

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
YOUNGSTOWN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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O.H. 1975

Gretchen Dawson
Interview
By
Erin Pogany
On
March 24, 2000

ARCHIVE
Oral
History
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INTERVIEWEE: Gretchen Dawson

INTERVIEWER: Erin Pogany

SUBJECT: Youngstown College Football

DATE: May 24, 2000

EP: This is an interview with Mrs. Gretchen Dawson for the Youngstown State Oral History Project on Youngstown College Football by Erin Pogany, at her Elkton residence on May 24, year 2000 at 10 A.M. Let's start off where were you born and when?

GD: I was born in Youngstown at Northside Hospital in April of 1936.

EP: Did you grow up in Youngstown?

GD: Yes, we lived in Youngstown the first fifteen years of my life. We lived on Glenwood Ave., which was a great place then. I have good memories of living there. It was close to Mill Creek Park, when there was any spare time on the weekends we, as a family, would spend time at the park walking through, because woods and the outdoors were always important to dad and my mother too. So we lived very close to Mill Creek Park at that time.

EP: Did you learn a lot about nature?

GD: Well we did and we just learned a lot about life. Dad would lead us to discover more than lecture to us. He wouldn't so much lecture, but he knew how to lead us to discovery. That's just kind of a unique talent to let children and adults too, to feel that they have discovered something, and yet all along he knew what we were going to discover, but it was more exciting to us to feel; well we discovered this.

EP: That's interesting. What were some of your discoveries? Do you have any on mind?

GD: Well this is a little thing, but I remember one time he took us. I was in first grade and it was in the winter, and he took us on a winter hike with sleds. I was in first grade. We pulled the sleds into Mill Creek Park; we've got movies of it, there were

about probably easily a dozen to fifteen kids there - some older some younger. I was the youngest. We hauled all our food and supplies through the snow, down to the Four Square Club. Dad cooked breakfast along the creek there, and we ate outside in the snow. At one point, we noticed there was, there were these holes in the snow, that's just went out into this clear patch of snow. No one had stepped in there, but there was just these holes in the snow. I couldn't understand where the holes came from, because there weren't any footprints. After Dad asked some questions and gave no answers, and after looking, thinking, and studying for a while, I came to discover that they were caused by. The holes were in a straight line, and I could see that they were caused by water dripping off a wire that was up overhead that was extended over this flat, beautiful patch of snow. So the dripping water made the holes. That's a little thing, but I can still remember it.

EP: So in a way, he was basically trying to encourage you

GD: To find the answer, yes. It was the same way with decisions, as I got older. When I had a decision to make, or needed permission to go someplace, he never gave me a yes or no answer. He would say 'use your own judgment' instead. Well, that was a terrible thing to hear, because then I knew it was my responsibility, whether I was going or not. I would think a long time before I making the decision because I knew it was my responsibility. I couldn't say, 'well you *said* I could go'. It was *my* decision, and I often times when he'd say 'use your own judgment', I'd wish he'd just tell me "yes" or "no", because then I could put the blame on him or my mother. But they didn't say that. They would always answer with 'use your own judgment.' I can't remember them ever saying 'no' - now that doesn't mean they were permissive, it's just that I knew what I should and shouldn't be doing. So if it was up to me, then I felt it was my responsibility to make the right decision!

EP: So how were your mother and father when you started to get a little older, going on dates?

GD: Well it was the same way; I mean it was 'use your own judgment' about coming in everything. I don't remember any big flare-ups though, so my decisions must've met their approval.

EP: So when you were about two years old your father began coaching at Youngstown College, correct?

GD: Yes, in '38 he started; of course, I don't remember the time he began, because from my standpoint he got up and went to work in the morning when I was young. My mother had a yarn shop in our home, so when I was growing up, I was just with these women that would come every day for help or to buy yarn in the yarn shop.

EP: And your shop was in your home on Glenwood?

