

Interview with Jane Phillips
Marquette, Michigan
23 March 1995

START OF INTERVIEW

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Interviewer (I): Interview with Mrs. Jane Phillips. Today's date is March 23, 1995. We are in the library, in room 303. The subject is Dr. West.

Jane Phillips (JP): Okay, this is Jane Phillips, P-H-I-L-L-I-P-S. My maiden name is Erck, E-R-C-K. I attended Northern from the fall of '63 to '67 as an undergraduate student. I began as a math major, then as a junior I switched to a math minor and started a biology science major. I did not have Dr. West for any biology classes as he was in the administration at that time. And I never did meet him as an undergraduate. In '67 I graduated, I did one year of graduate work here at Northern. I was working on a degree in secondary education, with an emphasis in biology, in the sciences. In June of '68 I married, we moved to Mount Pleasant and I attended Central Michigan University where I continued my graduate work. In June of '69 we moved back to the Marquette area and I finished work on my graduate degree at Northern that summer. I believe it was maybe sometime in August, I was in the biology department at the time and I saw Dr. Peters in the hallway. And he asked me if I had any worked lined up for the fall, and I did not. I was looking for some cool work and that's when he told me that Dr. West had received a grant from the government to publish his work on the bibliography of the house fly, he was looking for someone to help him check out all of this information he had. He had boxes of three by five cards. He introduced me to Dr. West at the time and we talked briefly, and it was agreed that I would be hired then to work with with him to check through these cards and make sure the information was accurate. Some had, some of his cards had annotations and others did not. It was merely a title of an article and we had never seen the original and it's all that was part of my work too. When I began working in September, full time 45 hours a week, 8-5 every day. We had office space in the physic department. He had a small office, and no... no... that was the second project. The first project we had a large room in the physics department where there was room for a secretary, Dr. West had a table, I had a table, and we started work on the, all of this, the body of information that he had on the house fly. It was just astounding. He became interested in that during the Second World War when he worked for the government. After the war was over he published a book on the house fly, have you seen that?

I: No.

JP: There is a book, a smaller book. And after the book was published he continued to gather information. He would go through a number of references and any information on the house fly, if there was an article published with references to the house fly he would put it on this three by five card and they were all filed alphabetically by author. He would also write to the authors of these articles and ask them to send him reprints so he also had a reprint file where many of these references that he had, and I'm not sure what has happened to all of those reprints. I know Ruth Peters was concerned about what to do with those reprints because they filled two to three filing

cabinets, 4 drawer filing cabinets and they were full. And these were all arranged alphabetically by author, it was a massive work. We had a very nice set up, and we would just keep going through these articles, making sure that names were spelled correctly, all the information was accurate. Trying to, for instance some journals had three or four different ways that they were abbreviated. So that one journal might have three or four different kinds of abbreviations but it was all the same journal. So we tried to get all the abbreviations the same, you know just try to get it more consistent throughout the work. Then as we would go through the index cards, and we felt all the information was accurate, then that information was given to the secretary and she would type it up off of these index cards. Then from that point after they were put on the index cards, they would have to be checked for accuracy then finally after we went through all of the cards, all of the information, all typed up, it was 100s of pieces, 100s of pages then we looked for publishers to publish it. And that was all part of this grant that he had, after the pages came back from the publisher we had to go through and recheck everything to make sure all the information was accurate before publishing. That was the first project I remember taking.

I: Yeah that sounds like it.

JP: That was from September of '69 and I worked until August of 1980 and that's when I had our first son, our first child. I of course stopped working for a while, I can't remember if I went back and helped him finish up. I think probably by the time I had Jason most of the work had been done. It was mostly him and Beth checking the proofs as they came back from the publisher before the book was published. We had a very nice atmosphere where we worked. You know, out desks were put together and we faced each other, so that if we had questions we could just talk back and forth. We got a lot of work done. Going through all that information he had, all the cards.

I: That was your first job now?

JP: That was the first grant he had.

I: Alright, okay.

