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Interview no. 7

Berte Haigh

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Berte Haigh

INTERVIEWER: C. L. Sonnichsen, Bud Newman and Leon Metz

PROJECT: UTEP History

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 3, 1969

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TRANSCRIBER: Sylvia Hernandez

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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Former student and professor at UTEP.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Recollections of University personalities, activities and buildings from 1921 to 1969.

Length of Interview: 1 hour Length of Transcript: 26 pages

Berte Haigh

Interviewed by C.L. Sonnichsen, Bud Newman, and Leon Metz
June 3, 1969

S: Berte, what year did you come here?

H: October the 4th, 1921.

S: How did you hear about it?

H: I was sent here as a World War I G.I. student transferred from Los Angeles, California.

S: You say they sent you. Who sent you?

H: The Veteran Division of the Public Health Service. I came here for disability rehabilitation.

S: Did you get rehabilitated all right?

H: Yeah, I guess so. Luckily it wasn't mental.

S: How long did it take to get you well?

H: About five years.

S: That sounds as if you took your time in those days. Well, you weren't connected with the college, then, when you first came.

H: Only as a student.

S: Oh, yes, a student. And you were a student of Geology?

H: No, Mining Engineering. Frankly, when I first entered here, I wasn't exactly sure what Geology was. I wanted to be a Mining Engineer.

S: What made you want to be a Mining Engineer?

H: There's a long story behind that, but we won't tell that.

S: Who were your professors?

H: Well, the first class I walked into after I got through registering was a class in Algebra. Speedy Nelson was the teacher. I had W.H. Seamen in Geology, F.A. Seamen in Chemistry, Capp Kidd in a great deal of my Mathematics, Pearson in Physics and things like that.

S: Who was Pearson?

H: Pearson was a Physics teacher.

S: Was he a retired Army man?

H: No, he was not a retired Army man. He came here I think from someplace in Colorado. I can't think of his first name, I only know we always called him Theter.

S: Called him what?

H: Theter, because he was always talking about Beta and Theta, but he always put an "r" on the end of it.

S: He must've been from Massachusets.

H: He was.

S: That's where they do that.

H: That's right.

S: So it must've been a very small staff, but a pretty good one.

H: Yes, it was a small staff, but very very efficient. My Modern Language teacher was Manuel Enríquez.

S: Manuel Enríquez.

H: Yeah, Enríquez. Called him Henry.

S: He wasn't here very long, was he?

H: He was here all the time I was here. I think he left about...I graduated in '25, I think he left about '27, because he wasn't here when I came back in '28.

S: The college was already here on the mesa?

H: Oh, yeah, the college was already here on the mesa, and there were five buildings: Old Main, the Power Building, what is now Seamen Hall, Capp Kidd's residence, and two dormitories. At the time I came here, it was not Capp Kidd's, it was S.H. Worrell's, who was the dean.

S: How long did he stay after you came?

H: About a year, I believe.

S: You didn't know him very well, did you?

H: Yes and no.

S: Why the yes?

H: Well, I got acquainted with him in talking about Mining courses and one thing or another. He called me in for an interview to find out why I was here and so forth, and about the Army history and one thing or another. And, we got along all right, but he wasn't too...he was rather aloof in some ways it seemed to me like.

S: He was a little detached.

H: A little detached, yeah.

S: Well, don't you think that was the tradition that educators had in the early days?

H: Could've been.

S: I remember Mr. Drake talking about the big shot at the University of Wisconsin.

H: Well, Drake was one of my professors. Mary Quinn was one of my professors. She was Mary Kelly then. I took a course in History under her my senior year.

S: Was she the only woman on the faculty?

H: Yes, she was at that time. The others came in later.

S: I wonder if she got a little bit isolated?

H: No, she had too much balance. Besides, we had five girls when I was here.

S: Studying Mining Engineering?

H: /Yes./ None of them completed the course. They went off to somewhere or another, and of course the other degrees were not available at that time.

S: You remember the names of any of them?

H: No, I don't. I can remember the names of several of the girls when I came back in '28.

S: So you left in what year then?