GD: Yes, it was at one end; it was an old Colonial home- it's still there. It has a brick

wall in front of it, between the house and the street.

EP: What was the address?

GD: 2237 Glenwood Ave. Out near- or very close to- Parker's Frozen Custard stand. A lot of those buildings are commercial now. I haven't been by this house for a while, but the last time I was there, it was standing and it had been an antique shop at one time called The Old Rail Fence or something. But we left there in 1949- over fifty years ago.

EP: When did you become aware, you said you know when you were small you just recalled being in the yarn shop with your mom. But when did you become aware of what your father was actually doing in the community?

GD: Well, I can't think of when I was aware, but I know that when I was young enough to be taking naps in the afternoon, my mother had the yarn shop and I was put to bed upstairs and some woman that was at the yarn shop told this tale to Esther Hamilton, and it was in the paper that I sang myself to sleep by saying, "We want a touchdown! We want a touchdown!". (laughing) I don't remember doing that, but I do remember it being in the paper, and being told that I sang that all the time, and even Esther Hamilton heard about it. We went to games, I suppose, as soon as we were old enough to behave ourselves.

EP: What was that like?

GD: I would be with my mother, when I was real young and the weather was bad, we would sit inside of Rayen High School, and look out the window - I mean we could see the game. I can only remember doing that twice; even if it was only once, I do remember that.

EP: That's interesting.

GD: When we sat inside, I'm thinking now that's maybe when my mother was expecting my sister and for her sake we were in there. I don't know. But I do remember being inside the school, looking out the window.

EP: Were you ever permitted on the field with your father?

GD: No. We really didn't bother during the games. We knew the coaches and their families very, very well. We were more a circle of those people, all fans, and we all yelled and screamed, and rooted for the team. We knew the players through the programs really until they were out of school, then we would get to know them better, but not while they were in school.

EP: Who were some of the people you hung out with that were affiliated with the team?

GD: Oh, well, there were, of course the Rossellis, the Websters, the Wolfs, and the Altdoerffers. There weren't a lot of coaches at that time, and most of these people were on a volunteer basis. The Websters- I mean *all* those people- we just loved as family. They would often come to our home on the weekend to work together, and they would discuss what was to happen the next week and things. So they were around a lot.

EP: Do you have memories of these coaches hanging out at your home, discussing these strategies? Do you recall that?

GD: No, I don't think they sat around, and we didn't hear them doing this. I can remember clearly one night, and this has more to do with the spaghetti dinner than football plans, they put plywood- a four by eight plywood- on top of our dining room table and the coaches all stood around the table. There was a huge pile of ground meat that almost covered the table. When they put it out there and mixed it, it took more than two-thirds of that four by eight plywood, and it was like a mountain. They mixed it on there, they threw all the garlic and spices and everything in this, and they just kneaded it like a big pile of dough.

EP: And this was going on in your dining room?

GD: In the dining room, yes and then they would stand and make meatballs. I just remember clearly the one time, and again I don't know again if it was more than once, but generally they did this at the Four Square (Club). And I don't know why they did it at home, if it was once or twice. I don't know.

EP: Several of the players I talked to, talk about this spaghetti dinner. Did he do this once a season?

GD: Well yes, Dad would choose a spaghetti game- he called it his spaghetti game- and every year they would have one game that was not a game that was next to impossible to win. It was not an easy game- they didn't have many of those- but there were several games that if they extended themselves and worked, they could win it. And that was the type of game that he would say 'this is the spaghetti game' because it gave them that extra kick or motivation. They never lost a spaghetti game.

EP: Wow!

GD: So, if they won the 'spaghetti game', then at the end of the year he would cook this dinner. I don't know when the first spaghetti game was. I don't think it was before the war. I think it all began maybe when football started up again after the war.

EP: That's interesting... and then he did that until he retired?

GD: Yes.

EP: Ok, now let's see, how should I word this... was your father gone all day long during the summertime and football season?

