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Interview no. 827

Wayne L. Lorentzen, M.D.

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Wayne L. Lorentzen, M.D.

INTERVIEWER: Barbara K. Dent

PROJECT: El Paso Medical Community

DATE OF INTERVIEW: November 6, 1991

TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted

TAPE NO: 827

TRANSCRIPT NO: 827

TRANSCRIBER: Amy Bene

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Longtime El Paso physician; attended Zach White School; Dudley School; and Texas Western College; 1954 graduate of University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; interned at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Provides biographical sketch of parents and godparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seward; reminisces about grandfather's participation in California Gold Rush, employment with U.S. Department of Agriculture as Bureau Weatherman; father's move to El Paso after tuberculosis diagnosis; work as photographer for Detroit Photocrone Company; military stint in U.S. Navy during World War II; internship in Detroit Receiving Hospital; comments on segregation in hospitals; all black employees at Bassett Tower barber shop; recounts opening of first office in Gunning-Castile Building; antiquated hospital facilities in Corpus Christi, Texas; diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis; changes in practice of medicine; involvement of U.S. government in organized medicine.

Length of Interview: 1 hour Length of Transcript 30 pages

This is Barbara Dent, November 6, 1991. I am interviewing Dr. Wayne L. Lorentzen. We are doing this interview at the Dent house at 3015 North Florence, El Paso.

Q It just so happens that Dr. Lorentzen's godparents built this house. Can you tell us something about the house, Wayne, and also about your godparents?

A Well, Frank Seward was an engineer. I never knew exactly what the type of an engineer, but he was one of these people that was very meticulous. He was always repairing various things. And he had in his house, as I remember, a grandfather's clock, which he revived. It wasn't working. And he also had an old sewing machine that had belonged in his family and that he had played in as a child, in the top of it. And he would play that it was a boat. Unfortunately, he broke the top finally. But I'm sure it was repaired. The sewing machine, after he died, was willed to my sister and she used it for a number of years. I know that he had repaired the machine because at one period of time it had not worked. My sister used it for a couple of years and then it ceased to work properly and she was never able to find anyone that could fix it again.

Mr. Seward was a rather short individual, very thin, tended to smoke quite a bit and you'd think by the way he acted that he never would get anything really done, but it was amazing that he was able to do many things. Now, I'm sure that as far as this house is concerned, that a lot of the stuff was planned very carefully.

Q We have the original blueprints --

A Oh?

Q -- for that and the people next door's. Name is Pickle.

A Oh! Marian Pickle. I knew Marian.

Q Yes, yes.

A Yes, yeah. They had the Pickle Brother's Shoe Store, downtown. I used to go buy the Boy Scout shoes there. I didn't belong to the Boy Scouts, but they were very good shoes and I used to go there very regularly.

Q Now, the story that we heard from Mr. Pickle was that Mr. And Mrs. Seward lived next door and then built this house --

A Could be.

Q -- And the Pickles bought that house from the Seward's. Can you tell me something about visiting in this house? Do you remember anything about your Godparents?

A Well, it seemed like we -- I usually came over here, if I did come over, was usually on a Sunday and the family -- usually my dad brought me over and I -- one thing I'll always remember was the fish pond he had in the back because cats, unfortunately or fortunately, I don't know which, enjoyed the goldfish. And so Mr. Seward put slate, thin slate all around the edge of the pond and had it jutting out into the pond just several inches and he fixed it just so a cat, if it tried to catch a fish, it couldn't trap it against the side of the fish pond. He was very meticulous about that type of thing.

Surprisingly, you know Margie Sanders. Margie was Marge Budwig at one time.

Q Oh, yeah. Uh-huh.

A And her father, gosh, what was his -- Ralph -- uncle Frank and Ralph Sanders did an awful lot of sets for the El Paso -- what the was it? The little theater. They enjoyed, you know, doing that type of thing -- Uncle Frank, of course, that was up his line, anything with tools.

Q Was he retired when you knew him?

A He was retired and as far as I know, he never mentioned, at least to me, anything about finances or anything of that sort.

Q Well, the other part of the story we heard was that he was -- they were from the east, and they moved down here and that's why they designed the house to look like an eastern house and he had a thing for slate, because we have slate, the original slate roof on the house.

A I'll be. Well, that's interesting.

Q And it was built in 1924.

