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Interview no. 784

Donald S. Henderson

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Donald S. Henderson
INTERVIEWER: Carole Barasch
PROJECT: History of the University
DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 3, 1989
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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Student at Texas Western College 1952-56; president of student body
1955-56; mayor of El Paso

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Describes TWC in 1950s, the dedicated teaching of the faculty, and
race relation on campus; describes famous alligator prank and a
panty raid; explains role of fraternities and sororities in campus
life of the 1950s; lists accomplishments as mayor of El Paso.

Length of Interview: 45 minutes Length of Transcript 21 pages

Donald S. Henderson
July 12, 1989
4:00 p.m.
Mesa Atrium
Carole Barasch

I: Are you a native El Pasoan?

H: No, I was born and raised in Alamogordo, New Mexico. I graduated from high school up there in 1952. One of my classmates, we went to school together, is Katherine Ortega, who's the treasurer of the United States.

I: She's done all right for herself, hasn't she.

H: We're very proud of that. We had a good, close-knit group and they all, I think, have become pretty good citizens. I had a whopping sixty students in my graduating class. When we had our twentieth class reunion we had forty-four of those sixty attend. Pretty good.

I: It is.

H: So I had no idea about coming to Texas Western. A couple of things happened. I had to attend a meeting with about seven or eight other athletes in our high school to go to New Mexico Military Institute. At that point in time the University of New Mexico had a big deemphasis program on athletics and the president (his name was Popejoy) had a feeling there was too much emphasis on athletics and cut out athletic scholarships and that sort of thing. New Mexico State had some scholarships, but they were cutting back as well, so half a dozen of us were looking to go to school in New Mexico Military Institute, where we would play all sports. We'd play basketball, football--it was a four year school then. My father had moved back from California to El Paso and invited me to come down to El Paso one weekend--he'd remarried--and spend a long weekend with him. The following Wednesday I was to go to Roswell to sign on the dotted line. While I was

Henderson

here that Friday my dad knew Dale Waters, who was at that time the basketball coach at UTEP, Texas Western. He said, "You know, I'd like for you to stay here." We hadn't had much time together over the last six or seven years and he said "I'd like for you to go to school here," and he called Dale Waters and I met him over at Holliday Hall over at UTEP and he remembered seeing us play 'cause we had a very good basketball team in high school. We got beat in state finals. I still play that game over in my mind a thousand times. [Laughter] But he remembered seeing us win a couple of tournaments here in El Paso, one in Las Cruces, and I dribbled around, took a few shots up there and he said "Well, I'll give you a scholarship. I cannot give you a full scholarship. I'll give you books and tuition and then maybe next year -- make the team and all that, well we'll give you a full scholarship." So I told my dad and he said, "You can live with us, have that scholarship and go to school here." So I agonized for two days and Monday made a determination to come, which I never looked back on. I thought it was an excellent decision. I played basketball -- made the team as a freshman. I can say that I had the privilege of playing on the worst team [Chuckles] the Miners ever had. I think we beat Crockett [Elementary], Coldwell [Elementary], and Loretto [Girls Academy]. Those are the only three teams we beat in 1952 and 53.

I: But still athletic sports, basketball, was a big part of your life back then.

H: Yeah, I lettered in high school at track; we won the state in track. Football, we won the state in football one year and we got beat in the state finals in basketball, so it was a big part of my life at that point. I was a good high school player but I realized soon when I got to college because the following year, my sophomore year, [George] McCarty showed up from New Mexico

Henderson

State as the coach, in the fall of that year, and he recruited some good basketball players so I was through. I went on the other side of the campus and began to be more involved in more activities on the campus plus I switched halfway through my second year from being an engineer to business.

I: I want to backtrack a second. Besides sports, what was Texas Western College like in the 50's?