GD: Well, his busy time of course was during football. I'm going to skip ahead and tell how it was when we lived here (at the farm).

EP: Well let's say that first then. You moved here when you were fifteen in 1949.

GD: I guess I wasn't fifteen, then, I was thirteen. Yeah, we bought this farm when I was thirteen, and we moved here when I was fourteen. I was starting my freshmen year in high school.

EP: And how did you feel about moving away from Youngstown?

GD: Well, of course at that age you have friends- that's a hard age to move. My brother was also starting his senior year in high school. So, my parents permitted him to live with our grandparents- my mother's folks- and continue going to South High School because he was in his last year. So, of course I thought 'wow, he's gets to do that?' but I was *not* able to do that. My sister and I came with my parents, and we moved here... which was the best thing that could've happened to me, because it was just a whole new world.

EP: And what school did you attend here?

GD: Lisbon High School, which was seven miles away. So up until now, I'd always walked to school, and now I was one of the country kids that traveled on the bus. It was a good experience. I had to go back a half of year when I went to school here, because I was in a mid-year class, which they had at that time in Youngstown. I don't think they have it anymore. I had started school early- I started in January of the semester you could start school. I had been in kindergarten, and a lot of the kids in kindergarten, at the Cleveland School in Youngstown were of the age they were starting to go to school. They were leaving kindergarten and going to start school, and of course I wanted to do that, too. But I wasn't old enough. I think the cut-off was maybe the first of March or something, and here I was with a birthday at the end of April. My mother took me, and the teacher said 'well take her down to the Board of Education where they test them, and if she passes the test then we can take into school.' So that's what happened. But I had started in January, and when we came to Lisbon, I'd already finished half of a freshmen year, and what to do? So we went to the school, and they gave me the books- the freshmen books, the Algebra, the Latin, the Science, general science- and they said 'you can study these during the summer and then before school starts we can give you tests, and if you pass, you'll be a sophomore.' Well, I got to thinking about enjoying my summer here at the farm. I thought 'why would I want to study all summer when what difference does it make- I'm already young for the class anyway?' I just decided to start my freshmen classes all over again, which I did.

Well, unbeknownst to me, it worked out well, too, because I just breezed through all the classes and later graduated as valedictorian of the class. But I think it's just because I had that extra start. I enjoyed high school immensely.

EP: So what year did you graduate from high school?

GD: 1954.

EP: What was Lisbon High School like?

GD: Well there were 94 (students) in our class. I don't think that the classes have grown that much. They're probably still small classes. It was a wonderful town to be in. You knew everybody, and even though I had just moved there, I knew everybody. And that's just the way Lisbon is. The one school, and our football team was great at that time. Some of the boys from our school went to Youngstown. Felix Rutecki, who played four years at Youngstown- he was older than I- but he was from Lisbon. Warren Gursky another Youngstown player. There were others who went for a period of time: Dean Rose, Bud Woods. I know Gursky and Rutecki went clear through school at Youngstown. Lisbon has always been a football-favorable town. The fans are great, they like winning, and they always- if you think back- Lisbon High School has always has a good team year after year.

EP: Now, I'm kind of curious since it was such a football school, did your classmates look at you any differently knowing who your father was?

GD: No, no they probably didn't know, I mean maybe they knew, maybe they didn't; it was never an issue. Bud Bucher was the coach there, and my dad knew Bud.

EP: Were they friends?

GD: Yes. They were, but no my classmates never made an issue out of it. Sometimes when I would go to a (Youngstown) football game, I would take a friend with me. For the most part, though, I was just like anybody else in school.

EP: Now, going back to what we were talking about earlier, I asked you if your father was gone all day and how busy was he?

GD: I can see when he started the house down here he was- okay, we'll start in August... that's a funny month to start the year, I know, but in August you went to football camp.

EP: Which is at Camp Fitch?

GD: Camp Fitch, yes, so that was always a big day- the day they went to football camp.

