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Interview no. 683

Maxine Steele

Thad Steele

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE:	Thad and Maxine Steele
INTERVIEWER:	Rebecca Craver
PROJECT:	History of the University
DATE OF INTERVIEW:	December 6, 1983
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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Mr. Steele was a student at the College of Mines, 1928-32 and was chosen UTEP's Outstanding Ex-Student in 1968; Mrs. Steele was the first full-time Dean of Women in 1949.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

How Mr. Steele became a student at the College of Mines; the football program; professors and students; fraternities; St. Patrick's Day activities; Mrs. Steele's responsibilities; dormitory life; social activities; pranks; the Outstanding Ex banquet in 1968.

Length of interview: 1 hour; 40 minutes Length of transcript: 45 pages

Thad and Maxine Steele
by Rebecca Craver
December 6, 1983

C: When were you a student here?

TS: I came here in the fall of 1928 and I went through '28-'29.

I'm talking about the school year, through '32--'28-'29,
'30-'31, and '31-'32.

C: Where did you come from?

TS: I came from a little town up in Oklahoma. I'd gone to a
junior college up there, Murray State School of Agriculture,
so I came from Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

MS: That was not his home.

C: Well, how did you hear about the College of Mines up there?

TS: Well, I was graduating from junior college so I was looking for
a place to go to school. I'd had some literature from the
College of Mines in Colorado--they had the Colorado School of
Mines--and I'd had some literature from Oklahoma U. And being
an athlete, why, I was naturally looking for a place that I
could go and play athletics; and at Oklahoma U., why, I would
have to lay out a year because of the junior college transfer,
see. I could come to the College of Mines and be eligible imme-
diately, so I got the information and they got some information
on me--I mean, the athletic department did--so I came out here
on an athletic scholarship.

C: Do you remember how much money they gave you?

TS: Well, in those days they didn't give you any money, you had to
work for everything. But we had a group of people in town that
was trying to build up the athletic part of the school, so we

had jobs all over town, like in the Courthouse where there'd be one in the tax collector's office and one in the Sheriff's Department or maybe two, one in something else, several people in the fire stations, some at the smelter, some at the cement company. And all over town you had a job and you had to work.

C: And in return you got free room and board?

TS: Well, in those days we got fifty dollars a month. Usually that was what it amounted to, fifty dollars a month. You worked for a that and you got a room and board, but we got fifty dollars a month.

C: Where did you work?

TS: I worked at. . .the first year was at the tax collector's office, and then I worked in the engineer's office there, and then the last two years I worked for El Paso Natural Gas Company. So, they'd always provide a job for the athletic scholarships.

C: Where did you live?

TS: Well, the first year I lived in a residence, in a home, with a family, and they provided just a place to sleep and you provided the rest of it--all your meals and everything. After that, why we had a dormitory and I lived in the dormitory.

C: What was the name of the building?

TS: What is the name of it, Maxine? The old dormitory building?

MS: The one right across from where the Development Office is now, I can't think what it's called.

TS: No, not the Development Office.

MS: Well, but the Development Office is moved out right now. They're in old Kelly Hall, and it's the one right across that small building right against the mountain as you go up the hill.

TS: I'll have to show you the building.

MS: Didn't you also live in what became the President's home at one time?

TS: Well, that's when some of the athletes did. I didn't.

MS: Oh, you didn't actually live there.

TS: [Shows picture.] This was Kelly Hall, the chemistry building, I guess it was Kelly. Oh, yeah, I know it was Kelly, because we used to. . . see this window here?

C: Yes.

TS: Well, we'd go through there, they kept that window up. They would slide in, you could crawl through that window, out through the window. You'd go in and that was where you would change clothes and take a shower and so forth. And then I think this end of it down here was [the] eating place, the dining hall, and then the rest of it was dormitories, and usually always two to a room. So that was the athletic dormitory in those days.

C: Well, let's talk about football and Cap Kidd. He was your coach wasn't he?

TS: No. Cap Kidd was, I think he was a coach way, way back there, but the coach when I came here was a fellow named B.J. "Doc" Stewart, from the university of Texas, incidentally. He had coached at the University of Texas and he was about retirement

age and he wanted to retire, but he got this job here as a coach of the School of Mines. And he brought his captain of the football team at the University of Texas that year. Why, he brought a fellow named Max Saxon out as his assistant. So the first year that I was here, why, it was Doc Stewart and Saxon, and then the rest of the time I was here it was Max Saxon and Harry Phillips. We had two coaches in those days. Big staff. (Laughter)

C: Was Kidd Field built then?

TS: No. We had a practice field right back of the dormitory, and there was very little grass on it, so it was mostly gravel and just a few little concrete steps out there people could sit on. But you couldn't play a football game there and we played all of our games at El Paso High, with the exception of one year, I think we played at some park outside of town. It was out where the baseball park is now. But we played all of our games on the El Paso High School Stadium.

C: Because they had grass.

TS: No, they had very little grass there, I can assure you. (Laughter) The fact is I still have scars on my hands. I played center, and you'd tackle someone and your hands would slide on the ground and you'd pick up gravel, and your hands would be bloody. And I was the center, so when I'd get over the ball, why, there was always blood on the ball. (Laughter)

MS: How times have changed.

C: Well, what teams did you play against?

TS: Well, the schedule here will show you that we played Arizona and the New Mexico Military Institute, Hardin-Simmons University, School of Mines in New Mexico; Flagstaff, from Arizona.

MS: Didn't you all play Texas University one time?

TS: Yeah, we played. . . fact is, the last three years that I played football, we only lost one game a year for three years, which was a whale of a record in those days. And the only games we lost during the last three years that I played there, we lost to the University of Texas, and that was the only game we lost that year, won the Southwest Conference. And one year we lost to Arizona U. in Tucson, and another time we lost to Hardin-Simmons University. So three games in three years is a good record. And incidentally, the college annual was dedicated the first year to the the coaching staff, Max Saxon and Harry Phillips, because we'd has this outstanding season, lost one game. (Laughs)

C: Tell me about your road trips.

TS: On road trips usually it was by train or bus. And of course if some of the trips were overnight, we left here early in the morning, we had lunch at Manell's (?) Ranch up between El Paso and Roswell, and we'd play the football game that afternoon and we caught the bus and came back home that afternoon. So, it was bus trips usually; oh, and train trips. Like when we'd play New Mexico U., why it'd be a train trip. Arizona was a train trip. Train mostly is the way we travelled.

C: You were a mining engineer?

