in '58. I had sold my paper and had dropped out of the newspaper business. I wasn't even workong on the Star

then, I resigned from that. But I wasn't satisfied, I wasn't happy. I wanted something to do. But I didn't want anything to do that was very challenging. I just didn't feel that I could handle it if I took on something that was very difficult. So I went over and asked for a job. I took a Civil Service examination for a job as a receptionist, somewhere in the Clinical Center. One came up in the Occupational Therapy Service as a receptionist-secretary. I worked there for 8 years. It was an unimportant job, the pay was not good, I think I was only a Grade 4 or 5, I can't remember which, but it gave me a chance to know what was going on in the Clinical Center because most of the patients who were ambulatory came to our area for their occupational therapy and I got to know all of them, could talk to them, find out what they were doing. All employees, about once a month, were expected to sit in on discussions by the head doctor of the Physical Therapy Department and they brought in other doctors. For instance, they brought in a doctor who was a heart surgeon who told us exactly what he did in performing open heart surgery and doctors, who were making special studies of mental patients. A great many of our patients on Occupational Therapy were mental patients. They were not seriously ill--mentally--, but they were too ill to live with their families and there was this special study going on. I found the work very interesting. I worked there until Mr. Dalrymple and I were married. We were married in April and I worked half time after we were married until October, so that I would have been there long enough to take my retirement and my fringe benefits into my retirement.

CUTLER: What year was that?

DALRYMPLE: That was in '62.

CUTLER: So you had quite a window into the institution of NIH.

DALRYMPLE: I found it very, very interesting. But I was just such a tiny

little cog in the wheel so when people asked me, "Did you know so-and-so"?, I didn't know those people, I didn't know the important people, but I knew the patients. That was the most satisfying thing to me.

CUTLER: You were looking for a job you didn't have to carry home with you at night, so this was ideal. It must have been in those years that you joined the Cedar Lane Church. Were you a charter member?

DALRYMPLE: No, I joined the Cedar Lane Church in '51, I think. The church was set up in '51. I have a little book which will refresh my memory.

It was in June of '51 when the Board of Trustees of All Souls Unitarian Church voted to support the formation of Montgomery County Unitarian Center as an instrumentality of All Souls. My husband and I were not members of All Souls Church but we had been attending services there for 2-3 years and liked Mr. Davies, liked him very much. When the new Center was started, we went in with the other people who were interested. At the time I think there were about 25 people who signed up as charter members and we were among those. I was also a member of the committee to select a minister, which was a very interesting thing because it gave me insight of what goes on into the organization of a church and what they are looking for in a minister. We found just about what we wanted in John Baker, a Unitarian minister who had just come back from Europe where he had been assigned during the post-war period. The church grew very rapidly. Really, it was not a church, it was a Center and it was not until a couple of years later, as I remember, that it became a Church. Meetings were held in the Chevy Chase Women's Club which was adequate at the time for the first meetings, but it was not adequate for the children because the Sunday School grew much faster than the membership. It seems there were very many people in Bethesda-Chevy Chase who wanted their children to go to Unitarian Church School, whether or not they went to the Church itself. So we had a

little difficulty for a while. But everybody was so enthusiastic about the new church, trying to help it along. Some of the people as I remember were Irving Rimmel and Samuel A. Towne. They were two of the original members from All Souls who were assigned to set up the church. They were very hard working and very inspiring people to work with.

CUTLER: As you worked with the people in the church, did you have any special feeling about the kinds of people who were attracted to Unitarianism?

DALRYMPLE: Really, I felt that they were all wonderful.

CUTLER: Were they a typical Montgomery County cross section?

DALRYMPLE: Seems to me that they were a little bit above the average of most of the people I have known previously in church circles. Many of them were intellectual. I was not an intellectual, but I enjoyed these people who were. But the thing that impressed me most about the Unitarian Church was the fact that to be a Unitarian, you had to want to practice your religion. If you didn't practice it, you didn't have any. And all of these people seemed to me to practice theirs. And the Church itself, after we got a building, stood out as an institution that wanted to help in any way it could in the community. I know that later, after we had the building partly finished, there was a time when almost every single room in the church was filled with some kind of a different civic group or school group, almost every day of the week. And all of these free of charge.

CUTLER: Now in addition to using its building for community purposes, does the church reach out and involve itself in other ways in the community?