A Uh-huh. Well that was the year I was born; December fourth, 1924. And never be born in the last month.

Q Near Christmas, that's right.

A Well, not only that, when people figure dates, they say, you know, they figure the year and --

Q -- Always a year older.

A A year older and you're not really there. Oh, dear. Those things are funny.

Q Now, you said that -- what was, what was your Godmother's name, Josephine?

■A Josephine.

Q Now, you said they were Episcopal and they all went to Saint Clement's?

A Uh-huh.

Q And when they, when they died, are they buried in El Paso?

A She was -- I don't know about Uncle Frank, but I know that her body was sent, I think, to Michigan.

Q Uh-huh.

A And she was buried somewhere in Michigan. They -- I know he had a nephew, I think, in Canada and they had -- one of his nieces lived with them for a while. They had no children and his niece, or her niece. I guess it was her niece went to -- was going to the University of Texas.

Q In Austin?

A In Austin. And unfortunately she and a girl that was also going there were killed in an auto accident. They were going, you know, by car and I think it was a single car. That's too bad.

Q And --

A I don't know where the niece was from. My brother dated her. I know that.

Q Is your brother still alive?

A Yeah. And I remember he said -- this is off the subject, I guess, of history, but he sent a cyclamin after, after the girl who had died. And she used to keep it in the window. And, for years, I don't know how she did it in this climate, but she had eventually an enormous plant in the living room --

Q -- The window. Well, that's a good window for plants.

A Uh-huh.

Q So when did Mrs. Seward die?

A It was during the war, I remember. World War II.

Q And then, when did Mr. Seward?

A And he must have died in 1950 or somewhere along in there.

Q So they were in the house all way up until that time or did he move out after she --

A Well he moved out. In fact, he lived in an apartment right across from Hotel Dieu for sometime.

Q So that must have been when he sold it to the Kransthaws?

A Of course, that's gone. It was kind of a dark brick apartment house.

Q Uh-huh. That must have been when they sold the house to the Kransthaws. Well, it's wonderful to put a history to it, because, you know, we just heard bits and pieces and never really knew the family, or knew of the family.

A But the car that they had was really something, the Lincoln. Because the outside, it looked kind of reddish because, I don't know, underpainting or whether it was rust was coming through. But he kept the motor in just apple pie order. The motor ran just gorgeously, if there's any other way to say it. And although the outside looked just like disaster as far as the paint was concerned, the inside was the most beautiful, plush, velvet-type interior and it had little bud vases on each side and they were all in tact. It was kind of an amazing thing.

Q Did he keep flowers in them, too?

A Yeah, if he wanted to, sure. And when they would go out,

say Aunt Joe wanted to downtown, she would get into the back seat and he would chauffeur her around town.

You mentioned that my mother had been past president of the women's club. Well, Mrs. Seward was, too.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah.

Q Was it right around the same time?

A Well, not when I was -- not that I remember. I don't know when it was, but I know she was.

Q Well, that's nice because there's something in this book about her. Now, did you grow up in Kern Place?

A Yes. Well, yes, yeah. I was born over in Masonic Hospital and at that time the family lived -- gosh, I'm not sure -- I think it was 521 Randolph Street. They built the house there in 1907, Mother and Dad did and being there were two other kids besides me, they decided they needed more room. That house is still standing there.

Q And then y'all moved up to the park?

A We moved up to 911 Cincinnati, which is right at the park.

Q And you lived there until you just moved over to West --

A No, no. We moved up the Valley.

Q Oh, really?

A Yeah, yeah. And then Connie White and her husband bought that. Of course, she since has sold that. And then Mother bought a house on, I guess it's 1019 Baltimore, right on the corner of Baltimore Street. That had belonged to the elder Kemp, the one that was -- I guess that was Maury Kemp, the elder one.

It belonged to him. Oh dear, I'm thinking for names. The Mayfields had originally built that particular house for their own, but Maury Kemp came back. I think he'd just been married and he wanted the place and he talked them into letting him have that particular place. It was very nice. It had a little patio-

-

Q Yeah, that is a nice house.

A -- At the entrance and things like that.

Q So, then you were living here for most of your schooling? So you went to Dudley School?

A I went to Dudley, dear Dudley.

Q Did you go to the reunion a few years ago?