EP: Did you ever go?

GD: Oh, yes, yes we loved to go to football camp. We would go on visitors' weekend.

EP: What was your experience there?

GD: Again, we would be with the coaches' families, and we would eat with the football team. I loved that, because it was a camp situation, and they'd all come into eat in the mess hall. One thing I remember was that it always popped my eyes out at the table when a whole loaf of bread would go on each table, and they would just split the loaf in half just- put a knife in the middle of the loaf and they would just split it and open it up so there were then two piles of half a loaf of bread. And that's how they served the bread. And before you knew it, the bread would be gone and out would come another loaf of bread, and they'd split it in the middle and open it up like they were opening up a watermelon. (laughing) They would serve ice cream in big soup bowls and the ice cream just mounded out of these bowls. Wonderful food. Willard and Dad would make the selection for the food. Willard would buy it, and they always had plenty, and they had good stuff. I used to love to go in the kitchen with the cooks and see how they did things. That was a treat. We would stay at the camp; they had some cottages there, usually it was down on the flat ground near where the dining hall was. But we would usually stay in the camp. Sometimes we stayed in the building where the nurse also stayed for camping season for the young kids during the year. There was a little dispensary in there, and then there were bedrooms. But that's usually where we stayed. Then in the later years, we would stay up on the top (of the hill) in a building they had built up there. But I always like the area around Conneaut and North Springfield, which is where the camp was located.

EP: So you went as a young child, and then did you also go as a teenager up there to visit?

GD: Yes.

EP: Did you ever have a crush on any of those football players?

GD: No, I had favorites, I think along the way. But no we just never felt that was never a good judgment decision (laughing).

EP: Like letting you make your own decisions!

GD: Yeah... we were always just in awe of them, and we had great admiration for them and for what they were doing there, and we cheered for them... but that was all.

EP: Did you have any close friendships that came out of the football team at all? Any of the players that you met?

GD: Well, again, in later years. Now Bob Gibson was somewhat related to my mother, I think maybe a second or third cousin- not real close. We knew his family, and I still see him. I've seen him in Florida. There is a boy that played from East Liverpool- Don Cochran- and we just know him as a person. Now Ray Carter- Raymond Carter- after he was out of school, he would come to the farm. Some of them would come down here, and some of them would work here. Some worked while they were in school, and we would fix lunch during those days when we had workers here. So they would be here for lunch, but again, I helped fix the food and we served the food, but that was a different category.

EP: Speaking back again.

GD: Ok the year?

EP: Well, I want to ask one more thing about Camp Fitch. I hear so much about this infamous trail, Five Mile Trail, did you ever get to run that trail?

GD: No, and I didn't even get to see the trail, until I was up there, last year. My sister, Susie, and I went up at the invitation of the school. We saw the Five Mile Trail. We've always heard stories about it, but we've never been on it.

EP: What kind of stories did you hear about it?

GD: Oh, well, there are jokes about it, too, and they'd say the linemen (it was a woodsy trail) the linemen just went through the trees. That's how they could tell the linemen from the backs- the linemen went through the trees, and the backs ran around the trees (laughing). But I know Dad- and here's an article, that I have somewhere that says he ran the last year he coached, he ran the track with the boys. So he might not have run, but he did the trail. He always walked a lot. He walked here at the farm every day. He was all over this farm, all through the woods every day. He would get up at the crack of dawn and go out before he went to Youngstown. He would do all this walking, just checking all these trees. One day, I was in the woods with him, and I was following him. He always took such big steps, and I'd have to take two for every one he took. He stopped all of a sudden, and I'd asked 'what's the matter?' He turned and he looked at a tree that was probably an inch in diameter, and he said "there's a tree I never knew was here." that always stuck with me, because there are a hundred and twenty-five acres here. And yet he knew every tree.

EP: Wow, so did he start the tree farm when you first moved here in the late 40's?

