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Simon's Rock Oral History Project

Interviewee: **Sue Farnum**
(Health Services 1979 -)

Interviewer: **Russell Miller, College Archivist**
Transcriber: **Russell Miller, College Archivist**

Date: **September 28, 2005**

Location: **Bard College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington, MA**

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Interview with Sue Farnum

September 28, 2005

Alumni Library, Simon's Rock of Bard College (aka Bard College at Simon's Rock)

Keywords: health services, Priscilla Cote, Blodgett house, Pond Cottage, Jody Tuller, Student Life, Ruth Ide, Betty Hall, Elizabeth Blodgett Hall, drugs, Natalie Harper, solstice party

“Livy [Hall] would come over [to Health Services] and just visit. He was an absolutely delightful gentleman, and very unpretentious. He was always looking like he walked out of L. L. Bean – just the casual corduroys and crew neck sweater – and visiting around on campus. Just a very laid-back, comfortable person to talk with, and would stop and chat with students, and look like anybody’s grandfather. He was a very interesting, very delightful gentleman.”

“A lot of people show up for solstice, because it’s kind of a, I don’t want to say just a healing, but it’s kind of a bringing people together, a closeness, a feeling [of] community. We have a lovely program with the fireplace in Blodgett, and it’s just a warm, cozy room. I’ve been privileged to be asked to read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. I’ve read that-- well, if it’s been twenty- three-- I’ve read it probably twenty-four or -five years now. Every Christmas. It started when I could hold Amy Win on my lap, and my own child, who’s now thirty-three!”

“Betty Hall started [May Day campus cleanup] in the spring, of just let’s have a day off, and just kind of do physical work, and fix our gardens, and have a day on the campus. She and Livy would always be here. So I think that those kinds of days, when you have a day off that people can try to spend together, or you have an event that just crosses all the levels, and people are just getting together, it makes you realize that none of us is immune to a particular situation. It doesn’t matter what letters are after your name, and what your particular role might be. We need to be needed and we need to hang on to each other, and reach out and care.”