

University of Dayton

eCommons

---

Wright Brothers - Charles F. Kettering Oral  
History Project

University Archives and Special Collections

---

3-13-1967

## Interview with Ivonette Wright Miller

Ivonette Wright Miller

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ecommons.udayton.edu/archives\\_wrightkett\\_oh](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/archives_wrightkett_oh)

---

### eCommons Citation

Miller, Ivonette Wright, "Interview with Ivonette Wright Miller" (1967). *Wright Brothers - Charles F. Kettering Oral History Project*. 7.

[https://ecommons.udayton.edu/archives\\_wrightkett\\_oh/7](https://ecommons.udayton.edu/archives_wrightkett_oh/7)

This Transcript is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wright Brothers - Charles F. Kettering Oral History Project by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact [mschlange1@udayton.edu](mailto:mschlange1@udayton.edu), [ecommons@udayton.edu](mailto:ecommons@udayton.edu).

WRIGHT BROTHERS - CHARLES F. KETTERING  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Project Director, 1967: Dr. Wilfred S. Steiner  
Project Director, 1975-76: Johannah Sherrer

Editor: Kathy Kelto

IVONETTE WRIGHT MILLER

Interviewed by

Susan Bennet

on

March 13, 1967

SB Mrs. Ivonette Wright, Mrs. Harold Wright.

IM Miller.

SB And, oh pardon me, Miss Ivonette Wright, Mrs. Harold Miller. And today is March thirteenth?

IM Thirteenth.

SB Thirteenth, 19...

IM No, twelfth, twelfth.

SB March twelfth 1967. I'm talking with Mrs. Miller, let's, let's put this down here. Then it won't bother you. And I don't want to pick up this noise. We've had a problem picking up the noise from the machine. So we should be.

IM The furnace so...may make a little noise there, I don't know.

SB Well, I don't, that's behind, I don't think it will make.

IM Okay.

SB The thing comes out from this way. And Mrs. Miller is the niece of Wilbur and Orville Wright and the daughter of Lorin Wright. Of course our purpose is mainly how you remember your uncles and, and when you, when the family would get together. Now, from talking to your brother, I, you all often got together on a Sunday?

IM Yes.

SB For Sunday dinner.

IM Sunday dinner and I don't know whether he told you or not but they used to make candy for us in the afternoon, and when they were busy and didn't want to take much trouble it would be <sup>S</sup>wort of a caramel, they would make. It usually, it was Orville and if he had time, and the inclination, he would beat it up and it would be fudge. So and then they did lots of reading for us, and we know, knew the, the, some of the stories, our childhood stories by heart. We had them read to us so much.

SB Would they let you crawl up in their laps and...

IM Oh, yes. And I found out (laughter) I found out just not too long ago in reading the diaries, that they had written about the first flight they had little, had them in little books about, oh, two and a half by three and three quarters, something like that. And they'd keep it in their pocket. And it was a small book so they could keep it in their pocket. When I was sitting on Wilbur's lap one time, he said, can you write your name? And I was just about the age to be learning to write my name, and he said, well let's see, let's see if I can find something that you can write it on. So he pulled this little book out of his pocket and I wrote my name twice on it, and later, (chuckles) when I saw my name written twice in the diaries that was sent to the Library of Congress, I realized that that's what had happened.

SB Oh, is that so. He used that.

IM He didn't. I of course, I didn't think about it at the time, and I had forgotten it in the meantime, but, so my name is in the Library of Congress.

SB Well, that's quite an accomplishment. Did they ever, did they ever scold you?

IM Oh, yes. We had discipline. Indeed we did. One of the punishments was, well this was mostly my grandfather. He had cute methods of punishment, but all of them, took a little part in the punishment. One of the things they did, if we were naughty they would turn a chair upside down and sit on top of it until we had enough of it so that we were glad to get out and behave ourselves.

(laughter)

SB That's very good. Do you think that they felt that children should be seen and not heard?

IM Well, they were very much interested in us. I think they would allow us to be heard. They were interested in our characteristics enough that they were, they didn't take that attitude exactly. I think they felt that they wanted each one of us to be ourselves.

SB Very definite selves. A different, a personality, they were interested in you as individuals.



IM Yes, yes.

SB Not much,...

IM And that the discipline wasn't such a strict thing that they would let it overshadow a personality.

SB It was a loving discipline.

IM Yes, more that.

SB Not more like today. Where the children, it seems so often are just sort of pushed aside...

IM Yes.

SB ...so I think in the older families there was a stricter discipline but it was administered often with more love than than in oh, laissez faire policy of today.

IM Well they were very nice to us, always, and they wouldn't of, they were, you know, they were both old bachelors and my aunt was a Latin teacher. My grandfather had lost his wife, they were all living there together, and didn't have any children of their own, and they could <sup>VC</sup>of lived without us, but they were interested enough and had enough affection for us that they took upon themselves to have us there every Sunday, so that our parents who had been wrestling with our problems all week could have a rest on Sunday.

SB Oh, then that your parents didn't come with you, just the children.

IM No, no, not...

SB Oh, is that so.

IM No, our parents, oh they were invited of course, but the whole idea was that we were, they were going to sort of baby-sit as we say today. They didn't know that work then but, and we were always welcomed to come, any of us, anytime on Sunday.

SB Was it a, usually chicken dinner?

IM Yes, chicken dinner and Carrie used to have the most wonderful food and when

I read my grandfather's diary, and some of his diaries, and said, well Milton was here today, Milton and Leontine were here today, and all the children were here today. Now these were all Sundays as a rule. Sometimes during the week. I realized that Carrie had made pretty many meals for us.

SB Yes. Did you, as a, were you expected to help set the table and all those little things.

IM No, not very often. Although sometimes we did. But Carrie had things always pretty much under control. And we were always taught to, that was mostly at home, we were always taught to help.

SB Do you think that they used this opportunity to fulfill any particular, oh, ideas or characteristics in your character, do you think that your grandfather felt that, well, quite often the older generation feels that the parents aren't raising the children quite right. That there was any conscious effort?

IM Not that I know of. I didn't remember, and in looking back on it, I don't feel that they were trying to develop anything on their own, that they felt that we needed. Although when we sat down to the table, we had to have table manners. And all those things.

SB Did it seem to be a more stern home than your own home?

IM No.

SB You weren't aware of it? Of a significant change...I remember when I went to my grandfather's there, there was a whole list of do's and don'ts when I was a child, and that I was very very much aware of. I just wondered if, if that was the feeling or for if, of course, you went, if you went every Sunday, I suppose it would become very natural.

IM No, it, it was very much like our own home. It was very informal and we had a lot of jolly good fun together. And it was nothing staid or stiff about it. It was a really nice informal sort of a good time.

SB What would, what would you say was a significant difference between the two uncles?

IM Well, Wilbur was the thinker, the deep thinker, and he had a habit of sort of taking the whole family to his heart, you might say. He helped my grandfather, and he was wound up in a lot of his church problems.

