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Interview no. 796

Dr. Jean Turner Bowman

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Dr. Jean Turner Bowman

INTERVIEWER: Barbara Dent

PROJECT: El Paso Medical Community

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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

El Paso native and physician in El Paso since 1963

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Family background; medical school experiences; medical auxiliary; the Turner Home; life in El Paso during WWII; Kern Place area; change in El Paso over the years; Ft. Bliss Hospital before renamed William Beaumont Hospital.

Length of Interview: 1 hour Length of Transcript 37 pages

This is June 18th, 1988 in El Paso, Texas.
I'm Barbara Dent and I came to interview Jean Turner Bowman;
Dr. Jean Turner Bowman.

Q Dr. Bowman, can you tell me when you were born and where you were born?

A Well, I was born at the old Hotel Dieu in El Paso, August the 25th, 1922.

Q And who were your parents?

A Dr. and Mrs. George Turner.

Q Were they originally from El Paso?

A No. They were from *Bofky County.

Q Texas?

A Central Texas.

Q When did they move to El Paso?

A Daddy came here in 1918 in the Army, World War I, as chief of the laboratory service, what later became Beaumont Hospital, and Mother came about 1920 to join him.

Q Were they married before?

A Yeah. Daddy said June, 1918 was the biggest month in his life. He finished medical school, got married and he joined the Army. (Laughter)

Q Oh, boy. And how many children did they have?

A Two.

Q Two. And was the other one a boy or a girl?

A A girl. She's five and a half years younger than I am.

Q Is she still alive?

A Yes.

Q And what is her name?

A Her name is Anne Turner Wainwright.

Q Does she live here in town?

A Part-time.

Q And where was your home when you were growing up here in El Paso?

A Well, we moved to the house on River Street when I was about two, and then we moved to a house on Silver Street when I was five and a half. Those were the two homes I remember.

Q And then you -- did you go to Radford?

A No. I went to public school. Daddy was chairman of the school board. That would never have done for me to go to Radford.

Q Okay. And which schools did you go to?

A I went to Crockett and Austin High School.

Q And then when did you go to college?

A In 1940 I went to SMU and majored in piano. And then I went to Yale and got a masters in piano, medicine and piano.

Q How did piano get you into medicine?

A Well, I always wanted to study medicine and Daddy didn't want me to. I loved music; a great avocation.

Q Do you still play?

A Not well.

Q Then when did you go to medical school?

Q I knew we had a Radford in there somewhere.

A Right. Cindy went to Radford.

Q When you were a child and your parents were very, very active in the community, your dad was president of the County Society. Was he one of the organizers?

A No, I don't think so. No. He may have been.

Q And when did your mom get interested in the auxiliary?

A Oh, she was always interested in it. Aunt Jen, Mrs. Darby Homan, was the prime mover in the auxiliary in those days, and she kept Mother busy.

Q And you said, "Aunt Jen." Was there any relation?

A No.

Q You were just friendly. Then your mom was president of the auxiliary here, and then she went on to be state president?

A Uh-huh.

Q How old were you when she was state president?

A Oh, she was state president in 1936, I think. Wasn't it? I have the little doohickey here. Here's the date. This is the county auxiliary. It was organized in 1922. And Mrs. Redd organized the national auxiliary after the state. State auxiliary in El Paso, president of the county in 1936, 1937. I was in high school then. Yeah, it was 1940 something when she was state president here. 1945, 1946. No, it was 1953, 1954. I was in pre-med when she was national.

Q When she was national. Well, when she -- when you were in

high school and she was doing all this travelling as state president, how was that?

A A little hectic at times.

Q For her and for you all, too?

A Yeah. El Paso's a long way from anywhere else in Texas.
(Laughter)

Q Right. Especially then. There wasn't too much flying then.

A No. Her way was on the train. She said it gave her time to think, on the train.

Q I'll bet so. What were some of her main goals, do you remember, as auxiliary president?

A She started that school of construction.

Q For the (unintelligible)?

A And she started *gyms.

Q The babysitting?

A The babysitting, uh-huh.

Q Now, you were also interested in the auxiliary. You're one of the few female physicians in town who have joined the auxiliary.

A Oh, I've always belonged to the auxiliary. Yeah, I was married to a doctor in Chicago and he died, so I came home. And I always just belonged to the auxiliary for him and for Mother.

Q Your mom was well-known for her hats.

A (Laughter) Yes. I still have some.

Q Do you really?

A Uh-huh.

Q Now, when did your dad die?