H: Well, going back to that point, and as I mentioned I had really no idea whatsoever about going to Texas Western. Being a New Mexico boy I was all caught up in New Mexico and all of the activities I participated in were all associated with the state of New Mexico. I had only been on Texas Western one other time and that was to see a football game at old Kidd Field, so that the time when I was down that weekend and went over to the campus was literally the first time I had walked on that campus. The interesting thing about the school at that time was, what comes to mind first is there was no problem with where you parked. [Laughter] There was no parking problem. Very few contemporaries and people that I met had an automobile. The full, I'm getting a little bit ahead of myself, but when I was president of the student body as a senior in '55 - '56 the full student body was like 3,900 students and that included night students. In '52 it had to be less than 3,000 students. A fellow by the name Gene Odel, kind of interesting--this is a personal thing--but Gene Odel was president of the student body. I remember his freshmen orientation and this... When I make talks to young people or people to do something with their lives and sometimes things just click with you and so you make little goals and you have little dreams that you want to do. And he came around and welcomed--as president of the student body--welcomed the group and he looked so nice and he had a tie on and he was neat. I thought you know that's kind of where I'd like to be four years from now so

Henderson

I set it as a little goal and almost four years to the day I had that opportunity to do the same thing. I don't know whether I looked as neat as he did.

I: Well you're still wearing a tie.

H: I'm still wearing a tie. [Chuckles]

I: But he's been a very good citizen for El Paso and it's amazing how we have to realize that people have influences. When you get in a position of responsibility, how you conduct yourself and what you say and all that has an impact upon somebody positively or negatively. I told Gene that story, and he's gone on to become one of the leaders in education here in El Paso. But it was, after I made the decision to come and to stay here and met a number of people that are still very good friends of mine to this day. One of them is in that picture up there where we had a lifetime dream of going to Scotland to play golf. He was the first fellow that I met here that following week at old Valdespino Golf Course. He and a guy named Chuchu Canales and he had a twin brother named Fred which I didn't know better. I saw him on the campus one day and ran up and grabbed him and he almost slugged me. It was his twin brother. But Mike Fenerty is a doctor now in San Francisco. He's a neurologist down there. He and I--he was the first fellow that I met. He graduated from Austin so were a lot of Austin, Bowie, El Paso people I met as a freshman then, we became very good friends. Besides your association in a fraternity, if you were in a fraternity or sorority, if you lived in the dormitory which I was in a fraternity not my first year. I joined my second year.

I: Which fraternity?

H: TKE, Tau Kappa Epsilon. TKE had been on the campus and then it had faded out. Again as a personal feeling I wasn't finding a whole lot of fault

Henderson

with..., 'cause my feeling is I think private organizations ought to kind of do their own deal without a lot of influence from government and everything else. But I was concerned because a lot of them had by-laws that wouldn't take friends of mine who had Spanish surnames. TKE was the only one at that time that did not have a discriminatory clause so two or three friends of mine including Jim Peak started TKE back again in 1953 and built it up. Texas Western at that time was such a neat place because even if you weren't in a fraternity or you weren't living in the dorm, just the departments [that] you were involved in, whether you had a interest in history or you were an engineer or you were something else. The school was so small that it was like a fraternity. If you were a business major your association with that department and all and the faculty and the staff, you were all like one big fraternity or sorority. You knew your professors. You knew the staff people literally on a first name basis. If you had problems you went to them. I'm sure not having been a student since 1956 out there that as a student body grew it got away from that or at least I hear that one reference made in, statement made and feelings made from other contemporaries of mine that went out there that it must not have continued, as it grew from a small 3000 student body to 15000. From a standpoint of the strengths and weakness that was a tremendous strength. In my style and personality it was great for me. It was tremendous. The relationships that I spent--I was a high "C" student, low "B" student 'cause I was the last guy in the dorm when everybody else went to sleep and I couldn't talk with anybody anymore then I'd go study.

I: You were a kind of party man, weren't you.

H: Well, it wasn't so much as partying I just liked people, and I liked to be around them. It took me a long time to calm down during the day.

Henderson

I: How would you say that academically Texas Western College measured up?

