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This interview was conducted with Russell McClintick (class of 1950). The interview was conducted on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in the Viking Union as a part of the Golden Viking Reunion. The interviewer is Carole Morris.

**CM:** First we want to find out a little bit about you: your name?

**RM:** Russell McClintick, Sr. Now, we have Russ Jr. and Russ III.

**CM:** Why did you choose to go to Western?

**RM:** (laughs) Well, while I was overseas during World War II with the Marine Corp, I registered at Whitworth College in Spokane. When I came back I was thinking of going to Whitworth and maybe going into ministry, but then I ran across some of my wayward high school friends that registered me at Mount Vernon junior college. When I went up to Mount Vernon to visit with them they were starting to build a radio station, and I'd worked at Armed Forces Radio in Japan after the war. I went and talked to the manager he hired me. I got my engineer's license, helped build the transmitter and came to the [college] in Mount Vernon.

**CM:** Was that through the junior college or was that affiliated?

**RM:** Junior college. It was a state junior college, right [Ed. Note: Skagit Valley College]. Then, I met a gal that managed a jewelry store and we were together for quite a while and I was going to go over to Washington State University where I had worked up a deal to be on the fire department, plus I was going to be able to work at KWSC which was the college radio station there, which was at the same time that, well, the big sports caster was there, named ..., Edward R. Murrow, they were all there. But anyway, she cried one night because she didn't want me to go there. She wanted to get married. So, guess what? We got married and went to Western! (laughs)

**CM:** Was she from Bellingham?

**RM:** No, she was from Mount Vernon.

**CM:** So you gave up your big radio opportunity...

**RM:** My career.

**CM:** What were your dates of attendance at Western?

**RM:** I went my junior and senior year; 1948/49, 1949/50.

**CM:** What degree did you receive?

**RM:** Well, I started up here as a speech major but then I had to take a course in speech correction from Dr. Carlile, and he made me his TA and I got paid 25 cents an hour for teaching his class while he went on debate trips. I got an A from him all the time, so it improved my grade average. I ended up getting an education degree.

**CM:** So you majored in speech but you got a certificate to teach?

**RM:** Education, yes.

**CM:** Was it elementary or K-12 or...?

**RM:** No, I think it was actually all grades at the time. That was 1944, yes; I had to do all grades.

**CM:** Did you think you wanted to teach when you started out or how did that come about?

**RM:** No, I didn't want to teach, and then, after I got my minor here in speech pathology, I wanted to get my teaching certificate and I was going to work in the schools with children with speech defects, things like that. Just before I started to go to work, in 1950, some of the school districts had failed their levy and they eliminated the speech teachers. So, I started in teaching elementary education.

**CM:** So what was your first job?

**RM:** My first job, after graduating? Well I might mention, I did my student teaching in Mount Baker High School, and so when I graduated, Mount Baker School District offered me my first teaching job as head teacher at Maple Falls.

**CM:** Oh, that's a big step up!

**RM:** They were offering me a lot of money in those days, which was \$2800 a year, but Highline School District upped them for \$3000. So, I taught at Highline.

**CM:** So you never went to Maple Falls?

**RM:** I never went to Maple Falls, no. I taught two years at Highline. Our principal was a former first grade teacher and she treated her faculty like we were all first graders, so I quit teaching and went to work on Foss Tug and Barge. When I was back in Kirkland I ran across my grade school principal who was assistant superintendent and he asked me to come up the next day to visit him, and he just happened to have a contract there for me.

**CM:** They wanted you back.

**RM:** He wanted me teaching in Lake Washington Schools and he was giving me the old bit about you [have to] work out in the tug boats during the weather and the storms and walk the logs out there and all this stuff, and he convinced me.

**CM:** So was Highline and Lake Washington [in the same district]?

**RM:** No, no. Highline was its [own]. Highline School District; and then Lake Washington School District is Kirkland area.

