R. E. THOMPSON

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INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY

R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON

ON

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INTERVIEW WITH DR. GORDON ALCORN

on August 25, 1977

By R. F. Thompson

Dr. Thompson: Gordon, where were you born?

Alcorn: I was born in Olympia.

Thompson: Did you go to Olympia High School?

Alcorn: No, we moved to Tacoma when I was quite small and I went to the old Whitman grade school and then Lincoln High School and then C.P.S., (in those days), and then the University of Washington.

Thompson: What was your father's work?

Alcorn: My father, originally, was a railroad man. In fact, all of my people were railroad people. My father was a master mechanic in the South Tacoma shops when I was a boy. He got a piece of steel in his eye, got frightened and decided he didn't want to do that anymore, so he went into business--real estate, insurance, etc., and then retired quite a number of years ago. When World War II broke out, though he was pretty old, he went back to work for a machine shop.

Thompson: And what high school did you graduate from?

Alcorn: Lincoln.

Thompson: Where did you meet Rowena?

Alcorn: Well, I met her at U.P.S. but she was on the art faculty, and I guess we met in a reception line--about 1930, maybe.

Thompson: Then you went from Lincoln High School to the College of Puget Sound.

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Did you plan to major in biology or botany?

Alcorn: Yes, and I went on a music scholarship.

Thompson: You did! What was your instrument?

Alcorn: I played the bassoon.

(Thompson: Oh, for heaven's sake)
Alcorn: And at Lincoln, we had a real good band.

Thompson: Was that Worsing?

Alcorn: No, it was Wright--J. S. Wright. We had this real good band and Dr. Todd called about a dozen of us over there and said that we could come to C.P.S. for free (I think it was $50 a semester or something) if we played in the band, so we whipped up a little band for the College.

Thompson: You started out, then, in music but you planned to go into botany or biology.

Alcorn: Yes, I have always known I wanted to be in natural history.

Thompson: Did you ever have any interest in medicine?

Alcorn: No.

Thompson: Was Professor Slater your major professor?

Alcorn: Yes, I met him in 1925.

Thompson: Is that right? How do you remember him?

Alcorn: Well, I remember the very first time I saw him. He was sitting up in that little landing above the main floor in Jones Hall, and somebody pointed him out. He was supposed to sign my registration, and I went up there, shaking a little bit, and asked him to sign it. He looked at me and said, "What do you want to do with biology or what do you want to be in biology for?" I said, "I guess I like it and I have always liked it." He said, "That's good enough."

Thompson: He has been sort of beloved by generations and generations, hasn't he?

Alcorn: He's been popular to many, many students and has had many successful students.

Thompson: He tells me that he graduated from Rutgers, which, of course, now is New Jersey State University. Somewhere, someone told me that he had practically finished all of his work for an earned Ph.D. and then his major professor died. Did you ever know anything about that?

Alcorn: It was not quite that way. He went to the University of Washington and did a lot of work, and I guess he had most of the courses out of the way, but the thesis hadn't been started. He did most of it under Erne Gunther--or a lot of it.
Thompson: How do you remember C.P.S. when you were a student?

Alcorn: Well, of course, it was small. And it was rough--it was right out in the old second-growth trees all around and all the brush--no sidewalks--gravel road, from Lawrence right back of Jones Hall over to Union. Wooden sidewalk partly built around Sutton Quadrangle. Of course, no trees around the buildings. It was out in the country.

Thompson: About how many students do you suppose were there? 500 maybe?

Alcorn: Oh, my, no. I would say 250-300 at most--maybe 200.

Thompson: Who were the outstanding professors then?

Alcorn: Well, Dr. Weir.

Thompson: Yes, in education.

Alcorn: Professor Cheney in German. He was a fine scholar and we recognized it.

Thompson: Was that C-h-e-n-e-y?

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Mrs. Cheney worked in the Registrar's Office.

Alcorn: Well, not till after Professor Cheney was killed.

Thompson: I see.

Alcorn: She became Dean of Women.

Thompson: How was he killed?

Alcorn: He was walking across Lawrence, at about 14th. He was a tall fellow and he walked real quickly, and I guess he wasn't looking and a car ran over him.

Thompson: Then after you got through at C.P.S., where did you do your graduate work?

Alcorn: I came here for about five years--no about three years--and commuted part time at the University of Washington and then for two years, and I guess two or three summers, I was there full time to finish up the degree. Then I went to the University of Idaho, but I came back to U.P.S. in the summertime. Then after I left Idaho--I was there only a couple of years--I went to Grays Harbor.
Thompson: You were teaching at Idaho?

Alcorn: Yes, in the Department of Botany.

Thompson: Is your degree in Botany or Biology?

Alcorn: It is in both. I had a major in zoology and a major in botany and then a minor in geology.

Thompson: Then you went to Grays Harbor and you were President of Grays Harbor Community College?

Alcorn: I went down there as Vice President and then I became President.

Thompson: How long were you there?

Alcorn: Five years.

Thompson: Do you remember the time that you told me you wanted to come up and teach for us?

Alcorn: I think I told you more than that. I think I told you I wanted to come back here and I wanted to work on the Museum and that I wanted to work on the campus. And that I didn't want to raise money!

Thompson: I recall the interview very well, and I thought it was great and, of course, we have been so thrilled with the years that you have been here. Now there were other aspects of your interests. Tell me about the Museum.

Alcorn: Well it started as kind of a hobby of Professor Slater's in about--I am going to say about 1927 or 28. I think I mentioned that in that history. Nothing had been done here on the herpetology (that is the cold-blooded vertebrates--frogs, salamanders and snakes--reptiles) so he just got sort of interested in it and started to collect them, because nothing had been done. I showed an interest in natural history, so I went on many field trips with him; and finally he just accumulated a real good collection of them. But nothing had been done on the mammals and birds and nothing done on the plants.

Thompson: Didn't he have boys in the service who sent him snakes from all over the world?

Alcorn: Yes, he has things up there now from the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and Europe.

Thompson: I know I have seen them and one day he told me that some of the men in the service had made it kind of a hobby and sent them to him. How would you rate our collection of herpetology?
Alcorn: Well, back in its hey day, it was probably number one in the West, but not much has been done to add to it in the last ten years, but size is not really the important thing—it's breadth of specimens, and there are specimens in our Museum that cannot be duplicated. In that sense, it is very valuable. First collections of things in certain areas. In point of size, I am not sure it's the big one any more, like the birds and mammals.

Thompson: Then, didn't you have your hobby in mammals and birds?

Alcorn: Birds, just birds. Originally, the collection was put up on the top floor of Howarth, in a room that was made for a dark room. It was just a bare room, the rafters were there; but it was painted dark and there was a sink, for developing films, but we never did a lot of that, so we just put shelves in there and filled this room up with bottles. About 1931 or 32, a year or so after I graduated in 1930, I started putting my bird skins up there and then about 1936, I persuaded Kitch to put his birds there.

Thompson: Now, Kitch was a collector.

Alcorn: Well, he was a businessman and birds were his hobby.

Thompson: Where did he live?

Alcorn: He lived down on North 35th, right down from the school a ways. Then about 1935 or 36 he put his skins there.

Thompson: How many would he have had?

Alcorn: He had about 1000 birds—no, about 1200 birds and maybe 700 sets of eggs. Not big, but again, very valuable because they were early things from here and of course we still have them. He had this collection in sort of an attic in his house, which was a fire trap. I persuaded him that he ought to put them up here because of the fire danger, among other things, so we had to take every drawer (he had old cabinets he had made, just scrounged out of boxes); we pulled the drawers out, carried the drawers down one by one, reassembled the cabinets on an old two-wheeled trailer that I had; he sat in the back and supported it and I drove it over and we carried them into Howarth and lifted those things up in the old elevator, where we had to pull a rope—about ten times for every floor. It was just a dirty little room, with rafters showing, and we persuaded Gerry Banks to seal it in, which kept tar from dropping down. When I came back in '45, I guess it was, I brought all of my collection.

Thompson: Your collection had been from this geographic area?

Alcorn: Mostly in the Northwest, and I had done quite a lot of trading with other ornithologists.
Thompson: How did you know where to trade or what to trade--I mean, do you do this by a magazine, or something?

Alcorn: No, it was what we needed to fill out our collections. We would need a certain kind of hawk eggs or certain kind of hawk skin, for example, and we would write around to the other fellows, or go to meetings, too, and we would talk it over and decide that we would trade you this for that. There was an old book put out quite a number of years ago, and it is a collector's item now, putting a monetary value on skins for trade only (it has never been legal to sell them), so we used to look at that book--a red-tailed hawk would be at $2.50 for trade, and a set of eggs we needed would be worth $2.50, so we would trade one hawk skin for one set of eggs that we needed.

Thompson: What was this collection we got down from the Washington Historical Society?

Alcorn: It belonged to Bowles. Bowles was born and raised in Boston and he was a protege of William Brewster, who was one of the great ornithologists in America. Mr. Bowles was a very fine, courtly Boston gentleman, but he was a character. We never knew much about his early life, and he never married. He came here a few years before Kitch, and, of course, they were both interested in birds. They found out about each other and for many years--from about 1903 maybe till about 1906 or 7, Bowles was here alone. I think Kitch came about 1908-9. They got together and they were friends for years, until Bowles died in 1934.

Thompson: What was Bowles work?

Alcorn: He never worked. He never said much about money, but he did tell me one time (and I got to be very good friends with him as I worked many years with him in the field; he never had a car and I had an old jalopy of a car and we drove it around) that he was living on the proceeds of his book, The Birds of Washington, which was published in 1909--a beautiful set of books.

Thompson: What was Kitch's work?

Alcorn: Well, Kitch was a business man but a very poor one. During the first World War, he owned a plant in the tideflats that brought fish from Alaska and froze it for Fort Lewis. When the War was over and the soldiers left and they were sick of fish so he went broke; went into bankruptcy. Then he became credit manager for Bellow & Wright, which was an automotive chain around the country, but he was miscast. The depression came and Bellow & Wright closed their doors and Kitchin was out of a job again. So then he went to Mount Rainier as a naturalist, and that was where he should have been all along. But he was getting quite old then. The second World War came and they put him over at Port Angeles, up on a mountain there, spotting airplanes. Of course, he loved that because he could do a lot of writing and also
spot animals. When the War was over, that job faded and he was just on his own. He got a little house in Port Angeles.

Thompson: Didn't I visit him and he had this house right on the beach?

Alcorn: Yes, he had an old shakky house on Carolyn Street.

Thompson: He had some of his collection there. I remember him very well from the dinners we had.

Alcorn: He used to bring you down a necktie once in a while! He was a very fine gentleman, and so was Bowles.

Thompson: Let's see, Kitch has been gone about ten years?

Alcorn: Well, he died in 1969—about that.

Thompson: What other collections does the Museum have?

Alcorn: We have a modest collection from Stan Warburton. Stan never did very much in later years—only a few skins.

Thompson: Didn't he have a heart condition in later years?

Alcorn: Yes, he did. Then we have a real fine collection from Jewett. Jewett was forty-five years with the Fish and Wild Life Service, and we got the remnants of his collection, really, and a very good addition. He put most of his things down at the San Diego Museum, thinking that when he retired he would go down there and use them and they would give him an office, but when he retired he wasn't well enough to do that and didn't want to go anyhow. So what he had left, we got in his will and a lot of it we got before he died—he just put it up here.

Thompson: What was his work?

Alcorn: He was 45 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was instrumental in establishing, and I think he was the first director of, the Harney and Malbeas Lake Preserves in Eastern Oregon. He was a field man and a real good field man.

Thompson: When did Dr. Johnson come into this picture—Dr. Murray Johnson?

Alcorn: Before I answer that, I should add one more—we had Hurley's things. His collection wasn't big; we got a couple of thousand specimens—skins and eggs, everything elegant. He was a perfectionist in making skins. He had us in his will, but he had some kind of surgery and it left him crippled and he couldn't walk, so
finally he said we had better come and get it because he couldn't take care of it, so we went over and got it, eight or ten years ago.

Thompson: What was it that we got from the Washington State Historical Society when we had to take the mummy?

