

5-17-1984

Interview no. 695

Tom Chism

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/interviews>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Interview with Tom Chism by Sarah E. John, 1984, "Interview no. 695," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Oral History at ScholarWorks@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Combined Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UTEP. For more information, please contact lweber@utep.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Tom Chism
INTERVIEWER: Sarah E. John
PROJECT: History of the University
DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 16 and 17, 1984
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted
TAPE NO.: 695
TRANSCRIPT NO.: 695

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Came to Texas Western College in 1956 as the Director of the Baptist Student Union and chairman of the Religion Department until 1964; became Director of Student Activities in 1966; has since taken on various titles and positions in administration and is now Director of Special Academic Services.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Biographical data; how he came to Texas Western College; activities as BSU director; faculty and staff he has known; his work on the committee to desegregate El Paso in the late fifties; how he became Director of Student Activities; the designing of the new Union Building; the Lyceum Series; the Film Series; New Student Orientation Program; the International Student Office; recruiting program; Study Skills and Tutorial Service; housing problems; various university personalities; the years of the student revolution; Templeton's administration; commencement; various anecdotes.

Length of interview: 2 hours Length of transcript: 71 pages

Tom Chism
by Sarah E. John
May 16 and 17, 1984

Tape I

J: Before we really get into some of the questions about UTEP,

I wanted to ask you where you were from originally.

C: I grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. I was born in Louisville, Kentucky. I was educated in North Carolina, at least my college. I went to college to a junior college, Mars Hill College in North Carolina. Then my father took sick and I had to go back and went to the University of Louisville for a year or two, but was never happy living at home. So as soon as the situation at home improved itself, then I graduated, I completed my senior year at a small church school, Carson-Newman College, in Jefferson City, Tennessee. And it was there I met my wife. And after I had completed college I thought I wanted to be a minister.

J: Did you study theology?

C: [Yes.] So I finished college and went straight to the seminary. And then upon completion of the seminary there was an opening at UTEP--this was in 1956--to come as BSU [Baptist Student Union] director and chairman of the Religion Department. So I came in 1956, teaching three-quarters time. I taught three courses and chaired the department, and then I worked with the Baptist students. And I was in that capacity for eight years, from 1956 to 1964.

J: And you taught basic religious philosophies?

C: At that time, the curriculum was a little...well, I think it's the same curriculum. We've expanded and become more sophisticated, maybe. But the courses essentially were Old Testament, New Testament, and then I enjoyed the Life of

Paul, which was specialized. We taught a course in Prophe-
tic Literature. And the courses I enjoyed was courses on
the various religions, World Religions. And so I would
teach three classes every semester.

At that time, there was a member of the Church of
Christ, they would have a representative who was teaching,
but I can't recall his name. And then Father Andrew Burke,
somewhere you'll come across or hear about him because he's
played such a significant role, and he taught. Then of
the dear friends, I don't think he taught religion per se
but he was teaching Philosophy, was Rabbi Fierman. And we
were all just bosom buddies and very, very close friends,
particularly Andrew Burke and Rabbi Fierman. So I just
had a marvelous time.

I was paid by the church, which meant that I had an
interesting position just like the campus ministers
have here. I was looked upon as faculty and had all rights
and privileges, but my salary came from the church.

J: I guess it had its advantages and disadvantages.

C: And disadvantages, that's right, that's right. But I felt
very much a part of the campus, and I was interviewed by the
president. And if I remember correctly, when I was inter-
viewed in 1956, I think this is correct, it was one of the
last interviews in the President's office in the library.
That's before we came to this building.

J: It was still the Administration Building at that time.

- C: Yeah. Dr. Holcomb became president, and I can't remember whether Dr. Wiggins, who was the man going out, actually interviewed me, or Dr. Holcomb. I remember Holcomb as being the first man I really worked with, but I just literally can't remember whether it was Wiggins or Holcomb with whom I talked the first time. I remember going over to the library, I know that most people can't remember that.
- J: So, just about in '56 is when this particular building, the present Administration, was built.
- C: [Yes.]
- J: You said that you were teaching three-quarter time in the Religion Department, and that you were also the youth activities director, is that correct?
- C: Well, Baptist Student Union director. We had our building. At that time it was located in the general area where the Education Building is located. When I chose to leave, that area was condemned and purchased by the University, but it was right there by the Education Building. And I remember there were two sorority houses in that area that were right close to the street, and we were behind them. [There were] the three buildings.
- J: So really that wasn't part of the university property at that point?
- C: No, it was privately owned. And Chi Omega and Tri Delta [had houses there], and then we were in the back, behind the two sororities.

J: What activities did the Baptist Student Union participate in when you were director?

C: Well, of course, teaching at that time was one of the major activities, but we would have devotional programs and vesper programs. And I did a lot of personal counselling, premarital counselling. We had recreational, we had ping pong, we had shuffleboard and things like that. I do remember I think outside of maybe the President's office we were the only air conditioned classroom on the campus. And during the summer, particularly, I would have a lot of my friends, Joe Leach and some others, would ask if they could borrow a classroom to teach when I wasn't teaching. And they would come over and I would allow some of the professors to come over and teach their classes. It was not refrigerated, it was an evaporative cooler, but at least it was better because these buildings were not air conditioned.

J: Very lucky for you.

C: So we were real lucky. It was a beautiful building. It was one of the, I guess, nicer buildings of classrooms. It was carpeted and had lounges.

J: Had it been a home?

C: No, it was built. In fact, I think it was the first Baptist Student Union built in the state of Texas. The building originally was built sometime in the early forties, but it was a lovely building. Then, of course, it was condemned and the school took over the building and assumed administration of it.

And then the big issue after I left [was] to relocate it. We bought some property down on Schuster, and that later was purchased by the University, and they temporarily resided in what is now the Methodist Student Center, which is right across from the News Bureau. And I had the joy of helping plan that building. The Methodist lay people would come and meet in my building, and I would meet with them, and we designed that building and planned it. They would have luncheons occasionally. So we planned that. Paradoxically, we were meeting with them.

And then later the Baptist people decided that they definitely wanted property, and they, where they are located now, bought a home, which was torn down and where they have their local facilities.

J: How large was the group of students that you directed? What was the largest group that you ever had in those eight years that you were directing the Baptist Student Union?

C: Let me just say, in terms of what you might call the devotional or the worship or the vesper programs, we would run 20 to not over fifty. I would say 30 or 35 would be the kids that would really come. We used to have morning watch before school started. Two or three times a week the students would come in, and one of them would lead a short devotional and there'd be some singing. And once or twice a week or maybe once a week we would have a larger vesper prayer. That would probably have more students. I would imagine that there were probably about 100 youngsters

that you had contact with on a regular basis.

J: That's quite a big number, actually, for those years.

C: Yeah, because if I remember correctly, we were somewhere around 3,000 students.

J: Yeah. So that's quite a few.

C: And to me one of the most beautiful things about that time was that we knew almost every student by name. Not literally, but generally we knew practically every student and you knew every faculty and staff person. The faculty lounge that I used to enjoy so much was located where the Dean of Students' office is located right now in the Union, in the old cafeteria. The Union cafeteria was located where Placement and where Counselling are located, that area. We used to have a lot of good times there. There was not a lot there, there was just a couple of big tables that we could sit around. But we really got to know everyone.

J: I've heard from some of the other interviews that we've had from faculty members that there was this very close-knit environment.

C: That's where I got to know Ralph Coleman, Francis Fugate, and Louise Resley, Oscar McMahan. These were people who kind of mothered and fathered me. I was just a young buck fresh out of graduate school who had never even conceived really of coming on a college campus. The job was simply offered to me and I took it. And they took me and they loved me and cared for me and they defended me and advised me. That's why

I have such deep commitment and appreciation of these people. It hurts me as these people retire and leave. I've been here. . . I was away for two years for graduate school, but for all practical purposes I'm beginning my 28th year this year. Next month it'll be 28 years. That's a long time. Me, I'm 55, and I don't think of myself as being that old. It seems like it was just five or 10 years ago that I came.

J: But your whole life has really been spent here.

C: That's right. Half of it.

J: Are there any events that stand out in your mind, for example from the time you were with the Baptist Student Union, particular students or events that you can recall?

C: Yeah. And I say this was a real sense of pride. A year or two after I came, and I don't remember the exact year-- it was somewhere I think between 1958 and 1960--Ralph Lowenstein, who taught in Radio and Broadcasting or Journalism. . . I remember Ralph came to us from the University of Missouri. And then Rabbi Fierman came to me and asked me to join the committee of 13 to desegregate the city. Al Schwartz called me the other day, and he was on that committee. That took place somewhere between I think 1958 and 1961, somewhere around that time. And I remember how frightened we all kind of were because, one, we were teaching here at the University and didn't want to tie in the University, and that was a highly controversial matter. But I was deeply impressed that my colleagues came and asked me to be a part of that.

That was a threat to me as a Baptist and as a minister, too, because the Baptist church was probably the most closed church toward integration of any of the Protestant [denominations].

But I chose to do that. And I give the University credit in the sense that it was a colleague who came and asked me, and there were three of us who were teaching at the University who were very active on what I call the Committee of 13. We [met] for about two years, working and writing legislation and working with the city. And I remember I called on some of the theater managers personally. I was scared when I called on them. I think the Sheraton Hotel was where the Executive is. I think it was called Sheraton at that time. And I went in scared spitless--just me--and talked to the manager and had to threaten them with a lawsuit and let them know, ask them if they would do it willfully. If not, then we were writing the legislation [to make them do it by law].

And then probably one of the most devastating and frightening experiences I ever had was that I met with the YMCA. The last bastion of anti-integration was the YMCA.

J: That is amazing to me to even comprehend that.

C: And within my own fellowship in the Baptist Church, the church that I attended, the minister of education threatened to burn a cross on my front yard. And, you know, I really didn't take all that much abuse, but from a relative standpoint, it was pretty scary.

