

CAF: Let me just lead this off and say is Carol Fowler with Donald Shankweiler and Alice Dadourian. It's September 10, 2014. And we're just going to talk about Alice's experiences at Haskins and with the Haskinses later. We thought we just start by being pretty open ended. Donald has some specific questions he came up with but I thought we'd just start with how did you get started at Haskins Laboratories and when was it?

ABD: It was right after my marriage broke up and I moved from Kew Gardens Queens to Manhattan, thinking that if I had to get a job and work Manhattan would be the place to live. And supposing I didn't get the alimony I was promised.

CAF: Which you didn't.

ABD: Which I didn't. And in 3 months, indeed, the alimony stopped. I went to the American Girls' Service, an employment agency, and told them that I was looking for a job. The first thing they did was give me a typing test, and she said: "Oh." (I remember her name: Adele Hooper.) She said: "You passed with flying colors. I can place you." Oh I said: "Wait. I'm not ready yet." I was so nervous. I said: "Let me think about it." It was Labor Day weekend. She called me immediately after the Labor Day weekend and said " I really want to place you." They needed help. She read off a name, a job at RCA in New York at Rockefeller Center. I said "OK."

[Hooper: ] "No wait, I have another one. No, another one." I was getting so annoyed. She never stopped; she went through 10 names. Finally, I said to her "Miss Hooper, I'll just take one." And she said: "Just let me give you the last one." The last, , the 11<sup>th</sup> one was Haskins Laboratories. "The President is looking for a part-time secretary." Oh good, I thought, part time. I asked where they were located. She said at 43<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. I lived at 63<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. So I thought: Walk down; if it's raining, take the bus. So I.. that's how I ended up at Haskins.

CAF: What year would that have been?

ABD: 1969

CAF: Right, because I remember in your memoirs you said: No sooner had you taken the job then they were asking you to move to New Haven.

DPS: We moved in December of 70, didn't we.

CAF: Was that it?

DPS: Yeah.

ABD: Yes. Now the first day I walked in. Do you remember Mrs. Gallagher?

DPS: Oh sure. Indeed.

ABD: She...Mrs Gallagher was the treasurer.

DPS: Right. Yep.

ABD: She said: "Let me take you up to Dr..." One was on the third floor and one on the fourth. I can't remember, Donald. She took me...she said: "This is where you'll be working", she said. She showed me an office. Introduced me to Dr. Cooper. He said: He had a tape. He said: "I'd like you to transcribe this tape. Do it in draft." He said: "I hope you know how to use this machine." Well it was an old, old Dejur Stenorette machine. The only one I knew how to use. If it had been an IBM machine, I wouldn't know with to do with it. So I...Now remember I'm working through an agency. So I transcribed all the letters that were on it. And at the end of the day, his office was next to mine, I put the transcripts there. Before I left that day, Mrs. Gallagher came in to talk to me. This was my first day. And she said...Oh Dr. Cooper had seen the draft

of the letters and gave them back to me...So she said: "Dr. Cooper would like to hire you full time."

CAF: Wow.

ABD: My first day.

CAF: Guess you did a good job.

ABD: And she said: "We'd like to take you on instead of through the agency." I said; "Mrs. Gallagher, you can't" I said "Furthermore you'd have to pay a high price." So I stayed with the agency; but I worked full time.

5:20

And that first day, Dr. Cooper said: "I want to show you where the Xerox machine is. And, This is where....she's not here today, but this is where Agnes McKeon sits, and you'll find her very helpful, very accommodating. Please introduce yourself. She was ill that day or had an appointment. So that's how I met Agnes the next day. But in typing the letters...Oh, they're planning to move to New Haven. Shucks. Here I find nice people, a job I like, the first one, and they're going to move. Well, before long Dr. Cooper asked if I would move, and I said: "No. I've just barely...I've had one upheaval in my life; I can't move." He said: "Well would you mind commuting until we replace you?" And I was quite helpful in the move. Dr. Cooper had a lot of confidential files that he didn't want transported. So after work I would go home, get my car, come back down to the lab, and pile all that stuff in the car, lock it up and then bring it up...I believe in January of 1970, I started commuting. Now I'm commuting because he said he would replace me. I wait a month. I wait 2 months. And you know what it was to move a laboratory of that size. Finally, I think it was 5 months. I was very patient. And one day I went in and I said: "Dr. Cooper, I really can't do this commute any longer, and you're not doing anything about replacing me." And he said: "Alice, I know. Just be patient. I'm going to." And 2 weeks later, they had their annual board meeting and Dr. Haskins pinned me down and that's when they asked me to stay on and be Secretary of the board. They made it very hard.

DPS: Secretary of the Corporation.

ABD: Yeah. So I thought, well, we'll see. I did it for...I commuted for 9 years. My mother was still alive in Princeton, New Jersey. My girls at that time both lived out on Long Island, but in '77 one moved to California with her family, and the other one moved to northern Vermont. But since mother was still alive, I would want to be going to Princeton to visit her. And I...finally after mother passed away in '78...Anytime I talked about moving, all my friends in New York were: "Oh you can't move, oh no, you.. oh no you can't move." Without telling them...I used to deal with a realtor, because all the visiting scientists that came to the Lab that needed places to live, I'd find apartments for them. So I called Maude, the realtor, one day and I said "Maude, I'm looking for an apartment." She said: "What are you looking for?" and I said: "Well, " I said; "I want two bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and I'd like a ground floor unit to rent." So she said: "You know, there's a new one being built in Guilford. I'll take you there to see it." We came up here at lunchtime. I met her at her office. I walked in that door, and I looked left, and I said: "I'll take it." She laughed. She said: "You like the kitchen?" I said: "Yes, because I like to cook." And, then when I looked at the rest of it... I'm all on one floor. I mean, two bedrooms, two bathrooms. And my mother used to say: "Remember, Alice, when you get older, always think of first

floor. Because she had a small house, but her bedrooms were upstairs and no bathroom. And my brother converted the dining room to a bedroom and...

9:54

And I rented here, and I asked the owners if they ever decided to sell could I have first refusal, because I couldn't afford to buy it at that time. That's how I ended up in Guilford. Because I had two cou-...a cousin who had lived here way back.

CAF: Yeah. When you commuted did you take the train every day?

ABD: No, Carol.

CAF: You drove.

ABD: I drove. Because you know me, I was not a 9 to 5'er. If the work wasn't finished, if the grants were not done. So there were many...And when we had grant applications, many was the nights I stayed over, sometimes at Agnes' apartment, because she had moved to Chapel St., sometimes I'd stay at a hotel in town overnight, you know. And I remember many a late night. Well, talk about grants...

10:58

DPS: A lot of us have had many nights passed on Crown St. there.

CAF: That was 9 exhausting years. You must have been exhausted for 9 years with all that driving.

ABD: Nine years and 3 months to be exact.

DPS: Wow.

CAF: Yeah right, right. So you've first worked for Dr. Cooper because he was the President at the time. How did...

ABD: Right, he wanted me to...He hired me as his secretary. And the reason he had asked for a part time girl at the agency was because: "if I don't like her...". That's the reason. Mrs. Gallagher said if he had someone come in that he didn't approve of, you can just say; "Send me someone else."

CAF: Right. That makes sense.

ABD: But evidently, I was able to do it the first day.

CAF: Yeah. Now how...So you met Dr. Haskins for the first time at that board meeting?

ABD: At the board meeting. That was the first time I met Caryl and Edna Haskins yes.

DPS: So for both Frank Cooper and Caryl Haskins it was sort of love at first sight.

ABD: I guess so, Donald. I guess so. Yes, you're right. Yes I guess so.

CAF: Now when I first knew you, you...your office, if it counted as an office, was in that big open room on 270 Crown St.

ABD: Right.

CAF: And I thought you were kind of like the Office Manager. I didn't think of you as Frank Cooper's secretary. Had your job changed by that time, or is it just that...?

ABD: No, I sort of was doing both. Doing both, yes.