H: Well, I don't know. The only thing I know is that from some of my contemporaries who looked back on it, had gone to other schools maybe for a masters' degree or PH.D or medical schools. I know it's hard for them to be objective because I think that most of them coming through at that time in the early '50s, late '40s and early '50s, up to middle '50s, were very close to the school. They were very close to their professors as I have outlined so it was hard for them to stand back and say "I could've gotten a better education some place else." The interesting aspect of that is so many of the people I went to school with at that time [agreed with me.] Incidentally I lived in two dorms with Dr. Anton Berkman. He was single and he lived in the dorm with us. He lived in Benedict Hall when I lived in Benedict. He lived in Hudspeth and I lived at Hudspeth. He went to bat for so many students that probably when they were looking at getting in to Southwestern Medical School or some place else in the country that probably Texas Western [applicants] could have been pushed aside, you know, and they'd take some other student from some other better known institution in the country. But through the doggedness and the reputation that Berkman had built up with these people in these medical schools when he put the word on them about say a Carole Barasch, "Let me tell you about Carole Barasch and why you need her in this program," that they found out he was telling the truth, this was a person they should have in this medical school. Well it put a tremendous amount of responsibility on the student. Those students knew that he went out on a limb. He really did all he could and he got them into medical school. Like, I say Mike Fenerty is like a brother to me. He was three years in the business school. Then one day he decided he's going to become a doctor. He went back and sat down with Berkman and the people over there in

Henderson

the pre-med and said "What do I have to do?" and went through that program. Then he got on the phone for Mike, so I knew from being very close to several of those people what that meant. From the law school I can give you names of the half a dozen that I know personally that they had a good reputation in pre-law, probably not as strong just because of personality of Doctor Berkman. But it was, well, in Geology and Business and other things, the people who came through at that time and I don't think we were a whole lot different than the next generation or others. But they have become top people in their chosen professions and I think that speaks well for them and for the institution they came through. From that standpoint I think it probably measured up.

I: What about some other teachers who were of direct influence upon you? Who would you give credit?

H: Well, the first ones that come to mind that helped me were Doctor Wade Hartrick, Don Freidland, Mrs. Black, who was a business letters and typing teacher. She was tougher than dirt. But she was really a neat gal. Mrs. Collingwood, Mrs. Smith, a speech teacher, was very helpful to me. People say "You do a good job on your feet." It's something you learn and you work just like they say, "Well, you do well in front of camera." But how many times do you have to be in front of the camera and screw up. (chuckles) Well it's like how many times you have to be on your feet to do... . But she was always very encouraging. She was just an extra special person in a speech department and a speech show class. A fellow named Brewster in business law was an exceptional teacher. He was really great.

I: Do you feel like you got a good foundation from the business school.

H: Um hum. I still refer to it as a department and the Dean Hasty gets on me all the time.

Henderson

I: Told you it's college now.

H: It's college now. But, they had a nucleus of people over there, sure we didn't have a half a dozen more Ph.D.'s than some other school had at that time. But they did have handful of people who really cared. I mean they talk about the dedicated professor but what does that really mean? To me it means that somebody goes a little bit out of the way to help you. Dr. Hartrick was; he saw to it that he did it; he helped students. Then that carried over with the people in his department so they -- if you wanted help you could get. And it was very meaningful. I took a course with Stickland, Dr. [Rex] Stickland in History. He was one of the most fascinating people that I have ever met in my life and could captivate you. He was one of the few professors. You know a lot of students kind of look at their watch after about twenty minutes or thirty minutes. He could get on a subject and you would want to stay on another hour. He and Strickland, Strickland and [C.L.]Sonnichsen belong to worldwide group at that time. I don't recall the name of it but there were less than a hundred people that had membership in that group as historians. And those two were members, at that time, in the early 50s, from Texas Western College. So I think it spoke well for those two fellows. As you know Sonnichsen's still alive and going strong. But Strickland, we tried a half a dozen students, tried to get him on the old \$64,000 Question [quiz show] because he knew every baseball player in the history of baseball and his batting average and where he came from and all of that. But he wouldn't do it. For some reason he would not do it. He also knew, he said, every family that came to Texas from the early 1800's up through the early 1900's for over a hundred years. He was really an amazing guy. And Mrs. Collingwood in English, she was great, and Ponsford, Pearl Ponsford. She just died this year, ninety some odd years old. One of the

Henderson

most fascinating lecturers and teachers that anybody could have if they went from Harvard to Stanford. She would every year or every two years, maybe not every year, but she'd take a world trip to some exotic place in the world. She was very well educated in that way plus her academic background. I guess everybody kind of remembers these teachers but when the bells sounded, the door was closed; nobody got into her class after that time. She got after me one day. I sat on the front row. (I'm color blind. I would have ended the war in Korea, but they wouldn't let me fly the damn airplanes.) [Laughter] But she kept looking down at my feet and I had one green and one red sock on or something.

I: She had to excuse you for that.

