

INTERVIEW WITH
Lelia Grace Picking

on
January 27, 1965

by
WALTER V. BARBASH
Oral Historian

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER LIBRARY
Abilene, Kansas

This is an oral history interview with Miss Lelia Grace Picking on January 27, 1965.

MISS PICKING: This is Lelia Grace Picking speaking. A member of the class of 1909 and a classmate of Dwight D. Eisenhower through the four years of high school. The Picking family is of Irish, German and English ancestry. My parents came to Abilene from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1887. We have known our town when there were no telephones, no lights and no pavement. My father was a tinsmith employed by the grandfather of the Smith boys, the present Smith Sheetmetal Works at 800 N.E. 8th St. He was, also, a salesman for the famous Seelye's Wasatosa, a liniment now sold in Old Abilene Town. My mother was eager that her family receive an education. The four of us who taught school totaled 130 terms. Our family was in the County school system 70 years, going to school and teaching. The Reader's Digest, September, 1957, carries the story of Captain Roche, who was shot down in the Sea of Japan. It was the destroyer, the USS Picking, named for Lt. Sherwood Picking, that rescued Roche from the sea. My purpose is to tell what I remember of school days in A.H.S. with Dwight D. Eisenhower. The spring has come with its buds of promise, the winter has come with its ice and snow many times since the class of 1909 entered the old City Hall as freshmen. The

building stood at the site of the present Municipal building at the corner of 5th and Broadway Streets in the town of Abilene, which in later years was to become famous as the home of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dwight's class was large in numbers but not great in morale as we knew we would be dubbed "greenies" by the upper classmen. The accommodations the building afforded were not the best but we managed. There was a large room on the east on the second floor used as a recitation room and study hall combined. In it we met for Chapel. On the southwest was a recitation room and another on the northwest. In this room from a cupola housing the fire bell, dangled a rope. When the firemen grasped the rope to ring the bell the boys of A.H.S., Dwight among them, responded immediately by skipping classes to help man the old two wheeled hose cart-a far cry from our present truck with its snorkel. If Dwight didn't get to the hose cart he was among those who sprinted to the store to buy treats for the girls. On the first floor one room was used by History classes. Here Miss Pauline Sleeth taught Dwight. The city marshal's family occupied the east half of the first floor. In the basement were the jail cells. One morning on arriving at school we found a prisoner had tried to dynamite his way out, the damage was not great enough to warrant a holiday. Dr. F.S. Blayney who often substituted as a teacher remarked that we received our education midst the howling of the dogs,

the wailing of the prisoners and the odor of the onions being cooked for the marshal's dinner. Dwight was a boy who worked and had little time for parties and social gatherings, at least, during the Freshman and Sophomore years. He spent two years in the old city hall and two years in the new high school, erected in 1907. This building, facing the south on 7th Street at the end of Spruce has since been torn down. In Junior and Senior years, Dwight took a lively interest in athletics. The Yearbook of 1909, the Helianthus, gives the statement "D. Eisenhower sticks around the left and center gardens". "He works to keep the team together and in good spirits". This characteristic as a youth followed into his military career. He was an individual of action. He was ever mindful of the welfare of his soldiers. His D-Day was the outgrowth of his early idea of cooperation. Another statement in the yearbook says "Dwight is our best historian and mathematician. His interest in History is one of his outstanding traits as a scholar". Mrs. C.D. Wetzel, a classmate, who was Winifred Williams, makes this remark, "I remember that whenever the teachers called on Dwight he could always recite. I never heard him say 'I don't know'". My most vivid memory is of his reciting in Miss Dickinson's English class. During two wars D.D. Eisenhower made history that is incomparable and unprecedented. His ability for learning from the past, utilizing the present and planning for the future are outgrowths of his early training in home and school. As a family the Eisenhower's were a close