CAF: I guess that's the way Haskins had been at least at that time and probably still is. Everyone has to do a lot of different jobs.

ABD: Yes. You were a graduate student coming to the Lab at that time.

CAF: 1971 would have been my first visit there.

ABD: That's what I wondered. '71. Oh alright. It was a year after the move.

CAF: I was lucky.

DPS: In the New York Haskins, you and Dr. Cooper were on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and the business office was on the...

ABD: fourth?

DPS: fourth floor.

ABD: Oh all right. I couldn't remember. All right, we were on the 3<sup>rd</sup>...Yes. And Donald, on the fifth floor was the computer? The VAX?

DPS: The Vax...That was on the ..Yeah, I guess that's right. It was on the fifth floor. That's right.

ABD: With Dave Zeichner and...

DPS: And George Scholes had a..

ABD: Oh right

DPS: place there.

ABD: That was the fifth floor. And I remember..

DPS: That was a sort of engineering lab up there...

ABD: Right.

DPS: With cubicles. Where part time people from Bell like Gene Peterson and others worked.

ABD: Oh, all right. And what floor, for instance, when Arthur [Abramson] and Leigh [Lisker] would come, where...what floor would they be on?

DPS: Third floor with...That's where most of us worked.

ABD: Yes, that's right. It comes back to me

DPS: But Kathy [Harris], and Peter MacNeilage and Michael Studdert-Kennedy had berths on the f...on the fifth floor.

ABD: Oh, all right. That comes back to me now. Yes.

CAF: And what was the business office that was on the fourth floor? What would that have included?

ABD: It was just Mrs. Gallagher, the treasurer...

DPS: Right. And Ray Huey was up there. He was part time, I think.

CAF: Oh, Mr. Huey was there. OK

ABD: He was part time.

DPS: And I think there may have been another office helper sometimes, I don't know

ABD: I don't know. But yes, Mr. Huey was part time. Because when we came to New Haven, that's when Mr. Huey was the full-time treasurer.

CAF: Treasurer. Right and there was a Mrs Betty Clark was that her name...was his helper.

ABD: Betty Clark was the bookkeeper

CAF: Yep

ABD: Yes, she was the bookkeeper when Ray Huey was the treasurer.

CAF: And then Sabina Koroluk was the receptionist I think.

ABD: And Sabina...right. Exactly, yes. She was the receptionist. Yes.

CAF: Did you work at all with Mr. Haskins except...So at board meetings you were the Secretary. Did you see him much either in NY or New Haven?

ABD: No, I would see them once a year. I would get ready for the Annual Board Meeting. I would coordinate the date with their secretary in Washington, Patricia Gussin [?]. At that time Dr. Haskins was President of the Carnegie Institute of

Washington. And I would coordinate the date. They had a condominium on Dupont Circle in Washington. 12 rooms.

CAF: Wo. I guess that's enough for two people.

ABD: Well, Carol. You know what happened: They had this estate in Westport. And when he became President, they would go down and stay at a hotel down there during the week and then come back. And finally decided to buy a condo, and they bought a one-bedroom condo on Dupont Circle, and that's where they would stay during the week. When the condo right next to it became available, they bought that.

CAF: Ah and then incorporated it.

ABD: Then when the one over here became... So actually, this was four one bedroom units.

DPS: My goodness

CAF: Now they didn't have 4 kitchens, so they probably had it redone.

ABD: They had four bathrooms, four kitchens.

CAF: They did! Funny.

ABD: Carol, to them these things were not important. It was their scientific research that was important. In Westport, the help would call and say: "Alice, there's an awful leak in the kitchen." "Well, call the plumber." "She won't let me. She said: 'Just put a pail under it.'"

CAF: Oh gee!

ABD: You have no idea what I went through. But this was not important. It was that paper he was writing. Or the ants that were important. You know what I'm saying?

CAF: That's so funny. Sure. Yeah. Right

ABD: And you cannot imagine what I went through when I had to clear out the condo in Washington.

DPS: He didn't have any ants there did he?

CAF: I'd bet they were welcome!

ABD: No, but he had sixteen...fifteen or 16 fish tanks.

CAF: Wow!

ABD: With all kinds of fish.

CAF: Now how could he? He was...Don't you have to feed them every day? I mean what happened when they came to CT?

ABD: The fish tanks? There was a gentleman who worked at the Carnegie Institute. Can't think of his last name. His name was George. George was paid go there and feed the fish.

CAF: Feed the fish. Wow.

ABD: In those 12 rooms were 36 file cabinets. 36 file cabinets full of everything and anything, papers, files. George would go and feed the fish. There were...It was...One of the rooms was Dr. Haskins' sort of office. Another one was her office. What Mrs. Haskins...I never knew for years that she had a PhD in her own right and that she was a noted...I had no idea. One day, Agnes mentioned it. I said "Agnes, you're kidding." "Oh no," she said, "She never talks about it. " But once, Mrs. Haskins asked me...She said: "Alice, when you go to Washington next, I want you to bring me a file." I said: "Yes." And I thought I'm going to find a file? She told me what room it was in. And in that room there were dozens of file cabinets, and, indeed, I went to the right cabinet, pulled it, and there was an envelope, a manila envelope, sealed DO NOT

OPEN, PRIVATE, CONFIDENTIAL all over it. And she told me not to open it but to bring it to her, which I did, I brought it to Westport. And it was her bio in there. And one day, she volunteered to let me see it. You know, and I was absolutely amazed that she had all these degrees, and she was so noted in her own field.

DPS: I wonder what became of that.

20:26

CAF: That manila envelope you mean.

DPS: Yeah.

ABD: But she ...Unbelievable. Do you still have a copy of that little brown bibliography

CAF: That you put together? Yes.

DPS: Oh yes.

CAF: We both read it over recently.

DPS: We read it over recently to meet with you.

ABD: Yes. He would never talk much about himself. And when they were out in San Francisco once visiting his friend, John Gardner, she needed cataract surgery. And she goes out there and decides she's gonna have it done. I mean...

CAF: I wouldn't do that.

ABD: This is her. But you know she had dementia really [...]. What I went through with her over the years. I don't know if anybody else could have put up with it, but for his sake, I had to. So, friends of mine in Ohio had begged me to go out. The one son was going to be in a concert; the other one in a play that weekend. And it was March, I'll never forget, and I flew out there. The Haskins..she had to know where I was at all times to reach me. And I no sooner got out on a Friday night, and Saturday... yes Saturday the next day, Mrs. Haskins called. "Alice," she said, "You must come to San Francisco immediately." I said: "What's wrong?" "I'm going to have my cataract surgery, and you've got to be with Caryl." And I thought, oh dear. Here I came...So I told a little lie and told her it would be hard to get flights that night; I'd do what I could. She kept calling. So I did see the concert that night, and Sunday morning I said to Paul and Luann, I said: "I've got to go. I'm so sorry." Paul said: "I'll drive you to Detroit" where I could get a plane; I had to go and change in Chicago. I said: "No." I said: "They're going to pay for it", I said, "so I'll just take a car. Don't ruin your family weekend" Because they had other family members there. I flew to ...I went from Detroit to Chicago, I had to change planes. And I guess you may have read in my memoirs, sitting next to me was this charming woman from England, and all the while she's sketching. She was a designer of wedding gowns. And I later found out...

CAF: Oh that's right, who was that now?

ABD: Sarah Burton

CAF: Sarah Burton, yes!

ABD: And when they were talking about Kate Middleton's wedding gown and all the designers and all. One day I heard: "Sarah Burton." "O my God, I said; "I met her!" So I got out to San Francisco. And while Mrs. Haskins was....I sat... Dr. Haskins would never talk about himself, and I had a little pad and pencil, and he didn't see very well. And that's when I gathered information that I put in that little biobibliography, Carol. You see, because you could never ...

CAF: That is such a shame, so many people are more than happy to talk about themselves.

ABD: And then at one point he said to me....I said: "Now say that again, Dr. Haskins". He said: "Oh Alice, I hope you're not writing this nonsense down."