JP: And even while we were getting this information ready for publication, he continued to check reference journals getting new articles, new things that were published about house flies. So we were constantly adding to what we had. Even after the book was sent off to the publisher he continued to check those reference journals monthly getting new information and keeping a separate card file with his new information on there. Quite an accomplishment I must say.

I: Yeah sounds like it.

JP: Yeah, one of the things that I remember about working with him was when it came to be Christmas time, Dr. West gave each of us that worked for him a box of chocolates. And on the top he had taped a poem that he wrote about each one of us because there were three of us that worked with him. Beth Peters, and myself, and then our secretary at the time was Janice Bezotte, last name spelled B-E-Z-O-T-T-E. He explained to me that he wrote the verses for each of us in a style that was complimentary to our personality. And so for, and these poems were republished

in *Reflections*, which is a group of his poems. Beth was the one that encouraged him to get this published. I don't think he probably had seen this, so Beth is Native American. And he indicates here in this book of poetry that the references to Oneida and Wyandot were linked to the fact that she carried blood lines of both tribes and is a voting member of the Wisconsin Oneida. So that her verse is in the style of Longfellow Hiawatha, it's a beautiful verse about Beth. He wrote one for me, and he also wrote one for Janice. But this was just delightful and this was what was taped to the top of my box of chocolates and I saved it all these years. Just one I thought maybe, he had a talent for writing, a wonderful talent. And there were other poems and things that he has written including, if you didn't know before, Northern's Alma Mater.

I: Yeah I knew that.

JP: Beautiful song. So that was our Christmas time, he gave us that. I thought that was very nice of him. What else about him, I just ticked off some things. I don't remember when he had his stroke. I don't know what year that was but it was between projects, I believe. I don't know. After the first book was published, he continued to gather that information. After our book was published instead of having that large room for an office there was this smaller office that was Dr. West's. So then I think even after the first book was published he continued to go to the physics department and his smaller office every day to continue collecting information about the house fly. So that was his office and after the first book was published, then he got it together for printing, he got it ready for printing. That second set of information which he gathered, which were all newer references. But even though it was ready for printing, and the university tried very hard to find funding to get it printed, they never were successful in getting funds together. They had to write an addition to the first volume. I remember being in that smaller office, and we had a little hot plate with a tea kettle and every afternoon, always about the same time he put the tea kettle on, get the water hot, and he'd have a cup of tea and he'd have an apple. He'd put down a paper towel, and he had his pocket knife, and he'd cut the apple up into quarters and he'd peel it. I remember he'd always peel that apple, and that's how he'd eat it. I remember that about him. Every day an apple and a cup of tea. Of course I'd come in and get some hot water for my tea and we'd sit and visit. We would just, so many different subject and people and topics and stories that he would talk about. Some would be from his childhood, some would be from the university things, or teaching experiences or when he lived in Battle Creek. There was some very wonderful stories and I was privileged to sit there and visit with him every day while we had him. Those were nice times.

I: Do you remember any of these childhood stories he talked about?

JP: Not really.

I: Not really?

JP: You know, there were just so many and it was quite a long time ago. I think you've seen the *Halsey Valley Tales*. He gave me copy of that. In his office, I remember him telling me. He had 6 children, 3 sons and 3 daughters. And for half the year he'd have the graduation pictures of his three sons on the wall, and then halfway through the year he'd take the three sons home and he'd

bring the three daughters and he'd have the pictures of his three daughters on the wall in his office. I remember that.

I: He didn't have them all together?

JP: Nope, just three at a time. It was the sons or the daughters. Oh, he'd often tell me about his grandchildren too. I don't know who, who was _____. One of his granddaughters was very talented and she would take pieces of wood and carve them into walking sticks and then give him one for Christmas. It was the most beautiful thing I've seen and his face was carved into this walking stick. It was beautiful, just beautiful. There was a part for him when he turned 80, I remember that. It was held in the biology department. I was at a loss as to what to get him as a gift. So what I did was I made up a book of coupons and one was good for each month of the year. I don't remember, I think his birthday was like in September I'm not sure. But it was a book of coupons and each one, one for each month, and I listed on this coupon a baked good that I would bring over to his house. Maybe one month would be bran muffin and one month would be banana bread. So month to month I would over and it would always be like the same day at the same time, like Tuesday at 2 o'clock, I don't quite remember what day and time it was but it was once a month I would go and visit and I'd stay for about an hour. That worked out so well that even after he had used up all of his birthday coupons I continued to go once a month at the same time, the same day. We'd sit in the living room and he would always have something very interesting to discuss. Sometimes an articles in a science magazine. Something he had read in *Readers Digest*, and after we would talk for a while we would go in the kitchen on and he'd put the water on and we'd have a cup of tea. I'd bring something over and we'd have something to eat, _____.

