R. William Arthur

Bill Arthur's connection with William and Mary spans more than forty years. He graduated from the college in 1938 and obtained his law degree here in 1940. While in his last year of law school he worked feverishly against the abolition of the old department of jurisprudence, and his contemporary account (with newspaper clippings) is included here. From 1954 to 1962 and again from 1966 to 1969, he was a member of the Board of Visitors, serving during the stormy days of the dissolution of the Colleges of William and Mary, on which he offered valuable comments in this interview taped in Williamsburg. In 1969 he was appointed circuit court judge in Wytheville, a post he still holds.

Judge Arthur spoke freely during the interview and approved the transcript as submitted to him.
INDEX SHEET

Interviewee: R. William Arthur

Date of interview: March 12, 1976

Place: Tucker-Coleman Room, Swan Library

Interviewer: Emily Williams

Session number: 1

Length of tape: approx. 70 mins.

Contents:

as student at W&M in mid-1930s - student Gov. 10 mins.

as law student at W&M in late 1930s

abolition of law school

Service on Board of Visitors (1954-1962)

appointment

character of Board

College of William & Mary

Chancellor administration

segregation

philosophies of W&M's role

separate schools

student unrest in mid-50s

nature of Board meetings

assessment of issues, relation to philosophies

Approximate time:

24 mins.

2 mins.

3 mins.

5 mins.
March 12, 1976  Williamsburg, Virginia

Williams: I know you were a student here and I don't dwell on that too long, but I would like to ask you at least one question about when you were a student. You graduated in 1937, right?

Arthur: '38.

Williams: When you were here—I talked to many people, say, of the era when Dr. Paschall graduated, earlier in the depression. Could you see among the students an easing of the depression?

Arthur: To be perfectly frank with you, my father was a salaried man. He was with DuPont for awhile, and then he was in the city manager business. He had a small but steady income, and we were never aware that there really was a depression. We had, you know, all the creature comforts: my two sisters and I were able to go to school to college, although looking back on it we certainly were not affluent, but still we weren't really aware that there was a crunching depression going on; particularly being young, you know, you just didn't pay that much attention to it. I was aware when I was at William and Mary that there wasn't a whole lot of money floating around, that the few people we had here who were from wealthy families were unique. For instance, there was a DuPont boy and a few others; I don't want to get into personalities, but most of us had very little. We had jobs of some kind. I had a dance band played in a dance band and made a little extra
I remember I worked here in the library on what we called an N.Y.A. program or something federal program. I think I got fifteen cents an hour; I believe that's what it was. I'm pretty sure certainly not over twenty-five cents, two or three hours a day. And so, in answer to your question, looking back on it, I know we were in a depression and I know none of us had anything, but we didn't realize it, and we probably had as much fun or more fun than the kids have today.

Williams: Then in 1954 you were appointed to the board here at William and Mary.

Arthur: Well, I got my A.B. degree in '38. They had at that time a combination undergraduate-law degree. I took a half year of law my junior undergraduate year and half a year in my senior undergraduate year and then two more years of law and got my law degree here in 1940. Then I went back to Wytheville and practiced law privately for three or four or five years and then I believe it was — did you say '54 I went on the board.

Williams: Well, before we get to the board let me ask you then — I didn't realize you had taken your law degree here. Then you were here when the attempt was made to abolish the Law school.

Arthur: and I've got some notes that I think you might be interested in on that. I had down here three categories — one thing that stood out in my mind in my undergraduate years,
one thing in my law school years, and one thing in my board years as an alumnus, and if I may, I'll go over these— and if it's too lengthy or it's not what you want you can feel free to take it out. But in my undergraduate years (I have some notes here), I recall the time in the spring of 1937 when we were about to have a campaign for student body president. In those days -- I don't know how it is now, but in those days it was pretty routine that the fraternity candidate was elected. I had pledged Sigma Nu and -- this brings back depression thoughts -- but before I could become a full-fledged member of Sigma Nu, the sheriff beat me to the fraternity house and sold it under the sheriff's hammer, foreclosing the mortgage. (Incidentally, that house was brand new, and it is now the Catholic school, Walsingham Academy. It was a lovely house, even in those days.) So I never really was a fraternity man in the sense that I lived in fraternity house. I lived in Monroe Hall at that time, which incidentally I see now is going to be a girls' dormitory. Anyway, some friends of mine—and I use "my friends" in quotes—wanted to have a good time that spring, I suppose, so they came around and asked me if I'd run as an independent candidate for president of the student body. Blake Newton was one of them. He had a room next to mine, and he would talk to me about it and some others did, and you know, all politicians like to think they were persuaded by their friends to run, but, of course, I wanted to run anyway. Anyway, my candidate was a fellow who's been
heard of casually in William and Mary alumni circles, Carl Buffington. Have you heard of Carl Buffington?

Williams: I remember reading the name, probably in the Flat Hat.