- H: I graduated in '25. One of those was Sara McGee that was here, and Mickey McGee, were both here.
- S: These were both girls?
- H: Yeah, daughters of architect Percy McGee. One of them married a fellow graduate Dan Cooney. They went to Mexico.
- S: Probably still there?
- H: Dan is dead. She's still there. Dan died about five or six years ago, I guess.
- S: He was one of the real old members I guess?
- H: Another one of those graduates is down there, Clarence Berbridge. He is in Saltillo.
- S: I see.
- H: There are only four of us out of that class left.
- S: How big was the class?
- H: The class had fifteen. They only had seven of us that graduated, though--some of them carry overs and one thing or another.
- S: All graduated in Mining Engineering?
- H: Yeah, all graduated in Mining Engineering. I majored in Metallurgy, Berbridge majored in Mining Engineering, Dan Cooney majored in Geology, Evan and Scherer majored in Mining.
- S: I guess most of them went to Mexico, did they?
- H: No, most of them ended up in the Philippines. Arthur Evans went with the Bureau of Mines and stayed in the states all the time. And he's still with the Bureau of Mines out in Dallas, Texas. Morris Scherer, he stayed in the states. He was about 10 years in Mexico all together, and about 10 years in South America. The rest of the time he's been in the states. He's over in Shreveport, Louisiana.
- S: But what was this about going to the Philippines?
- H: Well, there was a great number of the graduates in this institution went to the

Philippines to work in various mines over there. Some of them became top notch officials for one thing or another. And some, quite a few, five of them were there. One who graduated in our class was there. He's passed on now, and I can't recall his name, but was in the San Tomas Prison Camp. There was I think five of the ex-Miners in San Tomas Prison Camp.

S: That was when the Japanese took over?

H: /Yes./

S: Well, I wonder, did they have a mining boom in the Philippines, or was this just something that kept on going?

H: Oh, it kept on going. The mines were in real operation. Mr. Scherer was in Midland about a month ago, and I think he said two of those mines /are/ still operating.

S: What are we gonna do when all of these mines get worked out and there aren't any mines anymore? You think we can get it out of the ocean, there are enough minerals there?

H: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

S: Well, let's get back to your story, now. You came back in 1928 as a faculty member?

H: Yes, Sir.

S: Where had you been in the meantime?

H: That's a complicated deal, too. When I graduated, in June right after I graduated, I took four other men from El Paso and went to Austin to the state rifle matches. It so happened that in '24 I was in Austin for summer school and went out and observed the state rifle matches and got acquainted with the secretary of the state association. /I/ found out that nobody from El Paso had ever attended a state rifle match, so I told him that I would bring some boys over the following summer. So the five of us went over and all five of us qualified

for the state team to go to Camp Perry, Ohio.

S: Was this the local rifle club?

H: Yes, this was the El Paso Rifle Club. El Paso Rifle and Pitching Club, I think they called it.

S: So you went to Camp Perry?

H: So, yeah. When I came back here, I was not looking for a steady job because I was not going to miss out on going to Camp Perry. And I went to work for a civil engineer by the name of George Baker, worked for him quite a deal and did some crusting surveying on my own until time to go to Perry. When I came back from Perry, then I went to work for a small mining outfit above Hillsboro, New Mexico.

S: I see.

H: I went to work for them the 1st of October and I stayed until the middle of February, leaving there because the boss advised me in January that they were just a little short of cash and would I wait a month, and I said, "Sure." I found out in the meantime he had sent his son on the expense account to St. Louis and /I/ couldn't take that. We had about two feet of snow on the ground, so I walked out of the camp about two miles and borrowed a horse and rode to Hillsboro, came over here.

/I/ spent a couple of weeks at /a/ training camp at Ft. Bliss, and when that was over, I was advised by Professor W.H. Seamen to contact Pat Ryan, who was General Manager of Ford C. Mining Company in Mexico. I went down and saw Mr. Ryan and he gave me a job, and I accepted. I told him I had to go over to Hillsboro to get my car. This was on a Friday. And I went out that night on the Santa Fe, got my car, came back, put it on the rack on Sunday. Monday morning I reported up to the office. They sent me down to the Mexican Consulate; I got my passport. Back to the office, got my railroad ticket, eating money

and so forth and so on, presumably to catch a train out of Juarez at 1:40 that afternoon.

At about 10:30 I went downstairs to a mail forwarding address we had on the 5th floor of the Mining Engineer's office. There was a telegram from a friend of mine in Wichita Falls. I immediately wired him to find out what the score was. He came back with a wire to contact /a man/ in San Angelo, "re: oilfield Geology job." I immediately sent a wire. At 12:30 I had a wire back from him offering me a job in a geological field party. And at 1:00, I reported up to the office, gave them back their transportation /money/ and so forth with thanks, and told them I couldn't go. Sent Mr. Ryan a letter, and at 3:00 that afternoon I had my Chevrolet packed up, headed for San Angelo.