**CM:** Tell me again who he was?

**RM:** Carlos Scott was the assistant superintendent of Lake Washington School District but he's my former teacher.

**CM:** Tell me more about your jobs after that?

**RM:** Okay, I taught two years; got the fourth grade two years at Central School in Kirkland and Carlos Scott was the principal and assistant superintendent. The third year, my third year, he suggested I get my principal's credentials because he thought I should be an administrator. So, the third year, I taught half a day in the fourth grade and then half a day I did some administrative work for him and handle stuff for him so he could be out in the building more. The next year, they offered me the job. They had just finished building Lakeview School, a six room school and they offered me the job teaching sixth grade there and being head teacher. I refused it because I'd be under a principal up in another school. I told the superintendent that I would be glad to take the job and be principal but I wouldn't take head teacher because I didn't want parents to run to another principal if they didn't agree with what I did. He accepted it and I got paid the sum of \$400 a year extra for being principal.

**CM:** Wow. So how long were doing that?

**RM:** I did that about four years. We built a 10 room addition on that school, so I became principal full time. I started in on my fifth year of the principal salary schedule that way.

**CM:** How long did that last?

**RM:** I was there for seven years. I made a request to the superintendent at a principal's meeting that, *I don't think any principal should be in the building over seven years because you become a part of the furniture*, and we had some schools that had principals that had been there over ten years, so I wasn't too popular. It went to the school board and the school board made a policy that all district principals had to change every seven years with the exception of the high school, it could be longer -- until they found a replacement for them.

**CM:** So he took your word?

**RM:** He understood me, I guess. Later they made me the head of the principal's group for the school district and I pulled the principals away from the Washington Education Association because I could see the writing on the wall that it was a conflict, so I was instrumental in developing the first association of elementary school principals, Washington State Elementary School Principal's Association.

**CM:** And how long were you affiliated with that group?

**RM:** I was with them, well, I was, let's see; while I was with them, I was just on the board with [a] part-time thing. The school district transferred me to Redmond Elementary School because I wanted to get out after seven years and

Redmond was building a new elementary school, [being in the midst of a] growth spurt. I moved into Redmond Elementary School with twelve hundred children and nine portables I think we had. Then when the new school got built, they already had a principal that was my vice principal. He took all the kids that were going to the new school so that got me back down to seven hundred or something like that.

**CM:** And so you stayed their seven years...

**RM:** I think, six years; five or six. Then, after about six years at Redmond Elementary, they transferred me to Alexander Graham Bell Elementary, a new one built in Juanita.

**CM:** And how long were you there?

**RM:** I was there until -- I got my thirty years there.

**CM:** So, pretty much you've stuck with that school district.

**RM:** That was all, except for the one year.

**CM:** And mostly because of the one person who's been here teaching, right? He's the one who got you into this?

**RM:** Oh yes. He ended up assistant superintendent. He was my fourth grade teacher in Rosehill Grade School.

**CM:** So, see how powerful a teacher is.

**RM:** Oh yes, sure.

**CM:** You know that, so, tell me how powerful a principal is in a student's life?

**RM:** I used to be very powerful. The principals in our district were involved in going to different colleges and recruiting teachers, interviewing them. They'd come back to the district -- we'd maybe interview ten teachers at Pullman or Cheney or something like this -- and we'd have five of them come back to our district for interviews.

**CM:** So, you had to recruit...?

**RM:** We did recruiting. We had total control of our budget. We had total control of what teachers we had, our staff and so on.

**CM:** Do you feel like you had a lot of direct contact with [your] students at that time?

**RM:** You were not criticized if you spent your time out in the playground. Then, after I got to [Alexander Graham Bell Elementary], we had some superintendents and a lot of assistant superintendents and director of elementary education and so on, that did all the hiring, your budget, they handled the whole curriculum of the district, took it away from the teachers.

**CM:** Do you think that's a negative thing?

**RM:** It was a negative thing but we were getting big and you might call it growing pains. Unfortunately, it ruined the morale. I mean, the teachers didn't feel they were part of the big scene.

**CM:** Well, I'll get back on the track here. Have any of your other family members attended Western?

**RM:** Funny you should ask that. My daughter, Patti McClintick, her name now [is] Hiebert. She graduated from Western.

**CM:** And she graduated when?

**RM:** I don't know. She was born in [1951]; my son was born here in 1949. She was born in 1951 while I was stationed in Highline. Then her daughter, Crysta Simms, she graduated from here and her daughter is too young. She has a four year old, so I have a great granddaughter.