Arthur: He's been very active. He's been class fund collector and all that sort of thing, fine fellow. So I ran that spring, and we had an awfully good time. Lyman Vann from Norfolk was my campaign manager, and about all he managed to do was put on a vest and fill his pockets with cheap cigars and walk around and act like a big shot. We went around making speeches. Now, the reason I'm mentioning all this is because this had been unheard of. It was just routine; nobody ever did anything before this spring. But we had a real campaign, and we'd go out and make speeches. I remember one time I was making a speech over here on the steps of old Phi Beta Kappa Hall, and I made the mistake of asking a rhetorical question. I said, "You follow Bill Arthur, the modern Moses, and he'll bring you out of this morass of indifference and apathy in which you find yourselves." And then I asked a question, "Are you man or mouse?" And one voice came back, "Mouse!" So that was the end of that speech.

On another occasion we advertised all over the campus we were going to have a guest celebrity come and speak, and we put a friend of ours, Ed Lawler, on the road here somewhere to Norfolk or somewhere and gotten on the train and came back up, and we organized this caravan of motor vehicles and went down to the depot and met the
guest celebrity and when the other people who had joined our caravan found out it was just Ed, they nearly ran us out of town. On top of that, Ed was half drunk, and so that didn't go over too big. We had a friend who flew an airplane, threw out leaflets, you know, cluttered up our beautiful campus with those things. Well, we were defeated, but it wasn't too bad a defeat. We couldn't afford to have a defeat party that night, so we went to the victory celebration party at the old KA house, which is now the Alumni House, and had a big time and then to cap it, the climax -- you young people wouldn't believe -- we got a carload of people and went, of all places, the next morning to the Winchester Apple Blossom Festival, I guess thinking that there would be some cute young people up there and there were. Incidentally, here's something you might like to put in the archives; this is very important. This is one of the handbills I found in some old papers of mine that I guess has been there since I left school. It mentions Tim Hanson. He was one of my supporters, and they ridiculed him there, me, and the rest of my friends, and I thought that was really cute.

Williams: And you say this was the first time there'd been anything like this kind of campaign, at least in your memory?

Arthur: Well, in my memory. I guess there'd been perfunctory campaigns from time to time, but nothing like this. This was a real campaign first it started out for laughs, and then it got to

See over.
VOTE FOR BUFFINGTON

Vote for Buffington and save us poor students from a Hamsonite Dictatorship. LOOK AT BUFFINGTON’S RECORD! He is the man to save us from Hamson and Arthur.

THE HAMSONITE MOTTO:

"THE RULE OF GOLD IS BETTER THAN THE GOLDEN RULE"

Are YOU one of Tim Hamson’s boys? (Incorporated in His great body of stooges that is wisely called a Political Party.)

STOOGE NO. 1 --- BILL ARTHUR

(HE'S a great guy," says Bill, "how do you like this pair of pigeons.")
("To say nothing of my future job.")

"Vote for my boys," says Tim (Little Jockey) "because I have seen to it that the Powers that be are behind me."

SO BOYS IF YOU FAVOR

A DICTATOR BY HAMSON

(he modestly said "CHEER LEADER is the job MY PUBLIC requested I run for, give the big offices to the boys who need them.") Vote for Bill Arthur AND HAVE THE HAMSON (POWER) BEHIND THE THRONE!

SAYS DICTATOR HAMSON, "I WAS 115-LB. CHAMPION AT CORNELL"
be a little more serious, and the other side began to take
us a little more seriously.

Williams: They had enough votes they could defeat you?

Arthur: Was that the way you felt; the fraternity party did?

Arthur: Well, yes, they all stuck together, of course, they could
elect anybody they wanted, but we didn't do too badly and it
was a lot of fun, and we enjoyed it.

Now here's something: The next thing that I recall was
when I was in law school. Now this has to do with the at-
tempt to abolish the law school which you referred to. The
very summer that this happened -- this happened in May 1939
-- and when I got back home for summer vacation I sat down
and wrote this, I put it away and forgotten all about it until I heard from you and I got out an old box
of stuff and went through it the other day and found this.
It's fairly well written, but it probably isn't perfect, but
here it is. But this is verbatim, exactly what I wrote at the
time with my own thoughts and reactions of the students of
about twenty or twenty-one, twenty years of age something like that. Here's what it says: (See attached sheet.)

*Addition to page VII: And at that point I must say --
although it doesn't appear in my little piece here -- that
when that announcement was made, dear old Dr. D.W. Woodbridge
-- I don't know whether you ever knew him or not -- finest
top professor in the law school, dean, and so on began to ring the bell in the old Wren Building
to announce the joyful news that the law school had been saved.
On May 28, 1939, it was announced in the Richmond Times Dispatch and other newspapers that the William and Mary Law School was to be abolished. We law students were in the middle of our exams and, needless to say, this announcement was quite a shock to us. That same afternoon (Sunday the 29th) we had a call meeting of the entire student body in front of historic old Wren Building to see what could be done about saving the oldest law school in America—the second oldest in English-speaking nations. I and several other students made talks to the students to sound out opinion on the matter. We were convinced that the overwhelming majority was in favor of retention of the school.

That night Tim Hanson, Harold Goulaman, Bob Simpson, Ralph Baker, Jimmy Watkins, Jack Garrett, and myself went to Richmond to air our views before the Times Dispatch. Next morning the following article appeared: (the underlin-
Students Protest

(Continued From First Page)

The announcement of the discontinuance of the law school was made following a meeting of the board of visitors Saturday.