J: Well, this person who was in your church, was he a member of the KKK, or was this just an expression of his opinion?

C: No. I think if we'd have had an active one here, he might have been. He was just so radical, he was just so radical.

Now, integration had happened on the campus I think in 1954, and I came in '56. And I remember we would make. . . you asked me about student groups. Some of the interesting things that happened, Baptists, black folk, a large percentage of them, they're Baptists or Methodists. Or we say, the joke is, we've tinkered with them, or someone has tinkered with them. And I think that's pretty much true as a rule. It certainly was then, I assume it's true today, that black people generally come out of the conservative Baptist religious tradition, certainly in the South.

But I can remember we had, as we began to have black athletes play football and basketball, most of them would be Baptists and we would try to integrate them into our program. And the student attitude here was beautiful. I don't know that I ever had students who were anti-black. But I can remember as we would make trips--as we would try to go to some of the conferences in Dallas or Houston or Ft. Worth--that we would always have two or three black students, one, I would have to always negotiate with the bus company. They didn't particularly care for that, because black people either went to the back of the bus or they didn't ride the bus. But the second problem that we had was stopping at restaurants and

restrooms. And I can remember the first few years as we took Black students that I would have to have a conference with all of the students, and we would pack sack lunches and the bus would stop on the road so that we could eat. But the girls and boys would have to go out into the boon-docks to use the restroom.

J: That's not that long ago, you know?

C: No, no. No--that was in my lifetime. And we did that until, I don't know, probably into the sixties. Well, it was when the Civil Rights legislation was passed that we didn't have to do that. But for the first few years that I was here it was a real problem, it was a real problem.

But the students accepted graciously and it was really a godsend to us because we identified with what the black people experienced. And I'm proud of this school because, again, Texas Western at that time was the first school to desegregate, the first public institution in the state of Texas, and we became the first city to write an ordinance.

J: You had mentioned that you were a little bit wary about meeting with the YMCA. Did you have any particular problem once you did go?

C: Well, they drag their feet until finally our lawyers, I don't remember the whole story, but they were forced into it. It was not a willful. . . But remember, the church, the church did not do it willfully. The church--my church and possibly your church--the church was one of the last institutions to come out

for integration. We should have been the leader, but we were the ones that drag our feet to the very end.

J: And no problems within your church? They didn't ostracize you on an official basis, let's say, or in an official way?

C: No. Interestingly enough, my church--the First Baptist Church is where I was active--the minister, Dr. Ford at that time, I think he knew in his heart he didn't have the courage to take great leadership, but he respected me. I was in a position, I really didn't have any choice, in one sense, but also my Christian conscience or my moral conscience caused me to want to do it. And I wasn't being a hero. I was scared.
(Chuckles)

J: I can imagine. Actually, that is being a hero.

C: I really think the church stood with me generally. There may have been some individuals and there were some [who opposed it]. But generally the minister there stood with me and people stood with me. People who were my friends may not have agreed with me always, but they [stood with me].

But that was an interesting experience. [As] I look back, that's one of the highlights for me, having come to the university. The university wasn't fully responsible for that experience, but it was because I was a part of the university and the colleagues here who invited me to be a part of it.

J: Can you remember any of the people on the committee? For example, from the community you mentioned Albert Schwartz.

C: Well, there was Orbalee Malone and Billie Fuller--that's Dr. Fuller's wife, who teaches History. There was a Mrs. Washinton, I think she's still alive, a very prominent black woman. That's about as many of those people as I could remember.

But Al Schwartz called me recently. I don't know whether he or someone from the Jewish League or somebody was writing a book on it, and we were trying to remember who made up the committee. At the time, you know, I don't look back, again, that it was any. . .it certainly is a meaningful experience for me, but it's the kind of thing you did, and I've just forgotten about it. Unless I'm talking to someone like you, I don't particularly make reference to it. But I'm very proud that I could be a part of that. That may be one of the most significant experiences I've had , and I'm proud that our city was able to. And that makes me proud to be an El Pasoan.

J: Well, let's see, you stayed with the Baptist Student Union until about 1964, and then you went from there. You stayed on campus.

C: Yes, I stayed here. And then I left here and went for one year as the ecumenical campus minister at Texas Tech. And while I was at Texas Tech, that was kind of a period of transition. I thoroughly loved the university and I was going through a self-discovery or self-examination, what did I really want to do. In the Baptist tradition, when I made my

commitment to ministry, about the only thing that you could do as a youngster to be a dedicated or committed person was to surrender to ministry of missions. And I'm not so sure that the commitment I made was the appropriate commitment of being a minister, because it seems like with God, who was at work in my life, that his leadership to come here-- that was the first real job I had after I finished the seminary--was that my call or my talent or my gift must have been higher education. And so I began to feel like I didn't want the parish ministry--the preaching, the marrying, the burying. That was not going to really _____. And then the last two or three years I was here, I really enjoyed administration.

[So] I went and had a long visit with Dr. Ray, who was then the president; Milton Leech, who is just retiring; and visited with them a little bit about what it would take. My B.D. degree from the seminary was a secular degree that at that time, and even now, was not looked upon with much respect. It was a three-year post graduate degree, 102 or 106 hours in Theology, but it was not a respected degree. It qualified me to teach here, but that's about all it did. So I began to struggle, "Well, I need to go back to school and get a secular degree, at least a Master's." And so there was this period that I felt like I needed a change, and I went to Texas Tech. And while I was teaching. . . I was the ecumenical campus minister, I worked with about six or seven churches, and then taught in

the [Religion Department]. [I] was doing the very same [thing]. I was not chairman of the Religion Department, but I taught at Texas Tech. And while I was there I was asked to come to a small Disciples of Christ, a Christian church school in Oklahoma, where I could serve as Chaplain and go to the graduate school full-time--full salary and full school. And it was just another godsend that worked for me. And I left and went to Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, as Chaplain, and began a doctoral program in Counselling and Guidance.

And to make a long story short, I was there one year when Joe Ray, through Jimmy Walker, who had just been appointed Dean of Students, contacted me and offered me a marvelous opportunity to come back full-time as Director of Student Activities. We had missed El Paso, and here was my first real opportunity to kind of come back to my security blanket, because I'd been here eight years. And I love Joe Ray and I love Milton Leech, and I was very close to Jimmy Walker. Jimmy had been a coach and had become a very good friend of mine. Jimmy was finishing his doctorate at Oklahoma State University and I was about to finish my Master's in Counselling and Guidance. [Pause]

J: Joseph Ray had offered you the opportunity to come back.

C: And I was at the point of almost completing my Master's degree.

So what I did, I terminated my doctoral program and I finished up my Master's and came back here. And my Master's in Counselling

and Guidance then allowed me the opportunity to move on and to do what I wanted to. I don't expect I'll go back and do any more graduate work because I have my three years. I've really been to college twice. I had the equivalent of a doctorate, really, I just don't have it, and I'm not sure of what I want to do--although I might someday. But I came back as Director of Student Activities.

J: What did that involve?

C: Okay now, that was a catch-all.

J: Was that a new position, or had there already been a Director of Student Activities?

C: No, no. A gentleman by the name of Joe Stewart carried that position. I guess it was a position at least that was three or four years old. If I can remember, when I came back, I was Director of the Union, I was Director of Intramurals, I was Director of Foreign Students, I was Director of what is now the SPO Student Programs Office. I did all of that. In other words, the big name entertainment, the dances, the films--everything was related. And for about five years I did all that.

The first big challenge I had when I came back was, we had to design. . .we were in the old Union and Jimmy Walker and I spent two years, I think, visiting campuses and helping the architect design the Union, the addition. We did the addition, and then two years ago we did an addition to the addition. And so that was my first big job.

J: What year did you start in that position?

C: I left in '64, taught one year at Tech, one year at Phillips, and came back September 1, 1966. And in that position I take real pride, because it was while we were in that position that there was a lot of things happening. For one, we were able to convince the President, and Vice President, and Business Office that we needed a Director of the Union, because we moved into the new Union. And Jimmy Walker hired Jack Baker, who was the first director of the Union. And Jack came in and did a fine job of setting up the good organization and management part of the Union for food services and for the custodial services.

The thing that scares me, I had all of that. You can imagine. And I can remember arguments back in the first year or two that I had. Well, you know, they moved to this big, new addition to the Union. "Well, Chism can handle that. We don't have to hire anybody." And here I'm horrified to think that I did all of that at one time, you know.

J: It makes you wonder, "How did I do that?"

C: But I guess you don't know any different, so you just do it.

And then in the student activities I take real pride, because one of the things we did very quickly. . .and Milton helped me get the first monies for the Lyceum. We began the Lyceum,

J: Was that his idea or your ideas together?

C: I think all of us put together. But there had been a kind of

faculty Lyceum program where occasionally the president's office or somewhere--the Faculty Trust Fund, the Cotton Trust Fund--monies would be found and a speaker would be brought on campus, but nothing really coordinated. And I remember Jimmy Walker and Milton and I met and we formulated the Lyceum Committee of faculty and a couple of students. And we then set aside five or ten thousand dollars, which was a large sum at that time, and we brought in some of the top speakers. We have had. . .gosh, I go back and I remember Bishop Pike, [who] died some years ago; the president who was fired at UCLA, this was back in the student revolution, he was one of the guest speakers. We brought in the lady that Mrs. Roosevelt _____, the black woman who _____, Marian Anderson. But we really brought in some of the great, great spokespersons in the country. And we would plan it and it was a big splash. But that [was the beginning].

The Film Series, we began that. They had a film series of showing just kind of Disney, just fun things. But I'm committed to higher education, and I'm committed that extra-curricular activities should really be co-curricular. I don't think of myself as a non-academic person, I think of myself as an educator. I'm not in the classroom but somehow I'm either supporting higher learning or indirectly teaching. And so we took the Film Series. And I remember Jim Wood, Dr. Wood, met with me (he and Nancy had just come on with us), and he helped me and we established our free film series, which they're

showing good [films]. And when we developed the [Union] Theatre we developed it for the Film Series so that we could have a good projector and that type of thing.