S: A full day. (Chuckles)

H: A full day. And I reported to San Angelo for the Dixie Oil Company, which is now the Pan-American, and I stayed with them until 1928 when Capp Kidd invited me to come over here and join the faculty to pinch hit for Speed Nelson one year, who was going to Colorado to get his master's degree. And then as soon as he returned, Howard Quinn was going to Harvard to get his Doctor's degree.

S: When did Quinn come here, by the way?

H: Quinn came here in 1924.

S: Mary was already on the faculty? Wasn't she teaching History?

H: Mary? Yes.

S: That's how they met.

H: That's I guess how they met. Yeah, they were both on the faculty right.

S: So you came back in 1928 and went for teaching Geology, or did you teach everything?

H: The first three years Geology. Now I came here on a three-year leave of absence from the Dixie Oil Company, and all I was teaching was Geology. At the end of

three years Capp Kidd called me down to his office, told me to get on the telephone and call the people in San Angelo and tell them that I didn't have any more use for the leave of absence, that I wasn't coming back. And I was then assigned to part-time Engineering and part-time Geology. And I stayed three more years, at which time they transferred me over to University lands.

S: I came in 1931. You were here for about two years, weren't you, after?

H: Yes. It was October, 1934 when they transferred me over to University lands.

S: You really enjoyed that job.

H: Oh, lord, yes.

S: It's a pretty good job.

H: I was working too much with the youngsters, and enjoyed every bit of it. Probably extra-curricular activities were more enjoyable than the teaching was, because I never was cut out for a teacher.

S: You didn't like to teach so well.

H: Teaching was all right, but there was ways of doing it.

S: Did you see much difference between the college when you came back in 1928 than when you had left it?

H: Quite a bit, because in the meantime, in 1927, they had absorbed the El Paso Junior College, I believe. So when I left here in '25 the total enrollment was 127, and when I came back it was 750.

S: It was pretty much an all-male job, and the boys didn't bother to dress up much?

H: No. There was a quite a division between the Pee-Doggies, as they called them, and the Engineering group. And the Engineers I think were dressed a little off just on purpose to accentuate their independence.

S: Chewed a little tobacco?

H: A times, yeah. I don't think we had a snuff user on the whole group, though.

S: Who was new on the faculty when you came back?

H: That'd be hard for me to tell because my memory is not quite that good, but Denny Moses is one of them. And I think John Laurel was here, he came in '27.

S: No, he came in 1931 the same year I did.

H: Oh, he did. Well...

S: But Mr. Null was probably here wasn't he?

H: Yeah, Null came, yeah that's right. I didn't have the contact with Null as I did with some of the others.

S: And Mr. Lake.

H: Mr. Lake came over from the junior college. And Ball, W.A. Ball, I believe came at the same time.

S: Yeah, I think that's about right.

H: His wife, I don't remember whether she came at that time or a little later.

S: Had they had any extension of the physical plant by that time, had they done any more buildings?

H: No, not at the time I came back.

S: It must've been getting a little bit crowded by that time, wasn't it?

H: Yeah, it was.

S: When I came, they certainly needed more space and they began to get it too, you know. They began to remodel.

H: The acquisition of the space was pretty slow. It was like they just couldn't realize in Austin what was going on out here.

S: They thought that if they didn't look, we might go away.

H: I don't think there's any question but that for a good many years we were treated pretty much as a step child.

S: Yes. I think they tried to get rid of us every two years.

H: Apparently so. Yeah, there were times that I was convinced that if it hadn't been for friends in the legislature, they would have gotten rid of us. I know

Capp Kidd used to comment in his own way about those things.

S: Yes, I can just hear him doing it. (Chuckles) Well, you had close relations with Capp Kidd.

H: I had very close relations.

S: You came to know him as well as anybody, I suppose, around here.

H: Outside of Dean Thomas, I guess I knew him better than anybody that was around here for a while.

S: How did he feel about the expansion of the school?

H: It was not objectable to him. In fact I always figured that he was very much in favor of it.

S: I don't think he was too patient with the Pee-Doggies.

H: He wasn't too patient with the Pee-Doggies. No, he was not, there's no question. He was a little bit of rough hard on those. I think he was a little rougher on them than he was on the /engineers/.

S: I think he enjoyed setting off dynamite where they were.

H: Yeah, he enjoyed it very very much, because it made them nervous.

S: That's right.

H: One thing, speaking of the use of dynamite, and so forth, I remember when they built the road that goes over the hill to Kidd Field, /Francis/ Fugate, in his history that he wrote in that, what do you call it?

S: Frontier College, I think.