Mr. Bryan, who was at home here last night, had no comment on the student petition.

Under the board's decision, instruction in the more technical fields of law will be discontinued and the School of Jurisprudence merged with the Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship.

Discussing the plan Saturday, Mr. Bryan said it was an "enlargement and not a narrowing of William and Mary's field of service. More voices will be influenced and I look consistently to a quickening of interest in statesmanship and public service, which is the avocation of great citizens."
This was only the beginning. We drew up a petition, obtaining the signatures of nearly every person in school. We sent letters to each member of the Board of Visitors. We went to see Pres. Bryan, Charles Duke, Channing Hall, and received some encouragement. Ralph Baker & Lettie Armistead went to Newport News to see Homer L. Ferguson and Supreme Justice Spratley. Tim Hanson saw Miss Gabriella Page in Richmond, and Harold Coleman saw Miss Lulu Metz in Front Royal.

All the while the state newspapers fought it out. Editorials flew thick and fast. Here's one from the Times Dispatch, whose editor seemed to favor abolition:
W. & M. Points the Way

It is naturally impossible drastically to reorganize a department in a State institution without hurting somebody and provoking protests from some quarters. Consequently the reaction to the announcement that the College of William and Mary will cease after next session to award law degrees, is not unexpected.

At the same time, there is much to be said for the decision of the college board of visitors to remove this duplication from the State educational system. There is far too much overlapping among Virginia's entirely too numerous State institutions, and if it is impossible to reduce the number of such institutions, it ought to be possible at least to eliminate some of the duplication.

President Bryan and the William and Mary board are to be congratulated on the fact that they have courageously determined to discontinue instruction in the more technical phases of the law, and to merge the school of jurisprudence with the Marshall-Wythe school of government and citizenship. They have pointed the way to other State institutions.

Each of these institutions ought to be willing to sacrifice something in the interests of economy and efficiency. There are State-supported engineering schools at the University of Virginia, V. M. I. and V. P. I., State-supported medical schools at the University of Virginia and Medical College of Virginia, and schools of education at the University of Virginia and William and Mary, and to mention four State Teachers' Colleges operating in virtual fields.

All this is said from the fact that there is a State College for Negroes at Petersburg, a college which is going to need a great deal more money, if it is to be developed in the graduate and professional fields in a way sufficient to satisfy the Supreme Court's insistence on equal facilities for Negroes.

Perhaps the increasing severity of this problem will bring the State Legislature and the educational authorities of the State to an adequate realization of the need for simplification and economy in the field of the higher learning, with less institutional and curricular duplication. The State should thank the College of William and Mary for taking what may be the first step in the direction of a saner and more balanced system.
And so the fight went on. There were days of hope, days of despair. And all the while, our exams progressed unabated. Several times we went into classrooms at 8 A.M. to take an exam after having hardly been to bed the night before.

I recall one night I stayed at a professor's home till nearly 3 A.M. mapping our plans. I had an exam under that same professor the next morning at 8. I hadn't opened a book to study for a single minute. I barely managed to get by. All my schoolmates were having similar experiences.

Finally, we managed to get another board meeting called for Friday June 2nd. At 11 A.M. I had been in the infirmary the day before but I was determined to address the board. One of the nites of our annual June ball was to be that night. It would either be a scene of rejoicing or of sad departure. Time would tell. This
Protest Cut

More Alumni
Of W. & M.

A recent decision of the Norfolk Board of Education, which was taken at a meeting of the board last Saturday, has been published in the Norfolk News today in request for the board of visitors of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and College of William and Mary to make a favorable report on the conduct of the college in the person of its president, Mr. W. W. McFarland, and the college law school. The board of visitors will meet in Richmond on Tuesday, and the college is expected to be represented by Mr. McFarland.

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The meeting started at 11 A.M. Ralph Baker and I spoke about 10 o'clock, and the Board adjourned at 1:30 for lunch. We came back about 2:30 and waited outside closed doors until 5:45, when Mr. Walter Mapp made the formal statement for the Board. It was, "Gentlemen, the Board has rescinded its action of last week, and has decided not only to retain the law school, but to strengthen it in every way."

And so the fight was over. We had won. The following article appeared in the next morning's paper:

...
Law School
At W. & M. To Be Kept, Developed
Visitors Board Reverses Itself Under Pressure

WILLIAMSBURG: (6) — The board of visitors of William and Mary, resuming a previous vote to discontinue the law school voted yesterday to continue and develop the school in keeping with "the traditions and prestige" of the college.

The decision — approved with
dissenting vote — was reached at special session held after a number of alumni chapters and individual graduates and students had protested the discontinuance of the school. The dissenting vote was cast by G. Gordon Bohanan of Petersburg.

The board, after deciding May 27 to stop awarding degrees in law after the 1939-40 session, announced plans to merge the school of jurisprudence with the Marshall School of government and citizenship.

Would Teach Fundamentals

The board decided that it proposed to continue the teaching of the broad fundamentals of jurisprudence and constitutional law, but would discontinue awarding degrees in view of the duplication of effort between the law schools of the universities of Virginia and William and Mary.

Both schools are State-supported.

They are five candidates for law degrees at the approaching commencement of the college, the first American institution to establish a chair of law.