H: She said, "You know, you can do a lot better than that Mr. Henderson." She was really an extra person.

I: Let's change gears for just second. You were mentioning the TKE's and how they were the only fraternity on campus at that time who would accept both Anglos and Hispanics

H: Right.

I: What was the tone of race relationships on the campus at that time?

H: There wasn't any problem that surfaced. It was interesting, though, from a standpoint that we had, you know, the first Black student came when I was president of student body. We had -- I got calls from Life, Time all of them as representative of a student body. I think her name was [Thelma] White. She was being encouraged by the NAACP to get around to these schools to see what the story really was. When they interviewed me about it and I said there's no problem; if I can go to school here she can go to school here, so and so can go to school; it makes no difference. And I think I speak for most of the people on this, the student body. They put their cameras in

Henderson

their pockets and left.

I: You weren't a story then.

H: There was no story. I think that by and large they felt that way. There wasn't any of the problem. There was this carry-over situation that existed with the fraternities and sororities. I don't think there was a Jewish sorority there at that time, maybe, I don't recall that. But they had a discriminatory clause at one time or another which I was opposed to. I had friends of mine, I told them they can do their own deal. It's just that I had friends of mine, whose names were Garcia and Lopez, people that I'd run around with. I didn't know whether I was a real crusader or not. I think that I was very liberal like a lot of young people wanting to change the world over night. And I was that way when I was that way when I was president of the student body. If I had been born a few years later -- it's kind of scary you know. We thought we could get some things done and I think we did. But I wanted to get a fraternity going that we could have all different kinds. We had a little bit of a problem from time to time, being invited to sorority functions and also from a negative sort of situation at that time that kind of existed but so many of us. [The school was] so small that if we had a little problem I could call the leadership of Chi Omega and say, "What the hell are you all doing?" you know, and then it would all go away. I think it was more of an impact from their national office and their national by-laws and all that than it was indigenous to Texas Western or El Paso.

I: So it was more a problem on the larger front?

H: Yeah.

I: Than down here. You could try and solve it.

H: We could cut through all of that.

Henderson

I: Yeah.

H: So TKE's, you know, they were ahead of themselves.

I: What were some of the real popular social activities back then? Any kinds of -- even pranks that you guys pulled back then, can you tell me anything about that or is it just too embarrassing?(giggles)

H: Well no, no. When I lived in Benedict, cause I lived at home my first year. Then my sophomore year I moved into Benedict Hall which again it was like a fraternity in itself. There was only like twenty-eight guys or thirty guys that lived in Benedict Hall. So when I first moved there, the first week I was there two incidents happened which kind of set the stage for my life on the campus. One, I was awakened one night about two o'clock in the morning and I hear; I lived on the second floor and I hear them say, "old him up, don't drop him, hold him up." You know I think, "well somebody's coming in drunk. I opened the door and I look and these guys have got a nine foot alligator (giggles). We, I lived there with some fellows that were mining engineers. And these guys were you know they were the "hippies," whatever, of their age. You know they let their hair grow. They wore dynamite caps on their belts. They never bathed. They were just awful. They [UTEP] don't even give a mining degree now. But one of them, later I met, and I couldn't believe it, I was astounded. I met him in Leadville, Colorado, and he was the vice-president of one of those molybdenum mines up there. I figured that he had been in jail. And here he winds up -- so that speaks well again for that degree.

I: He'd even showered.

H: He'd even showered. He had a three piece suit on. It was amazing. [Interviewer giggles] They all lived in Benedict Hall in those days and then we all migrated from Benedict over to Hudspeth Hall. But they were an

Henderson

interesting bunch. They had taken that alligator that night and put it under [Howard Quinn's] desk. How they got a key and got over there I don't know but they put it in and then poor [Quinn] comes in and almost has a heart attack. So they had a real attraction for those alligators. The second thing, we had a panty raid on Bell Hall. The president was [Wilson] Bull Elkins at the time. You probably knew he went to Maryland. So Bull, here's a guy, all wrapped up in one human being, is a guy that is president, had been a Rhodes Scholar, had been an All-American football player and on the U.S. Olympic track team.