A Yes, I went to that and of the teachers, I don't -- you know, it's funny, you have trouble remembering some of them. I remember Miss Kilburn. She was a very good teacher. She played the piano real well. She was very nice. But I don't know if she died. I don't remember what from. It's funny how you remember certain things --

Q -- Certain things --

A -- Certain things like that. And there was a Miss Rutherford, or Mrs. Rutherford, that I've often wondered, you know, apparently, there were a bunch of us that didn't read very well, and she very patiently one summer -- I guess it was between the eve of the first/second grade or the second/third grade. Anyway, she had about ten or eleven of us over there and I've often wondered, "why so many?"

Q That's right.

A But anyway, she gave us our little silver stars and things and the book that we read out of and stuff like that, so.

Q Now, you've mentioned Marian Pickle. Where you in school with Marian?

A Yeah.

Q And then, how about Jane Bargman or Werner Speir?

A I don't remember.

Q You don't remember if you were in school with them?

A Joanne Christie, she's now Joanne Blade. Well, she was president of the Women's Club for a couple of years. I knew her and I knew -- who else was in there, around where I was -- Clayborn Adams, Betty Oppenhimer. I was trying to think around that area. Mary Francis Cunningham, although she, I think, was a grade or two behind.

Q Now, you weren't still in Dudley when they tore it down?

A No, no, no. I -- actually I didn't graduate there, because we moved to the Upper Valley and the last two years I went to White School, the old White School.

Q You said you were born at Masonic Hospital?

A Masonic Hospital.

Q Who delivered you?

A I'm not sure. It may have -- I don't know whether it was Dr. Richard or not. I know he was the family doctor for a while, but I don't remember. I don't even know when he died. He was in an automobile accident.

Q Who was your family doctor when you were growing up?

A Well, Dr. Duncan and I can -- I remember -- I guess it was

the Meltz Building that he was in and I remember going up -- my sister took me for my shots -- and I remember they gave me a whole bunch of shots one day. We headed out and we started down the elevator and all of a sudden I started feeling queasy and I say -- I said, "I don't feel very good."

Q And that was it?

A They rushed me back up. Apparently, it was no problem or anything like that. But the rest of them, my uncle came.

One thing, it's so different the way they treat kids now. One of our neighbors -- the Cromby's were our neighbors -- and Billy Cromby apparently creamed me one day with his bicycle. I'm sure it was an accident because we had long hedges at 911 Cincinnati and they went right up to the sidewalk and I probably walked out. I don't know because I don't remember. But anyway, my brother and sister took me up stairs at 911 Cincinnati and put me on Mother and Dad's bed and called the doctor. And Mother was very upset because that day they were sorting out the laundry. Mother was home at the time and she said the doctor had to step over her laundry. But I must have had a concussion because mother said I snored for a couple of days and finally came to. Apparently, they could arouse me and then I would go back. But entirely different way of treating, I'm sure now they would have x-rayed me from head-to-toe.

Q Head-to-toe.

A But anyways, hopefully, there was no damage.

Q And this was Dr. --

A -- Duncan.

Q Duncan. And what the happened to Dr. Duncan?

A I hate to say -- I don't know.

Q After you left Zack White School, you went to El Paso High?

A El Paso High, they fused us.

Q That's right, because there was no Coronado.

A And we were out in he boondocks at the time and -- actually Zack White was very good. The only teacher I really had, teachers I really had, teachers I really had, Inez Thomas, who was Dean Thomas' wife, first wife. Of course, she died later and he remarried and she was very good and I really think she helped, probably more than anybody, because spelling-wise, of course my spelling is still lousy.

Q Mine too.

A But she really started me pronouncing words and spelling accordingly, and I think it helped tremendously.

Q And she was at Zach White?

A She was at Zach White.

Q Now, who did you have at El Paso High?

A Well, I had Mrs. -- let's see. I was trying to think. I had Mrs. Raswell for math. I had Mrs. Schaffer for math and I had --

Q And she lived right down here and right next door to the Pickles, the other Pickle, from there.

A And her husband was the weather bureau man here in town.

Q Oh really?

A And he'd been my grandfather Lane's assistant in the weather bureau. My grandfather came here in 1891 to be the weather

bureau man, down here and Mr. Schaffer was his assistant later and then when my grandfather died, he became in charge of the weather bureau.

Q That's interesting. You were talking about your grandmother and your great-grandmother a little while ago. When did your great-grandmother come here?

