

**Oral History Interview**  
**with**  
**Ann Enix**

Interview Conducted by  
Jacob Sherman  
October 22, 2010

O-STATE Stories  
Oral History Project

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# O-State Stories

An Oral History Project of the OSU Library

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## Interview History

Interviewer: Jacob Sherman  
Transcriber: Victoria Massey  
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The recording and transcript of this interview were processed at the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

## Project Detail

The purpose of O-State Stories Oral History Project is to gather and preserve memories revolving around Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC) and Oklahoma State University (OSU).

This project was approved by the Oklahoma State University Institutional Review Board on October 5, 2006.

## Legal Status

Scholarly use of the recordings and transcripts of the interview with Ann Enix is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on October 22, 2010.

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## About Ann Enix...

Ann Enix grew up in Gould, Oklahoma, in a close-knit, hardworking family. Her father was a farmer, and her mother was a homemaker and schoolteacher, which resulted in Ann having an interest in all of those things. She was no stranger to working in the cotton fields when she was needed or if she wanted to earn a little extra money, and she was active in 4-H, specifically in the home economics areas. She graduated high school with a class of sixteen and headed for Oklahoma State University in 1956. Already familiar with the campus from attending 4-H Roundups over the years, Ann acclimated to college life quite well.

At OSU, she lived in Willard Hall and became close with her dorm mates, developing friendships that she still has today. When she wasn't in class, Ann worked in the Willard cafeteria, participated in collegiate 4-H and the Home Economics Club, and studied in the library. She spent time at the Baptist Student Union at first, but when she met Jim, her husband-to-be, during her junior year, she started spending more time with him at the Wesley Foundation. Ann and Jim married in 1959, and she graduated in early 1960 with a degree in home economics.

Ann and Jim first lived in Virginia where he was in the Army, and then they moved back to Oklahoma where they started their family. In 1962, they moved to Kansas where they stayed for twenty-eight years. They then relocated to Colorado for a few years until Jim retired, and finally they moved back to Oklahoma for good. Ann still attends her high school reunions, and she still has a variety of interests that keep her busy, including basket making, beading, embroidery, and lifelong learning. In 2010, Ann came back to Stillwater for her fifty-year class reunion, and in her interview she reminisces about dorm life, campus hangouts, and life lessons she learned during her years at OSU.

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## Ann Enix

Oral History Interview

Interviewed by Jacob Sherman  
October 22, 2010  
Stillwater, Oklahoma



**Sherman** *My name is Jacob Sherman. Today is October 22, 2010. I'm here at the OSU Alumni Center interviewing Mrs. Ann Enix. Mrs. Enix is here for her fiftieth-year class reunion, class of 1960. I want to welcome you back and congratulations on your fiftieth year celebration.*

**Enix** Thank you.

**Sherman** *Let us begin discussing where you grew up and your family situation growing up, like how many brothers and sisters that you had.*

**Enix** Well, I was born and raised in Gould, Oklahoma, which is in Harmon County in southwest Oklahoma. I have three brothers, one who is older than I am and then twin brothers that are younger than I am. My father was a farmer, and my mother was a homemaker until I was ready to come to Oklahoma State, and went back to teaching. She was a high school math teacher.

**Sherman** *What kind of farm did you grow up on?*

**Enix** We had wheat and cotton. This was back in the era when the schools in that part of the state would let out in the fall for what we call "cotton picking vacation," and we would be out of school for like six weeks to pick cotton. (Laughter)

**Sherman** *Did you, yourself, pick cotton?*

**Enix** Yes, I did. That's how I made my money to pay my little extra expenses during the school year until the next spring.

**Sherman** *And how many hours a day would you be out in the field?*

**Enix** From the time we had had breakfast in the morning, if the cotton was dry enough to pick, until late in the evening. It was an all-day job.

**Sherman** *Did you raise any animals on your farm?*

**Enix** We had some animals. Dad had a few cows that he milked by hand, so he was up very early every morning. We had a few pigs. My brothers did raise show pigs in 4-H and FFA, and chickens, but not a real large operation in that area.

**Sherman** *Did you participate in 4-H?*

**Enix** Yes, I was very active in 4-H.

**Sherman** *What activities did you do?*

**Enix** Well, I could not settle myself on any one activity, so all of the ones involving homemaking, clothing, canning, cooking, food preparation, home improvement. When it was record-book time, instead of filling one out in clothing or that, I filled mine out, and it was called Girls Record. My last year it was called Girls Home Economics. I did go to national and was one of the six national winners in Girls Home Economics that year.