I: _____. Well I heard from several different people that he was quite an accomplish musician, do you know anything about that?

JP: I don't recall ever hearing him play or sing but I understand that he did have a very nice voice and he could sing quite well. But I don't ever recall him doing that. I have something here that he gave me and it was evidently after he had had his stroke. And I don't remember when he had that stroke, but it affected the right side of his body so that he couldn't write with his right side anymore. So he taught himself to write with his left hand.

I: Wow.

JP: And he must have practiced quite a lot because here are two pieces that he wrote and I think it might be published in here. And he had practiced writing just on plain paper and he gave them to me because he thought that I might find them interesting to read, this is how well he taught himself to write with his left hand after he had that stroke. It's amazing. I vaguely recall going to visit him once or twice while he was at, and I think it was where the veteran's facility is now. After he had that stroke he had to have a lot of therapy and rehabilitation. And you could tell he just put everything he had into that rehabilitation. He was not one to let that get the better of him, he was going to overcome those obstacles and become rehabilitated as much as he possibly could after that stroke. And I think that handwriting is proof of that, he just constantly worked at it.

I: I heard from Mr. Peter Cooper, Dr. Peters that he could draw and to speak to _____.

JP: Oh that's quite a story and I've heard more than one person tell that story. When he taught, I think maybe it was freshman biology class.

I: And he would like draw stuff?

JP: He would draw, and he had chalk in both hands at the same time [laughter]. And it was symmetrical, whatever he was drawing he would do both sides at the same time. I should ask you if you've been in touch with Gordon Gill.

I: Yes I have.

JP: Because he was a student of Dr. West too.

I: I'm trying to get in touch with Dr. Gogetsy [spelled phonetically] but he's a hard man to track down.

JP: He was a student too.

I: I just have a question for you.

JP: Sure.

I: Did you say that he was, I guess you would have to say with the cards and how, he just wanted it to be printed, would you say he was a perfectionist? With the cards and everything you do, he wanted it done right and perfect?

JP: Yes, he had a tremendous sense of orderliness and keeping track of records. And he had a wonderful system that I'm sure he had developed over the years with his three by five cards because there were letters or numbers or checks. I mean everything on that three by five card meant something. He had devised this system. He had written up on the black board, I remember in this office, the various check marks and numbers of things and what they meant. So if we took out a card we knew. For instance if he learned of a reference from a journal and he had all the information written down but had not seen the original article in the journal, then he would see the original and make sure all the information was correct, then there was a small check under the date in the upper right corner. That's the only thing that I remember. If you actually saw the original, check to make sure that everything was accurate and you put a small check. If you're going through these cards if you pull one out with no check mark, we actually had not seen the original to verify all the information. The check mark meant that he had. There were so many things about that system he had, you know with checks and numbers and marks. I can't begin to remember all of the things but it was quite a system. I have a feeling that most of his life was very orderly. Perhaps perfectionist, I don't know if that's the right word. He was very careful, very precise. But at the same time he was just a really interesting, wonderful person.

I: Do you know why he was so interested in all this stuff?

JP: I think it had to do with his work in World War 2.

I: I know when we sat down....

JP: Yeah, because at the time the house fly carried so many diseases that the, in order to control diseases and your troops being sick with many many different diseases, if you could control house fly populations then you could control these diseases that they spread, carried then spread. And I think basically that's how his interest started, with his work in World War 2. There might be more about that in that book that he wrote called *The House Fly*.