**CM:** But she might come here?

**RM:** She might be here sometime, you never know.

**CM:** So does Crysta still live in this area?

**RM:** Crysta lives in Redmond. Her husband is the Chief Financial Officer of a communications company where she used to work.

**CM:** Now your daughter Patti, is she still in the area?

**RM:** Yes, she lives in Yelm. Her husband works at Boeing and she teaches for the Lake Washington School District. She has a teaching job in Kirkland.

**CM:** So she got certified through Western too?

**RM:** Yes.

**CM:** Oh great.

**RM:** And she's come back and had some refreshers. She didn't want to teach while Crysta was a baby, you know.

**CM:** Tell me about any personal achievements you'd like us to know about, such as: awards, citations, decorations, personal bests, anything that you'd [like to share].

**RM:** Well, being the founder of the Association of Washington Elementary School Principals.

**CM:** I think that's a big one.

**RM:** Yes. And then, I had a lot of other things going on. While I was teaching at Central School, I was a volunteer fireman in Kirkland and I later became a partial paid fireman. I was on duty at nights while I was principal and I put twenty years in the fire department and got a retirement from them.

**CW:** Wow! So, you kind of had two careers going on?

**RM:** No, no, I had more than that. I was elected to be on the Board of King County Public Hospital District #2; Evergreen Hospital Medical Center. I was a commissioner there for sixteen years and moved the hospital from a two story building to now, it's a big campus.

**CM:** Where is that located?

**RM:** Kirkland, Washington.

**CM:** Kirkland. So you were on the commission for sixteen years?

**RM:** Yes, right.

**CM:** Anything else?

**RM:** Well, let's see, you don't want to go back to high school?

**CM:** Oh, we'll go back.

**RM:** Okay. I was in the high school, Kirkland High School's class of 1944 but left school the beginning of my senior year, when I turned seventeen, and went in the Marine Corps for World War II. Now doesn't that sound picturesque?

**CM:** Not really!

**RM:** I was overseas and I was at division headquarters. Then I came back. I went to work at the radio station in Mount Vernon in the afternoons and I went to the Mount Vernon community college in the morning. After I came to Bellingham, I worked part time at KVOS and KPUG, and when I was in Mount Vernon I did part time at KRKO in Everett.

Substitute, you know.

**CM:** And what did do at the radio station?

**RM:** I was a broadcaster [and an] engineer. They call those "Combo Men." We had to have an engineering license to monitor the transmitter, but we were announcers and newscasters and things like this.

**CM:** Was this at KVOS before it added the TV or still just a radio station?

**RM:** Radio.

**CM:** So did you know Rogan Jones?

**RM:** Yes.

**CM:** He was a character, I understand.

**RM:** Yes.

**CM:** Yes, I worked at the Herald and they had a landmark case. Were you involved in that, with [reading] the wire news on the air?

**RM:** When I was in the radio station in Mount Vernon, we had a fellow come to Mount Vernon looking for a job from Chicago because his wife lived in Bellingham and I talked him into going to Western. His name is Paul Herbold, and he became Dr. Herbold here in the field of Communication.

**CM:** So you're the person that got Dr. Herbold to Western? I'll be darned.

**RM:** He's not around anymore, is he?

**CM:** I don't know, probably not. And his wife was from Bellingham? [Editor's Note: Paul Herbold Retired in 1983; passed away in 2004].

**RM:** She's the Bellingham girl that he married when he was going to law school in Chicago.

**CM:** I'll be darned. Was he in broadcasting or communication at all before that?

**RM:** I don't know. He had had radio experience in Chicago, so we hired him in Mount Vernon and while he was there, I told him that he ought to, you know, pick up a degree or something rather than just doing nothing, and he had in-laws up in Bellingham. So he came up here, and started school and then he ended up -- fair-haired boy -- so he got his masters, went down to the U of W, and got his doctorate and, of course, they hired him as soon as he had his doctorate. I lost him then.

**CM:** Did he still work there, the whole time, or sometimes?

**RM:** He left before then. He was still working down there when I came up here. He was working at KPUG and we went over there one night, after a party and got kicked out of the station there by the station manager.

**CM:** What were you doing?

**RM:** Oh, because we knew Paul. It was election night. We went up there to help him with the election returns but they didn't appreciate that; almost got Paul fired.