H: Well, he mentioned about the building. There was one thing he didn't mention, which always struck me as exasperating, but in the long run funny. That was done strictly by PWA work. I was really doing any engineering on that thing, setting grave stakes and so forth and so on, and every time we's set a set of grave stakes in about three hours those Mexicans would either dig 'em out or shoot 'em out, and we had to do it over again.

S: Which Mexicans were those?

H: Well, they were Mexican Americans, let's put it that way. Of course we had a lot of good American people, too.

S: Why did they do that?

H: Most was just ignorance. They didn't have good supervision, that was the trouble.

S: So, how did you finally get it done?

H: Oh, heck, it just took a little more time.

S: Well, that was already built when I got here. I didn't get to see that part of it.

H: And of course you've heard the story about how Holliday Hall was built.

S: How was that?

H: Bob Holliday was /a/ member of the Board of Regents, and Bob Holliday was the strongest supporter among the Board of Regents that the College of Mines ever had in history, I guess. He also had something to do with the PWA, Public Works Administration, the local one. And they were building Scenic Drive. And a great deal of the material that was placed up on Scenic Drive would mysteriously get transferred over here to the campus and was used in the building of that field house. So for a long time--well, all the time I was out here--it was spelled Hauliday, h-a-u-l.

S: (Laughs) Well, I guess there are various ways of getting things done.

H: Quite true. It saved the state lots of money.

S: Do you remember any other anecdotes about Capp Kidd? How did he get along with the students?

H: Capp Kidd got along with his students I thought very well. There was a few of them that took them quite a while to understand him, but Capp was very, very helpful. But he could be awful rough if you went contrary to him, and he was a task master of sarcasm. He could flay you unmercifully. But there was always

something behind it, he didn't use sarcasm just for the sake of showing that he was the prof. There was a meaning behind it if you dug it up.

He taught me a lesson one day in a class in Calculus. 'Cause when Capp was teaching lecture classes, he would always start off and give us a 20-to-30 minute dissertation on the politics of the area, both local and national, and then he would get into the subject at hand. This particular time he had assigned five problems and for some to me unknown reason I had actually tried to work them. I got stuck on one and I worked that thing back and forth, went through it three or four times, and I got stuck in that same mudhole every time. I finally gave up and went to bed. After about four hours sleep, I walked out here. I was living at the American Legion. We all had to walk to school then, didn't have buses and cars, and later came to Calculus class. Got in there and Capp gave his usual dissertation, and then he said, "Well now, gentleman, I think it probably would be presumptuous on my part to assume that anybody worked these problems that I assigned, but in the event that some of you did and had a little trouble, tell us about it."

Well I popped off and told him about my trouble. He said, "All right, come up here and put it on the board." I guess I worked from memory, and I went up there and I put that thing back and forth across the board, and I got down to that same mudhole. I say, "Well, here we are, Capp, Wheels are spinnin'." And that may sound a little familiar, but we called him Capp, he liked it. Capp was sitting on the front row with a yardstick in his hand rocking it back and forth across his knees, and I could see his eyes going back and forth across the blackboard. Finally he said, "Haigh, I've been waitin' for this for a long time. Get back here and sit down and I'll show you how big a damn fool you are." He walked over to the blackboard and picked up the eraser and made one swap. I had an $(a+b)$ and an $(a-b)$ and forgot to cancel them out. But he taught me right then to triple check. That's the way Capp was.

S: Did he have contact in México? He recommended a lot of people to the mining officials in Mexico.

H: Yes sir.

S: How did he know these people?

H: I don't know that. Capp knew all the mining men here in town, and he was a very active member of the AIME and the El Paso Engineers Association, I think he was a charter member of that group. Well, he had a very wide acquaintance and everybody knew him, knew his efficiency. And everybody that knew Capp, knew that he was absolutely honest and he wouldn't recommend a man to him that he didn't think could do the job.

S: So his boys did very well down there?

H: Yeah, most of them did.

S: Any of them not do so well?

H: A few didn't do so well for one cause or another. When they got down there they couldn't stand the change in living conditions and so forth and so on, and went more or less haywire for one reason or another. But they were very, very much in the minority.

S: The percentage wasn't very high.

H: He sent boys to Mexico, he sent boys to South America. We had a large group of graduates from there working in Bolivia in the tin mines down there.

S: Anybody still there? Probably not.

H: I don't know. Several of our boys are still alive and working in México, but they're passing on pretty rapidly.

S: Did Capp get along with his faculty pretty well?

H: I thought he got along very well. That was my opinion.

S: I expect sometimes he took a dislike to somebody.