SB Excuse me, I want to be sure that, tha, that I how can we work this, I'm going to stop.

(break in tape)

SB Alright we were talking about differences between the two brothers.

IM Let's see...

SB Wilbur was the deep thinker...

IM And he had taken his family into, into his heart. He had helped grandfather, through some problems in the church. He was the family nurse. When my grandmother was ill, she had tuberculosis and was an invalid for some time. Wilbur was the one that was the nurse and would carry her up and down the stairs. Which earned my grandfather's eternal gratitude. Then he was, he took over sort of family relations. If he thought things weren't right, he spoke up and said what he thought. And he was always very kind with it, he never said it in anger. He was just very, a kind of a person that could diagnose what the trouble was and he would get to the bottom of it.

SB He sounds like that he was almost more of a father figure than the grandfather.

IM Well, the grandfather, you see he was away so much of the time.

SB Oh, I see.

IM He was, he traveled so much. Even when the children, his children were little and my grandmother was, had so many things to do for the family. He was gone a great deal of the time, and he always felt that he had that responsibility to his church, and that that's what he had to do.. I'm sure there were many times he didn't want to be away, but that's the way he felt about it.

SB It seems, it seems <sup>o</sup>add to me, that the family broke away from the church so much. After he had given so many years of his life as a bishop. When you



were a child, did you go to church? Did your father go?

IM Yes, we all went to Sunday School and my mother and father, my mother went to church, my father didn't very often.

SB Which church was that?

IM The Broadway Methodist Church.

SB Now what was your grandfather's church?

IM That was the United Brethren Church.

SB Well, why did the family go to another church.

IM Well it was just the close, it was close by.

SB Oh, I see.

IM ...and my mother who was a singer sang in the quartet that was at the church, and I think that probably got us started there. It was not very far from where they lived. Where my grandfather...

SB He must have been quite tolerant, after he was an official of one church, not to have objected to your attending another one.

IM No, of course you know, they didn't leave the church, the Wrights didn't leave the church. They, my grandfather was put out of the church, because of the trouble they had about secret societies in the church, they had the quite an argument about secret societies, and, and...

SB I don't really understand what you mean by secret societies, do you mean like the Elks or...?

IM Yes, those and and...

SB He didn't believe in them?

IM Sororities, and all those sort of things. Sororities and fraternities.

SB Oh, I see.

IM And then there were some other affairs within the denomination that they were arguing about and he was, he was put out of the church, you know. He had more people working against him, than he had for him at the time. Later they found they, they wanted, they asked him, they reinstated him as a bishop



and named a home in Pennsylvania for him.

SB Is that so? Well now was that after his sons became famous or...?

IM They asked him to come back into the, to be a bishop again before, I believe it was before, they became famous. But they didn't name the home in Pennsylvania for him until quite a bit later, and after the sons had become famous. And I believe Orville at one time asked them why they had named this home for him. And they said well the Brethren had been repented that they had treated him shabbily, and had been sorry that they hadn't appreciated him more and now they wanted to do something to honor his name.

SB Was there any conflict at that time about, or was the split in the church over pacificism? Did that enter into it?

IM No, it didn't enter into this trouble, no. It was a different type of thing. It was over some property and how they would manage it, and something of that sort. I, I just don't at the moment remember.

SB I believe there was one issue and I can't remember which, who I'm quoting here, that there was someone who had taken some money, and...

IM Yes.

SB ...the bishop believed that right was right and wrong was wrong, but the issue was they wanted to cloud the issue because...

IM Yes, that's right. The Beeler Note Case, and what was the other fellow's name, there were two of them. Two cases where, he was one of the ministers, who led the fight against it, and wanted things squared.

SB You said that when Orville and Wilbur went to Europe, he wanted to be very careful that they didn't partake of the toast.

SB Yes. He was always telling them, reminding them, that he and their mother had been, had brought them up to be the right kind of men, and he would expect them to live, to be that way the rest of their lives, you know.

SB She must have been quite remarkable to raise the family with him gone so much.

IM Yes, she was. She had many I imagine, I, I don't know. I just, you know,

I was too young. She was dead before I was born, but from all that we heard in the family you knew that she had many, many problems, but yet, they, they had a very nice home life. She made it very pleasant for them. And it was, they were devoted to her. And during the time that she was so ill, they were drawn together and I think that that is the reason that Orville and Wilbur spent so many hours at home in the evenings. They wanted to be with her, and I think that's when they became interested in flying, that is when they did all their talking about and getting or finding their interest in the airplane. They were doing something about it.

SB Did Orville ever say, I wanted to fly because...Do you remember that he did?

IM No.

SB It seems like the only real reference was when they were fascinated with that toy. And yet there must have been a deeper reason why they really, they wanted to undertake this, when it seems so fantastic to most people.

IM Well, they, they did it, were interested because they had been reading about a man in Germany who had a flyer, that, I can't think of his name now.

SB Lilienthal?

IM Lilienthal. And they, they knew that he was making some flights, and they became interested in what his system was, and they found out that he was apt to have trouble because his center of balance wasn't right, I believe. I believe that's the expression they used. And they said that he was, they could see that he was going to have an accident, if he, you know, if he didn't change his, the center of balance, and which is what happened and he was killed. But they...

SB Did they talk about, excuse me, I just wondered, when you were eating dinner would they talk about the airplane or did they talk about the events of the day, or what was their conversations.

IM They'd talk once in while about things pertaining to what they were doing,



what they were interested in about flight. Not much at the dinner table, but when they were sitting in their parlor, Seven Hawthorn Street, and you would hear them sitting there, and one of them would make a statement, and then there'd be a long pause, and then the other one would make a statement, and then the other one would say "tisn't tisen't either," and then it would be "tisn't either," "tis too," "tisn't either," and then there'd be a long pause again and before they were through with the argument, each one had presented it so well that they'd be on the opposite sides when they'd finish their argument.

SB What other topics did they seem to be interested in that they talked about?

IM Oh, they were interested in politics.

SB What did they say about politics?

IM Well, I can't remember exactly, except that politicians would come to town, and they'd have remarks to make about them. And I remember my Aunt Katharine, was a suffragette and I think it was Orville that marched in the suffragette parade. And...

SB Well, that's interesting.

IM They had that in Dayton.

SB Did did they respect Katharine's opinions on things other than domestic?

IM Yes, she was a very good writer, and in later times, when Wilbur was gone and Orville and Katharine lived under the same roof, often Orville would talk over what he wanted to write in a letter and she would, he would tell her what he wanted to say, and she would come up with something, and finally she would go over to herself and kind of think it over, and would always come up with something to help him in his writing. He was a very, he knew good writing, but it was very, very hard for Orville to write.

SB Is that so?

IM Yes, it didn't come easy to him, with Wilbur it just flowed off the end of his pen, it was just wonderful the way he had his thought so well organized.