- Page Four -

knit unit, a family known for integrity and honesty. An uncle of the boys lived in the house which is now the Eisenhower home. He was a veterinarian. Frank Meyers, my brother in law who attended Lincoln School recalls that the Dr. used to treat animals, pull teeth, dose them with medicine and so forth. For this purpose he had improvised a sling and table. The boys who went to Lincoln School, the older Eisenhower's included lined up on the east side of the school ground, just as close to the street as they dared to watch the veterinarian. The David Eisenhower's at this time lived in a small house not far from the present site. The Dr. left town and David's family moved into this place which was home for many years. The Eisenhower's belonged to the Brethren in Christ Church, Bishop Northcott's wife, who was Florence Engle, says, "I prize my souvenir report published by the Brethren in Christ Sunday School in 1905. In the intermediate department are listed Florence Engle and Dwight Eisenhower. In the Junior department are my sister Rowena and Roy Eisenhower and in the Primary department are Bruce Engle, also, Earl and Milton Eisenhower. Dwight's grandfather was a member of the Bible Class, two uncles, also, belonged to the Church. His father and mother each taught a class. The Topeka Daily Capital of September 8, 1957, carries this item "The pioneer Country Church of President Eisenhower's forefathers,

The Belle Springs Brethren in Christ Church, south of Abilene, is to be sold at auction at 1:30 Saturday, August 14th. H.O. Wingerd, trustee, since the church was built says, "It is a terrible thing that the Church must be sold, but there are no members, young folks have moved away, older people passed on." In the adjoining churchyard lie buried the President's grandparents, his great grandparents and many pioneers. One and a half miles north of the Church is the Eisenhower homestead. The Church school in Abilene and the home Bible study of the Eisenhower's instilled in Dwight the principles of fair play and honesty. While sometimes considered of a belligerent nature, I remember the boy who was to become President as a boy who coveted action, was studious and enjoyed clean sport, fair play. His class of 1909 is proud of his record and honor him for his devotion to duty and to his country.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickens, when your family came from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Abilene in the late 1800's, were they part of the immigration that brought the original Eisenhower's to Abilene?

MISS PICKENS: No, they did not come at that time. They came practically by themselves.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickens, was your family associated with the River Brethren Church at that time and where did they locate when they came to this part of the country?

MISS PICKING: My parents located in Abilene, in town. Some of the River Brethren settled in town. I know the Forney's did and some located north of town. We have quite a settlement there. Maybe not just when they came but a little later and then we had the Belle Springs Creamery and Belle Springs Church south of town.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, you mention the article in Reader's Digest regarding the destroyer USS Picking, could you tell us if this ship is named after a particular member of your family or a member of one of the branches of your family?

MISS PICKING: The USS Picking was not named for our immediate family. My grandfather or probably his brother--The Lt. comes from that family. It was as I said a Lt. Sherwood Picking. We found his picture and a statement concerning the incident in the Topeka Daily Capital and then later traced it to be this Lt. Sherwood Picking.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, one of the authors on Eisenhower, in fact one who did a considerable lot of research here in Abilene before he wrote his book, states that General Eisenhower entered high school in 1904, and then was out in 1905, as a result of a knee injury--leg infection and then returned to school in September '05-'06, from your association with the General, do you recall this?

MISS PICKING: I do not recall the time of this injury but there is a record in the high school annual that Dwight was listed in the class that would have graduated in 1908. On account of this injury he was not allowed to go back to school and therefore started in the same year that we did so he was graduated in 1909. I wrote to Dwight, personally, concerning this and he said that he thinks that this is the correct history as far as he is able to remember.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, do you recall when you first met Dwight Eisenhower and what your impression was?

MISS PICKING: Well, I haven't a very clear picture of Dwight in the first year. I have a better picture of Edgar, because Edgar was in my Latin class and coming from the country, Latin was most difficult for me and I know that Edgar thought it was quite funny when one would get a zero or a "goose-egg" each time and each day of recitation but in a few months I could make circles all around him so I remember Edgar, but I remember Dwight in the classes and particularly in our Junior and Senior histories, and also, the physics class but, particularly, in the history classes.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, can you give us the location of the old high school that you and Dwight first attended and then the location of the new one, just for our records?

MISS PICKING: The old high school was the city hall--it was a brick building with quite a dome on it--this housed the fire bell. It was at the corner of Broadway and 5th Street where the municipal building now stands. The new high school stood at the north end of Spruce St. It faced the south and was just about a half a block off of Buckeye on Seventh St. between Buckeye and the Garfield School.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, you mention the fact that the boys in town were sort of a volunteer fire department so that when the firemen rang the bell they all left school and if the fire wasn't of any great importance they would spend the time to purchase candy for the girls--did Dwight--was Dwight part of the volunteer fire department and did he participate in these candy buying expeditions?