The new Student Orientation Program, we would have just a gathering of hundreds or thousands [of students trying to register].

[PAUSE]

So we spent about two years researching that and established a very significant New Student Orientation Program.

J: When did that finally come about?

C: That came about probably about '68-'69, no later than '70.

J: I started here in 1970 and I remember going through the three days.

C: It was a three-day program. And see, the attrition rate had been something like 35 to 40 percent or higher of freshman who would just come, they'd drop out in the middle of their freshman year. And we found that the students who would come on this three-day program and they'd have to live in the dorm. . . did you have to?

J: Yes, that's why I remember it so well.

C: Okay. Well, I'm glad you can identify with that. Well, our attrition rate was three and a half percent. And I still believe in that program.

J: That was, in a couple of years, a big turn around.

C: I still believe in that program. The student revolution hit us and some of the minority groups began to question, because

[we] were forcing [them and] they couldn't afford it.

A lot of politics _____. But for the two or three years that we carried on that program, I think maybe one of the most significant contributions that we ever made to the University was the fact that we took the students and they were part of it. We had trained the leaders in sensitivity, because we were doing a lot of sensitivity.

J: I remember that.

C: And we found that, really, three and a half percent of the students who went through orientation dropped out of school. Only about 50 percent of the freshman completed it because we couldn't demand it, it was voluntary, and it was more expensive. But if I had my way, that program would be re-initiated. Now, we do this in the honors orientation, which I'm a part of, and we still continue some of that because we do require the students stay two nights. But those were some of the very exciting things that we did.

J: When you wanted to start that orientation project, did you also go to other universities to see how it was done?

C: [Yes,] Just like Jimmy and I visited the LSU, the Union here is pretty much a projection of the Louisiana State University building. You know, the lounges, there's so many lounges, and the openness. We developed that from [LSU].

No, we visited. I remember I went to San Marcos, I remember a trip I made down there. I went down and visited with people at U.T. Austin. That was pretty much my assignment.

I would come back and report. And then at that time Jimmy Walker and Larry Hamilton, I think Louise Resley, and I made up the New Student Orientation Committee. And I would make my report and together we would pretty much come to a decision on what we wanted to do.

The foreign student program, that one just developed so fast. If I'm not mistaken, my predecessor, Joe Stewart I'm not sure he worked with foreign students. That may be a program that was kind of just sort of given to me because I had an interest and maybe a little bit of experience. No, I know why, I know why. Because at Enid, as Chaplain, that was part of my work, with foreign students at Phillips University, the year I was in Oklahoma.

J: So you did have experience,

C: So I did have a year's experience with it. But that grew so quickly, it was just dominating every other thing.

J: What was the push to get you to try to form the International Student Office itself? I mean what were the problems or needs?

C: Well, there were so many foreign students and we began to realize somebody needed to care for them. I think up to that time the Dean of Student's office had kind of taken care of them. And Jimmy Walker came in fresh from a Ph.D., or his doctoral program, in Student Affairs. And it was just part of the new concept and some new programs that we all kind of wanted to initiate, I think it was just kind of a natural. I had the background, he had the interest as Dean of Students, we just did it.

Then I remember it became such a problem I just couldn't handle it that Ann Claudius was hired at that time. I turned all that over to her, and she served in that capacity. Then there was [another] lady that came in, and then Gori Bruno. But it just got so large I had to turn it [over], I just couldn't keep it up.

J: What nationality of students made up the largest portion, do you think, of the foreign students in those years?

C: Oh, I think always the Mexican nationals.

J: And aside from them?

C: Second would either be the Chinese or the Middle East student.

J: Which we still have.

C: I think the personality or profile would be pretty much the same.

J: Are there any particular problems that you can recall with that office, or again any events or personalities that stand out in your mind?

C: Yeah. I remember in some of our dances and some of the social programs that we had, at that time there was a real tension between the Mexican student and the Middle East [or] Arabic student, and it pretty much centered over the girls. The Arabic students came out of a situation where they didn't touch women or stayed away from women, and when they came to the United States and were kind of free, I guess, having been not associated with women, they sort of overdid it. And I think the Mexican student was afraid, and this did happen on occasion, that they would impregnate them. But we even had some fights.

J: On the part of the male students themselves.

C: [Yes.] Then I remember sometime during that, it was the first

Middle East War, 1966 or '68 or '67, or whenever it was. And then I remember I had to call the Arabic students and Jewish students, the leaders together. Jimmy Walker and I threatened to... 'cause they would get in fights.

J: I recall that there was a lot of protesting.

C: That was when you were on campus possibly. And that pretty much did away with the social aspect. We used to have some talent shows and used to have some dances, and we tried to promote some socialization. And we pretty much had to stop some of that because the competition became too strong. Then, bless her heart, Ann Claudius came in and took over and I don't particularly know what direction it took. I remember those were pretty touchy days. I remember Jimmy Walker and I calling the leader of the Jewish group and the leader of the Arabic group together. And at that time we had the authority to put them off campus. And we said, "You keep this up and we'll just put you out of school."

J: What was their attitude? Did they have any answers?

C: Well, most of them cooperated. Oh, they argued with us, but they pretty much cooperated.

Somewhere during that period, too, we built the buildings. I'm talking about the buildings, the residence halls, Barry and Kelly Hall. It was paradoxical. I had just spent five years as the Director of Student Activities, but we were working and studying the housing shortage. And then the student revolution hit us in the late sixties and early seventies. About the time we opened Barry and Kelly Hall, that's when students didn't want to live on campus. The buildings _____ bankruptcy.

J: Now before that time though, there had been planning and you felt you needed that many rooms and so forth.

C: Oh, yes. And of course the tragedy, the going thing back in the late sixties [and] early seventies, were to build these high rise, the big monstrosities. They're the worst thing you could do. And we've learned that the hard way here, because when you open the building, you open 10 floors or seven floors. And the control and security is just terrible. It would have been better to build more buildings like Bell Hall or Hudspeth Hall.

J: A couple of floors.

C: Yeah. You can control them. And then if you open a building or if you keep students over the holidays or something like that, you don't [have] this terrible expense of having the air conditioner on on 10 floors. We learned the hard way, and I realized that the five years I [was] in charge of the dorms [].

J: Now, how long were you Director of Student Activities?

C: '66 probably until about 1970. And somewhere about that time, along about 1970, this is now somewhere near the end of the tenure of Joe Ray and Milton Leech, I was asked. . . This is a real interesting thing, I began the recruiting program. And I don't know the exact date. I can't give you the exact date.

Clarence Cervenka was the Registrar, and for some reason, Clarence, who is dead now, was out of sorts for some reason with the local high schools and the high schools away from the El Paso district. He was the Registrar and Director of Admissions. And I remember Jimmy Walker called me one day, and we began to

experience a decline in enrollment. This was somewhere near the late sixties and early seventies. What we have just experienced in the last year or two occurred about 10 years previous. And they were trying to figure who could do it, and of course I was always the good guy-- or the bad guy, I don't know which. And somewhere, Joe Ray or Milton Leech [or] Jimmy Walker, said, "Well, old Chism will do it." So I was asked to begin the first really recruiting program for the University. I would make eight or 10 weeks of trips. We would try to pinpoint the areas where we had students. We didn't go to New Mexico particularly, but I would go to Dallas and I'd go to Ft. Worth and I'd go to Houston, I would go to the Amarillo area, I would go to the Midland-Odessa area. And I began to [recruit] students for the University. Clarence had had such a poor public relations [record]. And I did that for I don't know how many years. See, I was able to give up the Union, we hired Jack Baker. I was able to give up foreign students. So that freed me to kind of do some other things. And once we got the film series and Lyceum series and some of the other activities, and then again the early seventies, about the time the student revolutions started, the dances, you know, the kids quit socializing, the kids pretty much left the campus, and so I began recruiting, and we worked with this.

And then somewhere, I don't know what year, it was before Dr. Templeton came here, we established, I think the new title

is Director of Freshman Services. This was [when] Jimmy Walker was still Dean of Students, probably the last year, because he was terminated before Templeton came. And that was a program that I was able to _____ something and I was really able to do just what I really wanted to do. That included recruiting. I was working with high school students, and we contacted them from high school all the way through their freshman year. We handled all of the orientation. And then about that time, I took over the scholarship program.

And so the feeling was that we had a holistic approach. We would work with the students and we would meet in high school and stay in contact with them and facilitate their admission and financial aid. We would see that they were appropriately oriented and adequately advised. And then we established a freshman caucus. I remember I hired a graduate assistant, and we would provide peer counselling and support services for freshman to try to keep the attrition rate as low as possible.

- J: We're so used to having those kinds of things now on campus, and it's not that long ago when you think about it that we didn't have them.
- C: Well, we became a model program, and really, campuses were beginning to contact me [from] all over. Well, the tragic story of that is, Dr. Templeton came, and Pow! He was anti-student service everything. And boy, that was just down the drain within

six months or a year after he arrived, because he could care less about these things. Jimmy Walker, of course, had been fired; he was gone. Milton Leech had been fired and he was gone. Joe Ray had resigned. Dr. Smiley probably was the president, Dr. Smiley came back the second time. But the real change, Jimmy Walker was fired and Milton Leech was fired, right before Templeton came.

J: Well, this shows that you have to have someone in the president's capacity that really is supportive of all of these kinds of things.

C: Oh, yes. And two of the dearest friends I have are really Joe Ray. . . I met Joe and Jetty while he was president. I came from Louisville, Kentucky and I had a friend who I went to high school with who became an assistant to the governor, and I got Joe Ray his colonelship. He's Col. Ray, he's a Kentucky colonel.

J: I'll have to tell him that next time I talk with him.