And he didn't ever sit down and think out an outline or anything like that. He just, well maybe he did, but he just wrote it out and he'd strike out a letter or a word here and there, but he just wrote it off. He never went back and wrote it over.

SB Certainly marvelous. I noticed in the letters to Chanute he seems to have written most of the correspondence.

IM Yes, he liked to. He liked to write, and he did such a good job of it, he he could do any. He could express himself so well. Of course they were both, all of the whole family were wonderful readers, they read so much. And...

SB What did they like to read other than the things to do with their flying?

IM Well, they read very deep things about, oh, all sorts of things, science, and they liked good literature, and they liked politics as I've said before. They, and they, oh, books about great men of all types, and...

SB What did they think of Teddy Roosevelt?

IM Oh, they liked him. (laughter)

SB Do you think...?

IM He was one of the men that they, the great men that they really admired.

SB Do you think that they were more progressive in their politics than conservative?

IM Well, I would say they were about, they were progressive in some of their ideas and maybe more conservative in others, I'd say about half and half.

SB Well that was kind of...I was trying to think...That was the age where they were beginning, you know to bust the big trusts, or that was Teddy Roosevelt.

IM Yes.

SB Do you think they would have been in favor of not so much concentration of power in a few men...?

IM Yes.

SB I know that they spoke of Mr. Orville's association with Paul Dunbar, and that was rather unusual in that day and age.



- IM Yes, well he happened to be a schoolmate of his. And of course they were interested in poetry and particularly in him. Because he lived not too far, and they knew him, and they always knew good writing, and I think he just appealed to them.
- SB As a person.
- IM As a person.
- SB As a person. More so than maybe, you think more so than a member of his race, they just happened to like him as a person?
- IM They had no, they made no differentiation over races, really, I don't believe because, my grandfather often brought home Negro ministers, or Negro friends of his. He often brought home people for dinner.
- SB Do you think there would have been very great changes in the manner in which they lived, had Wilbur lived?
- IM Yes, I think the fact that he took over sort of an interest and of holding the family together, and he seemed to, when anybody needed a bringing up on a certain subject, he was the one that did it. And it seemed as if he, he wrote one letter that I saw, never had seen it before, until after we had all the letters. He wrote a seven-page letter to a member of the family about how he thought that one of the children was being discriminated against and that, that isn't a, only the family letters but that was he felt that, and so he wrote it.
- SB Well, that's quite remarkable. Do you think he ever regretted that he hadn't married and had his own family?
- IM Well, no, I think that they were just so busy with these interests which seemed to consume their whole lives that at the time when most young men would be at the marriageable age they were busy with this.
- SB I suppose also they had a vicarious family with you children at the time.
- IM Well, you see, my father, and the older brother Reuchlin  
(break in tape)

(end of side one)

(start of side two)

IM ...and that was when my grandmother died before my father was married. I guess I don't know whether Reuchlin was married at that time, if he was, I don't believe he had been married very long. But my father was away from home, he went out to Kansas and lived out there for some time before he married. And my grandmother died before he got back. Katharine was only fifteen years old when her mother died.

SB She had quite a responsibility there didn't she?

IM Well, my grandfather felt that the thing to do was to send her away to school. So she went to Oberlin to that preparatory school for two years, and then to college for four years, making six years in all. And she missed her brothers, and she was all the, in all the family letters you can see that she was so devoted to her brothers, all of them.

SB Do you think that Orville really did, really was unhappy when she married and left them in later years?

IM Well, I think probably he was in a way, because they were the two that were left and had been through so much together. Of course, we'll never know how he felt about it because he never said. But I think he probably was.

SB Were they a demonstrative family, did they...?

IM No, not too much, although they were always very, quite often when they were worried the most they would say the least, you know. But they were very affectionate and very devoted to all of us that lived here, all of the family, the four of us. And of course we were the only family they had here, the Reuchlin Wright family were all away from here. So they didn't get to see them much. But they were always very affectionate to us.

SB How about your school work? Would they ask you about how you were doing in school?

IM Oh, yes, very often.

(laughter)

IM Sometimes it was rather embarrassing, too.

SB That's interesting. Neither one of them really finished their formal education. Did they feel that it was necessary for you to do that...?

IM Oh, yes. Well they, they always wanted us to do well, and they would try to interest us in the things we were doing, and trying to get us to be more interested, and trying to, or just to work a little harder you know.

SB I guess aunts and uncles are so...

IM They're all, they're all about the same, I guess, they have the same interests.

SB I often wondered how Orville really escaped marriage after he was, you know, here he was a prosperous bachelor. That there weren't a few of the local belles who who really would sort of set their cap for him.

IM I think there might have been but I don't think he was ever interested. He didn't seem to be.

SB You all must have been a good substitute family for them.

IM Well we enjoyed them, and he seemed to enjoy his family up to the time he died. They always had us out there Christmas Eve and many years, Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. And the whole family would be there, and Carrie would serve the dinner.

SB She must have been very devoted to them.

IM She was one of the loveliest persons, well, you just can't imagine anybody being more faithful than she was. She was so devoted to all of us. She knew what all of us were doing all the time, up to the time she died. And of course we included her in all of our family parties, and she just was like a member of the family to us. She had been with them so long that...

SB How did <sup>s</sup>he happen to come with them to begin with?

IM Well Carrie was with my mother when my sister was born, and then she went to them. I can't remember how. Well, I don't think I ever knew how she came there, but I guess from the fact that she had been with us for that short period, and



she wasn't trained in anything, but they took over the job of telling her how to cook. That was one of Wilbur's interests you know. He showed her how to make gravy.

(laughter)

IM Had you ever heard that story, have you ever heard about that?

SB No. I haven't.

IM Well, it was real cute. He was showing her how, and she didn't get it quite right, and it got all lumpy, and he said, well Carrie, let's just dump this all out and start all over.

(laughter)

IM So he tried, he showed her just exactly how, step by step, and she got to be a very good cook, a very good plain cook, I'd say. Everything was, nothing was fancy or anything like that, gourmet type thing, but she could bake the most wonderful pies and cakes and oh, noodles and all sort of things that we all loved, you know.

SB How did they ever stay so slim, they all look so slim, the picture of all, (laughter) that good food.

IM Well they didn't eat, they didn't eat too <sup>vi</sup>many of those things, pies or cakes, but she could bake them. When they had company you'd think that she had somebody else send it in, because it was so perfect.

SB Did they have company frequently, people from Dayton?

IM Yes, well not so much from Dayton although they did entertain once in a while. It was mostly people from other countries. The French people that they knew, the English people they knew who would come to Dayton, and they would have them here. Everybody that came at that time wanted to meet the Wrights, because that was just the new art you know. And they would always come to their shop and their office, and then quite often they'd be invited out if they appealed to them. And if they enjoyed them, they would be invited out to dinner. And then of course all the young flyers who were stationed here in Dayton and were



taking flying lessons. They were guests quite often at that time. Later, it was people from other parts of the United States, who came to town, and were guests of the city of Dayton, would quite often be invited out to their house. It was just a...