[Side Two]

So we'd all migrated out in front of the cafeteria and over to Bell Hall and you know we were taking all of our cues from some of the upper classmen. The freshmen, we were scared to death. So we get over there and some of the gals were hanging their laundry out of the window and encouraging everybody to, you know, make a run into the place. Some guys got around the back of Bell Hall and got inside; half a dozen got inside. One guy pops out of a window, waving panties up there to everybody and a big cheer goes up and about that time out of the front door hops up on the balcony there, was Bull Elkins with no coat on. His tie undone and he said, "Guys, it's over. The next group anybody comes through has got to go through me." Well, in about three minutes it was over and everybody left and he went back wherever and it was over. But I don't think there was ever another panty raid at least not one that I was involved in, when I was there.

I: Generally would you say that things were pretty innocent?

H: Comparatively very innocent. In the dormitory there were, out of thirty guys, there were six that had a car. So mobility was a real problem. I mean

Henderson

we caught a bus and went down town. We caught it you know -- guys wanted to share a cab to go down to a movie or to go some place. We would borrow guys cars to go on dates and that sort of thing. So there were functions we had I think early on in '52, '53, till they kind of died out-- a few sock-hops over in Holliday Hall and the Student Union Building. You had your homecoming events which were a lot of fun and a lot of the students participated in that. So many of them that lived in the dorms did, that's where you got most of the nucleus to do any that stuff. And that was only a small group. Say out of 3000 students or whatever probably eighty percent of them lived at home and really didn't have a lot of the school spirit. It (was) very difficult to get that going so from a total student body situation, you got it going through the fraternities and sororities more than any place. We organized this Spring Festival sort of thing when I was a sophomore and junior/senior; it ran for three years. We put together a deal with New Mexico State for intramural athletic contests that was in conjunction with that festival that came off very well. We had a silver spade and gold ball and basketball and football for intramurals and softball. Then a year or so which always is the case if you don't have the leadership that wants to continue it, it'll die out. But intramurals was a big deal. There were a lot of guys like me who liked athletics and we were not good enough to play on the varsity, so but we had some real competition among the fraternities and in different independent organizations who competed in intramurals. I was fortunate and needed to but I held the only two paying jobs; as an intramural director you got paid twenty-five dollars a month and as president of the student body you got fifty dollars a month.

I: So you were kind of a rich kid on campus?

H: I didn't have a car till I was senior, but I worked all during the summer

which it seemed then kids could get the impact of the money and working in the summer carried you through longer. Maybe we didn't have the taste that they do later. I worked in construction jobs in the summer and then I would run out of money like in April or something. But it was always within 30 to 60 days. And I could pay my room and board and all that. And my folks helped when they could and I could make it. And everybody that I knew in those days had some kind of job. They either worked construction during the summer or they went to the harvest of wheat fields in Kansas or some place, worked on the ice docks, would deliver mail. You know everybody kind of had a job of some kind -- sustained them throughout the year. I don't know how that works now, how many of them have a job. I understand a lot of them do that go to UTEP. But there were a whole lot of us--you know when the school started we didn't work. But we worked over Christmas holidays, say delivering mail or on the ice docks or in the summer and saved your money. Most of my friends were in that category. So it was a real innocent time. I think that's really the case.

I: What about drugs and alcohol? I imagine alcohol . . .

H: Alcohol. Nobody mentioned drugs; nobody even knew what marijuana [was]; that was some subcultural somewhere, that somebody did. I didn't even know anybody that knew anybody that smoked marijuana or any other drugs of any kind. They did pretty good with the K.P.T. beer and the Hacienda beer.

I: Lots of taste of Juarez back then?

H: Not that many. That brings up an interesting recall. We lived in the dorm. They didn't serve on Sunday night so you had to fetch for yourself Sunday night. We used to go to the Alcazar in Juarez. You could get a steak that would fall off of your plate for like two dollars. You could get a glass of wine or what do they call it? Whatever it is that you squeeze and

it's a goat bag that squeezes the wine out on your face . . .

I: Ah, huh.

H: Well they used to do that so you could get kind of plowed a little bit by frequent wine. So we'd do that and then we'd split the steak. We'd get two plates, split the steak. One got to eat the soup and one got to eat the salad. For about two dollars a piece or less we'd go across from the Alcazar to the Rainbow Bar which is still there. Not to long ago I was telling somebody the story and went over and I looked and it's still there. It didn't look quite the same. You get fifteen cent shots of tequila. Literally for two dollars you could get--you'd have a pretty good evening over there. If you get a guy to get a car over there that was the problem.