DALRYMPLE: Yes, in a great many ways. I was surprised that John Baker was welcomed into the Council of Churches and took part in their deliberations. He soon became well known in mental health circles

and was interested in just about everything that was going on in the community at the time. And the people themselves, the members were very enthusiastic about all of these things also. I'm not a very good speaker when it comes to interpreting Unitarianism, so I'd rather not talk too much about it.

CUTLER: I was only interested in what impact you thought it perhaps had had on the community life of the county. Did you feel that there was some involvement in political issues in various controversies in the community?

DALRYMPLE: Oh yes, most churches up to this time had stayed out of politics. They felt that that was no place for the church. But Unitarianism had a place anywhere where the community welfare was at stake. It was their job to be active there.

CUTLER: Do you have any general comments since we have now covered the span of your life in the county from 1932 to...you said that you married Mr. Dalrymple in 1962 and then how long after that was it before you left Montgomery County?

DALRYMPLE: Three years.

CUTLER: So now we can get back then, that would have been from 1932 to 1965. Do you have any general thoughts about changes that occurred during that period in terms of the county, its growth in any particular way?

DALRYMPLE: I think it was a privilege to have lived in Montgomery County during all those years. Bethesda was a tiny, little village when I first came here. I watched Bethesda become really the health center of the world and had some small part in making the public aware of its importance. I felt it was a wonderful place in which to bring up my daughter. I had only one child. I thought it was a privilege to have the neighbors that I had, and to be able to serve in some small way in all of these organizations-- and most of the time it was a small way.

CUTLER: You knew a number of people who were very active in the community, and I wonder if I could ask you about several of them. You have mentioned earlier Eleanor Vaughn, who is no longer living to tell

us her story and I wonder if you could tell me something about when she came to Montgomery County and how she became active. You mentioned that she was so active in getting the charter voted in. What can you tell us about her?

DAIRYMPLE: Well, Eleanor Vaughn lived on my street. She moved to Oneida Lane. She moved onto that street the year after we built our house, which would have been in '35. Her husband was with the Department of Agriculture, Land Grant Colleges. Eleanor was from Rhode Island and was a graduate of Pembroke. She was a very civic-minded person but not at all out-going, a very modest person. But when she took over a job, she really did a very fine job. When the charter movement came along, she decided that that's the place where she could serve best. She helped organize the county right down to the smallest precinct to help in that charter fight. She was active in the League of Women Voters. I can't remember too much about what she did, but I know she belonged. She belonged to the Christian Science Church.

CUTLER: What did she do after she had served so well to get the charter in. Did she have any further involvement?

DAIRYMPLE: She did not take an office. A number of people who worked so hard did take office, either ran for member of Council or became a Personnel Officer, or something of that sort. But Eleanor did not want to be employed. She wanted to give her time. I think she contributed her activities in the League of Women Voters.

CUTLER: You mentioned Mr. Hiser at one point and you apparently did know him well. He was certainly a figure of prominence in Bethesda for a number of years. Do you have any particular observations?

DAIRYMPLE: Mr. Hiser and I were friends from the very first time I met him in Bethesda, which was in the very early thirties. He was the owner of the Hiser Theatre. He had taken it over from another man who had started it and it became a failure. We disagreed on a great many things, particularly when the civil rights movement was started. Mr. Hiser was a bigot

in some respects. He did not allow Negroes to come to his theatre and even after the decisions by the Court, when he had to admit them, they were admitted and kept on the back rows. We had several discussions, but never could come to a meeting of the minds. Whenever I had any mention of Negroes and their rights in my paper, he would come down to the office and complain about it. "You don't have to put that in the paper, just ignore it". Well, I'm not the kind of person who ignores things, so we really came to a parting of the way in a way, but we were still very good friends, except that our philosophy of life was different, entirely different.

CUTLER: But the discussions you referred to always occurred when he came to your office to complain about your policies. I am wondering if there are any other community figures with which you had any special involvement or people whom you think deserve special mention as having contributed to Montgomery County.

DALRYMPLE: To me, Thomas Pyle who was principal of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School for many years was one of the finest men that I have ever known. And I think he did more to influence the young people of Bethesda-Chevy Chase than most any of the church people as far as I was concerned. To me, he was one of the strongest characters that I met in my early years in Bethesda.