**CM:** Weren't supposed to have guests at the station, right?

**RM:** Well, usually you aren't.

**CM:** So you were a good friend of his, it sounds like?

**RM:** I was then. I've lost some years with him.

**CM:** Well, I'll move on. Where did you live most of time you were attending Western? At home, in a dorm, with a local family, any favorite memories?

**RM:** I was born and raised in Kirkland, Washington. After I got back from the service, I got married, and started Western. Well, actually, I went to community college, I wasn't married then at the radio station. When I got married, my junior year, I moved to Western and lived in veteran housing on Normal Drive, right next to the gym. We lived with rowdy veterans. I can tell you a lot of stories about them.

**CM:** Where is Normal Drive?

**RM:** It was right next to the gym, we were on the one side of it. It was a temporary war housing thing for veterans. It was plywood walls and stuff like this -- not plywood -- cardboard!

**CM:** Really? Oh right.

**RM:** They mention there, today, about the walls blowing down. That was very typical.

**CM:** Yes, tell me some more about it. How many people were there?

**RM:** I think we had fifteen houses and they were for married veterans.

**CM:** And were children allowed to live there, or just...?

**RM:** No, no. When my son was born I had to move down to Laurel Park, and then I got a bedroom, these were non-bedroom up here.

**CM:** So you had to move to Laurel Park. And where was that?

**RM:** It's right down here in between High Street and Indiana on -- it's Laurel Park now.

**CM:** Oh, I see, yes.

**RM:** That was a little student housing project for married veterans with children.

**CM:** So, how long were you in the [Veteran's housing on campus]?

**RM:** I was in Normal Drive when she got pregnant and, let's see, he was born in May of [1949], so yes it was one year I was down there.

**CM:** What do you remember about that particular place besides the cardboard walls?

**RM:** You mean Normal Drive?

**CM:** Yes.



**RM:** Oh, the party every night, every night. (laughs)

**CM:** Party every night?!?!?

**RM:** I don't know if you recall the name Cecil Hannan? He became the head of Washington State, WEA. Then he began the National Education Association. His wife kicked him out in the snow one day. You don't have to write that down!

[Going back to Normal Drive] the walls didn't quite fit the floor, so one day when I went in the bathroom to sit down my money fell out of my pocket, it rolled over to the neighbors and I had to go over and knock on the door and get my money back!

**CM:** So, could you hear everything?

**RM:** Oh yes.

**CM:** You could tell pretty much what was going on.

**RM:** I don't want to tell you what we heard.

**CM:** Yes, but you had all been veterans, so you kind of all had come back from the war and shared that.

**RM:** Yes, and on Friday nights we would get together and all put in fifty cents and somebody would go down here to Cap Hansen's [Tavern], or something, and buy a bottle of booze. You could tell there was probably a couple dollars is all and we'd have a party, because most of the women fortunately didn't drink much. We'd sit there and tell war stories and things like this.

**CM:** That's kind of a healing thing, don't you think?

**RM:** Oh yes, it was.

**CM:** That helped to get through school probably, too, being able to share that experience?

**RM:** Yes, we were closer than just regular students.

**CM:** The other students probably didn't understand that.

**RM:** Yes. And a lot of the football players lived down there and we became close friends and a lot of our friendships lasted. In fact, when I was here last year I ran across one of the guys that lived there. I hadn't seen him in fifty years. Oh, what's his name? He taught at Everett. Bah! I'll tell you in a minute. Ted White!

**CM:** Anybody else you remember that lived there?

**RM:** Oh, yes. I can almost name them all.

**CM:** Well, go ahead.

**RM:** Bob Johnson lived there. Bob later became superintendent of Sedro-Woolley and Oak Harbor. Mel Lindbloom. He was a big football star. He was captain of the football team here and Mel was the first president of Green River Community College. Mel and my wife both grew up in Big Lake by Mount Vernon, so we rode a train to there.