Alcorn: That was Bowles collection of eggs. Bowles, again, was mostly an oologist. That was his prime interest and he was a good one. Also nidology (which is nesting). Oology is eggs, not skins. He gave some papers, incidently, when he was 14 or 15 years old at the 1893 Chicago Exhibition. All he knew was birds and eggs. He didn't have any place to put them in his home. I don't know how many he had—how many thousand sets—but he had almost a thousand species, so it maybe came to a couple of thousand sets all together and he had no place to put them, so he persuaded W. B. Bonney at the Museum to give him space there at the Historical Society and they built these big cases with glass, slanted, and covered with black cloth to keep the eggs from fading.

Thompson: I remember seeing a whole bunch of them around a post.

Alcorn: Chapin Foster would never jar loose with them. I kept after them but when Bruce LeRoy came, he said they had no place in the Historical Society so we got them.

Thompson: I think we left enough for a representative show.

Alcorn: I was just up there this morning and they are in pretty bad shape, too, the way they are displayed—inaccurate and the labels are wrong on some of them.

Thompson: When did Murray Johnson come into the picture?

Alcorn: I would say 1948 or '1949.

Thompson: Was he one of your majors?

Alcorn: Yes, pre-med. Got interested as a hobby in mammals. Of course, he went to Oregon Medical School and he knew Jewett well, so he came back to Tacoma to start his practice in 1948 or 1949, somewhere in there, and started building up a mammal collection, and a good one. He has a lot of good mammals.

Thompson: Does he have a collection other than that at the University?

Alcorn: No.

Thompson: His interest is pretty wide-ranging. Doesn't he fly over around McKinley and count the deer and that sort of thing?

Alcorn: I am not sure of that specific thing, but he does have a lot of wide interests.
Now he is working with students through a grant on the study of seals, and he has worked for the National Park Service at the goat survey farm at Rainier, and that sort of thing. He is an active fellow.

Thompson: Is his approach really scientific?

Alcorn: Oh, I think so. He gets a little gung-ho.

Thompson: A little eager.

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: You and Rowena have done a lot of writing--mostly about Indians. How did you happen to be interested in Indians.

Alcorn: She has always been interested in them--even when she was in art school in Santa Barbara--she used to go out and paint the Navahos. Primarily, she is a portraitist and she likes the skin tones and the expressions. She likes to paint people, so when we were in Idaho we went to the Presbyterian Church and the preacher there was Cliff Drury, and he shook our hands at the door and he asked about us. Rowena said, "Gordon is at the University in biology," and he asked what she did and she told him she was an artist. The next Monday morning he was out at the back door and said he was doing a book on Henry Harman Spaulding, the missionary, and he needed some paintings and would she be interested, so she painted the frontispiece and the cover for that book and she painted things for his Whitman book and several of his other books she illustrated. We were right there at the back door of the Nez Percé so we went down to Lapuci at the reservation and talked to some of them--you have to break them down as they are pretty hard at first--got an interpreter and started painting the old ones. There were six of them there still alive who had been in the 1877 war (you saw that book she put out) well, six of those were painted from life--they were right in the war. So this interpreter became very much interested in getting it historically down so we made appointments and he would take us to their homes, talk in sign language, and she would sit there and paint them. She elaborated it more into a kind of a historical thing--not just the culture of the people but the history, so everything she did then (that was 35 years ago--it took her 20 years to get all the paintings done) was slanted toward the war.

Thompson: These paintings are on display at Dry Falls, is it?

Alcorn: No, they are at Rocky Reach Dam. The public utility has purchased them and they are permanently displayed there.

Thompson: This is how you people did your writings. Didn't I read where you people have over a hundred articles?

Alcorn: Way over a hundred.
Thompson: How many do you think you have?

Alcorn: I don't know. I've got about a hundred myself. She has quite a number on top of that.

Thompson: Now hers is mainly Indian interest, but yours would be birds, mammals, etc.?

Alcorn: Yes, but she did the Indian and history sort of thing. She likes that. I am interested in it, too, but I don't like to do much writing in it. But as far as the Indian is concerned, I was always interested in the biology of the Indian--their food, what plants they used to eat, how they prepared it. So her interest in the painting and the pure history fell right in with my interest in the natural history. That's why it went pretty well.

Thompson: The Indians of this area were considered to be lucky because they had seafood, didn't they?

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Then, didn't the others have camas--weren't they roots or something?

Alcorn: Yes, the camas is widespread. So the coast Indian had camas. Locally, the Puyallups ate camas--it's a lily bulb. The Nez Perce, too, they ate camas, but they had another thing over there called kous--they called it kous-kous. It was like a little wild carrot and they found it in the fields and in the hard rocky fields of the Columbia plateau.

Thompson: You have been with us since 1930, more or less. Who were some of the unusual students who graduated under your jurisdiction?

Alcorn: Golly, I would have to think about that.

Thompson: Well, you had Irwin.

Alcorn: Yes, he's a good example. He's President of the New York Botanical Gardens.

Thompson: I remember that you came in and we actually had him on a contract. Do you remember?

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Then he called me and he said he had this unusual opportunity.

Alcorn: You went down to see him, didn't you?
Thompson: Yes, I did. We had lunch there in Los Angeles. He flew up from Texas. I recall he said he had a daughter born without hands and this was one of the two states that had laws that would give the child hands as she grew up.

Alcorn: He was married only after he came here, though.

Thompson: He would be an interesting example of the kind of person you have had.

Alcorn: Yes, he is.

Thompson: You must have had fifty to a hundred.

Alcorn: I have had over 12,000 students in 47 years of teaching, counting the time in Grays Harbor and Idaho.

Thompson: You must remember a lot of very outstanding students.

Alcorn: I'll have to try to remember and put some of that down.

Thompson: Do you remember when we talked about building a new science building and do you remember the evolution of that?

Alcorn: Indeed I do. Well, Howarth Hall was originally built for physical sciences, not for biological sciences. There was supposed to be a companion building, where McIntyre is now, for biology. That is why we never fitted into that Howarth Hall—we did not have the proper sinks, the proper plumbing of any sort, the proper lighting. So you, and I think it was Gerry Banks, and I, in fact, you and Gerry Banks called me in one time and Phil Fehlandt (the old guys around) and said we ought to start thinking about a science building. The word around was to put it under the Sutton Quadrangle.

Thompson: You recall we had a lot of pressure from the federal government for bomb shelters and they had come to us and said they needed a bomb shelter in the North End and if you will put this underground we will contribute the major portion of the construction. The plans are there in the archives somewhere and it was a phenomenal thing. I never shall forget that I took those plans home one weekend and I remember you and Bob Sprenger and one or two others came to my office on Monday morning and I looked at you people and said, "Did you come to the same conclusions that I did?"

Alcorn: We did. It was absolutely not feasible. We would have had to pump everything out.

Thompson: Well, we would have had to raise all liquids 46 feet to get them up to the sewer outlets.
Alcorn: Dick Smith was in on that, too, with you. I went over to talk to Dick Smith about that one time and I told him we can't put that science building underground and he said, "I'm beginning to think the same thing. Have you any ideas?" I said, "I know exactly where it ought to go and I'll tell you exactly what shape it ought to be. It ought to be a square U and it ought to be back on Union." He said, "Let's go take a look, so we walked over there and I said, "That's where it ought to be, but you can't cut that tree down (there was a big old Sequoia tree)." He said, "I don't see any reason why we can't put it here. Go back and sell it to your colleagues." So Phil and I called a meeting and we got them all together. We didn't say, "Now this is where it ought to go." We just said, "This is where it is going to go."

Thompson: So you didn't have any problem at all.

Alcorn: No.

Thompson: In the original plan, you recall that where Howarth Hall is was to be the science quadrangle, and you also remember in Dr. Todd's plan that where the science building is now was to be the humanities quadrangle, and it was beautifully done -- with a men's quadrangle and a women's quadrangle, etc. But I certainly appreciated an awful lot the fact that you people did a magnificent job on the basic planning for the science quadrangle.

Alcorn: We really had very few differences of opinion on it.

Thompson: McMillan wasn't in the picture then, was he? In Geology. I knew he was a negative on it but I didn't know . . .

Alcorn: No, he was retired, I guess.

Thompson: You people put a lot of expertise into that.

Alcorn: Yes, we really put in a lot of time. I don't know how many times we reviewed those things.

Thompson: Also, you said that we had to have a certain area for the Museum, do you remember?

Alcorn: Yes, yes. We had a little sweat on that.

Thompson: On paper it looked like it was adequate, but it soon became inadequate, didn't it? How much lead time did we have on that science building? It must have been three or four years.

Alcorn: It was more than that. More like ten years. In fact, I went out, at your suggestion and at Gerry Banks' suggestion, and I, alone, sat down with Cy Nelsen
once a month for about a year at his house—out there by Sixth Avenue. It was more like ten years.

Thompson: I knew the thing evolved and evolved, and that is the way you plan a good building.

Alcorn: That's right.

Thompson: You get all the inputs into it.

Alcorn: Incidently, in that old Howarth Hall, to back up my statement that it was supposed to be for physical science, back when I first started to teach in the 1930's, we had a Norwegian student, a big, tall awkward kind of kid, named Wilhelm Bakke, but he was an artist with a pocket knife. Dr. Todd hired him, gave him tuition I guess, to carve those names by hand in that main entrance. Do you know what I am talking about?

Thompson: Yes.

Alcorn: Down there, off of the quad. And you see not one biologist on there, because it was supposed to be just physical science.

Thompson: Now, tell me about the arbolteum.

Alcorn: I can't tell you a lot because it just came as a surprise to me. I didn't know it was going to happen.

Thompson: I knew it was going to happen, but what I am really asking is about your years of back interest. Do you remember, for instance, when we landscaped Union Avenue and you selected the trees that would be used in each island.

Alcorn: The Kiwanis Club bought them.

Thompson: Didn't you select which ones would be used where?

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Do you remember what ones you selected?

Alcorn: Yes, I do, exactly. I'll tell you why I do. There is a city ordinance to prohibit planting of any native trees on a parking strip, so I had to rustle around and find some good, suitable non-native trees. That's right. It's still there. I went up to the City Council several times, when Slim Rasmussen was mayor, and maybe before him, and got nowhere with them about changing that ordinance. So we had to pick what would grow about the same speed and be hearty and be artistic.
We didn't want one of beech trees, for example, as they get sugar in them and just drop all over; so we had to pick them for speed of growth, and successive growth, so we didn't have a little one here and great big one here. Of course, the fraternity kids killed some of them, so they are this way a little bit.

Thompson: We had some people, who were not necessarily students, who drove their jeeps over them. Do you remember which were the ashes and the other species?

Alcorn: Well, there are catalpa, a beech or two, a birch or two. The Kiwanis bought them, bought fifty of them because they were fifty years old--the anniversary of the Kiwanis Club. But we were bound by the city ordinance and that handicapped us a little bit. I have always resented that, and I don't see any reason why we should go to Timbuktu and bring a tree back when we are hurting for native ones. I think we should, and this is what I have advocated and this is what I told you when I was interviewed back in 1945--that I thought the campus ought to be a laboratory and it ought to be good looking. And by being a laboratory, it ought to illustrate as many of the native things as we could get, and also get things that are not native but would show things that our natives don't show; for instance, fruit and leaves, etc. So I don't believe we should have everything native, by any means, but we ought to have enough native things that we can use the campus for a laboratory.

Thompson: Do you remember when you saved the big tree on Union Avenue, just on the edge of the campus? Wasn't it a cottonwood?

Alcorn: A black cottonwood, yes. When it is a double tree, the loggers call it a "school marm" cottonwood, I don't know why.

Thompson: Didn't it have a bad heart?

Alcorn: Oh, boy, did it ever. There was a hole in there big enough for you and me to crawl in.

It began to rot just above the ground line and Professor Slater and I went in there one Campus Day and thought we could dig it out in one day but we dug farther and farther to get all the decay out. There was a big cavity and we finally got all the dead wood out and then got a couple of gallons of copper sulphate and just threw it in there, to kill all the spores and fungi that was in it. Then we filled it up with concrete--put some little bars in there to support it. It is completely covered now. You cannot see... We made a little joke of it in this Arboreum Committee--said we better put something in the archives somewhere so that if somebody goes in there with a chain saw (laughter) and tries to saw that tree down, he'd better be careful.

Thompson: I looked at it not very long ago and you are right--it is completely covered over, and of course, the tree has been saved, hasn't it?
Alcorn: Oh yes, it would have been gone long ago.

Thompson: It is a beautiful tree there.

Alcorn: It is, isn't it.

Thompson: Why do you suppose those little evergreen that are along the Union Street side seem to go along fine and then all of a sudden die?