The resolution adopted yesterday by a vote of 10-3 instructed the college president, Dr. John S. D. Beazley, "to take such steps as the securing of financial support and personnel as in his judgment are necessary to strengthen and develop the law school in keeping with past traditions and prestige."

Voting for the resolution were Dr. Walter M. Butcher, vice-

rector, who presided at the meeting; Miss Gabrielle C. Richmond; Charles M. Hall, Williamsburg; Homer L. Ferguson, Newport News; John Archer, Wil-

lard, Roanoke; A. H. Foreman, Norfolk; and C. O. Kidd, Suffolk. Dr. Sidney H. Hall, State superintendent of public instruction, also was present, but as an ex-

officio member of the board he voted only in case of a tie.
Needless to say there was much rejoicing and celebrating at the dance that Friday night. We enjoyed Gene Krupa's music all the more. The same was true of Hal Kemp's Band the next afternoon and night.

There was still one more little item of business outstanding, however. That was a little matter of the Bar Exam. Suffice it to say that after 3 weeks studying under Mr. Woodbridge in Williamsburg, 12 of 15 went to Roanoke and took the exam. A month later we learned that of the 12, 10 had passed! An excellent record.

Here is the list of successful candidates:
Bar Examinations Are Passed By 107

Three Roanokers Are Listed Among Successful Candidates

RICHMOND, July 24 (AP)—The state board of law examiners announced today 107 of the 170 applicants for admission to the bar who took examinations in Roanoke last month have passed.

Number Above Average
The number of successful candidates was well above the average. Of the 200 taking the examinations in June, 1938, only 70 passed.

Mrs. Mary Hamilton Williams of Danville, one of three women who took the examination, and A. P. Staple, Jr., son of the Virginia attorney general, were among those passing.


Thus Ends the Tale of the Most Eventful Month in My Life — May 28, 1939 — June 28, 1939.
Williams: What reasons had you been given for the abolition of the school? Was it simply the duplication of facilities?

Arthur: Duplication. We had a very small school here. The University of Virginia had a big, prospering school, and then there was a sentiment on the board generally at that time away from any professional schools. The emphasis was on a strict liberal arts undergraduate school; it was a philosophical thing. Of course, the money that would have been saved wouldn't have amounted to a hill of beans, but that was one of the arguments, one of the reasons given for the action.

Williams: And what arguments had you used to counter these? They must have been convincing.

Arthur: Well, some of the things, I think, are mentioned there in those newspaper articles. Of course, being such an ancient law school -- instead of destroying it, it should be built up and made as prestigious as possible. It was a good, though small, law school; that the time had come when we certainly should needed more than one law school in Virginia; that one state-supported law school would not suffice -- they'd have to either make that one so large that it would become cumbersome or have two or more -- that just wasn't fair to the people who had come here in good faith and had invested their lives, so to speak, in this law school and having them just told by picking up the newspaper one morning -- that's the first
we heard of it—right in the middle of examinations when we picked up the Sunday morning and see that our law school had been wiped out from under us. It was just unbelievable, we thought. Of course, I must confess we had a vested interest as students but people rallied to our support: law school alumni came back, alumni generally came back, people who were not connected with the law school particularly one way or the other but just felt that they were making a terrible mistake came back and supported us and I give the Board of Visitors credit; they realized apparently they felt they had been too precipitous, that perhaps they had made a mistake they were willing to reconsider, and they did. And all of this was done in a period from one Saturday to the next. That’s amazing. Nowadays you couldn’t get a committee appointed and get them started working in that length of time. I just remember it made me physically sick; I was sick the whole week worrying about the thing and you can imagine what rejoicing there was that Saturday night with the dance going—all things ready-made for a celebration. It was wonderful.

Williams: During the periods on which you served on the board, then, were you able to continue your support of the law school?

Arthur: Oh, yes. By then it was an accomplished fact. Back in the early days I guess there was a feeling even then after this victory that well, some board might come along and change its mind on this, but after a few years, after the war was over, it was stabilized. There’s no longer any fear about whether it’s going to be here or not; just a question of making it as strong as possible and all of us—I don’t think there
was anybody on the board during the years that I served who didn't support the law school in every reasonable way. Now -- of course, this has nothing to do with my \become\ -- if we can just get this new building to go down there by the National Courts Center, that would really be a climax to a long story.

Williams: We had begun -- and I think you said that the third item concerned when you were on the board and I \had\ asked why it was that you were appointed in 1954 by Governor Stanley?

Arthur: I guess to be honest, I suppose it was just political, plus the fact that he was a friend of mine. He lived not too far from my home. He lived in Stanletown, which is between Martinsville and Roanoke, and my home was \had\ to 85 from there. We were in the same congressional district; he formerly been in the congress, and he would campaign through our area. I \got to know him. When this vacancy came up -- of course, he knew about my love for William and Mary, and it was just a natural, I suppose. There had been somebody else out in that part of the state -- I forget his name; I believe he was from Rocky Mount, Virginia -- who went off the board and then had this vacancy -- Ramsey -- and he put me on. That was in 1954. I served from '54 to '58, and then I served another four-year term when appointed by Governor Almond, '58 to '62, and then I was off four years, and I understand this was a little unusual for a member to go off and then come back after but July 1, '66, I was appointed for another four-year term, this
time by Governor Godwin.

