

7-14-1989

Interview no. 776

Charles T. Brown

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 Charles T. Brown by Professor Charles H. Martin, 1989, "Interview no. 776," 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: Charles T. Brown
INTERVIEWER: Professor Charles H. Martin
PROJECT: History of the University
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 14, 1989
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted
TAPE NO: 776
TRANSCRIPT NO: 776
TRANSCRIBER: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Texas native, grew up in Longview and Atlanta, Texas. Attended Amarillo Junior College before coming to Texas Western in 1956 to become one of the first black basketball players on a college team in the state of Texas. Played 3 seasons on TWC's basketball team. Graduated 1959.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Basketball career at Texas Western College 1956-1959; integration of college sports; race relations in El Paso and other places in the Border Conference.

Length of Interview: 1 hour 15 min. Length of Transcript 26 pages

Charles T. Brown
July 14, 1989
Charles H. Martin
UTEP 75th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee)

This is an interview conducted on Friday, July 14, 1989, in El Paso, Texas, by Charles Martin with Mr. Charles Brown, who attended UTEP when it was Texas Western College in the late 1950's.

M: Why don't we start by, you sort of describing when and where you born, and where you grew up, up until the time you entered high school.

B: I was born in East Texas, Longview, Texas and spent most of early childhood through junior high school there. And then, later my family moved to Atlanta, Texas where we lived and from there moved to California. In between those times, my folks had moved to California at the time of the Second World War, then they moved back. So actually there were three cities in Texas, which were Longview, Texas; Atlanta, Texas; another city called Queen City, Texas.

M: Called what?

B: Queen City.

M: Queen City, now that one I don't know.

B: It's ten miles from Atlanta.

M: What was the date of your birth?

B: 4-7-33 [32].

M: O.K., and where did you end up attending high school and were you involved in sports when you were in high school?

B: In high school I was involved in three sports: football, basketball and baseball. I only played football two years, played basketball four years, and baseball two years.

M: And how successful were you as a player?

BROWN

B: I was a starter on the baseball team two years, a starter on the basketball in my junior and senior year, and a starter on the football team my junior year.

M: And this was for which high school?

B: Pruitt High School of Atlanta.

M: What did you do after you finished high school?

B: After I finished high school I attended Junior college for a year, then spent three years in the military, Air Force. And after military, went back to college for about half a year and then I entered Texas Western in June of 1956.

M: Was there anything about having lived in California for a little while that gave you a different view on the world or anything when you went back to Texas?

B: No, not really. Basically the environment was a little different in California than in Texas, in terms of how the school structure was set up and also weather conditions and I guess now working conditions were set up.

M: Now where did you start school before you came to Texas Western?

B: I attended Amarillo Junior College, and when I was in the military I was offered several scholarships to play basketball and run track, and I accepted a scholarship to Colorado--which is now Colorado State University--at the time was called Colorado A&M. And upon my arrival in Colorado a couple of others there and me, was informed that I didn't have a scholarship because they had already been given out. So I left the school.

M: What drew you to Amarillo? Had somebody contacted you or you had relatives?

BROWN

B: My nephew Cecil which came to Texas Western with me, drew to me Amarillo. His mother is my oldest sister. And that's how George McDanty made contact at Amarillo.

M: When you were playing in the service, was that the first time you began to think about attending a predominantly white school or had you thought about it much before?

B: Never, never really been a factor in terms of what kind of a school it was, whether it be non-black or predominantly black school. The only thing that was interesting to me was going to college and getting my education, that was the only reason.

M: What was the situation at Amarillo College?

B: The situation at Amarillo College was basically the same as the situation at Texas Western at the time. A very small, small number of black students, I think Amarillo integrated a year before, I think Amarillo integrated in, probably in 1954, more likely 1955.

M: Did they make any special efforts because of the newness of integrated sports there? Or is there anything that came up in terms of traveling to play teams or anything?

B: At that time all the motels and hotels and everything were segregated, but there were places that we traveled to where special arrangements were made to stay at different motels that you normally wouldn't have been able to, including restaurants.