Alcorn: You mean the ones we got this year?

Thompson: No, in the last ten years.

Alcorn: Along Union?

Thompson: Yes.

Alcorn: That soil is very bad, so before we planted those a hole was dug down maybe four or five feet and filled it with sawdust and that was a mistake. I didn't know they were doing this; they just did it. The sawdust got sour and rotten down in there—to rot out is good but to get sour isn't. That settled and it got deeper and deeper and the trees got settled down there with it and they got down below where there was any air for the roots, and I think that was what did it. That's very poor soil there, because you know that's been all slicked off and that big hill has been taken out of there.

Thompson: Do you remember Huckleberry Hill?

Alcorn: Yes, I do--indeed I do.

Thompson: I remember how beautiful it was with dogwoods. I couldn't take it when that came down—I left town!

Alcorn: That used to be a goat farm there.

Thompson: It did?

Alcorn: Yes. When I first came here as a student in 1925, there was a farm house over in there, not a very big one, and a public speaking teacher named Holcomb and I guess he paid the college rent, but he had goats in there; so promptly, of course, the students labeled it "Holcomb's Agricultural College" (laughter) and as a result the broom and stuff in there (where the fieldhouse parking lot is now) you remember that, it was kind of a swamp.

Thompson: I remember I used to walk down there and there was almost a little stream.

Alcorn: Yes. Well, that was where the goats used to be.
Thompson: Did Holcomb teach for the school?

Alcorn: Oh, yes, he was a public speaking teacher before Teach Jones came.

Thompson: If you came in 1925, you must have come the first year after they moved to the new campus?

Alcorn: That's right.

Thompson: Were you part of the move?

Alcorn: No, they moved in 1924 and I came in '25. It was brand new--just raw--just Jones Hall and the Gymnasium--now the Girls Gym; and the farm house where the Music Building is.

Thompson: When we started to tear that building down, it was in the paper and some woman called me from Fox Island and said you can't tear that down--that's where my two sons were born. And, of course, there is still one apple tree out there from the original orchard. It's in very difficult, decrepit state.

Alcorn: Right back of Jones Hall.

Thompson: Yes. But I remember it took us about 260 loads of earth to fill that ravine in.

Alcorn: Where we had the little bell tower for awhile.

Thompson: Yes. I hope we never had to dig up that sewer because it must be down 20 or 30 feet.

Alcorn: It's way down there. Some of those lines, however, are up on little sticks.

Thompson: Yes, that's right, between Jones Hall and....

Alcorn: Where the parking lot is now for the science building was a berry field and the farm there put all their compost out there and there was a compost pile up there almost as big as Jones Hall. And, of course, they came in there and just ripped it all cut and threw it away. It was gone. (laughter) Yes, it was a berry field.

Thompson: I was interested in the evolution of the 11th Street. It used to be, evidently, the whole hill and then didn't the city come through and put a sewer line or water line or something and then the kids went over on their motorcycles and then people got brave and went over in their Model T's and the first thing it evolved into a trail and then a road.
Alcorn: Yes. There were a lot of nice, native plants in there.

Thompson: Salall...

Alcorn: Oh, yes, and huckleberries and herbs, etc. It was a nice, little spot.

Thompson: I hated it. We had a problem because we had an 86 foot differential between the top of Huckleberry Hill and the area in front of Anderson Hall. You probably remember that in Dr. Todd's planning he had an artificial lake in front of Anderson Hall.

Alcorn: Yes. He had started to dig it. And ran into clay.

Thompson: Yes, we ran into clay, but there is also an outlet in the sewer that goes in front of Anderson Hall to Lawrence, so they could drain that artificial lake. And I remember that we discussed with the Trustees Long-Range Planning Committee whether to create that artificial lake or not, ever, and they decided it would be an attractive nuisance, and you'd have children problems, etc.

Alcorn: We have it now in the pool.

Thompson: It's a little different though, because theoretically there is a rule to keep them out, but on a hot day they are in there.

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Well, that Huckleberry Hill was a very interesting experience and I remember Don Shotwell and myself standing there and looking over to where the fieldhouse could be located. He said, "I can take this hill and put it in that swamp and we can have the parking lot there, etc."

Alcorn: Back in the old days, where the baseball field is now, roughly where the track is, was all brush, too, and they slicked it out to be a playing field and then they didn't have any way to police it at all so one Campus Day--I remember I was chairman of Campus Day--it would have been about 1927 or '28--we called it Post Hole Day and we got several students who were taking Hanawalt's surveying class. We surveyed it and marked the spots and dug the post holes in one day. Then slicked it up on the inside and put a fence around it and that's where they used to play football.

Thompson: It was a little rocky.

Alcorn: It was just gravel.

Thompson: I know Eddie Annis and two or three others told me how rocky it really was. Now you mentioned Professor Hanawalt. Tell me about him.
Alcorn: He came from DePauw probably at the invitation of Senator Davis. Senator Davis came in 1907 and he brought Hanawalt out and I think the two of them probably persuaded Prof. Slater in 1919. But Hanawalt was a typical college professor (laughter) and he would never let you off the hook. I took a course from him, and you worked at a problem (you always worked at the board) and if you didn't finish your problem, you put the problem up at the top and drew a line around it and it stayed there all semester. I tell you literally, at the end of the semester, we were working with about that much board (about 18 inches) and you came in after school, or an odd hour or something, to show him you could work that little problem up there with your initials and then you could erase it off. And, by golly, you got it off of there by the end of the semester. He made thetas... and you will notice in Rowena's picture of him (I got from Paul a picture of Hanawalt standing against one of these blackboards) she put that in his painting, remember?

Thompson: Yes.

Alcorn: And he was noted for his theta. A theta is shaped like that, but it was just so skinny you could hardly tell it was a theta--just a idiosyncrasy he had, and we put one of these in his painting, too.

Thompson: A theta is a mathematical symbol?

Alcorn: Yes, it's a Greek letter but it's used in mathematics. It is almost circular but he made it pressed in. We used to laugh at him about that because it was so obvious--he had his crosses down here. So when she painted that picture of him, I said, "Now, let's put some symbols back there and be sure you put a couple of thetas on." And he used to laugh about his name. He got a lot of fun out of his name. Actually, he said it came from the German Hans in Walt--meaning "Hans in the woods." And he used to call himself, Dr. Hans in the Woods. His own little humor. He was a good guy.

Thompson: His son, Paul, graduated and his grandson, Frank, graduated and Frank's sister graduated.

Alcorn: Frank I think is...

Thompson: Frank is an administrator of a school...

Alcorn: In Seattle, yes.

Thompson: His interest was mathematics, pure and simple, wasn't it.

Alcorn: Absolutely.

Thompson: Now, tell me about Senator Davis.
Alcorn: Well, he came in 1907 from DePauw. That was before Dr. Todd's time. Dr. Todd came in 1913. Davis came in 1907. And, of course, he was very courtly, kindly gentleman—very slow acting—knew everybody—knew all his students by their first names; knew where they lived. I had several classes from him. We would go into class and he would kind of look at the back of the room and he'd say to some student back there, "Well, how is everything in Puyallup today?" He always called me the Audubon of the Northwest. That was my nickname. He was a very absent-minded fellow and a bachelor all his life. Very courtly and again very quiet and gentlemanly fellow.

Thompson: He went into the legislature, didn't he?

Alcorn: He was a senator in the State Senate.

Thompson: I wonder how long.

Alcorn: Oh, several terms—two terms maybe. And we all got invited down—his classes. And they would always give him the gavel when we were sitting up there watching in the old capitol building. They would make a great to-do about it—they'd give the Senator the gavel and he would preside when we were there and we'd stand up and take a bow, you know, and they would clapp. It was a big deal. But he had the touch with students—he had it.

Thompson: I once heard Dr. Brown—Dr. Ralph Brown—say that he came somewhere from the eastern part of the State and the Senator brought him down to Olympia evidently for one of these appearances before the Senate and he said, "I came over the hill and saw how beautiful it was and decided this was where I was going to practice." So Dr. Ralph Brown went to Olympia because Senator Davis took him as a student down there, and, of course, we have had Harry Brown, George Brown and the whole Brown family—Mrs. Brown is an alumnus, too. She works in the University League.

Alcorn: Well, Ralph graduated in chemistry and I think went over to work for Hooker. Then he decided he wanted to come back and work in medicine, so he spent a year there and I spent a whole summer with him, tutoring him in biology. He had got a lot of chemistry but no biology.

Thompson: The Senator lived in a little house up on Sprague?

Alcorn: The old Conservatory of Music.

Thompson: Division and Sprague.

Alcorn: Let me digress for awhile. The University has never given Clayton Johnson his due. He's still living and he was the old Conservatory of Music up there
and that little square house—I guess it is still there.

Thompson: No, it isn't. You mean, by the Church?

Alcorn: Yes. Did they rip it down?

Thompson: It came down four or five years ago.

Alcorn: That was where Senator Davis lived.

Thompson: Tell me more about Clayton Johnson.

Alcorn: I first heard of him but I was pretty small. It would be in the early twenties. I was still in high school and I graduated from high school in 1925. My brother was very mechanically minded and he built a radio, when radios first came out. Before vacuum tubes he told me one time and he called me up into the attic of our house one time and he said, "I'm getting the College of Puget Sound Conservatory of Music," and I put on these phones and heard Clayton Johnson playing the piano. Let me digress again for a second. Do you have old catalogues?

Thompson: We have them but I don't have them here.

Alcorn: I have a full range in my office from 1920 on, I guess, and I just keep them. So if you need them...

Thompson: We'd like to have them as I really have to work this history thing.

Alcorn: Well, you can borrow them. Clayton Johnson's name kept popping up and we'd listen to the music on the old radio and his name kept popping up—Clayton Johnson, Clayton Johnson, and you can see his name in these old catalogues—1920-21-22.

Thompson: He's an alumnus, too, isn't he?

Alcorn: Well, I rather suspect so—I'm not sure of that. He's an old faculty fellow.

Thompson: He plays for Rotary every Thursday.

Alcorn: He played at the Baptist Church for years and years.

Thompson: He played the organ. He must be in his eighties.

Alcorn: He must be pretty close to ninety. But he is still around and I see him over at the market. And I wonder, Dr. "T." why has the College never given him any recognition.
Thompson: Well, they should. I'll write Dr. Phibbs a memo.

Alcorn: They ought to.

Thompson: There must be a tragic side to his life. I once said to him, when I found he was an alumnus, that we would like to have him help the University. He said, "Did you know that I had a daughter who was ill for many, many years?"

Alcorn: A diabetic.

Thompson: He said, "It took every dollar I could get to . . .

Alcorn: She lost her eyesight--she got blind.

Thompson: Is that right? Is she gone now?

Alcorn: Yes, she died six or eight years ago.

Thompson: Evidently that must have been a very great drain on him.

Alcorn: Oh, it was.

Thompson: And he is still teaching. I think he has a studio downtown here, somewhere. Well, I will follow up and see what we can do.

What other professors do you remember? You mentioned Weir earlier?

Alcorn: Of course, he was a great scholar--Weir. He was in education. I would say his strong point, of course, was history of education, and he was a good, vigorous, tough teacher but a scholar. He stands out in my memory as a scholar, and old Professor Cheney, in German, he was a scholar. They were really, truly great scholars, in the literal sense. I think Davis and Hanawalt were great guys, but they were humanistic and compassionate, and they liked students and were thoroughly inspiring; perhaps not at the level of scholarship that Weir and Cheney were.

Thompson: What are some of the other aspects of the College or University you would like to discuss?

Alcorn: I don't know--again off the top of my head.

Thompson: How about Ray Powell--do you remember anything about him?

Alcorn: Oh, yes, Ray came maybe about 1940 and he was one of the later ones.

Thompson: He came from Coe College.

Alcorn: Yes, Coe College.
Thompson: You mentioned Fehlandt. He came from Wisconsin.

Alcorn: No... not Colby... something like that. Rollins...

Thompson: No, not that.

Alcorn: Of course, he took off during the War. I guess Ray did, too.

Thompson: Yes, both of them were in the War.

Alcorn: Perry was in the War.

Thompson: Was Warren Perry here when you came?

Alcorn: No. Warren came about -- I'm going to guess -- about 1930. Of course, the library was on the bottom of Jones Hall.

Thompson: The lower side on the north end?

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: It must have had, say, about 40,000 volumes.