A Well, she came to Mesilla in 1873. Actually, the family had been in Missouri and my grandmother was born in Kansas City, Missouri. And grandfather Casad, Thomas Casad, had gone to California a number of times during the gold rush era and he decided that he would come, he would take the whole family to California. And they went the plush route to California. Today we wouldn't think that was very plush, but they went down to New Orleans and boarded ship there. The ship went to the isthmus of Panama and they crossed the isthmus on a narrow-gauge railroad and they caught a ship on the other side and that took them up to California. He had his acreage in the Santa Anna area that's now Disneyland and all those good places. I wish he had --

Q -- Held on to it.

A -- Held on to it, but he didn't because he apparently raised sheep, primarily. But he was one of these people that did everything. The house that they put up was a brick house. But they fired all the brick themselves, at that time, they did everything.

Q Now, how do you spell the last name?

A Well, it was originally Casark, but they were using the names Casad, C-A-S-A-D. I am not sure how they spelled it when

they were over there. It may have been C-O-Z-A-D, because I noticed on the 1885 census a lot of their names were C-O-Z-A-D instead of C-A-S-A-D. But there's an enormous number of people with the same -- from same family and there are many, many different styles.

Q Depending on the census taker or on themselves.

A Well, they must have told the census taker. But here, it remains C-A-S-A-D. Several generations back it was C-A-S-A-D. I know, because a book by a Lydia Sexton who believe it or not, one of my great, great grandfather's sisters and she married three, three times. The last time was with a fellow named Sexton. She was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Q Here in town?

A No, no. No, no. This was, she was born in 1799.

Q Oh.

A But, her name -- of course she married a C-A-S-A-D.

Q Now, they settled and they came back from California, and they settled in Mesilla?

A In Mesilla.

Q And this is where your mother was born?

A No. Mother was born in Prescott, Arizona. That's another story.

Q This was where your grandmother was born?

A No. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri.

Q And your great-grandmother?

A I'm not -- I have it down somewhere. I think --

Q Your grandmother was born on the way to California or before

they left?

A No. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, before they left.

Q Before they left?

A Yeah. In 1866, when she was born, my grandmother.

Q But she was still a young girl when they moved to Mesilla?

A Yes, yeah.

Q And then, then she grew up and married in Mesilla?

A Well, they had a very large family. Grandmother Casad was really a second wife. She wasn't the first wife. They had some members from the original family. They were up in Illinois. I know grandmother Casad knew Abraham Lincoln but, unfortunately, nobody recorded anything in writing or anything. It probably was just a passing acquaintance, you know. But, nevertheless, it would have been nice to have known for sure.

Q That's right.

A But she lived to be 92 years old.

Q And then your mom was born in Prescott, Arizona.

A Prescott, Arizona.

Q How did she get over there?

A Well, Indy Lane, Nathon Eller Lane was born, he was my grandfather, he was born up in Maine at Mechanic Falls -- I think it's name was Poland Falls or something -- but they had a farm up there and it's still there. One of our cousins still owns it. And he was in the army there in the Indian Wars. He always -- I notice I have some of his papers -- he always mentioned he was 5'6". One thing --

Q That was probably tall then.

A Yeah. The thing is, one thing I didn't realize until reading about some of the Indian Wars -- they had to have people that were fairly short and did not weigh more than certain weight, because they rode horses, you know, the horses would get tired. John Wayne would not have made it. But apparently, it was one of the most efficient armies they ever had, because a lot of the people that were say privates had been colonels in the Civil War and it was a mixture on both sides. My grandfather hadn't been in the War. But anyway, it was apparently a very efficient army for its day. He was in the Signal Corps. I don't know exactly how he met my grandmother, but apparently he had been stationed in such places as Gallup and various places like that and then in Mesilla and that's where they met and they married. Then he was then stationed over in Fort Whipple next to Prescott, Arizona. And that's where my mother was born.

Q And then how did you get back to El Paso? How did your family get back to El Paso?