CAF: Nonsense, right.

ABD: OK. To him. Yes. But to me, I thought: this is so interesting. And I'm jotting down...and I still knew bits and pieces of my shorthand, and I was trying to get as much as I could. He was so modest.

CAF: I know it, I know.

ABD: He was...Carol, Donald, there was no more modest a man than he.

DPS: You probably know that Pat Nye made some tapes with... and he's [CPH] unforthcoming about himself on those tapes too.

ABD: Who?

DPS: Caryl Haskins.

ABD: Oh, yes, oh yes.

CAF: Yeah. They sat down with, I think it was Frank and Seymour Hutner and Caryl Haskins, and Pat asked Caryl Haskins to talk a little bit about his life. And that took about 2 minutes and then Seymour Hutner took over. And Pat kind of had to squelch Seymour to get anything out of Caryl.

DPS: Frank had managed to get some more things out of him by asking direct questions.

ABD: Now I always noticed ...Edna never wore jewelry, She never had a wedding band on. But when it came time to go up to Schenectady, New York. Oh I know...once I said to Mrs. Haskins...I would pay all the bills...without...They once asked me for, to get...They wanted me to have power of [attorney]. I said "no," I said. And one day they called and said: "Alice, can you be down at Westport at 10 o'clock; we need you." So I went down. There was the lawyer; they had all the papers. They gave me Power of Attorney, which I didn't want. I had no choice.

25:43

DPS: Do you recall what year that was?

ABD: You know, I don't, Donald.

DPS: About?

CAF: Well, it was after you left Haskins Labs.

ABD: No, no, no, I'm still at Haskins.

CAF: You were still at Haskins Labs.

ABD: I was at Haskins for years and still ran back and forth to Washington.

CAF: I didn't remember that. Well, I did remember you went back and forth, but I'd forgotten.

ABD: I'd work five days for Haskins and Saturdays, I'd be in Washington. Another thing. They were so old fashioned: "Alice, could you go down and get the mail?" They would not let me have the mail...Even though they no longer went to Washington. They would not let me have the mail forwarded. I would leave here...

CAF: Oh that's ridiculous.

ABD: Leave here, drive to LaGuardia, park my car. On a Saturday, you could park. [Wait?]. Take the shuttle, go to Washington.

CAF: Take a taxi.

ABD: Yeah. Take a taxi. Gather...Oh, take a little suitcase. And gather everything, come back. Stop in Westport, go through it, drop it off, and get home, come home at night.

CAF: Now, what was their logic? Why wouldn't they want it to be forwarded?

ABD: You see, Caryl would never cross Edna in anything. In anything, and that's the way she wanted it because the dementia was slowly working. He did tell me at one point, which surprised me, that her sister, two sisters...

CAF: Had dementia.

DPS: So hers was a long decline?

ABD: Yes.

DPS: How many years would you guess?

ABD: Oh, of course. I never...when they first used to come to board meetings, I never had time to talk to her. But I'm going to say hers was 12, 15 years. Yes.

CAF: Wow.

ABD: Once the driver in Washington, his name was Ed Washington, he drove her to John[s] Hopkins for a doctor's visit. And, he took them in and knew they...They always had to be together. He knew they'd be awhile and he went out to get a cup of coffee. He wasn't gone long, he said, and he came back and the nurse is saying: "Where have you been? Get her out of here!" "What happened?" Do you know what happened? Her chart was there. She got a glimpse of it, and she saw the word *dementia*.

CAF: Oh. Oh.

ABD: She never went back to that hospital, that doctor. That was it. Listen to this. Every year, they would go to Australia. On their ant project. Every year, and that summer in Australia, January, February is summer there. That was every year. One day, I'm at the Lab working, and the phone rang and it was Edna Haskins. They had just gone to Australia the day before. Barely got there. "Alice," she said, "we're coming home. Tell Ed to pick us up at Dulles Airport." I said, "Mrs. Haskins, what's wrong?" She said, "Oh," she said, "I heard there'll be a telephone strike, and we can't be without a telephone. We're coming home."

CAF: Oh my gosh.

ABD: See, he couldn't speak up and say, "Edna, calm down."

CAF: And she...they did come back?

ABD: Oh! I called Ed Washington. He said, "Alice," he said, "What are you talking about? I just dropped them off, yesterday." You know how long a trip that is?

CAF: Yes

ABD: Do I have to tell you?

CAF: No.

ABD: So Ed went. They came right back.

CAF: Wow, what a nightmare.

ABD: Once they were in...on one of those trips; they were in Sydney, and they were there for a couple of weeks and they had to go to Perth. So they just kept their hotel room; they're coming back. You know, money was no object. And they went off to do their ant research. In their hotel room in a closet, he had a box with all these ants. Well the ants got loose. Not only did they get out of the cage, all over the room, but all over the hotel.

CAF: Oh my gosh.

ABD: The manager ...

DPS: Must have freaked out.

ABD: ...put them out.

CAF: Really. Well I hope these weren't very rare, exotic ants that Caryl wouldn't want anyone to step on or Raid.

ABD: I know. Just try that today. They used to go to Trinidad and get those exotic fish. How would you like to see Caryl and Edna, getting off the plane, first class of course, carrying buckets with fish in it?

CAF: Yeah right. Now, they couldn't do that today, right?

ABD: Can you picture it? I mean it was just unbelievable.

DPS: Oh my.

ABD: They had ponds on the property here at Westport, and every year he would call and dictate the fish that he wanted. Let me tell you the spelling of those names drove me crazy, and then I would call and order them and they'd send a driver to New Jersey to pick up all the exotic fish and put them in the pond.

31:40

CAF: So you mentioned in the biobibliography, I think, that Caryl Haskins' father had had an inheritance. But by the time he'd gotten married I guess, he had had to spend most of it and he had to go out hunting to feed the family.

ABD: Right.

CAF: Where did the Haskins' money come from. He died...

ABD: His aunt...

CAF: OK. We did find that out. Now, he would have inherited that as a young man, right from the aunt that was a friend of George Eastman, I think.

ABD: Right. She was married...Josephine Dickman, I believe. She was married to George Eastman. Right. That's where the money came from. [CAF: This is not wholly accurate. George Eastman never married anyone. Josephine and her (wealthy) husband were close friends of Eastman and Josephine's friendship with Eastman grew closer once her husband died. However, they never married, and Caryl Haskins inherited her money, not Eastman's]

ABD: Dr. Haskins, of course, his money, he wanted to devote..to strictly research. When his father...they were on a trip to the west coast. His father worked for GE, and then mid trip...

CAF: He caught a virus or something

ABD: And he passed away. Right. And his mother was so upset that when they came back...he was her only child, her only son. For about a year, she just could have nothing to do with him. She had a nurse take care of him.

CAF: That's so sad.

ABD: It is. And that's why, when he was at Yale.

CAF: She moved.

ABD: she took an apartment and stayed there. Yeah.

CAF: But he must have invested his...the money he inherited very well.

ABD: General Electric stock.

CAF: Of course!

ABD: General Electric stock. Yes.

CAF: That's where his father worked.

ABD: Yes.

CAF: But it sounds like ...somehow even though he was only 3 when his father died, General Electric remained sort of part of the family. Because when he was a young man he went to work there. That's where he met Frank Cooper. Right, was it at GE?

ABD: Right, right. Exactly, exactly.

CAF: So they must have very paternal or something...

ABD: Yes

DPS: Well his father had a high position in the research lab. He was director, I think. I believe.

ABD: Who?

CAF: Caryl Haskins' father

DPS: Caryl Haskins' father

CAF, DPS: When he worked for GE.

ABD: I think so, I think so. And he and Frank Cooper (phone rings)

GOTO second FILE

[something missing]

CAF: I don't know. That is the first I've heard of that.

ABD: You know what, Carol, it's the first I'm hearing it. I wonder where he got that from? Because I don't ever recall...