Williams: Were you surprised to be reappointed?
Arthur: I've always understood that it just wasn't done. I don't know what the governor had in mind; for some reason or another he put me on. So I served that four-year term to March 6, 1970, and then I was appointed for another four-year term, which would run to '74, I guess. On October 20, 1969, I was appointed to the circuit court of Virginia and so I had to resign from the board down here.

Williams: Could you compare the character of the board when you went on in '54 and when you went off -- I believe you said '69? Could you compare those two boards?

Arthur: Well, as I will recount here in a moment, when I first went on the board we had some turbulent times; there was a lot of in-fighting going on back in those days of the Colleges of William and Mary. I'm going to tell you what I recall about that. After that was all resolved and then I went off the board, things simmered down for a four-year period. When I came back the second time under Dr. Paschall, everything, comparatively speaking, was love and light. Everything was going smoothly. The battles had been fought, and as far as the William and Mary system was concerned, everything was in pretty good shape; and that was a veritable love feast compared to what some of the real and serious differences of opinion we have had before. But I was always impressed by the high caliber of the people on the board at all times. We
had differences of opinion, but we could disagree without being disagreeable, as they say. They were busy people, but they loved William and Mary, and they all did their very best for William and Mary—their best as they saw it.

Now I might go over what I had written down about that period and then if you have any questions... When I went on the Board of Visitors in 1954, William and Mary consisted of the college at Williamsburg, the Norfolk Division at Norfolk, and Richmond Professional Institute at Richmond. Later Richard Bland at Petersburg and Christopher Newport at Newport News were added. Dr. Alvin Duke Chandler was the president of the college, and each satellite was headed by a provost or director. By act of the General Assembly of Virginia, effective March 3, 1960, the William and Mary system was reorganized. The name was changed to the Colleges of William and Mary, and the chief executive officer was designated as the chancellor. The colleges at Williamsburg, Norfolk, and Richmond had presidents; the two-year schools at Newport News and Petersburg had directors. Each college reported to the Board of Visitors through the chancellor. Dr. Chandler was named chancellor by the board, and Dr. Davis Y. Paschall was named president of the college at Williamsburg.

At meetings of the Board of Visitors the presidents and directors were required to wait in the hall until the board was ready for them, at which time they would be called into
the meeting room, one at a time. To some of us it seemed demeaning for these gentlemen to be treated in this manner—particularly so in the case of the president of the College of William and Mary in Virginia. We also felt that the college at Williamsburg was being reduced to a position of parity with its former divisions, a considerable lowering of its prestige, in our view. When I talk about "we" and "our," I'm talking about a distinct minority of the board (about one-third)—five out of fifteen, it turned out later on.

"The Colleges of William and Mary had not long to live. Prior to February 16, 1962, the Board of Visitors met at R.P.I. After considerable debate it was decided by a vote of ten to five to retain the system of the Colleges of William and Mary; I was with the minority. The General Assembly apparently agreed with the minority for on February 16, 1962, it completed passage of a bill dissolving the Colleges of William and Mary, placing Christopher Newport and Richard Bland under William and Mary, and granting the Norfolk Division and R.P.I. independence. I should be remiss were I to leave this subject without paying my respects to Dr. Chandler and the majority of the board who favored the new system of the Colleges of William and Mary. I never questioned their good faith and sincerity; it just happened that we disagreed on this very important matter. I trust that in disagreeing I was not disagreeable. I also hope and be-
lieve that the passage of the years since 1962 has shown the action taken by the General Assembly to have been wise. On March 6, 1962, my second four-year term on the Board of Visitors expired. I thoroughly enjoyed my eight years on the board. We had important and difficult decisions to make, but we also enjoyed the social aspects of board membership. Dr. and Mrs. Chandler were especially gracious to us, looking after our every need. Mrs. Chandler was a wonderful representative of the college; she was particularly thoughtful of the comfort and entertainment of the wives of the board members. Our close rapport with the officers and directors of Colonial Williamsburg, nurtured by Dr. Chandler, was gratifying. I particularly recall with great pleasure the dinner honoring the Queen Mother and the functions honoring Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip, to which we were invited."

"To serve as a member of the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary in Virginia is indeed a high honor and a great pleasure. I was again honored by being reappointed to the board on July 1, 1966, for a term to expire March 6, 1970. I was unable to complete that term, however, for on October 20, 1969, I was sworn in as a circuit court judge, and I had to resign from the William and Mary board. During those approximately three years, Dr. Davis Y. Paschall was president of the college. "Pat," as he was known to all of his friends, dearly loved the "Ancient College," as he called William and Mary, and he served her
well during difficult days. His tenure covered the time of student unrest, but he found time to advance the college in many ways, not the least of which was the construction of a number of badly needed buildings. Now that in brief outline covers my tenure on the board. I guess during my first two terms our disagreements on the board were all ones of basic philosophy, just what we respectively thought William and Mary should be. A few of us thought William and Mary should be the school in Williamsburg. We weren't feeling too sanguine about these two divisions that we have now. It won't hurt the college, let me put it that way, if and when they become independent. But there were others who felt that the school would be so much more influential, particularly in the state of Virginia with the legislature—the larger the better—a great big university encompassing campuses in several cities, and that's the way it was set up at one time.