SB They seemed to have asked, who they wanted but not particularly just out of a strictly personal basis.

IM No, no. It was never a prestige or anything of that sort of affair. It was always the people that they, ~~that~~ particularly appealed to them.

SB That they liked. Were you aware that your uncles were sort of special people?

IM Well, they were special to us. And it wouldn't have made any difference if they had never invented an airplane, or ever had been heard of in the United States. (laughter) They were just tops with us. Because...

SB Among your friends in high school, I know kids go through that stage where they like to impress each other. How did your girlfriends, what was their attitude? Towards these Uncles?

IM You mean after they became famous?

SB Yes.

IM Well, it made no difference with us, and so it didn't make any difference with them. I don't believe very many people ever tried to become friends of ours because of it or ever tried to exploit a friendship.

SB They were still more or less the local boys. It even seemed like, even after they were famous that they were Daytonians, that they thought of them sort of as just two local boys..

IM Yes. Yes, and I think that, as times goes on, we notice every year there's more and more interest in them. They, when as long as they grew up in Dayton and Daytonians knew them, it was just like somebody that they knew, some friends, but as time goes on, and more people are becoming interested in where they grew up and all that, there's more interest. Every year we notice...

SB Is that so.

- IM ...in the affairs they have here with the Aviation Hall of Fame. Every year, there's more people come, and there's more interest, there's more written about them. You'd think that most everything had been told by this time. (laughter) But there's always something new that somebody has found out or just even the tiniest detail. It seems to be of interest.
- SB I think so. Well yes. Here I am, out bothering you on a lovely afternoon. (laughter)
- SB Such a pretty one. I wonder anything that really made them mad? Individually or together? That really sort of bothered them?
- IM You mean with each other, mad at each other?
- SB Well, no, but anything that they felt<sup>t</sup> deeply about, enough about that they would get irritated with.
- IM Well, I might tell. I don't know that this answers your question. But it's a funny thing, they could both, stand anything but dishonesty. A person that they knew could fail in business and do poor job and not apply themselves well, and do everything wrong, but if they were honest, they would forgive them everything.
- SB Do you think that was part of their bringing up, their mother's influence? Or the bishop's influence?
- IM I think it could have been. I think it was, it was really almost an exaggerated trait in their case.
- SB And you think that maybe that was one reason why they had such bitter feelings against the Smithsonian? That...
- IM Probably. Of course, Wilbur never knew about the Smithsonian. Orville was the only one that knew what had happened there. But when, he would come home, from the office, he had word that, you know, they were still being dishonest about the whole controversy, he was just almost sick. He would come home just so disheartened, and the one thing that he did, that probably a lot of people have criticised<sup>2</sup> him for and that was to send the plane to England. But he

thought that if there were enough people knew that there had been an injustice done, that they would demand that it be made right, but it never happened that way.

SB Not enough people really cared I suppose.

IM Until Fred Kelly got to working on that himself. I don't believe it would have ever been, it might not ever have been settled before Orville died, and if it hadn't it would have remained in England, it was that...

SB Is that so?

IM ...understood...that way.

SB How did this friendship with Kelly begin? He seems to have been the one newspaperman that he really liked and trusted.

IM Yes, he, I really don't, I think he had him, off and on, and I can't tell you when it started except that he wanted to write this book. Fred Kelly said afterwards that he knew that there was only one thing that he could do to make Orville Wright indebted to him, and that would be to see that this controversy was settled. So he decided to try to do it.

SB Is that so. Well in the back of his book, he says how they changed the Langley plane. It varies right down there, just exactly what happened and he did, anyone who's, who's sort of nonpartial reading that, he did very definitely make a very strong case for the Wright plane, there's no doubt about that.

IM Yes, he...

SB He's gone now, isn't he?

IM Yes, he's dead. I think anybody else would have given up, (chuckles) but he would think that all the negotiations were at an end, and then he'd write one more letter back, and ask them a question, and then they'd answer...

SB Now which negotiations, with the Smithsonian?

IM With the Smithsonian, and on what was the name of the man who was at the head of it then?

SB Zahm, Dr. Zahm?



IM No, no.

SB Oh, yes I know who you mean. I can't think of him myself.

IM Can't think of names today. Well, anyway he would answer the letter, and then it would, the argument would start all over again. And they'd write letters back and forth and...

SB Now Orville did not participate in this. This was Kelly's doing.

IM That was Kelly.

SB Isn't that amazing. Well, good for him. He did a real public service then, didn't he.

IM He did, he did. And it was understood that if they, and they knew that if it wasn't settled before he died, that it would stay where it was.

SB Roosevelt was given some credit in bringing it back.

IM Oh, is that so?

IM See it's a government institution, and he evidently heard about it and he must have put the pressure on them. Said now this has got to be settled because we want the first plane.

SB Yes, it would be a shame that it never did come back.

IM Oh, it would have been a tragic thing. And I think the family would have hated it worse than anybody. But that's the way it was.

SB It's so hard for people to admit when they're wrong. Getting back to the differences in the brothers, which was the more approachable of the two from your vantage point. If you had a problem, like you had a broken toy, to whom would you take it to be fixed.

IM Either one of them would have done that. (laughter) I know because our toys, as we were children quite often they'd buy toys, the family would buy toys for us, and they would be so interested in taking them apart you know, and see that they were in good shape, and if they were ever broken, they would fix them, and they were better than they were to begin with. So I know that they could do that. Orville was the one with, he was bubbling over with ideas. He was



an amazing person when it came to the mechanics of inventions, like what it would do here, and how it would come out there, and what the different steps were. He had a mind that could figure it out, it just came natural to him. Wilbur was not particularly gifted in that line, but he was the one that said now we've got a good thing here let's stick with this and not try to find a better, keep inventing a better way, and trying this and trying that. We've got a good thing here, let's stick with this one point and then work on something else. I know when they were working with the air tunnels, the wind tunnels. They would love to have gone on with the experiments they were having with that, they were having so much fun. But they decided and I think probably Wilbur was the one that suggested that they had found out what they wanted to know in their experiments, and they must go on to something else. Now he was the one that sort of stabilized things to that degree.

SB Now, that's quite significant, really. The difference between them. Did he have the financial mind? He seemed to have made the arrangements with the Flints in New York and all. It seemed to me quite remarkable that with their background that they could go and make arrangements to develop this plane with, you know, very big figures after all. And I, did he get financial advice from here, or was this of his own doing?

IM Well they had a very good lawyers, here in town, they had the Young brothers who were very well known in that, Will, and I forgot what the other one, George, yes I guess it was Will and George Young. They went to see them, when they were home quite often, and I would say that both of them were good at the financing of it. Orville particularly was good. And...