CAF: Or even that his father [CPH's] was a scientist. I wonder...Does anyone know about his education, Caryl Haskins' father's education?

ABD: I don't think his father was a scientist.

CAF: Yeah. I didn't think so.

ABD: No, I don't think...Carol I don't think so.

CAF: The thing about Caryl Haskins that I think is special, is that...Because he was his father died at such a young age and he got excellent education, he was very self-directed. He really knew what he wanted, and he was very...

ABD: Who, Caryl?

CAF: Caryl Haskins and he was very idealistic and to me it was admirable that he took this route of becoming a scientist and...

ABD: Exactly.

CAF: Something that Donald found in a publication from 1953 about what his and Caryl...and Frank Cooper's ideals were for Haskins Laboratories when it was founded. It was kind of to be catalysts. That they would find areas that they thought needed to be developed scientifically. And they would start working in those areas and get rest of the world interested, and once the rest of the world realized how valuable it was, they would move on to the next thing, you know? And I just love that idealism that he had.

ABD: Right. Caryl once said, I think it was one of his yearly reports at the institution [Carnegie], that the man that says he's too old to learn was always too old to learn. A classic expression of his. Yes.

CAF: Always too old. Now his wife, I think she was a Chemistry PhD. And she never, once she got married go Caryl anyway, she didn't do any chemistry research.

ABD: No.

CAF: But did she get interested in his ant research?

ABD: Oh absolutely. They coauthored many papers.

DPS: Yeah. That's what I learned from reading your ...

ABD: The biobibliography... little brown book?

DPS: your bio, because I wasn't aware of that.

ABD: She always wanted...Agnes once mentioned this to me. She always wanted him in the forefront. And that's why I guess all those years I didn't know that she had a PhD in her own right. Yeah. She always wanted... all the credit was to be for him.

CAF: That's interesting. And he was extremely supportive of her, and they were kind of inseparable, weren't they?

ABD: Right.

CAF: They did everything together.

ABD: They were. Everything, everything. You could..She would not be apart from him for anything. But as her dementia got worse...I mean shereally, there were so many times when she treated me so bad. And I could see, he would be sitting there cringing. But he couldn't say: "Edna, don't do that to her." And when I got..every time I got the chance, I'd go over and: "It's OK, I understand." I'd say to him: " It's OK Dr. Haskins" I'd whisper you know, because he'd feel so badly. But he would never say anything to her.

3:20 Second file

DPS: Well, she must have been a very promising scientist, because she had a fellowship...international fellowship to Harvard.

ABD: Yes. Yes.

DPS: Right after her doctorate.

ABD: I asked Dr. Haskins actually that day when we were sitting...she was having the surgery "Dr. Haskins, when did you decide you wanted to marry Edna?" And he looked at me and said "Alice, the first day I met her."

CAF: Wow.

ABD: He realized, he said, what a brilliant woman she was. The first day he met her.

CAF: That's pretty amazing. I wonder if she felt the same way.

ABD: That's why he pursued her. When she came and her uncles were head of the railway in Cuba, she would go down to visit them. They [Edna, Caryl?] were not married. He'd go down to see her while she was there.

CAF: Yeah, and they had a transatlantic relationship for awhile too didn't they with her in England and him in the US.

DPS: She had a very important job back in England

ABD: Oh yes.

DPS: as inspector of factories that were making war equipment.

ABD: And she...and she invented this mist dissolving for aircraft. She...

CAF: You mentioned that in something. What did you mean? What did that mean? Did it mean they were...

ABD: the solution...that's used

CAF: It dissolved like fog or something that was making...?

ABD: Yes. She was such a brilliant woman in her own right. And he detected that the first day he met her. Which, I think, is so interesting.

CAF: Yeah, but she was never apparently tempted to get a position for herself in a university or anything

ABD: Right. Right. But she.. they worked together beautifully, beautifully. Yes. They were inseparable, inseparable.

CAF: Now turning to Frank Cooper, a thing I admire about him is that he didn't have money at all when he was growing up.

ABD: right.

CAF: And I read, I guess it was in the oral transcripts from Pat Nye that he took an exam, a statewide exam in Illinois I think it was to get a full scholarship to the university, and he placed first. But he still, I think, didn't have the money to...It wasn't...It wasn't all of his expenses. And so he had to turn it down and teach for a year. And he took the same exam the next year and also placed first. I mean he was a brilliant guy in his own right.

ABD: Really. See that I never knew. Really.

CAF: Yeah. And to get to MIT the way that he did. It was just quite an achievement for a farm boy from Illinois.

6:06

ABD: I remember one day when we were at the Lab in New York, Dr. Cooper came and said: "Alice, I have to go out, but I'm expecting a visitor. His name is Patrick Nye. And that's when Pat was on his way from California to England for a position, I believe.

CAF: Yes.

ABD: And Dr. Cooper knew: I need this man.

CAF: I think he was very good at hiring the kind of people that were required for the job.

ABD: His death was a sad, early loss, Pat's.

CAF: I know! You know when guys are as physically fit as he is...You know, he was on his bicycle, wasn't he, when he had a heart attack and died?

DPS: Yeah.

ABD: Yeah

CAF: You just don't expect that at all.

ABD: Pat and Elaine and I were very close. And especially, they lived in Guilford and they were here dozens of times for dinner. We did things together, and I'll never forget the day that Elaine called me and said: "Alice, I'm afraid I have some sad news." He was in the hospital then, but it didn't look good. He was riding his bike to the post office. And if he hadn't fallen in a spot where people didn't see him for a while, you see.

CAF: Oh, I didn't realize that.

ABD: Yes, he was...he had fallen off the bike, had the attack, but the average person wouldn't see him. When he was discovered, it was too late.

DPS: Oh.

CAF: I hadn't realized that he'd survived the heart attack. I didn't realize that he made it to the hospital alive.

ABD: I think it was about five or six days later when Elaine called me to tell me that...

CAF: Oh shucks.

ABD: But if he had been found in time, it would have been different. Sad, it was sad.

CAF: We just had a visit at Haskins by a woman named Mara Mills, who's doing a project on reading machines. And one of the things she was looking for is a gramophone...a record that Pat published in one of his papers, I think, before he came to Haskins.

ABD: Oh.

CAF: It was...It was a recording of the sounds made by a very, very early reading machine. And she just wanted to hear the sounds. And we've not been able to track down a copy.

ABD: That...

CAF: It was a record that was attached to a publication, and Haskins actually has the publication. I have it out of their library right now.

ABD: They do?

CAF: But the gramophone record had been pulled off of it and wasn't there.

ABD: Oh.

CAF: Do you think Elaine would have any old copies of Pat's papers that might have that one in it?

ABD: You know what? I will ask her. I had a birthday card from her with a long note in it and she did say: "I'm going to call you soon."

CAF: Good

DPS: That would be great. That would be great.

ABD: All right. I'll ask her.

CAF: Good. Good. So one of the things we're trying to track down is just papers that people might have left behind.

ABD: Right.

CAF: You mentioned that you had had...not you had had, but the Haskinses had had some of Frank Cooper's papers, but you don't think that they survived. Am I misremembering that?

ABD: Frank Cooper's...You talking about publications?

CAF: Not his publications, but letters, anything that might...

DPS: His correspondence, and his personal papers...

ABD: Oh no.

CAF: We haven't tried contacting his sons yet. And we know that Caryl has some papers at Columbia University and maybe at Yale as well.

DPS: We know he has some at Yale, but do you have any idea what might be there?

ABD: No, I haven't.

CAF: So Pat came, when? Not long after Haskins [Labs] moved to New Haven.

ABD: Right, because we were in New York when Pat came by to meet with Dr. Cooper.

CAF: And it was specifically because Pat had done some work himself on reading machines...

ABD: See I never recalled...Pat had several publications...eye vision...

CAF: I thought it was vision in pigeons or something?

ABD: Yes, pigeons. Yes

CAF: Yeah. So this publication that Mara Mills was looking for was the really first I knew that he had had something to do with reading machines before he came to Haskins.