Williams: A majority of the board favored it and the admiral favored it?

Arthur: Oh, yes, and all the people from Norfolk. We had several—and they're all good friends of mine—on the board from Norfolk, and they favored it because the division down there at Norfolk. There were a few of us just didn't think that was William and Mary's mission (to be a great, big, sprawling university), and apparently the General Assembly agreed with us because, although we were voted down ten to five when the matter came before the board, still the General Assembly went ahead and took this action... I think that time has
demonstrated that what's been done is a wise decision. At least I hope so; that's the way I feel about it.

Williams: Those of you who held this minority view in the board, had you made these views known in 1960 when the colleges were set up?

Arthur: I can't honestly answer that question without reviewing some of the records. I suspect we didn't do it to the extent we should. Maybe at the very beginning, maybe we were persuaded that perhaps it would be right, that we would be more influential in the state, that we'd be in a better position and have more support and get more funds that we needed, and so on. That's my feeling. I don't believe that we really fought against it at that time as we did later, when we saw how it worked in practice. I think that little thing I mentioned there about Dr. Paschall and others had to come and sit out in the hall and wait until they could come in particularly the president of the college at Williamsburg. When we saw that, it just didn't seem right to us somehow and then we began to realize as things went on that maybe the tail was wagging the dog, that the college at Williamsburg was maybe being relegated to a secondary position. So in answer to your question I'm confident that we did not combat this and resist it as in hindsight we should have, but later on we did.

Dr. Chandler was a fine man. I'm sure he was hurt by some of these things that happened because, you see, he lost his job. It wasn't planned that way, and it wasn't used as
a device to get at Dr. Chandler. It just happened that when the system was dissolved there was no longer any need for a chancellor and he was the chancellor and the position was just dissolved. But he came to William and Mary -- I was not on the board when he was employed -- but he came here in very different times. He came here, I believe, after Dr. Pomfret had left and all that big athletic scandal and everything. I don't know what all happened. It was just a general kind of unrest, and as I recall it the faculty was not brought in on the president selection process, and they resented that. Some of them left; many of them left. For several years there in the '50s the school was in terrible turmoil.

Williams: Did you sense this when you came on the board?

Arthur: Oh, yes. Sure. Dr. Chandler had some difficult decisions to make, and he was, of course, an admiral; he could make decisions. I think lots of times the manner in which decisions were made rather than the decision itself aggravated some people. But I want to emphasize for this record that this minority on the board was not out to get Dr. Chandler; it was not that at all. We respected him, and I, for one, liked him. Mrs. Chandler was as gracious and as sweet a lady as I ever knew. It was just that we really, firmly, conscientiously felt that William and Mary wasn't headed in the right direction.

Williams: So then what could you do about it? I've talked to Judge Hooker; he's told me how he felt and what he did. I talked to Dr.
Temple; he told me what he felt and what he did. In your own case then, how could you act on the way you felt about this system?

Arthur: How could we act on it? If I understand your question, the only way we could act was the way we did when we finally made up our minds that this is the way it should be -- the five of us, as it turned out. You've mentioned Judge Hooker, Ed Temple, I believe Ed Simpkins for one, and there was a fifth one, Woodrow Wilkerson, who was ex-officio. We fought for the concept in any way that we properly could. We never were able to persuade the majority of the board, but apparently the General Assembly was persuaded by someone to take the action that they did. It's been quite an experience. We have a real soft spot in our heart for this school and it's spread over a real long period of time. It started in the fall of 1938 until the present really. I still keep up with everything down here as best I can -- try to keep up with the law school, athletics, alumni society, and so on. Looks to me like things are going pretty well. Folks are doing a good job down here. Sometimes I think we made it a little too hard. Sometimes I sense that maybe we're a little too proud of how hard it is. We brag a little bit about how many people -- now this isn't fair -- I get the feeling that instead of regretting that X number of people flunk out or that certain people can't get into the school because the standards are so high, we're kind of proud of it.
and I guess that's right, but have to strike a happy medium.

Williams: You were speaking a minute ago about the law school. This question occurred to me while I was looking at the two different periods when you served on the board. The first period in which you were on the board there came up a proposal for a school of business and a school of education, and it was turned down. The second time you were on the board this came up, and it passed. First of all I wanted to ask why was the admiral so determined -- or was he? maybe I'm asking a bias-laden question -- to get a business school and school of education back in the '50s?

Arthur: Well, I think that was just the way he looked at things. He envisioned William and Mary as a larger school, kind of university-type with schools.

Williams: This whole concept you were talking about a little bit ago.

Arthur: Yes. And I for one -- I don't remember how I voted. I don't remember what the debate was or what the critical issues were, but I certainly would have supported whether it would have been a school or a department -- something in the business line. I think that's good. Is it a separate school now?

Williams: It's a school now, yes.