**CM:** What is your wife's name? I'm sorry we keep mentioning her.

**RM:** Her name was Freddie Ann. She died eleven years ago from cancer.

**CM:** What was her last name?

**RM:** Her maiden name? Huelsdonk from Big Lake.

**CM:** Ok, so who else besides Bob and Mel was there?

**RM:** Oh, let's see, Ken Russell's daughter ran around with my daughter for a long time. He was with the head of Washington State Mines for a while. He had a twin brother that lived there also. Oh, Ted White is one of them--he taught at Everett. He was a high school math teacher. Cecil Hannan lived there and he had a brother that was in college here that I went flying with [Thomas P.]. [He] bought an old junky plane and we used to fly it out of the Bellingham airport here. George Heliotis was another one. He was in charge of special education for Seattle School District; he was one of the founding fathers of special education.

**CM:** Oh, really.

**RM:** Yes.

**CM:** Did you know Max Higbee? Or did he come later than you?

**RM:** No, came later. Some of the football players I'm trying to think of -- "Hatch", I think was one of them. Oh, oh, Bill Currier. He was a football player here and while he was going to school here he was town marshal of Sumas. I'd go on duty with him at night and have dinner up there, and take care of the drunk Canadians that came across the border.

**CM:** Yes, I guess there was quite a scene in Sumas in the old days, with the cross border [traffic].

**RM:** That's why they hired Bill. Bill was raised in Marysville and from his scrapping brothers, you know, he fought all his life. He was a paratrooper, and I remember one night, this is off that record, that we had ...

**CM:** Should we turn it off?

**RM:** Oh no, you can leave it on.

**CM:** Okay.

**RM:** Anyway, we were patrolling the streets and all he had was just a shirt with a badge on and the traffic was blocked so he turned his siren on. We went up there and here were two, big, 200 pound loggers standing right in the middle of the street, slugging at each other. So, Bill got out, he always approached the big one, and he told them that they had to get off the road and they had to get across the border or he's going to put them in jail. This great big *gunk* logger doubled up his fist, which was about the size of a ham, and took a swing at Bill. Bill reached in his back pocket and had a lead sap and hit him on the head. Bill said, '*Gee, I was afraid I might have killed him!*' But he said, '*The fellow just shook his head and said 'I'm not going to argue with anybody that has a left like that!'*'

**CM:** He didn't see what was happening?

**RM:** He didn't know what hit him. And so, they peacefully went across the border and the border patrol knew not to -- if they were drunk -- not to let them back in Sumas again.

**CM:** Yes, I've heard tales about that. Okay, so after you moved to Laurel Park, then where did you go or how long did you live there?

**RM:** I was there for a year; I was a year at Normal Drive and a year at Laurel Park and then I graduated from Western.

**CM:** That's right.

**RM:** Yes. Then I moved to Highline, for one year, taught sixth grade, quit teaching. The following summer, the superintendent in Kirkland asked me to come out and visit and had a contract for me.

**CM:** Ok, I think we got that on here. Now, we've come full circle.

**RM:** Then I moved to Kirkland, which was where I worked, bought my old family home in Kirkland.

**CM:** It's a nice place, or used to be, it's kind of grown quite a bit.

**RM:** Yes. Then I lived there, oh, let's see, way after I retired, must have been about 1985, around there's when my wife died. I retired in 1980.

**CM:** Who were your favorite or most influential teachers here at Western?

**RM:** Well, I'd say Dr. Carlile because I was his TA and he paid me to do his research for him, twenty-five cents. But, they doubled the pay. The first time I worked, I had to do some research at the library for a speech thing and I knew they doubled it, so the first time I turned it in, the first month, I had, I don't know, let's say I had ten hours coming, so I knew they doubled it, so I had them pay me 25 cents for twenty hours, so I got forty hours for it. That's when he [Dr. Carlile] informed me that he doubles it; I don't!

**CM:** So he caught on to you there?

**RM:** Yes.

**CM:** And then, who else? Any others that still are memorable?

**RM:** I was impressed with Dr. Freehill.

**CM:** And what did he teach?

**RM:** He was psychology, and when I went to the university, oh, I went to the University of Washington and got my Masters after I was principal. And who was my advisor? Dr. Freehill!