I: Yeah.

H: We had two or three that did have a car and we'd have to talk them into either going or could we borrow the car to go. Four of us lived in Benedict decided we were going to get a car so we saved our money. We put in, I think \$35 a piece. We went down some place like Texas Auto and we bought us a car for a hundred and fifty dollars. We drove it back and parked it behind Benedict so we were all going to take turns. I drew the short straw. I got it last. So I had a date with sweet girl. She lived over by Austin High School. I forget where we went but then I took her home and I'm driving over Scenic Drive. I'm coming down through Kern Place and that sucker died just like somebody shot. [Laughter] Then I pushed it off the side and parked, walked to the dorm and those guys will never let me live that down. They said you did something to our car. Anyway it never got up again.

I: All in all you had a pretty fabulous time didn't you?

H: Great time. Great memories.

I: Let's get away from UTEP for just a couple of minutes and talk about your

administration as mayor? If you were going to briefly name some of the accomplishments you're most proud of what would they be? What are they?

H: Well, I think we did a lot of work in the Criminal Justice area that set,

I think the standard for the future police department. We had some ^{very} difficult things to deal with at that time, some things going on that had gone on for years that had to be stopped. And we did that. We got some new blood, some new people in there.

I: When you say that things that had to be stopped, what?

H: Well, there were things that, people were receiving preferential treatment, particularly in the area of D.W.I.'s and whatever else. That had to be cleaned up, that had to be done. There were some other things--some police, high officials were not doing their job. They were not holding up their responsibility. Things were not getting done that needed to get done. All this was brought to us from a lot of different sources; from federal authorities, within the police department itself. Second line management people were coming and saying these things can't go on. We can't do this. We set up the Juvenile Department to address those things. We set up the department specifically for burglaries. We put a lot of time and effort and money into that field which I think--we saw a lot of results immediately. I served with Fred Hervev, and Fred and I disagreed on public transportation. Fred subsequently changed and thought it was a good idea. He wanted to try to subsidize the three new bus companies; the private companies that were in existence at that time: The Upper Valley, The City Lines, and The Lower Valley. They were all going broke and they wanted out of the business. The City Lines owned the city buses and the toll at the bridge. This was the last operation; it was a national organization of city lines. This was the last operation for them. And they wanted out. We made the decision in June

Henderson

of '75 to take the federal money, take seven percent of state and get into the bus business. We tried to set the standard for the future administrations that you can't have a bus stop at every corner. But this community needed mass transportation as much as any. We were a low income city we needed to provide that. I have a picture on my wall out here, when we were in Washington and the day that SCAT was born. We knew that Federal money would dry up someday. One thing that would help us was the revenue from the bridges, we were in hopes to get the street cars back, which was a tragic mistake, particularly for my friends across the river who were opposed to it. We would have had the only international streetcar operation in the world. The Hogback bridge hurt us when they built that. Those cars sat there and rotted in the barn, they were worth \$35,000 to \$45,000. I'd been offered as mayor, something like \$38,000 a piece for them. We spent a lot of time trying to get that back. It was a tragic mistake. They were doing well in Juarez, business wise, and they didn't want people coming over here. They wanted to stop that. The chamber was opposed it. Everywhere we'd go in Mexico they right behind us, knocking us dead. And we kept thinking we were making progress and only a signature away of getting them running again. But mass transportation was a big area that we concentrated on. We recognized that there were monies that hadn't been spent in certain areas of this community. We spent money in the Lower Valley, probably more money with revenue sharing and city money than had been spent in the last 50 years in widening street, widening Zaragosa, widening North Loop, a buying right of way. They had the old swimming pool which we traded with the Boys Club, which we build Pavo Real Pool. Used that money for that. And built the first park and pool on the West Side that they never had one. People kind of feel, well they got the higher income people why you need that pool, we have

Henderson

a lot low income people on the West Side. People who can't belong to a country club or don't have access to a pool, so we built that. We built the first Senior Citizen place at Memorial Park and worked with 56 different groups in town to do that, to come up with the Senior Citizens [Center]. So we think we took that revenue sharing money, spent it wisely, watched those costs, were able to do that without increasing taxes. So there's others that are just not popping in my mind right now, but maybe later I'll think of them.

I: Well, okay.