Alcorn: Not any more than that.

Thompson: I remember one of the first things we needed was another dormitory for men and we needed another classroom building and then we needed a library.

Alcorn: I remember Miss Crasper, too, in languages.

Thompson: What was she like?

Alcorn: I remember she was a very fine lady and a very fine teacher in foreign languages. And then there was...

Thompson: There was a Mrs. Whit...

Alcorn: Let me go back and look at some of those old catalogues and I'll put down some things.

Thompson: Why don't you -- you were talking about the hatchet and the tug of war.

Alcorn: Well, the hatchet thing started before my day, it was very popular during my day, and the seniors would always pass it along to the juniors, and the sophomores would try to capture it. It was a big deal with the students. As I mentioned awhile ago, this Wilhelm Bakke--well, I was president, I guess, of the senior class and we devised a way by which we would give it to the junior class by going up in the loft
above the stage in Jones Hall and dropping it in a basket and we would bring
the hatchet up on the stage and we would pass it to the juniors and they would chuck it
in this basket and haul it up real quickly and somebody way up on the top floor in
the attic would disappear with it. Well, it was a good deal but it didn't work. (laughter)
Wilhelm Bakke was there and he was going to get the ax real quick, so somehow,
they struggled, he got the ax and jumped down off the stage and he ran over there to
the left of the auditorium, facing on the side next to where McIntyre is now and jumped
out the window—and he broke his leg. That disturbed President Todd very much.
It really disturbed him, so he said we are going to have to take things a little easier.
(laughter)

Thompson: I remember, of course, that the theory was that you put your years
on the handle . . .

Alcorn: Etched it in there with acid.

Thompson: Yes, and when I was being considered for President, one alum said,
"Do you have good teeth?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "Well, when they
passed the hatchet the last two times, poor Dr. Todd got caught in the melee, and
he came out from under the melee with the hatchet in his teeth!" (laughter)
Well, it went on and someone stole the handle and a new handle came.

Alcorn: I don't know—it kind of died.

Thompson: Well, in the War, I had a penny postcard come and it said, "Dr. "T.",
don't worry about the hatchet. We have it and we'll take care of it." But it was
not signed—there were just three little red dots and we've never seen it since then.
So it's on somebody's beam up in an attic somewhere. I tried to get Mrs. Cooper
to put a feature in the Arches and there is a picture of it in the 1948 annual.

Alcorn: There is an impression of it out there in the cement at the end of Jones
Hall.

Thompson: She told me she was going to do that, and then Dr. Phibbs' priorities
aced it out.

Alcorn: We ought to get it started again, maybe.

* Thompson: It would be interesting to know where it is. How about the tug of war?

Alcorn: Well, that always came on Campus Day. Campus Day used to be pretty good
but we got so big it has kind of lost it's meaning, or something.

Thompson: Well, you remember we used to cut out the weeds and put in fences,
Alcorn: Then we got so big that a lot of kids weren't interested and it was just another holiday. We always had a tug of war between the freshmen and the sophomores and it was out there between the south end of Jones Hall and the north end of Todd--right in there. There was a gravel road and there is a big Madrona tree in there, and it still has the marks of that rope --around the bark of that Madrona tree. Then they had a fire hose that shot a stream of water right down the middle of that, and I tell you it was a badge of honor, if you were losing, you walked through that fire hose. Usually, there was a hankercchief tied on the rope, and if you got over four or five feet you lost. You had to walk through that water and it would knock you down. I got on the losing end of that one time and I had to walk through it. I walked right through that hose and then went home on the street car. That was a big deal and we had a lot of fun.

Thompson: I remember campus day. I guess it is more sophisticated now as Logger Day. They cut through trees and all that sort of thing. But I think it was a very meaningful thing because all the students got together.

Alcorn: Yes, and then we had a picnic lunch.

Thompson: It was faculty and students together. I remember it as a very interesting and precious time.

Alcorn: It was. And really, we got quite a bit of work done, too. We started that big, old tree out there on Campus Day--we couldn't do that today.

Thompson: What other plants or trees did you help bring to the school?

Alcorn: Oh, my gosh. I put a lot of them there. I put that big Sequoia out there and I made them move the science building ten feet. (laughter)

Thompson: Where is this one, now?

Alcorn: It's at the Chemistry end of the science building. Oh, it's a beauty. It's thirty or forty feet tall now.

Thompson: You mean the present science building?

Alcorn: Yes, the present one.

Thompson: And the Sequoia is located on the north side or the south side?

Alcorn: It's just (illustrating) -- here's the chemistry wing, and it would be right here. Some friend of mine out on McKinley Hill said she had this little tree and would I like to have it, so I went out there and dug it up myself--about four feet tall. Also, I put that other meta sequoia in at the south end of the pool and the cercidophyllum and ginkgo there. Those are fossil trees.
Thompson: A ginkgo takes forever to grow, doesn't it?

Alcorn: No, no. I had it first in the cloister there between Howarth and Jones and then they put in a heat run, so I moved it across the street so it is now at the end of Todd. I came to class one morning, in that little 108 room there—in that hot room, and I looked out the window and some little boy with his little boy scout ax had chopped it down during the night. It was lying right on the ground. I went over and took a look at it, and there was a little bark still attached, so I got one of the guys from the Buildings and Grounds and we went out and very carefully lifted that thing up and we put copper sulphate on it again to keep it from rotting and we really put surgery to that—we splinted it, and tied it with rubber, and wired it and it grew. And you can still see, right now, a great big scar at the base. But it's pretty tall now.

Thompson: Where is this tree now?

Alcorn: It's at the north end of Todd Hall. There is a big Lombardy Poplar in there which I think we are going to have to take down.

Thompson: Why?

Alcorn: It's rooting up, breaking up the parking with the roots.

Thompson: Oh, well, you can fix the parking every five years.

Alcorn: If Elliott will do it! (laughter) Then there is another one down at the east end of the president's house—a ginkgo. Then there is a ceroidophyllum. That is a beautiful tree. That's a fossil tree.

Thompson: Does that have a common name.

Alcorn: Dawn tree, or something. Then there is another one I put in—a native maple, I put in a ginkgo, an incense cedar—I put in a lot of those things. The idea being a laboratory.

Thompson: I remember talking to Rowena about the fact that there should be something on the campus to honor you for all your interest through all the years, and were were very thrilled when this arboretum thing came up. I'm not quite sure that that mound of rocks is exactly the sort of thing...

Alcorn: No, that doesn't look very good.

Thompson: It isn't the kind of thing that fits your personality nor fits the campus.
Alcorn: No, I don't know about the personality but it doesn't fit the campus. But everybody sees it, too. Larry Heggerness who was instrumental in a lot of it, and we were at that picnic and he said, "How do you like that?" And Rowena said, "Now, don't say anything--don't say anything." Because I just blew up to her--that's a monstrosity.

Thompson: What should happen is that they should take that plaque out, take the darn rocks away and just put that on the end of the library.

Alcorn: Well, if they didn't do that, they could cut it down about three-fourths on the back and side and leave it about so big--or they could put it on the edge of the building, if they wanted to. It's too monstrous.

Thompson: It doesn't really fit the purpose for which it was intended. I was shocked when Larry said, "What do you think?" I said, "I love Gordon Alcorn like a brother, and that doesn't seem to me like Gordon Alcorn."

Alcorn: I don't know about that aspect of it, but it's monstrous.

Thompson: I have a feeling it will be changed.

Alcorn: Oh, he said it was going to be changed.

Thompson: Dr. Phibbs said he didn't particularly like it either.

Alcorn: This is what I can't understand why they put it up there because everybody had a look at the plans.

Thompson: I don't think anybody saw the plans.

Alcorn: Oh, yes, they did. The whole committee saw the plans. Oh, Elliott was very careful. He had the plans xeroxed and sent them out to everybody.

Thompson: It must have been that it looked smaller on the plans than in reality.

Alcorn: Well, they couldn't read the plans. I was out to Russ Ziegler's place along maybe in May--he keeps a master chart on all new things that go on and he said they are getting at me to redesign that plaque for you, and I said, "Go ahead and do it," and they wanted him to do it in July but he said he did one and Elliott said no way would he permit that to go--said it looks like we got it in a graveyard. So he said, "What do you think of this?" He put these little rocks and he sketched it and he asked how big was the plaque and . . .

(cut off - end of a tape)
Thompson: Gordon, do you remember any unusual people on the campus or special events?

Alcorn: Well, one character who comes to mind is J. Stafford McMillin.

Thompson: Who was he?

Alcorn: He owned a lime kiln in the north part of Friday Harbor--San Juan Island--at Roche Harbor. He had Chinese people working for him. It was literally a fiefdom, because he took care of them if they got sick, he paid the hospital bills, etc. He took care of them as kind of a family. He was a strong, religious character; had a very strong . . . Mason, I believe--some lodge, it would have to Shriners or Mason or Scottish Rite, that's Mason, isn't it.

Thompson: Yes.

Alcorn: He had a lot of land up there--several hundred acres or more--and he started to build a mausoleum on Roche Harbor. President Todd used to have him come down to the College of Puget Sound and try to get money from him. Way back, maybe in the middle twenties, and it would be in my catalogue--my history, there--he gave him an honorary degree. But to the best of my knowledge, he never got any money from him. But this mausoleum has become quite a place and it is still there and you can see it. It is quite a deal. He built a great, big, long concrete table up on a platform, with big Corinthian columns with so many steps, and it is all symbolic of the four facets of life, whatever they are. It is a tremendous thing. One column is broken on purpose to show the imperfection of life and there are concrete chairs around the table and up on the back of the chair is the name of the person in the family whose ashes are in the seat. Finally, old J. Stafford himself died, and his ashes were put in his chair, and his chair faces northwest and there is a swath cut through the trees so that the sun of June 21 hits his chair.

Thompson: Sounds like Stonehenge.

Alcorn: Yes. A very similar thing only it's a mausoleum. All his family are there--his wife. He was a tremendous guy. He had entertained Theodore Roosevelt up there. He was a national figure. He ran for the U.S. Senate but didn't make it. He was really quite a fellow.

Thompson: Do you remember anything about the way by which the Howarth bequest came to the University of Puget Sound?

Alcorn: Howarth died before President Todd got it.
Thompson: Didn't Howarth leave it to the City of Tacoma with the idea that it should be used where it would do the greatest good?

Alcorn: You may be right on that––I'm not sure it was the City of Tacoma, but it was some agency or some foundation, yes. So that President Todd was able to persuade that organization or agency, and it might have been the City, I'm not sure, that this was the place to put it.

Thompson: I think it was the City, and I suppose I have had fifty people tell me that we turned that bequest to the University way back yonder when this decision was being made. I also went to see the Howarth family in Everett on a number of occasions and they were not very happy that it went this way, because of the fact that the present man there in Everett said well if you build a building you always have to renovate it about every 25 years.

Alcorn: When did you see them?

Thompson: Oh, that would be three years ago.

Alcorn: Oh, just recently.

Thompson: When we were renovating, after the moveout. Of course, Howarth Meadowcroft, who is on our Board of Trustees, --his mother was a Howarth and she was a daughter of the brother of the man who left the bequest. Of course, Howarth Meadowcroft is named for the Howarth family. Howarth is very enthusiastic and very good about it, but they have a foundation in Everett and the man there said everything in the foundation goes to something in Everett.

Alcorn: Well, President Todd put the bottom floor of that building up and then he ran out of money. In fact, when I first came here, we had biology and all the sciences in what is now the basement floor. One lab--toward the Lawrence Street end; then it became physics after we moved. The top of the building was what is now the first floor. It just had tar paper on it and we walked right out on it. Then he got this Howarth money about 1926 or maybe 1925, and finished it off. Rowena painted that picture of Howarth. Incidentally, you know that was vandalized and she had to redo it. She had to be very careful to see that she did not put Leonard Howarth's hands in it because he was all gnarled up with arthritis, so that is why the hands are hidden in that picture, and they asked her to do that. I think he was pretty well crippled and in a wheelchair.

Thompson: Did she paint it from life?

Alcorn: I'm not sure. I think she saw him once or twice only. There is a picture there and also a photograph.
Thompson: Yes, a photograph and also his textbooks. I think this is a part of the stipulation of the gift.

Alcorn: Yes, they must be displayed. Wilhelm Bakke carved that thing by hand at the same time he did this this up here . . .

Thompson: The thing over the top.