M: So whenever you traveled you were able to go with the team to all places, you weren't . . .

B: Yes, because of the pre-arrangements.

M: What about the students? How did the students react to having black athletes on the team?

BROWN

B: We never encountered any direct conflict with the students. I'm quite sure there might have been a situation where . . . there might have not been a great rapport between some of the students, between blacks and whites, but I never really had any conflict in school. There were situations on the basketball court when some team, certain individual players, small numbers, in terms of certain kinds of remarks ????..

M: Well what was your first reaction when you arrived at Texas Western College? What did you think of the place and what did you think about coming to play here?

B: To be truthful I'd never been in El Paso for anything. I had driven through it, you know the freeway or the highway, going to another part of Texas, but never just stopped, so I knew absolutely nothing about El Paso, except, you know the things you hear about: it's close to Juarez, the Mexican food. Basically, everything that was done, in terms of me being recruited to come to El Paso, was all done by telephone. I had never met Mike McCarthy in person. I talked to him numerous times. I formed an opinion on the telephone about him, his program [?] and of the school itself. He explained that the school hadn't been integrated as far as athletics and that the first black student had attended the college, just enrolled the previous year. And that really wasn't a mode [?] of factor for me, in terms whether there was a lot of white students or that the people had integrated previously. So when I arrived here, he had Alvis Glidwell, who at the time was a junior, to meet with me and more or less be my mentor. I enrolled in summer school, and Alvis helped me get familiar to a new environment.

M: What was the reaction of other people on the team besides Glidwell towards the discovery that this is now going to be an integrated team?

BROWN

B: Actually, when I enrolled in summer school, mostly the athletes were not in attendance in summer school, so I only met a limited number of team members of basketball, football etc. during the summer. But then the fall semester began and both new and new team members as well as players that played in the previous years, they arrived. I can say that I never had an incident with any of the players on any of the sports teams, in terms of any direct conflicts, in terms of on racial things like that.

M: To what extent could you tell that maybe McCarty or someone else had done some behind the scenes work to try to head off anything in at advance.

B: Well if the work was done, the work had to be done at the beginning of the fall semester because the decision of me coming here was made quite late in May, so I made the decision to come here late in May and the decision was to come and to come here and to enroll in Summer School to become acclimated to and enroll in Summer School and to the academic quality so--I believe that the heat was on Mr. McCarty and Mike Brumbelow. Mike Brumbelow was very supportive, and he even told me it was, it was a new experience for everyone who was connected with the college, in terms of the athletic part, and also I'm quite sure with some of the college professors.

M: You and Cecil came together when you came here?

B: No I came in Summer school and he came in the Fall semester.

M: Okay, where did the two of you live and what was the situation on housing?

B: The situation on housing was that no black student could live in the dormitory, but, I ended up paying for an apartment during the summer and we lived in an apartment

M: Whereabouts?

BROWN

B: I'll have to go back and search my memory for that one.

M: Was it around here or . . .

B: It was on . . . does Yandell sound like a street?

M: Umhuh.

B: It was on that general area, Yandell, I can't remember, is it Montana or some place, I can't remember exactly what street.

M: Did you eventually in later years move into the dorms or . . .

B: Right, in later years we did move into the dorms. But we always ate at the same training table as the other players: we had breakfast, we had lunch and dinner, pre-game meals with all the players at the dorms. Also at the same time, we did have a room that was set aside before games, so we could be part of the team, so that we had our own room at the hall.

M: Unofficially.

B: Unofficially.

M: So that you could be in the dorms and with the team part of the time, you just weren't officially there.

B: And I guess one of the things, I still don't know, I still don't know at what point during the, at what point or what year a [black] student officially started living in the dorm, I don't know what it is, '57, '58, 59. Also at the time I came here, we were not able to go into movie house except for some movies here. We, Glidewell and me, tried to go to some movies, they sold the ticket at the back door so that happened to ????, they also had a section ??? the usher we knew quite well, had played for the team.

M: When you went out into the community were there other community things that were segregated or integrated that you remember in particular. Buses . . . ?