GD: Yes he did, started it right away because this property had been logged in the 20's. That meant somebody came through and took all the big trees out, and no trees had ever been planted to replace those. So what happened in the thirty years, from the 20's to the 50's, weed trees just sprouted up, because the sun would come in and shine on these areas that hadn't had sun before, and so weed trees would begin to

grow. They weren't all weed trees; there were many maples that grew, from falling maple seeds being planted. What happened was say, a maple tree did seed itself and grow there, it was being suffocated by all these other weed trees, just like in a garden if you don't take out the weed trees then your crop is not able to flourish. So trees in the wood have to be weeded also. So all these trees grew up, because they were allowed to. Nobody cared for them; some areas of the woods had been used for animals that grazed in there. It was not in good shape. So the first couple years when we lived here, the job was go through the woods and cut out all these weed trees, because you couldn't do anything until they were gone. So we'd cut them down- a couple of the species were horn bean and hopcorn bean; when we'd walk with Dad through the woods we would identify them; we would say, 'there's another horn bean, here's another hopcorn bean.' We'd get them out. So then after that, new trees would be planted, because if they didn't, you'd be right back where you started from- more weed trees would grow. So he planted trees rather close to each other, so they could help each other through the woods. Then as they grew and needed more space, he would cut; he would save the best species and cut out the others even though he had planted them. That was the theory of planting the trees. In the pines he would plant, I think the first pines that he planted, up in the fields, were all four feet apart. They had to fight through a lot of broom grass, a lot of grass in the fields in order to survive, because when you first planted these seedlings you couldn't even see them, but then after a couple years, you'd see them starting to peek out above the broomcorn, or the broom grass. Then as they grew, there were trees four feet apart- that was too close to grow, for each tree had to have enough room to develop. You would take out every other row. That's kinda how it happened.

EP: So was this just in his spare time or in the off season?

GD: Alright, we'll get back to the season. We started the year in August when they went to football camp. From then on until the end of football season, it was busy. I mean every day there were not only the practices and the games, but there were the trips. Usually on Sundays, he would be at home. Many times would look at films, but he'd be home on Sundays. Then, of course when it was a home game, he'd be home on Saturdays after the game, or when the games were on Thursday nights he would often scout other teams. He scouted more in the early years than he did later on. He had a little bit more help in the later years as far as coaches and other people that scouted. So there wasn't a lot of work done on the farm or in building the house from August until football season was over. Well, then after the season was over, he was called on to do a lot of speaking at high school football banquets, and at booster clubs, and at community luncheons. He did a lot of speaking. He was a good speaker. He spoke well; he was in demand as a speaker. So until that carried you up to Christmas, then from Christmas through the winter months until spring practice. Now in the early years, there wasn't a spring practice so when football season was over, there wasn't contact again with the football team on an organized basis until you'd start into August with the football camp again. As far as teaching, however, he would go to class to teach

Forestry. So through the winter, he would still be at the school, and would be recruiting and things like that. But the winter months are the months that he did the building of the home. Then as spring came early-that's when the trees would be ready to plant, so we would all go out and plant these trees. He ordered them; most of them came from the state. He would pick them up early spring and then there would be hundreds of them- thousands- and they would be planted.

EP: You as a family would all do this?

MC: We would, yes, and extra people would come. Ralph Wolfe planted a lot of trees. Sometimes some of the boys or some of his class- his Forestry class- would come and plant the trees.

EP: You have a beautiful property today. Do you think this is what you father envisioned?

MC: Well, I hope he would approve of what we've done. My sister and her husband have taken over of the care of the woods, and they do real well at that. We all know that trees have to be cut, and the way they should be cut, and we all try to treat the woods as we've been taught for them to be treated.

EP: Now you were talking before about your father coming home after the games, and it's a little bit off the subject but while it's in my head here, I'm curious- did he ever bring his emotions about winning or losing home with him?