SB Orville more so than Wilbur, you think?

IM Well, they both were both good, in different ways, and but it seemed, you know when Wilbur was overseas, when he was in France, they had trouble with getting word back and forth to each other on their contracts, and Wilbur was working under a terrible handicap because he couldn't get word back quick enough to

make any negotiations, and therefore they were very hampered by the fact that the time element was slowing things up and so they never did make any negotiations with the French government. The American government bought first, finally. But they could have, could have had it first anyway.

SB That's true. Do you think that in his later years, Orville ever worried about the moral part of developing an instrument that was used to kill people. Did he ever express himself?

IM I think it was Orville that said one time that he never felt that it would be used in a way that he would have regretted. He said, they thought that it would be used for, if it had ever been used for way, that it would be used for flying over the enemy to...

SB Scout?

IM ...find out what, scouting, and find out what they were doing. But he said, its like fire; its a very strong powerful thing but you can't say you're sorry that we have it.

SB Well, that's a good analogy. Yes. I know he said in one of his letters, where he was not in favor of dropping bombs from airplanes, that he didn't feel that that was because of, well you didn't know what you'd hit. And that he, he did not favor that. But I wondered if he had ever, you know, problems that he spoke of among the family, the conflict. In the church teaching and all?

IM No, I don't think he felt that way. I think he felt that it was something that men had dreamed of doing for many many hundreds of years, and that they were glad that they could help along with the knowledge of the facts that lead to the invention of it.

SB Do you think that he was more interested in the continuing invention of better planes and, oh, other business interestes, or was he interested in the business side of developing a plane, a commercial, commercial flight?

IM He was not interested in the business end of it, and there was a time when he sold you know, sold out his interest in the business, because it worried him,



and it was when he had had his accident in Fort Myer and he felt that it was just, it worried him so that, and it was after Wilbur had died, and let's see.

SB 1915, yes, he sold out. He was not interested so much in the, well, like Henry Ford took his invention and made a great big business out of it; you don't think that Orville was ever really interested in duplicating what Henry Ford had done?

IM No, I don't. I don't really believe so. Probably if Wilbur had lived, they might have been interested in doing a little bit more than they did, that is the development of it, but during the First World War, he did help; he sat on the the board of the Dayton-Wright Company, and helped with the experiments they were making for the DH-4. So that he, he was always interested and wanted to do what he could. But I think that he left that to the others. He, he had given them the basic part of it and the developments were up to somebody else. But he was always ready to help anybody with any sort of an invention of any sort. He sat on the committee, inventors council or something like that, that met, it was a government formed affair. And he sat on that, it was for young inventors who had something, and they would try and find out if there was any worth to them. And he had quite a few scientists on this committee and they would meet every so often and talk over the inventions and they would study them beforehand, they would have the information beforehand. Then they'd discuss it at these meetings to find out if there was any worth. Some of them turned out to be very worthwhile; others weren't at all. So it was...

SB Was this something he just devoted his time to?

IM He didn't give very much time to that, but it was something that he was working on. I don't think that he gave a lot of time to it. That is, actively. It was more a clearinghouse for the government to know what to be interested in and what not to be interested in.

SB Still interested in working with something new...

IM Yes, oh Orville was just so full of ideas and he could see, if an inventor

sent anything in, he could see right through it, where the others had to kind of work it out and see what it was all about, he could see right through it and knew what he was working for, and why it didn't work and, (chuckles).

SB He seems almost, somehow in his later years, he wasted an awful lot of talent, in a sense. Of course for him, personally, he had no real reason to try to improve things.

IM He didn't, he didn't waste talent exactly either...

(break in tape)

(end of side two)

(start of side three)

IM For his home and for his summer place up in Canada.

SB Tell me some of the gadgets, that might be of interest.

IM Well, one was a toaster that was two pieces of sheet iron, that had hinges on it that were big enough to let the piece of toast sit on there in the middle. And he would toast that, and it had handles on it here. He would toast that on the top of a coal oil stove. First you put on, it would press together see, and make a good crisp piece of toast; that and oh, he had all kind of, I can't all you what the gadgets were that he had to lock the windows after he left, it was all worked out so complicated and everything. Well, no, he did things like, when he went fishing he'd take an old hat and in order to have his eyes shaded, but not to be so hot in the top, he'd have holes about this big around on both sides, so the air could come through and be cool on the top of his head. (laughter)

IM Oh, it was all little things like that you know, just...

SB Was he concerned with how he looked? I mean...

IM Oh, yes. When you went up there, he had a shirt and he just looked like he did when he went to the office. Both of them would always...

(break in tape)



IM ...in a tent you know a...

SB An oxygen tent...

IM Oxygen tent. It wouldn't, he didn't like the way it worked, it was drafty and he told the man that came around to inspect it every once in a while, he said you ought to have an inventor in this hospital. And he said well why? He said, well there's too much air up here and it doesn't work right down here and he said this thing is wrong and that thing is wrong...

(laughter)

SB Oh, dear.

IM He said this is the way it ought to work, and it doesn't work.

(laughter)

SB He was probably absolutely right, don't you imagine?

IM Well, he knew how it ~~w~~ought to work, but of course now they have that all different, they aren't having oxygen tents, anymore, they have just a few little plastic tubes you know, that they use for them now.

SB No, I didn't know that.

IM But he had to have his head covered and he looked so miserable, and he was having trouble with it, and (chuckles). But the people that were out there, he never asked for, he was so patient when he was out there, everybody was so concerned about him, but he didn't ask for anything and he didn't require anything, and like some people would want all the nurses around them, and he just never wanted anything, he just never asked for anything, he was just darling.

SB This was after he had the heart attack?

IM Yes, that was the heart, after the heart attack. He had two of them. The first one was after he had been out at the NCR. He'd run up the steps. Before that had been having trouble with the bell at his home. It didn't work right. Instead of getting somebody to come in and take care of it, he was running up and down the steps to see what was wrong with it. And I think that was

bothering him, and he evidently had some trouble or it wouldn't have bothered him, and so when he had this appointment to go to the NCR, to, they were getting this plane ready for Carillon Park, and talking about that, they were having discussions on that. And when he went up the steps he fell, and that was his first heart attack. Then later, the later one, which was I don't know how long, a year or so after that, maybe more, he was at the hospital about a week or ten days maybe, before he passed on.

SB Do you think he really took care of himself or was he the typical bachelor? He was just going to do what he wanted to do?

IM Oh, I don't know. He didn't, he didn't have any idea that he had a bad heart until the first heart attack, but he had always had trouble with his back, from the accident in Ft. Myer.

SB It always gave him pain.

IM Yes, yes. He'd go through spells of sciatica that he'd be so miserable, he'd be practically incapacitated for weeks at a time.

SB Well, that's a shame. They never could really do anything for him after that it seems.