TS: No. I was trying to major in geology. I had worked in the oil fields and I became friendly with a geologist, and I thought that's what I wanted to be. And about the last two years that I was in school, particularly the last year, it was during the Depression and people were out of jobs. Even people with degrees that had been working for a mining company, we'll say, in Peru or in old Mexico or somewhere, they were back home without a job and taking a referresher course, so I changed my major the last year and I qualified for teaching and coaching. So I never did follow engineering or geology. I got into the athletic field and coached, so I coached for four years.

C: Where?

TS: Two years at Ysleta High School and I was assistant coach at Ysleta, and then I got to be head coach at Austin High School. Then the next year, why, I went to Lufkin in East Texas with my old friend Mike Brumbelow--you've probably heard of him--and went down there because he knew that he was going to only be there a year or so because TCU would be after him, and he had told me, he said, "If you'll come down here as my assistant, you'll be head coach the next year." Because he figured he would get a job, and that's about the way it worked out.

C: Then what'd you do after that?

TS: Well, after coaching for four years, I had looked at all the businesses around here that I thought I would like to work for, because I couldn't see any future in high school coaching as a permanent lifetime job. So I had looked at all the major

businesses here--I think about six I figured were the major ones--and so I applied to Southwestern Portland and Cement Company, and I told them what I wanted to do: I wanted to get out of coaching and I wanted to go with a business. The man that was the manager of it, vice president/manager, told me that he didn't have an opening but when he found one, why, he would get in touch with me. So he called me at Lufkin in East Texas in March. See, I just coached there in the fall, and then the March of next year, why, he called me and said he had a job for me. So I left and started working for Southwestern Portland Cement Company on April 1st that year.

C: Was the plant in the same location as it is today?

TS: Yes. The company had the plant here in El Paso and that company also had a plant in California and one in Ohio, and I came here to work for this plant here. So that's the way I started with that company, and I started as a dispatcher in the office, and then into sales and I was a travelling salesman for several years, and then promoted back to the office here as assistant sales manager. Then from there I progressed upward and in the meantime the company expanded. They built a cement plant at Odessa and they built one in Amarillo, so I was vice president/manager of the three plants. So that's the history of my. . .

MS: Thirty-nine years.

TS: And I was with them thirty-nine years.

C: So, you just retired not too long ago, then?

TS: It's been about eight years now, hasn't it? Nearly eight years ago.

C: Well, let's go back to the College of Mines now. I think you were a student when they let the junior college move into the campus?

TS: No, they moved a year or two prior to my coming out here. That was when they were at El Paso High School, I believe. But they had already made that move and they got co-eds at that time, a pretty good bunch of them.

C: So would you say most of the students from the junior college were girls?

TS: No. Most of the students were boys then, but the girls took over. You'd have to look at one of the old annuals to. . .

MS: Who was president of the college when you came?

TS: It wasn't any president, it was dean, Dean Puckett, Dean C.A. Puckett.

C: Who was your favorite teacher? Who do you remember?

TS: Oh, I have, oh, several, naturally. But I guess one of my favorites was Berte Haigh and Speedy Nelson, and both of them taught geology, incidentally. But I would say that they were my favorites. And Berte Haigh, as you know--he was at the party last night--is 93, I believe.

C: And you went to classes six days a week, didn't you? Didn't they have classes on Saturdays?

TS: No, I don't think so, just five. I don't recall, really. I guess, because the classes alternated, I guess we did have. . .

MS: Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturday.

TS: I'd have to get my schedule so I'd have the afternoon to

practice football and basketball and baseball, whatever sport I was involved in.

C: So you played all of them.

TS: I played all of them. I was the Outstanding. . .well, what did we call it?

MS: Outstanding Athlete or something.

TS: Outstanding Athlete two years in a row.

C: I bet you couldn't beat the girls off with a stick.

MS: He beat them off until I got in there. (Laughter)

C: Isn't that wonderful.

MS: It was love! Everybody in town would say, "Well, I never thought Thad was going to get married. I tried to fix him up with my sister or my cousin or my friend." And he dated all the time, but he waited for me, and I appreciate it.

TS: Looking through an annual. That's Lurline. Do you know Lurline?

C: No.

MS: Well, she was at the party last night. Lurline Douglas. She's Mrs. Coltharp.

C: I didn't know that was Lurline!

MS: Show her the other picture of her.

C: Well, was she a local girl? Was she from El Paso?

MS: Yes.

TS: There's Lurline.

C: I wouldn't recognize her.

TS: I was telling Maxine that in those days, why, everyone knew

each other, and the annual was a big thing and everyone had their picture in the annual. Now, that's something. And all the pictures you'll see all the way through this book_____, but athletics and all that, and group pictures. Now there's the faculty, and then the graduates. And the graduates all had [their pictures in the annual]. Let's see, 20 graduates that year.

MS: Isn't that something? It's come a long way.

TS: And then you go through there and each person had their picture in there with a little write-up about what they did, the sports or what activities they'd participated in. And in they went right on through all of them, right on through the freshmen and all of that.

MS: It was so important in those days.

C: Well, I see they had yell leaders. Do you remember pep rallies?

TS: Oh, yeah, we had pep rallies

C: What would they do for you to boost your spirit before the games?

TS: Well, they'd have a bonfire and have [a] pep rally.

C: Would it be on campus?

TS: Yes, usually. I don't recall, I don't believe, ever having one off the campus. There was so little, so few buildings and so much open space, that they didn't have any trouble with the fire.

MS: Even when I came here they would have bonfires on the other side of Bell Hall. That was just an open area and the fellows would stack wood, and we had bonfires in the fifties there.

TS: And usually we had two cheerleaders and that was about it.

MS: Have you talked to Isabel Hatchett yet?

C: No.

MS: She was a cheerleader when Thad was there.

TS: Well, her picture's in there, Isabel. But this is what has changed now, things like that--the pictures and the people that have their pictures made. There's Joe Friedkin. Do you know him?

C: Sure.

TS: Well, there's Joe, the president of the Student Association. Pictures and records and things like that. They had a rifle team. I think this was the...called it the Scientific Club.

C: In one of these I saw a club called the Woman Haters. What was that?

TS: Yes, they had that. That was just in [fun]. There was nothing official about it. They'd call it the Woman Haters and the group, you know, would say, "Well, we belong to the Woman Haters." They had one when I was in school here. We had one they called the Black Hand Club, and well, that meant if somebody stamped you with a black hand, why, you were out. And they'd pull that on people, you know, a fellow'd say, "You belong to the Black Hand Club." They'd shake hands with him like that with a black hand. (Laughs) And silly things like that.

C: Well, did they have that APO fraternity for the engineers?

TS: Oh yes, yes, yes; very much. I was in it. (Laughter)

C: What was your initiation like?