MC: Well, he was a person that kept a lot inside. He was a quiet person; he was a very kind, sensitive person. If you would see him on the field, you might feel that he was tough and gruff, but he was very tenderhearted. Even though no coach likes to lose, there were some games that they'd lose when Dad would still feel that it was a moral victory. If they had done better than they were supposed to, he'd feel pleased with that. Pleased with the job that his boys did. If he'd lose one that he didn't really want to lose or didn't think they should have lost, then he would be pretty low, but he would keep this to himself. And we would be quiet. We would respect that silence, and we would feel bad, too. He never coached with the idea that he was going to win them all, because he wanted to keep his schedule tough. If there were nine games on the schedule, his idea would be to pick three you should win, and three that you have no business winning, and three that it was a toss-up. And that's what I said about the spaghetti dinner... the three in the middle that were a toss-up, one of those would be a spaghetti game.

EP: Interesting.

MC: This thing about winning all the games that has come to pass all over the country Everywhere-- of course winning is the thing everybody wants to do. At the time Youngstown was starting football, they were just interested in playing a good game and showing people a good game. There were no leagues or conferences, so you

weren't thrown into a game that should be a runaway. He never wanted to win a game by a high score, because he felt that someday he might be in the position of being beat by a high score, and he just wasn't going to do that to someone else. I don't know if anybody ever thought to have that sort of respect for *him*, but he just felt that isn't the way you should play the game.

EP: That really shows what kind of person he was, doesn't it?

MC: Yeah... he really was genuine, but he was of a different era, born in 1903. Too young for the first World War, too old for the second World War. Too young really to be affected by the Depression a lot. My mom and dad were married in 1932, which was right after the end of the Depression. They didn't have anything- they just didn't- and nobody else did either. That was the way the world was then, but they were young and they knew life was ahead of them, and they had potential.

EP: Now I want to hear your story behind the penalty flag.

MC: Oh, the penalty flag. I don't remember the day that she (my mother) was making it. I suppose it wasn't a significant thing. I mean, who knew what was going to happen with the penalty flag. But I know that in the Fall my mother always canned; we had a big garden- victory garden, they called it- because during the war people put in what they called a victory gardens, and you planted for your family to eat and to share with your neighbors. But it was very important; it was crucial to have a garden so that you could feed your family. So dad rented a plot across the road across Glenwood Ave. from us in the back of (Wendel) Griffith's property. He'd have a beautiful garden. We'd all work in it, but it was a great garden that produced a lot of food. I think we had more food than we needed to eat, but my mother canned it all. Then in later years, she would freeze it. It was when you could rent a frozen food locker; we didn't have a freezer at first. You could rent a locker, so you could freeze this food. Corn and lima beans were the things she froze mostly, and then after you worked to freeze it, you'd take it over to this locker, and pack it away in there. Oh, every few weeks we'd go to the locker and then we'd get supplies that we could put in our refrigerator freezer, because those weren't very big either. They were just little cubicles, so you couldn't hold too much of the frozen food in your freezer like we do today. So we'd go over there. She would can, so in the Fall she was busy. She wasn't teaching school then; you weren't allowed to teach school if you were married. She taught school before they were married. She taught at a private school in Pittsburgh; she taught the Mellon children there, and she taught at Brashere's School for Girls. But when she got married, she knew she wouldn't be allowed to teach anymore. She was in no rush to get married, because she enjoyed teaching. She did marry at twenty-nine, and then she didn't teach. She did a lot of volunteer work at the YWCA in Youngstown. She taught needle work and stenciling and painting fabrics. She did a lot of that at the Y. She didn't go out and work, so did many other things such as canning tomatoes. So at the time Dad was starting his penalty flag, he came home