CUTLER: How did you meet him? You perhaps met him as a parent but in what other way?

DALRYMPLE: When my daughter was quite young, the depression was on and it was very difficult for most people to live on the little bit of money they had. And one of the teachers at the high school suggested that I go over and apply for a job as a substitute teacher. They needed substitute teachers very badly. I did that and that was the way I met Mr. Pyle first. I was not able to take very many assignments as a substitute teacher because my daughter was small and it wasn't always possible to get someone to take care of

her. Besides, the pay for a substitute teacher back in those days was \$3.50 a day. Hard to believe! And the teacher paid it, not the school system and sometimes you didn't get paid after you had worked. Of course, I had someone take care of my child, usually one of the neighbors would do that. But I was interested in doing it. I was interested in making contacts in the community. And that's how I came to know Mr. Pyle and through the years, I worked with him in a great many things. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Educational Foundation--I was a charter member of that organization. Mr. Pyle was a member. One of our members who was an officer on the U.S. News & World Report, (can't remember his name right now), set up a fund of \$10,000 and that's how this Education Foundation started. It was for granting scholarships to worthy students. We wouldn't meet too often. We met when we were called and Mr. Pyle usually called the meetings. We would consider the young people who had applied for scholarships. But the way he went about handling problems was what impressed me and I really had a great deal of liking for the man and I liked his integrity. Well, I liked just about everything about him. I thought he was a wonderful person. And one of the chapters in my little history of Bethesda is about Mr. Pyle's contribution to the community.

CUTLER: He seemed to be very generally recognized. Were there any other people that you met as you moved around that you think are particularly worthy in their contributions?

DAIRYMPLE: Another man I met early in my life there on the Bethesda Journal and was assigned to interview him was Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, Editor of National Geographic. Mrs. Grosvenor had been President of Bethesda Women's Club, I think the year I went into the club. I knew her very slightly but after I interviewed Dr. Grosvenor, I became very much interested in him. It was not that he made such a contribution to the Bethesda area, but

the fact that he had built the National Geographic magazine himself almost single-handed from the beginning. He was the son-in-law of Alexander Graham Bell and Mr. Bell had the idea, I think, but Dr. Grosvenor was the first Editor of it. I was very much impressed with what he had done and the fact that he was such a fine, cultured person. And I was just glad to be considered a friend of the family.

CUTLER: Mrs. Grosvenor, though, must have had some interest in the Bethesda area. Was she more than just a President, was she also one of the founders of Bethesda Women's Club? I heard that she was.

DALRYMPLE: I would have to go back. I assume she was. There was a Mrs. Getzendanner, Mrs. Charles Corby and Mrs. Grosvenor were the very early people who formed the club. That was before I came into the club, though. I think I have that material in an article about the Women's Club in my little history.

CUTLER: Good. Well, then in 1965, you moved down into this beautiful little spot overlooking the Chesapeake Bay. Although we are sitting here in Calvert County, I have some dim memories that Scientists' Cliffs has some ties to Montgomery County, too, doesn't it? Wasn't it founded by a Chevy Chase resident?

DALRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: Can you tell us about that?

DALRYMPLE: G. F. Gravatt was a son of Mrs. Inez Gravatt who was a piano teacher and lived on Leland Street in the early days of Bethesda. Mr. Gravatt grew up there, but at the time when he founded Scientists' Cliffs, he was not living in Bethesda nor was his mother. They had sold their home and moved away. He and Mrs. Gravatt lived at the Methodist Building up at Capitol Hill at the time he founded Scientists Cliffs.

CUTLER: When did you discover Scientists Cliffs?

DALRYMPLE: Well, he founded Scientists Cliffs in 1935. In 1938, I made my

first visit to Scientists Cliffs. We rented here for nine years every summer, not for the whole summer of course, but as many weeks as we could afford. In 1945, we became members of the Scientists Cliffs Association and built the home in which we now live, in 1947. After Mr. Bradley's death in '58, I married Mr. Dalrymple in '62 and we moved here in '65. We think it's just a little paradise on earth.

CUTLER: Tell me a little bit about Scientists Cliffs Association, who belongs and what are its concerns, etc?