B: There were places in El Paso that were integrated, and in talking to some of the people that I met here in the summer and also during my first year at some of the black students that enrolled in '56, there were areas of El Paso that were completely integrated, that includes restaurants and things like that, and there were areas that were not integrated. And at which point all of this changed, I'm not sure, I've been gone something like 33 years.

M: That be pretty simple, only 33. How much interaction did you have with some of the other black students, or were you pretty much wrapped up with associating with other people on the team and meeting your classes?

B: Oh no, I had good relations with the black students that were attending. I think in my sophomore year there were probably six or seven black students and several of them became long-term friends for me, they don't even see me, black students--Edna Nixon, Donna Brooks, Joe Adkins, John Jimmenson, there were several others that started attending and then, ?????

M: What about social activities?

B: I was involved in a lot of social activities. Many of these students because they had attended, some of them at the El Paso Public schools were integrated I believe in 1955 and all the black students that were attending Texas Western in 1956 had graduated from El Paso, from an integrated high school. But previously all had attended Douglass elementary and high school and which, since most of them were born and raised here and became more or less like an extended family. I became good friends with their parents, had some white friends, some Mexican-Americans. Many of the friends that I made here my first semester, they

BROWN

still are friends.

M: Did you find that people were fairly responsive or sympathetic or just sort of like treated you like anybody else or some people were actually even helpful?

B: There were many people that were very helpful. Always, I never looked at myself being part of, I always said Texas Western was going through integration, I wasn't. So as far as relating to people in terms of race, socially, or economic background, which had never had a factor with me in terms of tendency to look for ??????

M: Was there any McCarty was recruiting you, that he was looking for somebody that had been exposed to a larger world?

B: Yeah, I think possibly what he was trying to do was find someone that probably could more or less fit in to the environment he was going into. Being as we were older, an older breed, at least 3 years older than my classmates, and had also played three years of ball in the military, which possibly would help to add to making the transition ????

M: Did they give you any special instructions or anything when you came in here?

B: Nothing. No instructions, just in terms of the way the situation was, the only instructions given to me was support the campus.

M: What about professors and administrators? Was there any ever any particular favorable or unfavorable, were you just another student to them, or did some of them kind of aware of the situation be helpful or did anybody seem a little bit disturbed about the situation?

B: Well as far as the professors, there were a couple of minor incidents in terms of--I would say more or less disagreement--I think possibly with the number of classes and professors that I had here, in the people I had

conversed with, since college. I would say that went smoothly, but there were a couple of times that they would do something to help them as far as my classes, but that was a very minimum.

M: Let's see, why don't you mention the coach and the other athletic administrators that you dealt with while you were here and what you remember of them.

B: Of the people that I remember that were more supportive and more concerned for me, in terms of preparing for my college life, you know for all athletes, having a happy place, a home away from home. I remember, of course, the most supportive was George McCarty, the coach, Mike Brumelow was extremely helpful, Ben Collins, track coach Ross (Moore) who was also the trainer, and later Jimmy Walker who was assistant football coach and later he on was the--I'm not sure if he was college director of student union-student activity. Possibly one of the people that had the most impact, in terms of the overall role was Steele Jones, public relations [expert?].

M: What was his name?

B: Steele Jones. He headed public relations for the college for the football team, basketball team, and later on he moved to New Mexico State University, I'm not sure where he is now.

M: What about specific kinds of social activities. Was there any particular place people gathered?

B: No mostly, at that time, there were mostly, people gathered at different people's homes. There was a small number of the students that were involved in BSU on campus. So I was involved in something of the social activities we even though I was . . . and also attended church. And during the summers I also, in the off season here I participated in basketball

BROWN

games and softball games. I played on softball teams and baseball teams in the spring and summer.

M: You played on some competitive teams, didn't you also travel around some for basketball then or later?

B: Yes, I played, we traveled each year, Union Furniture was sponsoring the basketball team to travel throughout Mexico. We played the Pan American team Mexico had and a lot of other teams from which the players were selected to play on the Pan American team. So for nine years I was involved with that, with players from, some of our high school players and some of the players that attended other colleges and were in the military and also played [over at the tenements?] and they were working in the El Paso School system and other jobs so we had people from different backgrounds.