A Well, the bulk of the family is here. He learned that they were going to have some weathermen and it was in the agriculture department. It wasn't like it is -- it wasn't a separate entity, like it is now. And he took some tests in some various things and then was sent back to Washington, D.C. for training. And after that -- he already knew Morse Code, which was very important at that time, and they were first stationed at Portland, Maine. And a couple years ago when we were over there, the lighthouse and everything where he took his observations was

still there. It was a wooden structure. I wouldn't want to walk up the stairs of the thing. And the apartment where they lived is still there, also. It was a second-floor apartment and I -- gosh, I don't know whether I ought to get off on things, but I came across the bill of some of the items that they purchased for the apartment and the rug was one of the finest rugs that they had at that time, and I think it was \$45 for carpeting, the carpet. Of course, that was a lot of money in those days.

Q Yeah.

A That was in the 1880's or, I guess -- yeah, it was in the 1880's.

(End of side one)

A Grandmother had purchased a couple of them, I think, for 25 cents and then there was one for 35 cents.

Q You know it's fantastic that your family has kept all these records and papers. That's just wonderful.

A And the thing that's really amazing is some of that paper looks like it was written on today.

Q Oh, really?

A It's rag paper, obviously, or it would have discolored. I have a little box that he kept his important papers and those papers are all tied with red tape.

Q Red tape?

A Well, it's like a ribbon, like a red ribbon, and I guess it's cotton and there's a certain amount of spring to it and all his papers are tied up. Somebody had gone through it. The sequence of what was there, you know, is all messed up. But

anyway, this tape looks like, you know, a ribbon is what he used.

Q So then he --

A I had done things up.

Q When --

A And then after Portland, they came down to El Paso and the reason they came back was because my grandmother had become sick, and so he looked around to see, you know, where he might be able to get a place that was close and they happened to have one here. So, that's why they moved down here.

Q Now how old was the mother when they moved down here?

A Well, she would have been about 6 years old.

Q And then, is your father from El Paso?

A No. He's from Detroit, Michigan.

Q How did they meet? Was he here in the Service?

A Well, the funny thing -- while my grandfather was in the Service, in the Army, there was a period of time when he was stationed in Detroit as the weather bureau man, when my father -- my father had tuberculosis and they told him to go, you know, West and he decided to come to El Paso. So what happened, he -- his father happened to know the weather bureau man in Detroit and they asked him if he knew anyone in El Paso and apparently he had met my grandfather Lane while he was stationed there as a soldier and he suggested -- he said he knew him. So he wrote him a letter of introduction. And so Dad, when he came here, he came here as a photographer for the Detroit Photocrone Company, and he, he came down and at that time my grandmother was renting rooms, too. So he rented a room, room there.

Q And married your --

A I guess propinquity did the rest.

Q And so then they got married and now your sister lives here.

A Yes.

Q And what was her married name?

A Fink.

Q Fink? Right up here on Kern?

A No. Not that Fink. William N. -- she married William N., Jr.. Sr. was a mine engineer in Mexico. They did live up in -- for a long time on Park Road. But my sister lived on Galloway. She used to live up near the park. She divorced him, but they, they had three kids.

Q Now, does your brother live here, also?

A Yes.

Q And what the does he do?

A He's retired.

Q What did he do --

A Well, he worked for my dad.

Q -- before he got busy?

A Yeah. Well, he worked -- well one time, he had a degree in engineering.

Q From College of Mines?

A No. From V.M.I.. Virginia Military Institute. He worked for McKee at one time in the construction business. He, I would say, spent probably an awful lot of time in the Service really, because he went in just before World War II started. He figured that something was going to happen so he and his bride decided to

-- well he was already in the Service, I guess, at that point, when she married him. But anyway -- maybe getting things mixed up there. But anyway, he was in World War II and then also during the Korean War and he kept up his --

Q Commission?

A -- Commission, you know, even though he wasn't on active service, reserve.

Q Yeah.

A Reserves status. And actually, he's retired from that.

Q Now, did you serve at all in the War?

A I was in the Navy.

Q In World War II?

A In World War II, not the whole time, but toward the end of World War II. And fortunately, I didn't see any action or anything. It sounds crazy, but they looked on my record and saw that could type 18 words a minute and I ended up on Sarpon typing in the main office there, Navy operating base office. The Navy was in charge of Tiapin, which shows you how all these services are, and the Army was in charge of Guam and it shows you how they divide things up. I really never saw anything. Every now and then, they would bring in a captured Japanese that had somehow alluded everybody, but I -- working in the -- I started out, of course, a apprentice seaman, which is, you know, nothing.

Q That's right.