**CM:** So then he went to the University of Washington?

**RM:** Yes.

**CM:** And why did you like him?

**RM:** Well, he was personable and he treated people, especially the veterans, like we were adults, not students.

**CM:** So you studied mostly speech when you were here...took everything?

**RM:** I did. I took *Books for Boys and Girls*. Coming back from the war, you know, we thought it was Mickey Mouse -- one of the best courses I ever took. I used it more in school and even as a principal. Children's literature, to me, is far superior to a lot of the sexy stuff that you read.

**CM:** You went into the course thinking it wasn't going to be much and then it was.

**RM:** Oh, it was a laugh, you know, and I came out learning more from it ...

**CM:** And who taught that class?

**RM:** Miriam Snow.

**CM:** Do you think it's partly the way she taught it or just that it was...

**RM:** No, no because she, she was threatened by veterans!

**CM:** Threatened in what way do you mean?

**RM:** She didn't want to associate with us and you didn't go ask her any questions because she'd cut you short and stuff like that.

**CM:** Intimidated, more?

**RM:** Intimidated, I'd say, is an even better word, now, than threatened.

**CM:** So you implied that you learned quite a bit.

**RM:** I learned a lot and I got a big appreciation for children's literature.

**CM:** Tell me how you used that?

**RM:** Well, when I first started teaching, when the children would come in at noon, I always took a ten, fifteen minute period reading aloud to them, to get them to have the feeling for books and, in that way, I got to read a lot of books, too.

**CM:** So, it connected you with the kids.

**RM:** Yes, right.

**CM:** Did you know Bearnice Skeen?

**RM:** Oh yes, very well. I used to wash her windows. When you're a student here, you took any job that you could get. Ah, let's see, one of the profs here lived down towards Chuckanut and I used to do his landscaping for him. Who in the heck was that? Was it Buchanan? Business manager I think? Crab would come right up on the shore, so before I left I always filled the bucket full of crab. They were illegal but I took them home and boiled them. All of my neighbors, we all had crab that night, *illegal crab!*

**CM:** They probably didn't have such a strict fishery then.

**RM:** Oh, one of my favorites here was John Porter. He was student teacher supervisor.

**CM:** Why was he your favorite?

**RM:** Well, because I knew him, during the war, as Lieutenant Porter. He used to censor my mail and my mother used to get my letters with a censor mark on it and the signature was JAP, J-A-P, John A. Porter, and that even made *Believe-it-or-not Ripley*.

The censor thing with JAP written on it, you know? And then, he became assistant superintendent in Edmonds and, just a wonderful fellow, and then he committed suicide.

**CM:** Oh, that's too bad.

**RM:** Frank Panches was a big crony of his. He was a student teachers supervisor, and all the veterans wanted to get Panches or Porter for supervisor.

**CM:** They connected well with the veterans -- that's why you liked them?

**RM:** Yes. I did my student teaching at Mount Baker High School. John Porter was my supervisor and I got an outstanding record from student teaching.

**CM:** What did you have to do in those days? I know now they videotape you and things. How did they supervise you?

**RM:** We didn't videotape but he would come in and really supervise both of us, plus, he would interview our supervising teachers and all. After we finished our student teaching, we all bought a bottle of booze and went over to John Porter's and all got drunk!

**CM:** Well, I don't think that would happen now!

**RM:** Well, it was over then.

**CM:** Yes, yes, yes, that's pretty congratulated. So which activities did you enjoy the most outside of your academic classes?

**RM:** Well, veterans were quite a clique and other than, maybe, football, we didn't participate in much. But, since Carlile supervised debate, I joined the debate club. I don't know if it was last year when I was here, I met one of my buddies, Odell, Digger Odell. He was in debate with me and he spent most of his life in Washington DC, he's a big wheel in NOAA. Yes, he was here last year. I was hoping he would be here this year. Anyway, after debate we all went down to Cap Hansen's for beer. You see the difference between the veterans and the seventeen year olds that they had here!

**CM:** Wow, that's interesting. That's a different perspective. You know that Vera Hansen -- (you'll have to pick up an *Educator*, the newsletter) -- she donated quite a bit of money from the tavern to Woodring College and we did a big remodel of our conference rooms.