Alcorn: Yes. The frame around that picture of him and his math books.

Thompson: We have had about three of the Bakkes in the 35 years -- I wonder if they were any relation.

Alcorn: I don't have any idea.

Thompson: It would be interesting to see if they were. I mentioned earlier Professor Frederick McMillan. Do you remember him?

Alcorn: Oh, yes. A geology fellow. He started out in Chemistry.

Thompson: Yes, he started out in chemistry and then he started collecting rocks.

Alcorn: He established the geology department.

Thompson: I always kind of felt that he/ sort of a maverick, somehow or other.

Alcorn: Well, I don't know about putting some of this on tape.

Thompson: We will probably have to delete it.

Alcorn: Well, I think Mac was a real pleasant guy and a good guy but he was completely insecure. He had been to Willamette and got a maverick degree at Willamette way back and then they dropped the degree and he always felt that . . . then he tried for a master's at the University but he couldn't hack it out; so Mac was a good guy but he was not really adequate.

Thompson: When I used to walk in his classroom and look at the blackboards, and in a sentence there would be three or four misspelled words, it just broke your heart, you know. At the same time, the students loved him.

Alcorn: Yes, as far as the teaching was concerned . . . He was too insecure.

Thompson: You mentioned Jim Slater.

Alcorn: Yes, I said, "How many deans do you remember?" He tried to think back and then he said, "How many do you remember?" When I first came, there was Cunningham, then there was Henry, then Lemon, then Drury, then Regester,
then there were two or three --Thomas, Bock, etc. I think I came up with 12 deans that I knew, but only three presidents. (laughter)

Thompson: I don't know how that happened. Well, I guess the deans were more vulnerable than presidents.

Alcorn: When Slater came, Marsh was dean. And Mrs. Marsh was a biology teacher.

Thompson: Did you know Marsh?

Alcorn: Yes, quite well, quite well.

Thompson: What was he like?

Alcorn: Very fine gentleman. A little fellow, a lively little guy; and after he left here he got active in the Washington Educational Association and became secretary or something and lobbied for them.

Thompson: I used to see him because he was president of the Methodist Men's Club in Edmonds and he'd have me up for breakfast with the Methodist Men at least once a year and they gave the money from the breakfast down here. The church finally established a memorial scholarship here in his name.

Alcorn: Oh, yes, the Arthur Marsh.

Thompson: I remember him very well--as you say, he was slight but he was very dynamic and even when he must have been 75 he had a lot of drive. And very much interested in the University and very loyal.

Alcorn: No doubt of it.

Thompson: I never knew why he left. Did you know Cunningham?

Alcorn: A little bit.

Thompson: What was he like?

Alcorn: I can't answer.

Thompson: Did you know Lemon?

Alcorn: Oh, very well. He was a very fine scholar but his judgment wasn't always good.
Thompson: You mean in dealing with people?

Alcorn: Dealing with people. He and President Todd, I think, sort of got on the outs and Lemon went to the University of Idaho and was still there when I went over there to teach after I finished my work, so I knew him here very well and then over in Idaho very well. But as I say, I think it was his judgment. I know, as students, we used to say—that's a funny thing to do, or something. So he went over there. Drury was a disaster. He was completely and totally without finesse, without judgment at all; just a disaster. He lasted a couple of years.

Thompson: What was his major--what was his interest academically?

Alcorn: I think psychology. That was Lemon, too. Henry, of course, was chemistry.

Thompson: You knew John Regester, of course.

Alcorn: Oh yes, for many years.

Thompson: He was a wonderful dean.

Alcorn: Yes, a real scholar.

Thompson: A real scholar. Very astute. Knew how to handle people and faculty, and a great joy to work with him.

Alcorn: Yes.

Thompson: Bock, I think, was over ambitious.

Alcorn: He wanted to be president over night.

Thompson: Well, he said he would only stay five years in any institution, he didn't care what it was.

Alcorn: He wanted to get there quick; he couldn't wait. (laughter)

Thompson: He was willing to walk on anybody's back to get there.

Alcorn: You know there are a few guys up there now that say Bock was a pretty good guy--too bad we lost him.

Thompson: That sounds like Ernie Karlstrom.

Alcorn: I don't talk to Karlstrom--never see him anymore.
Alcorn: Lantz is still gung-ho for Bock.

Thompson: Of course, Lantz was always that way. Lantz was a fellow that when things were going smoothly he'd have to ask questions.

Alcorn: Think something was wrong! (laughter)
I don't know, if you think back, in generalities, you can't pinpoint a lot of things, and I suppose it is inevitable in the evolution of any organization or any university that times change, the atmosphere is not what it used to be— I'd say even back in the days when you first came—there is no rapport, less rapport, and I suppose that guys like myself, Prof Slater and some of those who have been there so long that have, in addition to loyalty and affection for the institution, the younger fellows and I suppose it is a natural thing, the medium guys that are 40 to 45 years old who have been there ten or fifteen years don't have it. I think that is a natural evolution.

Thompson: Well, I think so. We were all kind of a family; we thought we were building the place.

Alcorn: That's it.

Thompson: We felt we were pulling it up by the bootstraps.

Alcorn: We didn't have a lot; we weren't affluent; what we did accomplish by our own bootstraps meant more to us than just going out and buying it. If you earned the nickel for the ice cream cone, you enjoy it more than if someone gives it to you.

Thompson: That's right.

Alcorn: We don't have that now.

Thompson: I wonder if it's because we have a beautiful campus, nice buildings, the aura of things going along pretty well—or whether it isn't a whole psychological turn in teachers—you know, this idea of high school teachers striking, and all this sort of thing. We used to think this teaching was a great thing, you were giving kids horizons, etc.

Alcorn: I have to be careful about what I think and what I say, along this general line, because people say every old guy says it; and every old guy says he is right, too. But I can't see, but when the bell stops ringing, before the echoes are out of the hall, the guys are on their way home. Right now, we're in between and there is
nobody around—well, vacation's fine, they ought to take a rest, but nobody is around; the place is empty. I'm the only one up there. I go up there every day, I enjoy it, I like it, etc. There is a different spirit and I think it is partly what you suggested a moment ago—that we had it pretty tough up there for a long time—even before your day, but it didn't seem tough to us. It was fun. We all kept in there; we had the old literary society, and now it's different.

Thompson: You know I can remember when we gave an honorary degree we said to the trustees, "Now, are you people going to contribute the $6.00 to buy the hood?" And I can remember when we had a dinner, Lucille went out and got the flowers out of the yard and decorated, and I remember she baked cookies until two o'clock in the morning in order to have them for the students--this sort of thing. And it was all part of it.

Alcorn: Maybe it's a natural evolution, I don't know.

Thompson: Well, and also the size of the school. Well, as I tell them, it's a great school and we made it great because all of us pulled as a team and we dedicated our lives to it, and there are thousands of people out there who rise up and call you blessed, Prof Slater blessed and the rest of them, so it is really wonderful.

Alcorn: Everywhere I go I see students.

Thompson: Yes, and they ask about you, and they ask about Rowena, and they ask about Prof Slater, and all.
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I/We hereby grant to the University of Puget Sound all rights
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[Signature]
Interviewee
Date

[Signature]
Interviewer
Date
INTERVIEW WITH GORDON ALCORN
BY R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON
ON APRIL 19, 1978

Thompson: Gordon, I wanted to talk to you about background. Were you a
native of this section.

Alcorn: Yes, I was born in Olympia and grew up here in Tacoma. My
father and mother moved here.

T: What was your father's work?

A: He was born in Virginia and came out here in about 1900. He was the
first brewmaster for the Olympia Brewery— for the Schmidt family. He figured
that in the brew cellar (or whatever you call it) he got rheumatism—
that's what he thought. He had been with the railroads in Virginia. He
was a hosler and a pretty young fellow, too. He was only 21 or 22 when he
came out here; he was born in 1881. When he came here to Tacoma, he
worked for the railroad at the old South Tacoma shops as a mechanic. He
got a piece of steel in his eye and that sort of scared him so he quit and he
went into business— real estate and insurance. He retired before the World
War II but during the war, for patriotism, he went back to work as a machinist.

He was a pretty old fellow but he worked four or five years.

T: Have you always had an unusual interest in natural history?

A: Yes. I really can't remember when I didn't. I was showing my class
the other day some big colored prints of birds put out by the Winchester
people to advertise shooting birds, ducks and shore birds. My mother gave
me those when I was seven years old. I had a little note on it. I can't remember
when I wasn't interested in natural history.
T: You came to CPS from Olympia?
A: No. From Tacoma. We moved here and I went to school here and I entered CPS in 1925.
T: Had you attended Stadium?
A: No, Lincoln.
T: Did Rowena go to Lincoln?
A: No, she went to Stadium! (Laughter)
T: Was she in the same class that you were?
A: No, she was about a year ahead of me—about 1924 maybe.
T: If you came to CPS in 1925, that was the first year on the new campus, wasn't it?
A: They came in 1924.
T: Do you remember the move?
A: No, I wasn't in on it, but I remember it from the newspaper.
T: You weren't one of the ones that carried the trees up, the books up and the Color Post, etc.
A: No. The faculty paraded from Sixth and Sprague—that was Senator Davis, Professor Slater and Professor Hanawalt.
T: Do you remember those professors?
A: Oh, very well. I had classes from them.
T: Tell me about Davis?
A: He was a very kindly gentleman, very good natured, always a twinkle. Very popular with students because he knew his students. We would go to
He was in the Senate for a number of years.

T: He was genuinely respected by the political people as well as by the students.

A: He was highly respected. Remember old Senator Medcalf in the State Senate? He made kind of a valedictory to Senator Davis when he left the Senate and he said, "In all my experience, Senator Davis voted right more times than anybody I have ever known." Of course, he was a political crony of Davis'. He presided a great deal in the Senate and he would always bring his students down during the session and we would sit in the gallery and the lieutenant governor would always let the Senator preside while we were there. He would always look up and welcome the students! I used to pick him up in my old jalopy of a car on Sixth Avenue. He'd get off at Sixth and Lawrence and I'd pick him up and take him down Lawrence to school. He would write me a note at the end of the semester and thank me for picking him up. He would address his envelopes to me, "The Audubon of the Northwest." I still have one of those envelopes somewhere.

T: I recall that he used to take carloads of students down to Olympia. You know Dr. Ralph Brown, of course. He told me that he had never been to Olympia and the Senator told them all about Olympia. When they drove over the hill where they could see the capitol, Brown said right then to himself
"this is where I want to spend my life." And he's been in Olympia ever since and the Brown children have all gone to the University of Puget Sound.

So the Senator was much beloved. He lived for many years in the little house that was the Music Conservatory.

A: Yes, right back of the church there.

T: I was in that once and he had books stacked everywhere and there was just a little trail so he could get around to the kitchen, etc.

A: I was in there many times.

T: He had a tremendous memory, I am told.

A: Yes, dates, people, . . .

T: Yes, page 93 of this book, etc.

In your notes you say that there was a student rumor that he was interested in Professor Crapser.

A: Yes, that went around.

T: She was a language teacher.

A: Yes.

T: What was she like?

A: She was very much the outdoors person. She belonged to the Botaniers and again a very friendly lady, a very fine teacher, highly respected. She ended up sort of tragically. For a long time, I guess many years, she was kind of an invalid with a brain tumor.

T: Oh, how sad. Professor Weir must have been at his peak when you were here. Is that right?
A: Now, he was the scholar and was always regarded as the scholar. He had a shock of pure white hair, very strict, very exacting, but again with good humor and highly respected and highly admired, but one did work with him! Education history—he knew about and all the rest of them—knew their lives and their contributions to education. I think of all the early people, along with Dean Regester when he eventually came, that he and Regester were regarded as the scholars.

T: Do you remember when Regester came?
A: Yes. He taught psychology when he first came.

T: Then worked over into philosophy?
A: He took a year off, I guess it was in Boston where he did his work. That was about 1928 or 1929, something like that.

T: He certainly was highly regarded. I never knew a person with whom it was easier to work, and yet a man who stood on his principles and gave distinguished leadership.
A: We had dinner with them a couple of Sundays ago over at Wesley Gardens.

T: His first wife was a tremendous person. I don't know the second one as well, but I thought it was awfully nice that he married a second time because they were evidently friends many years ago.
A: They are very happy and very compatible and she kind of keeps him spruced up and keeps him busy.