IM No, when he went back to Mayo's, when he went to Mayo's later, they said that he was, and they took all sorts of x-rays, they said that it was the most amazing case they had ever seen, that there were <sup>b</sup> bones all over his body that had broken and had mended with a, Mother Nature had taken care of, so it was just an amazing case where they didn't know that they, he had so many. But they had a new method of treating breaks at the army hospital, and when he came home he had to have it broken all over again and it was awful. They had, they didn't put him in traction. They had a new method they call a cradle and oh he suffered and suffered, and that was when Aunt Katharine was there, and she said, every one of her letters would tell how he suffered so.

SB Isn't that a shame.

IM So finally when he got home he did start all over again and then when he got



well enough, he and Katharine went to Europe to be with Wilbur.

SB Do you think they enjoyed, did they ever talk of of their experiences in in Europe after they came back?

IM Oh, yes. They told about meeting different people and of course the pictures that came back with them were interesting, they met all the important people in Europe really that came down to see them fly, to see Wilbur fly, and Wilbur always said that Orville when, you see they were both demonstrating for their government, different governments, that Wilbur was making his flights for the French government and Orville was doing the flights that he had to make to sell to the United States government. Well, he felt that Orville didn't have, was the kind of person that didn't have the nerve to tell people to go when he was tired. And that he would, he was always so patient with everybody and would see everybody and I think Wilbur just said well I'm sorry, I'm busy, I will have to get some sleep because I'm going to fly tomorrow or something like that. But he said in one of his letters that he was so sorry that he hadn't, that he had allowed these flights to be made in this country without him, that they should have done it together, that Orville was too easy about people that wanted to see him, and that he should have had somebody that, he couldn't handle the situation himself, he should have had somebody that would.

SB Do you think that was being the older brother of the family, again?

IM I think, I think it was partly because he was always very protective about Orville; he was, he was about his whole family. He felt that, he, he was about his father. He felt so sorry for his father, because he was having all this trouble in the church, and he then, went out made several trips on his behalf and into the church, some of the church meetings that they'd get together, and he was that sort of a person.

SB It must have been a tremendous loss when he, when he...

IM Oh, it was, it was, and of course Grandfather just worshipped the ground he walked on, he just, and his appraisal of Wilbur in his diaries, which has been



in several of the books, shows what he, how he felt about Wilbur.

SB He was quite a literate man also. I mean the whole family seemed to have a, a gift of expression, even the notes that he put down.

IM Yes, he was a man of very wonderful, he, he his decisions were always so right. (laughter) He was a man of excellent judgement.

SB Integrity.

IM Yes, he always investigated everything to find out what the best was, and then he would always try to get the best, and do the best. As far as his decisions were for his children and his family it seemed as if he could follow through with his thoughts about what should be done. And his judgment was always good. They were all, all of them were teasers (laughter).

SB Is that so?

IM I think Orville probably did the most of it. Wilbur did some of it too. But Orville would once in a while get kind of cruel, you know, just to the point where Wilbur would say, that's enough Orv, and then that would be the end of it.

SB Did they, what did they tease you about?

IM Oh, just anything, anything. Just, I don't remember.

SB Something about being chubby or not being chubby or of the little boys or...

IM Oh, they'd have have some funny little jokes about this one or that one. And Orville would keep on, you know saying something, and he'd let him go, (laughter) so far and then no further.

SB Was there anyone outside of the family that they seemed to have a tremendous respect for?

IM Well, of course my grandfather had his favorites, in the church, his church affiliations. A man, the man who spoke at his funeral, and what was his name? He was, now I should have notes because I don't, I can't remember all these names.

SB Well, that's alright. Just wondered if there was anyone that stuck out as

sort of, you know, a sterling example or anything that you remember, that they seemed to admire and would talk about, or anyone that they particularly disliked?

IM Now, here's another one that I can't think of, Francis and the writer who was...

SB They liked or disliked?

IM They liked very much. She was a very good friend of theirs. McCormick, Anne O'Hare McCormick...

SB Oh, yes. Yes.

IM She was one of their favorites, and a favorite of the whole family. Both she and Frank were very good friends of the all of the Wrights. And they, up to the very last, Orville would have, when Mrs. McCormick would come home from some of her trips to, oh, to Europe, to Russia, he would have her over for dinner and you know, he always liked to get into arguments. And he would take, he would take the other side of any argument, just to see how you thought. And Carrie tells this story, she said, oh they were having the most, she was having lunch for them, she was serving lunch for them, and she said they were having the most, heated argument about something. She didn't know what it was all about, something about Russia, and Mrs. McCormick, Anne O'Hare McCormick, just went this way, she said, this is the way it is. She put her hands down like that, and she says, that's the way it is. And she said, well the next time she came in she said it was, everything was settled down, but she said they were having the most awful argument, she said, I just thought they would never digest their lunches; it was so heated.

SB But they were still friends...?

IM Oh yes. He used to liked to get into any argument on politics, and I wouldn't argue with him, but I'd just let him go you know, but some other members of the family would get into arguments, and before they got through they would be ready for tears, you know, and he was just having the time of his life, and they would be so upset that it was just too bad, but he was like that and you couldn't understand how anybody as nice as he was could could want to be so

argumentative. But that's the way he was.

SB Would he come back and argue the other side, or was it a matter of conviction, or just because he liked to argue?

IM Well, he just liked to see how you thought about things; he liked to see you, how you thought, more than anything else.

SB Did he have much patience with stupid people, I mean a person who had no ideas at all, would he give them time...?

IM He never, he never was, he was very, very considerate and very polite; he was always the last person through a door. Very polite. And if he thought anything unkind about anybody I don't believe they knew it, because he was always so very considerate of everybody. And he was always for the underdog. He always helped people that he thought not quite getting a fair shake.

SB Did he sympathize with Roosevelt; do you think he was a Democrat?

IM I don't, I don't think he had much to say about Roosevelt although he thought some of the ideas were good, and he thought a lot of them were bad, and I don't know that. He was, he never became very heated about Roosevelt that I can think of. He was here you know one time.

SB Is that so?

IM And he rode, Roosevelt asked him to ride with him out to the field, you probably read this, have read this story, but it, it's awfully funny.

SB No, I haven't read anything.

IM The whole, his whole entourage came up to Hawthorn Hill to pick up Orville Wright. And they were going to parade through Dayton and out to Wright Field, and I believe Governor Cox was with them, and after they'd been all through the town and gone out to Wright Field, and looked over everything, they came back and he reached over and touched the chauffeur on the shoulder and said, will you please let me out here at this corner, I'll get out and walk the rest of the way. (laughter)

SB Oh, really? Oh, my I wonder what the chauffeur did.



IM He did.

SB He did.

(laughter)

IM He said there's no reason for you to, you know, he said...

SB ...go out of your way.

IM ...just let me out here. He didn't want them to be bringing him back with all this fanfare, so he just said, let me out here and I'll walk the rest of the way.