M: Who were some of the players that you were involved with and who basically ran the team and set these things up?

B: Well some of the players that I was involved with, Sam Adams, Potter, Alvis Glidewell, Jim Babers, Wayne Jones, Nolan Richardson, Curtis Jimmeson, and Nestor Langanes.

M: Did you ever get to know Nolan Richardson very well, at the time.

[End of Side One, Tape One].

[Start of Side Two, Tape One]

M: So you were telling me, your story was on Richardson that you tell people that you taught him everything he knows.

B: Everything that he knows. And he completely ignored everything I did and did whatever he wanted to. (Laughter)

BROWN

M: Who organized that team now for . . . ?

B: Saul Klienfield. Saul Klienfield was the person that organized the team each year, among a lot of others, a lot of other times, it was the Kiwanis Club ??? involved. I would say it was more from the city standpoint . . . as far as working with people in El Paso.

M: Okay, well maybe in the midst of all these we ought to talk a little bit about, specifically what you did here in basketball, since that's why you came here in the first place anyway. Why don't we go back and talk a little bit about the three seasons that you played here. How did your first season go?

B: Well, looking back, I can't remember all the details, but looking back I would say about by far my most successful season was my first year here. And I think that both as a player and as a teammate, and I'm not too sure why I was most successful my first year. It could be that, could've been, I imagine more, I don't want to say there were more quality players, more seasoned players. There were more seniors than my sophomore year. [?????] was a senior my sophomore year, Alvis Glidewell was a senior, Sam Jones was a sophomore, so they had something to do with the total success of the team.

M: How well did the team do and you do that year?

B: The total number of wins itself, was probably comparable to the first year, what they were the other two years, I think the total number of wins, which was probably between 15 - 16 wins per year, over three years I was here.

M: And you ended up winning it?

B: My first year, the scoring championships and also the highest rebounds and assists and Most Valuable Player.

BROWN

M: That was Most Valuable Player for the conference.

B: For the conference.

M: And the team in conference?

B: I don't recall where we went, but we finished first or second, I think we finished first. Won the championship. Our senior year we tied for the championship.

M: And how much pressure did you feel just as a first year player and then also as, along with your cousin, when the first black players at the school on the team.

B: I don't think that much pressure that was here at the college level. There was a great amount of pressure that was put on the traveling.

M: Yeah, tell me about traveling a little bit in Texas or the Midwest or wherever--where would you go?

B: Well we traveled, there were several colleges that we traveled to in Texas. And we also traveled and played New Mexico State University and University of New Mexico. We also played the Arizona schools each year, and we also played a great many schools. The traveling conditions in New Mexico and Arizona were no problems as far as the accommodations and the restaurants and things like that. But in Texas, there were at the time problems.

M: Okay, so you were (when we stopped here), you were saying in that New Mexico and Arizona there weren't any great complications on accommodations but when you traveled in Texas . . .

B: Actually in Texas, when playing in Texas, the accommodations were pre-arranged and as long as you stuck to the arrangement, there were no problems, just only if you was to go to some other place other than where they had arranged.

BROWN

M: What about the response of other players and fans when you went on the road? Were there some places that made it hotter for you than others?

B: Some places, some of them were more difficult than others, from the standpoint of the fans, and some certain players.

M: Where was it a little bit harder to play?

B: West Texas State University. Hardin-Simmons was very easy. I don't fully understand why.

M: What about, did you ever go into East Texas, or you mostly stayed in West Texas?

B: We played mostly western, West Texas State, Texas Tech, (Texas Tech was difficult, not so much the fans but for some of us, it was more the players), and we played in Washington University, St. Louis, which was very difficult, especially the players.

M: When you were on these longer road trips, would there be some problem where you would have to try and stop to eat or something, in route, where you couldn't necessarily know where you'd be for lunch or something?