TS: I can tell you a lot about that. (Laughs)

C: All right. Tell me. I want to hear it.

TS: There's the APO. There's the sponsor, Gene Thomas. But initiation I thought was, and I still think, is one of the cruelest things they can pull on a person. You were invited to join in this fraternity, and you're notified that you had been accepted, and then comes the time for initiation and they blindfold you and lead you through a bunch of, some ritual stuff, and they take you from station to station and here to there. So they'd go up to there and then they were all assembled in a room, all the others, and they bring this. . .you were brought in one at a time, incidentally. Maybe five or six people are candidated for initiation. We were all blindfolded and separated, put in different places so you can't talk to anyone, you can't say a word. Oh, it was tough.

But, anyhow, they'd bring you up there and they say, "Well, we have candidate so and so. Who proposed Thad Steele?" And everybody sits there, just silent as can be. Then they said, "Well, who proposed Thad Steele as a candidate?" And one said, "Well, I'll say that I did." "No, we don't want that. To hell with that," he said. "Don't just volunteer. We want to know who proposed him. Now somebody had to." So, then they get in a big squabble and they say, "Well, blindfold the candidate and take him out of the room and we'll trash this out." So, they take you and they park you in a corner somewhere, and you can't

say a word, and by that time you don't care whether you're initiated or not, you know. And they do that with each of them and they get in a big squabble about it. And then, like I say, why, you could care less whether you became a member of that because nobody'd acknowledge that they'd proposed you.

(Laughs)

C: Well, would this happen on campus, in a building?

TS: Yes. They'd take you in some room, it had a lot of rocks around in it, exposed rocks and things, and usually it was on campus. I don't recall the building that we were in, but they take you out of the building and it's usually cold. But it's different, I'll tell you.

MS: Did you haze you?

TS: No, not at that. Now, when you're initiated into the engineering group, the girls would go through that on St. Pat's Day. Now, they would do a lot of hazing there, and some of the girls went through it. Now, Isabel Abdou went through it, and they'd make you crawl. They went to an old mine up here out of Oro Grande. And they'd blindfold you and you would crawl on your knees through that shaft. And in the meantime, why, you can't stand up, and then as you passed by a certain station, they had big paddles, wooden paddles, and boy did they hurt, and they would swat you to make you move on. And those girls took that; at least two of them took the same thing that the boys did.

C: Well, were they engineering students is why they had to go through this?

TS: They had enrolled for engineering, therefore, why, they had to be initiated into St. Pat's. You had to go through that. It was tough.

MS: They kissed the Blarney Stone.

TS: The Blarney Stone was a mixture of mustard, vinegar and red pepper, and I don't know what all they had in there, and they'd make you kiss the Blarney Stone. And you can imagine, you want to taste it, but you get so close and then they smash your head into it, see. So you get it in your nose and in your mouth.
(Laughs)

C: Did you have to do that?

MS: Well, I didn't do all that. But when I first came as Dean of Women they invited me to go with them to Oro Grande one time and to kiss the Blarney Stone, but they were nice to me.

[PAUSE]

TS: The freshman in those days had to wear what they call the green Beanie. And so when you were on campus, why, the freshman had to wear one. And Dr. Craig, he would arrive on the campus, you know, with a briefcase and all that. He'd take his cap out and he'd put it on and then he'd wear it, and just when he left the campus he'd take that cap off, put it back in his briefcase.

MS: That's the present Dr. Craig's father. He's dead now.

TS: Just for anything, why, you could be hazed. Usually it was a broom, but you'd also be surprised how much a broom swat can hurt. Or when you'd bend over and they say, "Well, give him ten lashes," why, sometimes they alternate--this one'd hit

and the other one'd hit, this one'd hit. And then some of them were tough and they'd walk up and say, "Well, I think I deserve a lashing," But they had a tough fanny. (Laughter)

MS: Probably had a board in the seat of their pants.

C: The term "Peedoggie," were they using that term when you were a student?

TS: Yes, but not the way they use it for the University of Texas, because a Peedoggie at Texas University is anyone that doesn't go to Texas A & M, is usually the way they refer to it. Peedoggies here was anyone that was not an engineering student, so you're a Peedoggie if you were not classified as an engineer or a geology student or some engineering, because they didn't have a school of geology.

C: Well, someone told me that they think Cap Kidd is the one that started using Peedoggie out here, that term.

TS: He might have. It's quite possible that he was so oriented towards the mining industry and the engineering part of it that he might have originated the name. He said, "Why, don't pay any attention to him, he's a Peedoggie," you know.

C: But they were painting the green line on campus, dividing the science school from the Liberal Arts?

TS: They hadn't started that.

MS: That started with the name change.

TS: Yes.

MS: That was June 1, 1949, because I came to work the same day the name was changed. And there was a lot of resentment of

the engineers and the mining people about it and they started painting that green line then, because the Texas Western people weren't on that side, but they were still College of Mines on the other side.

TS: On St. Pat's Day, early every St. Pat's morning, why, they made arrangements for explosives through Cap Kidd or Gene Thomas or somebody, and they would set off a big bomb. And I'll tell you, it'd knock you out of the room.

MS: They did that for a long time.

TS: Yeah, they'd set off a big one.

MS: That made them quit because, mainly I think because of the hospitals.

TS: So that would kick off St. Pat's day.

C: Okay, let's talk about when you got here, Mrs. Steele.

MS: Well, as I was telling you, I came June 1, 1949 to be the first full-time Dean of Women. Miss Caldwell had been the part-time Dean of Women and she also taught math. But the Student Union Building had just been finished and Bell Hall was a year or two older, I don't recall, but nowhere near full. So part of my duties, in addition to taking over the Panhellenic from Judson Williams, who was the Dean of men, and he had been having to sponsor the Panhellenic, was to work with the sororities and the dormitory girls and to travel the West Texas area to bring girls to come fill up Bell Hall. It was interesting to me and I was awfully glad the name had been changed, because people as near as Odessa

and Midland, so many of them thought this was a just boy's school and that any girl that went must be somebody with a pickax on her shoulder ready to go down on the mine, and they were surprised to learn that it was a liberal arts college.

And so I'd travel all the little towns and what few big towns there are in West Texas. Dorothy Elkins, wife of the president, and I were such good friends. She often went with me. I'd be out maybe three or four days at a time and she would go with me and sit in the back of the room when I would talk to the seniors. She said she got to where she knew my talk so well that if I left out a line she got nervous (laughs). But she was a dear person. In fact, on one of those trips, it was after Thad and I had met and had decided to get married, and we were going to be married in their home and with a small wedding 'cause I was a widow and had a little girl who was five. So we were going to have a small wedding and then have a big reception, because Thad had lived here so long and had so many friends, and my parents and one of my brothers came and we had a big. . .everybody was so happy over the whole thing and we just had a great time. But Dorothy and I addressed the invitations while we were out on one of these recruiting trips (chuckles) for the girls.