MISS PICKING: Well, I don't know as I could recall a specific incident where Dwight helped to man this hose-cart, but it was a rule that the boys were allowed to do this, and he probably was among them because he, as I stated, was a boy of action. Usually, the upper classmen had the first place.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, you mentioned earlier in your talk the fact that you had a daily Bible session in one of the rooms of the school

I wonder if you'd care to comment on this in light of the recent Supreme Court decision, that is, were all children of all religious faiths allowed to attend and what was the Bible that was used--was it a Bible of a particular Church or a particular religious group?

MISS PICKING: I stated in my talk on Dwight that we had our chapel in the east room of the old city hall building and everyone was allowed to attend. The King James Bible was used and few, not too many comments on it. We, often, had a speaker who would give us a talk and then we, also, each time we had chapel repeated the Lord's Prayer. All religious faiths were included in this. They, at least, were there, if they were not allowed to take part that was quite all right and in the new high school we had a stage and I remember the teachers sat upon the stage and I, also, remember Mr. Stacey many times giving excellent talks based on the Bible and we learned to know the favorite scripture passage of each one of the teachers because they took turns in leading the devotions in chapel.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, there has been quite a bit of comment and reporting on the antagonism between the north side children and the children from the south side--I wonder if you could tell us at least, when you were in high school and a classmate of Dwight's

whether or not you ran across this feeling and whether it made itself evident in any form.

MISS PICKING: I feel that this has been quite a build-up for in our attending school we did not know a great deal or hear a great deal that Dwight lived south of the tracks and others lived north. Of course, I lived in the country--this may be the reason why I did not get the drift of that too often, but I have felt during the years that in those days south of the tracks and north of the tracks did not spell a great difference.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, you say you lived in the country when you went to school with Dwight, did you have to, so to speak, commute to school every day or did you live in town during the school year?

MISS PICKING: We certainly commuted every day. We would get up at 5:00 o'clock every morning, milk cows and get in the buggy and ride those four miles to school and go home again and do our chores and do our studying. My sister was valedictorian so you may know we put in good days. We used to sing our high school anthems and repeat our memory work going to and from school. We drove an old sorrel horse. He went to school for 10 years. We called him the "educated horse".

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickering, most authors indicate or emphasize that Dwight Eisenhower played sports in high school from, primarily in his Junior and Senior years, and I wonder if you could give us a general picture of that, for instance, did the students attend sporting activities in a body as is common among the high school students today or was the sporting activity primarily concentrated in a small group of boys who decided to play and had very few people watching them?

MISS PICKING: A small group of boys were the ones that really did the playing and, of course, the attendance at the ball games was quite good but never the school in a body. If we remember that these days were days that were busy, days that were filled with work, we had very little time for recreation and as I spoke a while ago you may know that our days were full and it held that way with most of the scholars that is those who lived in the country.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickering, Davis in his book mentions that Eisenhower took part in social activities but was never asked to join a group known as "The Bums of the Lawsy Lou" which was a sort of a fraternal and social organization in high school--I wonder if you could tell us a little bit about the organization and, well, what part of town their members came from or what part of class they got their members from

and a little bit about what the organization did?

MISS PICKING: I can remember very little about the organization, except their name and that they had meetings once in a while and this included a class in our class who had their way through school provided and were financially able, so that they did not have to spend so much time in chores and working. Principally, the girls lived on 3rd street and as to their meetings I couldn't say but I do know that the club existed and while I belonged to the country side of the class at the same time I never felt any antagonism toward this part of the class. I always felt that I had my place and the "Lawsy Lou's" had theirs and they always gave me credit for being able to not compete with them, but to have my standing with them. Oh, we were among those who had to work very hard for their education, in fact, many times I wanted to give up but as the years have passed there has been a great reward in having known the President of the United States and I feel fully rewarded for the struggle of high school.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, did you take part in any of the social activities of the school, by that, I mean dances and plays--the reason I'm bringing this up is that Davis also mentions in his book, in his early chapters, the fact that when he interviewed people in Abilene a few of the girls, in particular, mentioned the fact that Dwight was not

a very good dancer, but did take part in the social activities in the school, do you recall any of these events or do you--would you care to comment on any of them?