**Sherman** *Congratulations.*

**Enix** Thank you.

**Sherman** *So you went to the national competition?*

**Enix** I went to Chicago, rode the train, yes.

**Sherman** *And what was that experience like?*

**Enix** For a small-town girl, (Laughter) it was a lifetime experience. I was in school here at the time. It was my first semester, and so I had to miss classes in order to attend. Just going, being in a large city, going to all kinds of meetings, all kinds of dinners was really exciting.

**Sherman** *Where was that at?*

**Enix** It was in Chicago.

**Sherman** *Where? Was that at the...*

**Enix** I'm not sure. I don't remember exactly where it was.

**Sherman** *What other chores did you have on the farm?*

**Enix** Well, I helped Mother with the cooking for the farmhands. When it was summertime and harvest time, of course, you had the fellows coming in, one relieving the other, so you were feeding meals almost all day long. If they could not get home for the meal, you were packing a picnic lunch and taking it to the fields for them, but as far as in high school, having a job outside of the home, I did not.

**Sherman** *Were these big meals?*

**Enix** Oh yes. Fried steak, fried chicken. The meat you usually raised on the farm.

**Sherman** *And was this for the thrashers, or was this for cotton, or was this for both?*

**Enix** Well, it was mainly for the wheat harvest. When it came cotton time, I was out in the field with them, and usually Mother would be home fixing the noon meal for us.

**Sherman** *Did you have a garden?*

**Enix** We had a garden, yes. We did not have a well or much way to water it, but anything that we could not eat fresh, we did can.

**Sherman** *So what kinds of vegetables or fruits?*

**Enix** Tomatoes, beans. One year we had potatoes, and there were little potatoes that we canned. Fruits. A lot of times we'd go to the orchard and pick pears or peaches or cherries, and then we would go ahead and can those.

**Sherman** *What county was that again?*

**Enix** It was in Harmon County.

**Sherman** *Now, did you participate in the fair down there?*

**Enix** Yes. I would have exhibits of clothing, home improvement, which might be a tablecloth or pillowcases, canning, the gardening, if we had things coming out of the garden that year. I did have some poultry, which was the only animals, as the girl, I was allowed to raise for show.

**Sherman** *Oh, I did not know that.*

**Enix** Well, that was my folks. Some of the other girls raised livestock, sheep, pork.

**Sherman** *Rabbits?*

**Enix** Yes, but I helped with the chickens. My brothers helped with the pork, and we didn't raise any of the cattle for show.

**Sherman** *Now, did you sell the chickens at auction at the fair?*

**Enix** No, at that time we didn't. Just raised them, showed them, and then took them back home.

**Sherman** *How big was your high school?*

**Enix** In my graduating class, there were sixteen of us.

**Sherman** *Sixteen.*

**Enix** Yes, and we were a very close class. In fact, for our fiftieth reunion we had thirteen of the sixteen back.

**Sherman** *Wow. Did you have a high school football team?*

**Enix** No, we didn't because we were out of school in football season.

**Sherman** *Oh yes, during cotton picking season.*

**Enix** Yes. Baseball, basketball was a very, very large sport. I didn't play any sports. I was not any good in the sports area, so I didn't participate other than maybe watch.

**Sherman** *Was there a homecoming celebration for your high school then?*

**Enix** Yes, after you graduated there was a homecoming. It was always the Saturday of Easter weekend. Only graduates could attend for a long time because we didn't have space, but now since we lost our high school in 1990, anyone who has attended the school is allowed to come back to the alumni's get-together, and it's now been moved to the week after Easter. So we go every year instead of every five or ten years.

**Sherman** *And like you said, it sounded like a lot of people come back for that?*

**Enix** Oh they do, they do. They really do.

**Sherman** *Did you come up to OSU prior to your college for the [4-H] Roundup?*

**Enix** Yes, I came up every year from the time I was twelve years old until I came up here as a student.

**Sherman** *Can you share a little bit about those experiences?*

**Enix** It was something we looked forward to, and being from a small town where all of our schools, grade school, junior high and high school, were on the same piece of property, to a large campus like this, you just felt like it was overwhelming, but they guided you around and got you to your different contests. We usually had, depending on what we had won in the county, a demonstration, a style review, a speech to give, different judging contests to go to. Every year, they had one of the big Clay Potts barbecues for us, and it was because of those experiences that I decided to come to Oklahoma State, then Oklahoma A&M, for my schoolwork.