DALRYMPLE: When Mr. Gravatt came down here, the Department of Agriculture sent him down to study the chestnut blight. There had been a blight that had killed most of the chestnut trees in the whole area and he came down to examine some of these trees and see if there was anything the Department of Agriculture could do about it. He was so enamored of the place that he thought, "I'm going to see if I can't buy a farm here". His wife was in New England at the time, but as soon as she came back he brought Mrs. Gravatt down and showed her the farm which at that time took in two hundred acres. The main part that he was interested in of course, was on the Bay, had two miles of Bay front. He also had to buy all this land behind it in order to get the water front. Well, he invited some of his friends down and they liked it. First, he built a cabin for himself. He had it built out of chestnut wood, this dead chestnut wood. It was built down on one of the high cliffs overlooking Chesapeake Bay.

CUTLER: I heard of wormy chestnut, but this must have been blighted chestnut.

DALRYMPLE: It was blighted chestnut. Then he started inviting his friends to come down, look the place over. Most of them liked it so much that they said, "Sell us a little plot. We'd like to build a cabin too". Well, when I first came down in '37, there were ten houses in Scientists Cliffs,

all clustered around Mr. Gravatt's Chestnut Cabin, as he called it. And they were all from the Department of Agriculture. Of course, they had friends who were not in the Department of Agriculture and they asked their friends to come down and see the wonderful place Scientists Cliffs was. They had decided to call it Scientists Cliffs, although Mrs. Gravatt for a while called it "Flipppo's Folly". She wasn't very enthusiastic about Scientists Cliffs in the very early days. They thought they could give it a better name than that, so they called it Scientists Cliffs because there were scientific deposits in the cliffs that were very interesting and because most of their friends were scientists in the Department of Agriculture or the Bureau of Standards, some agency of the government. In '37, the members decided that they needed some kind of an organization to control the place. They had to have water; they had to have septic tanks; and they had to have some kind of a road; and they had to have stairwells down to the beach because the cliffs were high. So they formed this organization--the Scientists Cliffs Association. There were about six incorporators, I guess. From that grew an association which now has 224 family memberships. There are fifty families who live here the year round, mostly retired people. Some are school teachers with young children. Now some are engineers who are assigned to the Baltimore Gas & Electric atomic power plant. They are building houses and moving their families in on a permanent basis. The founders soon realized that they were going to have to set up a little more permanent organization and they were going to have to have rules and regulations. People wanted to buy more lots and build houses, so they decided to have a membership committee. In order to be eligible for membership, one of a couple had to be a college graduate. They were not trying to be snooty, they just wanted to keep it a little bit above the commonplace and they felt that if every family had either a father or mother who

was a college graduate, they had more things in common. They wanted to keep the place rustic, devoid of commercialization of any kind. Even to this day, you cannot buy a loaf of bread, you cannot buy anything within the boundaries of Scientists Cliffs. They wanted to keep the houses simple and rustic looking so that they would fade into the landscape and not stand out like sore thumbs. And that policy has been maintained through the years. The Membership Committee controls the membership of the Association. They have a chairman who is appointed by the Board. The Board of Directors consists of nine members. Three are elected every year. As they go out, three more come in. They make the rules and regulations. And the Association has a set of bylaws by which it is governed. It is incorporated. But the bylaws are voted on by the entire membership. The Board of Directors can make the rules and regulations without the consent of the membership, although they usually take the rules and regulations to the members before they make them public. If a couple applies for membership and there is no college degree, if they have attained a professional standing or have made a contribution of some kind to the scientific world or to the professional world which is equal to a college degree, they are entitled to be members in the Association. We have a number of those.

CUTLER: In other words, this is a flexible arrangement.

DALRYMPLE: Yes.

CUTLER: But a person cannot buy land here without being a member of the organization. How is that enforced. Is the land owned by the organization, the land that hasn't been sold?

DALRYMPLE: No. The land originally of course was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gravatt and they gradually sold off most of their lots. They still have some lots that were platted in the beginning. But there was quite a large segment of land that never was platted and of course, now under the new