H: I don't have them in front of me. But we figured that in the two year period we had, which I chastise in some cases and encourage people serving on the city council to put down a list of goals that you want to accomplish--you're not going to be there forever--and then try to work together. Everybody's got their own agenda, go through that agenda, and then decide what you want. We did that because we all were elected together. Those were the days when you [were] elected as a team. You can debate the good or the bad, but one thing that you do have, is a real positive thing coming out of it, is that you can, 75 - 80% of the time, get together and agree on something and then go accomplish it. That's why we think that during those couple of years we were able to accomplish a lot of things because you didn't have that divisiveness that exists on a lot councils when people come from different areas, and they have kind of a feeling, "I want my agenda, and the hell with your agenda." It takes the Mayor, and I think the Mayor is the one to do it, if they're going to do it, is to try to get these people together and come up with a kind of agenda.

I: We've talked mostly about the past, and about UTEP and your recollections of things back in the '50s. What would you like to see happen to UTEP now?

What are your hopes for UTEP?

H: Well, a lot of the hopes and dreams that I've had, for instance, getting accreditation for the business department has become a reality. A lot of us have been involved with that for a long period of time. That's a monumental, historical event. To continue to do that sort of thing. To get that recognition. To work with the Board of Regents. Someday we need representation. We had one, Hardy, was the only person from this part of the world that was on that board. I think the presidents we've had over the years, the last few presidents have done a good job of singing the praises of this institution and telling them about our strengths and what our weaknesses are, and what the system can do. There's one aspect that I don't think will change or change anytime soon. We have people who want to receive more money in research. We're doing some research in Alzheimer Research, which is from a lay person's looking at and the work they do is fantastic. And it's been recognized all over the country. Now that sort of thing should be encouraged. If we happen to have people who are interested in that and do that, and feel like they can make some . . . have some success in that area, or in whatever area. When you look at the budget of the system, we get like 2 to 3 percent of that budget for research and 90 some odd percent of all that research money winds up in Austin. It's going to take a tremendous effort to change that but I think we can change it. We've concentrated on providing all of the facilities here, relative to teaching and providing all the support systems to get that person from A to graduate, and I think that's primary. But I also think that there are people who would want to live in El Paso and be on the faculty of UTEP and be interested in doing research of one kind or another as well as being a teacher. Why can't we get more of those funds? People like Ex-students, he followed me as president of the Student

Henderson

Body. I taught him everything that he knows [Laughter]. Then Jim Peak followed him. But I told Caster, we visited one day over a beer, and I said, "you know we're not getting the business people of this community to focus. Maybe we ought to break away from the University system. Maybe we ought to have our own school out here somewhere." We were not real serious with all that but we were serious with getting people's attention. The Chamber of Commerce at the time, this was in the early '60s, Chamber of Commerce at the time had a committee, called Chamber Committee for Texas Western, for UTEP, and they hadn't had a damn meeting in over four or five years. So we hold a press conference. I think Marshall Hale did a story, (they just honored Marshall Hale not too long ago as one of the top reporters-- you might of seen-- he was an interesting reporter), so he did that. He thought that that was good that we were doing, the leaders of the ex-student association. So we got a meeting when Jim and I said "It was time to break away from the university system." Man that ran off. That played well all over this community. We had a meeting at the old chamber building down on San Francisco Street. It's gone now. It's where the Civic Center is. And the place had standing room only. And they said, "Who are these recalcitrant, bad boys doing this sort of thing? You know, how much money?" We accomplished our mission -- that we got the attention. That's even when Hardy was on the board, and he came and explained why it would be a foolhardy deal to pursue that sort of thing, which, we knew that, but we did what we accomplished. And that's the, we got more people involved. I remember when Joe Ray called people together, Dr. Ray. I was president of the ex-students, and said, "What are we going to do about our athletic program? Do we really want to have an athletic program at UTEP, or do we not?" So you need that kind of leadership every once in a while, and somebody sticking out there and

Henderson

saying, "Are we getting our fair share from the state? Are we getting enough support for being a part of the University system?" We have to be diligent, and everybody that loves that school like I do says, j"We want to get on with it, and we want to do our part to see that we're getting our share, and that 90% of research money doesn't go to Austin." They don't have all the mines down there. This is the school of mines. (Laughter)

End of interview