T: He must be in his latter seventies.
A: He is 81.
T: Is that right? He certainly is very fine fine. There were other professors.
Can you tell me about Professor Henry.

A: Yes. Henry was head of chemistry and just prior to that I guess he was dean. He had difficulty in teaching... he had some kind of impediment?

T: Impediment?

A: No, it wasn't that. He had to have a handkerchief all the time. And his blackboard script, handwriting, was absolutely impossible.

T: He has two sons who are close by here, right?

A: Yes. Fred is out on Anderson Island and the other one I don't know.

Then his daughter is Schwartz' wife.

T: He seems to have carried a considerable amount of influence and weight in the University.

A: Yes.

T: I thought that sooner or later I ought to get his sons on tape.

A: Yes, get Fred down here. He's retired on Anderson Island but he comes in every Monday to sing in the chorus here, so you could get him on a Monday.

T: Good. Did you know Reneau?

A: Yes, Georgia Reneau. She was very quiet, very gentle and again considered very scholarly. She was rather careless about her personal appearance. I think she had a little trouble with Dean Lemon; they had academic difficulties or something.

T: She lived, you know, just back of the fieldhouse and we bought six lots from her. I wanted her to give them to us but she had a nephew that she
thought she ought to protect. She was a little bit bitter about the University, and Dean Lemon and Dr. Todd. She thought Dr. Todd sided with Lemon rather than her and then she went to PLU and taught there for awhile. She seemed to be so highly regarded by so many students that I said to the Alumni Association maybe they would like to have her speak at the alumni meeting one Spring. Were you at that meeting?

A: No.

T: She went on for nearly two hours.

A: That was a few years ago.

T: That would be 15 years ago. Dick Wasson asked her to speak and she was thorough and it was an interesting time! She lived in this big house on 9th Street and she had 13 cats.

A: Yes, I've been there.

T: It was a very difficult place in which to visit--to sit down or take a breath!

A: That's right. And she always had trouble with her personal things--clothes, etc.

T: I think this is why Lemon and Dr. Todd felt it would be wise to have her go somewhere else, although she seems to have had the genuine regard and affection of many, many students.

A: She was pretty sharp on the literature and that kind of thing.

T: When did McMillan come?

A: I'm going to say about 1926 or 1927.
T: Was he a teacher when you were a student?
A: He was a teacher. He'd been at Willamette.
T: Did you take any of his courses?
A: A lot of his courses.
T: How was he as a teacher?
A: He was no geologist. He was not a trained geologist. He came as a chemist and he loved to fiddle around with geology and I guess he started the geology department, which was one room on the top floor of Jones Hall.
He had an inferiority complex and wanted to bend over backwards to appear that he didn't have it. But he was no geologist and a very poor teacher and highly opinionated. He liked students or he didn't like them and there was a jealous streak in him (it's terrible to talk about someone who is dead), but he was difficult.
T: Yes, he was.
A: He was not the academic caliber and personality for the University.
T: I found that, too, and of course it was very difficult to handle. He had his champions, like Norm Anderson. Norm tells me that he actually started the geology department with a barrel full of rocks that he had in his room.
A: That would be pretty close.
T: Once I went in his classroom, after a class, and in one sentence on the board, there were five misspelled words.
A: He was no student or scholar.
T: But students were great champions of his because those who liked him he gave A's and those who questioned him got...
A: He was "Mac" to all the students and he kind of sponsored one of the fraternities and spent a lot of time with students. I spent a lot of time in his home in the evenings. His wife used to cook up the biscuits and.

T: He was popular and he was, of course, very eager to stay on and teach afterward but I didn't think his academic qualifications were such to merit it, and he caused quite a fuss.

A: I think she is still living in Lacey.

T: Yes, she is and we see her quite often. When you finished at CPS, you did graduate work. Where did you do that?

A: At the University of Washington.

T: Did you get a master's?

A: The master's in 1934 and the Ph.D. in 1935.

T: Your master's was in what?

A: Biology.

T: What was your thesis?

A: My thesis was in botany. I did an inventory and survey of the desmeds, microscopic green plants, algea, in the Puget Sound country.

T: When was your doctor's thesis?

A: Well, I did the master's thesis in desmeds and went on and finished it up for the doctorate.

T: Did the U of W have requirements of French and German for the doctorate?

A: Yes, I had both.

T: I remember working through that. I did the French because I took French
in college but I did the German because I dug it out.

A: You know, I took a lot of German from Professor Cheney and Maris at CPS because I liked the German. In fact, I had enough for a major in German. Then I just sort of thought at the University that why don't I get this German out of the way because then I could get the master's degree in August and I wouldn't have to wait until the next June. So I applied at the last minute to take the master's exam in German and I didn't bone up on it and I flunked it, but flat! Of course, after that I boned up on it and I had no problem. I liked the German and I didn't look forward to French but I did it.

T: Tell me about Professor Cheney?

A: He was regarded as a great scholar and he was—he really was.

T: What was his field?

A: German. He knew the other languages so well and the value of his courses (and I can still remember them) was the comparison—he would say look at the cognate or look at the relationship between this and the French, or the something, or the something and he'd give us a string of them, you see. He was a great guy. But he didn't know anything else but that. You never saw him but what he was dressed I don't think he ever put on an old shirt, even at home. We used to be in their home a great deal and Mrs. Cheney was a very sympathetic lady to students. He was always dressed up and I think when he got up in the morning he put on his necktie for breakfast.

T: Mrs. Cheney was registrar after his tragic death.
A: Yes, and then she became dean of women.

T: She was certainly a dedicated person.

A: Yes, a fine woman.

T: She had some tragedy, healthwise, that made her lose her hair. Was it scarlet fever?

A: Yes, it was way back. It was something like that. She wore a wig for a long time.

T: Two boys are living, one in Wenatchee.

A: Bob is in Yakima and Phil is in Wenatchee and now Margaret is in Yakima too and Mariam is here.

T: Mrs. Cheney was a wonderful person. She used to spend endless hours in the registrar's office there, and everything was absolutely perfect.

After you received your doctor's degree, what did you do?

A: Went to the University of Idaho to teach.

T: That's where this botanist's herbarium burned down?

A: Yes, that was Henderson's. I saw him a few times. He was Peggy Strong's grandfather.

T: I appreciated your memorandum to me with the facts about Peggy Strong and the murals.

A: Down at the depot.

T: Yes.

A: They hoisted her up on a scaffold because she was in a wheelchair. She had broken her back in a car accident.

T: It is interesting and when I write about the student center I'll have quite
a little bit about that.

A: She was one of Rowena's art students.

T: Is that where she learned to paint the blue hawks and other things?
A: She had done some work elsewhere and I don't know just where. I think she was on her way back east to school when a tire blew out and her car went over.

T: How long did you teach in Idaho?
A: Two years.

T: Did you teach botany or biology?
A: I taught botany and mostly systemic botany and mycology.

T: Were you and Rowena married at that time?
A: We were married in the summer of 1935, after I got my work done at the University of Washington.

T: Rowena was from Tacoma and where did you meet her?
A: I met her in a reception line in Jones Hall!

T: As a freshman?
A: No, that was when I first started to teach. You see, I graduated in 1930 in June and President Todd asked me to stay on right away for the summer school, so I got the degree yesterday and started teaching today in the summer school. I taught, I guess, maybe 30 or 35 summers. I always came back to UPS in the summer time.

T: So, that's where you met her in the reception line. Was she teaching art at that time?
A: Yes, she was teaching art with Mrs. Cochran.

T: Mrs. Cochran was head of the art department.

A: Yes.

T: Was that located on the third floor of Jones then?

A: Yes, right over your old office, looking out on Lawrence.

T: Rowena graduated from UPS, didn't she? — No

A: Yes, she took work for about five years, perhaps the years 1930 to 1935.

T: How would you compare the curriculum that you studied and the evolution of the curriculum, because you have been right in the middle of this thing for years. Could you talk about that?

A: You mean in the University or in the Biology Department.

T: I am thinking of when you were a student and then as you watched this evolve.

A: I don't know. I'd like to think about that a little bit. We've always been committed to so-called liberal arts, where we got something in depth. It pops into my mind that much of this goes back to Dean Regester. I think I see now, and I am sure you do, too, the return, the comeback, to the good old days. We go through the evolution—the young guys come along and they want to revolutionize it; we make a lot of changes and after a couple of years when it doesn't work we go back to where we were, roughly.

T: That's right.

A: We're about back to the liberal thing that we used to have. Somebody came up not long ago, some of these young gung-ho fellows in the faculty,
came up with the function and the strengths of the liberal thing and it was practically Dean Regester, word for word.

T: It is amazing how it evolves around.

A: We got rid of the final exam and then they decided it was good after all, so we are back to that.

T: We had all the pressures of the G.I.'s and the vocational aspects.

A: But basically, I don't think we change a great deal.

T: Basically, it really comes down to great teachers, doesn't it?

A: One thousand percent.

T: You will remember the one or two or three that just made a tremendous impression on you and set your mind on fire and gave you horizons and you put up with the dullards, because it had to be done. I never shall forget when I was in seminary I led kind of a little revolt about the fact that Greek and Hebrew were required, and I said to the dean, "The only reason they are required is because this is the way these two professors get a class." It wasn't very long until Hebrew wasn't required and now Greek isn't required.

Let me refer a little bit to Rowena's interest and your interest in Indians. How did that happen?

A: She has always been interested in Indians. Her father was in the gold rush in Alaska and he was up there nine years in the Klondike. Her mother wrote two very successful books, their diaries. In his diary, he wrote
about an Indian saving his life on the Trail up at Pass. This sort of stuck with Rowena because all through her girlhood she had heard the story. She studied at the Santa Barbara School of the Arts, which is an extremely fine school. She got onto the Navahos and she likes the rugged features, likes the color and the skin tones. One Sunday when we were first in Idaho we went to the Presbyterian Church and the preacher was Clifford Drury who is now the authority on early missionaries. He has put out 21 or 22 books. (I always thought we missed it because we never gave Cliff Drury an honorary degree.) He was starting his book on Marcus Whitman and Henry Harmon Spaulding and when we shook hands at the door after the service he noticed that we were new and we told him we were out at the University and he turned to Rowena and asked if she were teaching and she said she was an artist. At 9:00 o'clock the next morning he was knocking on the door and he said, "I remember what you said yesterday and I'm putting out my book on Henry Harmon Spaulding and I need some paintings. Would you be interested in doing it?" So she painted the frontispiece and she painted Timothy, which was Spaulding's first convert. That got her started. We went down to the reservation at Lapuci which was about fifty miles south of Moscow. We went to see one of the Indians there who was on the Council. She said, "I think I would like to paint the old warriors from the 1877 war." There were five of them still living, and this was Orbit Lawyer who was the grandson of Chief Lawyer who was in the war. He was a very fine scholar and they called him, in Indian, "The
Learned One" and it got to be "Lawyer". We got to know Corbit Lawyer very well and he said, "The only way you can do this is for someone of us to persuade them, and I'll be very glad to do this. I'll find you an interpreter."

So he got us an interpreter, and we went for ten years, I guess, every summer over there--I guess we went 35 years in all, just to see the old guy and get their story. We got the five of them and not any of them ever spoke a word. It was all sign language. Very important people in the war and we got the story, got notes on the colors, she borrowed some of the clothes of Joseph (Chief Joseph) and she had to do him from a picture, of course, but she had his clothes. She wound up with 25 of those pictures and those are the ones in her book.

T: That is her last book.

A: Yes, the first edition sold out and the second edition came out last Friday so she got another go around.

T: How many Indians has she painted?

A: It would be hard to say but there are 25 full large-sized in this book. She painted Navahos, some McCaws and some

T: Aren't some of these on display over in eastern Washington?

A: They are permanently at the Rocky Reach Dam. The PUD people own them. They were purchased by private sources and given to the Dam as a memorial to one of the fellows who floated the bonds for the dam--the Glens. You know the Glens.

T: Oh, yes. Along with this, you and Rowena have written a number of
books and magazine articles, haven't you?

A: Yes. We have put out, together, something over 100 articles and we put out one little book together and then she put out her good book by herself, and I have one now in press that will come out, I think, this Summer. This is on the birds and the eggs of the Northwest.

T: What are some of the journals you have published in?

A: Pacific Search, Montana Magazine, Pacific Northwest Quarterly, the Journal of the West, etc.

T: You two are really distinguished authorities in this area on Indians and birds, etc.