A And I went out as a seaman first. When I got my discharge, I was seaman first. Of course, I was striking for a yeoman, you know, striker. But I -- it's funny. They wanted us, of course,

to stay in and then right as the War ended, well, of course, the point to get out went up if you were across, you know.

Q Overseas?

A Overseas. And typing there and everything, I realize, I thought several times, you know, maybe I oughta stay in and, you know, go ahead and try to go up the ranks, etcetera, etcetera. But I realized that everyone that was going to rejoin. I noticed on the orders that eventually they were coming back and I just decided I can't stand this, you know. It was on of those things where they had only one real, you know, actual town and the officers were allowed to go to town, but the inlisted, you just had to stay on the base and I thought, "Ah, I don't think I can take this forever."

Q Well, then you came back and you went to Texas Western?

A Yeah. I had partially done --

Q -- that before?

A Yeah.

Q And then you went to --

A I finished up and went to --

Q -- medical school in Galveston?

A In Galveston.

Q And did your stay there for internship?

A No. I went up to Detroit for Recieving.

Q And then went back for residency?

A Yeah. Had family up there in Detroit, my uncle, who's a physician up there. And also, I hate to say this, but they paid the highest rate in the United States at that time.

Q Let's see. That was about \$60 a month, too.

A So, I thought, "well, I think that's a good combination," so I did. But it was a very good internship up there. The hospital, Detroit Receiving, was on the edge of the downtown area, the Greek area, the Black area and the Polish, and I tell you it was really something. Saw anything and everything.

Q A lot of material?

A I don't know whether I should mention this, because at that time here in Texas things were very different, as far as blacks and whites were concerned.

Q They were still segregated.

A But, I'll never forget -- I don't know whether I should mention this at all -- but anyway, one evening I was on call and this girl came in and was having problems as far as her menstrual and menstrual cycles and various things, she was having pain in her pelvis etcetera, etcetera. And she was white and she -- we were discussing certain things when she said, "why don't you ask my boyfriend," and I looked out and there was a black man there. And I looked around and I closed the door and I said, "I don't see him," and she said "I'm sure he's there," and the second time I looked out, it dawned on me. But we weren't used to that type of thing down in Galveston. Everything was so segregated at that time.

Q Did you have much segregation here in El Paso?

A Not really. They certainly were segregated as far as bus and things of that sort, but I think we had a different type of black here, because a lot of them, I think, were people that were

-- I'm not saying they didn't have segregation, because we did -- but a lot of them were, say, retired from the railroad and things like that. In other words, they more or less chose to come here and it, of course, I feel like they were just -- I know Mother used to have women by the name of (tape damage) that came in and did parties and things like that for her. Really, it was different than it was when I went to Galveston.

Q Do you remember a Dr. Nixon, a black doctor that was here?

A I knew of him. Talking about segregation, the Bassett Tower, when it was built, had a fantastic barber shop. It was all appointed with mirrors and brass and everything and they were all black workers there, and they were excellent. They were excellent. But I've often thought -- but that was -- I'm sure no black could come in and get a haircut, at that time, but any white could. But they were very good.

Q When you finished, you finished Galveston in '54?

A Well, the residency, I guess, 1954.

Q And I couldn't find your name after '54 in the -- where did you practice, where did you have your offices?

A Here. It was actually the old Branche Craig office that had been in the Gunning/Castile Building on 800 Montana.

Q That were offices?

A Kind of caddy coroner. Yeah. Yeah, and, oh dear, who all was there? Isn't that terrible? Names escape me, now. Dr. Elsberg was one of them that was in there, Dr. Stapp, Dr. Hunter, Dr. Coldwell, come to think of it, and who was across from me? An internist, second year. I can't think of his name right now,

isn't that terrible? But, it was nice and it was adequate to begin with.

Q Now you didn't go in with anybody?

A No, no. And then I, I went into the Navy again.

Q That was for Korea?

A No, no, no. It was in -- when did I go in? I guess it was '56 or '57. Oh, I shouldn't tell you all my history.

Q Well, that's good.

A Well, anyway, they stationed me down in Corpus Christi. It was kind of funny, because Corpus Christi -- it's almost as hard to get to Corpus Christi from here as it is --

Q -- to El Paso.

A -- as it is, as it is to Los Angeles or some other place that might have, you know -- or San Diego, where they had a Navy hospital. But, anyway, I was stationed down there and the facilities there were very old, all wooden --

Q Probably left over from World War II.