But when I came to the Dean of Women's office that they had set aside in the Student Union Building, it was one big room. I went over to Dr. Elkins and I told him, because I had

to have a secretary, I said, "I can't counsel the girls in a room where the secretary is sitting. You've got to put a partition in there." So my first semester here they put a partition in that office so that I could have private counsel with the girls. And talking about changes, one of the main changes that I've seen through the years is that we had rules then, and they don't have them any more. Our dormitory had councils and if the girls didn't do just what they wanted they'd get campused, or I had the authority to campus them if they didn't obey the rules. And we were strict on the hours they came in.

C: What were the hours, do you remember?

MS: On Saturday nights we would let them stay out till 1 o'clock, but the underclassmen, it's been a long time since I thought of this, but we put a little booklet, you know, with all our rules and regulations. And if you were on the honor roll, you know, you got special privileges. You get extra late nights like till 11 o'clock on weeknights, otherwise you had to be in at 10 on weeknights. And I think the library closed at 10 in those days. We had once in a while for some special dance we'd give an extra thirty minutes or so. But they had to sign in and out of the dormitory all the time, you know, and they had to have signed permissions from their parents to be allowed to spend the night out in El Paso with a friend or to go out of town. The rules were really very strict when you compare it with now because they have such complete freedom now,

and all of the parties and dances had to have a permit with the chaperones signed that they agreed to chaperone. Chaperone, I guess they'll take that word out of the dictionary. (Laughs)

C: Where were the dances?

MS: In the Student Union Building Ballroom.

C: Were they formal?

MS: Most of them were. They wore long dresses. The Coed Ball was one of the big things in those days.

C: The girls could ask the boys.

MS: Yes. And it was a program dance. In Thad's day they had program dances 'cause I think he's still got some old programs, but they had to have their dances at the Women's Club building and places like that. But the Student Union Building, we outgrew it so fast because, you know, all the veterans were coming back and the school grew so fast. We only had about 2,000 students when I came, and it and the town of El Paso just mushroomed. I said, "They were just waiting for me to get here and give it a boost." But the sororities and fraternities were real big on campus then. There were more of them than there are now and they had their big balls and things. Later on, this was after our two daughters went to school out there and graduated, there were so many of them and they used Mesa Inn's ballroom a lot, and the country clubs. But at first when the Student Union Building was finished, they were so happy to have that available space, and I think they had a dance after every football game that was not formal. There were many formal dances.

C: Were there any dress codes, maybe not ever written down but just understood?

MS: I suppose so. I don't ever recall having a problem with dress that we didn't consider proper or anything like that.

C: What about smoking?

MS: They didn't have any rules against smoking in those days. There weren't many girls smoking, but if they did smoke they were allowed to smoke in the Student Union Building, and I guess they smoked other places, too. But that didn't come up either. The Student Union building was always full of kids. They played a lot of Bridge in those days, there were always Bridge games going on. I think a lot of classes cut because they weren't through with their bridge game. But the boys that dated the Bell Hall girls had to come in and present themselves, and we had a special director in charge, and a faculty member or somebody living on each floor that was sort of the chaperone for that floor. But that has all changed completely.

C: There was a faculty member actually living in the dorm, were they just in charge of that floor?

MS: No, if they had some single people, you know, that wasn't a family member, and sometimes it would be a graduate student or somebody like that that assisted the social director. The social director had an apartment on the first floor.

TS: You didn't go through the panty raid deal.

MS: Yeah, there were some panty raids and I remember we did send one girl home. She was from way up in the midwest someplace or the north, because she had a first floor room and we found out that the boys were coming in the window. She really was

just a prostitute, but we didn't know it. So I called her parents and told them we were sending her home, and I said, "I really think the girl needs some counselling. She needs some professional help," because from the reports we had, there were many different boys that came in through that back window every night.

TS: And when I was in this junior college up in Oklahoma we had two men's dormitories, east and west, and then they had a big larger, girls' dormitory. And every once in a while, why, they'd decided they were going to have a panty raid. They'd go over to the girls' dormitory and the girls would stand up in the windows and wave something tantalizing. They'd try to climb up the outside, but of course they'd drop it for them, you know, and they'd retrieve it and take off, you know. They had raided the girls' dorm.

MS: There's some story here about Wilson Elkins when he was president, standing on the steps on Bell Hall and not letting the boys come in. He got rumor that there was something going. I've read that; now I don't recall it, and I don't know when it happened, 'cause they had just been here a year before I came. I don't recall this happening while I was out there, but I remember reading it someplace. He repelled something.

C: It might have been a panty raid.

MS: Yeah, it could have been something like that.

TS: On the green line, Dr. Elkins was responsible for getting that painted out one time, wasn't he?

MS: I don't remember that.

TS: I think you do. They had painted this green line across the area between the engineering and the others. And Dr. Elkins was an early riser and he got out there and he saw that green line painted, and Dr. Elkins got a work crew and got that line painted out before the students all started arriving on the campus.

MS: He did the same thing one morning, 'cause he still is an early riser, we visit him once in a while. But it was during the football rivalry and I guess we were going to play New Mexico State, but they had put a big A for Aggies, painted it on the side of our Student Union Building, and he saw it and got the crew out and got it painted out before classes started that morning.

C: Did they paint an M on the mountain?

TS: Yes.

MS: It was up here.

TS: It was up on this side of the mountain. You'd have the boys and girls, men and women, they'd carry the lime up there and the water and they'd mix it and paint the M. And it was a big day.

MS: I went up there with them one time and they made the freshmen do that.

TS: Some of the old annual pictures there show that.

MS: The kids would be just covered with that lime.

C: Where was the M located? Was it down here at Scenic Point, where you can drive up Scenic Drive?

MS: Yeah. Yeah, it was right above Scenic Point.

C: About where they put the Christmas star now?

TS: The star was higher, I believe, than the M, a little over to the point, because they'd always go out there when they'd done it. And they would go to Scenic Drive and then meander up that way, and then they'd go back this way back to the west so you could see the M, because on the point, well you wouldn't be able to see all of the M.

C: Well, was that part of St. Patrick's Day?

TS: No. No, that was just whay they called M Day.

C: Was that in the fall?

TS: Yes, usually in the fall.

MS: Usually right at the beginning of school.