DPS: I think he was at Cal Tech before...

ABD: Yes.

DPS: On that kind of a..

CAF: On that kind of project?

DPS: Yes, disability project.

ABD: Right.... That's right. Yes, on pigeons, eye vision.

CAF: Yeah. His degree would have been in ...was it in physics?

DPS:Physics.

ABD: Physics, I think.

CAF: It was in physics. I wonder how you get from physics to pigeon vision?

ABD: Yeah.

DPS: Well, yeah, he probably worked on optics. I would guess.

CAF: Could be. Oh right.

ABD: Probably.

CAF: So working on that project around the time of the move to New Haven there was Pat and Al, George...was George Scholes there back then, was he in New York, George?

11:40

ABD: yes.

DPS: He was in NY. He was there when we got our computer a couple of months after I arrived in 1965. We got the computer, and George was put in charge of it.

CAF: And what's the name I'm trying to think of, The Elastic Word...Jane Gaitenby. When would she have come.

ABD: Well Jane was at the Lab; I remember my second day at the Lab in New York and all of a sudden Jane walked in, introduced herself: "My," she said, "it's good to see a new fresh face here." And Jane...there was a second desk in the office I had. And Jane would prop herself up on that desk, and she would sit and chat. And I was so upset, because I had a lot of work to do. You know me. I gotta do my work.

CAF: Yes.

ABD: And she loved coming and chatting.

CAF: That's difficult.

ABD: yes.

DPS: Well Jane was really an early person. I think she came...

ABD: So she was in the New York...

DPS: ... shortly after Arthur [Abramson] did. She'd been a graduate student at Columbia.

CAF: Oh, I guess I remember that. That's right.

DPS: Along with Arthur.

ABD: Jane? Oh, she was a graduate student at...

DPS: at...in Columbia in phonetics. She probably was recruited by...[Frank Cooper]

ABD: Oh, all right.

CAF: But she didn't get her PhD, did she?

DPS: No she didn't

ABD: no, She... That's right. Oh ok. Oh, that's interesting.

CAF: And, let's see. Luigi Provasoli. He would have...he made the move to New Haven from...

ABD: Yes. At the time the Lab was moving up to...to New Haven, that's when the microbiology department, headed by Seymour [Hutner], went down to Pace University at their invitation. And Luigi and his group came on the Yale Campus.

CAF: And did you get to know Luigi and his wife well?

ABD: Very well. And Luigi didn't like the secretaries at Yale, and he would come over to Crown St. and have me type his papers. Remember, Carol, we didn't have computers then. And I'd say: "It's all right," so I would stay late and type for him. Became friendly with them both and, when they...he retired, and they moved...they had planned to move back to Italy. Rose was American-born. And they met when she was studying in Paris. She was...art. That's one of her paintings over there [on the wall in ABD's living room at home].

CAF: Oh!

ABD: 1938 she painted that. Anyway, she was studying art. She was in an all-girls...she was on some kind of a scholarship. And on Sundays, the girls would all meet in an international house, and the boys from the school would come. And she was always too busy. And one day one of her friends said: "Now you're going to just drop your paint brush and come with us to tea." And she met Luigi that day. And he liked her, came back the following week. And finally, when Caryl Haskins...invited Luigi to come to New York and be part of the Lab...They lived in Brooklyn for years. Yeah. And when he retired, he wanted to go back to Italy. And Rose said: "Fine." I think it was only two years later or three. One morning Rose called me. I'll never forget it. It was a Sunday morning. And she said: "Alice, Luigi has passed away." I was sorry to hear it. I knew he was ill. "Would you please put his obituary in the New York Times." And I told her that I would. Then, she called me back and she said; "Alice, I really would love for you to come visit me. And I'd like to plan a memorial for him at Yale."

16:16

I said: "Rose, " I said," I don't know if I can take..." She begged me. When I told Caryl and Edna, they said, "Alice, please go, please go. We'll pay for it. Please go." So I arranged to go. She lived in a beautiful villa. It was owned by Luigi's nephews. And with a beautiful wraparound terrace. It was lovely. In this little town of Comerio. And we planned a nice memorial service on the Yale campus. And Caryl and Edna came, and Caryl spoke.

CAF: Oh, nice.

ABD: He was very fond of him. Following that trip to Italy, Rose called me every Sunday morning at 8:30 just to chat. Jackie was here and the phone would ring, she'd say: "Mom, there's Rose."

CAF: So Rose stayed in Italy.

ABD: She stayed in Italy. And her nephews were charming and their wives. And she begged me to go and visit again the following year, and I did. It was lovely. She had a driver. We'd go to Lugano, Switzerland, which was only about, less than an hour away. And one day she said the nephews were having a memorial service for their mother and for Luigi, and we were going to go to Gallerate. That's near Milan. It's

where the airport is. And I said, "Oh, the church is there?" "Oh no," she said, "They're going to have the service in a villa that their mother lived in." Here was this gated mansion of about 40 rooms.

CAF: Wow.

ABD: The priest came. And we had this wonderful memorial service. And then they served champagne and hors d'oeuvres. And then we all went to a lovely restaurant for dinner. From then on, it was an annual thing.

CAF: Really.

ABD: My annual vacation.

CAF: Italy. Mmm.

ABD: I would go. And it would make Rose so happy. She said, "You're the only one I can speak English with," she said.

CAF: I was wondering that. So she learned or knew Italian...

ABD: She spoke fluent Italian. She spoke perfect Italian. But the nephews were very good to her. They really...I mean you should see when we went to Luigi's...to the cemetery, Carol. The headstones, I mean...Cemeteries in Italy are really unbelievable. Mons..

CAF: Well, was the Provasoli family quite wealthy in Italy then? If they had a villa like that

ABD: Yes. Yes.

DPS: He was a count, wasn't he?

CAF: He was?

DPS: I believe so.

CAF: Count Luigi.

ABD: Not that I know of.

DPS: No? Is that not so?

ABD: Not that I know of, no. But they were a very wealthy family. And the two boys. And the two boys. One was in textiles, Piero. He was constantly going back and forth to France. And the other brother, Geno, the other nephew, his nephew, was in computers, yeah, the computer field. Yeah. Fine boys with all their wealth, Carol, down to earth. Like you...I mean that's what I really appreciated about them. And they adored Rose and treated her beautifully.

DPS: Well when he and Rose married... They married in Paris, I assume?

ABD: No. Luigi said...

DPS: They met in Paris, though, right?

ABD: They met in Paris. But Luigi said: "I will go with you to ..." Because her family was in Long Island. And they came here, they were married. They were married in 1938, I believe. In Long Island. Yes, that's right. But she..

DPS: I had the impression, maybe wrongly, that Luigi sort of left his country for Paris because of the war. But...

ABD: Oh, yeah, they really went through hard times during the war. Rose told some stories.

DPS: But he arrived in this country with nothing but the shirt on his back, I...I heard.

ABD: Who?

DPS: Luigi, and his..bugs, his cultures. That was the story that...

ABD: Luigi?

DPS: Well that's the story that Seymour Hutner told on Pat Nye's tapes.

CAF: Well, he said that Luigi was a war bride. That he was able to come over because his wife was American.

ABD: Right. Right, exactly.

CAF: But I didn't remember that he was poor.

21:34

ABD: See, Luigi's field was marine ecology. He was...his field was marine ecology.

DPS: Well, even though he came from a wealthy family, he could well have been poor, because of the circumstances.

ABD: Right. Yes.

CAF: Yeah. That's true. I did...I wondered why Luigi and his group came to New Haven instead of staying with Hutner's. Did they really not collaborate with each other?

ABD: Well they were in two different divisions, you see? Hutner was microbiology. He was...Luigi was marine ecology.

CAF: OK. So a different scale.

ABD: They used to work together and fight together.

CAF: Oh really! Uh huh.

ABD: Seymour was another one, when we were in New York at the Lab. He would come...I forget what floor he was on...He would come and talk to me and waste my time...

CAF: I'll bet. I'll bet.