A In 1976.

Q And your mom?

A My mom died in 1979.

Q They lived a long, productive life?

A Yeah. We're a long-lived family. I'm looking forward to another 20 or 30 years.

Q That's right. Can you tell me something about the Turner Home, the Steven S. Turner Home?

A Oh, yes. I used to go down there all the time with Mama as a little kid.

And Dr. S. T. had a little farm, an experimental farm, actually, down in the Valley, where he raised all sorts of vegetables, mainly vegetables. He had a man-made lake on the farm that I used to go down and swim in once in a while.

And he retired from the practice of medicine in 1915. But he tried to keep up. About once a month, Daddy would go down and have dinner with him and keep him up-to-date on medicine.

He had a black gal who kept house for him. He was diabetic, so he never went anyplace to eat. And she fed him when he should eat.

Q Now, when did the first Mrs. Turner die; Mrs. Steven Turner?

A Oh, man. I left El Paso in 1940, and for all intents and

purposes, never came home to live until 1963, so it was -- Annie Laurie died, probably in the 1930s. I'm not sure.

Q Did you know the second Mrs. Turner?

A Yes. I knew Lucy.

Q Did you visit still, then, at the Turner Home?

A Yes.

Q Where did she move to after she moved out of the Turner Home?

A She never had any children and she had a niece and nephew who lived here. I can't remember their names. Maybe somebody else could. I think she moved in with a niece. I'm not sure. She was quite elderly.

Q Oh, was she?

A Yeah. She was in her 70s or 80s, I guess.

And Dr. Turner left the home to her for her lifetime use, and then it was to go to the Medical Society. And they were anxious to get it, so they bought out her lifetime. They had a formula on how they figured it out, but they bought out her lifetime use of the house so they could get it early.

I've forgotten who was president then. Mr. Spierman. Somebody.

Q During the war, you were in Chicago. This was when you were in medical school?

A World War II, I was in SMU.

Q SMU. And what was life around here like during World War II

with all the soldiers?

A Well, it was very busy, I can tell you.

Juarez was closed to the military, because there was so much trouble with soldiers going over there and getting all sorts of funny diseases; (Laughter) bordellos, and not coming back across the bridge and all that stuff. So they closed the border to the military for a long time. I think it was almost the duration of the War. And so we didn't go to town to the picture show at all, because these boys didn't have any place to go.

They were just holed up in Fort Bliss and Logan Heights, which was all out Dyer Street, were all wooden barracks and movie houses and all sorts of places where they could go and get a coke.

Q Were there a lot of USO dances here?

A Yes.

Q Did the town girls participate in that?

A Yes.

Q Did you participate in that?

A Yes.

Q Was it a lot of fun?

A Yeah. Well, when I was here. I was in Dallas most of the time.

I was a Junior Gray Lady out at Beaumont when Willard Schuessler was out there doing so much plastic surgery. Beaumont was a plastic and orthopedic hospital at

that time.

Q Now, you said your dad was there in 1918, and he was in the lab, and that was the beginning of Beaumont Hospital?

A No. Beaumont had not been established. It was Fort Bliss Hospital.

Q And when was Beaumont --

A And the doctors were examining the troops as they were discharged from the service.

Q When did Beaumont become an official hospital in its own; do you remember?

A I don't remember. It was probably in the 1920s.

Q When did your dad get out of the service?

A He finally got out in 1920 or 1921.

Q He didn't go back for World War II?

A No. He said he was out here, and he resigned every month for 22 months trying to get out. (Laughter)

And they were packing to go back to Fort Worth, actually, and they decided they wanted to stay here, so they did.

Q And that's when they bought the house over on River Street.

A No. We lived on Morehead Street for a while.

Mother said she cleaned up more dirty houses around here than she could imagine. Every time she'd clean them up, somebody would buy it, you know. (Laughter)

Q She should have been married to a contractor. That's the way they do it.

A That's right. Yeah.

Q And you said you were married to a doctor in Chicago.

A Yes. His name was Walter Maddox. He was chief of surgery at the hospital where I was in residency.

Q Then how did you get the name of Bowman? Did you remarry?

A Well, when I was married, before I went to pre-med or medical school, I had Janet. Her name was Bowman. And we came home and decided I'd go to pre-med and medical school. So when Janet was six years old, I went to medical school.

Q You decided it would be easier to be a rich doctor than to be married to one.

A Right.

Q That's what my daughter decided about being a lawyer. It was easier to be one than to marry one.