A: I would say, with modesty, that Rowena is on the Nez Perce Indians and she advises and is asked for help from all the authors now. She is given credit by Joe in his book, and her paintings and credit lines in Drury's books, etc. I would say she is the authority on the Nez Perce.

T: Let's talk about the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History. This sort of evolved through the years. Do you remember when it started?

A: Yes, Professor Slater started it about 1926-27 or 28. He came in 1919 and nothing had been done on the herpetology--frogs, salamanders and reptiles. I don't think you could actually put your finger on it and say that it started on January 1, 1927. But right in there, he started collecting these things for the work in his classes. We had a little room, about the size of your office maybe, which was on the top floor of Howarth Hall. It
was darkened on the inside, just a rough room, which had been used for photography. He took that and put up shelves and put his things in there. I came along and I started putting my things up there, maybe about 1930 or 1931 when I first started to teach. Then we persuaded Kitch to put his stuff there in 1936, I believe.

T: His name was Kitchin.
A: Yes.

T: Where was he located?
A: He was in business here in Tacoma and then he retired. He lived here for many years, out on 35th at Proctor. We persuaded him to put the material up there because he had it in the attic of his house, and in those days it was legal to have a private collection and now it is not legal.

T: What did he collect?
A: Birds, and nests and eggs.

T: He had a very fine collection.
A: What he had was very good but it was not real extensive. He had about 750 sets of eggs and perhaps 1000 skins. The significance of it, however, was that it started the two of us, he and I, on the warm vertebrae, that is the birds. Other warm vertebrae are the mammals and of course Murray started that when he came about 1948 or 1949. All through the years, of course, before that and during that time, Prof Slater had been putting in more amphibian reptiles and I was putting in birds and finally
I put my private collection over the years, that may have been about 1945.

T: How large was your collection when you turned it over?

A: I had about 3000 birds and maybe 1000 sets of eggs.

T: What other collections have been added since?

A: About 1948, Murray came along and started putting in the mammals.

Then about 1952, we got the Jewett material. Jewett was from Portland and he had a big collection because he was with the Federal Government for forty years and all he did was build up a collection.

T: Is this a collection of mammals or birds?

A: No, birds; just birds. No eggs; no mammals. I'm not sure, I'd have to check it out. There may have been 5000 skins. Then all the time we were all putting in and trading around and collecting, etc. In the middle sixties, we got Hurley's material. He had the last private collection in the State and we persuaded him that he should put us in his will, which he did. You visited him once in Yakima, I think.

T: He was the fellow working in a tin shop.

A: Yes, he was a tinsmith.

T: I never felt I made any impression on him whatsoever. (Laughter).

He was fastening stovetops and he just went on with his work. It was really fun. When I went out to make notes in the car, as I do after every call, I said to myself well I don't know that I did anything but I'm sure I didn't hurt anything!
A: We had been over there and I had seen him many times. I had seen him at meetings. I used to trade with him. We persuaded him to put this in his will and I got at him one time and he said, "I'm way ahead of you and it's been in there for two or three years." Then he had trouble with his back and he had surgery and it didn't work right and he became paralyzed so he called me one time (and it was a sad thing, really) that we had better come and get his collection before he died, which wouldn't be long anyhow. Professor Slater and I and a student went over and it took three days for us to pack it and we brought it over. He didn't live long after that, and I'll always remember the scene when we drove off in our rented truck with that collection. He stood there with his cane in the doorway, and he wept tears--55 years were going away in that truck!

That was a very great addition. He didn't have a big collection. He had about 1800 skins, but they were perfect. There were maybe 1500 sets of eggs--everything perfect.

T: Who was the man I visited in the little house in Port Angeles?

A: That was Kitch.

T: He had moved from here to Port Angeles.

A: He went during the war, and he was pretty old, to be a lookout for airplanes. Preston Macy (you know him and he is pretty feeble now--I saw him Saturday) was Superintendent of the Parks and he gave him a job spotting. Then he gave him a little something to work on the natural
history of the park and Kitch retired at Port Angeles and lived in that little house looking over the bay.

T: I always liked him and we had a lot of fun and he had a good sense of humor. He was the man who gave me the neckties, wasn't he?

A: Yes, he always brought you new neckties. (Laughter)

Then he got pretty feeble and he had to go into a nursing home and he died maybe about 1969. He was way up his 90's then--maybe 93. Well, he was born in 1875, so you can see he was up there.

T: What was the significance of the addition to the Museum that we got from the Historical Society?

A: That belonged to Bowles--J. Hoover Bowles. I think I gave you a little history on him which you can review, if you like. Bowles was a Bostonian. He came out to Tacoma, I think, about 1903. He was kind of a mysterious fellow. We never knew where he got his money but he never worked. He didn't live affluent; he lived very simply and he never married. But his life was nothing but birds. He gave a paper in 1893 at the Chicago World's Fair. He was born in 1875 (he and Kitch were the same age) so he was pretty young then. He came here and this was virgin territory for birds. He wrote with Dawson (Dawson did a lot of the writing and Bowles knew the birds) a two-volume set of classics on the Birds of Washington. They put out 1200 sets and then they destroyed the plates so it could never be reprinted. I have a set. There were 19 of this edition
and they are worth $2,000 now. He wrote these books and he told me not long before he died (and I was with him for years through high school and college) that he was living off the income from his book. He was no millionaire but he had a lot of money—enough to live. He never married and he was kind of a hypochondriac and a very nervous fellow. He went through a nervous breakdown and killed himself. There was no place to put his big collection in his apartment. He lived up in the Berg, where M comes into Division. No room in there, so we persuaded W. P. Bonney to put them in the Museum. When I came back to CPS in 1945, we went down to see Chapin Foster to persuade him that he ought to put them in our Museum. Bowles told me one time, "I would like to see my exhibit at CPS." So I went down to see Chapin Foster and he was vigorously opposed—he said, "Over my dead body." When Bruce Leroy came along, he sort of changed the idea. In fact, I had an old pickup truck and I moved that thing by myself—I mean, all by myself I made that move and there were a lot of eggs there. There were over 900 species represented.

T: We traded Leroy, you remember, some manuscripts that he wanted very badly, and he said, "If you take the eggs, you better take the mummy," and I wasn't very interested in the mummy.

A: Well, it turned out not to be too bad, really, having that mummy up there. It's a little trouble with neighborhood kids but there are a lot of cultural and academic rewards. I don't believe the history or the art
people use that mummy enough. The art is tremendous on it.

T: What other additions have been given? In Murray's work with mammals, how many mammal skins would you have?

A: Well, he is way up there --20,000 now.

T: How did he get 20,000? Trading?

A: No. You see there is a difference between birds and mammals. Birds you have to go out and shoot, or get the ones that hit the window, etc. It is very difficult now to collect birds, and I still have permits to collect and I collect a few. But the conservation thing has come along now. And I see no reason to have duplicates, duplicates, duplicates. We have a lot of duplicates and I don't see any reason for me to go out and shoot some pictures, etc., so I don't do it. But mammology concerns field mice and moles and shrews and the stuff you see, little varmints, and there are no restrictions on them, so his classes go out and he goes out and they set traps and they come back with 100 mice or 50 mice. They are probably duplicates. I don't know how many _P. nocturnus_ (that's the little field mouse) he has but it must be two or three thousand from here, and here, and all around. That's not putting it down; that's not denigrating it; it is simply to collect mammals is a different ballgame than collecting birds. There is practically no place now that you can go out and collect birds by shooting them. And this is what we have to do if we need them.
There are so many preserves and so many people, and you go out and shoot and it's perfectly legal to collect if you have a permit but in a half a hour the sheriff is down there because someone has turned you in. So it is difficult.

T: Do you shoot a bird with a very fine shot?
A: It depends on the bird. That's another thing. It's not easy to get a bird. You have to get there and wait for them and sit around so it's a time-consuming thing where it formerly wasn't. In the days back when Kitch and I and Bowles were out collecting a lot of things we would just go anywhere--just pull off the road and nobody was around and we could collect. There is a different feel, too, a different atmosphere. There is no point in building up a great massive collection that would just be duplicates and duplicates. Even though we don't have anything, if we have need for some special study, we can always borrow it.

T: How many sets of eggs do you suppose we have in the Museum?
A: We have about 4500 sets catalogued. We have about 500 sets uncatalogued.

T: Will they be catalogued?
A: No. They are sets where one egg has been broken, perhaps, or the data have been lost or something. Those are used for teaching.

T: How many eggs would 4500 sets be?
A: They would probably average (some birds with one clutch and some with two and some with three--then they take off and some ducks have 20) somewhere between five and eight, so five times 4500 would be 24,500.
T: How many mammal skins do you suppose the Museum has?
A: Over 20,000.
T: How many bird skins?
A: About 11,000.

I remember when we were working on the science building we asked you people to design the Museum and you did a beautiful job on it.
A: We didn't make very many mistakes.
T: I guess you outgrew it pretty fast.
A: Yes, we are starting three deep now.

T: You have done a phenomenal job in training premedics. Tell me a little about that.

A: The medical people themselves, in the medical schools, have long believed that the liberal training for the premed is desirable. They used to tell us, "You give them the basic sciences; you make cultured gentlemen out of them; and we'll make doctors out of them." Consequently, we always did that in our students--told them to get over into the other buildings and out of the science building. I know personally I always demanded that my premed students take history and literature, beyond the basic requirements. Those two especially. The literature and the advanced composition we stressed. The medical people would tell us, "The big problem we have with medical students comes in the third year of medical school when they can't write the prognosis or a diagnosis." So we used to demand that they
check up on their English. I think, in general, we were very careful about the liberal tradition. Then there was a second thing. We were always scrupulously honest in our recommendations. If a fellow didn't check, we would say so. As a result, we had very few, comparatively, rejections, and we had a very small attrition rate. Not many of our fellows dropped out. Those who did, usually, didn't drop because of academic problems but because they found they didn't like it after all. It was a glamorous thing before and now it wasn't. So I think the success was because we studied it and we put time on it and we demanded things.

T: How many students do you suppose you trained in premed?

A: I don't really know.

T: Five hundred?

A: I would think so. I haven't been with that, you see, in the last ten years . . .

T: Tell me, now, as you think back who are some of your distinguished alumni who come to mind?

A: A lot of them in medicine, for sure. Ralph Brown is one of them, if you want to go way back. I think maybe Donald Dudley is a good man in medicine. We have had a lot of them in the teaching business. I could go through my old class books . . .

T: You would have Charles Arnold and Irwin.

A: Yes, Irwin is President of the New York Botanical Gardens--a big job.
T: Do you remember when you came to me and said let's hire this man?
A: Yes, we tried to hire him.
T: Actually had him signed to a contract.
A: Yes, I know and then he couldn't resist ...  
T: Well, he called me long distance and said an opportunity of a lifetime had come along and I said, "Bless you, Howard, take it." We couldn't stand in his way in a situation like that. I recall that he had a little child born without hands, do you remember.
A: Yes, his daughter had one joint out there, on one hand and the other thing was just ...  
T: He said the State of Washington was one state that would furnish prosthesis, the artificial hands and they would change them as the child grew, etc. He was very outstanding.

You have had over the years a great, great many. Why don't you tell me the story about Bob Armstrong, the photographer.
A: He was at CPS about 1958 or 1959. He took field biology. In field biology, I tried to acquaint the students with the obvious wild flowers and wild plants and birds--the obvious ones you see; secondly, to relate those two, because one is dependent upon the other. You had to know the plants to understand, for example, what flowers and what stems and what leaves went into what birds' nests. You had to know
the plants because when you examined the stomach contents to see what
the birds had been eating, so those two went together. Bob took the course
and he told me when he came in that he was color blind. I think, incidently,
that his mother was in some of Rowena's art classes and she was color blind.
Rowena worked with her the same way and Mrs. Armstrong could come
up with some very, very beautiful paintings and colors, even though she
was color blind.

Working with Bob in the field and I guess just showing him and the
students what there is about the beauties, and esthetics, and the classics
in wildlife, he got turned on. He went to Juneau, he is there now and teaches
in a school there. He came down last Monday evening at the invitation of
the Tacoma Photographic Society to give a slide lecture on native birds
of Alaska. We went, Rowena and I, and the President of the Society
said that Bob was glad that one of his old professors had come and then
he introduced me as the "one individual who had turned him on". After
the lecture, we went up and shook hands and told him how glad we were
to have him there and he said to me, "You will never know what you did for
me." I guess that is the pay for teaching...