B: Well, in most, as I recall most hotel places we were traveling to, regardless of where we were going everything would be set up in advance. A lot of the traveling was done by cars. And in other situation buses were [?????]. We also played in Tennessee, we played Tennessee Tech, which gave a nice reception by the fans and the local team.

M: So sometimes you had some negative reaction when you were on the road. Occassionally sometimes people were also nice too, in Tennessee Tech was you said was . . . ?

B: Was extremely nice. The fans were all [?????], of course that was in 1956.

M: That's interesting. Did you ever go through Oklahoma?

BROWN

B: We played at Oklahoma State, no problems. I think [Hank] Iba was still coaching. Of course, they taught us a few things about defense.

M: [Chuckles] Defensive and controlled offense. What kind of a style of game did you play here at Texas Western? What kind of a style did McCarty encourage? What kind of a style of player were you?

B: It wasn't an up-tempo as much as teams play now. I would say at looking at the style as far as an offensive standpoint, we were probably a little more up-tempo compared to some of the early Don Haskin teams. We didn't hold the ball so long.

M: What kind of a coach was McCarty to work under, practice under and work under?

B: I think he was a fair coach and very dedicated in terms of trying to do the best possible job, with the material that he had to work with. At the that time the schools that were the strongest were teams like Arizona State and Arizona, Hardin-Simmons, and New Mexico State in the Border Conference, and New Mexico was always a difficult team.

M: When you came in here, did you, right after your three years, was there any time when you got discouraged, whether for racial, basketball, or just personal reasons or anything?

B: Oh yeah, I was, there was several times I became discouraged and especially during the beginning of my senior year.

M: Why your senior year?

B: Because the senior year is when you're notified you're qualified for teaching, you get your student teaching. And I was not able to do my student teaching in the El Paso School system.

M: How do they resolve that for certification or something?

B: I know this is a real sticky thing, and legally I don't know what the

implications were then, and I don't what the implications would be right now, but at the time, the certificate that I was pursuing, as far as teaching, what they called an all-level certificate, which means I would be able to teach K-12. Which means I had to do part of my student teaching at an elementary as well as secondary, and I was not able to do my student teaching. At that time, I'm not positive, but I think at that time in 1958, there were one black teacher that were working in the school system around here, working down at Douglass, was then only an elementary, changed from high school to an elementary, and I'm not sure if any of the teachers working there had gone over to high schools and were working there. I'm not positive of that part. I do know that for secondary, I was not allowed to do my student teaching in the system. Which became my first real, real problem that I had since I came to El Paso.

M: You couldn't even do the student teaching at Douglass or . . . ?

B: The only student teaching that could be done at Douglass was in the elementary part but I still couldn't do it. They simply weren't going to allow me to do it in middle, in high school, and I refused the elementary part.

M: Okay, so this was the first time you begin to run up against kind of a racial road block.

B: Yeah, real serious problem. All the other things that, the other minor things, which is just what they were, they were minor things, no matter where you are or where you were in El Paso, you still run into them, if you'd been in New York City or any other place. So my first reaction was to drop out out of school.

M: Why do you think you ended up deciding to stick it out instead of getting

discouraged?

B: Well the reason why I stuck it out was because they made arrangements for me to do student teaching here at the college, so I did student teaching under Jimmy Walker, on the freshmen and sophomore classes. And I got to student teach that the main thing...

M: Now that's something I wasn't, of course, I hadn't thought of all the ramifications of some of these things.

B: I always think that the ramifications might very similar.

M: That's one thing to transfer "a" student but it's something else to bring in a black teacher or administrator or train one.

B: So I would say that 97% of the people, no one knew this, I would say very few people that knew this. And the first time that I expressed to anyone, this happened about three months ago.

M: When you came in here, coming into El Paso from East Texas and from having been in the Service, you had kind of an interesting, unique perspective, maybe, in which to look at Anglos and Mexican-Americans here. What kind of a sense did you get of the relationships between Anglo-Americans and Mexican-Americans and how did Black El Pasoans, or Blacks in general fit into these kinds of model? Were they accepted pretty much?

