

MRS. A: That was 1929. Nineteen /hundred/ twenty-nine, I think. And there was a lovely pool that was there, all up until just recently and right outside of where the old hotel was which is the site of the new hotel, later. And we did have a wonderful . . . we had a wonderful fellow there. We called him "Bugs," because he was the nature boy. And he took us on hikes and taught us all the trees in the park and we knew every bird, I think. We would go on bird hikes and we had a lot of folk dancing, because I knew folk dancing. We put on quite good campfires and had a lot of programs with the girls. They had such a good time that week that all of them wanted to stay another week. So, they approached me to see if I would. I had such a good time, I said, "Yes, I thought we could." So, we stayed two weeks /at/ that first camp that was supposed to be a week.

The next year we got the big camp, the other big camp. And it had no name and I was going to make an Indian theme for that summer. We were going to have all the counselors named Indian names and I took the name of Redwing.

END OF TAPE

TAPE 2-SIDE 1

SD: It didn't have a name when . . . you were the one that gave it the name?

MRS. A: Yes. And so I found out that Na-wa-kwa meant "in the midst of the woods." And I thought this was a very good name for our camp. It was in the midst of a beautiful woods. And we made signs and we had the name Na-wa-kwa.

The next year before we went to camp, Governor McNutt, who was the governor at that time, wrote to me and asked if I would give permission to make that the state name for the park. So, that's the only thing that I can ever say that I was the author of. (laughs heartily) So, that's been Na-wa-kwa ever since.

And then when Terre Haute had their own camp, they gave the privilege to the girls to name that

MRS. A: camp. And I think about unanimously it was . . . that these girls wanted the Terre Haute camp to be called Na-wa-kwa. So, that's why Na-wa-kwa out in Poland /Indiana/ is the same as the Na-wa-kwa -- the name -- as we had at McCormick's Creek and is still the name of that camp at McCormick's Creek.

SD: Oh, I see.

Did Terre Haute have a Girl Scout chapter at that time?

MRS. A: What do you mean by "chapter"?

SD: Well, was there Girl Scout troops?

MRS. A: There were three troops at that time. A Mrs. McGuirk's troop and Miss /Pauline/ Bartruff at the Goodwill had a troop. Mrs. Legg at the Congregational Church had a troop. Now there may have been one other that maybe didn't . . . we didn't know so much about. I think somebody else had a group of girls that had called themselves Girl Scouts. But these were registered troops that had . . . at that time, Miss Helen Benbridge was the first commissioner. They used to call them commissioners. And she was the first commissioner, and she was the one who came to get me to be the camp director. They had no paid director in Terre Haute at that time. This was just a group of scout troops that wanted to do something.

And the people I had to come help me were Miss Bartruff . . . no, Miss Bartruff was working at the Goodwill. Now, wait. Mrs. /Audra/ Richardson. Mrs. Richardson was on North 7th Street /and/ had a good troop at Maple Avenue church. And she came to help me. Catherine Clark from the Presbyterian church -- Mrs. McGuirk's troop -- came to be office girl and sort of general flunkie. She turned out to be the nurse girl for my 3-year-old who never left camp. She didn't go to the hotel at all. She just loved camp so she stayed in the camp from the beginning. And Miss Clark would always look after Dot. If I was busy doing something, why Dot would be with her. So, I always called her my right-hand man; for about five . . . oh, about ten years, I guess, she came to camp every year with me.

SD: This isn't the same Catherine Clark that's
the . . . like the historian now in Terre Haute?

MRS. A: Well now, I don't know.

MRS. S: That's Dorothy Clark.

SD: That's Dorothy. O.K.

MRS. A: Oh, yes. Dorothy Clark came much after my
time.

SD: Yes.

MRS. A: No, Catherine Clark lived on North 11th Street
and she was a . . . she had a brother.

MRS. S: Wasn't she secretary at the "Y" for a while?

MRS. A: What?

MRS. S: Wasn't she secretary at the "Y" . . .

MRS. A: Secretary at the YWCA for many years and she
always went to the First Presybterian Church where
Mrs. McGuirk went. That's how she got started in
sort of helping the Girl Scouts.

I was trying to think who else. Oh! Winifred
Legg, who had the troop at the Congregational Church.
They backed the camp so much, nearly 100% they came.
And that was the one that Mrs. Blumberg's girls were
in and quite a number . . . Mrs. Orr's girls. They
gave us more financial backing than any other troop,
I think.