C: Yeah, ask him. Tell him you talked to Col. Chism. We call each other colonel.

J: Well, he's from around there somewhere.

C: He's from Kentucky. He was born in Kentucky.

J: He was, but I can't remember where.

C: But we call each other colonel, and I love Joe. And Milton Leech has always been very dear. And I was so glad because I'm in charge of _____ that I was able to be a part of the _____. Together we decided to

ask him to be grand marshall. And then Joe Smiley _____.
Joe Smiley helped us get _____ Chaves here
to receive the Academic Achievement Award. Ever since
[Joe's] wife died [he has] really _____.
He's slowly coming back. These are dear friends of mine and
I love them.

J: Well, you're starting now to talk a little about personalities,
so if we can stay in that vein from let's say the first few
years you came on campus, you've already mentioned some, but
who are the people that really stand out in your mind, if
you could tell us a little bit about them and maybe something
that would give us their character or the flavor of what they've
done with the University.

C: Before we get to that, let me add one other thing that I'm
terribly proud of, the Study Skills and Tutorial Program.
That program came out of the Freshman Services Program. When
we had established the freshman office and I went to two or
three conferences and I worked with freshmen and freshman
orientation, the concept of study skills [would] come up,
I never had heard of it. And being an ex-minister. . . I
don't like to say "ex." Trained for the ministry.

J: I don't think you could be an ex-minister. (Laughs)

C: I think I minister every day. I don't like that term because
I didn't give up my faith or my religion or my church involvement.
I think Providence has been _____. In faith affir-
mation, I would say God has been really good to me.

J: Well, it seems like it, because every time you have thought about doing something it seems that something has helped you get to where you wanted to go.

C: I would affirm that for me in faith. Some people wouldn't understand that, they wouldn't agree with it, that's fine.

But Nancy Wood walked in my office one day. I didn't know Nancy Wood. Well, I did, because I had worked with her husband, Jim. But I didn't know Nancy except that she was the wife of Jim. Nancy had just finished her work at Cornell, had just written or was in the process of writing a book on Study Skills, and she had been working with the Upward Bound Program and I think they were phasing that program out or something. And Nancy kind of was looking for some part-time work, and I was trying to figure out, "How can I provide support for these students? We've got this freshman office, how can I provide study skills?" Nancy came in, and lo and behold we just. . .there we were, here she was. I remember I went to Ray Small, who was then Dean of Liberal Arts, and I said, "Ray, I need help. I've got a woman, she's trained, she's _____." And somewhere we found money for half-time for Nancy Wood to begin teaching study skills where the students voluntarily signed up for it.

Well, Templeton comes aboard, and so he goes down soon after he assumed the presidency and browbeats the legislature and comes home one day, I guess the first _____ graduated from this school. He's got \$60,000 bucks that he

talked them out of for "poor little Chicanos," to hear him talk. He didn't [mean it], it was all politics. But anyway, he's got all this money for support services [and] doesn't know what in the world to do with it. He called me over. "What in the Blankety-blank am I going to do with it?" So then the thought comes to me, "There it is." And that's where the Study Skills [began]. I said, "I've got the [perfect answer], Dr. Templeton. Nancy Wood." And he didn't particularly care for women, and that was really interesting. He was kind of agin' women. [And] he didn't particularly like working with Nancy because she was a very confident and very aggressive person. And to make a long story short, the whole Study Skills and Tutorial program came about.

Well, somewhere in that period housing got into a terrible crisis. I was called onto his office. I'll never forget, it was over Good Friday. I left the office and I went home, was cutting the grass when [someone] called me at the house and said, "Dr. Templeton wants to see you at 8 o'clock Monday morning." He and I didn't get along, I was scared. It was the first time I was ever called, and [he] just cussed me out. Boy, I mean he was cussing me. And I thought I was fired. But to make a long story short, he called me in and said, "You are the new director of Housing, and I want you to fire these people." And that's another story that we'll get into some other time.

But I did want to tell you , because I'm terribly proud. Nancy Wood deserved all the credit for really developing it. But I have a real sense of joy that I was a part of it.

J: Yes. And as I said before, all these services that you've mentioned I'm so used to having on the campus that I can't even imagine them not being here at one time. And they have been a very, very big help to the students, I know.

C: And that's how all of that got started. Well, when I had to take up housing, I had to give up freshman services and orientation. I had to give up recruiting, sent recruiting over to the Admissions Office. And then I had to give up scholarships, because housing became such a problem.

J: And was it basically stemming from the fact of the money, they were going into bankruptcy?

C: Well, when I went over, there were just a couple hundred kids living there . It can house 752 students, I think. It wasn't really in bankruptcy but it was in such bad shape. And then they had lost the adult and professional staff, there was no adults living over there, the students had taken over. There was prostitution, there was dope, there was everything in the world. And I had to go in and clean it up. The athletes had destroyed the 10th floor completely. With Hal St. Clair, the then Business Manager and Vice President, we spent, I'm sure, a quarter of a million dollars just cleaning it up, I mean just restored furnishings and toilets and carpeting.

And the tragedy was that it was only about three or four years old when it had been destroyed, because it had not been cared for. And that was an area Dr. Templeton didn't care a thing about. And the director had left. The state auditors came in and he was audited.

Well, let's go back to personalities.

- J: Now, you have mentioned a few people and what they have done for you on a personal level and so forth, but if you can just mention a few of the outstanding people that you can recall, since it's almost thirty years now, and a little bit about them as far as their personality and a little bit about maybe what they have done for the University, that would be nice. Or if you want to bring in a personal light on this, that's fine, too.
- C: Well, one of the persons I haven't talked about, when I came, he's a Baptist and he was so supportive, had to be Wade Hart-rick.
- J: I didn't know him personally, but he taught in Business, is that correct?
- C: He taught in Business.
- J: And he was also Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts for a while, I think.
- C: But when I came, he was Chairman of the Business Department. But then he and Dr. Holcomb had a problem and I remember his removal from the chairperson, and then taught business. And then for years he did serve as assistant to Dr. Small, Assistant

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. But he's one of these strong, good people. He's of the old school. Thank God for that. I wish we had more [like him]. I'll be sorry when these people have come and gone. But Wade has always been a fond friend and supportive. I don't know what I can say. He's still caring and loving and doing for this institution. He's very active in the Heritage Commission. There's not a person on campus who deserves any more credit for loyalty and faithfulness, and just genuine good. I could tell you, the students, I would have students that would run out of money or something, have a financial crisis. My salary was such, I couldn't do it, I had two children. But I could always go to Dr. Hartrick, and we would sit down and [he would lend them the money].

Another person is Oscar McMahan. Oscar was a Methodist lay person. He was always involved in building, he was chairman of the Building Committee for several years at this institution. And he taught Business. He just was one of these people that was always there, always in the Faculty Lounge, always my friend--just a role model [for me].

Another one, interestingly enough, he at that time, in terms of personalities, was Tom Barnes. When I came in 1956, Schellenger Research Lab, they were so much a part of the aerospace [program]. They were doing so many things, they were shooting rockets into the sky. And probably you don't remember, but in 1956 Schellenger Research Lab was the greatest

research laboratory possibly in the world. Tom was a good friend. Later he began to question _____. He became very active in the creationist society, and I did not go that route. But certainly he was one of the great, great professors we had on campus, and I had a great respect for him. He was a very spiritual person.

Another person that I enjoyed, he was such a character, was Haldeen Braddy. He was just, I don't know how to say it, he was just such a character. He wore such funny hats that would flip-flop as he'd walk on the campus. He would disappear sometimes and we'd all be looking for him. And he would go over to Juárez and do some research, I think with prostitutes, and he was always into something interesting. But he was a character.

J: No wonder he was hard to find. He was probably where other people wouldn't have been.

C: Yeah, and I never knew if he was straight or what. But I had to respect him. And of course, if I'm not mistaken, he was a strong historian. I think Shakespeare was his field.

J: And then later he got into the border thing, the Mexican Revolution and Villa and so forth.

C: But he was always such an interesting person.

One of the dear friends, and he's still here, that I love almost like a brother, because he's not that much older than me, is Joe Leach. I remember I shared when Joe was courting Dorothy, his wife. We were so close then, and we

still are. I guess Joe Leach is probably as close to me as a brother, and yet we're not together that much. But there are just vibes between the two of us that when we're together, we're really together. I have such respect for him.

Another personality that has meant a lot to me and [I have] so much respect for on campus is Wayne Fuller. Wayne and Billie, Mrs. Fuller, she is just as talented as he is. But Wayne has been great. He's always been a friend and [has] offered me encouragement. [I could discuss] my problems with him. He's just kind of always there. If I had anything I wanted to talk to someone about, [I could go to Wayne].

J: Is his wife also in academics?

C: She's been a very active citizen, very active in. . . I want to say Junior League, with an organization similar to that in the community.

Another person that I still maintain a good relationship with is Rex Strickland. Dr. Strickland taught History. And when I was completing my Master's, I had to have three hours of American History. And one of the joys for me was that I had to go over, and here I was an administrator, professional person on campus, and sit with freshman and take a freshman history. I had to have three hours of American History. And I went over and took that course under Rex Strickland and loved every minute of it. In fact it was one of the last years he

taught. Recently he has had a very serious illness and has been in the hospital. His wife is just as nice as she can be. He's 86 or something, and she's about 84 and still going strong.

Then there was another personality that I always enjoyed who is dead now. Did you ever know Tony Berkman, Dr. Berkman?

J: No, not personally, but I've heard so much about him I feel like I should have known him.

