

The community there was not helpful like they are around here at all. But it was a very fine property. The people in Wilmington, I remember I announced it at a picnic there that we had purchased this property. One person said We feel as if we had just been tossed aside. The seminary had been very close to the church there. It was a real loss of close association with them there.

Some of the younger ministers began criticizing the decision that was made to move the seminary. One even said there was no way to heat the building. It would be impossible to. The Weidner had a big heating establishment which furnished heat to all their different properties. That was no longer on our property at all. We had to put in a new -- we had to take the old squash court and change the room into a boiler room. It was Dec. before we had any heat. The Lord gave us an unusually mild fall. My wife was just saying at lunch that that fall we had no colds at all. Amazing. We had more of them later on.

That was a big move to move all our library and equipment up to there, but it was a big step forward. The property had been pretty well protected. Had a big fence around the 34 acres. Had a caretaker. In pretty good shape.

Neher: Might you describe some of the buildings in a little more detail.

At Elkins Park? They had the one big palatial building where the Weidners had lived. There was another palatial building somewhat like that built by another wealthy family a couple miles away. The people who bought that building found that their faucets and door knobs were solid gold. So the speculator who bought the Weidner estate, his son went in and took off all the door knobs and handles to the faucets on the first floor so we had to replace them all.

But the Weidners did not go in for that sort of thing. None of them were solid gold. May have been gold covered. It was really a palatial estate but some of the best things in it had been taken away. For instance there was a big fireplace-- the whole thing was taken ~~w~~ out -- taken down to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. The great collection of art work was all taken away/ and beautiful tapestries.

lived

We ~~not~~ the first year there in a room on the second floor. In the bathroom there on the walls had some kind of paper on that looked exactly like marble. You'd swear it was marble to look at it. Not only was it marble but there were some big gashes in the marble that looked so realistic. You'd think you could stick your finger in it! Really amazing. Of course, there had been some injury done from the -- there had been some freezing in the winter up toward the top of the building and water had flowed over. That had done some injury. There was just enough that some of those rooms had to be redone. I hated to see those pretended marble (slabs) disappear!