A Than to marry one, yeah. You can have your cake and eat it too.

Q That's right. That's right.

Your dad had his office, when I came to town, over in the Medical Center, and I think you're still there; aren't you?

A Yes.

Q Where did he have his office before?

A It was in the First National Bank Building on -- the First National Bank Building and the Mills Building were mostly doctors, and the Robert *Vanna Building, mostly doctors.

Q And you said the Robert?

A Robert Vanna Building.

Q And where is that?

A You know where Kress' is?

Q Uh-huh.

A Right next door to Kress' in that block.

Q And when they built the Medical Center, it was a mass exodus out that way?

A Uh-huh. The Medical Center was built in 1952, 1953, when they moved in.

Now, when did y'all come?

Q We came in 1966.

A It was -- they moved out there in the early 1950s, I know.

Q That was really a fascinating area, the Golden Hill Circle there, the houses.

A Yeah, it really is. Somebody ought to buy that point and build a multi-storied condo. It'd be a gorgeous view.

Q When you came back -- let's see. They had Sun Towers and Providence and Thomason.

A And Southwestern.

Q And Southwestern, and the old Beaumont and Saint Joseph's. Did you ever go over to old Saint Joseph's?

A Yeah. Sure did.

Q Were you the radiologist over there? Did you read the films?

A No, huh-uh. I had patients there. I had several patients that had tuberculosis. They either went to Thomason or the

old Saint Joe's.

Q Well, was Saint Joe basically a tuberculosis?

A Uh-huh.

Q Did they take other terminally ill patients like hepatitis?

A Oh, yeah. They did, finally, because we finally had enough medication to control and cure tuberculosis by that time that you didn't have to go west and sit in the sun, you know.

Q Yeah.

A Take the cure, so to speak.

Q Now, when you were a child, did they have other sanitariums here in town that you remember?

A Oh, yeah. There was *Hendrix and Laws. Dr. Outlaw, Alice's father. Do you know Alice?

Q No.

A Alice Outlaw was married to -- at Carol. They just live up the street.

Q Her dad was a doctor?

A Dr. Outlaw. And there was -- they had a sanitarium. Dr. Outlaw was in with the sanitarium. I don't think he was in Hendrix and Laws.

There are two of the Hendrix girls who still live here.

Q And who are they?

A Mary Elizabeth Thurman lives up in the Valley, and -- they're both in PEO chapter. I'll have to go look.

Q And her name was Hendrix?

A Mary Elizabeth Hendrix, uh-huh. And Margie Hendrix was her married name. I'll look it up for you if you want to talk to Liz.

Q And Alice Outlaw's name is --

A Carroll. She's married to Ed Carrol.

Q Carroll. C-A-R-R-O-L-L?

A Uh-huh. Carroll and Donald. They're architects.

Q How have you seen El Paso change in all the years since you've lived here?

A Oh, my goodness! It's really grown by leaps and bounds. It really has.

Cincinnati Street -- I mean, Mesa Street was paved only to Cincinnati, and from Cincinnati on out to the crossroads, it was a dirt, gravel road.

Q Really? When did they pave Mesa?

A Gee, I don't know. It was probably after the war.

Q After the war.

A We used to go out the country club to swim. That was the only country club in town except for military.

Q The El Paso Country Club?

A Uh-huh. We either had to go through Smeltertown or out the dirt road.

Q And the one by Smeltertown, that was the highway. That was the old highway?

A Uh-huh. 80.

Q And what was Smeltertown like?

A Oh, it was a thriving community. Yeah, the smelter was really doing a lot more business than it does now, or it seemed to. I don't know whether it really is or not.

And the cement plant. Yeah, El Paso, I think, in the beginning of World War II, was maybe about 125,000 people.

Q It was quite different.

A Everybody knew everybody great, in a way.

Q Uh-huh.

A But after the war it just took off.

Q Do you think a lot of the military returned because they liked it?

A Yes. Right. I'm sure they did.

Q And they still are.

A Yeah. They still are returning. Wonderful.

Q Was your dad in on the building of the Medical Center? Was he one of the --

A Yes. He was one of the founders.

Q Was he also one of the founders of Sierra Hospital?

A No.

Q Or were you one of the founders of Sierra Hospital?

A No. When they decided to tear down Masonic Hospital, which is where the Sears is out at Five Points, you know, in that building -- my sister was born at the Masonic -- Daddy put in some money into Southwestern. Well, it was Homan and

Crimmon Sanitarium, TB center. And they were about to go broke, as a matter of fact, because there weren't any patients. And so they converted it to a, you know, hospital. They put in the operating room, the kitchen, the lab, and the x-ray, and renamed it Southwestern General. That was in -- well, that was about 1933 or 1934, I think.