I: What was his personal, like for example like a wolf biologist has something to do with he loves or find them fascinating. Did he have that kind of relationship with the house fly or was it just because maybe he was just thrown into it because he wanted an answer?

JP: You know it was something he was working on. I wonder, I never asked him that question. I understand the textbook is still very valuable today. You know the original work on the house fly, containing lots of valuable information. I don't know if he found it fascinating and that's why he did it, or if it just happened to be assigned to do. I don't know the answer to that.

I: Can you tell me what his personality was? Maybe when he was a bit older? On a monthly basis?

JP: Sure, he was quiet. Overall reserved, but oh he's just a real gentleman. He always wore a shirt and a tie, and a vest and a sport coat. Sometime he would wear, instead of a sport coat a sweater, a v neck sweater that buttoned. So he was always dressed very nicely.

I: He wore a shirt and tie at home?

JP: Yes, I'm sure when he got up in the morning he put on his shirt and his tie so that he was always dressed like that. And he wore high cut black boots, the kind that laced and then had the little, what are those things called where you put in the laces on them?

I: Loops?

JP: Yeah.

I: Like combat boots kind of?

JP: Yeah.

I: Okay.

JP: They were real old fashioned black.

I: He wore them all the time.

JP: Oh yes, he always wore them. And he wore that hat, and after his stroke he always walked with a cane. Always very dignified, always very dignified.

I: Would you say that, when you first met him towards his last days would you say there was a lot of difference? Maybe he got more reserved?

JP: No, he was always, I didn't notice a change. He was always just a real gentleman. Of course after he went into the nursing home, I think what had happened was he was having really small strokes. Once he went into the nursing home he became very forgetful and confused. But right up to that time... So when I started working for him in '69, let me look here to see, he died in '85 so I knew him about 15 years. He was just always quite the same, quite dignified and a real gentleman and very proper and very kind. I don't ever recall him saying anything that you would think would be negative of another person. He always spoke highly of people, or positively.

I: That would go with the times. Well, about his children. Not just with his children, but was he the time of person, this goes back to when we were talking about, not being a perfectionist, or wanting accuracy and order. Did he expect that from everybody else? I mean, it seems like that's what he was like. If you were working with him was that what he expected he didn't want nothing half done?

JP: Less than that? I never felt that. I felt that he wanted us to do the best that we could and he was such a nice person to work for that that what you wanted to do. You wanted to be as accurate as possible and to be as orderly, and keeping things, you know keeping things on task and get things done. So that it wasn't because it was expected, but that's what you wanted to give him.

SIDE 2

I: Okay, we should be back.

JP: Okay. We were talking about how it was just real easy for me to do my best work for him. It wasn't difficult at all, it's just what I wanted to do. He was such a wonderful person, he worked with people like that, and he had just such a nice presence and way about him, you wanted to give him your best/.

I: Would you say he was that type of person people all knew about the best qualities of him?

JP: Definitely. You bet. Well I did want to read this letter that he sent to my mom and dad. We had invited him out for dinner on Christmas day. For some reason at this Christmas and I don't know why, there was no family around for him to have Christmas dinner with and so he came out. And he wrote this to my parents, January 13st 1980. "Dear Mr. and Mrs. Erck, This is to thank you and all your family for your friendly hospitality on Christmas day. I'm sure Jane has explained to you the various reasons why I had agreed for the cordial atmosphere which you provided. It was a pleasure to meet those I had not known and to confirm what I had felt for years. Mainly that Jane Phillips must have come from fine family stock. You can feel justly

proud of Jane who not only served faithfully and well in the scientific projects with which I had been connected, but has continued to show great loyalty and personal affection during my period of illness and its resulted handicap. Sincerely yours, Luther S. West” So he must have had that stroke then before 1980.

I: So right there then he’s writing with his left hand?

JP: Yeah.

I: My god, this ones from when he was still practicing.

JP: Right, that must have been shortly after the stroke or sometime after it. He regained quite a bit of strength back with that right hand, but he could not write with it. He had to write with his left hand. To me this is amazing that he can write this well.