C: Well, he was. . . of course, I came out of seminary and I was just as straight and religious and moral and pious as a young preacher boy could be. And anybody who knew Dr. Berkman, he was the letter of the law. He might occasionally take a social drink, but you better not be caught with alcohol on your breath or drinking on campus. I remember Dr. Berkman lived in one of the dormitories, he lived on campus. And he was kind of Mr. Everything, I don't know what he did. I think he was Acting President. But he was straight and hard and strict. But he'd always be frank with you, and I loved him. And I remember when he retired and we were trying to build the Heritage Commission, which I worked with, Dr. Larry Nickey _____. Dr. Berkman was a biologist, and he was a pre-med advisor. Most of the physicians, 40 or older, who came to this campus, contribute their careers to Dr. Berkman .

J: Yes, I've heard that. They say that if it hadn't been for Dr. Berkman, they wouldn't have gotten through medical school.

- C: But you see, the beautiful thing, these men took me. . . and women.
- J: Well, you mentioned Louise Resley.
- C: Louise Resley. Let me go back to some women. Mary Quinn, one of the delights I had was seeing her receive her Emerita status. She deserved it many years ago. But Mary Quinn, she taught Sociology, and Dr. Quinn, her husband, they just were so good. She would just love me and support me. They had a large home and had two or three apartments, and some of my students stayed here. And she would always call me because I could get kids to behave themselves. And she would love and care for them. And through the years many students stayed there. It was such a joy for me two or three weeks ago to reacquaint myself with her--I'd really lost contact with her--and to have her on stage, and to hug her and to visit her, and she wrote me the sweetest note.
- J: That's really wonderful that you had such a good relationship with the other administrators and faculty.

May 17, 1984
Tape II

- J: We had been talking yesterday a little bit about personalities, and you just started touching on some of the women that were on campus, and I was hoping you would talk a little bit more about Louise Resley, if you could tell us a little bit about her.

C: The first memory I have of Louise, she was teaching Math, I remember she was a Math teacher, and she was either working full-time as the Dean of Women, or part-time. I'm just not clear on it. And I was BSU director and I remember a student coming in, and the professor had apparently made. . .

J: Advances?

C: Advances toward her. And of course I didn't know what to do with that, you know, that was a new experience for me. And I remember going to Louise and talking with her, and she took it and she did something about it. I don't know what the end result was. I just facilitated the conference. And I set with her and met with her many, many times at the lunch table in the Union and we would visit. I remember she had a son, one son. Her husband died very early in their marriage, and she raised the son, and it seemed like he was in the military and she would talk about him.

Then when I came back, she of course then was formally Dean of Women, and interestingly enough, she was the Acting Dean of Students when I came back in 1966. Jimmy Walker was finishing his graduate degree. Seemed to me like Jimmy didn't come aboard until October or November or December. And so I worked under her, she was my boss for a period of time. And then she was always a member of the staff of Student Affairs. It was Jimmy Walker, Larry Hamilton, and Louise Resley--the four of us who kind of did everything.

Louise chaired the committee to build Barry and Kelly Halls. Her responsibility was sort of. . .the dormitories reported to her. I remember the work, the effort and energy, she put in, I remember the meetings she called to try to plan.

And then I guess the pressures, the student revolution was hard on all of us. Even though this campus didn't have the problems that some campuses had, from a relative standpoint it was tough. We didn't have any police. I say we didn't have any police, maybe had one or two policemen, but nothing like we have now. And until the police came-- and that was about the time Dr. Templeton came, which goes back to '72, '3, or '4--we did the policing. And I think the pressures of the student revolution kind of got to Louise. Dr. Templeton came, she just kind of decided she wanted out. And then when she left, I picked up a lot of her responsibilities. That's when I formally took over scholarships. She had the Scholarship Office. And I picked up scholarships and I guess I picked up a lot of the duties. Some of the things, we didn't replace her too quickly. Now Judy Solis came, but I picked up a lot of her things that she did. I don't remember exactly what they were. She was extremely talented; very, very. . .had a bright mind; and seemed to really know how to deal with students. And through the years we've maintained our friendship. She's very active in the Heritage Commission, so I get to see her once every two months and visit with her. In fact, when she

retired, she let me have her. . .I still wear her cap. She gave me her cap and gown. And the gown was more, I think, for women; I didn't feel comfortable wearing it. But the hat fit me perfectly and I still wear her hat at commencement, it's her hat that I wear.

I was trying to think of some other women who I might have known. I didn't know her that well but a lady that I always enjoyed visiting with was Lurline Coltharp, who's retired. And you know, she's such a vivacious person, too. I remember in the faculty dining room you could hear her all the way across the room, she always had something exciting and she was quite a talker. Now, Louise Resley was a quiet person. She would talk to you, but she was not rowdy or loud. But Lurline Coltharp, you knew she was there. But she was an extremely talented woman, too. And I think her husband died or had been dead for a long time, and she married a friend of mine, _____ Coltharp, who was teaching Engineering. And then he died about two or three years ago, they found him dead in his office. But Lurline is on the Heritage Commission and I get to see her, so I'm able to keep up a close contact.

A dear soul that I really didn't know, I knew about her by reputation, but I've gotten to know in the last four years, really since Dr. Monroe has come and we established the Heritage Commission, is Myrtle Ball. And she is absolutely the most delightful woman. And she'll call me and I'll go to her house

and visit with her. And she called me the other day and she was talking about starting a scholarship the name of her husband.

There's an interesting story I can tell about her. When we built the new portion of the Union, in the old portion of the west wing in the Union there's a sub-basement. The basement is where the recreation room is, and believe it or not, there is even a lower portion. That's what we called the sub-basement. And everybody and his brother had stuff stored down there, and of course we had to get all that out. And so housing had stuff stored over there, Liberal Arts had things stored over there, Drama and Speech had a tremendous amount, because apparently that's where they put so much of their scenery. The library, oh, goodness, the library had all kinds of stacks and possibly books, I don't remember. So we had to get everybody to clean everything out. I guess they painted and it needed to go out.

So Drama and Speech came over, and they cleaned out everything. And I had my eye on that, 'cause I collect antiques and I refinish furniture, and I had peeked many, many times and I had spotted a whole bunch of artifacts or things that I was interested in, but I couldn't do anything until Drama and Speech had come in and cleared everything out. And so they came in and took everything they wanted. And then, to make a long story short, anything that was left,

the Physical Plant just came and loaded it and took it to the dump and dumped it.

So, after Drama and Speech had collected everything they wanted, I went down and I found five or six antiques that were absolutely _____. I have a wash stand, solid oak, that's got ten coats of black and white paint on it. I have in my living room right now the beautiful plant stand that was solid maple and was glued. There must be 10 or 15 pieces of wood that were all maple, but the way it was glued it was the most gorgeous thing you've ever seen. That thing, if you'd have looked at it, you'd have chopped it up for firewood, it just looked so bad. And then there were some wing-back chairs that they left which looked terrible. The bottom was all out of them and they were kind of rickety. But I had spotted those things, and if you're an antique collector, that's what you look for. And of course I didn't know really what. . .I just had spotted them. And so I just went in and one Saturday came in, and I cleared it with the college and with Mr. St. Clair, who was the business manager, and got permission to do it, and I borrowed a truck and loaded up six or seven items that we really wanted and took them home and put them in my attic, put them in my garage. Some of them I've refinished and some of them I'm waiting for retirement.

Well, one of my visits with Myrtle Ball, as I went into her home, she had just had some furniture refinished and I saw

the chair, and I said, "Myrtle, where did you get this chair? It's Beautiful." And she said, "Oh, it's a chair I've had for years. It was in my husband's family or my family. But you know, there's a companion chair, and I've lost it. I gave it to the Drama Department." This was back in the thirties, I guess. And she said, "Milton Leech has looked and looked for it, and he can't find it." And my mind started working. And I went upstairs, climbed up into my attic, and there was her chair. And one of the most delightful things I've ever done in my life was to take her that chair. And she just wept and I was so glad. I hated to give it up, but I was so glad I could. . . I couldn't, you know, with integrity, keep it. So I returned the chair to her, and the other day when she called me I went over to her and we were talking about the scholarship, she had me sit in my chair. She had had it stripped and re-finished. She was just so delighted. I was so glad I could do that for her. But she's a dear old soul. We are hoping to name the facility after her. And I hope that we can do it.

J: Yes, that would be wonderful. Well, I'm trying to think, is she the one that got her Emerita status how many years later?

I mean, it was many, many, many years.

C: Oh, yeah, she's kind of like Mary Quinn.

J: Yeah, that they didn't give it to her till she was in her eighties or nineties.

C: I think she received it either last year. . .probably it was

the first year Dr. Monroe came and we had the first honors. I think that's when it was that she received it.

J: And she was already about 90, I think. That was really something. I know she was thrilled about that.

C: If you really went the history on her, Jean Miculka has it . Jean checks on her just about every day. They are very close friends. Jean takes her to church. And Jean has been awfully good to her. I just knew her by reputation, but I feel like I know her because we've become very close friends.

J: But she wasn't here anymore by the time you got here.

C: By the time I came, she had come and gone. And then her husband, you know, was I think the first tennis coach we ever had here. He taught Chemistry and then coached tennis. And we're hoping to get tennis courts that will be named after him.

J: Well, are there any other personalities you'd like to go into? If not, I want to ask you to repeat the story about the opening of the Hoover House and Joe Ray, the one you told me yesterday off the tape. But if you have any other people you'd like to mention first I would like for you to go ahead and do that.

C: No, I think we have just about named the people who I considered to be my really close friends . There's some contemporary people, but going back to the old times. I hope I haven't left anybody out, because these people have played a

tremendous part in my life, Sarah. I can't share with you what it meant to me as a young person coming fresh out of graduate school to a big campus--that was big for me, we had only 3,000 students. But they took me, and unknowingly, they didn't do it intentionally, but they loved me and they cared for me and supported me. And if I have any strenghts today, or qualities today, it is attributed to them. Because these people, I don't know how to share with you, something about this campus and about this town, about the caring and loving and support, they helped me to do the things I needed.

Joe Ray and the Hoover House. Well, I don't know the background, I have forgotten so much of the background, because I think the Hoover House came into being and came to the university during the period that I was gone from '64 to '66.