Q So you were already --

A I was about 13 or 14 years old.

Q Can you tell me something about Kern Place? Do you remember when Kern Place was a thriving community or had the big gate up?

A Oh, yes. Yes. Anna Joe Davis and I were best friends. In fact, we were friends before we were born, because our parents were friends before we were born. And she just lives up the street. She was married to Lester Thompson who just died not too long ago. And her father, William Davis, was a ear, eye, nose and throat doctor. His office was in the Robert Manor building. And I used to go spend the day with Joe.

Q And she lived over in Kern Place?

A Yeah. They lived on Madelein Street.

Q And what was her name?

A Anna Joe Davis Thompson.

Q And her dad was Dr. Davis?

A Dr. William Davis, uh-huh.

Q The medical community seemed to have been very close at that

time.

A Wait a minute. Turn that thing off and I'll get something.

(Tape turned off)

A -- annual for the nurse's home. Masonic had a nursing home, nursing school, I should say. And that gives all that. It has pictures of all the doctors that taught in the nursing school. That was the nursing home that was on the end of the lot from the hospital.

Q Over at Southwestern -- at Masonic.

A At Masonic.

Q When did they cease having their nursing school; their last graduate class?

A When they tore down the hospital.

Q So how many nursing --

A Those were the doctors who taught there. This is Daddy.

Q He was a good looking man. How many nursing schools were here in town?

A There's Masonic and -- there is Dr. Davis -- Masonic and Hotel Dieu.

Q Is Dr. Spier in here somewhere?

A No. Dr. Spier didn't come until after World War II. They were -- I think they were stuck in Mexico.

Dr. Barrett's son lives in -- I think he lives in Las Cruces; Frank Barrett, Jr. He was the anesthesiologist.

Q I was going to say he was an anesthesiologist. They used to live on Stanton Street; didn't they?

A Well, first they lived on *Gold, and I used to go down and talk to them all the time. He was a great guy. I really enjoyed him.

And Dr. Varner's daughter, Margaret, lives here.

Q Now, his son was also a neurosurgeon.

A Yes. John and I are the same age.

Q Really? I knew John in residency in Galveston, and he had gone to medical school at the University of Virginia with my cousin.

A Uh-huh. There's Hal Gammall. Hal, Jr. lives here. He looks just like his daddy. Their daughter, Oraele Gammall Dick, married to Jim Dick.

Q Uh-huh. That's not Barbara Dick; is it? Can you tell me? That first name didn't sound familiar when you said it. What was her first name?

A Oh. Oraele.

Q Oraele.

A O-R-A-E-L-E, I think.

Q Does she have a -- does Jimmy Dick have a brother? Is there another Dick family?

A No. Jimmy, Sr. was married and his wife died, and Oraele was married to Earl Maxin, and he died. And then they got married. They had no children together, but they each had children. Max was down here. Jackson is Oraele's child.

Q And her dad's name --

A Her dad was Dr. Gammell, Al Gammell.

Q Now, Dr. Stevens is the one that lived on Stanton Street, and his widow just recently died. Daughter lives Beaumont.

A Barbara Lee, Harry Lee's daughter still lives in a home up on *Antura. I'll be darned. I can't think of her married name.

Q There are two Dr. Rollins. Were they related?

A Yeah. It was father and son. Mott. Ruth Rollins married - - *was his name Mott that General Motors.

Q Uh-huh.

A Dr. Cascart. Florence just died not too long ago. Florence Nelby.

Q That was his daughter?

A Uh-huh.

Q Who's (unintelligible)? Is that Dr. White?

A Dr. Jameson. Yeah. Isn't that Dr. Jameson? No, that's Hugh White.

Q Isn't he the one that there were so many books -- his son wrote books about him. He was a pioneer doctor here in the red light district at the time.

A Yeah, right. Daddy examined patients from the red light district all the time. In those days syphilis was the first thing you could get. (Laughter)

Q Not only has medicine come a long way, so has disease.

A Dr. Felix Miller. I don't think there are any of the children left alive. He had twin girls. He had two boys and then twin girls. Jean Miller married Mike Davison. He

was a general in the Army at Westpoint. And Grace married Dexter Maple. Grace Maple was Uncle Felix's daughter.