zoning rules in the county, that land is much more expensive because the lots have to be so much larger than those originally. When one wishes to become a member and wishes to buy a lot, they must apply to the membership committee for membership. The membership chairman gets full references, preferably by people who live at Scientists Cliffs. At least one of them must be a member of Scientists Cliffs Association. Then the membership chairman and his committee, which is composed of three other people, decide whether or not they would be compatible, whether or not they are the kind of people we want at Scientists Cliffs. Then they are notified that their membership has been approved. Only then can they buy a lot. The thing that is unique about Scientists Cliffs government is when they apply for membership, they sign a contract. It's just a gentlemen's agreement that they will abide by the rules and regulations of the Scientists Cliffs Association. This had been formulated by the Board of Directors which is elected by the Association members. We have no power of enforcement, just a gentlemen's agreement, that they will abide by these rules. When some member fails, the Board writes a letter, calls attention to the fact that the member signed an agreement. Sometimes they turn over a new leaf, sometimes they don't. When they don't, most of the community knows about it and I don't think it's anything that they are proud of, the fact that they are defying the rules and regulations. We have really had very, very few people who have decided not to comply with the rules.

CUTLER: So the thing that keeps you going is a strong community spirit?

DAIRYMPLE: That's right. We have only one paid employee and that's a manager. A manager was necessary because we had a water system. Mr. Gravatt developed the water system himself. As he grew older, he felt he didn't want to be responsible any longer for the water system. It was too much

of a responsibility. We had to keep a paid employee to look after the system because he was under the Public Service Commission too. So the Association got the water system and that meant we had to have a paid employee to look after the water system and comply with the rules and regulations of the Public Service Committee. Then we had our own roads. Originally these roads were built by Mr. Gravatt but they were not hard-topped and as the roads got more and more usage, there was trouble. So now practically every road in Scientists Cliffs has been hard-topped. And they had to be maintained, so we have a manager who lives here and looks after things. That is our only paid employee. Every officer, every committee chairman works without pay. The expenses are paid by the Treasurer, but no salary of any kind for any voluntary employee. It's worked out beautifully. We are a non-profit organization. We have a community house which was given to us by Mr. Gravatt's uncle because he felt it was a wonderful experiment. Scientists Cliffs is unique in the fact that it was born of a man's dream but it has grown because everybody who came here sort of believed in this dream and wanted to see it fulfilled and they were willing to go along with his ideas. Of course, he changed his ideas a great deal before he died because times have changed, but they were not changed enough so that they affected the type of community it was. I think it's one of the few communities in the United States that started out to be something and has stayed with that idea through the years.

CUTLER: But you have pointed out two things about that. First of all, his ideas were changed. In what ways were they changed?

DALRYMPLE: Well, originally members of the non-Caucasian race and Jewish people were excluded in the deeds. When the Supreme Court handed down its decision about that subject, Mr. Gravatt immediately dropped that clause from the deeds. That was I guess back sometime in the '50's. We do not have a system of discriminating, but because of the fact that we had that repu-

tation over a period of several years, we have never had Jews apply for membership. I suppose they feel that if they weren't wanted in the beginning, they are not wanted now. But that is not necessarily so. We have an open membership. If they comply with the membership requirements, they can become members.

CUTLER: Seems to me your second point--you mentioned that this dream has come true it has worked out--but you also mentioned that people who have joined this and worked for it have given up certain freedoms to make that dream come true.

DALRYMPLE: That's right, they have. And that's the reason it has come true.

CUTLER: I think so too, because sometimes people who want to do these utopian things think they can do it and be free. Sometimes it doesn't work out like that.

DALRYMPLE: In just a very few instances, people after they became members became dissatisfied with things and rebelled by resigning from the Association. Well, there isn't anything you can do about that except take it to court and in only one case did we ever take a matter to court. That would never have come to trial because the person had a change of heart and decided to come back into the Association and pay his dues and his assessments and act like everybody else.

CUTLER: After you moved down here, I know the Calvert County League of Women Voters began and I know that some of the interest in that organization came from people here in Scientists Cliffs. Can you tell me something how that group began?

DALRYMPLE: Mrs. Patricia McLain had been a League member in McLean, Virginia. Mrs. William Farr had been a member in the District and there were a number of other people. At one time, there had been a League here, a good many years ago though, when the group came into existence. But after a very short life it folded. And whatever money they had in the till, of course, went into the State organization. But it was impossible to find out just who was in the League at that time except for the Treasurer who turned the

money over. They were old county people, most of them natives of this county. When Mrs. Parr and Mrs. McLain and a number of other women here got together to discuss the possibility of having a League of Women Voters, they decided that they were going to open it to every woman in the county regardless of color, race, religion or anything else. They held organization meetings and planned what they were going to do and then called a meeting through the newspaper of all the women in the county who were interested in helping to organize a League of Women Voters to meet at Mrs. McLain's home. I guess there were about ten people from the county and Scientists Cliff's and one of the other beaches who came to the meeting and showed some enthusiasm. They brought in other people. I was not at that meeting. I think that meeting was...it may have been just before we came down. I'm not sure about that. Or we may have been on a vacation or something. Anyhow, I was not at that first meeting. But when the League was organized they called and asked if I would be Treasurer. Mrs. McLain was our first President. One of our Vice Presidents was a Negro woman. Our first Secretary was a Negro.