ABD: for hours, he could. Here and I'd be so nervous. I had work to do.

CAF: In one of his obituaries that I found, Hutner's, one of his grad students said it was very risky to walk by his office, because he'd kind of suck you in and...take up all of your time.

ABD: Once when Dr. Cooper said...Oh, Dr. Cooper would put in his file basket and mark on the top where it would go. This one goes to Ann Gallagher. He'd put the initials there. And when I would see SHH, Seymour Hutner, I would cringe. I'd try to get it in his office ....

CAF: Sneak it in.

ABD: when he wasn't there. Because the student was right.

CAF: You'd be trapped.

ABD: You couldn't escape. You could not es...

CAF: Well, especially if you were female, we heard.

ABD: Yes, you couldn't escape.

DPS: I only met him on the elevator going up. Seymour, you know. And he usually managed to say something significant on the way up.

ABD: Right, right. I do remember going to New York for his memorial service. I do vaguely remember that. Yes.

DPS: We're trying to track down information about him too.

ABD: Seymour?

DPS: We went to visit...

CAF: Pace.

DPS: Pace. Cy Bacchi and...

ABD: Now, what is Cy doing now?

DPS: Well he's retired, but he's still actively ...

ABD: Really?

DPS: ...actively working and...

ABD: So you have gone and talked to him.

CAF: We talked to him and a man named Stuart Marcus who was one of the high school students that Seymour Hutner was famous for attracting to his laboratory.

ABD: I vaguely remember the name.

DPS: A Junior Bug Club, they called it.

CAF: Junior Bug Club, yeah. So it was good that we were able to talk to them. That was helpful in understanding a bit about Hutner's group and what they did.

So how about Al Liberman? Was he at Haskins when you were hired, or did that come after you were hired?

ABD: Yes. Now, I remember Leigh Lisker coming to the Lab in New York. I remember Michael Studdert-Kennedy, Kathy Harris. Somehow I don't remember Al Liberman. Or maybe I have for...I'm blocking it out.

CAF: He was there, right. He did come to New York.

ABD: Did he?

DPS: Yes but only a couple of days a week, because he was already head of the department at UConn.

ABD: Oh, all right, all right.

25:01

ABD: Yeah I don't remember. But it's funny I do recall that when Dr. Cooper was going to retire as President of the Lab, and Al was going to take over, I thought, well, I guess this is as good a time...They won't need me anymore, I'll retire.

CAF: Oh, my goodness!

ABD: And Al Liberman said: "I need you more than he did!"

CAF: Yeah, that's true.

ABD: And then Michael sang the same tune.

CAF: Well, it's true, I think. Frank, among his many talents, I think, was a very good administrator. But certainly Al never became President because he wanted to do administration. Or Michael.

ABD: Exactly, exactly.

CAF: So they really did need you more than Frank did probably.

ABD: No he didn't

CAF: When did you retire from Haskins? .....I'm trying to think.

ABD: You were still there.

CAF: Umm.

ABD: Yes.

CAF: So...

ABD: You were still there.

CAF: Yeah, so I came...I replaced Michael in '92.

ABD: '92?

CAF: And I left in 2008, and it was sometime time in there. But I don't remember when.

ABD: OK. At some point, I mean, I was spending so much time with Caryl and Edna.

CAF: The Haskinses. Yeah.

ABD: You know what? I think I was 79 years old. [2002?]

CAF: Wow. That's...wow!

ABD: What's the retirement age now?

CAF: 65. That's remarkable that you stuck on that long. And then, and at that...so you retired from Haskins [Labs] at age 79, and then went to work full time for the Haskinses, which you were doing anyway.

ABD: Well, you could say I was working full time for them, yeah, then.

CAF: Yes, yes. But still...

ABD: And I remember one time when Dr. Haskins said to me over and over again: "Now you remember, Alice, when I die, don't you let the developers and the... come in and...." I said: "Dr. Haskins, when you pass away, my power of attorney ends. If you want that, you've got to put it in your will." "Oh, no, you can do it." I mean, this is his mentality. I had such a hard time. So that's when I called the lawyer and said: "I think something has to be done. This man doesn't want to see 50 houses on his property."

CAF: Right, right. That was such a good thing to do.

ABD: And today I'm so proud of the Aspetuck Land Trust...

DPS: Well, you should be. You should be.

ABD: and what they've done...

DPS: That was great

ABD: ...and what they've done. And on the property when they passed away, I've got these beautiful benches made with their names on it and some of their quotes and when they were gone... They were cremated; and when they were ready to lay the concrete, they called me and I had their ashes, both of them, here, and they interred them in the [center?]

CAF: That's nice, that's nice.

ABD: But, yeah, they've really done a beautiful job...

CAF: Absolutely.

ABD: And they've now started this lecture series in their honor.

28:12

CAF: At the...at the trust?

ABD: Yes.

CAF: Where they are? How nice. How nice.

ABD: Have you seen that little video? [<http://www.aspetucklandtrust.org/17244>]

CAF: Yes. Yes.

ABD: Well, they...Well, David Brant who is the executive director of the land trust one day said "Alice, we'd like to show a little blurb before each lecture, and could we just come up and interview you?" And I said: "OK." Well, Carol, walked in here. You would think they were doing a Holly wood movie. The cameras! The lights! They moved the furniture. They said: "We'll put it all back." But I'm so glad, because that's what they would have wanted, that nature preserve. It's really lovely.

28:48

CAF: I'm sure.

DPS: That's a great... something that you should really, really feel proud of.

ABD: Yes, I really do. I'm so glad, because that's ... I know that's what they would have wanted.

CAF: Well what would have happened...I mean did they have a will that would have bequeathed it to someplace?

ABD: Oh otherwise...

CAF: Would it just have gone to the town of Westport?

ABD: Well, I think, yeah.

CAF: Because they didn't have any relatives.

DPS: Well he just hadn't bothered to update his will.

ABD: No. They had no...they had no relatives. Not a soul, not a soul.

CAF: That's pretty remarkable.

ABD: Yeah. Yeah, that would have been really sad. And, the neighbors, once she passed away, they kept calling me. And then when he passed away, my phone was going off the hook. And one day I said to the immediate neighbor, I said: "Joanne, please don't worry about it." She said: "We're having a meeting." I said: "Joanne, it's in black and white; it's going to the land trust."

CAF: Oh, I see. She was worried that it would turn into condos.

ABD: They were all worried that, in the midst of these gorgeous homes would come this big development. And what the... Dr. Haskins did...right across the road from this property he had another couple of acres. That the land trust was allowed to sell for the money to keep this going. And on that property across the road, some idiot put up this monstrous mansion that looks awful.

CAF: Oh no.

DPS: Oh...

ABD: But fortunately, it doesn't interfere.

CAF: Well, glad it's not a Walmart anyway.

ABD: But really...Yeah.

30:34

CAF: Do you know anything about Caryl Haskins' association with the Rand Corporation?

ABD: Yes. He was on the board of Rand Corporation, and that's the reason why they dedicated a series of lectures in his honor.

CAF: Oh, they did!

ABD: And when he could no longer attend, he would make sure that I went. And I remember once he begged me. It was in Santa Monica, which is their headquarters. Once it was in Washington, DC. I remember going out to Santa Monica. And do you remember Lloyd Morrisett?

CAF: mmm

ABD: Yes, he was there. And anyway, they had a series of lectures in his honor. I remember the year, I think it was the year that the lecture was in Santa Monica, that the guest lecturer...They always had a prominent speaker. It was Anthony Fauci. He was...

CAF: Oh yeah, he's on TV sometimes.

ABD: Yes, yes.

CAF: He's a medical doctor. [Head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases]

ABD: Well, he was the guest lecturer at that time. And I remember at dinner after the lecture, he was seated next to me, very nice man, very nice man.

DPS: Do you remember what it was ab[ou]t..what the topic was by any chance...what they talked about?

ABD: Well he was head of the National Institute.. .was it of Allergy and Infectious Diseases?