Their cousin, Bussy Stevens, lives on Elm Street. She might -- she was Mrs. Miller's niece.

Q So many of the children of the descendants of the people have stayed here in El Paso.

A Yeah. We're like homing pigeons. (Laughter) We come home.

Q You come back.

A Right. Dr. Hardy -- Mrs. Davis divorced Dr. Davis and married Dr. Hardy. And Dr. Hardy has --

(Recording stops on side one)

A -- and Joan knows where she is. I think she's back in the State of Virginia. They came from Virginia for Mrs. Hardy's health.

Q Now, is this Dr. Hardy any relation to the Hardy family that's here now?

A No, no.

Q I guess it seems about the --

A Yes.

Q Do you know when Brad Hardy came?

A He came after -- he was born and raised in Dallas. His father lived in Dallas. I think it was after World War II when Brad and Becky came.

Q But they came together?

A Uh-huh.

Q Then there was a Hardy family that were lawyers?

A Yeah. They're cousins of Brad.

Q They had that pretty, big house that --

A May Belle, and Belle, and Thorton and Libby.

Q But the fraternity really --

A How do you like those operating rooms?

Q That's something.

A One of the funniest things that ever happened in my life was I was, I was about six or seven years old and the operating rooms, the delivery rooms and the x-ray and the lab were on the top floor of Masonic Hospital.

So I went down with Daddy. He was going to set an arm or something, an accident. And he wouldn't let me in the x-ray room because of the x-rays.

So I was sitting out in the hall and Uncle Felix -- I always called him Uncle Felix -- Miller came along and said, "What are you doing, Jean?" I said, "I'm waiting for Daddy." He said, "Okay. I'm going to do an appendectomy. Do you want to watch it?" And I said, "Yeah." So he dressed me up and said, "The only thing you've got to do is keep your arms behind your back." So he put me on a stool, and cap, and gown and mask.

And when Daddy got ready to leave, he couldn't find me. So he stuck his head in the operating room and said, "Felix, have you seen Jean?" And he said, "Yeah." He said, "Where is she?" He said, "She's standing right

there." (Laughter) So that was my first introduction to surgery.

Uncle Felix performed the first thoracoplasty for tuberculosis that was performed in El Paso. They don't even do that operation anymore.

Q Did he do that the Masonic Hospital?

A Uh-huh.

Q There's a Mrs. H.T. Ponsford. Is that any relation to Dr. Ponsford?

A Yes. I think that's either his daddy or his uncle.

Q Uh-huh. Was he born here?

A Yes. Uh-huh.

Q I know that the Ponsford Construction Company built the Turner Home.

A Uh-huh.

Q Well, now that they've torn -- they're remodeling Sears, everybody will say that they were born in the police station instead of Sears.

A My aunt says she was born at Sears & Roebuck. Mother and Daddy got her at Sears & Roebuck. Yeah.

Q Can you tell me anything about the nursing school at Hotel Dieu?

A No. Daddy was doing the radiology at Hotel Dieu, and because he wasn't Catholic they kicked him out. They wanted Catholic doctors to do the radiology. So I've never been on the staff at Hotel Dieu. Daddy was pretty upset about that.

Q Well, who did they get to take his place?

A I don't even remember who it was.

Q The nurses all have their caps on.

A They look so nice.

Q Yeah. A thing of the past, there.

A My nurse still wears her cap.

Q Does she?

A Florence La Belle, who's done private duty nursing around here since the early 1930s, she works about a half a day for me.

Q Did she go to school here?

A No. She went to nursing school. She's from Wisconsin. And Barbara Norton's father, Dr. Coventry, was one of her teachers.

Q Uh-huh.

A Florence lives in Fairmont.

Q Uh-huh. How old is she?

A I don't know. She won't tell me. (Laughter)

Q Oh, okay.

A Oh, golly. I would say La Belle's about -- between 75 and 80. She doesn't look it or act it.

Q This little girl looks like a little doll.

A Yeah. Doesn't she really?

Q They all look like little dolls.

A The cute hairdos, the marcells. You used to do that with a curling iron.

Q Yeah. And now it's back in style.

A Uh, huh. (Talking to cat) Tati, you don't have to eat me.

Q What did y'all do for vacation when you were a child? Did y'all have a cabin up in Cloudcroft?

A No. We never did have a cabin up there. Cloudcroft was -- Daddy didn't want us to go to Ruidoso, because he said they had the gambling and all that stuff. And Cloudcroft was quite high for Mother. She didn't sleep very well up there. So most of the summers we went to Santa Monica in the days before air conditioning and he didn't want us here in the summer heat. So we rented a housekeeping apartment in *Hill Curser Hotel in Santa Monica right on the beach. We spent most of our summers out there.