H: Well, he could take your hide off too. But we got along pretty well.

S: Well, he had a lot to do with the hiring in those days, didn't he?

H: Yeah, he had a great deal to do with it. And he was very careful. I worked with him on the Athletic Council.

S: I guess he was on that as long as he lived, wasn't he?

H: Yes, right. Yeah, he had something to do with athletics as long as he lived.

S: Was he an athlete himself, had he been a football player?

H: I understand that he'd been a football player at one time.

S: How about Malcolm Marsh? Whatever happened to him?

H: Malcolm Marsh, he married a daughter of Harry Johnson-- Harry "Arm" Johnson, I should say--of the El Paso Machine Works. And Malcolm left here, he went to Rice for about 6 years, they moved back here and he's still working for El Paso Machine Works.

S: You mean Malcolm Marsh is here in town now?

H: Yeah. He's been here for about 15 years.

S: I haven't seen or heard of him, thought he was far away.

H: No, he's right here.

S: Well, I used to hear when he was here that he was the man on the faculty who said he would never pass a woman, that no woman should have ever got through his courses.

H: I heard that comment, and I think I heard Malcolm say it himself.

S: So he had to give way to the new era.

H: Oh yes, yes, he had to give away.

S: Let's see, I try to remember who else was with us back there, and I have trouble even remembering. There was professor named Kennedy, wasn't there?

H: Yeah. Kennedy was a math teacher.

S: Whatever happened to him?

H: He went to a school down in the east, but I don't know just where.

S: Probably still working there?

H: Yes. So far as I know, he is. Then of course we had Bulah Lyles Patterson at that time. She was a math teacher, and a good one.

S: She's not been gone very long. She retired just a year ago, didn't she, or two years.

H: /Yes./

S: And of course we lost some good people in the other departments. I remember Mrs. Eldrich.

H: Oh, yeah. These names come back. As you mentioned them, of course I recall them. And Norma Haigh and Gladys Gregory were here all that time.

S: So you left really just at the begining of the big expansion, didn't you?

H: Yes. Well, saw it from the start.

S: How do you feel about is now? You think we're too big?

H: No, I don't think we're too big.

S: As long as we can get parking space we're not too big, is that the idea?
(Laughs)

H: That's the idea, year; that's the main idea. The school still has a good reputation. /Of/ course some of us were a little burned up at the time, I was to some extant, about dropping the mining courses. But when the reason became apparent, why it was the only thing they could do.

S: Yes, we were pretty helpless.

H: Yeah, you can't operate a department on three students.

S: Do you think that leaving the Metallurgy in will serve the same purpose?

H: Well, the only trouble there was that, as I understand it, they began to emphasize a different type of Metallurgy. They went beyond the mining Metallurgy, and placed the emphasis on a different branches of Metallurgy other than mining. I think that was somewhat of an error at the time. They did it too soon.

S: So it would be harder now for our Metallurgy graduates to function in mining.

H: I don't know about now. It was for a while.

S: What is the situation in mining now, anyway? It's still pretty much in eclipse isn't it?

H: Yeah, it is sort of starving. It's a victim of malnutrition, I guess.

S: What's the chances that it'll ever come back?

H: I don't know. I have been away from direct connection with mining for so long, I just don't try to keep up with it.

S: Let's talk a little about how this university lives and the oil that we get from them. In our institution, do we get anything out of that?

H: Yeah.

S: How does it work?

H: According to the constitution, all of the irreplaceable income from the lands goes into a permanent fund. And this permanent fund cannot be spent for anything but can be invested, under certain constitutional restrictions. These restrictions were very limited for quite some time. In 1954 they loosened up a bit and the board can now invest 50 percent--not more than 50 percent--of the income from lands in corporate securities under some fairly rigid and protective restrictions. That had been a help because it enabled them to swap around these _____ and increase the rate by...the first year I think they were increased nearly a third--from 3, something to 4.1, and that has improved during the years.

S: Do we get any part of that permanent fund? I heard we don't.

H: No, we don't get any part of the permanent fund, but the income in the permanent fund goes into the available fund. Now, one-third of the income from the bond investment goes to the A&M system. The other two-thirds is for the available fund of the University of Texas system. And this school gets help from that,

participates in that. It has for the past several years. Now our condition for the past 10 years has been considerably better than it was before.

S: I don't know what the story is there exactly.