J: Yes. We've got an interview with him and he goes into great detail about how the university came upon the house and how it was finally given to the university and so forth.

C: And I think it was around '64-'65.

J: Just about that time.

C: As I shared with you, it was either the formal opening or the second, certainly not the third, but it was either the first or second faculty reception at the Hoover House when I came back in '66. And this is when he invited me to come back from Oklahoma and I began my second tenure at the university,

September 1, 1966. And while I was still in Oklahoma they contacted me and asked me if I would introduce the faculty to the president and his wife. And they sent me a catalogue and I was studying the catalogue. But it was such an honor to me because I had been gone two years, and for someone who had been away to just be the person to introduce the faculty, that had meant so much to me. And I'm assuming he did that because he knew that I knew everyone. And I guess there had not been that many changes. But that meant an awful lot to me and that was really my first experience in the Hoover House that I'm aware of, that I can remember. But we were all delighted. I remember the president used to have receptions, but they would always be. . . well, they'd be in the ballroom, I believe.

- J: I would imagine so. There wasn't room enough in the old home that they used to have.
- C: And you know, I'm not trying to get over Hoover House, but going back to commencements, I think I can remember commencement on the lawn in the general area in front of the museum, kind of where Old Number 1 is located right now. I think I remember. If I don't remember, I remember hearing about those. I do remember commencement being held in Magoffin Auditorium. Wade Hartrick used to work so closely for many, many years, and when I first began working with commencement it was helping Wade Hartrick get the faculty there. And then I remember, you know, we had commencement for a few years in the

Sun Bowl, and two years in a row I believe it rained and the wind blew, and it just ruined our commencement. And after that we decided we had to move inside.

But the Hoover House, other than that experience I had. . . Now, I'm in the Hoover House [] for different things [] visiting with the Monroes, and they have done such a marvelous job of making it into a very warm and attractive place.

J: You've touched a little bit on this, but I'd like to get as much more detail as you care to give about it. You talked a little bit about the student revolution years. As you said just a while ago, we didn't get the full impact of those days here, but there was some unrest on the campus. I wonder if you could talk a little bit about that--exactly what form the protest movement took here at UTEP. I know that there was at least one incident of students trying to take over the administration building, there may have been others. So if you could just talk a little bit about that.

C: Okay. The student revolution here at first seemed to center around the black students. The name comes out, Bob Beamon, who was an Olympic [] gold medalist in the [] long jump, I think. And I don't know whether he went to Mexico City, but somewhere he broke the world's record.

J: Right, Mexico City.

C: And I think really for us it began probably with the black

students rather than the Hispanic or the Mexican American students, which later culminated with them. And I remember Harry Edwards, seemed to me like there was a Black History Week that he came on campus. If I'm not mistaken, [it was] the first Black History Week, which was kind of a touch and go thing for all of us because we didn't quite know what to do. The pressure was on, the black students were anxious, and tension all over the country was. . . . If I came back in '66, this must have been in '68 - '69, no later than '70. It was somewhere between '68 and '70. And we had this Black History Week. Harry Edwards came on campus, and that was an inciting speech he gave. And right in the middle, while I think he was here, Martin Luther King was killed. And I remember I got ahold of. . . . we decided that we better do something because the campus was about to explode. Black students in many places, campuses were being burned, cities were being burned, Watts had just happened in California.

And the thing I remember as much as anything about that particular week was that we got some of the black pastors together. Of course, because of my religious background I was the person to do that, and I never will forget, we had a memorial service in the ballroom of the Union and we brought in some black choirs from some of the black churches. And I don't know what your own religious tradition is, but for Baptists "Amazing Grace" is one of them. And we sang some of the old hymns that I grew up with as a kid in some revival

meetings. And we wept and we cried, and we had a black preacher get up and preach the sermon. If we had not gone through that religious experience, I think the campus. . . something would have happened. There would have been some buildings burned or some students would really have been arrested, because tensions were so high. It seemed like we got it all out in crying and singing the hymns and listening to the preacher.

J: There aren't that many black students on campus even now, but what was the population in '68, let's say?

C: Well, the campus had probably grown. The campus must have been, in '68, I would say it was nearly 6,000; because when I came it was only three or four thousand, and I'm assuming it would be knocking at six thousand. We didn't have a whole lot of black students but we had enough that they were here. And then remember the Anglo or Hispanics, the Hispanics at that time were kind of apathetic and indifferent, but the Anglos, the white Anglos, the revolutionaries, were really tying in with them. So you not only had your small number of black students but you had your sort of white radicals at that time.

Somewhere during this time, we had a track meet and I remember some of the girls, if I'm not mistaken I think it was almost predominantly girls, got out and held hands and stopped the track. In other words, they could not run around. And that was kind of an upsetting experience and that was

disruption of normal university process. And I remember Jimmy Walker, who was Dean of Students, that was a real challenge because you agreed with them to some extent in spirit and frustration, but on the other hand, you can't just come in and disrupt a program on the university campus. And I remember that took place.

I remember, too, in trying to deal with the black problem--or the problem, because that was the beginning of the revolution--and to communicate with some of the radicals, black or white, when we began it was kind of simultaneous a little bit with the orientations. That's where we had these sensitivity [groups]. Larry Hamilton and Jimmy Walker and I began leading these sensitivity groups. Jimmy Walker strongly believed that you didn't have to beat anybody over the head or shoot anybody or burn buildings, but that verbally and emotionally you could get a lot of this out of your system in group contacts. And that's kind of where sensitivity became a reality on this campus, and the people at the counselling service, we began running these sensitivity groups. And I remember Jimmy Walker and Larry Hamilton, who was the Assistant Dean of Students, had extensive training in it. Jimmy Walker apparently had background and then trained me. Louise Resley was never comfortable. I think age was...there was a generation gap. She was never really comfortable and I think this is one area that she was very uncomfortable [with].

And I wasn't too comfortable, because coming out of such strong religious tradition, you just didn't talk about yourself, admit your faults, or you always maintained your cool, you didn't lose your temper or tell people off. That's just a no-no. It was good for me, it probably helped me more than anything that's ever happened to my life. It was kind of like a religious awakening because many students didn't like me. I had a flat top at that time and I guess I was an authoritarian figure and all that. And we began to facilitate the groups. Jimmy Walker, Larry and I, and other _____ had some groups. But I really think we probably kept this campus from exploding, because we would have some of the radicals in these groups. And after 10 or 12 weeks or however long we would run these programs--and many of them are on tape and are probably still here at the university--we could go back and watch some. But we'd tape them. Most of it took place in, I guess it was the Education Building somewhere, I'm not sure where. But anyway, they were taped, and we used them as teaching _____ as well as. . . But boy, some of them were terrible. I mean they were really, they would get hot. The blacks would _____ the whites and cuss them out. But I think, in my opinion, maybe because I was a part of the Dean of Students' Office at that time, that was one of the things that saved the campus. Then picking up, after the revolution, the Chicano situation came along.

And one experience I do remember, and I can't even date this, but it was before we had the campus police, the National Student Association, the NSA, had their national convention in El Paso right during the peak of the student revolution. And we met at Memorial Gym. It was during the summer. I remember we tried where we could, as the Dean of Students Office, to keep that thing from coming, because we knew it would bring every radical--black, white or brown--into the community. We knew that these kids were all the hippie types generally--that may be a generalization, but as a rule they were--and we knew what was going to happen. They would come into the hotels and boys and girls would all be sleeping together, they brought their animals with them. But the Chamber of Commerce just went crazy to get a big convention in town, and they really paid for it. Because the end result was that the students came, and they came with their dogs and their cats, and they came half dressed, and 10 of them would pile up in a room, they lost control, and I'm sure they must have destroyed the hotels and motels. And we would have these meetings in the Memorial Gym, and they would go on and on. And I was trying to think, one of the speakers for that was the Hispanic from California, the leader of the . . . Chavez.

J: Cesar Chavez.

C: Cesar Chavez came in as one of the key speakers. And I remember at that time that was beginning to bring the Hispanics

into the student revolution, as far as this was concerned, and they were beginning. The blacks had sort of clarified what they wanted. And I guess this was going on about a year or two before Dr. Templeton came. So we're talking around 1970 or '71, because the Hispanics were beginning to come into their time. I remember a group from down in South El Paso, I guess, just came and grabbed the microphone, took it away from everybody, scared us all to death, and we didn't know what to do. But the scary thing is, here was this National Student Association meeting with all these characters and hippies and revolutionaries gathered in Memorial Gym, and the best that I can remember, there was one or two campus police. I do think the city police were ready to move in if they had to, if they really exploded. And there was Jimmy Walker and Larry Hamilton and me, myself, and we were the police for two or three or four or five thousand students. And I look back, it's scary today because we have something today where we've got police on the campus. It was kind of a frightening experience.

This campus never did. . . I felt like Jimmy Walker did a magnificent job as Dean of Students in trying to out-think the students. And he was a person, you know, he could take their screaming, he could take their profanity, and ultimately he could talk them into just about anything that we had to do to keep the peace and keep them from getting

arrested or breaking the law. And I really give him tremendous credit and tribute for that. And I learned, I really learned from Jimmy Walker and Larry Hamilton in the ability to deal with crisis and deal with tension. Because my background is such that I was so protected and didn't know how to deal with these people. And they did a tremendous job.

MEChA became a reality, which was the Mexican American organization. Somewhere about this time, they began to organize. And about the time the emphasis on black students, I don't know if it settled, but it kind of went away, then the Hispanic or the Mexican American picked up, it was the real issue on this campus. MEChA became very active. And part of the problem that we always began to feel, our students as a whole would know what their limitations were. Where the real problems would happen on the campus would be outsiders would come in, people from outside the city or state, or the people from downtown or South El Paso. Non-university people would come in and they would totally disregard any university rule or regulation. And when we really had problems it was not our own who had started the problems. We were having to deal with the problems which at that time the law and the school didn't quite know how to deal with, because you were getting people who were not at the university and we didn't have any authority to control them. And we didn't have any police force on the campus to tell them to get off.