We did go to Cloudcroft several summers. It was convenient for Daddy, because he could come up on the weekends, but Mother just didn't do well up there.

Q How did your mom like El Paso?

A Oh, she liked it.

Well, when she first came here, Daddy met her at the train station with the Fort Bliss ambulance and took her home. (Laughter) She thought, "My God, this is an odd place!"

Q Oh, I'll bet.

A "If I can live long enough to get out of here, I'm going home to central Texas." She came out of Fort Worth.

And they stayed here so long they got to liking

it. They decided to stay.

Q How many train stations were here in town? Do you remember?

A Just one.

Q Just one? Well, you know, when --

A Union Depot. That was it.

Q Well, what was that one at the ABC Bank or the Sun West Bank now, was that a train station? And then it looked like that big --

A Oh, that was the old Southern Pacific office building.

Q Oh. But it wasn't a train station?

A Huh-uh.

Q And then there's another building that's on I-10 just as you come on to I-10 from downtown. That looks like it might have been an old freight yard or rail yard.

A Now, there were freight yards and switching yards. There was a humongous roundhouse off of -- right on Piedres Street where I-10 goes across in that area, where they serviced the steam engines. This was quite a terminal, actually, for the steam locomotives.

Q Now, when you went to Santa Monica in the summer, you went by train.

A No. We drove.

Q You drove? What kind of car did your family have?

A Let's see. We usually had a Cadillac or a Chrysler.

Q Do you remember the Turner's Pierce Arrow?

A Oh, yes. I wish I had both of them. He had a touring car

and a closed sedan. The touring car was a convertible.

Q Now, which one was Mrs. Turner's?

A The sedan, I'm sure.

Q And she didn't drive.

A No. Uh-huh.

Q She didn't know how to drive?

A Huh-uh. And when Pierce Arrow went out of business, Dr. S.T. bought up all the parts he thought he was going to need, ever, of those cars, and they were hanging in the garage.

Q Do you think they're still there?

A No. They went with the cars.

Q Who bought the cars?

A I don't know.

Q Now, you have a picture here on your coffee table of Dr. Turner. Where did you get that?

A He gave it to Daddy. He also gave Daddy his watch before he died.

Q And this was when he was quite elderly?

A Uh-huh.

Q So they were very, very close friends?

A Yeah. They kind of decided that Dr. S.T. was Daddy's great uncle. The Turners came to Texas over 100 years ago from Tennessee. And Dr. S.T. came from about the same place.

He -- when he was 12 years old, he didn't like his step-mother, so he ran away from home and went to San

Daddy did all the x-rays for Southern Pacific and Texas and Pacific for many years.

Q How did your dad get interested in radiology? He didn't train specifically in radiology?

A No. He trained in clinical pathology. And then he decided he wanted to learn about x-ray. And then he learned everything there was to know about x-ray in 1922 in one summer with Dr. Case at Northwestern in Chicago and lived there for three months. There wasn't much to know then.
(Laughter)

Q No. There sure wasn't.

A It was very young at that time.

Q Now, the Surgical Center has -- they have a G.U. table, and they also have a portable, and they don't do enough x-rays to warrant getting a processor. So we still have the dip method, you know. And trying to find hangers when we were outfitting the place was really something.

A I'll bet. Oh, boy.

Q And trying to find somebody who knows how to do the dip method now...

A Well, we did it all the time. During the busiest times, we had two x-ray technicians doing nothing but that.

Q Norman remembers how do the dip method; doesn't he?

A Yes. He should. (Laughter) Yeah. Dorothy Thorn was with Norman part of the time. Dorothy died of cancer of the breast, you know.

Q Uh-huh. Now, when did you get your first processor at your office?

A Hmm.

Q Since you came back?

A Yes. Yeah. We got our first processor -- let's see. It was before Tuffy died. Tuffy died in 1970, and I came home in 1963. So it was in that period.

Come on, Tati. Barbara might like you laying all over her.

Q Well, I love kitties.

A He thinks he's God's gift to everything.

Q He is. Aren't you?

How many machines do you have now at the office?

A I have one diagnostic machine and one skin cancer treatment machine. It's really an antique, too, now.

Q Yeah.

A A lot of these old ranchers come in and we give them treatment for their skin cancers.