with this idea, and he asked her to just make these flags. I think it was the night before the game, because she was in the middle of canning and she had to stop what she was doing. It wasn't like 'I'll do it later', or 'I'll do it tomorrow.' It was 'do it right now.' Whether he got the okay from the Oklahoma City coach or not, I don't know. I think he wanted the flags so he could present them to the coach before the game. I don't think he had too much time in there. This coach (from Oklahoma)—Dingus I think his name was- was kind of an innovator himself. Dad thought this would be the man to try this on. So she stopped what she was doing and she made the flag. She could always sew, and she was very handy that way, so she just used what material she had in the house, which in October she was Halloween costumes. She was just getting out the costumes for us to see what we had and what she needed to replace before Halloween. Well, evidentially there was this Halloween costume of mine that wasn't going to do for me that year. Dad wanted to make the flag red and white, and she had no red material except this Halloween costume.

EP: What was the Halloween costume?

GD: Well I think it was a Mammy Yokem. You know, she was a character in the Lil' Abner series in the comic strips, just like Halloween costumes today are made from cartoons. This Mammy Yokem was a little character. She was an old lady that smoked a pipe and wore a funny hat, and somehow I like Mammy Yokem. Mom used this costume. I probably wanted to where it again, but it was too small. I do remember liking that costume. It might have been cause it was a purchased one instead of a homemade one, but she took the red material from that. The other material she used was a white sheet. So she cut some material from the white sheet, and she stitched it to his specifications. He told her just what to do, and how to do it, and she did it. Now there is a discrepancy as to the weights that were used to provide weight for the flag to be thrown and fall in the right area. Some people say they are fishing weights (in the four corners), but she just used what resources she had at the house. So she would've had fishing weights from Dad's fishing box, and she would've had drapery weights, because she made the curtains for our house. So whether she used some of each to make these four flags, she might have. I can see that the fishing weights would've run out if she was trying to use those. My sister and I feel that maybe both of them were used. I tend to think that they were fishing weights, but who knows. Some articles you read it says they were fishing weights, some say drapery weights- that's why I don't know.

EP: That's interesting.

GD: But then he took these with him to the game, and he got the approval from the other coach, and also the approval of the officials that day. Because of course, they had to approve also. They evidentially said 'why not, we'll do it!' I have a letter that I gave to the Gridiron Glory; it's from one of the officials, after he had done the game, he wrote his ideas about it. He thought it was a good idea, and he thought that it had a future.

EP: And look what happened today, huh?

GD: Later that year, Jack McPhee referred in the Rose Bowl, and he used the flag there. I think it was the same year- I'm not real sure if it was the same year, or very close, but through the year he used his flag when he was refereeing at other college games. So the word kind of spread, but the flag wasn't officially adopted by the NCAA until later in the 40's.

EP: How interesting, I wonder, what was the character's name again?

GD: Mammy Yokem.

EP: I wonder if the producers of that show know just exactly where there costume is??
(laughing) Well, your sister told me you have some postcards.

GD: I do, and I tried to put my finger on them; they're in a little red box, and I looked for them over the weekend. I was going to leave them up at the Moser Gall of Fame, and maybe I already did. It's a postcard collection that I when I was quite young. They are from all the trips that my mother and father took. Anytime my Dad went Anywhere with the football team, he would send postcards. He started sending me these cards, and I would always save them, because I don't throw *anything* out! I've got thousands of postcards; friends have also given me cards, and I've picked them up different places. On one trip, the team went to Toledo. Dad mentioned that his daughter had a postcard collection. He probably bought the cards and passed them out, but he told the team to send me a card if they wanted to. So these cards would come. Mike Durina, Red Angelo, Campanna- these were the players in the 40's- '47 and '48. So for a couple when they took a trip usually one or two games maybe, he would get some cards, and they'd come in the mail. I just loved that; it was just wonderful!

EP: What kind of things would they say?

GD: Oh, we hope we can bring home the bacon for your daddy, or it was a nice trip, or something polite. Very, very nice, Augie Yahn sent me one. I have them, or Moser Hall has them, but they're not lost. They're in a little red box tied up.