H: Now, there is one peculiar angle to this, though. And in order to tell this we'll have to go back just a little bit into history. In 1854 the legislature passed the Railroad Grant Act in which millions of acres of land were given to the railroads for the construction of railroads. In 1858 there was an act which established the University of Texas, that was the first actual establishment act. That act appropriated \$100,000 dollars out of the money secured from the United States Government in the Compromise Act of 1850, and further stipulated that as under the Railroad Grant Act for each section that went to a railroad, another section went to free public school fund. So the Act of 1858 specified that one section out of each 10 accruing to the public school fund under the Railroad Grant Act should accrue to the University of Texas permanent fund.

None of that land was ever surveyed. Soon the world came along, the university was established, and one thing or another, and just nothing ever happened, until they rewrote the Constitution in 1876. The constitutional commission got down to higher education, and they found out that this land one in 10 grant, which by that time was amounting to some 2,700,000 acres, well most of it was good farm land. They canceled that out completely, and substituted therefore 1,000,000 acres of the unappropriated public domain.

This million acres that was available for such appropriation instead of being good farm land was fair to poor grazing land, located out in West Texas. there was a very considerable complaint from the supporters of the university about the university being robbed because of that manipulation, and the complaint was so loud that in 1881, the legislature ordered the commissioner down in the

land office to report to the legislature how much public domain actually was available. In 1883 he reported that because of some discovered irregularities in surveying and mostly because of land being turned back to the public domain by the railroads because they didn't consider them worth surveying, they had a little over 2,000,000 acres on hand. The legislature in 1883 divided this 50/50 between the free public school fund and the university. That gave us what they call the 2,000,000 acres.

Now, in the same higher education article of the Constitution, a line in the Constitution stipulated that the legislature shall never levy taxes or appropriate monies for the construction of buildings at the University of Texas or at its branch, A&M College. Under the Constitution A&M is a branch. I don't know what the thinking was. I suppose they assumed that a hundred thousand dollars would take care of all of the buildings they would ever need, with the first group, and maintenance would come from the land. But that's it. The result was that from 1896 until after Oil was discovered in 1923, there were no buildings built on the University of Texas campus. I know that following World War I I was a summer school student down there for two terms in 1924 and we had to attend classes in old shacks that had been put on the campus by the army. Soon after oil was discovered, after the building of Santa Rita, they discovered oil at Big Lake, it became evident that they really had an extensive income.

Other fields were discovered in 1926. By 1931 the Board of Regents persuaded the legislature to pass an act authorizing them to issue bonds, revenue bonds and pledge the income from the investment of the permanent funds as collateral for the return of these bonds.

Now, that's the only way that for many many years the buildings were built, until the World War II came on and the Federal Government stepped in. There is no restriction on how this income from the permanent fund shall be spent

except that the return of these bonds has first call. Now also in the permanent funds goes the grazing leases from the lands, and there's money from many other sources, I don't know--but all of their replaceable income such as pipeline easements, townsite easements grazing leases. All that type of income which reoccurs year after year goes directly into the available fund but not the permanent fund.

S: Well, I suppose oil prdduction has slumped down a great deal, hasn't it?
Can we see the end of oil income for the university?

H: No. It hasn't varied 10 percent in the last five or six years.

S: They keep finding new jobs?

H: Yeah, they keep finding new jobs. They're drilling oil wells and improving production methods and improving secondary recovery methods. The income for the last three years has been right at a million dollars a month. It hasn't hardly varied.

S: Well, do you want to ask Mr. Haigh anything?

N: Well, I don't know what you've already asked him.

S: Everything I can think of.

N: You've gotten his biography there.

S: Well, we made a stab at it.

N: Did you talk about Captain Kidd?

S: Yeah. I'm sure he has many more anecdotes about Capp if we'd get him to tell it.

H: There's a lot of other things that we could talk about Capp, and so many things happened as far as Capp Kidd was concerned that it's pretty hard to remember all of these. I remember they shot the garbage cans.

S: With what?

H: Guns. I believe this happened in what is Kelly Hall. It was at that time a dormitory and some of the boys came back from Juárez one Saturday night and

proceeded to set up the garbage cans down at the end of the hall and have target practice. Capp was living right there in his residence and he was up there right quick. I can't remember the details of all that happened, there was so much of it, it was quite a commotion.

S: What happened to the boys?

H: Well, they remembered the circumstances for a good many years.

S: They didn't get suspended?

H: No, they didn't get suspended.

S: But they got a reminder.

H: Yeah.

S: I hoped they had to replace the garbage cans.

H: I do remember, they had to replace the garbage cans. That is correct. They had to hire a contractor to patch the holes in the wall.

S: They must've had the cafeteria there in that building.

