Living Legacies

Living Legacies Oral History Project, Randolph-Macon College

Project Name: Living Legacies Oral History Project

Interviewee: Curtis Saunders, R-MC Class of 1948 [Ritchie Curtis Saunders Jr.]

Interviewer(s): Sarah Hendricks, Laura Doherty; also present: Rob Saunders, R-MC Class of 1979

Interview Date: May 20th, 2009 Length: (Part 2) Approx. 9:00

Location: ___________________________________________________________________________

Interview Summary:
Curtis Saunders talks about the WWII draft and how it affected his family; although he was not drafted, he served after his freshman year of college. Saunders states that circa 1946, 30% of Randolph-Macon College students were returning veterans and many of them lived in the Veterans’ Village. He attended the college before there was a dining hall and describes the boarding house (which was run by a niece of President Blackwell). He shares memories of school dances and some of the organizations (including Phi Delta) that existed while he was a student.

Biographical Summary:
Curtis Saunders, Class of 1948, first heard about the college through his church. His father attended the college during 1920. He left the college after his freshman year in 1942 to join the Marines and returned in 1946. He served during the end of WWII. Like his brother Bob, Saunders was active in Phi Delta. He mentions several of his post-graduation jobs: construction, farm machinery, and flooding land for “wetland farms.”

Personal Names:
Lambert Family (2:05)
“Piggy” Snider (4:35)
Dr. Simpson (5:10)
Gus Craig (5:56)

Place Names:
Kappa Alpha House (1:59)
Lambert Hall (2:08)
Lambda Chi House (2:30)
Portsmouth (5:50)

Business/Organization Names:
University of Virginia (0:01)
Clean ‘N’ Press (0:58)
Listerine (2:10)
Kappa Sigma (3:45)
Harvard Military Academy (6:05)
“Orange Blossom Special” [train] (7:13)

Content Index:
(00:01) Dress code and classes at Randolph-Macon College
(00:30) Doing laundry while on campus
(01:20) Using boarding houses after the war
(01:53) Fraternity houses
(03:52) Female students on campus
(04:20) Participating in pranks on campus
(06:50) The train