EP: That's nice. So after you graduated from high school, you chose not to go to Youngstown, right?

GD: I wanted to major in Home Economics, and at that time Youngstown was just thinking about starting a Home Economics Department. I'm not sure if it was just beginning or if it hadn't started yet, but there was no degree from Youngstown in Home Economics. I also was interested in music, and of course Youngstown has always had a wonderful Dana School of Music, so from that stand point I could have gone there for the music, but Home Economics was really a stronger draw for me. And I suppose I didn't want to go where my father was

coaching for one reason or another, I don't know. My dad and Ray Watts at Baldwin-Wallace were very good friends, and Ray was former coach at Baldwin-Wallace but was then the athletic director. So when Youngstown played B-W in 1953, I went and Ray Watts asked my dad ahead of time, "so what's your daughter going to do, where is she going to school?" And dad told him what I was interested in and he (Ray Watts) said Baldwin-Wallace had the best Home Economics Department in the state of Ohio for a private school. He said and there conservatory also- the Bach Conservatory-that couldn't be beat. So they made arrangements for me to tour the school when I was there, and I just loved it. So I went there.

EP: And you majored in what?

GD: Home Economics.

EP: And when did you graduate?

GD: In 1958.

EP: And then you were married the same year?

GD: I was.

EP: And when did you have your children?

GD: 1960, '62, '68 and '71.

EP: And were you a teacher then?

GD: I taught until the first child was born, and then I have always gone into the schools and done history talks when they were studying pioneer life in Ohio. I would go and take antique kitchen tools, and other tools for living. I would go into the school and I would go into the schools every year (in the seventh grade classes) and I would do this little program.

EP: That's interesting. Now what else have you been up to since then?

GD: Well, the way our children came into the world, they were in two sections. I mean, we had the two girls, then seven years later we had two boys. So it's almost like another generation. Most couples just have a family then they go along, they're raised, and then they have grandchildren. Well, in our case we had these children and then we had seven years, we had two more, so now we have the older ones and the younger ones. The older ones kind of took care of the younger ones. Then the older ones were getting married and having (our) grandchildren, almost like four generations of people. Now I can see it's happening again, because our grandchildren now ages 9 to 14, and these boys that

were the second group of our children have no children yet. Perhaps that will come to be also, and that would be another generation. I had some illness between, well after the children were born and when the youngest one was about 10. I was pretty sick. I was diagnosed with having MS. But with my love of nutrition, I read everything I could, nutritionally, and I was helped by a neurologist, at The University of Oregon who wrote a book about the MS diet, and what you could do to help this problem. I started doing everything it said in this book to do, and it took quite awhile, but I slowly just kept improving. And I hate to say this now but I feel that I don't have it anymore.

EP: Yeah, that's wonderful.

GD: But maybe I do, I just hope and pray it doesn't come back. Because it can, you know, you can just get hit again, and so I spent many years kind of dealing with that. So it wasn't a hobby; it was just something that happened.

EP: Is there anything else you think I left out of this interview or anything else you want to share or that you feel is important to share?

GD: I have talked, and talked; I don't- it was a great family to be in, and I feel so thankful for the heritage that my parents have given me. I'm just really thankful to be able to live on the property where dad and mother lived, because every day they are visible. Sometimes when your parents die, there belongings are dispersed, their home is sold, and you have memories, but you don't have *living* memories. But here, we look at the trees, and we know we can remember when certain things were done to those trees, when things were taken out, when others were planted. They've just always been visible here. When you do something here, you think About how Dad left so many things in place as far as his planning ahead. He had no premonition of course, that he was going to die when he did. He thought he would live forever like all of us do; you just feel that. And I thought he could too. He was just that type of man.

EP: You have wonderful memories here, and with that memory of your father, it's a nice note to end on. I thank you very much for having me here, and for sharing all this with us, you know, my classmates and anyone else. Thank you.

GD: Your welcome.