And then Winifred Legg . . . we called . . .
what did we call here? I was trying to think of
what her camp name was. We all went by camp names.
Isn't that awful? I didn't think I'd ever forget
that. As far as I know, she's still living in
Palo Alto, California.

But she went to camp with me all the years I
went to camp and was wonderful, wonderful help.
She was an Englishwoman who came from England here
with her husband, who was with Commercial Solvents,
also. He was an English scientist and very well-
known in chemistry.

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: Was . . . you mean that we started? That's at Na-wa-kwa, McCormick's Creek State Park.

SD: O.K. And then it moved to Poland, Indiana?

MRS. A: Well, years later after we had a scout director for several years. That was Kermit Cochran and Margaret Gisloe; they headed the Terre Haute camps. And they were paid directors all year long. The Terre Haute camp in Poland started when the national wanted to get another camp in this locality, and they didn't count the camps that were run locally. They had to have their . . . they had to have the whole say about what was going on in that camp and make the plans which really was a bad thing.

The first year that they didn't have a Terre Haute camp and went to Poland, they had about eight or ten girls from Terre Haute go when we had had 125 the year before in camp. So you see, they didn't do anything to make the local group or make the local adult population interested in camp and do anything about helping the girls go to camp. There were always camperships and things like that given to a girl who couldn't afford it. But that meant the board worked all year making money to help this camp fund so they could take the girl who couldn't afford to go. Because, of course, eventually the cost went up for the state. We had to pay so much for every girl in camp. We had swimming -- wonderful swimming -- from the very beginning and a beautiful pool. And we only paid a quarter a day per girl to be in that state park and be in camp, which was marvelous. Of course, it's gone to a dollar now or maybe more. I don't know. But the most that the girls ever paid while I was directing that camp was \$10 a week. Now scout camps are \$85 to \$100 a week. (laughs)

SD: And you were directing the camp from . . .

MRS. A: I directed Terre Haute camp from 1929, when it started, until 1937. Then I helped these girls who took on the job the year 'round. In fact, I directed camp one year. Margaret Gisloe came with me to learn about it. And the same . . . I had gotten Kermit Cochran, who had been teaching in Marshall in physical ed (I had taught her in physical ed),

MRS. A: and she came to be Terre Haute's Girl Scout executive. And so then the next year she went from counselor to director and I could quit. I was wanting to quit at that time because I was having Ginnie. And then I was going to have Bo 19 months later, and I didn't ever expect to go back to camp.

But when Ginnie was two or three years old -- you /Ginnie/ were two and Bo was one -- they came and begged me to take the Brownies. I had suggested all the time that the Brownies should not be with the Girl Scouts because the age is different. Their program's different and everything. And the Brownies do much better in a camp by themselves.

So, since I had made that wild suggestion, they came and said I had to take the Brownie camp. So, then we went to another camp, Camp Friendly, which was in another part of the park. I organized the Brownie camp on a little different basis. I had a mother in each cabin along with a college girl. So, we had the young and the older to balance the staff. And we had then about eight Brownies with every two adults, which made a good ratio. And I think we had a marvelous Brownie camp for how many years? Didn't have any Brownies ever get homesick, and that's something you know.

MRS. S: It started in '39.

MRS. A: We had about how many though? We had about 80 Brownies, didn't we? About 80 Brownies each year. And my goodness, a few years after that Poland camp started, they just could hardly find the Terre Haute girls in the last camp.

SD: Was that when they created the Covered Bridge Council that took . . .

MRS. A: Well, a little later they did. Yes. A little later. It became . . .

SD: But that sort of diffused . . .

MRS. A: It became too national. No local person had much interest in it. Now, when I think of all those wonderful women that helped me on being on

MRS. A: the council, they stimulated the Terre Haute people to be interested in the camp, you know. And they gave their money to . . . I remember Mrs. Fanny Blumberg taking a bunch of Girl Scouts out to her place, and they picked raspberries and all. One day, Mrs. Blumberg and these girls made jam for camp, you know.

And didn't . . . Mrs. Acher was marvelous at her job of organizing the food and trying to get good cooks for me and things like that. So, I had wonderful help later, and they were all women that I had known before and had worked with on the faculty . . . well, Mrs. Acher was on the faculty. Her husband was on the Indiana State faculty.