**Sherman** *Did you participate in the state fair at all?*

**Enix** Yes, I did participate in the state fair. Of course, to have an item entered in the state fair, you had to win first place in the county, and then based on the points you got for your entries there, you could win a trip to the state fair. We actually stayed on the fairgrounds in dormitories for, I think it was four days and participated in judging contests and lectures. Of course, we always had time for the midway and the grandstand. We went as a group to the grandstand, and usually they had chairs set down in the infield for us.

**Sherman** *What building was that competition in at the state fair?*

**Enix** They had what they called the 4-H Building.

**Sherman** *How is that different than the Roundup? Was the Roundup open to every 4-Her?*

**Enix** No, only, I believe, twelve boys and twelve girls from each county could come to 4-H Roundup at that time. I don't believe that many from each county went to the state fair.

**Sherman** *Yes, it was just the winners of the county.*

**Enix** Yes, just so many from each county could attend and stay in the dormitory. Of course, anybody that wanted to could go to the fair.



**Sherman** *Okay, so what years did you go to the state fair?*

**Enix** Oh, this would've been probably from 1950 to '55, during those years.

**Sherman** *Did they have horse racing at the fair or stable racing? What kind of entertainment did they have there?*

**Enix** If they had horse racing, I didn't go to it because during the day we had events that we were expected to attend. They were learning experiences, judging contests, and if we got any free time, we were on the midway. (Laughs)

**Sherman** *So you came in the fall of '57 to OSU?*

**Enix** Fifty-six.

**Sherman** *You had your prior experiences with Roundup. Did you have any different sort of reaction coming up here, or were you familiar with campus because you attended Roundup?*

**Enix** I was somewhat familiar with campus, and I had met another girl at Roundup who was going to take home economics education, the same as I was, who was from a small town. We decided to room together and help each other find our way around campus the first year. We enrolled in the same classes.

**Sherman** *And who would that be?*

**Enix** That was Judy Ford, now Schafer, and she's now living in Bryan, Texas.

**Sherman** *Will you see her this weekend?*

**Enix** No, as far as I know she's not coming back.

**Sherman** *What was the dorm that you were assigned to?*

**Enix** I stayed on the third floor of Willard dorm for the three years that I stayed in a dormitory, but that was during the winter, and then during the summer, I did stay in Stout. I did go to summer school, and Stout was a new one with air conditioning. (Laughter)

**Sherman** *That was probably a Godsend for you.*

**Enix** Yes.

**Sherman** *What things do you remember about Willard Hall?*

**Enix** I worked in the cafeteria of Willard Hall, and this was the first year Willard went from the dining room to the cafeteria-style meals, where instead of just punching your meal card, we had vouchers. You picked up what foods you wanted, and then the cashier figured the amount and tore the vouchers out for that amount. We could also use those at the Student Union as well as in the dorm, so it gave us a little bit of freedom.

**Sherman** *Because you worked in the cafeteria, were you able to get meals for free?*

**Enix** No, I had the voucher just like everybody else, and we had to pay for our meals just like everyone else.

**Sherman** *Would you work breakfast, lunch?*

**Enix** I worked all three meals. Not all three every day, but you got a schedule every week, and maybe every semester it would change depending on what hours you had classes. But I did work all three, worked in the salad/dessert area for a while. Worked in washing dishes. Eventually worked up to be a cashier, which paid the whole sum of seventy-five cents an hour. The other jobs were fifty cents an hour, and one semester I actually cooked on the grill, which paid a dollar an hour. Looking back, that's the first time I can remember discrimination on a job.

**Sherman** *Why is that?*

**Enix** Because the one that had been doing it before me was a fellow. He was paid a dollar fifty an hour simply because he was a man, and I was only paid a dollar an hour to do the same work. Things have changed in the last few years.