TS: That's right, and usually you would enlist the freshmen to do all the hard work. They had a lot of overseers. (Laughter)

C: And they were still doing it the early fifties?

MS: Oh, yes.

C: I wonder why they stopped?

MS: Well, there was a drive in El Paso, some people thought the letters on the mountain were detracting from the beauty of the mountains 'cause all the high schools had a letter and the M. So they decided, I don't remember what year this happened, to move the M over on the campus, you know, where it is now and make a permanent installation. They put some concrete or something up there. And I think they still paint it, repaint it, but it's not as big a deal as it used to be.

TS: Well, in my day, on Homecoming, why, they'd light the M at night. They'd go up there with some kind of an oil _____ fire and they would outline the M with fire, and they'd keep it burning all night.

MS: Well, they do that occasionally with this M. I've seen it lighted for special games. I don't think it was this year for Homecoming.

C: How lone were you Dean of Women?

MS: Well, I really wasn't Dean of Women very long because Thad and I decided to get married and Dr. Elkins said, "Well," he said, "I'm not going to find a substitute for you. You'll have to find you own replacement, and you have to work till you find your replacement." We were married in April of 1950 and I went to the National Dean's Convention in Atlantic City that year--got home five days before our wedding day--and I found a girl who couldn't come for a year, she was already committed. So I worked on another year, and then Signi (?) Swanson came and she worked a year and got married. So they asked me if I would come back and run the office again while they looked for another one.

So, I did, but I told /them/ I couldn't do it in the summertime, I could just do it during the regular session, 'cause Tina was in school and then Thad and I were wanting to have some more children. So we had a little girl and a little boy after that. So one time when I was doing it part-time and it was time for me to feed Dorothy Ann, they called me and said there was a woman

who wanted to apply for the job as social director of Bell Hall. I went over and gave my baby the bottle while I interviewed her. (Laughs) Sat at my desk with her.

But then we got Betty Cosby, and Betty worked a year and decided she'd go work on her Ph.D., and they got me to come back and be Dean of Women until she came back. Well, she got her Ph.D., but she decided, got a better offer, went someplace else. So then we got Margaret Jameson and Margaret Jameson worked about two or three years. Then Dr. Elkins went to the University of Maryland and then they had a Dean of Women who had been up there for years and years and years and was ready to retire, so he invited Margaret Jameson to come up there as Dean of Women.

So I went back again and this time we had our children. I said, "I cannot do it in the summer," and my friend, Louise Resley Wiggins, Louise was my first friend outside the Elkinses in El Paso. So she and I have always been very close, and I had always told her that, "You ought to go into Dean's work," because she had a natural technique for counselling students and students were drawn to her, and she did a lot of counselling just because students were drawn to her. And I said, "You ought to try it." I said, "I'll take the job for the long session," she was teaching math, "if you will do it in the summer." And then we'd see if they found somebody in the meantime or what would happen in the fall. So she agreed to do it and found out that she did like it. And they offered her the job

on a permanent basis and she stayed in it until she retired and made a very good Dean of Women, and she really enjoyed the work.

C: I have an appointment to talk to her.

MS: Of course her story will be interesting because she was widowed when her son was two years old, and she's quite a gal.

C: You were very good friends with Dr. and Mrs. Elkins. Why did they call him Bull?

TS: Well, he was short and stocky and tough, and so they said he ran like a little bull or something like that, and so I think that's what happened.

MS: [That was] down at the University because he was a four sports letterman every year, and he was a brilliant man scholastically and won a scholarship to Oxford. He and Vivian last year went back to Oxford for a reunion of the old timers and they stayed in the quarters and did all that, and they said it was just a delightful trip.

But from my standpoint of working under him, he is the best administrator that I have ever seen, and he's a listener. You'd go in and tell him some problem you had and so you pause and expect him to say something and he doesn't say anything, so you keep talking. And finally you end up talking out your problem and finding a solution when he's just sitting there and making you do it, because you can't just let it sit there in silence. But he delegates authority, and when I worked for him at San Angelo we were a smaller faculty, and our faculty meetings were

working faculty meetings. We studied the latest proposals and how to make examinations and how to give them, and they were working faculty meetings. But over here I don't think they've ever done it that way because it's too hard in a big group. And student demonstrations and things like that never intimidated him. He was tough enough and strong enough to stand up to them. I don't think anybody ever intimidated Wilson, do you?

TS: No, I don't. He was tough enough. It's like when he first went up to Maryland prior to his regime there, why, athletics had been the main thing that the president of the University was for; and when Wilson got there he was an old...he believed in the athletics but he believed in the academic side, and he had to make the change from everything being athletics, to being academic also. And he wasn't against athletics--it had its place.

MS: No one hates to lose a game any worse than Wilson does, but he thought the tail was wagging the dog up there, and he made some enemies. But he was always for the athletic program here and of course things were just really starting on the upgrade when he came. But salaries were low in those days. There wasn't the money available and we lost just about everything they got. And when they loosened the purse strings down there it really helped the situation out here. But we always felt that we were a stepchild in the system.

TS: Well, in regard to athletics and the scholastic side of it, why,

the first two years I was here we had a dean, Dean Puckett and Dean Kidd. One was the Dean of all the others, and Cap Kidd was Dean of Engineering. Then we got a president, John G. Barry. And I'll never forget that during the football practice, you know, pre-game, why President Barry decided that he was going to give the athletes an I.Q. test. And so we had a very dominant man on the Board of Regents that year that was a lawyer, and he was in El Paso. He was a regent, representative of the Board of Regents, so he passed the word that go ahead and take the test but make it as absurd as you want to. He says, "He wants you to make the test, so go ahead. They can't make you do anything that they don't make all the rest of the people of the student body do." So when we'd pass out the I.Q. test, why, you'd be asked a certain question and you'd answer it, "So what?" And that would be the answer, you know. Everything was ridiculous, so we heard no more about the I.Q. test for the athletes. (Laughter)

MS: Has anyone mentioned to you about Frances Steven? She is certainly a part of the history of the college because she was the secretary for Dr. Barry who was the first president. She's dead now, but she was the executive secretary, I think they finally gave her the title.

Tape #2

MS: She knew everything that had gone on in the past and she was really an invaluable aid to the presidents because of her knowledge. And she grew up here in El Paso and her husband had,

and they were a very prominent family at one time, and she had entree into a lot of people and she could direct the president to the ones that they should know in a hurry and that sort of thing. She was quite, she was a genteel lady and she was really just as much a part of the University as anybody has been, because her tenure was for so long under every president.

C: Probably provided some continuity.