I: Yeah. Okay, I can certainly write better with his left hand that I can write with my right.

JP: Quite an amazing person.

I: Do you know what kind of relationship he had with his family? Was he a family man or?

JP: You know I never saw him around his family. I know that they visited during the summer and I was usually visiting with my family in Minnesota during the summer. And I wouldn’t see him on a monthly basis during the summer, June, July, and August I wouldn’t. Because he would be spending time with his family. So I think they all tried to come home sometime during the summer to see him. But I just have no sense of what he was like as a family man. He made some comments that when he was, you know during the years when they were married and had all of the children, he spoke highly of how hard Beatrice worked because he had his obligations and duties and responsibilities at the university and teaching, and she would take care of the home and the children. And yet if she had to go with him to some university functions, you know she would still manage to do that.

I: Did she pass away before he did?

JP: Yes she did. I believe she had Alzheimer’s disease although I don’t know back then if it was diagnosed as Alzheimer’s or not, but he cared for her as long as he could at home. He would, I’m sure, take care of her in the morning, he would come to work, I think he would go home for lunch, and then come back to work in the afternoon. But it finally got to the point where he was concerned what she might do while he was gone. He couldn’t trust her at home anymore and I think it was at that point that he had her placed in the nursing home. He would go visit her every day at the nursing home. Every single day. I’m not sure when she died.

I: I don’t think I ever saw a picture of him.

JP: You haven’t?

I: I've seen one where it was kind of like side profile.

JP: This is a very nice picture in his *Reflections*. That's in his office. Are their filing cabinets in the background of that one?

I: Yes.

JP: That contains the reprints, the reprint collection. I'm sure there were two filing cabinets though.

I: He looks very distinguished.

JP: He had references from Russian journals, many from Germany, Japanese. I don't know if...all over the world references that he had. Then we'd get the articles and they'd be in Japanese, with just English annotations. Everything else was Japanese. Some were in Russian, foreign languages.

I: Did he speak any foreign languages?

JP: Oh! I'm glad you asked that. He had a pretty good knowledge of German, Spanish, and French. So that if there was a title in one of those languages, he could pretty well translate it and, you know if there was no English in the article, he could take the annotation at the beginning and pretty well get the translation of that too. A few words he may have to look up in a language dictionary, but he had a real good working knowledge of German, French, and Spanish. It was really quite amazing. I can't recall if he spoke one better than a couple of the other, I'm not sure he was more proficient in one. I'm trying to think if there is anything else. Oh, when I was going through my things I found this. This used to be what the Northern newspaper looked like. This is the March 1983 Northern News Review. This kind of date looks good because he published a column and its call "Observations from 19 West Science by Dr. Luther S. West." And this one in the March '83 issue is an epilogue for Dr. West because it says that will be the last one. The poem he had written before about being an elderly patient undergoing rehabilitation therapy following a partially debilitating stroke. And he wrote this three stanza poem about what it was like, and this was written in '79 so he must have had that stroke in '78 or '79. But up to that point he had published columns. So I don't know if you can find old issues of the Northern News, but if you find some before 1979 I think you might find some you know columns that he written. They were always about subjects that were real interesting. People enjoyed reading his observations, and 19 was his office number, that's why it's called "Observations from 19 West Science." He was a wonderful writer.

I: How long, when did the West Science Building go up? Do you remember when it was commemorated for him?

JP: It was being built in 1966 and '67. I don't know if they opened it, I'm not sure when they opened it and had the dedication. I didn't attend and I don't know why, whether I was here or away at the time. I know when I came back in '69 in between work on my master's degree that I

took classes in the science building. So I did take classes there, I did graduate work so it had to have been opened in '67 or '68.

I: Yeah, I know it was opened like '66 because when Ellen says she came to school it was a new building kind of thing. So you did all your work and he did all his work on the housefly in his building? The building that was made for him, that's kind of cool.

JP: If you would like, there's some *Reflections*, to look through and read them. We could certainly do that. We talked about having a forum, you might find something there.

I: I should probably pick the one one right here to read.