**Sherman** *Yes, definitely. Could you describe the phone situation?*

**Enix** The phone was down the hall. We did not have phones in our room. Never heard of a cell phone. When the phone rang, whoever was closest would answer the phone and then holler the name down the hall of who was wanted on the phone. This was our method. We did not call home very often. I know in my situation, you only called home in an emergency because you had to call collect. I can only remember calling my parents two times during the time I was here in school. I'm not sure they were emergencies, but... (Laughs)

**Sherman** *You felt like they were emergencies.*

Well, I had called my folks when they had told me that I had won the

**Enix** trip to Chicago, and then I also called them when I got engaged.

*Wow. What kind of social functions did the residence hall have?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** They had get-togethers in the basement, just kind of social. It seems like I remember a style review one time. Since we were all girls in the dorms, the parlors and some of those get-togethers in the basement were the only places fellows could come to. In fact, if one showed up on the upper floors, it was hollered up and down the halls that there was a man on floor.

*Did you get along with your floormates?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Yes, yes. I don't remember a lot of their names, but yes, we got along real well.

*Did Willard host any international students?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** I am not aware if they did. It may have been I just wasn't tuned into it at that time.

*Did you have the same room all three years?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Yes, I did because if you had a room, you had first choice on it again the next year. You could move if you didn't like your room.

*Where was it located?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** It was 318.

*Have you seen Willard Hall since it's been renovated?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Yes, I have been to one meeting over there.

*What did you think about the renovations over there?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Well, it makes good use of the building. I was, I believe, in the basement for one of the programs and haven't been on the upstairs floor, but as time goes by, students aren't wanting a small dormitory room with two people in a room and the bathroom down the hall, so it was a good way to make use of that building, and it is a great location.

*You weren't in a sorority, were you?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** No, I wasn't.

**Sherman** *Was there a reason you chose not to?*

**Enix** Probably cost, and I'm not one that likes a lot of socials. You know, they had a lot of dances and all, so that really wasn't my thing.

**Sherman** *What did you do for your free time? How did you entertain yourself?*

**Enix** I spent quite a bit of time at the BSU, which was the Baptist Student Center [Union], for the first two years. Then, after that, I had met my present husband, and we started going to Wesley Foundation. I also was active in collegiate 4-H and the Home Ec Club. It was a big outing to walk down to Campus Corner and have a cup of coffee and maybe go to the movies at the old [Leachman] Theater that was on that corner.

**Sherman** *How did collegiate 4-H differ from your hometown 4-H?*

**Enix** Collegiate 4-H was more of a social group here on campus of former 4-Hers from all over the state that were students here. It kind of kept us in touch with the program, and we usually helped with Roundup in the spring.

**Sherman** *Was it primarily home ec kids, ag students, or was there a whole bunch of different majors in it?*

**Enix** They were from all different areas. I would say probably the majority were agricultural or home ec students just based on their background of coming from the farms.

**Sherman** *How many credit hours did you take per semester?*

**Enix** I tried to take about fifteen a semester. I needed the extra time for working as much as I could.

**Sherman** *Do you remember your dorm mom?*

**Enix** I was trying to remember that, and I did come up with it. Ms. White was the dorm mom at that time. I haven't come up with a mental picture of what she looked like, but I know she was very good with us girls.

**Sherman** *Did you have any interaction with the dean of women?*

**Enix** No.

**Sherman** *Did you ever have any interaction with the president?*

**Sherman** I can't remember having interaction with him. I know it was President

**Enix** [Oliver] Willham at the time.

**Sherman** *Do you remember how students viewed him?*

He was a well-liked president, well-liked by the students.

**Enix** *Did you go into any athletic events?*

**Sherman** I attended a few, but I was not a large sports fan. At that time, we did have athletic tickets that would get us into any of them. We paid a fee when we paid our tuition, a student fee of some type that let us with our ID into any of the football games, basketball games, this type of thing, so I did go to some of those, but working in the cafeteria, sometimes I'd have to go late, sometimes have to leave early in order to get back there.

**Enix** *What campus spots do you remember the most? What sticks out in your memory that you have fond memories about, campus spots, campus locations?*

**Sherman** I remember Theta Pond being a real pretty area to walk around, and, of course, Willard Hall was facing Theta, so it was one that was easily watched and a beautiful view out your window. Then, the Bennett Memorial Chapel was another beautiful spot on campus.

**Enix** *Was that where the Wesley Foundation met?*

**Sherman** No, Wesley Foundation met across the street from the campus.

**Enix** *In their present location?*

**Sherman** In their present location, yes.

**Enix** *Was that the same building?*

**Sherman** I believe it was the same building. It's just been renovated, maybe added on to, but it was a fairly new building at that time.