And they were the leading . . . most of them were the sort of well-to-do women because they were the women who Helen Benbridge and Mrs. Blumberg and all those knew, you know. So, they really helped enormously. I can't say I did that all. I think they did a wonderful job of being on my council.

SD: Hmm. And you worked with the Brownie camp up until . . .

MRS. A: How many years did I go to Brownie camp? I can't remember.

MRS. S: Nineteen hundred fifty-five. 'Til I was about a senior in high school.

MRS. A: Did I have the Brownie camp along with the . . . I mean, after the Girl Scout camp?

MRS. S: Yes. You had Terre Haute Brownie camp. Then you had Greencastle Brownie camp, and then you had Greencastle Scout camp.

MRS. A: Well, they came . . . well, maybe so. They came to me again and wanted me to take the older girls after I'd had the Brownies. And so I had the two and the two got along so beautifully in camp. We took the girl that lived with us at the time to take care of Bo. Ginnie did like Dot, she just went right in the camp at three, or two or three, and went swimming and went hiking and everything

MRS. A: else. Then Bo came along, and Bo was a great big boy 14 years old before we quit, I think.

SD: (laughs)

MRS. A: , And when he started dating the counselors, I decided it was time to quit. (laughs heartily)

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. S: . . . Max Ehrmann and some people that were on the faculty with you? Gwill Isaacs was on the faculty with you.

ANNAKIN: The last few years . . .

MRS. A: Talk about the early years when Max Ehrmann used to come to the Union Building and eat lunch with you.

ANNAKIN: Well, of course, Max was a lonely soul, so he came there for companionship more than anything else. And he came down and ate his lunch with a bunch of us every day. So much so if he was absent, somebody went down to his apartment which was on South 6th Street, one block south of Main, and we'd go down and check on him to see if anything was wrong. And he was invited to write an ode to be read at the centennial chapel . . .

MRS. A: At DePauw University.

ANNAKIN: . . . at DePauw University, a hundred years. And he said he'd write it if they'd let me read it. So, I did. I couldn't quote it now, but it got a lot of notoreity. And he was a very remarkable man and I was quite fond of him. He was old enough to be my father, and a lot of things we didn't agree on; but a heck of a lot of things, we did agree on. Certainly two of those things was the worth of Max Ehrmann and the worth of Dewey Annakin. (laughs)
(all join in laughter)

BREAK IN RECORDING

MRS. A: I was in uniform; I was in shorts. (laughter)

MRS. S: This was before ERA.

MRS. A: Who would want to be in camp with long . . .
(laughing) with a long dress on?

MRS. S: Yes, but everybody wore dresses and you wore shorts.

SD: But you had a dancing school in your home?

MRS. A: Oh, yes! When Dot was four years old, I had been giving her, oh, gymnastics, and you know, acrobatics and so forth. We had hardwood floors, and I'd put back all the furniture and bring down a bed mattress; and we'd have a lot of headstands and twists and somersaults and, of course, with her little friends. So, the little friends advertised it so that the other mothers came and said, "Why don't you take our children and have a class?" So, I thought, "Oh, well, why not?"

And I liked it as well as they did. So, I had a famous class. They each had to pay a quarter for these lessons.

ANNAKIN: (starts chuckling)

MRS. A: And they'd come once a week for an hour and I had them like we did regular class. They had to learn to march and they had to learn all these things. And so, the gymnastic class of 4-year-olds went on until I had about five classes a week of different age groups. It went into folk dancing. You can imagine. And, of course, the living room is a nice size for eight kids to dance, and we had folk dancing. And Dot watched those classes from a baby bed. I had to keep her out of the swim of things, or she would have wrecked it all by trying to dance in all of them. And so she learned all those dances in her baby bed. She would shock the family at dinner time that night by knowing most of those dances herself. So, from that time . . . do you remember any of the dances? I didn't keep on doing that when you came. No. I think that was just through Dot's childhood. See, Dot was 11 when Ginnie came. So by that time I had two others, and I think the house was kind of swaying. They decided that I'd better not have classes or we wouldn't have (laughing) any house. And they did have to change one of the supports under the house. I'm ashamed to tell. I wouldn't let you do that now. (continuing to laugh)

MRS. S: You wouldn't let me do what?

END OF TAPE