Arthur: Well, I think that's good for William and Mary; I'm glad they have it. If I voted against the education thing, it was because I didn't want William and Mary to become known
as a state teachers' college. I'm not sure whether I voted for or against it. I think that William and Mary's mission as explained by President Graves in various speeches since he's been here is just about right: a small university on the Princeton-type with emphasis on undergraduate work, but still a few selected, quality graduate programs. I think it's ideal. But when I was on the board it looked like we never could strike this happy medium. It was either one group arguing, like when I was a student here, about just undergraduate liberal arts, nothing else, or later on one group arguing for a great big university. Well, I wasn't too enamoured of either of those concepts. I think somewhere in between, that the line of what we have now is just fine.

Arthur: Right.

Williams: You know, historians are always looking for turning points. Would it be accurate to say that the refusal of the board to establish a school of business and a school of education was something of a turning point in the admiral's administration?

Arthur: I really can't answer that, Miss Williams, because frankly I don't have clearly fixed in my mind exactly at what point in my relationship to the board that these matters of the school of business and school of education came up.

Williams: 1957 was the year, spring of '57. You may want to reflect on that and think about it and answer this maybe when this is typed.
Arthur: Well, that was the third year of my first term and I'm sure through that whole period I was doing more of the listening than I was doing the talking because I was a neophyte, young, and didn't know too much about what was going on. I doubt that I took too active a part in those debates. Do you remember what the vote was?

Williams: No, I couldn't tell you how close it was.

Arthur: I just don't remember. Well, that was before the Colleges of William and Mary.

Williams: Before the colleges were ever proposed, that I know anything of.

Arthur: I suspect that that time it was largely a debate between the small school concept and the larger -- I just don't remember what the issues were or what facts were presented pro and con, and I don't remember how seriously the Admiral was promoting that, whether it was he wanted to open up these two new schools the next fall, say, or not. I'm just a little hazy on it. But I'm not surprised President Chandler would have proposed these two schools because that's the way he felt about everything. He believed in bigness and strength and a power base. There's something in there, but apparently the majority of us didn't want a school of business or a school of education at that time. I'll bet you this: the faculty who appeared before us--except somebody from education and somebody from business--probably were all opposed to it. That would be my guess: that the whole liberal arts faculty
was against it. Is there a school of education here now?

Williams: There's now a school of education as well, yes. They both went through about the mid-'60s.

Arthur: Dr. Chandler finally prevailed, didn't he?

Williams: Yes. They both would have gone through under Dr. Paschall.

Arthur: See, some of this probably developed while I was off. You see, I was off the board from '62 to '66.

Williams: I imagine the school of education went through about '64 or '65 and the school of business went through in '67.

Arthur: Yes, I remember some debate on the school of business. I'm not sure it started out as a school. It might have already developed a masters' degree or something.

Williams: Yes, you're right, and then it became a school.

Arthur: But I think that's good. We need something like that for men here. It has attracted a lot of outside support, influential people. I knew notice on this committee (or whatever they call it) to try to raise funds, one of those is the president of Chessie Railroad System. I assume he has no connection with William and Mary other than through the school of business, but that's just a guess on my part.

Williams: Let me ask you about another issue. This one came up just about the time you came onto the board. You alluded to sort of the sense of unrest that there was at the time. Well, you may have remembered that about 1955 the students made a big uproar here, ostensibly over beer, though many have said the issue was much graver than beer. Students said things like, "The
Admiral was running the college like the U.S.S. William and Mary." That was one of the big quotes used. Do you recall that the students got much of a sympathetic ear from the board?

Arthur: They got a sympathetic ear from me, I remember one time because this was probably one of the first meetings I attended. I remember we were meeting in the Blue Room or the Green Room at the Wren Building, and the students wanted to be heard at a committee or something, and I'm sure there was a debate about whether we should even hear them or not, that if we started hearing every group that wanted to come in from the college community and go over the heads of the administrators directly to the board this was just a bad precedent. Well, I remember I took the very definite stand that we ought to hear them because regardless of what we decided ultimately we'd make them feel better to at least have an audience rather than just ignore them and we did hear them. I don't remember what the issue was, but I remember one or two or three students came in and addressed the board about something, and I believe that was the very first meeting I attended. But there was student unrest. I don't remember about the beer, it was mostly directed at the Admiral, I suppose. He did some pretty mean things. I remember at one stage some people threw garbage on the president's porch, that sort of thing, and then around that time or a little later they started using obscenities. I guess
this was under Dr. Paschall they started using words in the 
Flat Hat that ladies and gentlemen I had always thought, 
would never think of using, but that was just a sign of a 
change of things generally throughout the United States, I 
suppose, rather than any localized .

Williams: Back then in '55, though, apparently the board did treat it 
as a very serious matter and studied it for a long time and 
then came out with a report that backed the admiral 100 per-
cent.

Arthur: Yes, that's true. Well, you know, if you can't back your 
行政kyead you've got to get rid of him, and on 
issues like that it seemed we should back the admiral. I 
backed the admiral most of the time on most things. It was 
just when we got to these real basic, philosophical things 
about William and Mary's mission that he and I disagreed.

Williams: This is really sort of a very hypothetical, off-the-wall type 
of question, but now if the feeling was on the board -- the 
philosophies of differing thoughts within the college -- did this in any way 
affect the appointments that were being made to the board, 
say, '58, '60, '62 -- those appointments. Do you think so?