**Enix** *How involved were you in the Wesley Foundation?*

**Sherman** Well, I wasn't really that involved with Wesley since I had come up as a Baptist to the Baptist Student Union. I only went to the Wesley Foundation after I started dating Jim. I was active in the BSU for one semester. I was the editor of their paper that they put out.

**Enix** *Did the BSU have social activities?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** We had social activities. We had space where you could come study if you wanted to, devotionals, just a good place to hang out with friends.

*Where was that located?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** It was in the present location where it is now across the street from the university.

*Do you remember what buildings you had class in?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Well, there was the Classroom Building. We had quite a few there, and the new home ec building was where a lot of the home economics classes were. Then, the food classes were in the old home economics building. Those were the main three that I had classes in.

*Do you remember any professors that stood out, that assisted you greatly?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** (Laughs) Well, there was a Ms. Gould that was our tailoring teacher. I do remember her, and Mrs. Gerber was the chemistry teacher for home economics chemistry, which was a required class. I definitely remember her because it was said if you had not had high school chemistry, you could not pass her class. Of course, I learned this after I was enrolled in the class, and I had not had high school chemistry. Then also, was told when I wanted to miss class to go to Chicago that there was no way I could pass that class, but I did.

*You did?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** I did, yes. Of course, Dean Lela O'Toole was dean of home economics at the time, and there were—oh gosh, I'm kind of blank on some of the others, not being real good with coming up with names. I can remember some of the classes, but that's about as far as it goes on professors.

*What was your hardest class?*

**Sherman**

Probably that chemistry class. (Laughs)

**Enix**

*Probably that chemistry?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** The other hard ones for me were the PE classes that were required at the time. You had to have three semesters of physical education, and one of them had to be swimming. So I struggled through those three classes, not being very sports-minded, and I had trouble with my eyes following the balls when we played tennis or golf, that type of program.

**Sherman** *I didn't know you had to have three semesters' worth.*

**Enix** Back then. I don't think you do now.

**Sherman** *I don't believe so, either. What classes did you enjoy the most?*

**Enix** Probably my sewing classes because I had been sewing since I was nine, so they came fairly easy for me.

**Sherman** *Do you still sew?*

**Enix** Some, yes. Not as much as I used to. There was a time in earlier years when I even tailored my husband's suits, but it has gotten to where you can buy clothes readymade cheaper than you can buy the fabric, and finding good fabric now is not easy to do.

**Sherman** *Speaking of sewing, was that one of your hobbies that you did while you were here, or did you have other hobbies?*

**Enix** I really didn't have too many hobbies when I was in school. Since leaving school, I have developed quite a few hobbies. Well, maybe one hobby while I was in school was my cake decorating. Then I've gone on —after my children were grown, I got into weaving and then some basket making, beading. Now I'm into the embroidery machine, so, there again, just like in 4-H, I can't settle down on one thing. (Laughter)

**Sherman** *But you spent your free time, you went to go see movies and...*

**Enix** Went to see some movies, yes.

**Sherman** *Did you go see any of the big bands that came through?*

**Enix** I'm tone deaf, so no. I did not go to any see music program if I could get out of it. (Laughter)

**Sherman** *Were there any bridge games or...*

**Enix** Never played bridge. Canasta was one that my family played a lot, but you didn't have too many students playing that here.

**Sherman** *Did you hang out at the Student Union?*

**Enix** Very little.

**Sherman** *Very little?*

**Enix** Yes. By the time I worked—and I did have to study to make my grades. I spent quite a bit of time at the library because I found that there were certain areas of the library where it was very quiet, and you could study without being interrupted, whereas in your dorm rooms with a roommate and people up and down the hall all the time, sometimes it was hard to get a quiet space you could concentrate on your studies.

*So tell me about the library from that time period.*

**Sherman**

**Enix** It was the library that's there now. It was a fairly new library. To me, it seemed like a very large building with lots of books, and almost a maze if you had to go in and find a certain book. It took me awhile to learn their catalog system and how to find the books I wanted once I found the numbers and information of where they were. And, of course, I think it was in my third year that we finally had a library class that explained how the books were cataloged into a library.

*And that was a one-hour class or what?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** I believe it was a one-hour class. It was not a real large class, but it explained the Dewey Decimal System and how they went about putting in all the books. I don't remember a lot about it, but I know it did help in using libraries.