JP: Well there's quite a number of them there, and he wrote for several people, in fact a whole section there there is maybe 5, 6, 7, poems that he wrote for different people.

I: Would Beth Peters be related to Dr. Peters.

JP: She was his first wife. And she died, I don't remember the year she died, she was young. Very suddenly, it was really quite tragic. I don't know the circumstances but she became ill and was hospitalized and just died quite suddenly. Very sad, Dr. West really enjoyed working with Beth, she was quite a wonderful person.

I: I also found out he wrote like a commemorative speech and like on the 50th anniversary the Maine when reading _____ or something. He wrote a speech. Was he like a, you said that he was involved in World War 2 too, was he like a, really up on the, being all "Go United States?"

JP: I don't see him being that kind of a person. I think he felt, I think his was more of a sense of duty an obligation serving in the armed forces of his country. He didn't serve on the battle front, and I think he was probably older at the time but he was called into service because of his knowledge I think. His background in entomology and the problems they were having with flies carrying diseases. And I think that's maybe why he was called into service, to help with those problems. And he would do it more out of the sense of duty and obligation for his country.

I: Do you spell Peters P-E-T-E-R-S?

JP: That's correct.

I: Beth Peters okay. And what's the other one, Janice?

JP: Janice Bezotte.

I: Bezotte, B-E-Z-O-T-T-E. Yeah.

JP: She was the other girl that was under him, wonderful typist.

I: She was the secretary?

JP: Yeah, had to be. She would type all those references and numbers and abbreviations.

I: Could you talk about the second work that you were doing?

JP: Yes, after the first work was published, like I said Dr. West continued to check these reference journals.

I: Oh okay, that was his second work.

JP: And he continued to gather information, any article that mentioned the house fly he would get all the information down. The authors, the journal, the article. It's all coming back. Author first, title of the article, followed by the journal, the volume, the issue, and the page number. What language it was in, if it was in a foreign language and whether or not it had illustrations. Then at the bottom it would be the annotation about the article. Just 2 or 3 or maybe 4 sentences as to the central theme of the article. And then on the back he would write the index journal that, the reference work that cited that particular source. And the only one that I recall off of the top of my head, I think it's called *Index Americus*? I'm not real sure about that, but that's a big reference journal that just condenses lots of information. So he continued even after that first volume was published to gather all of these references and he did get another grant to get this information to the point where it could be published. So it was all typed and ready to be published but there were no funds available and it was an expensive work to publish but there was not, it's not alike a book you would sell in a bookstore. So whoever published it was not going to make any money publishing it. That was my understanding.

I: I think I've seen that book.

JP: The first work?

I: Professor Peters, I think he showed me.

JP: Yes.

I: I vaguely remember something about, he didn't _____ or something like that.

JP: The funds just weren't available. And I know the university tried many different sources that at least would indicate who he was in touch with you know as far as administration and the university. The approach they were trying and who they were contacting and trying to get some funds available to publish that second work.

I: Do you know anything about like hobbies of his, anything that he liked to do.

JP: Gardening.

I: Gardening?

JP: Mhm.

I: Was that maybe towards when he got older also?

JP: I don't think he did so much of it. Oh in the spring when daffodils and jonquils would bloom. They had a place in the country just a few miles outside of Marquette off of 41. They evidently had this huge bed of daffodils and jonquils that would come up in the spring and when they moved the secretary would get a bouquet for her desk, and I would get a bouquet for my desk and he was very generous with those daffodils and jonquils. When they'd bloom, oh it was very nice. But I think when he was younger he did a lot of gardening, that was one of his hobbies.

I: Do you know like what was his every day activities when he was older?

JP: I think he had a real routine. You know a real routine that he followed every day. You know getting up, and whatever getting ready and I'm sure he was real careful about what he ate and ate real nutritionally. I'm sure he left for the West Science building every morning at the same time and had his parking spot. So that he just had a real nice routine that he followed all the time. I wonder if he sang in his church choir, he may have for a time but we didn't attend the same church so I'm not sure. But I think there was real sense of orderliness and routine about his life.