B: Well, the way that I looked at then, and the way I think you'll understand it, is that in El Paso even though the schools were not integrated but the living conditions of many of the Mexican-Americans and Blacks were all integrated [?????]. People would talk together on the sidewalks, on the corners and on the playgrounds. I never really looked at El Paso, at that point in time, as being even in Texas, because other parts of Texas were so different and I think the difference, a lot of it

had to do with the location of where it's set off from it. El Paso is closer is to Mexico and New Mexico than it is to Texas, even though it is in Texas. It doesn't seem as though the question of developing relationships, it seemed in personal developing relationships, the relationship was already developed. It was a question of basically how people perceive each other. Because in the time I was in El Paso I knew, and became friends with many Mexican-Americans as I did Black Americans or White Americans or any race. Many of those people I still communicate with.

M: So you have the feeling that the fact you had more diverse and the mixed situation here made it more open . . . ?

B: It made it open. I think that if I'd gone soon at any other place in Texas, say Texas Tech or West Texas, or University of Texas or SMU, I'd never would have gotten beyond the first semester. Because in those environments things were black or white. And in later years, in looking back, I can kind of see, as far as so many of those universities, of our state colleges are concerned, they are very slow in terms of integration.

M: When you were getting ready to come here, or earlier back at Amarillo, did you mostly just do this on your own, or was it--since you were kind of an outsider going into these places, or did you ever have any ties with local black community where they kind of saw you as a special case, took a special interest in you or did you just sort of went in as an individual athlete?

B: Just individual. Like, no one in El Paso knew that I was coming here. They had no way of knowing because the black community, the white community, whatever . . . , in most cases no one knew that I was here because I was in summer school, even though I met people, and told them

BROWN

that I had a basketball scholarship. Then some of the questions that came up, there are no black students at Texas Western, there are no black athletes at Texas Western, that kind of thing. So there was a lot of doubt about what it was before.

Continued on next page

(The remainder of the transcript contains many ???s due to sound problems on tape.)

BROWN

M: Are there any particular special memories you have about any particular incident or any particular fond memories or funny memories or anything that just stands out in your mind in particular about your college days here, not necessarily sports, but just any aspect of student life?

B: Well, I think the most important thing that I remember about part of acceptance by the student body as a person versus being accepted in California. And that's basically how I deal with people I've dealt with over the years here. It's not in terms of a former athlete or as an athlete, even though the athletic part of it gave me the opportunity to meet a whole lot more people than you normally would.

M: Was there any special moment, or athletic accomplishment or some particularly exciting moment or something. . .

B: Well, probably apart from two years as far as the scoring, you know, an accomplishment, you know, there were a lot of excellent ballplayers, I think the rebounding part I always felt, probably from an athletic standpoint in terms of size and everything [being six feet tall] I think the rebounding part of it was probably the most satisfying part of playing basketball. Probably the best rivalry was probably between New Mexico State and here. I became friends with a number of student athletes at New Mexico State as a result of the bitter rivalry.

M: One question about traveling on the road, where there might be some minor incidents or not so minor, how did your teammates respond to this? What did they think of, I mean, they must have been not fully aware or not prepared for some of this maybe?

B: Well, most of the players at that time that played, most of the student athletes at that time, most came, about 95 %, came from Texas and New Mexico. There were some that came from, say, California, or New York, or

BROWN

other places, I guess a few were from Arkansas, so that was not the norm, and often times when you're in that kind of situation, a lot of times people, say sometimes it's better not to say anything than to say something but, I guess they must be right, I still look at the difference in the background of the students. They came from there was more conflict between themselves, you know, it had nothing to do with race, none came from their background.

M: When you went on the road, how did they respond to the crowd's or other player's hostility towards you?

B: Well, oftentimes, in the heat of the battle, I had a tendency to ignore as much of, as many the things that you'd hear, especially the most kinds of things, you just kind of close your ears to it and I never discussed it with the others, you know sometimes my nephew and I would sit and talk about some of the other things, especially because he was not a starting player, and so a lot of the things he would, you know, hear on the bench that, other people would not pay attention to. So, I think by him being there, also there was a positive experience and made the transition much easier.