*Where were your quiet spots?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Well, the library was the main one. Sometimes the BSU. You could find a quiet corner there. They had certain areas that were to be quiet for students to study, and other areas where you didn't have to be quiet.

*What were your curfew hours? Do you remember those?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** I was thinking about that the other day. I can't remember if it was nine or ten o'clock during the week, and then it was like midnight on Friday and Saturday night. And the lights outside the dorm would blink ten minutes before the doors locked, but even if you were at the library studying, you had to watch the time.

*Was there a difference between men's hours and women's hours?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** I don't believe the men had curfew hours. It was only the women's dorms that had the curfew hours.

*Did you feel that this was an issue, the difference between the hours?*

**Sherman**

At the time, I didn't give it any thought about being an issue. It made



**Enix** sure that you got there so you could get your sleep, and it sometimes gave you an excuse to come in without having to make an issue of needing to get in.

*What about dating? What was dating like back then compared to now?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Well, I didn't do too much dating up until my junior year when I started dating Jim. A big date for us was Wesley Foundation, a walk to Campus Corner for that endless cup of five-cent coffee, and occasionally a movie. At Wesley Foundation, we did play a lot of games of ping pong. Both of us were on very limited budgets, and so we didn't have a lot of money to spend on going out to eat or a lot of movies like some of the youngsters seem to now, and even then some of them had more discretionary money, but we were both on very tight budgets.

*How did you meet Jim?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** My roommate and some of my friends went to Wesley Foundation, and I stayed over between the regular semester and the summer school term to work in the cafeteria during 4-H Roundup. Jim was a Stillwater boy, and he had a car. The other girls knew him, and he would take us, and we ended up over at Wesley Foundation quite a bit. Then, after school started back the next fall, we started dating.

*This would have been your junior year that you started dating?*

**Sherman**

Yes.

**Enix**

*What were summers like here in Stillwater?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** Summers in school were much more relaxed than the winter. You had fewer subjects, but it was a more concentrated time in the class. Seems like even the classes themselves were a more relaxed atmosphere, and, in a way, I enjoyed it more than I did the winter term. They were smaller. There were less students on campus, and so it was a fun time.

*Did you ever go out to the lake at all during that time?*

**Sherman**

No.

**Enix**

*So summer sessions started when and ended when?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** There was usually, I believe, two weeks between when the regular session ended and the summer session started, so it would have been mid-June, and we went for nine weeks. Usually, I would spend one week here working and then go home for a week before classes started.

**Sherman** *Did your parents have a problem with you taking summer courses?*

**Enix** My parents encouraged me.

**Sherman** *Encouraged you?*

**Enix** Yes. They said if I came back to the farm, there really were no jobs. It was such a small community, and I lived out in the country with no transportation to get to a job if there had been any available. I didn't have a car. And on campus, you know, we walked every place. Even if I needed something from downtown, I had to find time to walk downtown from campus.

**Sherman** *Where did you live during the summertime? Did you live in Willard?*

**Enix** I lived in Stout Hall. Willard was not used during the summer because Stout was a new dormitory and it had air conditioning, so we were all moved to Stout.

**Sherman** *Did each room have a window unit?*

**Enix** No.

**Sherman** *It was central?*

**Enix** It was kind of central, yes.

**Sherman** *I'm sure that was a blessing. (Laughs)*

**Enix** Yes. (Laughs)

**Sherman** *Did you meet many people then in Stout Hall, or was there a different group of people that you hung out with?*

**Enix** A few of the same ones that I had known from Willard were going to summer school, so even though you would meet a few new ones, at this point, I don't remember any of the ones I met just during the summer.

**Sherman** *Because we're here for Homecoming, what do you remember about Homecoming?*

**Enix** I remember they had parades. We didn't have the big house decorations that we have now. We had some hall decorations, competitions between the students in the dorm, decorating our doors, maybe decorating downstairs. There was a big parade downtown, and so usually go to the

parades.

*Were there any walkout days that you remember?*

**Sherman**

I can't recall. It seems there was at least one walkout day when we won some big sports event, but I don't remember what it was.

**Enix**

*What about other traditions like religious emphasis week? Do you remember that?*

**Sherman**

I don't remember that.

**Enix**

*What about Howdy Week?*

**Sherman**

The what?