(laughter)

SB He didn't really like the fanfare; it didn't, he didn't seem comfortable, from what I read.

IM And of course he never spoke, and he never made a public speech.

SB Why?

IM He said, well he said that he never was a good speaker. He said that he inherited, I heard him say, (maybe I've read this, I think I've read it), that he inherited this from his mother, that he was a very poor speaker, and so he decided that he never would speak, and he never did.

SB Wilbur spoke for one time in Chicago and seemed to have...

IM He could speak very well. And when they had the big celebration for them here in Dayton, Wilbur did the speaking, and he could do it very easily and it didn't bother him. But Orville, I think it made him very nervous and he worried about it. He would have it, he'd ever done it. He evidently didn't do very much of it before he found out that he wasn't, it didn't satisfy him, so he never did it.

SB Did he ever have any desire, desire to go back to Europe or to see what the rest of the world had done with his plane?

IM Well, I don't know whether he did or not; he didn't, they didn't, I don't think they liked to travel too much because, well, they had to do a lot of it at one time, but of course after he had this accident, the vibration of the train

or an airplane or a ship, anything that had any vibration at all, bothered him so.

SB Oh.

IM So he couldn't travel. Travel by car was the only thing he could do very comfortably.

SB Then didn't he have to have the car fixed so that he could...?

IM You mean...

SB Special springs or something or (unintelligible)...?

IM Yes I believe he did. He had, oh he had some gadgets on that too. That he got a Franklin car, I guess that was the first one he had, and he had it all fixed up so he could drive it but nobody else could.

(laughter)

SB Well, that's one way to keep the fenders intact, isn't it.

IM He had that all done, and one thing that Carrie said, that when they got the new stove in their house out at Hawthorn Hill, that they brought the stove in and got it all set up, and he looked at the oven control, and took one look at it and he had, she said, he had it all apart, in about half an hour; she said he, had the whole thing apart to see how it worked.

(laughter)

SB Oh, I hope he put it back together again.

IM Yes, he did.

(laughter)

IM And then.

SB For Carrie's sake.

IM Then he had an IBM machine and he was so anxious to find out how, that they, they sent one out to him, at his laboratory on, at the corner of Broadway and Third, near the corner. And he was so anxious to find out how that thing worked that he took it all apart, and he couldn't get it back together again. So he called up IBM, their service man, and he came out and took one look at it and

says, well, he said, I'm a service man, but he said, (laughter) he says, I'm not an assembler, he said, I'll just take this whole thing, send it back to the factory, which he did.

(laughter)

SB Every nut, bolt, and screw.

(laughter)

SB Oh, dear.

IM Oh, that was one thing, you know he had to learn how it was all put together.

SB Did any of you children inherit that ability?

IM No, none of them. Well, both my brothers are, have work benches and like to fool around you know, like that. But none of them have been what you call inventors.

SB Maybe it will skip a few generations and then pop up again.

IM Yes, it's too bad that they didn't marry and pass that ability on to another generation. That's one thing that we've been told so many times, and it's true.

SB Well it must be partly a gift, of course from after reading, especially that McFarland's book, it was a lot of hard work to get all that, all that.

IM Oh, they had all kinds of discussing, discussion in letters, and then when they were home, they would have the most intricate discussions about, oh, a nut, or a bolt, or a screw, or how this thing worked and how that worked, what was the matter with it, that this one worked alright and this one didn't, and, and was this side too far out or you know. And they would work out everything, just talk it out first before they did anything, and then when they found out what they thought was the answer, then they would go ahead and try to work it out.

SB Must have taken an awful long time, after reading those books you could understand more why they didn't, really why they didn't marry when they...

IM Yes.

SB The things they do, and then make a living also. They had to do some work in



the bicycle shop.

IM Yes, they did, and my father was the, taking care of it while they were in Europe or in Kitty Hawk, really. Part of the time. And when they had their shop on West Third Street. We lived on West Second Street, it was just up the alley from where they were doing all this, and often they would need someone to, you know, that was when they put cambric on the wings they, and they'd have these, they'd make these sort of like ribs, and then they sewed a little channel for it, and work it out. Well, quite often they would shoot up the alley to my mother who would sew up something for them on the machine, but Wilbur could sew on a machine himself, and in some of the letters, Katharine says, that she, she would, had been, the boys all week had been in the dining room with Wilbur sitting on the floor, or Orville drawing the lines on the floor and and Wilbur working the sewing, using the sewing machine.

SB That would be that old fashion treadle type?

IM Yes, treadle type, that's what they had.

SB That's what they had.

IM They have that machine out at the NCR at, I think, Carillon Park. We've given it to them out there, to go with that plane that they have reconstructed. Restored.

SB There are so many places that they could have stopped, you know, thought oh well this is, this is too much work.

IM Oh, yes.

SB In so many places. When you would go up to the summer place, up in the woods, did Mr. Orville act any differently than he did in Dayton?

IM No, he was just about the same; he was always, he was always glad to see us, because he cooked, and when we came we cooked.

(laughter)

IM And he was always glad to be relieved of that duty when when we went up there, and would do the cooking. He was just real glad to see us.

(laughter)

SB Who cleaned the fish?

IM Well he did, he helped with it. He and, he'd, my husband is quite a fisherman and he'd go fishing with him and tell him where they were. And then the first day, then the next day, Scribbs would go out alone, and oh, he had quite a thing going there with the, with the fish and how long, he would write to us, or you know write a postal or something, and and draw a picture of a, a boat on top and then somebody with a line over the edge you know, with a hook and then he'd draw a lot of fish down here, and he'd say there'd been a lot of these around or something like that, you know. You better come up.

SB Oh, that's cute, he kind of had a sense of humor, didn't they?

IM Oh, they, they have, their sense of humor is sort of subtle in a way; it's a, you know, he liked all kind of, oh he'd really, they were, their household was a lot of fun, and I can remember as, as kids when we went there on Sundays, they had a lot of cute little things that they did and and a lot of funny things they would, just expressions that, that they would be talking about, but somebody said, and they'd be laughing about them, and carrying it on in their conversations.

SB Did they use much of the German, I noticed they called Katharine...

IM Tochter, that means daughter...

SB Tochter. Did they use other...

IM And...

(break in tape)

(end of side three)

(start of side four)

IM You, they called Uncle Will, Ulam, and I forgot what that was? William, I guess, William. Or you know Wilbur. And I think Orv was always Orv. (chuckles)

SB It be hard to change that wouldn't it?

IM They had nicknames for all of us, I was Inette, that's just a shortening for

Ivonette, and my sister was It, because when I was very ill with measles, and they thought I wasn't going to pull through, and my sister had just one measle; she was a baby. And the Doctor said, well Ivonette's pretty sick, but the baby, it's alright, and then from that time on...

SB It.

IM It was "It." And my older brother was Fruckers. I don't know where that came from. And of course Horace or my younger brother was Bus, Buster, always.