I: Up till before he died, right maybe before he went to a nursing home, did he stay at home at all? Or would he always come to Northern and work on his project.

JP: I believe he came here every day Monday through Friday, arrived at the same time in the morning and finish up at the same time at night. And if he wasn't working on gathering information out of these reference journals he might be writing to people to send reprints of information he had collected or writing letters to people about various things. I know he worked on his *Halsey Valley Tales* sometimes, getting those written and published. So it always seemed like he need some direction or sense of something to do.

I: Always kept busy.

JP: Yes, and coming here and working even to continue gathering information after that first book was published, he continued doing that without a pen drop. A duty or an obligation or something that he felt was important enough and he kept working. But about his daily life, I think there was a real sense of routine of things that he would do.

I: What would happen if they got broken let's say, like something happened and they got broken. Would he just be calm about? Like did he have a temper? Do you know anything about that? Did he get all frustrated if something happened and that routine got broken?

JP: I don't know.

I: Do you know if he had a temper? Or was he always well-mannered mostly?

JP: I believe he was always well-mannered.

I: Okay.

JP: A very kind soul. I don't ever recall him saying anything negative about a person. You know talking behind their back. I don't ever recall that.

I: Well, Dr. Peters when I talked to him he said that he didn't look at things on a narrow spectrum. Like he monitored his contribution through you know just worldly kind of. Do you know or see anything about that?

JP: I would agree with Dr. Peters, I don't know that I've ever thought about that before but I'm sure he considered that house fly book to contain valuable information to be used by many people.

I: Like maybe even to save lives?

JP: Sure, sure. Just to be a real benefit and help to mankind overall.

I: Do you have anything else?

JP: Oh I just have these nice, warm, fond memories of working with him. I thoroughly enjoyed the work that I did. I loved correcting things for accuracy, finding if there was an error or some sort of question mark problem, you know getting an answer. Doing that library work, visiting with him daily in his office while we were working on projects, having tea. Visiting him at his home after that was done, once a month. Just looking forward to those visits when I could come see and just sit for an hour and have some tea. Those were very nice. We have a friend in common, her name is Marge Fries F-R-I-E-S.

I: How was that?

JP: Marge Fries, F-R-I-E-S. And she was the secretary in the biology department and I don't know how many years. She knew Dr. West also, and she described him, she said he was a true gentleman. She said he was a gentle man and I have to agree. Dr. West was just a very gentle man.

I: True gentleman. Would Marge be spelled M-A-R-G-E?

JP: Yes.

I: Okay.

TAPE CUTS OUT AND BACK IN

JP: We're talking about the book that was published, *Musca Domestica*, an annotated bibliography of the housefly. We were just saying how today if you want information about

specific topic, just go to a computer and within ten minutes you can have more information than you can possibly review at your fingertips. But when Dr. West was collecting the information for this reference book, he collected all of this information by hand. Going to these references journals every month. Oh, when they came to the library, because these were library reference journals, before they were ever put on the shelf the library sent these reference journals to Dr. West in the science building, he took all the information that he wanted out of them that he could find about the house fly. When he was through with the reference journal, he sent them back to the library and then they were on the shelf for people to see.

I: So he got first crack at them?

JP: Yes, whenever they arrived, they knew please send them to Dr. West first off. So he could get his information. But to think that he did this monthly from the time that house fly book was published, just kind of the general book on the house fly in the early '50s, he continued to do that for the next 20 years by hand collecting all of that information. It's rather astounding to have that sort of dedication for a project to do that.

I: Just, we already did this but I don't know. What has he left you with the most would you say? If you could describe it in a sentence or one word whatever, what has he left you with the most?

JP: Oh I have wonderful memories of sitting with this gentle man just visiting. And they weren't topics of where we would have differences of opinion, it would just topics of interest. And just enjoyed, I enjoyed his company in talking to him and visiting with him at his home, at the university, just to be able to get to know this man that people all had really I think very good feelings and thoughts about. To consider myself privileged to have known him, both on a work level and kind of a personal level where we would just sit and visit.

I: Friendship?

JP: Yeah. Good memories, real good memories.

END OF INTERVIEW