**Enix**

*Howdy Week, freshman orientation?*

**Sherman**

I never participated in that, so I don't remember anything about it.

**Enix**

*Did you wear a beanie?*

**Sherman**

No, I don't recall a beanie. (Laughs)

**Enix**

*Now, were you engaged with your husband here?*

**Sherman**

Yes.

**Enix**

*Did he get tossed into Theta Pond?*

**Sherman**

I don't think he did. We were engaged and then married the summer of '59 because he was going to put in his Army time, and then I graduated in January of '60.

**Enix**

*So he served in...*

**Sherman**

He was in the Army at Fort Lee, Virginia. He left in October after school had started. Some of the big events while I was in school was changing from Oklahoma A&M to Oklahoma State. That happened after my first year. Then in '57, you know, we had the Oklahoma Semi-Centennial, and I can remember there were a lot of things going on for that, a few on campus. But that was a biggy at that time.

**Enix**

*What do you remember about the name change? Did you have an opinion about it?*

**Sherman**

**Enix** At the time, you kind of grew attached to Oklahoma A&M, but as time went on, it was—well, we were moving from a college to a university.

**Sherman** *Yes. So not many people had cars on campus at that time?*

**Enix** Not very many at all. There were some that did. There were two or three from my hometown that did, so I was able to get rides back and forth when I needed to go home.

**Sherman** *How often would that be?*

**Enix** Of course, you had your Thanksgiving, Christmas, between semesters in the winter and then maybe two other times during the year.

**Sherman** *Would you go home for Easter?*

**Enix** Yes, we usually went home for Easter because that was my high school alumni get-together, too. (Laughter) So I'd go home for Easter, but we didn't have as long out for Easter as we do now.

**Sherman** *Was your Spring Break in March or around Easter time?*

**Enix** We didn't have what was called Spring Break. You had a little time at Easter and the same thing in fall. We didn't have fall break; we had time at Thanksgiving.

**Sherman** *And you would get, what, the two days prior to Thanksgiving or the whole week?*

**Enix** We didn't get a whole week. As I recall, we might have had, like, that Thursday and Friday and then the weekend.

**Sherman** *I'm just curious. What kind of car did Jim drive?*

**Enix** At the time, he was driving a 1950 Chevrolet and drove it until 1960 when we were able to get a new car.

**Sherman** *What are some of your favorite memories about OSU?*

**Enix** Oh boy. (Laughs) I had good experiences in the dormitory with the girls that were there. We would have get-togethers in our rooms at different times. We'd say, "Okay, we're all going to get together in so-and-so's room," and we'd go down and have an evening of just chatting. Maybe somebody brought some cookies from home. We weren't allowed to cook in our rooms at that time. We couldn't even have popcorn poppers or electric skillets, but we'd get together in the room and just have a lot

of fun, maybe even late at night in our pajamas. Of course, I enjoyed going to BSU and Wesley Foundation and participating in the events there. The collegiate 4-H, I enjoyed going to their meetings because a lot of those youngsters, even though they were from all over the state, I had met them earlier at 4-H Roundup. Ira Hollar was the state 4-H leader. The thing I remember about him was if he had met you as a 4-H youngster, he could call your name anytime he met you on campus.

*Wow. Good memory there.*

**Sherman**

Yes, it was.

**Enix**

*Do you still keep in touch with the friends that you made?*

**Sherman**

**Enix**

I keep in touch with two of the girls that I lived in the home management house with and also my former roommate and the girl that I did my student teaching with. We all correspond at Christmastime and maybe in between.

*Could you share some experiences with the home management house?*

**Sherman**

**Enix**

I was in the new home management house, which was on north Monroe. Ms. McAllister was the lady that was in charge of the home management house, and her reputation was that she did not give As. So the six of us girls got together in advance and said, "Okay, so we're not going to get an A. Let's have fun." Evidently that worked because she said that we would get up and find things in the cabinets that had not been used for semesters and used them with some of our meals. Different ones of us were assigned a week at a time to plan meals, and we were given a low-cost, a medium-cost or a high-cost budget to work on to plan the meals for the week. Then we would plan our meals, meet with Ms. McAllister, and she would make suggestions or tell us things. The thing I remember is one of the girls said to her one time, "Ms. McAllister, you told me this, and you told so-and-so something different." She says, "Aha! You are communicating." She said, "I did that on purpose." (Laughter) That was one thing I remember, and she said because we did work together as a good group.

