

Interviewed 27.vii.78, but declined to be taped. Will answer any specific questions put to them, but believe taped interview would be open to misinterpretation. Professor P. agrees with Henry Ford that history is bunk, as he has read a great deal which he knows from personal experience is not true. Spoke very forcefully about the Orr case, and about the well-meaning simpletons and in some cases not well-meaning simpletons who defended Orr - an unmitigated scoundrel, a leathsome man. Mrs P. suggested he had a hypnotic power over his wife and others. Strongly defended university's action in dismissing Orr for unprofessional conduct in seducing a student. Believed Kemp's evidence. University's only mistake was tactics of lawyers. Orr should never have been appointed - this occurred because of Chancellor's (amateur) interest in philosophy.

Phases of university history: not three (as suggested by me) - (to 1945; 1945-60; 1960-) --- he says an important phase began in 1926 with the appointment of two professors from outside, who had had experience of other universities, both young, after a long long period when no professors had been appointed - namely Prof. Taylor (English) and himself. Before that the university had been rather amateur, set up by wellwishers rather than experienced university people. Pitman instigated the tea club, got room set aside, went and bought crockery etc. Before this, staff had not talked with each other much (?) Also, in 1927 probably, departmental secretary appointed, Paddy or Patty Clark. First secretarial help for staff. The university began to be professional at this stage.

No university pensions - staff had to take out own insurance policy on appointment, no univ. contribution. Staff given bare room, expected to furnish it themselves.

In response to my enquiry re his curriculum vitae & board duties :-
Fellows of the Academy of Science had to furnish confidential autobiographical details for Academy records.

Impression : very upright, ~~not to say~~ unbending people with strong sense of family and academic status. Mrs P., telling an incident about Mrs Orr interjecting at the University Commission, said: "I was the senior univ. wife present so thought I had better say something to her."

Photo of first Principal (of Training College?) J. Johnson, with three woman students, one on right being Edith Rhoda Hurst, Mrs Pitman's elder sister, the others so far unidentified.

Spoke with passion about the Orr case: Firth - a fool but a decent man; others who had their own sexual irregularities defended him e.g. Hector Dunn, whose head was in the clouds anyway, and who ran off with someone's wife; Bishop Bramwell, who lied about something I had said, and when I taxed him with it he didn't deny it but said he would consult his records; and told me later he had been wrong. [Does this constitute lying?]

Reggie Wright's brother, who was on Orr's side because Reggie was on the other side. Orr a great though crude flatterer, always pestering people to see him privately. Mrs Orr seemed to have no ideas on any subject whatsoever, says Mrs Pitman. I believe she was a good cook, but as I never went to her establishment I can't say... [The self-confidence of the impeccable]