SB Well, it seems to be true of close families that no one ever has their legitimate name.

IM That's right.

SB It sort of sweet. Do you think that Mr. Orville was lonely in his later years?

IM Oh, I'm sure he was, he couldn't help but have been lonesome; he was the last one and of course, my father lived the longest of any of the brothers and sisters. They were together for the longest times; then when he died in 1939, from that time on there was none of his generation until 1948 when he died. So I'm sure he was very lonely but he had a lot of things that he was interested in and went to the office every day. Saw some people and didn't see a lot of others that wanted to see him.

SB Who were his close friends?

IM Well, Mr. Deeds, and Mr. Kettering and he had, oh, some friends Ezra Kuhns was one of them, from the NCR, I guess he was NCR, and some of the people that were in the Conservancy, some of those men, and then he had a very good friend who was a writer, by the name of Findley in Washington that had the Air Services magazine; he used to write in; you may have seen some of his letters, I don't know, they're around some of them now.

SB I remember some of the names, the names on some of them, but I don't remember.

IM He wrote for the Air Services magazine, and would always, he was a very good friend; he would come here, and Orville would go there. To Washington to see him.



SB Did he enjoy being in the company of women in his later...?

IM Yes, he did, yes he did. He liked to be, not all women, but there were some that he liked; he liked mixed crowds, I'd say. And he didn't dislike being around where women were at all. But he just wasn't ever interested in getting married.

SB Would, do you think he would have enjoyed it if he could have, perhaps, lived with a family in his older years; in other words if all of you hadn't lived here and you lived somewhere else, would you have asked him to come and stay six months or something like that; do you think that he would have enjoyed living within your family? For that period?

IM I don't believe so, because, I think he was very fond of all of them, but, his trips out to, for instance, when some of the nieces were married and everything, he didn't stay any time at all, not more than two or three days, and of course that might have been partly because the trip bothered him. But he oh, he had interests of his own and I don't know, he had lived alone you know, for so long, I think, I think it would have bothered him some. Although when he, when we were together up at his island in Canada, he was, he seemed to enjoy himself, but we never stayed very long at a time, not more than a week or two.

SB You were married in his home, weren't you? At Hawthorn Hill?

IM Yes, I was the first one to be married there.

SB Did he enjoy the festivities, or was he glad when it was all over?

IM Yes, yes he was, he was going to take us away, he was suppose to have, was going to take us down at that time, we were going on a train. West to Chicago, and for our honeymoon, and then west from there to a lake up in Wisconsin or in Minnesota. And something happened to the axle of his, his axle broke and he didn't know it at the time, so the McCormicks took us down to the station. Here comes my husband I think.

SB Reading his paper.

IM Oh the evening paper.

SB He's got the evening paper; I don't want to keep you any longer here.

IM No, that's alright.

SB You've been very nice. Let me stop here a minute.

(break in tape)

SB He was to have his picture taken?

(laughter)

IM Yes he did. He hated to have his picture taken so much and he had always had a peculiar look on his face, and we would tease him about it and tell them, tell him that this wasn't a very good picture of him; it had, but he had that picture-taking look on his face.

SB Oh, I oh, I wanted to ask one thing. Was there any particular award that he got that meant more to him than than anything else, any other awards; he seemed like there, he got so many, did one mean more to him?

IM Well, I think the first thing that they had was a degree from Oberlin; I think that meant a great deal to him. They also got some at Richmond, at the school there, Earlham. That was more or less because they had a cousin who married Professor Dennis who was at one time President and then his son was president of Earlham. But I think the first one was the most thrilling to them, that degree, the honorary degree that they got from Oberlin.

SB Well, that's interesting. Maybe because it was, finally, they got some recognition.

IM Perhaps.

SB That, that's maybe, or would it be because, more so than the foreign recognition?

IM Well, I think the fact was that hardly anybody believed and they did, see. They, they finally, it seems to have meant that finally somebody believed they had done something of, of interest to the whole country.

SB Well, that's interesteing.

(break in tape)

(end of tape)

# INDEX

- Airplanes, DeHavilland  
DeHavilland 4, 21
- Airplanes, Langley, 17
- Aviation Hall of Fame, 16
- Beeler Note Case, 7
- Bicycle shop, 32
- Broadway Methodist Church,  
6
- Carillon Park, 24, 32
- Chanute, Octane, 10
- Cox, Gov. James M., 28
- Dayton-Wright Airplane Co.,  
21
- Deeds, Edward A., 34
- Dennis, Professor (Earlham  
College), 36
- Dunbar, Paul Laurence, 10-11
- Earlham College, 36
- Findley, Earl N., 34
- Flint, Charles, and Co., 19
- Ford, Henry, 21
- Fort Myer, Virginia, 24
- Franklin car (Pierce Arrow),  
30
- Grumbach, Carrie, 3, 4,  
13-14, 27, 30
- Hawthorn Hill, 28, 30, 35
- IBM electric typewriter, 30
- Kelly, Fred, 17-18
- Kettering, Charles F., 34
- Kuhns, Ezra, 34
- Library of Congress, 2
- Lilienthal, Otto, 8
- McCormick, Anne O'Hare, 27,  
35
- McCormick, Frank, 27, 35
- Mayo's Clinic, 24
- National Cash Register, 24, 32, 34
- Public's Interest in Wrights, 15-16
- Roosevelt, Franklin D., 18, 28
- Roosevelt, Theodore, 10
- Scribbs, 33
- Smithsonian Institution, 16-18
- United Brethern Church, 6
- "U.S. Air Services", 34
- Visitors at the Wright Home,  
14-15
- Wright, Horace, 34
- Wright, Katharine, 3, 9, 12, 24,  
25, 32, 33
- Wright, Leontine, 4
- Wright, Lorin, 1, 32, 34
- Wright, Mrs. Lorin, 6
- Wright, Rev. Milton, 2, 3, 4, 5,  
6-7, 11, 12, 25-26
- Wright, Milton, nephew of Wright  
Brothers, 4
- Wright, Orville  
character, 2, 9, 18-19, 21-22,  
23, 25, 26, 27-29, 30-31, 32,  
33, 34, 35, 36  
health, 23-24, 29-30  
honorary degrees, 36  
inventions, 22-23  
on commercial use of airplane,  
20-21  
on military use of airplane,  
20  
summer cottage, 32-33  
mentioned, 1, 7, 8, 9, 10,  
12, 13, 16
- Wright, Reuchlin, 11-12
- Wright, Susan, (Mrs. Milton), 5,  
7-8, 12, 29
- Wright, Wilbur  
character, 2, 5, 9-10, 11, 14,  
19, 25-26, 32



Wright, Wilbur(cont.)  
    mentioned, 1, 7, 8,  
    16, 21, 29, 33  
Wright Brothers  
    character, 9, 16  
Wright Field, 28

Young, George, 19  
Young, Will, 19

Zahm, Dr. Albert F., 17