*Home management, was that the last...*

**Sherman**

**Enix**

That was the last semester. In home economics, we called it, you were "on the block." You spent about two weeks in the classroom preparing you for student teaching, then you were out in the field, student teaching. I was at Glencoe for six weeks, and then you came back and had a couple more weeks in the classroom reviewing what you learned there and preparing you to go into the home management house. Then, we

moved into the home management house and actually lived there for six weeks. We also had classes while we were there for that six weeks that were more career orientated, how you interview, how you dress when you go out on the job, and this, besides keeping up the house, doing the meals, the cleaning, everything. And then when we moved out of there, we had two more weeks in the classroom.

*So it was good prep.*

**Sherman**

Yes, it was.

**Enix**

*Could you run a snapshot of where your life projected since you left OSU?*

**Sherman**

**Enix**

Of course, I was married before I graduated, so as soon as I was out of class, I went to Virginia and met Jim there. We lived outside of Fort Lee, Virginia, in Hopewell until he was given a medical discharge because he did wear a back brace, and he broke the back brace, and they couldn't figure out how he got in. We came back, and he started to work as the assistant manager in Red Rock, Oklahoma. We had our first child, Kathryn, while we lived there, and then moved from there to Tonkawa, Oklahoma, and our son Byron was born there. Then, in '62 we moved to Wichita, Kansas, and he [Jim] worked with Farm Credit. I was a homemaker and volunteer, and we lived there for twenty-eight years. There was a merger, and we were transferred to Denver, Colorado, for two and a half years, and at that time Jim retired. We bought the home place and then moved back to Stillwater.

*How in that time did Stillwater change?*

**Sherman**

**Enix**

It grew tremendously. We're living on forty acres, which was way out in the country at the time it was bought in the 1940s by his family, and now it is inside the city limits. Across the road from us are six hundred apartments, and we back up to the airport. So we're seeing more small jets. At that time, it was all just small airplanes, and now there are some smaller jets that we do see coming into the airport.

*How has the university changed since you were here?*

**Sherman**

Oh, has it ever grown. (Laughter)

**Enix**

*Just like the town.*

**Sherman**

**Enix**

Just like the town. It's almost like you have to re-orientate yourself to the campus, where the buildings are, just like starting over.

**Sherman** *What do you think about all those changes?*

**Enix** If you don't change, you're going to go backwards. I think it's good. If you don't keep changing and growing, you're going to be in trouble down the line.

**Sherman** *How has OSU impacted your life?*

**Enix** Well, I think without OSU as a background, and as a small-town student, I probably would've ended up on the farm and not have seen the world with as big of eyes as I've had, just because of coming up here.

**Sherman** *Is there anything that you're looking forward to about this weekend?*

**Enix** This morning was a big morning for the home economics, or human environmental science, fifty-year graduates. We had a get-together this morning, followed by pictures with Pistol Pete, and then lunch at Taylor's Dining Room and a program, and then this, and if we're not too tired, we will probably do the reception and Walkaround tonight and then the parade in the morning.

**Sherman** *What did you think of Taylor's?*

**Enix** It is a lovely dining room. They have really added to the HES buildings and their equipment.

**Sherman** *Is there anything that you'd like to add before we go here that we haven't covered?*

**Enix** Gosh, we've covered a lot of ground. (Laughter) And things have really changed in the last fifty years because I can remember as a youngster, no running water and no electricity at home, and here we are with our fast internet and cell phones and the way the world changes, but I think college work, as they told us, all college does is teaches you to learn. You have to keep learning or you're going to be left behind.

**Sherman** *Would you consider yourself a lifelong learner then?*

**Enix** Yes, we are very active with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) here in Stillwater.

**Sherman** *What do you think about that program?*

**Enix** I think it's the tops! We know we're going to send our membership in every year even before we see what program is being offered, and we try to take as many as we can. You know, you can only take one on Tuesday

morning and one of them on Tuesday afternoon, one on Thursday morning and one on Thursday afternoon, and then some of the computer programs. So we're taking in as many of those as we can and have not had one yet that we did not think was excellent.

**Sherman**

*That's great. Well, I thank you for your time today, and I appreciate the opportunity to interview you. I wish you the best and hope you continue to have a fun and great weekend here.*

**Enix**

Okay, thank you.

----- *End of interview* -----