MISS PICKING: This is another phase of school life of which I do not know a great deal. As I have stated a number of times we hadn't much time for social life but I do know that there were gatherings and that when we reached the Junior and Senior years we had the usual parties given by some of the school patrons and the City Superintendent. I remember our party at the Rice's home, the A.W. Rice, and we held our Junior-Senior reception in the Nurd residence and we had our reception at Mr. Stacy's residence, another at the K. of P. hall and this is just about all that I know of the social part.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, it's been also recorded that Dwight Eisenhower dated several girls in Abilene at that time among them, Gladys Harding, Ruby Norman, and Esther Baumgarth--do you remember any of this dates, or did you double-date with him in any of his friends at that time?

MISS PICKING: About his dates I do know that Gladys and Dwight lived toward the south part of town and I know that it was quite customary for them to walk home from school but nothing as to the dates. We've

been trying to place Esther Baumgarth and so far I've not been able to remember her. I remember the name and, of course, Ruby Norman, we were quite well acquainted with Ruby. She lived north of town. No, I don't recall of any specific time or dates.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickins, it's also been recorded that Dwight was largely responsible for the creation of the Athletic Association at the high school and, for, in this way they raised money to purchase uniforms for the team and purchase equipment, however, I in interviewing Orin Snider, who was Eisenhower's coach in his, so-called graduate year, at the high school. Orin said that this is not exactly true because when he was in high school which was about 2 to 3 years before Eisenhower they did have an Athletic Association and they did assess each of the students a certain amount of money to defray the cost of equipment and so on. Mr. Snider believes that it is more likely that the Athletic Association probably went out of existence and Ike renewed it so to speak, do you know anything about this at all?

MISS PICKING: Dwight and Herb Sommers and several of the other boys were intensely interested in athletics. They had to keep their grades at a certain level and this was not too difficult but still it kept them at their school work and they didn't dare spend too much time with athletics, but Dwight was a good organizer. The 1906 yearbook

shows that there was an athletic organization when Orin Snider was in school. The following annuals list quite a number of the class of '09 on the teams. This bears out the fact that Dwight was really interested in this association and worked hard to keep it going in order to compete with other schools.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickins, Dwight Eisenhower, also, participated in the senior class play, which was a sort of a take-off on Shakespeare, and Eisenhower played a part in it, do you remember, let's put it this way, were you a member of the cast and do you recall anything interesting about the play?

MISS PICKINS: The most interesting thing I think I can recall about that play is that at the time it was put on the stage there was a epidemic of whooping cough in Abilene and we all whooped. I didn't have any particular part in the play, there was a part in which they needed quite a crowd and I do remember that I was on the stage in that, but no particular part. However, the play went over real well, I can say that much. A take-off on the Merchant of Venice is what it was.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickins, this covers the years that you knew President Eisenhower or General Eisenhower as a high school student,

do you recall, well let's put it this way, did you have any contact with him after you graduated from school, that is, let's say between the time he left for West Point and when he came back for the homecoming in 1945?

MISS PICKING: I had no personal contact with Dwight during those years but during the time that he was getting one degree after another in his work, I would see little items in the paper and I would call his mother, I had met her, and we would discuss his promotions. We kept tab of him all during those years, however, I never met him or talked to him, but I do remember this distinctly.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, you are the secretary, so to speak, for the class of 1909 at Abilene High School, did you do this work in those years because you had been appointed secretary that time or did you just do it out of a personal interest?

MISS PICKING: Personal interest and the thought that I had for our class. In the Helianthus I had written, when we graduated a short sketch of the history of Abilene High School and I think this probably led me on to do the work that I did later in keeping the record and, also, what I did for the 1959 anniversary--our golden anniversary.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickins, you mention that you became acquainted with Mrs. Eisenhower, how did this come about and what sort of a woman did you find her to be?

MISS PICKING: I took up some work of canvassing the town and I was on the south side and went to a two story white frame house and knocked on the door. A lady answered and she said, well she said, "You know who I am? I'm Mrs. Eisenhower", and I said "Why, are you Dwight's mother and Edgar's" and she said, "Oh yes", and of course, then we had a real chat. She was a person who was tidy and her personal appearance looked as if she was just really purposeful, too, in her work. She didn't look as though she would let it slack or slide and as if her business was keeping her home, that's the way she appealed to me--a good mother and house-keeper.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickins, after Eisenhower left Abilene, in those intervening years, what did you do as an individual here in town?