I remember an incident, Judson Williams came on campus, and the students gathered around his car and they rocked his car. I think he was Mayor of the city. I guess some of the students didn't like him and they caught him over by the Centennial Museum. And they really didn't turn his car over but his car was totally surrounded and it was a scary thing. And Jimmy and all of us had to run over there.

J: What was the occasion?

C: I'm trying to remember what it was. It seemed to me like he spoke or something, and he was getting ready to go back to his office. And the students didn't like him, at least this radical group.

As I look back and look at the student revolution, more than anything in the world it was a rebellion against authority. And it was a matter that somewhere the young people got tired of being told what to do. They resented anybody who symbolized any form of authority. And they just wanted to do their thing on their own terms and in their own way. And that's where we all had to learn how to deal indirectly. That's why the table, for example in this office, is round.

PAUSE

The best way, we would sit around a table, and I still use that method. Or we sit on the sofas in my office. Not behind my desk, I'm just not comfortable. And we began to

realize that students, if you can talk eyeball to eyeball and get away from the symbolic authoritarian _____.

J: Because that does symbolize the authority figure, sitting behind the desk.

C: And I remember I had my flat top and I had to begin to let my hair grow because that was symbolic, I guess, of the Marines or Army or military. And I loved it just because it was just something I had always had and, you know, didn't have to comb it or do anything to it. But I remember I let my hair intentionally grow and we were more casual in those few years that we didn't wear coats or ties. We tried to do everything we could to subtly get away from that authoritarian structure. And we designed all the offices to have these tables. We worked at our desks when we were working, and we would get up and meet the students at the tables at.

Dr. Smiley came in as President. I guess he was here during the worst. Joe Ray kind of resigned and Smiley came in. And I remember there were some evenings with Jimmy Walker, I was trying to negotiate with the students, and this was predominantly Hispanics. And this is where Jimmy Walker and Milton Leech got into trouble with the Regents and possibly with people downtown, because I think there were some people downtown and and one or two people on the campus, the administration on the campus. And I can remember that there was a meeting over in the Union--and I assume we had moved into

the new Union by that time--where Dr. Smiley was pretty badly abused by a group. And again, I think it was some of our own, but predominantly off-campus people threatening the university, demanding. Well, that's the beginning of the Chicano Studies Program and the Chicano or Black Studies, you know, all this. And I remember it was the first time that I remember on this campus where a president was probably cussed at or spat upon. And when you would meet with these characters, these "revolutionaries," you know, most of them they would be half dressed and they would carry cokes with them and they would smoke. And they wouldn't sit on tables, they'd kind of sit on the floor. They would just be sloppy all over the place. And if they were smoking a cigarette, rather than put it in an ashtray, they'd just take it and burn a hole in the carpet. And if they had a coke, they spilled it on the carpet. They just, it was just a complete, almost like animals. But Dr. Smiley took it, and I think Jimmy had prepared him.

Then, I do remember they took over. . .and I don't remember all the details, I think I was off campus when it happened, I came back. But I do remember they went up to see the president and it appeared that someone secured the doors, that at some time that this building was shut up. And that was sort of the crowning blow. And during that period I think they, again, poured cokes and, you know,

occasionally they would even urinate on the carpet and this kind of thing. And they were just like a bunch of animals. This became an offense to some administrators. And Dr. Smiley, this bothered him, but he was willing to take it. And we had not arrested a student up to this time. And I still feel that if we had not moved in with [the police] we could have lived through it. Jimmy Walker pretty much had things under control.

But it was about this time then that a communication went to Austin, and Frank Erwin, who was then the chairman of the Board of Regents, just took the bull by the horn and he made decisions and he issued orders. I assume that the Regents superceded the Chancellor and everybody else, and orders were issued that Dr. Smiley was called to Austin. And [Mr. Erwin] said, "This will not happen anymore. You guys have lost total control down there and we want Milton Leech [out]." Because Jimmy, the Dean of Students, at that time reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. And they fired on the spot Milton Leech and they fired Jimmy Walker. And then Dr. Smiley was left holding the bag (?). And it was either immediately before or immediately after that that he turned in his own resignation. And the heart-breaking thing was, Jimmy called me at the house and told me that this had happened. I had gotten home and it was about 6 o'clock in the evening. And when I came to work at 8 o'clock the next morning, he had vacated his office and was gone.

And Milton Leech had done the same thing. There was no Vice President. And then Gary Brooks was made the only Vice President of Academic Affairs. So overnight we had quite a change.

And then of course, soon after this, Arleigh B. Templeton [came to the campus]. Again, he was appointed by Frank Erwin. He had a committee that was in the process of selecting the president, and I think the first or second day of Christmas break the Regents announced that Arleigh B. Templeton would be the next President. And he came in, and then this brings us into a different _____.

I really, . . . there were times I felt, maybe with the National Student Association meeting here, I felt uncomfortable. We heard words that people's lives were being threatened on the campus. I never did feel that, Sarah. I have to give full credit. I really believed in what we tried to do. Obviously, we couldn't control everything, but I really, really feel that Milton Leech and Jimmy Walker took a terrible beating. And that may be totally subjective. But you know, we weren't doing anything, again, heroic. We were just doing. . . that was our job, we had to do it. And I regret the people sort took it into their own hands and that Jimmy was fired and Milton Leech was fired. And then Arleigh B. Templeton comes in and everything was out of control. He was running through the campus with this hero _____ complex, and we've never been the same since.

J: The one incident that I was thinking about, I guess it's the same one, where somebody had finally locked the doors to the Administration Building, the city police were called in that time.

C: I believe it's correct.

J: Because as you say, there were no campus policemen at that point. So I recall that there was a bus of city police that came in.

C: I think they did.

J: And I think that might have even, well, scared a lot of the students because they didn't know what was happening---the general student body, not activists.

C: I can't guarantee this, no way. I betcha if we could go back and figure who took over this building, I would say 50 or 70 percent of those people were not students. There were some of our students. I'm not saying that we were not responsible for some of our own. I remember vaguely, maybe that was the time that they brought some buses in, and it seemed to me like the students cut or poked some holes and there were a few flat tires. I believe this is one and the same. Maybe I was on campus when it happened. 'Cause I can remember out front here, seemed like buses pulled up. Maybe the police did arrest the group. And it seemed to me like I remember they tore off the back or some thing. And really, again, there wasn't much I could do. About that time when the police came in, we had to back off. Up to that time, I never did. . .I did grab

two or three students, but I never physically had to fight a student. But after the police came. . . And then of course with Dr. Templeton, if you go back and can remember, with his coming came a whole barage. I remember they sent down from Austin, must have had 15 or 20 police on this campus. It became like a police state for us. Today it doesn't bother us 'cause we've adjusted to it and I'm glad we do have this type of security. But boy, with his coming, it was kind of like the President [of the United States] and all the security people who came in with all this protection. And he was going to be the hard line to resolve this Chicano problem.

But they were hard days on us emotionally, relatively. I wouldn't want to live through that again. And as I say, after this experience. . . we were talking about Louise Resley. I don't know what her age was, but it's hard. It was hard on me, [and] she was older than we were by 10 or 15 years. I just think it got to her. _____ have to do this. Then when Templeton came she _____, so she just quickly bowed out, resigned.

J: I'd also like to ask you to talk a little bit about your taking over the commencement festivities, how you started with it and what improvements you think you've made, besides moving it inside.

C: My first [experience], of course, was as a faculty member, participating; and then Wade Hartrick, as I've said, who's

been a dear friend, asked me to help him. He ran it for many, many, many years. And then somewhere before Jimmy Walker was relieved as Dean of Students, it was moved to the Dean of Student's Office. I guess that's about the time Wade Hartrick gave it up, or maybe he still worked with us. He might have still retained the faculty and we did the students. And, of course, I began working with it then. Then after Jimmy Walker was no longer Dean, if I remember correctly, it was still being held or controlled in the Dean of Student's Office. And I being, I guess, the senior member of the staff, had to take commencement, and then ran it. And at that time, again, we got caught too many times over in the Sun Bowl, that's where we were having it. And I was trying to remember whether we had it in Memorial Gym. It's funny how you forget things. Can you ever remember?

J: I really don't recall. But it would be probably the most logical place to have them.

C: It seems to me like we had some for a few years. I think, I know, I can't remember how long we've had the Special Events Center. I think we've had that at least seven or eight or nine years. We must have had it in Memorial Gym. I just can't conceive that we did it. And then of course we moved it, we moved it.

Under the Templeton administration, commencement was just a . . . well, it was a real bear and burden, because Dr. Templeton

was so hard to work with. He just could care less. It was one of those duties he had to perform. And then there was no communication. Like with Dr. Monroe, you can go up and talk to him and you kind of know what he wants to do, and is so gracious and so kind; but you couldn't get in and talk to the President, and you would always have to talk to Wynn Anderson and John Levosky. And these are dear friends of mine. And I don't know, it was just a thing that you dreaded to do, and if something went wrong you would hear about it. You'd get cussed out or fussed at or something. And it just. . . we did it, and did the best we could because we felt like the students deserved it, the parents deserved it. But it just kind of was a duty that we performed and did because it had to be done. There was no joy in it and we just did it.

Then when Dr. Monroe came, of course he immediately wanted to start having commencement I believe three times a year, if I'm not mistaken. But when it was announced that Dr. Monroe was coming, two of us, for some strange reason, two of us were appointed. Dr. Monroe asked Larry Etheridge and me to plan the Four Centuries '81 Convocation. And Templeton was still aboard. Dr. Monroe had been appointed but he was coming in about every week. And I remember, because for Dr. Templeton it was such an offense for Dr. Monroe to come on campus. Templeton didn't care for me anyway and I don't think he cared any more for Larry Etheridge. But

we would meet secretly. I say secretly, we didn't have anything to hide, but we just wouldn't publicly announce that we would meet with Dr. Monroe. And we began planning the Four Centuries '81. I was involved in it I think because I was responsible for doing commencement. I'm trying to figure out why I was even selected to do this.