H: I believe the cafeteria was down in the lower...no, no. It wasn't a cafeteria, it was a boarding house, run by Mrs. Nelson.

S: You're not talking about what they call the Education Building now, Kelly Hall?

H: Yeah. At that time what is now Burges Hall was called Keno Hall, and the dining room was in the lower part.

S: Yes, that's how come they had garbage cans.

N: What was the name of that hall before?

H: Keno

N: Keno

H: Yeah. Did you ever play Keno

N: No.

S: That was the one that was called Burges Hall a long time, and now it's called the Education Building.

H: Yeah, they changed from Burges to Education.

S: Yeah, they moved Burges, name to a different hall.

H: Well, one thing that happened was...no, I won't tell this.

S&N: (Laugh)

H: Well, I don't wanna criticize certain people too much. But, maybe we can put it this way: Two other freshman and I decided that we couldn't take the boarding hall food anymore and we went to downtown. And a man got us an apartment down on Santa Fe Street, and we kept /it/ for the rest of the freshman year.

S: Well, everybody who eats at a dormitory or a college cafeteria has some legitimate grievances. There have always been. Well, when I was there, they used to have some marathon poker games in that building.

H: Yes, that's what I've heard, but that was not while I was there.

S: Well, I can remember when they used to stack a man's room.

H: Probably the fact that I moved out with these two other boys in that apartment is why I didn't get into poker games.

S: That's what saved you.

H: Then after that, I lived at the American Legion for three years.

S: They used to stack a boy's room once in a while. Did you ever do that, stacking rooms?

H: Oh, yeah, Yes, Yes, I got in on one of those, but luckily that wasn't the one that Capp caught them at. Well, would you like to know of my hazing of my experience out there?

S: Go ahead,

H: See, I arrived here when I was 31 years old in January, and I was here the following October. That made me about 10 to 12 years older than anybody else in class.

N: What year was that Mr. Haigh?

H: 1921. The sophomores were carrying on their regular exercises with the freshman, and they didn't know what to do with that old man. Finally somebody developed the idea they might take the old man on a snipe hunt. They approached me on the subject and I was agreeable. Well, I was a little bit familiar with the southern end of the Franklin Mountains and knew a couple of trails over there, and also knew about where the locations of the snipe was going to be. In fact I had been on a snipe hunt long before I ever came here. But I went along with the boys.

The night I was going to the snipe hunt, I borrowed a car from someone down at the American Legion, an old Model T Ford. I parked it down there by the foot of Mt. Franklin on this side, down below where that beacon light is. The boys took me over to just about the same place, a large flat rock, parked me on that rock with a big gunny sack and a Coleman Lantern, and then they took off down the hill. The instant that I could not hear the habrails on the rocks anymore, I took off. Well, I had my trail picked, I came over this way on the mountain, right down to my car. I knew where they were going. And when they walked into the Big Kid Bar in Juárez, I was standing there, had my foot on the rail, and a schooner of beer. That was the last hazing that happened to me.

S: Did they go to Oro Grande for St. Pat's day?

H: Oh, Yeah, yeah.

S: They should've gotten you up there, shouldn't they?

H: I suppose they could've, but they didn't. I guess the snipe hunt, the results was just too much for them. They let me alone.

N: This is off the subject of the college a moment. You knew Ed Dulhaney, didn't you?

H: Oh yeah, very well. I used to work for him at times.

S: Where was this, in Los Angeles?

H: In Los Angeles. This was long before World War I. I used to be an automobile mechanic and specialty driver.

S: Well, you didn't tell us about that. I should've quizzed you on him.

N: I wanted to ask him about Albert Bacon Fall and Doheny, and his opinion.

H: Well, I guess it wouldn't hurt for somebody to express an opinion. But as you remember, Albert Fall was convicted of taking a bribe, and Ed Doheny was charged and acquitted. And I agree with that decision very much because of my association with Ed Doheny.

S: Well, tell us about it.

H: Ed Doheny, Albert B. Fall and a man by the name of John Moffitt up at Kingston, New Mexico, were mining partners at one time, and they operated the Virginia Mines. Now this Virginia Mine is the one that I want to work at in October that I told you about. And they had gone out and Johnny Moffitt was the owner of it. Johnny Moffitt came down here with Sonora one time for the college here to work out a recovery text. Professor _____ who was the Metallurgy prof gave that assignment to me and I happened to do it. So when these boys came in and took over the mines, Johnny was satisfied with what I could do and he right then hired me. Well, they broke up their partnership. Doheny went to Los Angeles and got into law business, and Johnny stayed in Kingston. Albert B. Fall, of course, got into politics.

