

8-21-1991

Interview no. 819

Arlin B. Cooper, M.D.

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Arlin B. Cooper, M.D.

INTERVIEWER: H.D. Garrett, M.D.

PROJECT: El Paso Medical Community

DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 21, 1991

TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO: 819

TRANSCRIPT NO: _____

TRANSCRIBER: _____

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Longtime El Paso psychiatrist; born November 9, 1909, Ben Wheeler, Texas; 1930 graduate of East Texas Teacher's College; 1936 graduate of University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; interned in Panama; served in U.S. Army; married, 1941; consultant in neuropsychiatry for Veteran's Administration in west Texas and New Mexico.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Provides historical discussion of "First Monday" in Ben Wheeler, Texas; recounts experience growing up on a farm; assignment to Fort Huachuca; employment as librarian and history teacher at Texas Teacher's College; father's friendship with H.L. Hunt, founder of Hunt Oil Co.; employment experiences while enrolled in medical school; enlistment in U.S. Army; psychiatric training at William Beaumont Army Hospital; sentiments on role as psychiatrist; outlook on psychiatric treatment; recounts assignment as Division Psychiatrist at Camp Campbell, Kentucky; founding of El Paso Mental Health Society; shortage of psychiatric beds in El Paso; acquisition of property in Kingston, New Mexico; interests in cowboy lore; monitoring classes under J. Frank Dobie at University of Texas at Austin; trip with Dobie to Yaqui territory in Mexico; friendship with Carl Hertzog, famed book designer; real estate acquisitions, including property near El Paso Medical Center; intrusion of lawyers in medical profession.

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 15 minutes Length of Transcript _____