Larry Etheridge became interested in commencement with the Faculty Senate, and about a year or two before Dr. Monroe came he was trying to get us to do some ceremonial aspect, so we were already kind of in line. And then Dr. Monroe came, and he loved ceremony, and loved all these things.

J: That's when we started with the banners and the regalia and the whole thing.

C: That's right. Really, let me just say, the conceptualization of the banners and the mace and the chains of office, the tribute of that goes to Larry Etheridge of the Drama and Speech Department. He wanted it. There was no way we could have it under Templeton, but he wanted to bring more ceremony. And we were trying to do it. And that was some of the pressure we lived under. We would try to want to do some of these nice things, but Templeton, he just wanted to get through with it, and we couldn't do it. And the faculty were rebelling, and I think one of the ways the faculty struck back at Dr. Templeton was trying to make commencement a little more ceremonial. We began to feel this tension.

And so then Dr. Monroe comes, and I remember we made a presentation to him about doing some of these things and he really enjoyed it. Out of that the Heritage Commission, the 4 Centuries '81, and all of these things came about. And paradoxically, Larry's health and other circumstances, he's had to back off, and then James Day has kind of come in. And James Day and I have continued to perpetuate _____.

- J: Could you briefly tell us a little bit about the Heritage Commission? You said it grew sort of out of this whole business of replanning the commencement.
- C: One of the tragedies, and I don't blame this fully on Templeton, it was just kind of a . . . the student revolution set us all back and we all kind of pulled away from the campus. And then Dr. Templeton didn't help the situation. He didn't pull us together, he just sort of alienated us even more so from what we already were.

One of the things that Dr. Monroe very quickly picked up on, he loved tradition, and he had a deep concern for people and history, kind of what we're doing right here. He really wanted to know history, he wanted to pick people's brains. And when we began to design and decided that we wanted the flags and the banners and we wanted the mace and everything, we had to go back into history. We didn't just want to conceive it, we wanted it to come out of who we are. We wanted every color, every symbol, to really represent our past. Well, how do you do that? So what did we do? We went to the

old timers. And I remember visiting with Dr. Monroe, and all of us, he was just kind of. . .his spirit and his attitude inspired us to do it. And then as we would take the ideas to him, he'd say, "Hey, that sounds great. Let's do it."

So then we began to say, "Well, who are some of the living people that could really tell us?" Bill Timmons is one. That's a name that I haven't really brought out. He's been such a good friend. And Bill at that time was, well, you know, downtown, I think he was already Mr. El Paso or something, running around in his cap and hat. So we said, "Bill, help us out here. We need to develop a symbol." And everybody began researching it. And we tried to find people that were compatible. Mr. McMahan had been here for so many years, Bill Strain had been here for so many years, Ralph Coleman had been here. And the Heritage Commission just kind of. . .I don't know whether we ever sat down and said, "This is what we want to do," but we've got all these people involved in helping us. And then we began to realize, "Gosh, this is something that should have happened a long time ago. These people have been on the periphery. They have given 20 or 30 or 40 years of their life to this institution. Here's our history. Here's where we're going to find out." And then we had, of course we had to get some money, and then we tried to have a fund raising. So the Heritage Commission I think really came about out of the planning and the organization of

the 4 Centuries '81, which was--in parentheses, you can't call it that--was when we inaugurated Dr. Monroe. The Board of Regents will not allow inaugurations. We didn't have an inauguration officially, but / we all knew that's what it was.

But I really think all this came about because Dr. Monroe came with such a sweet spirit, such a loving attitude, such a desire, to be a part of us and to recognize our past and present and the future. And it was such a contrast with Templeton that we all just worked on it. You know, we were so hungry to be loved, so hungry to be at home. And one of the tragedies of this institution for a period of I would say, during the seventies, maybe in the middle sixties until Dr. Monroe's coming in 1980, was just neglected. You go back and look, we hardly gave an Emeritus. There were so many faculty who've left, that I can name a lot of people who left here who are still In El Paso. There's one I think of right now, taught in Modern Languages for years, is so bitter, so mad. It's just people who retired in the last decade who just could care less, who had given 20 or 30 years to this institution, and it hurts me to say that. You know, those people have contributed so much, and even if you didn't always agree with them, you care and love and continue a relationship. That was cut off. And the Heritage Commission has grown to that point. We have our banners and all that and that we take pride in, and our real goal now is to begin

to collect history and to reach out and provide a community and retain a _____ relationship between the retired people. And we're hoping to do a few social events during the year and we're trying to take some fund raising projects. We've tried to collect memorabilia. We're trying to do everything we can to be supportive of the president and of this institution. And as I've shared with you, Dr. Monroe asked this committee to name the buildings on campus that did not already have names.

J: Well, you know, if there's any way that the Oral History Department can help you, I think I'm speaking for the director when I say that we would be just very happy to get in there and do anything we can.

C: Well, let me say this is not an exclusive organization. It's an organization that wants to love people who've given so many years here, and retain and collect and record our history before these people are dead and gone. And they still have so much to contribute. And Dr. Monroe is beginning to place them on committees--those that, you know, are able to function and physically are strong, their mind is still. . . But they have so much to offer. And we've tried, Lois and I, this office. . . I don't know, this may be my desire to work with them. You can't ever get rid of who you are. I guess I'll always be a minister in some traditional sense that I care for people. You know, I don't like to go to hospitals but I visit people in the hospital,

and I try to do these little things on behalf of the university, just simply say, "Hey, we still love you, we still care, we still remember who you are." And if you're not careful, people can come and go, and I just don't want that to happen, and I know Dr. Monroe doesn't. But until the coming of Haskell Monroe, I'm afraid we were very negligent. Maybe not intentionally, but. . .

J: You say, "we," but I don't think you really had too much to do with it.

C: No, the university, the university.

But this place has a great tradition. So many people inquire about the architecture, and you'd be surprised the visitors we have on campus. And at one of our Heritage Committee meetings, Bill Timmons took the responsibility, we're hoping to put a marker right out here in front of the flag that will give maybe a diagram of the campus, plus a story for why the buildings' architecture is Bhutanese is. Because people come and go and don't know why it happened. And so that's just one of the little things that we have come up with what we can do with the Heritage Commission. And then if we can write or record some of the history and the meaning of the buildings, and then the buildings are named symbolically after faculty. For example, the Liberal Arts Building, our recommendation is that the Libral Arts Building be named after Sonnichsen, Dr. C.L. Sonnichsen. Well, that's a natural. That's another person that I I enjoyed and knew

so well and love every time he comes by. Now, he's living, and that's a problem. About all we can do is go on record, hoping someone, if we're not around, five years after his death, officially would name it. Rather than allowing it to be named after someone else, we would like to see [them] take our recommendation []. And I hope personally that--and this is going to be a touchy one, it's going to be almost embarrassing to the president--we have recommended that the new library be named the Haskell Monroe Library. But [we] just hope and pray he has many years to live and that will be a long time. But whether we can pull that one off [we don't know], but we're going to recommend it, unless he overrules it. But that's been a fun committee.

J: Well, if you can believe it, I've finally run out of questions.

C: Well, I was trying to think. You know, one of the exciting [things], if you want [me] to recollect, going back...and I can't even remember when girls were not allowed to wear shorts. I'm not sure men were, but I know girls were not allowed to wear shorts.

J: Some people that we've interviewed have even said that women were not allowed to wear slacks on campus, and that was up until the middle sixties.

C: That's probably true. And I remember, coming back to Dean Resley, I remember she would have to go out and churn a little bit, because we would not allow the boys and girls to park and do any courting in front of the dormitories. I remember

when you did your courting you did it away, and when you brought your girl, you might kiss her on the front steps, but that's it.

But I remember the panty raids. And I remember one night I just, I was horrified. I was watching them, and the girls were waving out the window, just teasing the boys with their bras and their panties and all of this stuff. And [I thought], "How horrible, how terrible." Oh, that was the most immoral thing. And then I remember, moving from that, we didn't get into it, can you remember the streaking? Were you a student?

J: Oh, yes. Yes, I recall that.

C: I remember the streakers. I remember three experiences particularly, I guess this must have been, I don't know if Dr. Templeton was here or not.

J: I would imagine so, because that was about 1972.

C: I was '72 or '73, that's about 10 years ago. I remember three things specifically. I remember I went to a track meet, the old boy streaked right across. And I remember we all cheered and all that. Then I remember I walked into the Union, and Jack Baker was standing there. I walked into kind of where the Information Center is located. Jack Baker was standing there white as a sheet and just as mad as he could be. And I think three guys had just walked through the Union nude. Just walked through, I mean casually walked through. And they had walked around and Baker apparently

caught them and made them get out, and he was fit to be. . .

he was so angry. And then I remember when we all gathered.

J: The parade!

C: The parade. I remember when they streaked right on down.

J: All down University Avenue.

C: And the police were waiting for them. And I don't remember whether it was campus police or who, but they arrested them.

J: I recall that. We all knew it was going to happen.

C: Yeah, and we were all right there. My response to that was really that the best thing with something like that is to almost ignore it and laugh at it because it will go away. And sure enough it did. I certainly don't approve of it, but it was fun. It was fun. That was fun. I guess the panty raids compared with what goes on today, from a relative standpoint, were really just more for fun. But that was interesting.

J: Well, I want to thank you for the couple of afternoons you've given me and I appreciate talking to you.

C: I've enjoyed it. If you think of something I would be of help with. . .

J: I may come back with another tape.

C: I'll be glad to talk to you, Sarah.

J: Thanks a lot. Really appreciate it.