Now my association with Ed Doheny was this: I went to Los Angeles, in 1908, and I worked for the Stoddard Dayton Motor Company. Stoddard Dayton Motor Company quit in 1912 but previous to that they had put out an automobile that was somehow comparable to a Packard. A few people at Stoddard Dayton had drivers. Ed Doheny was one of those, and he had a favorite driver there by

the name of Ray Scott. When Ray was tied up with something I was Mr. Doheny's second choice and I drove his automobile quite a few miles. One time Ray Scott was toting back Mr. Doheny from a trip to San Francisco, and Ray was telling Mr. Doheny about a dream that he had. In those days when you had an automobile repaired, if you wanted the differential fixed you went to a garage on one side of town; if you wanted a radiator fixed you had to go across town. Ray had the idea of a one stop repair shop, and Mr. Doheny was interested and asked him a few questions and said it sounded like a good idea. That was the end of it as far as they were concerned.

They got back on Saturday night, and the following Monday morning along about ten o'clock the phone rang and somebody asked for Scott, and I said, "Well Ray is out on an assignment. This is Berte Haigh." And he said, "This is Ed Doheny. Well you tell Ray Scott when he comes in, there is \$30,000 dollars to his credit down at the Farmers and Merchants Bank, and we'll start the repair station." There were no papers at that time, or anything else; just that was it. Several years later, some people from Los Angeles came out and bought this mine that Johnny Moffitt had on a Lease and Bond situation. They maneuvered around to acquire possession of the property. Someway or another, the legal detail of which I am not familiar, they got it thrown into a foreclosure sale and then it was put up for public auction down in the courthouse here in El Paso, on a certain day.

The morning that this sale was to take place, Johnny Moffitt who was staying at the Del Norte Hotel, got a telegram from Ed Doheny. All the telegram says, was, "50,000 dollars your credit First National Bank. Bid that property in. Now I personally know that there never was an exchange of notes or anything else involved there. Now Ray Scott was a friend, a man in whom Doheny had confidence. He needed \$30,000 or \$35,000 dollars, and Doheny shoveled it out.

His ex-partner Johnny Moffitt was in a position where he needed help, and Ed Doheny sent the help. We come now to Albert B. Fall, Albert B. Fall got to where he needed that \$100,000 dollars they were talkin about, and Ed Doheny gave it to him with no thought of anything else except he's helping out his old partner. That's my opinion.

S: So how do you figure that Fall should've been accused of taking the bribe and that Ed Doheny should not?

H: That I don't know. There's too much politics there. That I don't know about. Of course it all was a result of Teapot Dome and everything else all piled up on it there. And I suppose the investigators found out about this \$100,000 dollars.

S: Yeah. Probably Doheny had no such thought in mind.

H: I'm convinced, and always will be, that he had no such thought in mind.

S: Well, it's pretty complicated.

N: What did Doheny look like?

H: The question you just asked is somewhat difficult for me to answer, first because describing people is something at which I am very definitely inferior. Also this occurred around 60 years ago. But as I recall Mr. Doheny in my mind, he was always a neat appearing gentleman, probably about 5 foot 9 or 10, as I recall weighing somewhere around about 175 pounds. He wore a moderate sized moustache, was always the gentleman and appeared so. And that's about all I can tell you at this time.

N: Well that sounds fine.

H: Dr. Sonnichsen, we were reminiscing a while ago. I just thought of one that you might like to have some kind of a wrap it up. I believe I've mentioned that I was Chairman of the Student Activities Committee. At the time I left here I was what they called officially or unofficially, Director of Student

Activities. I was on the Athletic Conference for quite some time. This brings me to my story. In 1944, we had a junior college transfer, I believe from Okalahoma Junior College by the name of Clearance O. Walker, known as Chick. Chick was part Indian. Being brought down here to play football, he was all revved up with a lot of Pee-Doggie courses which presumably would be very easy to pass. That was not Chick's aptitude. In fact, Dr. J.O. Ward and I were sort of co-sponsors for Walker, and we had one devil of a time keeping him eligible. In one interview with him something came up which indicated that he might be interested in Engineering, so we took Brother Walker down for an interview with Capp Kidd. And the outcome of that was that after Capp had talked to him quite a while, he became convinced that he might be a reasonably good engineering student, so we transferred him over to Engineering and Walker took to it like a duck to the water. He ended up being one of our very best football players, a good engineer, and after graduation went to work for El Paso Natural Gas Company, where he made a name for himself.