MISS PICKING: After school, I taught a number of years but my health failed and I wasn't able to keep on teaching so I did what I could, dressmaking for one thing. We were still in the country. Then I spent several years as a nursemaid and companion in Wichita. Those

were happy years, with a family who had just gotten oil money, Then my mother decided to leave the farm and come to town and, of course, I came home and for 8 years I worked in Belle Springs Creamery where Dwight had worked. Then in later years--My mother lived to be 93, I was in the home taking care of her, also, at the same time I worked at the hatchery next door and there I trayed eggs 11,000 in one day and had the loading sheet made out by 1:00 A.M. at night--busy all the time.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickings, you mention that you taught school at one time, was this immediately after you graduated from high school and at that time did the localities require a formal education for this--or hadn't they arrived at that point yet?

MISS PICKING: I taught right after I had graduated from high school and we were required to take a normal course if we hadn't had it in high school, well, we didn't have it when we were in school but it was then put into the schools and anyone who taught had to have a certificate from this course. Yes, we had a--what was called a summer institute. We would rush through and at the end of that time we took an examination and obtained a certificate. The year after I graduated this normal course was added to the curriculum and when one graduated from high

school he was given a certificate to teach.

MR. BARRASH: Well, that about brings us up to 1945, Miss Pickering, when Dwight came back in 1945 for the homecoming celebration, did you have any contact with him at that time and did you have anything to do with the homecoming?

MISS PICKING: I've always been sorry that 1909 did not have a float, the football float passed the reviewing stand and I really felt that we should have had one honoring Dwight, but we gathered as a class in the building across the street, there were nine or ten of us there. Paul Royer had spoken to Dwight and he was to come over and see and talk with the class but at that time he had just gone to rest so we did not get personal contact with him except that we waved to him across the street. The class broadcasted over K.F.H. directed by George Cow of Wichita. We presented Dwight with a bouquet of American Beauty roses, which was our class flower.

MR. BARRASH: Did you have any contact with him after the homecoming from the period of the homecoming in 1945 through the years, to 1952, when he decided to run for the presidency?

MISS PICKING: I just don't believe that I had any contact with Dwight, no word during those years except a letter in 1948. He sent autographs for the members of our class.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, when Eisenhower decided to run for the presidency in 1952, he came back to the United States from Europe and came to Abilene to start campaigning, do you recall having any contact with him at that time and if so what type was it?

MISS PICKING: On that day with the rest of the crowd I remember being on the street and close enough that I could greet and wave to Dwight as he went by. Then I started out to the grounds where he was to make his speech and, as you know, it's been recorded what a terrific rain and thunderstorm we had that day and I got only as far as the Harger residence. Lois Harger Parker and Nell Graves Lutton and I had quite a nice little chat. I was unable to get on out to the grounds because of the water.

MR. BARBASH: Now, Miss Picking, after Eisenhower was elected President did you have any opportunity to visit with him or attend any of the inaugurations in Washington or to even visit with him when he was back here in Abilene on visits?

MISS PICKING: Our next door neighbors went to the inauguration in Washington also, my old school mate, Ruth Patten, from Marietta, Ohio. The neighbors next door said, "Well, Lelia, you surely should go" but I didn't but, of course, was very much interested in it and kept record of the schedule and the pictures of the inauguration, since Dwight was President I have been fortunate enough to speak to him each time he has been in Abilene. I am very, very happy to have had several pictures taken with him. The Associated Press captioned one with Gladys Hardings name. This error was corrected in our town but not in Chicago and Los Angeles. Twice Bill Jeffcoat our home town photographer, surprised me with snaps he had taken. One was on Dwight's birthday after he had talked to his former teacher, Miss Pauline Sleeth. One taken at the unveiling of the painting of Dwight was given to me by Mr. Scott. The one taken by the Topeka Capital is of interest, we were talking of school days and our anniversary. No one gets to visit long with Dwight when he comes to town. He is so besieged by friends and people that he hasn't much time. I remember the talk that he gave when his picture was unveiled in the library and he said, "How he wished he could come back to Abilene and just be a boy again". I was standing close by him and I thought to myself 'How nice that would be' if we could go over those school days again.