MS: Yes, she did. She was a wonderful person. Frances' birthday was December 23, Dorothy Elkins and Louise Resley Wiggins both had December 25th birthdays, and mine was January the 1st, so we were all four Capricorns. We called ourselves The Goat Knees, because of the picture of the Capricorn goat with his knees. So Dorothy Elkins labeled us The Goat Knees, and we went to lunch together every Wednesday down at Hacienda most of the time, not all the time, but that's where I learned to eat good Mexican Food. But the four of us went to lunch every Wednesday for years and years and years. After I had quit I still joined them for lunch. But there isn't anyone left to talk about. Frances was important in the University, because she had no children. They reared two nieces of hers, and one of them lives in Ft. Worth and the other in Houston. But she was really an important part.

C: Well, where were the favorite night spots when you were a student?

TS: Favorite night spots. Of course we could go to Juarez, and we did. And then there was, I've forgotten the name of it, but

there was a favorite eating place after you'd return from Juarez. They had I think it was 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock curfew on [the bridge], or something like that. I know it couldn't be later than midnight, I know that.

C: To get back across?

TS: Get back across. But then we would meet there. One of them was a Chinese eating place that was very popular. I've forgotten the name of it, but it had small rooms and you could pull the curtain. [It had] the booth but you could pull the curtain. Well, one of the favorite tricks was if the curtain was pulled, well, you always pulled the curtain to see what was going on. (Laughter)

C: And you'd drive over there? Would you take your car?

TS: We didn't have cars in those days. There was only four cars in the athletic dormitory, four people with cars most of the time that I was going to school there. No, they had, there were touring cars in those days, and you could get six, seven, eight [in them], sitting on the back of the seats and in the seats. We were reminiscing not long ago about it, that they'd say, "Well, today is the day we're going to Juarez." And they'd have [what] they'd call a nickle beer. So we belonged to the nickle beer group, and for a nickle beer you could get a...they called it a nickle beer and a free lunch, so you'd get a hard boiled egg, we'll say, or you'd get a taco or you'd get a bowl of chili or you'd get something else, I've forgotten what else. But anyhow, you'd go to four

bars and for 20 cents you would have all of this, see?

(Chuckles)

C: And four beers.

TS: We belonged to the nickle beer group, and they'd come through the dorm or outside and holler out, "Today is nickle beer day!" And boy we'd load up that car and we'd all go to Juarez That was usually on Saturday at noon. But it was something in those days.

MS: Didn't you all used to go to the beer garden in Juarez?

TS: Oh, we had baseball games or something like that and we went to the beer garden. They had open beer gardens in Juarez-- The Green Lantern and I've forgotten the name of them. But they had outside beer parlors in Juarez and you could form your own party, go to Juarez and buy a keg of beer and sit around in the shade of a building or something, or take it down to The Rocks down on the river, and have your beer bust down there, and have to return the keg.

C: Where were The Rocks?

TS: The Rocks? Roughly they were below the Hacienda going around the curve down there off to the right. You probably have noticed this little high building, the high point that was setting up there so long on the Mexico side, it's a small building, just a little square building. Well, it was about even with that. And what happened was that the river came and made a curve and used to grind up rocks or washed out and the rocks would be exposed on a high rise. Why, we removed the

loose gravel and dirt so they had some big rocks. That was what we called The Rocks.

C: And that was a favorite picnic spot?

TS: Very. You could drive across and be in Mexico and be at The Rocks in Mexico.

C: You'd drive across downtown and then turn right and go back around like that?

TS: Yes, that's right. Just one bridge in those days, you know.

C: Where did you go to campus dances, school dances?

TS: Well, interesting enough, I used to promote dances. J.B. Andrews was my very good friend and he conceived the idea that we ought to promote these dances. So we went in partnership on it and we would promote dances. And they'd be at the Women's Club or maybe at one of the hotels, or maybe at the Toltec Club, which used to be the Elk's Club and all of that. But it was usually at the Women's Club. And Lillian Jackson had an orchestra, and she had a sponsor that was sort of her boyfriend, and this fellow was well-to-do and he was always promoting her band to play at some place. So the Lillian Jackson Band would always play and we were helped out a lot of times. We'd make more money sometimes off of the selling the soft drinks than we'd make off of the paying the entry fee to get in.

So, maybe you'd contract for the use of the Women's Club, maybe \$30 dollars, and then you'd have an orchestra and it would cost \$60 or so, so you have an outlay there of around

\$100 dollars, and then you've got about 60 people who show up and pay admission, why, you're in trouble. (Chuckles) And what I'm saying is that this fellow would say, "Well, y'all didn't make any money, so we'll cut this fee down," and so forth. And then when we'd have a good crowd and making money, why, then he'd get it back from us. (Chuckles) But we promoted dances.

MS: Tell her about the Hard Luck Dance or Tacky Party Dance, or whatever it was.

TS: Oh, they always had the Hard Luck Dance, and then there was another one, trying to think what they called it they. They had a dance where the girls could invite people. But anyhow, the one that Maxine is talking about was the Hard Luck Dance. What I did, I'll explain it to you. I had on a pair of blue jeans, so I put the blue jeans on and wrapped them around and I put strings around them so they'd be fitting tight, and I used a shirt and a sweat shirt. Then I had a big pair of long john underwear, had the trap door on the back, you know. And so when the dance was going on real fine, everybody was out on the dance floor, why, I had gone in and I had a hat on and I had a long overcoat pulled up, so I just walked in and shot my hat off and took the coat off over there. I stepped out on the floor and tagged a girl. And I'll tell you, when they saw me in my underwear, why, the dance stopped. Everyone just backed off and they left the two of us out on the floor. (Laughs) In those days, it was a real fun thing. And then

finally whoever the [chaperone was], somebody that told us "Thad, I think your joke has gone far enough. You'd better get decent," or something like that. So I said, "Well, that's no trouble." So I just started undressing (Laughs), so I peeled it off right there in front of them, you know. So we had fun in those days.

Well, here's something that's interesting for you. Sometimes there was always a fight after a dance. Why, I don't know, but there would be a fight. And they'd announce that there's going to be a fight. And I recall one time after the dance had broken up, in back of the Kidd Field there where the track stadium is now, well, in those days that was just some _____ up there and this was all wide open. So the cars came in and they parked on a semi-circle around this way so that the lights would all [shine in], and they left the lights on and this crowd gathered for the fight. So I was up in the dormitory at the time, and this very good friend of mine, J.B. Andrews, he was really my closest buddy, he came through the dormitory and he said, "There's a fight on the field, a fight on the field!" So, we all ran down there.