CUTLER: Were these ladies specially invited, or did they respond to the general appeal?

DALRYMPLE: They responded to the general appeal and they made some announcements through the schools too that the League was being formed. I can't remember the exact particulars at the time because I was not at that first meeting.

CUTLER: Given the circumstances of Calvert County, I wondered if it needed more than just a general appeal for them to feel welcome to come.

DALRYMPLE: Well, one of the Negro women said to me, "When we heard that this was going to be open to Negro women, we were very, very skeptical, but we decided we'd come and have a look and we were pleasantly

surprised at the way we were greeted and treated". And I think we must have 15 Negro members now. I'm not sure of the number. We have no way of telling except as you see them at meetings. A good many of those are teachers in the Calvert County school system, some are retired teachers. One woman is a retired public health nurse. But they brought other women in, of course. The League has caught on like wildfire down here. It's gone beyond anybody's hope and dreams in such a short time. Let's see, I was Treasurer for three years. We are in our fifth year now and I think our membership is in the eighties.

CUTLER: How about the old line county families. Are they represented in League membership here?

DALRYMPLE: Not too well.

CUTLER: It's more people who have come from other places?

DALRYMPLE: Yes. Some of the old line people came in and paid their dues but they were not active. We got very few active ones. And then as the League started prospering, they dropped out. I know the Scientists Cliffs has more representation in League than any other, but that's to be expected because many of the people here are retired people and they have more time and they have more interest. A great many of them were in League in other places, and they just fell right in with this League.

CUTLER: Have you felt that the county has felt any discernible impact from the existence of a League in the county?

DALRYMPLE: Oh yes, I have. In the beginning, the business people were sort of skeptical, they didn't think too much of the women organizing. Their women just hadn't been in that except for Homemakers Club or social clubs or church organizations or something like that. But the newspapers, Mr. Hall's newspaper, was very cooperative. He just couldn't have been any more cooperative than he was in giving publicity.

CUTLER: You said "Mr. Hall"?

DALRYMPLE: Senator Hall. Senator Ed Hall owns one of the local newspapers, the Calvert County Independent, I think it's called. He encouraged us in every way. And as we started, we put out the little "Know Your County" folder. We saw that each businessman got one of those. In our first drive, we got very little money from the business people the first year. They were just not in the habit of giving money to things of that sort. But they are getting more and more generous all the time and in some of our activities, they have been very, very much impressed with what the ladies have done, particularly the Voters Service that the League gets out. I think the League has arrived at the point now where it is very highly regarded. People are beginning to think of it as a permanent thing and look to it for...as far as Voter Service is concerned, they look to us, to the League entirely for information about candidates for office.

CUTLER: We've talked a long time. I hope I haven't worn you out, but I think perhaps we've reached a stopping point.

DALRYMPLE: I think so, too. I hate to talk so much and I don't like to bring myself into these things because, I just don't like to.

CUTLER: Well, that's the way we are directing it. We're directing it to you and your participation, so it's proper to be that way and thank you so much.

Montgomery County Charter Committee

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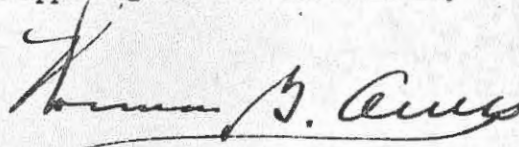
Bethesda, Md

My dear Mrs. Bradley:

I do not know how to thank you for your consistent, loyal and courageous service to the cause of Charter in Montgomery County. In sunshine and rain you have applauded and supported us. You never sat on the fence or climbed down on the other side. You have gone far beyond and above your duty.

I hope you'll come out Tuesday night so that I may publicly and personally thank you.

With appreciation and best wishes,


Norman B. Ames

P. S. You may use this as you see fit. 