A Yes. And the Government would plow money into that stuff to repair it and I kept thinking, "why don't they build a new building," because I -- one day one of the gentlemen that -- one of the inspectors that would go around looking at the building, I said, you know, "what do these buildings need, you know," and he said, "everything," and he kicked the bottom of one of -- and it just splintered. I guess termites, and I understand they have built a new, you know, hospital down there. But it was very nice, actually, on duty down there. It was part of a Navy air station, too. And it was a very good setup, actually.

Q You were there for four years?

A No. I don't know whether to tell you all this, but I came down with pulmonary T.B..

Q Uh-huh. Down in Corpus?

A Um-hum. Well, I was having a lot of infectious diseases and I can always tell you who I got it from, but those things happen.

Q And they discharged you, and then what? The --

A Well, I -- yeah. But I was down there during the -- when the first Asian flu was brought into the United States and, in a way, it was kind of funny. Being it was a Navy airbase, one of the seaplanes came over from San Diego and its crew, one of the crew had the flu. He hadn't come down with the symptoms, unfortunately. And it was during the summer when all the midshipmen were there. We must have had good 500 midshipmen, you know, at least, and the crew was very generous. They took a couple of the midshipmen up, you know, showed them flying around, etcetera. Well, from that little contact, in a couple of weeks it was just unbelievable. Well, in less than that, really, because it just went like wildfire, really. And I was in charge of the infectious disease part and it got -- well there was no room for --

Q -- anybody else?

A -- for all of them, so they just had to stay really in their regular quarters, and the records -- one of the captains, Navy captains, fortunately, told me that make out a form and then leave spaces to individualize what the a patient had, what he might have needed. And so we turned out stuff by the hundreds on

the mimeograph machine and then, you know, but there was no other way to handle it.

Q I didn't realize they had such an epidemic of flu then.

A Yeah.

Q Then you were discharged. Did they send you to a Veterans hospital?

A Yes. Well, I was a number of months over in San Diego, while they did special tests and then they sent me to the one near Silver City.

Q Fort Bayard?

A Fort Bayard, I should remember. Ah, I was there long enough. I guess I must have been married six weeks, I mean six months, or so.

Q Now one of the doctors from here was a consultant up at Fort Bayard. Do you remember who the doctors were, up there?

A Not really.

Q I'm trying to think of --

A There was one proctologist or something that was a consultant up there, and he shot --

Q Was he the fellow that shot the lawyer?

A Yeah.

Q What's his name? Albert or --

A I can't remember. But I never saw him, I never saw him. I think Dr. Stern may have been one, because they had a lot of psychiatric problems up there. It was mostly psychiatric problems and chronic illnesses. I was trying to think of who the doctor was who took care of me there and I can't think of it at

all, right now.

Q You remember back in Galveston, when, I guess, just before you left, they were building the new John Sealy, which is now the old John Sealy and the Middleton was --

A Well, they had finished it.

Q Yeah. And Middleton had just built that beautiful pulmonary hospital.

A Pulmonary.

Q You know, they've torn that all down now, it's gone.

A I notice that when I look at the brochures.

Q I thought, "my gosh, that was a new hospital when I was there. Why did they tear it down?"

A Yeah. It's unbelievable.

Q And then you came back. And did you go in with anybody when you came back?

A No.

Q And where did you have your office then?

A Uh, I was trying to think if we -- no. It was all over at the University Towers.

Q And you stayed there until you retired?

A Um-hum.

Q And how do you -- when did you retire?

A At the end of '86. 1986.

Q And you say you're busier now than you--

A Not really. Thank heavens I don't have to get up at night.

Q That's right.

A Don't feel like I'm on call 24 hours a day and have to worry

about what the, you know, is happening, what's being done. In a way I'm kind of glad I'm missing some things, and yet, in other ways I miss patients and things of that sort. But, for instance, the way it changes, when I first went to Providence -- of course, it was about half the size of what it is now as far as patient load, but in the record room, they usually only had one person, sometimes with a load they might have two, maybe even three, but when I left they had 45 people. I asked. I was just curious, you know, and I actually asked them down there, how many were working there.