And J.B., he was a take charge guy. So we had our good football player, a very popular one, and he had had this fight with a fellow named Jack Rogers. And this Jack Rogers was a sort of a pug himself, a whale of a good boxer. So J.B. didn't know this, my good friend J.B. didn't know this. He said, "Who hit Doggie?" Doggie Burns. "Who hit Doggie?" J.B. was shoving

people, "I'd like to know who hit Doggie." So they pointed to Jack Rogers. They pushed Jack Rogers out there, and J.B. looked at him and he says, "Go get him, Doggie!" And Doggie got beaten up again. (Laughter)

C: What were some pranks that you remember?

TS: Well, we used to have what we'd call the. . .oh, the group of engineers, they were ingenious. They had the Purity Squad. I don't know if you've ever heard that word or not, the Purity Squad. And out where all those buildings are now, there was old gravel pits out there where people had processed gravel. You could drive the car in there and then maybe you'd excavate here and there'd be a cliff up here where you could see a car drive in there, but maybe you couldn't see but just part of the top of the car. So they'd holler for the Purity Squad. Well, the Purity Squad would go out and they'd scout the area you know, they'd get all the way around. And the whole deal was that you'd get up real close and they you'd have a cow bell or two and they'd howl, hoop and holler and everybody'd jump up and raise Cain.

MS: Well, didn't you have flashlights?

TS: Well, if it was a night deal. So if you saw a car in there at night, why you'd holler for the Purity Squad and they'd all go out with the flashlights and then turn the flashlights on.
(Laughter)

C: Did the Purity Squad ever catch you?

TS: I. . .I. . .I. . .(laughter) No, I think I was always a part

of the Purity Squad. (Laughter) Then they used to have the greased flagpole. You know, you'd put something up at the top and then the one that could climb it and get up and retrieve that for the prize for that. And that was a big event, was to climb that greased flagpole. I don't remember some of the others. Crazy.

C: I heard about bags full of water being dropped.

TS: Yes, I've been the recipient of that.

C: Where was that, what building?

TS: Well, it was usually the boys' dormitory because the dining hall was down below and it was open for the other people to come in, too, during the noon hour and the evening, not for breakfast. And so upon that second or third floor, they had to come on like this and then /they'd/ enter here and they'd walk down this way, and then they'd go in the door here. Well, here could load a bag and drop it and run. They didn't usually throw it at them, they usually just dropped it. And one of the things was, we would have an empty bottle, and somebody would walk by and then they'd drop it right behind them, see, and let just smash like heck, and just scare the devil out of you. (Laughter)

Another prank was. . .we did some of the meanest pranks. We had a fellow there that we all liked, and somebody told him that his feet smelled. And what they did, they took some Limburger cheese and they smeared it right up in this part of his shoes right here, see, on both feet. And then we had a little

throw rug in his dormitory room so they lifted up the throw rug and they rubbed this Limburger cheese over that and then put the rug back over it. And then he didn't have a car, but another fellow had a car and we put some on the exhaust pipe of that car. And so this fellow was Hawkshaw Pierce. We called him Hawkshaw because he was an athlete and he worked for the Police Department. Hawkshaw the Detective, do you recall that old comic strip? Well, his nickname was Hawkshaw. So everybody was complaining about his feet smelling. And he would wash them, he would douse them with talcum powder, he would do all of that. And this guy that had the car, he told him, "I don't want you riding in my car anymore." Says, "You smelled up my car!" (Laughter)

C: Did you all have time to study? (Laughter)

TS: Good question. (Laughter) I tell you, I came from this junior college in Oklahoma and I was a pampered athlete there, I really was. I knew all the faculty and played sports and everything. They let me get by with murder. And the fact is I worked on the college annual up there and I worked on it here, so the professor of Chemistry told me he would give me a credit in Chemistry if I would devote that hour to working on the annual. So I thought that was a a great idea for me. So, then when I transferred my credits over here to the College of Mines and it showed that I had that credit in Chemistry and I didn't know one thing about that Chemistry that I had taken. So that was one of the blows of that.

MS: I remember you talking about Dr. Quinn when you were in his class.

TS: Well, I was in his class and it was a _____ course. I don't know whether you know what _____ is.

C: No, I don't.

TS: Well, you have to identify rocks and all of that, but they would make a slide and through the slide you'd have to identify all the minerals that was in all that. Well, it was a tough course, and I was taking it but I was barely getting by in it. So just at Christmastime I caught the chicken pox. So I came back home from Christmas vacation with chicken pox and they quarantined me in my room. I was living in a room downtown at that time in a rooming house there. And so I had the chicken pox so I couldn't take my exams so they postponed the exams, all of them, and then I was to make it up, you know, at my leisure, during that next term. Well, it came to Dr. Quinn's class and I was going to take this make-up test and he told me there wasn't any use in me taking it, that I wouldn't pass. And I said, "Well, I need that credit." And he said, "Well, no use for me to give you a test because you're going to flunk it."

So, I went to Dr. Speedy Nelson at that time and I told Speedy my problem. He said, "Well, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll help you pass that course." So, he went to the records and he got I think the last six exams that had been given in that course by that same professor, Dr. Quinn, and he

told me if I would study those six quizzes that he thought I could pass the course. And by golly I studied on it for about six weeks. He told me, he said, "Now, I want it thorough, I want you to write out your answers. I don't want to see them, but I want you think about it and write it out and find out the answers." So he gave me the advantage of that. Then when I told Dr. Quinn I wanted to take the test, why, he reluctantly told me that he would schedule it for me, and he did. So I'm sure he just went through one of these tests and pulled out the test papers and says, "Here's your test." And I sat there and I know that I must have made a 90 or above on the test, and he told me that I got a D--, D being passing, and I had a D--. So I told him, I went to him and I told him, I wanted to review that with him. He said, "Well, what about it?" I said, "Dr. Quinn, I thought I had prepared myself real well for this test, and if I prepared myself for it the way I think I did, I'd like to have you go over that paper once more." And he blushed and he stopped right there, but he didn't volunteer that he would do it in my presence, and he didn't. But I got it changed to a D. (Laughter) He erased the two double minuses. And the answer to that was that they said, "Well, on the record it'll be a D anyhow. The minuses won't show." So he changed it to a D. (Laughs)

C: He's the one that they put the alligator in his office.

MS: Yes.

C: And that was the fifties, wasn't it? Were you working here then?

MS: I can't remember whether that was one of the time when I was working on the campus or not, but I remember it very well, when they put the alligator in Dr. Quinn's office.

TS: Oh, yeah. No, I don't think you were working.

C: Speedy Nelson had a bookstore or something like that, he ran that in Old Main?