CAF: I'm not sure. Maybe it is Infectious Diseases.

ABD: Yes, it was. That was his field, Donald. Yes, that was his field.

CAF: Another question Donald had was just...Do you know of anybody that's still alive that knew Caryl well that we might interview and talk to? We feel like we're starting this project a little bit too late.

ABD: Is Ed Wilson still alive?

DPS: Yes. I...After I wrote this question, it occurred to me that he might one of the people that you would mention, and I looked him up. And yeah, he's still at Harvard.

ABD: I don't...

CAF: Uhhuh.

ABD: Every now and then, what did I see once in the New York Times, I don't know. You know last month...Caryl's birthday was August 12, he would have been 106. So there aren't many people ...

CAF: You know you just mentioned Lloyd Morrisett. He's still alive, right? He's a person...

DPS: I don't know. I don't...

CAF: Oh, OK. I think he is.

ABD: You know...I wonder if Lloyd is. Now, Caryl was responsible for bring Lloyd and Bill Golden on the [Haskins Labs] board.

CAF: Right.

ABD: Remember, Carol? Yeah. And they all came because...

DPS: Well, let's go back to Ed Wilson just a little bit. You mentioned him, but did Caryl Haskins talk about him?

CAF: Well somehow his name has come up in connection with Caryl Haskins. I've just seen it.

DPS: Well I think that he wrote an obituary for Caryl Haskins.

CAF: Maybe that's it.

DPS: Maybe the New York Times one....I think.

ABD: Who?

DPS: Ed Wilson, E. O. Wilson. And I know that they went to Australia together on an ant hunting expedition.

CAF: Right, that's what I saw.

ABD: Oh, OK.

DPS: Because that's what was referred to on the tapes.

CAF: That's what I saw.

ABD: Oh, OK.

CAF: But no people of a younger generation that kept in touch with him in his later years that...?

ABD: No.

DPS: People from Carnegie, maybe?

CAF: Well, someone that Phil Rubin keeps telling us we should hit...Maxine someone.

DPS, ABD: Singer.

ABD: Maxine Singer. She was woman President of Carnegie Institution in Washington.

CAF: Yeah.

DPS: Were they close? Or do you know?

ABD: He liked Maxine a lot. I don't know how....I don't know how close they were.

DPS: Well he was...

ABD: I know that when Maxine one year was coming to give the commencement address at Yale, she called me, and she said: "Alice, I'd like to arrange to go to Westport and see Caryl." I said: "No problem." And I do recall going over to Yale and picking her up. Drove her down to Westport and then from there got a car for her to go back to Washington, to the airport. Hmm. Phil is still in Washington?

CAF: Yes, he told someone he was planning to retire in February. See if that happens.

DPS: He told me that. Yeah.

CAF: Uhhuh.

ABD: Now which..where does he work in Washington?

CAF: He has two jobs, right?

ABD: Oh.

DPS: Right. He works as a program...some administrator at NSF and he's also in the White House, the science...science staff.

ABD: Oh OK. OK. So he's there, and Joette's in Hartford?

CAF: Yes, yes and she has this awful job, you know.

ABD: I know.

CAF: Children and families or whatever it is and...

ABD: I can't think of a more difficult...

CAF: Just distressing. Just distressing, I think.

DPS: So we have two names: Maxine Singer and

ABD: Ed Wilson

DPS: Ed Wilson. And maybe Morrisett if he's still alive. And that's all....you can't think of anyone else that we should...

ABD: Yeah, Lloyd Morrisett. I'm assuming he's still around.

CAF: I'm pretty sure he is, although I have to say it's been a number of years since I knew that, so I'm not sure.

ABD: This is terrible to say...but I probably... if he passed away, I'd see his obit in the Times.

37:25

CAF: Uhhuh. Oh, I see. And you haven't seen it. Oh, OK.

ABD: No. I have a feeling that ...

DPS: Could I ask a question about ancient...ancient history? Because in your little biography of Caryl Haskins you mention that he did tell anec... tell you some anecdotes about the beginnings of Haskins Labs, about the founding. Is there anything that you can recall that...

ABD: About the beginnings?

DPS: About the very beginnings, yeah.

ABD: Like it started in a garage in Schenectady, New York?

DPS: Yeah. Right.

ABD: Can you believe it, Carol?

CAF: Was it his garage in his... at his house, or just some...?

ABD: Yeah.

CAF: It was his garage.

ABD: It was his garage.

CAF: And one thing that you mentioned is that somewhere he said he was inspired by Alfred Loomis' Tuxedo Park Laboratory. Did he know Loomis?

ABD: I don't know. Let me try to put something together. One day I had a call from a woman named Jenny Conant. C-O-N-A-N-T

CAF: Yeah, she wrote a book.

ABD: She was writing a book, and she wanted to come and interview Dr. Haskins. He was then in the nursing home where I had him moved at the Carolton [Carolton Chronic Convalescent, Fairfield, CT?]. I remember I had to pick her up at the station in Fairfield. She said: "Alice, I have to drop my son off at school." Her grandfather?... was President of Harvard.

CAF: Right. James? Was that his name?

ABD: I can't remember.

DPS: James Conant, yeah.

ABD: Yeah, her grandfather, right? [yes]

DPS: And he was also directly under Vannevar Bush in the World War II science directorate.

ABD: Oh. Oh, OK.

DPS: And [Franklin] Cooper...Cooper worked for him...

ABD: OK.

DPS: ...worked for James Conant, during World War II.

ABD: mmhmm. She came to interview Dr. Haskins. As I recall, he could not be too helpful to her, but they did have a nice visit. And I learned later, we were chatting, and she said something about her husband, Steve. And I later learned...You know who her husband is? Do you ever watch 60 Minutes?

CAF: Steve.... Kroft?

ABD: Kroft!

CAF: Steve Kroft! No kidding!

ABD: That's her husband! I almost died when I heard that.

CAF: We read her book.

DPS: Yeah, we did.

CAF: Yeah. It's called Tuxedo Park.

ABD: Tux...What's it called?

CAF: Tuxedo Park, where...

ABD: That's what she was writing when she wanted to...And Dr. Haskins knew...He said: "You know, I'm afraid I can't;"he said to her: "I can't be very helpful." She said: "Just coming and meeting you and talking to you has been a pleasure for me," she said, but...

CAF: Oh, that;s nice. That;s nice.

DPS: Well she acknowledges the interview in the book.

CAF: Yeah, she mentions it.

DPS: Yeah.

ABD: Oh, she does? Ok.

CAF: She did a great job.

ABD: Really?

CAF: It was very engaging reading. Yeah.

DPS: Yeah. Fantastic story. All right, but, but ...So she was...I mean that book was basically a sort of a biography of Loomis...

CAF: of Loomis

ABD: of Alfred Loomis?

DPS... and about the Tuxedo Park Laboratory.

ABD: Oh, OK. OK.

DPS: And I sort of gathered that they did know each other. That Caryl Haskins knew Loomis. I mean Loomis was...is also one of the people who contributed money to the Lab before World War II, and. Or about at the beginning. Because Caryl Haskins acknowledged that on the tape [Nye, 2006]. So it just seemed to me that they may well have known each other.

ABD: Roughly, when did you start this project?

CAF: Um. Just maybe a year and a half, two years ago? Not, not...

ABD: Oh, that late. Oh, ok.

CAF: Yeah, yeah.

DPS: Yeah.

CAF: Yeah. I mean, Donald was giving a very distinguished lecture. And he just happened to say to me, I don't know what my project is going to be after I give this talk, and I thought, how about working on Haskins [Labs] history? So we started...So when did you give that talk? [Donald *Shankweiler*, Three Challenges in Becoming Literate, Norman *Geschwind* Lecture,. International Dyslexia Association, October 26, 2012]

DPS: Well you had put the bug in my ear and I had ignored...sort of...It just sort of...

CAF: Percolated.

DPS: Yeah, percolated for a while and then I said I'd do it if Carol would join in. And she graciously did.