Q Well, when Tom came, we came here in '66, he went in -- he took the desk that Merle Thomas left. They were all in Earl Thomas' office. It was Howell McCullough, John Ponsford, Lynn Niel, and Tom and Woody Kaip was -- they were just sharing the office space and Woody Kaip was moving in over at this professional building and they one part-time secretary and now we have enough for a ten team bowling league. Unbelievable.

A Yeah. Medicare, Government, the way they handle things. Well, you know, Dr. Stapp told me, and I was surprised at the time. Of course, it's common knowledge, you know, charts, when all these hospitals are reviewed, I presume are still in Dallas. And when they started to first send them over to Dallas for review, they put them all in a big box. And the next thing they knew, they wouldn't allow it. They had to make each chart individually wrapped and with names and everything on the outside and send them individually and the cost, it just make you -- make your hair stand on end. And at the time that I was talking to

Dr. Stapp, he mentioned the fact that the reviewers were making over \$30 an hour and you just wonder what the in the world is all this money being used for.

Q Well, you know that the first of the year they're changing the whole coding system to five digits.

A I noticed that. I still get stuck from the Government.

Q I was looking at the -- at Tom's office the other day. One of the cartoons they have on the wall, this secretary is just typing up like nobody's business and she's saying, "oh Lord, please let me finish this form before they change it."

A That's a fact. It is. Yeah.

Q Well, do you -- after your mother died -- now you were living with your mother up here on Baltimore?

A Yeah.

Q And after your mother died you sold the house and where did you --

A Well, actually, we sold the house before she died, because the last two years we had her in a nursing home. Yeah. She had another stroke. She had her first stoke when she was in her 70s and --

Q How old was she when she died?

A She was 94.

Q She had a full life?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q One thing we haven't really talked about your mom as far as the Women's Club.

A Oh?

Q You were telling me a story about the Women's Clubhouse and the first concert.

A Well, of course, I didn't get to see it. I think it was 1918 or somewhere along in there. It -- I may have a copy. I should have thought of that. The first concert was given there. It consisted of a violinist and they had two pianists and Mother sang. They had three pianists, actually. Mrs. W.R. Brown was Mother's pianist. She was Dr. Brown's wife and she had taught in the schools. I'm trying to think of what the her name was before she married. Her brother was a very well-known pianist.

Q Was she Kate Moore Brown?

A Kate Moore, yeah. And then Francis Moore was her brother and, anyway, she accompanied Mother and there was the violinist, a woman, that played and then there was another woman that played the piano, that played some pieces, and then there was a gentleman that did some accompaniment, also. I think maybe the violinist. I think he accompanied the violinist. I'm not sure. I'll have to get it.

Q Oh, that's okay.

A Find it.

Q Were you -- going back to everything -- were you baptised at Saint Clement's?

A Yes, yeah.

Q And where you confirmed there?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q So your membership has been there for--

A -- the whole time?

Q -- long, long time.

A I hate to say the way our national church has gone, it's what --

Q -- what it used to be.

A -- not the church I joined. I call the national church thing the "anything goes church."

Q Or the t'aint church. Tom says it t'aint Protestant, it t'aint Catholic.

A Anyway, it's something. I don't know. I should go, but then again, I don't know. I like to go to the 7:30 service.

Q Now, you used to sing in the choir?

A Yeah. But the voice is, said, "adios." It really has. It isn't quite what it was. It's rather dreadful.

Q And now your enjoying taking Spanish?

A Yeah, yeah. Believe it or not, I'm taking flute lessons. Of course, it's been a hiatus of more than 40 or 30 some-odd years. But I did take some lessons many, many, many years ago and then nothing and I'm really just a beginner. But, I enjoy it. I've even played over at Christ The King, I few solos and things like that. Easy stuff, of course. But, nevertheless... My sister's been a problem, but --

Q Is she still alive?

A She's 80 years old. 80 years old. She's as healthy as can be, but doesn't remember much and so that always is a problem.

Q Is she --

A She's in a foster home. She's living with one of her cousins. Her cousin is 92 years old. Our cousin is 92 years

old. She's had broken hips and all sorts of things and she can't see well, but she knows everything going on, is going on.

Q And what is her name? Fink.

A Julia. My sister's Julia, Julia.

Q Now she has -- you said she had three children?

A Yes.

Q And she's a member of the DAR?

A Yes, yeah. I was a member of the CAR, but a I never joined the SAR. It was just like one other thing that I just don't have any time for.

(End of tape)