Q Were you involved in the founding of the cancer treatment center with Dr. Clayton?

A No. No, we weren't. That was Ralph Clayton, was the primary one in that.

Q There's some old steps as you drive towards the cancer treatment center. Are those still the old steps from Saint Joe's?

A Yes. Saint Joe's was quite a hospital. (It was) right next

door to the Homan's House Center, Grandview. R.V. Homan Senior Center, the big yellow brick building that sits up on the side. I don't know whether you've ever noticed it or not.

Q No. I'll have to look the next time I go.

A That was Homan, Sr.'s house, and I took piano lessons from Brady Alexander who was Homan's sister, who lived with him. I spent many hours in that house.

It was one of the first houses that I ever saw that had central vacuum cleaner. That was in the 1930s. It would plug into the wall, and you turn the machine on in the basement and away it would go.

And the Crimmons -- well, it was Homan and Crimmon Sanitarium -- lived across the street. In fact, Jenny Bob and Johnelle still live there. Johnelle Crimmon.

Q I don't know her.

A Really good artist. Jenny Bob and Bill Burtin.

Q And this was Dr. Crimmon's daughter?

A Uh-huh. They're both Dr. Crimmon's daughters. John Crimmon, Jr. still lives here. He's retired out of the Army, I think.

Q Crimmim. C-R-I-M-M-I-N?

A I-N. Uh-huh.

Q We told you about finding -- you remember the Medical Practice Act that required each physician that came into the county to register their license down at the courthouse or

with the district clerk?

A Uh-huh.

Q Well, they don't have to do this anymore.

A No.

Q And Francis was doing some research three years ago on the pioneer doctors in this society. And there were a few blanks, and so we talked to the district clerk, and she had all of the old records. And we asked her how far they went back. They went back to 1863.

A Well, great.

Q El Paso County decided that this was a way of raising money. They charged them \$25.

A To register? (She laughs)

Q To register.

A Oh my gosh!

Q And so they have all the records, and they gave them to us.

A Oh, really?

Q They microfilmed them and gave them to us.

A Wonderful.

Q So we have those down at the museum, now.

A Well, you know, I'd like to go see them.

Q They're fascinating. It tells, you know, where they went to school and what degree they received. It really is interesting.

A That's wonderful.

Q Well, did your daughter grow up here in town?

A Yes. She was born in New York and I brought her home when she was eight months old, so she really has known no other home.

Q And where did she go to school?

A Crockett and Austin.

Q Same neighborhood.

A Same neighborhood, yes.

Q Did you live with your folks at that time?

A Yes.

Q And where is she now?

A She lives in Dallas, Richardson. She has gotten her masters degree in modern dance/choreography from T.C.U. And my granddaughter is in the art (unintelligible) High School in Dallas in dance.

Q So, between piano and dance, there's quite an artistic trend.

A Yeah.

Q Do you think that they will use theirs, or will they change their mind?

A I don't know. It's hard to say.

Q Do you regret having taken piano?

A Oh, no. It was great. I really enjoyed it.

Q Do you enjoy it for yourself, now?

A Yes. I play for my own amazement only. (Laughter)

Q I see your keyboard picture up there.

A Yeah. My daughter gave that to me. I started collecting

clowns and funny things. And she found that and thought that was so cute.

Q Did you read this book that Francis wrote about, "Have Gavel, Will Travel?"

A Uh-huh.

Q She did this when your mom was national president?

A No. It was after that, I think.

Q It was just a tribute to her?

A Yeah.

Q 1963.

A Then Daddy went to Fort Worth Medical School which became part of T.C.U. Medical School. And then T.C.U., S.M.U., Baylor all had medical schools, and they went together and made Baylor. Daddy had a degree from Baylor but he never went to Baylor.

And then he -- let me get this. I'm sure you've seen this picture of May; May Ellen. May and Daddy were in medical school together.

Q And she is the one that formed the -- May was the one that formed the state society, or the state auxiliary?

A No. She's a pathologist who worked for Dr. Truman Terry Laboratories for many, many years. She was the first woman president of TMA. She was my other mother.

Q And she's just died.

A Yeah. May just died.

Q Oh, this is this month's "Texas Medicine." It goes to the

office and I don't --

A Oh, you don't see it?

Q I'm not lucky enough to get it. I have to --

A Make Tom bring it home to you.

Q I will.

A She was quite a gal.

This has a real good chronologic history of May.
This one's just her obituary, here.

Oh, Virginia Deter did a good job on that
"Physician's," our little local medical thing.