ABD: Oh, Ok, ok.

CAF: So what we've done so far is we've written a paper about how the reading machine project led to the basic research on speech and language at the Laboratories. And that we've just gotten accepted in a *History of Psychology* journal.

ABD: Oh, ok. Oh right, you had mentioned that in an email. All right.

CAF: So we've recruited Michael Studdert-Kennedy for a second paper, although that one is turning out not to be all that historical.

ABD: mmhmm.

CAF: But we're just trying to find out as much information as we can about Frank Cooper and Caryl Haskins, and, you know, Pat Nye, you know, the pioneers before its even more too late than it already is.

ABD: Right, right. I don't think you're going to have much luck contacting Dr.

Cooper's sons. They shipped a lot of Frank Cooper's things to Westport, boxes of s...

CAF: I remember, yes.

ABD: When Dr. Cooper passed away, they had asked me to go out and speak at the service. Which I did. Unfortunately, in clearing out that Westport estate, a lot of things, when I missed a day or something. I mean I had ...You know these huge dumpsters? I had eight of them lined up.

CAF: Oh, my gosh!

ABD: All of the stuff there. Of course, I had dealers come in, and book dealers and china dealers, I mean it was ...it was a nightmare. And a lot ... accidentally, a lot of things got thrown out that should not have.

CAF: Yeah, yeah. It's too bad.

ABD: You know, I was one person. And...

CAF: That must have been an incredible job.

44:44

ABD: Oh, God. I mean clearing out Washington was an incredible job. And then I had to sell those units. But you couldn't sell a 12 room unit with four bedrooms, four... And...

CAF: Right. I mean, they must have put doorways through. So you couldn't sell them as four units.

ABD: They were all opened up. It was one big...yeah.

CAF: Right, right.

ABD: So finally, I did sell one unit. One gentleman who lived in the building, he wanted a two-bedroom unit. Thank God. He bought the two middle units, and I said to the lawyer, I said: "You know, I think the best we're going to do is sell them as is." "Because boy, they needed work. They needed work. Yeah.

CAF: Right. Yeah. Yeah.

ABD: But I had to get people to come and take out those fish tanks. I mean...

CAF: Right, file cabinets.

ABD: And then clothes.

CAF: mmhmm

ABD: Tons.

CAF: So they must have had like two sets of clothing, the Connecticut clothing and then Washington.

ABD: Not only that. Edna had dementia. And what she would do, there were...she would call Brooks Brothers and: "Caryl needs shirts." Well, he no more needed shirts than the Man in the Moon. But: "Oh, they're on sale, Mrs. Haskins." "Oh good! Well, send me three dozen."

CAF: Oh geez!

ABD: Well, one day, Carol, I had to go in one of the back, back rooms at the condo in Washington. What is this? Sixteen unopened boxes from Brooks Brothers.

CAF: Oh gosh, oh.

ABD: I called the bank in Schenectady, because I would deal with Jim Niland who was their man there. I'd say: "Jim, we have a problem," I said, "We have a problem." I said: "You know, this is what she's doing." Then I'd get a bill from Brooks Brothers, one month for \$14,800. Well I got on the phone, and I saw he was charged for suits. The man no longer was wearing suits!

CAF: mmhmm

ABD: So I called Brooks Brothers, and I said: "I want the manager." [one to the other], And I said: "Look, we have problem." What would... happened...The guy who worked for them, Paul, said: "Oh Alice,; he said, "it's very easy..." Oh, and the same thing with boxes in Westport. Send three dozen here and three dozen there," she would say.

CAF: Well.

ABD: So, and you know they work on commission. So this man was making out fine.

CAF: Of course! What a lucky guy!

ABD: So anyway, I got ahold of the manager and I said: " Look, we have a problem here." I said: "Number 1, I'm not paying this bill." I called Brooks Brothers anonymously and asked the price of that suit, and the price of a \$750 suit, he was billed like \$1250.

CAF: Of course. Of course.

47:44

ABD: Anyway, I never paid the bill, and Brooks Brothers...But to get rid of all this stuff...Fortunately, the driver in Washington, said one day, he said: "Alice," he said, "our church has a program where people are looking for jobs but they don't have proper clothing or a clean shirt. And they came one day, he and the pastor, they went through all the clothes. Edna had ball gowns made to order with matching handbag and...

CAF: Oh, golly.

ABD: Oh! You won't believe it. They came ... I want you to know that they took all that clothing. And they sent me a letter itemizing everything. Tax slip for about \$27,000, which they could use, a tax deduction. But.. .See with her dementia, they would take advantage of her.

CAF: Yes, yeah. Wow.

DPS: So you had to preside over the closing of two residences.

ABD: Two.

DPS: The ...the ..And get all the things shipped from the Washington residence....And there must have been a lot of papers, a lot of papers there.

ABD: Another thing. When she passed away her estate had to be settled. So I used to pay a monthly bill to National Security Storage in Washington.

CAF: Uh oh.

ABD: They didn't have a clue what was in it, but there was something there in storage. So when she passed away, the lawyer and I, and we had to go down to Washington, had to get all the proper papers that she had passed away and I had power of attorney. And there is a trunk this big. Full of sterling silver.

CAF: Oh my god.

ABD: The most interesting thing in that trunk were the newspapers some of it was wrapped in,

CAF: Oh, sure.

ABD: ...dating back to...When I came back and told Dr. Haskins, "Oh Alice, he said, "I remember sitting and watching my mother pack that trunk."

CAF: Oh my gosh.

ABD: And they never used it. Sterling silver was not important to them.

CAF: Yeah.

ABD: And there was this...So...

CAF: What happened to it?

ABD: They decided...The lawyer said, we'll have this shipped to your house."

I said: "No, you won't." I said, "Oh, no, you won't." I mean, uhuh. And I've got a garage with a car in it.

CAF:Yeah.

ABD: I said, "Ship it to Westport." So it came to Westport, of course, eventually. I laid everything out. I even took pictures of it at the time, for insurance purposes, you know. But...Another thing, once I said to Mrs. Haskins: "I'm paying a bill for bank deposit boxes at your bank in Schenectady." She said: "Alice, a box...we don't have a box." I said, "Well, I noticed on the statement..." I called the banker. He said, "Alice, let me ask the safe deposit department." Not one, they had five boxes. And that 's where, when we...after she..we had to go and open them. Her wedding band was in there, never worn. There were some coins in there. Oh, bonds, \$25 war bonds, loads of them.

CAF: Wow!

ABD: But there were five boxes there. These things were not important to them.

CAF: Yeah. But what a job they left for you.

ABD: I know, I know.

DPS: My goodness. Well, that's quite a story.

ABD: Oh gosh. Yeah.

DPS: So its...

ABD: I can't think of anyone else that ...

DPS: It seems...We...It might be worthwhile trying to get hold of Jennet Conant and find out...and just put the question to her what the relation might have been between...

CAF: Uhhuh, yeah maybe she knows more than we do.

DPS: Yeah, I suspect she does.

ABD: Yeah, I vaguely remember that day, he kept apologizing to her and saying: "I really ..." He didn't have that much information that she was looking for, yeah. But, yeah, later on I realized that she was married to Steve Kroft.

CAF: Steve Kroft. That's quite remarkable. We didn't know that. She....As I said, she wrote a great book. That's what we knew. I did want to ask you a little bit about Agnes McKeon. Was she hired as an artist, or did that just...She did some wonderful figures.

ABD: Agnes did the graphic drawings.

CAF: And that's how she was hired? That was her job.

ABD: That's how she was hired. And, for my first day at the lab, as I said, she was not there, but the next day, the second day, I went down to where the Xerox machine was, and she was sitting there, and I introduced myself. And from that day, we became fast friends. And when I was commuting, and Agnes had no choice, but to move up to New Haven immediately. And many a morning, before she moved, I would drive from Manhattan to Kew Gardens where she lived and bring her up and she would bring some of her things up to the Labs.

DPS: Did Alice...

[phone rings]