Arthur: Of course, I can't answer that question. I guess only the 
could former governor [ ] answer it. Well, I'll tell you when I 
first went on the board I think it'd be fair to say that most 
of the members of the board -- it was kind of a provincial 
board, local people. At that time I don't think the law per-
mittted anybody be put on the board outside the state of Virginia.
there were several, four or more, including the rector, from Norfolk, and there were three or four from Richmond, and, of course, they ran the board. The rest of us just went along for the ride, but it was a very pleasant ride. I never knew any nicer gens.

Just as an aside, I know when I went on the board I used — I don't know if you could even fly into Patrick Henry at that time; I guess you could, but maybe the flights weren't too good or something — I'd fly to Richmond, spend the night at the John Marshall and Dr. Hudnall Ware would come by in his car on Saturday morning and pick me up. Usually there'd be somebody with him, generally Judge Hooker or Dr. Asa Shield, and they'd pick me up at the hotel, and we'd drive on down here. And I remember my wife would tell me everytime I'd come home I'd be so upset because in those early days they weren't particularly pleasant meetings. — I mean the meeting itself. It's hard to describe, but we were just trying so desperately to do what was right for this school, and we couldn't seem to agree on certain things, and the admiral had his ideas, and his followers went along with just about anything and everything that he proposed. The rest of us went along with 85 percent of what he proposed, but a few things we just couldn't go along with, and that had kind of been unheard of, I suppose, up until that time. To actually, you know, oppose, vote against something. It just didn't seem to be the gentle thing to do. You just sort of went along and rubber-stamped everything. That was the impression I got before that time.
but every meeting we seemed to have some kind of crisis.
I remember I used to laugh about that; I'd come down here
and say, "What's the current crisis?" We went from one to another
during most of that first eight-year period. Then when
the Colleges of William and Mary were dissolved and
"Pat" Paschall took over--of course, he was such a different
type of personality entirely: a sweet man, easy going, and
everything just seemed to be so nice for a while. But then
later on he began to have tough students turning against him. That was along, I guess, during the period of
general student unrest throughout the country: they were
jumping on him about everything: dormitory visitation, regu-
lations, ownership of the Flat Hat, freedom of speech, and
every other damn thing. But those were hard, wearing times on college presidents; about ten years which is par for the course, about all a man
could stand in those days. I don't know what it is now.

Williams: I don't think it's ever going to be an easy job again. Other
than the Colleges -- if you can separate that, and I don't know
if you can -- could you identify -- I assume that you would
say that was the gravest issue that faced the board in the
times that you were on it. Is that correct?

Arthur: I'd say so, without a question.

Williams: Then exempting that, could you pick a number two issue that you
think had the most import for the college? We're talking about
'54 to '62 and '66 to '69.
Arthur: No, honestly I can't. There were plenty of crises-- maybe the word crisis isn't the word to use, plenty of problems -- but nothing to match that. I just can't recall right offhand anything that I would even mention in the same breath, I don't think. I guess the aborted attempt to abolish the law school while I was a student was among

the most important decisions that the college had to make in my time. Underneath all of these problems there were personality problems. Things would come up and some persons would immediately take a stand, take a position, and much as I in retrospect, was attributable to conflicts and personalities in my judgment. I never could understand -- I'm a great believer in compromise and give-and-take. I never could understand why men of good will couldn't resolve their differences and compromise and work things out, but maybe that's a sign of weakness at sometimes. Maybe you need to take a stand sometimes and stick to it through thick and thin. In any event, it looked to me like we were in a state of confrontation a good part of the time during those early years when I served. Here again, I always go back to our fundamental, philosophical differences and what William and Mary should be. And yet, it wasn't spelled out. We didn't say, "Now I stand for this and you stand for that. Now let's look at this problem in that light." I don't think we realized we were in a philosophical debate through these years until the thing
finally culminated in this dissolution of the Colleges of William and Mary. At that time it became apparent what the issue was, that it was a philosophical issue as to the mission of the college, and that ten persons supported one view, five supported the other. It was very clear then. It all came out in the open.

But up until that time I don't believe we realized that many of our problems were grounded in philosophical differences rather than just housekeeping matters: what should we do about this building and what should we do about that and what about this school and what about that department? Whenever there were differences I'm sure they were philosophical ones, but we probably weren't aware of it at that time. We just had differences of opinion as to how certain things should be handled. I'm sure this sounds crazy to you—many of the things I've said because I'm just speaking from memory and it's hard to get things into context, exactly what came up at which time and which year and who was on the board and so on but there's no question about it: from the time of the first day I went on this board until I went off it, it was a great period in which William and Mary tried to find itself, a testing, moving in one direction and maybe backing up and taken another tack and different people involved, different personalities at different periods of time, a period of trial and error, and I guess only time will tell whether or not we ultimately made the right decisions or whether we are now headed in the right direction, I believe that we are. Maybe even today there are those
who would say that William and Mary is not on the right track, that it should be something else, but I guess this is natural. You'll never get everybody agreeing on everything.

Williams: And if it was a feeling that you couldn't define at the time it's valuable now that you can at least look back and see that it was there. And I thank you for taking time to do so.