Q Uh-huh. Did she have Dr. Owin in there?

A Huh?

Q Did she just have Dr. Owin, a story on --

A Yeah.

Q I didn't read it.

A Every time -- after Truman Terry! died, he was -- had Terry!
Laboratories.

When Truman went to World War I, Daddy and May ran
the laboratory until Daddy had to leave, and then May ran
it.

Mother kept house for May.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah. And the Truman Terryls, and May and Mother and Dad
were always inseparable friends for many, many years.

Q Now, was this Dr. Terry!, was he any relation to the Terry!
Clinic in Steenville?

A No. The Terryl Clinic in Steventville are my cousins.

Q Oh, really?

A Uh-huh. My mother's maiden name was Terryl. And Granny Terryl was left at the ripe old age of 27 widowed with six kids.

Q Boy!

A Grandpa Terryl got shot by a cattle rustler. So Jim and Vance's father was my great uncle.

Q Now, what was your mother's maiden name?

A Johnson.

Q And where were her parents from?

A Central Texas. It has all that in there.

Q In this book. I'll have to read the first part.

A Yeah. Mary Anne Turner was born -- yeah, Mother and Daddy were friends before they were born, because their families lived across the street from each other in Ardale.

Q Where is Ardale?

A It's about 100 miles this side of Waco in *Bosby County.

Q And then they moved to Walnut Springs. Now, where in the world --

A That's ten miles away from Ardale.

Q Okay.

A So when Daddy went courting in the horse and buggy, he could just turn the horse loose and go back home. Go to sleep in the buggy.

Q How long did they go together before they were married?

A Oh, my goodness. It was a long time. They both went to -- well, it was called San Marcos State Teachers' College, now. And it was a normal school where they turned out teachers. And Daddy went to the University of Texas part of the time, but Austin is not very far from San Marcos. And he went to -- Mother was teaching school when Daddy went to medical school.

Q And then after he finished medical school was when they got married?

A Uh-huh. It was a big June.

Q That's what you said. It was a big year, big June.

A Yeah.

Q I'm going to be gone for the month of July, but when I come back, may I borrow this book?

A Uh-huh.

Q And I'll like to make a tape of all that is --

A As I told you, this may tell you more about Mother than you really want to know. You can boil it down.

There's part of back here in the back about Daddy and when he was county president and state president.

Q He was a Mason.

A Uh-huh.

Q Is this why he was at the Masonic Hospital?

A Uh-huh.

Q That's why the nuns didn't want him.

A I'm sure. Mr. Burnice canned Daddy. Daddy said, "To heck

with it." No. He said worse than that.

Q Yeah. I bet he did. How long did it take you to get from your house to the El Paso Country Club when y'all went out there?

A Oh, my goodness! From Silver Street, well, we could go over Scenic Drive.

When I was a little kid Scenic Drive still gravel. And they paved it, probably, when I was in high school.

Q Did they have the custom of illuminarios at Christmas when you were a child?

A No. This was very recent.

Q This was recent.

A We had our luncheons at the Country Club. And since there was only one, we just called it the Country Club. Now it's the El Paso Country Club.

And at the Del Norte. And when Louis Onnick was maitre d', he did my wedding reception.

Q And where was your wedding reception?

A In the Gold Room at the Del Norte.

Q And where did you get married?

A Trinity Methodist Church.

Q That's over there on Montana?

A Huh-uh. No.

Q Mesa.

A Mesa, yeah. Corner of Mesa and Yandell.

I remember when we -- we just had a -- well, it

was an old frame and red brick church, and the entrance was right on the corner. And they finally decided they would tear it down and build a new one on the same spot.

Well, in the meantime, we didn't have a place to go to church. So Mount Sinai was on the corner of Oregon and Montana. And they said, "Well, we only use it on Friday nights, so you can use it Sunday morning.

Q So you did.

A So we did while they were rebuilding the church.

Q That was very nice. That's the synagogue that the community college now has bought?

A Yes.

Q And then the other one -- the one down --

A Berna Zion moved up here. They had sold that building before it burned. I don't know who owned it.

Q Yeah. That was an exciting thing. Just like the steeple catching fire on the cathedral. (Laughter)

A Oh, my gosh! It was terrible! I've never seen anything like that happen before in El Paso.

Q Ken Fonseca said that God was mad at the priests.
(Laughter)

A I doubt that.

Q Well, Dr. Bowman, thank you so much for this interview. I really appreciate it. This concludes our interview. Thank you.