MR. BARBASH: During President Eisenhower's visits back to Abilene do you recall any significant conversations you had with him or were most of your conversations rather general in tone?

MISS PICKING: Each time I met Dwight, it was only a moment of recognition and handshake and "Glad to see you". I treasure those meetings a great deal. The last time he was here I met him in the Library and we talked about the school days and about putting the record of our 50th anniversary into the Library and he said, "Oh, I would be delighted to have it".

MR. BARBASH: Miss Picking, you mention quite often the 50th reunion of the class of 1909, I wonder if you could give us a rundown on the background of that reunion--how it got started, who was responsible for initiating the project, what success you had in trying to get President Eisenhower to come here for that reunion, where it was held, how many of the former classmates attended and, in general, how successful it was.

MISS PICKING: There are, in Abilene, and Salina, Junction City, 7 of us who belong to the class of 1909. In the year of 1958, I talked to Paul Royer in his lawyer's office. When we had met at different times

we had talked of having a reunion and so we talked to the others, who lived here, Ann Malott Humphrey lives in Junction City, Ada Cooley Kelly in Salina, Edna Widler in Enterprise, Clarence and Elizabeth Asling in Abilene, we talked and planned and considered ourselves a committee to plan a re-union. I had in the meantime, during the year, tried to find the other members of the class--their addresses. In this we were quite fortunate, we had all of them and so we wrote to each one. Paul wrote letters that could be run off on his machine and sent to each one asking if they wanted a reunion, all responded favorably ~~some~~ finally decided on the date May 25 and 26, 1959, and met having made out a program and a committee we called the members of the class in Abilene, the committee, and made plans for the big day. There was only one, our valedictorian, who did not respond with a letter. We had answers from all others that they would try to come. The Superintendent of Schools, E.L. Fiedler, had written to Dwight asking him to give the 1959 commencement address and attend the reunion. This Dwight was unable to do because of his heavy schedule. Well, the day dawned, it was a beautiful May day, we met at the Sunflower Hotel, to renew our acquaintance, after having not seen each other for 50 years. This was quite thrilling. After we were there for a short time, we next went to Paul Royer's house, where we had a talk fest and lunch.

There were 14 of us. I wore my graduation dress of 50 years ago. With a little alteration it fit perfectly. It was made of persian lawn and trimmed in tucks and lace. From Paul's place we went to the Garden Room of the hotel and had our dinner. Twenty four were present. One of our teachers, Mrs. Rara Benn Geis of Salina and her husband attended, also. Bruce Hurd's wife from Topeka, Bruce had passed on a number of years ago. Altogether there are 10 that are not living and that leaves 21 in the class who are living. Paul acted as toastmaster and each one gave a short history of his life. After the dinner we read letters from those who were absent and among those was one from our renowned member, Dwight, he had told us that he could not attend for which we were very sorry. Paul had given each one a copy of his letter. This was the one disappointment of the reunion, really the only one and it was a very real one, too. Then on the next morning that would be Tuesday, Mr. Endacott took us through the Museum. First, we rode around town to see what improvement the town had made during the years and there were quite a number of "ah's" and "oh's" as to the buildings and to the improvements made. From the Museum we went to Junction City where Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey, Ann Malott had invited us to a luncheon at 1:00 o'clock. This luncheon was very enjoyable but rather a sad note entered it also for from this place we would depart

- Page Twenty Four -

to our several hopes and the anniversary, the 50th anniversary, was a matter of history. Whether we shall have a 60th remains to be seen, we hope so.

MR. BARBASH: Miss Pickins, I have no more questions to ask you and unless you have something you'd like to add I would like to close this interview and thank you very, very much for allowing me to interview you and make available this information for future use. Thank you very much.

MISS PICKING: In closing this interview I would like to pay tribute to the one whom it concerns Dwight D. Eisenhower, for his untiring efforts through the school years, his strenuous days in the army as Commander of Allied Forces, who while in war hoped for peace, his interest in education thereby fostering friendships with other people and his efforts to bring about peace when he became President. These moments in Dwight's life--the prayer on the lone hillside before D-Day, his prayer at the Inauguration and the ritual of dedication at the Gettysburg home portray the real Eisenhower. One who has endeavored to keep intact the tenets on which our country was founded. The class of 1909 cherishes his comradeship and salutes him for his dedication to his task.