**RM:** Cap Hansen's was kind of a student hangout but it was mainly because we were in our twenties and stuff.

**CM:** Right, you were older than the non-veteran students.

**RM:** But then, we did have a little drinking on campus here. My friend, Frank Hanson, got suspended from Western while he was here. They snuck a keg of beer into the Men's Residence Hall, which is right about where we are up here, and Bill McDonald came up to check it. They were just going to get rid of it, and he saw Bill and dropped it and it bounced down these steps and hit McDonald!

**CM:** Oops!

**RM:** So anyway, Frank didn't go to school here afterwards!

**CM:** Now Bill has a street named after him.

**RM:** Oh, "Big Mac," yes, he was nice, he was very personable with everybody but he was kind of the provost, you know, he handled the problems. Lappenbusch never did, you know, but McDonald kind of handled the disciplinary...

**CM:** And he got along well with the veterans, too?

**RM:** Oh yes, they liked him because, well, he was a Navy officer, I think, yes, and he was the basketball coach.

**CM:** Were you on the forensics team? Or is that the debate team?

**RM:** Isn't that the same; forensic? Yes, it's speaking, yes. They could never shut me up, so I figured I was logical for the club.

**CM:** And how did the club operate? Did you think of topics and then debate with other and then go to different places, or?

**RM:** We challenged other colleges on debate trips but I didn't travel, I never went on them especially because I was married and didn't want [to be away].

**CM:** But you practiced here on campus?

**RM:** Oh yes, sure.

**CM:** Do you remember any of your great debates or?

**RM:** Yes, yes. They were usually Mickey Mouse subjects, you know, we'd get ...

**CM:** You just liked the speech community and Dr. Carlile.

**RM:** Yes, yes.

**CM:** So, is there anything else you want to add or talk about before we wrap this up?

**RM:** I was telling this fellow sitting beside me when she [Marian Alexander] was telling about some of the activities: one of our activities was to drive up Sehome Hill on a sunny night and watch the girls sunbathing at Edens Hall!

**CM:** Well, I think that's probably universal, actually!

**RM:** That was a lover's lane up there.

**CM:** Were there less trees or more trees, do you remember?

**RM:** There were more trees probably, because only certain areas you could see, like the roof of Edens Hall, and you could see the campus pretty well.

**CM:** Was that Huntoon Drive? Was that what it was called?

**RM:** No, no, it wasn't. Huntoon was a housing project, veteran's housing project that was over that way, behind the Campus School. [Ed. Note: Actually Huntoon was the name of the veteran's housing project and the name of the road up Sehome Hill; named for Bert Huntoon who was a force behind the establishment of Sehome Hill as a park.]

**CM:** So how many people lived back there?

**RM:** Oh, I don't know. Normal Drive was the smallest, Huntoon had single veterans in it, I think, and then married veterans with children were down at Laurel Park.

**CM:** So, Huntoon was on the other side of the hill.

**RM:** No, it was right on other side of the Campus School.

**CM:** When you used your GI bill, did that cover the community college and Western? How much could you go to school?

**RM:** I qualified for a full five years. After I got married, I went to Summer school here, so I wouldn't have to move. After I graduated I still had a little time so I did some of my masters here but then I dropped it. I think I got some of the credits when I transferred my masters down to the University, but that was about six, seven years later.

**CM:** So, to qualify for five years, how did you do that?

**RM:** You were allowed four years, the law allowed four years of college but that was four full years, so people that went three quarters had more time.

**CM:** And did that cover all expenses?

**RM:** Covered all expenses. When we were single, I think we got all our books. I even got a slide rule for a course that was very expensive. It covered tuition. You got an allowance; I think it was \$50 a month, something like this. After I got married, I think I got \$90 a month, and after my son was born I think I got \$140 a month.

**CM:** And it covered all your living expenses?

**RM:** Well Normal Drive, I think my rent was \$20 a month, living there.

**CM:** Was there a supervising person living in the housing or was it just the veterans?

**RM:** I didn't know of any supervisor because I don't think we would have lived [there]!

**CM:** Couldn't have made it.

**RM:** There was no supervision at any time.

**CM:** Because you were older students.

**RM:** Yes. We were all under Buchanan. He was business manager here, then, I think

**CM:** He's kind of the person that you reported to?

**RM:** Well, we didn't report anything, we did it ourselves. But I think that every month we had to pay him. We'd drop by the business office and pay the gal up there. Most of us, our wives were probably [working] at Western [also]. While, we were at Western, married men, their wives worked in the offices and the secretary of the Campus



School; Superintendent Johnson, his wife was there. My wife worked in the gym, checking out stuff. They made jobs, more or less, for the veterans wives.