M: OK, is there anything else you can think of about your undergraduate days here; you might mention before we go on to talking about what happens next?

B: Well, I think one of the, in my undergraduate days, that one of the problems that I had was, I'm sure a lot of people had the same problem, I was unable to get employment. And of course later on became as extremely important factor There just wasn't any jobs available. The exception to that was one company after graduation that hired me part-time and when I was in graduate school, after graduation I think their

BROWN

support was important to the athletic program here and two people I knew well when I was in college. But basically I was.

M: Do you have any sense that you were making history or any sense of what the larger implications were of [your decision?]

B: Not at, at that time, I knew that there was a recent ??? a Supreme Court ruling of 1954, I was well aware of that. And I was aware that history was being made but not really in the context of, terms of what the later implications were as far as from the student athlete standpoint, also from just students, other college and universities being integrated, only from the athletic standpoint.

[End of Tape 1, Side 2]

[Start of Tape Two, Side One]

B: At the time that I entered Texas Western, I had no idea at the time that no one else had participated in any form of, any other sport. Until later, I found out that there was a football player that entered the University of Oklahoma in 1956, the same year as I entered into Texas Western, Prentice Gautt, the first black football player at the University of Oklahoma. But basically, since then, I guess I have not pursued, I've seen other players individually a couple of others players from the University of Houston, University of Alabama, and I wasn't sure in terms of the years, they were much later than 1956.

M: Oh, yeah, a good bit later.

B: But, in looking back, though, even with all the problems I still would do the same thing. So, I have no regrets in attending the college.

M: Let me ask you one other question, then we'll move on to something else. Did you get the feeling then, or subsequently reflecting on it, that

having integrated athletic teams might further make easier the continuing integration of this university or any other university and the community around it? Or would sports kind of help to break down some of these barriers or would it be just something that's kind of off in its own world and doesn't really affect the larger community?

B: You know, in looking at it, I think sometimes that the participating in sports would in itself help break down world opinion as a whole. Except in my case, it was just a negative course--in my case, by being through this, it was extremely difficult for me to survive once I graduated and, it made it easier, in general, for the student athletes that came on later. Not only in terms of the College itself, but also in terms of getting them a kind of recognition that they should get or should have received. And also giving them more of an opportunity in a sport as job-wise and career-wise. They have more alternatives and have, the system itself has developed to where it can accommodate student athletes or ex-student athletes, who are more so able to take the pressure

M: OK, now then lets talk about what you did immediately after you graduated for the next two or three years or thereabouts. So you graduated in May of '59?

B: Right, May, and I attended graduate school for a year; I majored in History and through this time I worked part-time for a company in El Paso.

M: OK, and did you finally get employment in the school district for a while?

B: Yes, I was finally employed in the school district for two years. I think it was 1961 to 63 or 1960 to 62.

M: OK, where did you teach?

B: Jefferson High School; P. E. instructor and frosh basketball coach.

BROWN

M: Now, maybe without getting too specific on some of those things, what was just sort of a summary of the overall experience and then eventually you moved away, I think.

B: Yeah, it was a very difficult experience. And basically the difficult experience started in 1958 ??? I couldn't develop ??? school system. I could be more specific ??? this was ?? to determine what I was to do in life [M: Ah, huh] and ???

M: OK, so and then after a couple of years here of unsatisfactory job opportunities, you then decided to . .

B: Move ?? to the West Coast to San Francisco.

M: OK, and then. .

B: Then I moved back and entered San Francisco State University in February and started working for the San Francisco schools ?? in September. . .

M: September of ?

B: September of '64;

M: What kind of work did you do with them at that time and subsequently?

B: I worked ?? I started with the schools, I did social studies, P. E., and drivers education; which I did through June, 1969.

M: OK. and then you .

B: And from 1969 through 1977, I was in personnel administration; and from 1978 to now, I'm involved with ??? I'm involved with funding problems, we, work on special projects within the school district; we, our department, receives about 90% of the state and federal money that comes into the school district and we administer that money to both the public and non-public schools. There's about a hundred and thirty schools involved. In the past five years, from about 1984 to 89, I've been [heavily?] involved with computer education.