TS: Yes, he ran the bookstore and his wife also helped him in there. And it was a money making thing in those days. It was just a cubby hole down there where they'd stock all of this and then he ran the bookstore. I tell you one other thing about that Speedy Nelson. We were going on a geology trip and Speedy Nelson and Berte Haigh were head of the geology trip, and it was down in the front of the mountains down there about, oh, maybe 90 or 100 miles east of here up in the mountains. So we had four work crews. There would be four people to a group and there were 16 of us in the group. So what we did was we plotted, we surveyed everything--the levels, the grades, got samples of rocks, fossils and everything. We classified everything. We were there six weeks or two months.

But the story I want to tell you was that the first night that we were there, why, they had several big tents there, and we had our cots. But being in the summertime you could sleep inside or outside. But we had the big tent with these little

pump up lanterns that glow. I've forgotten the name of it. But anyhow, the first night we were there, we got in a poker game, and I won I think about \$25 or \$26 dollars, and I must have had a total of maybe \$5 or \$6 dollars before I got there. So I gave Speedy Nelson \$20 dollars the next morning. I gave it to him and I said, "Now, I want you to keep this until the camp is over, and I'll get it back in El Paso." About three nights later we were in a poker game and I went broke, and I went to Speedy for some money. And Speedy said, "No." He says, "I keep my promise." He said, "You asked me if I would keep this for you until you got back to El Paso. So I'm keeping my promise, I will give it to you in El Paso." I didn't get my \$20 dollars (laughter) until I got back home. But I thought that was a good lesson he was trying to teach me. He was quite a guy.

C: How did the Depression effect the school and El Paso? Was it pretty hard out there?

TS: Well, I think I already mentioned that I had changed my major qualifying me to teach. It was tough, no question about it. There used to be a little place here in town that during that period, and how that fellow did it I don't know, but he sold like a 25 cent breakfast or something, all you could eat for 25 cents. And it was a tough Depression here, and banks going under, a lot of them, you know. But I was living in high cotton.

PAUSE

MS: The first year you were here you were making \$50 dollars.

TS: Oh, the first year I was here, at the end of the spring session, I went to California on a vacation. I went out to visit my brother and sisters out there. Yeah, I had saved enough to go and take a vacation (laughs), at \$50 dollars a month.

MS: Well, everybody was in the same boat and things were so cheap then.

TS: Well, my first job coaching was coaching down at Ysleta, assistant coach down there, and my salary was \$125 dollars a month, and it was one of the best jobs that the graduating seniors got that year. That's right. And there was a fellow that had a drugstore there and he was the banker. You could go to him and leave money with him and he'd enter it on the books. And the schoolteachers, I was coaching there, I think practically all of the faculty banked with him. They'd go there and just give the money and he'd take it to town and of course he'd invest it for interest. But when you wanted money, all you had to do was go to him and say, "I want \$15 dollars," he'd go to the record and he'd deduct \$15 dollars off of it. And if you added to it, why, it'd go up; if you withdrew it, it'd go down.

MS: Wasn't this during the Depression when you would borrow money from Ruth Hooker?

TS: Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's a story also. Well, that's when we were coaching, me and Mike Brumbelow, and we would borrow from

one of these high interest people, [a] loan company, and usually you could only get it for 30 days. That's right. They would charge you like, I guess, around 10 percent interest for 30 days. It was high.

So what we would do is, I'd go borrow, oh, say it's \$50 dollars, and I would give it to this guy and I'd sign a note for it. He would take that and he would pay off his note, see, and then he'd get it renewed again for a little more. The next time it'd be \$60 dollars, you know. So we could always keep it moving. And I would write mine, I was banking with a bank in Denison, Texas, so I would write a check and cash it and get money, and by the time it'd go to Denison and clear, well, I would have mailed a deposit slip in to them, see. But it would usually take it, oh, three to five days to get down there, you know. So, then the next time I'd borrow maybe \$60 dollars. We were catting, that's the name of the game, catting; and finally I think Ruth told us that, "Well, I think you fellows have gone long enough." It was real good business for her and there was about four of us doing it. She said, "You better start reducing it." Tore up our plan. The Depression was tough.

C: What year were you Outstanding Ex?

TS: 1968. It was a highlight.

MS: It came at a nice time because our children were able to participate. And our son, Tad, in '68 was 12 years old, and when we got to the banquet that night they were seated at a reserved table,

and Thad and I were in front. And our son looked around and he got up and went up and said, "Dad, are you prepared for this?" (Laughter) He was really impressed. And Thad is sentimental about school and at the banquet that night he got sentimental at the end of it, and just spontaneously back in the back some of them started singing the school song, and there were more tears.

TS: Well, I'll tell you how that happened. This fellow, Doc Stewart, the first year I was at the old College of Mines, it was the last game of the season and he was retiring from coaching, and so he wanted us to be deadly serious on the day of a ball game. He didn't want us talking, and no levity or anything. So we got in cars and went up to El Paso Country Club, and we all just got out and walked around, you know. No one saying anything, really, just walking and going around. And then we went in and they had some blankets or something, we all had a blanket I think in those days, so we went in and we were lying on the ballroom floor all around in there. And it was about time to get up and go get dressed for the ball game. Well, we dressed out there, and this Doc Stewart came through the ballroom and everybody was lying there, you know, just waiting, attention ready to go get in the ball game. And Doc Stewart came through there and there was a baby grand piano there, and he hit two or three keys, and everybody came to life, you know; but we stayed where we were. He hit two or three more keys. And surely he had arranged the piano where he could get

the most benefit out of it. He hit these keys like this and he sat down and he sort of ran the keys like that, and not a one of us knew he could play a note. And he motioned [for us] to come up, and he said, "Fellows," he said, this is my last game," and he says. . .I get sentimental. . .(laughs)

MS: Every time he thinks about that.

TS: He said, "I would like to play 'The Eyes of Texas' and have you sing it with me." And of course there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd, like now. (Laughter) So, I told that story and of course I cried.

C: Everybody started crying all over again.

MS: And then they started singing it.

TS: Well, then they all stood and sang "The Eyes of Texas." Mary Guinn was there, you know she was an honored Outstanding Ex one year. But she came up and she said, "You know, I wouldn't give two cents for a fellow that wasn't sentimental sometimes." (Laughter) So anyhow, that's the story of that. And we won the ball game, incidentally.

C: I'll bet!

MS: After that inspiration.

TS: Yeah, we won the ball game.

C: Well, I'm going to get out of here. We've talked plenty.

TS: We've used up a lot of your time and tapes.

C: Oh, it's been a pleasure.

TS: Hope you can use part of it.

C: Sure can.