**CM:** Did they have any child care, like after you had your children? Did you have any help for the wives?

**RM:** No, they stayed home because that was normal [for] the day.

**CM:** What about downtown Bellingham? Did you ever go anywhere besides Cap Hansen's? Do you remember anything about the town or the area?

**RM:** Well, three of us in high school each spent seventy five dollars and bought a Model A roadster and we drove to Bellingham because the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. We all had girl friends going to high school in Bellingham. They all worked at the Hillview Dairy so we'd come up and help them [with] the dairy at night and make ourselves ice cream stuff and so on and then visit with them over the weekend and then drive back to Kirkland. So we knew Bellingham pretty well.

**CM:** So was the Hillview over there where Bellingham High School is?

**RM:** Yes, right next to Hillview Dairy, yes.

**CM:** They still have part of that building there, they've remodeled it.

**RM:** Really? Huh. I'll be darned. That has a lot of fond memories. We even drove up to Vancouver and this was during the War Rationing so we had trouble getting gas and I stole a little bit of gas to get enough to get back!

**CM:** Did you ever go to Mount Baker?

**RM:** Yes, occasionally. Oh, my senior year I climbed Mount Baker with Chet Ullin.

**CM:** Oh, you did?

**RM:** Five of us went up a week earlier and we did repairing on Kulshan Cabin, which is up at the snow line, and then we climbed Mount Baker from there, with Chet Ullin. Everybody at Western knew Chet because he was the audio-visual man from Bremerton but he took care of all the barbecues and everything for homecoming and everything like that.

**CM:** And so, how did you climb it? Do you remember anything about the [climb]?

**RM:** Yes, we went up early and repaired the cabin and stayed there and at dawn the next morning, we had our crampons and everything. The next morning we headed out to Roosevelt Glacier and Chet Ullin was our guide. It was up the Roosevelt Glacier you had to go and then just before the summit there's this thing called the Roman Wall and he would go first and cut footholds in for us to get up to the summit.

***TAPE ONE SIDE TWO***

**CM:** When did you [learn to fly]?

**RM:** Oh, while I was teaching. My friend that graduated from Western started his own company and I ended up being vice president of this company, I did pay roll and things. We bought a company airplane. When he was flying it was good to have another pilot with him or somebody so that if he had trouble up there or something happened to him that we could bring it down.

**CM:** What was his name?

**RM:** Jim Elves.

**CM:** And what was the company?

**RM:** [Ron's Cost-Less] Auto Parts -- oh wait a minute. Transel Corporation. We had stores in Yakima. We used to fly back and forth to Yakima.

**CM:** Boy, you had a lot of side jobs it seems.

**RM:** I know it but, you know, you had to keep busy.

**CM:** Just couldn't sit still, huh?

**RM:** No, well, that's part of living, you know.

**CM:** And did your wife fit in to all of this pretty well?

**RM:** Oh yes. Yes. We took the wives with us all the way back East in the airplane. Flew back to Colorado Springs and flew to California a few times. Oh yes, they were good sports, they had to go flying with us. But it was usually Jim and I that flew back and forth to Yakima.

**CM:** Do you think you had influence on your daughter becoming a teacher?

**RM:** I probably did, yes, but, of course, the problem was that everybody in the city of Kirkland knew me and I was kind of put on the pedestal and my kids had trouble in school because the teachers and staff would say, *'Well, you know, your dad's the principal, you should do this do this and stuff like this.'* I even notice now that I've had a heart attack and a couple strokes and stuff, that my daughter, every so often, will correct me or criticize me if I say something wrong just because before she kind of felt I was flawless, you know, so now she gets it in there.

**CM:** Well, anything else or are we ready to quit?

**RM:** Oh, I've been ready to quit a long time ago, I don't know. I'm lucky you could handle this much!

**CM:** I can listen for hours. It'd be hard to beat me. I like stories. So, you want to quit and go outside?

**RM:** We might as well quit, I won't tell you about the principal conferences.