BROWN

M: For whom?

B: For the same department.

M: OK, oriented at students or at faculty?

B: No, ?? teachers and administrators. Also I'm involved in two state organizations in computer instruction; I'm a board member ??? organization

M: OK, so, I guess we now know ??? up your subsequent career there. I remember there's one thing I meant to ask you earlier, it was to ask you about a couple of names of people I saw that were some of the athletes around or just after you, I'm not sure if you knew them or not, Harold Holmes and . .

B: Oh, yeah, Harold Holmes was a basketball player that came here. He had excellent capability but he didn't continue in school, he dropped out.

M: What about Robert Lincoln, that's another name I ran across. A football player, maybe after you I'm not sure.

B: Robert Lincoln, that one I don't know. What year was that do you know?

M: Early 60s.

B: OK, it's one I don't know.

M: Another one was Leford Fant.

B: Yeah, I know Leford Fant ??? Leford Fant was, he was, a football player and a basketball player. When I left El Paso, I kind of lost track of him and in three other trips that I've been back to El Paso, I'm in contact with him ???, in fact, on this visit its one of the names that I call out ??? I left it at home. But during the years of '56 through '59, Harold Holmes and Leford Fant were the only two black basketball players ???

M: OK, about the only thing I see, actually there's one kind of technical

question I wanted to ask you, and then I have one other one. Around that time, a little after you left, or as you were leaving, El Paso finally adopted a public accommodations ordinance, were you around at the time, did you have any involvement, or know anybody that was involved in this, I guess, the city council adopted a municipal ordinance creating open public accommodations or something in the city, do you remember anything about . . .

B: No, I wasn't aware of that. And I don't know of anyone that knowingly that, you know, that was involved.

M: When you look back on intercollegiate sports and also your educational experience, do you have any kind of closing observations or remarks about what helped develop you or mold you as a person for later life, or anything like that?

B: I basically had an advantage that a lot of kids today don't have. One I had a strong family background, a mother and father that were not ??? but they provided everything for the kids in order to receive ??? We had opportunity to go to school and ??? support father and mother ??? We had the opportunity to go to church and my parents taught us how to relate to people, ??? And those kinds of things which are a foundation and not matter what you do later in life, it takes and also it can lead to understand ??? Because ??? sports, especially from a coaching standpoint ???

M: Is there anything else you'd like to add before we wear you down completely in talking?

B: Ah, no, nothing other than when I was sitting in the other office over there, I was thinking, I was looking at this ??? several times in the last, several times that when Texas Western won the NCAA, I had friends

of mine who sent me clippings of some of the ?? articles that were written about the equality between the athletes at Texas Western and most of the articles that I received ??? and ??? both from the standpoint of the players and from the standpoint of coaching, the coaching skill. It's unfortunate but that happened and we ?? one of the things that ??? the isolation or anything that might be going on between that person that's doing the writing or the person that's doing the talking, ?? incidents where people have taken information ?? to sell a newspaper or sell a magazine or to ?? and hopefully ??? allow anything ??? I think about basketball, basketball at Texas Western in three ways pre-1956, then I look at it from say, 1956 to say, 1961, then I look at it from 1961 to the present. And rightfully, the emphasis has been in terms of what the accomplishments of the team ?? from 1961 to the present. But no, ?? recognition, it seems like a lack of [poise?] of the school history as far as athletics are completely left out. ?? Also looking at 33 years ago when the teams were all-white and looking at 33 years in which the teams were all-black or ?? which I'm not sure what that word means in terms of, talking in terms of accomplishment or talking in terms of ?? a team in summer of 1955 and ?? team in summer of 1959 is all-black and not in terms of progress but just in terms of ??

M: A lot of people are kind of intrigued by what that means.

B: Yeah, I'm still, one of the reasons I have difficulty with it is because I really don't know Don Haskins and ?? a person that's really outgoing, especially ?? and even he's ??, I know ?? close contact ??????

M: OK, well maybe I will turn it off at this point.