T: It really warms the heart!
A: It is nice to have.
T: It makes all the long and dreary hours meaningful.
A: The thing of it about fellows like that--they weren't difficult to teach.
T: No, they were eager.

As I go over my outline, we didn't talk about your being president
of Grays Harbor.

A: I went down there as vice president and in those days the community colleges were private. I was there for a couple of years and we persuaded the legislature not to take them over as state schools but to subsidize them in part, so we got a fund, I have forgotten what it was but something like $50,000 a year. Then that was the foot in the door to making them public schools. In the first go around in the legislature, they went in under the local school district and they asked me then if I would become president during the time of the change over from semi-private to public. I said I would do this but I didn't want to stay very long because I didn't want to be in administration. I just liked the teaching, the kids and the field trips, but they persuaded me to stay and I said I would stay a couple of years to get it squared off. I kind of reneged on that; I only stayed one year and then came back to CPS.

T: Do you remember our talk about coming to CPS?

A: Yes. I remember I came up to talk to you about it in your office and you were an hour late for the appointment.

T: I was? I'm sorry. (Laughter)

A: I forgive you for that. I sat there and talked to Olive Brown Seward and she was a little nervous about it because you weren't there and I was taking up her time. But what I didn't like and I guess it was a little traumatic to me because I was constantly being called to Olympia to sit down and talk to Pearl Wanamaker about things we'd have to iron out. She'd call
me in the morning and say, "Can you come up this afternoon?" I'd have to rip-snort up to Olympia and I didn't like the nuisance of it. I liked the teaching.

T: I remember our interview very well. I thought to myself, good heavens, this would be wonderful, wonderful, because you were an alumnus, you were well-trained with a Ph.D., you were a natural teacher. I went home and said to Lucille, "I had an interview with Gordon Alcorn and he'd like to come up and I think this would be one of the finest things that could happen to the University.

A: I took a cut in salary to come to CPS.

T: I remember you did.

A: If I had stayed there I'd have been making $35,000 or $40,000 now, as that's what those people get. But I've never regretted a day of it.

T: You and Rowena have been two of the greatest additions that the University could ever possibly have. You are held in such high esteem in the lives of the alumni and your peers. It has been a great experience.

A: I have never been sorry I came back.

T: You have really invested your life in young people and they have appreciated it very, very much.
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INTERVIEW WITH W. GERARD BANKS
September 1, 1977

T: Gerry, I appreciate very much your coming down. When I first knew you, you were at Centenary College in Shreveport. Were you born in that area?

B: No, I was born in Lufkin, Texas, which is about 100 miles away.

T: What did your father do?

B: My father was an attorney. He never went further than the ninth grade in school because there were hard times and he had to work to help support the family. My grandfather married twice and there were eight children--five sons and three daughters in my father's immediate family. He studied law on the side, in an attorney's office. He read for the law.

T: You taught mathematics at Centenary, didn't you?

B: Yes, from 1932 until 1946.

T: In that time, who was president at Centenary?

B: His name was Dr. Pierce Cline. He was a professor who had been asked by the trustees to take over the presidency. There had been a period when we had an acting president, from 1932 to 1933, and that was because of financial stringencies which had been created by the administration, partly--spending too much money and they didn't have a balanced budget.

T: Weren't you drafted in that situation to help get it back on a financial...

B: Yes, I had taught for one year when this change took place. I went in as bursar and Dr. Cline went in as president.

T: Didn't you actually have to pay the faculty with script for awhile?

B: That is correct.

T: And you went to vendors, grocery people, etc., and told them you would redeem it one day and for them to give them credit? In other words, you sort of saved Centenary College?

B: I wouldn't put that strongly. I went in as a green math teacher into the business end of the college. I remember one thing the incoming president told me. He said, "Banks, I don't know anything about bookkeeping but I do know that what you have when you start plus what you take in, minus what you spend, equals what you have left over, and I want us to have a little left over, so it's up to you to see what has to be done." Faculty salaries had to be cut very drastically in the year 1933-34.
T: How large would the enrollment of Centenary have been there?

B: About 450, I guess.

T: That was 1932--that was when the depression really hit all over the country. You graduated from Centenary, too, didn’t you?

B: Yes, in 1927.

T: Did you major in mathematics?

B: Yes. I also majored in English--two majors.

T: That's the reason, through all these years, you have been so careful about the English language! Then, after you graduated, you started teaching. Where did you do graduate work?

B: I did all my graduate work at the University of Virginia. In all, it was three years. I had to go to school a year, and take off and work a year, to do that.

T: I remember that beautiful gate at the University of Virginia. What is the famous motto on it?

B: There is a quotation from Proverbs. I think I can quote it: "Through wisdom is an house builded and by understanding it is established and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

On the other side of the gate is a famous phrase, famous to us, put up by the first and only president of the University, up to that point: "Enter by this gateway and seek the way of honor, the light of truth and the will to work for men."

T: That must have been a very fine influence to students coming in through the gate all the time.

B: On my arrival there at 5:00 o’clock in the morning with some bags, I walked the mile up to the University from the train station and stood before the gate and read those quotations. I later memorized them.

T: You got a master's degree in mathematics?

B: Physics.
T: And you went back to Centenary to teach?

B: Yes. My mentor, who was then dean of the college, was the one who asked me if I would come back, and he was head of the Math Department.

T: Who was that?

B: His name was Professor John A. Hardin.

T: Where did you meet your wonderful Betty?

B: At the Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia, where I taught Sunday School my first year at the University of Virginia—-that was in 1927-28.

T: You will recall when Charles Robbins was coming to the end of his active career at the College of Puget Sound I was president of the National Association of Schools and Colleges and I was in close association with Dr. John O. Gross, who was the outstanding and historic secretary of all the Methodist schools and colleges association—really, a national leader. I said to him that I was going to lose my financial vice president and bursar and that I needed the best one I could find in the U.S. And John O. Gross said to look at Gerard Banks at Centenary, that he was probably the most qualified and the best person in the U.S. for such a position. Then, you will recall, I came down and you people invited me to dinner at your beautiful home in Shreveport and we had an interview and you decided to come. What year was that?

B: 1946.

T: Tell me about leaving Shreveport and moving to Tacoma.

B: Well, I discussed in April with my wife, Betty, and my two sons (the younger at that time was four and the older son was ten) what they thought we should do. I thought I was going to get another offer from a school in San Antonio, Texas, which later turned out to be Trinity University, and I had to choose between the two. I liked what you told me about the College here and we thought it was quite an industrial city to which we were coming. One of the reasons we decided to move was the health of my older son who had asthma and the doctor told us we had to get out of that climate. I remember we made the decision and informed you first by telephone, I think, and then by letter. We had many friends in Shreveport and we were very close to my relatives. We had a very hard time wrenching ourselves away from all of our friends, but Betty and I thought we should get out of that climate. I remember when we reached the border of Washington State my wife said that our older son remarked, "This is the first good breath of fresh air I've had in a long time."

T: It was very good for Gerry's health, wasn't it?

B: Yes, he hasn't been troubled too much with asthma after coming here. And I
remember the day we arrived. It was August 17, 1946. You were kind enough to house us in Kittredge Hall, upstairs, while we were waiting to find a house and move in. We cried some when we left Shreveport.

T: I can well imagine because leaving friends and family is a traumatic experience. You were replacing Charles Robbins. Do you remember Charles Robbins?

B: Oh, very well.

T: Tell me about your relationship.

B: Dr. Robbins at that time was 66 years old. You had previously told me that he wanted to be released because of his health, as soon as you could get a replacement. I found Mr. Robbins to be a wonderful person and a wonderful character, and he and I got along famously, as far as I can tell.

T: He had great admiration for you, he really did, and he often mentioned it to me that he was very pleased to have a person of your caliber and your ability and your expertise come in and follow him.

B: He was always welcome in my office and I think he knew that. I remember he worked at a stand-up desk and he had some methods that were different from the way I would do it, but they all made sense, and we had a wonderful relationship together.

T: It was really changing from the old, old way of bookkeeping and budgeting, etc., to the new ways that you brought. You brought in things like the standard bookkeeping procedures for universities, didn't you?

B: As far as I knew them. There wasn't too great a literature on the subject at that particular time, but I do remember using, the very first time I went into a business office at Centenary, the principal book on the subject at that time, which was by the bursar at Princeton University, Dr. Mills. Later, standards were enlarged and broadened and I had covered a good bit of the literature that was available at that time and studied it to the best of my ability, like I studied mathematics or anything else.

T: Your main responsibility was budgeting and money control. Can you tell me a little about that?

B: Well, I set up the accounts in accordance with my knowledge of the best bookkeeping procedures at that time. I made it as clear as I could and as simple as I could because I had to have it that way. I was not a professional accountant at all, and the budget was divided into categories which gave us a fairly clear picture of the operation and the assets and liabilities of the University.

T: You worked with the Finance Committee and some of the trustees. Do you recall incidents or relationships with either one that stand out?
B: Well, the Finance Committee at that time was meeting in the office of Mr. Dix Rowland. It met every week and I think it met on Thursday.

T: Yes, on Thursday, an hour before Rotary.

B: Yes, an hour before Rotary. The Finance Committee was taking a very personal and vital interest in the finances of the University, and you brought before that Committee from time to time financial problems that the University had. The principal duty of the Finance Committee was to keep the endowment fund and any other funds of the University invested to give the greatest return possible. Our investment advisor at the time was a gentleman from what was then the Pacific Northwest Company—his name was Don Gaston. Most of the time, the Committee would accept the suggestions of Mr. Gaston with relationship to the type of investment the endowment fund should purchase.

T: You mentioned Dix Rowland. He had great admiration for you and I think you had great admiration for him. Tell us a little about him.

B: Well, he was a wonderful man and a great character. To me, he was almost my second father. There wasn't any problem connected with the finances of the University that I couldn't take to him, if I wanted to, and get his counsel and advice. One of the smaller duties that he and I, together, would perform was the matter of clipping coupons on any bonds that the University might own and which were kept in the safety deposit box. That was done monthly when necessary. I recall Mr. Rowland and members of his family with great admiration for all of them.

T: He certainly was a very dedicated person. He was one of the outstanding leaders at First Methodist Church and he was very, very outstanding. He was also our attorney for many, many years.

B: Yes.

T: Do you remember any unusual professors with whom you were associated?

B: At this University?

T: Yes.

B: Well, there was Dean Regester, who served with us in the administration of the University, and always had the view that the University ought to steer toward the best possible liberal arts education that we could give the students. There was Mr. Perry, the librarian, who was quite a different sort of character.

T: He was an interesting person.

You were very much involved when we got money from the Federal Government through grants and loans. Can you tell a little bit about the process?
B: Well, most of the loans were sought from the Federal Government in order to pay for dormitories. You did a wonderful job in raising money for the dormitories when it was necessary, and for all of the other buildings that were put on the campus in the time that I was there from 1946 to 1970.

T: Didn't we borrow that money at 3% to be amortized over forty years? We would have to have, basically, a certain amount of money and then we could borrow money from the Federal Government. We had the financial decision, as I recall, as to whether we would borrow money for dormitories and then raise money for endowment, where we could get five, six, and now they get eight per cent on it. One of the policies we always had, you and I, and I remember Mr. Clapp was very adamant about it, was that any money made in capital gains went into the corpus of the endowment and could not be spent.

B: Right.

T: Now they are spending it and they call it "quasi-endowment" because it is endowment that was made, not given for a purpose, which is a little different, which means they have considerable more income to spend, but they are not adding to the corpus of the endowment, as you and I did.

B: Right.

T: It would have been fun to have had that extra money in those days, but I think it was very good on our part not to do it.

You have always gone to the Methodist Church, haven't you and Betty?

B: Since we have been here. We joined the First Methodist Church here and because of the prospect of better education in Sunday School for our two sons, we finally transferred our membership from First Methodist to Mason Methodist Church, when Dr. Henry Ernst was there. We have enjoyed our relationship with the Church very much.

T: Where are your two sons now?

B: My oldest son is employed by the Pennwalt Company as a sales engineer and he covers the states of Washington and Oregon as a special salesman in the field of metal preparation. My youngest son, Robey, is engaged in the building of homes in and around Lake Oswego in Oregon and he specializes in custom houses, designed particularly for an individual. It's called custom building.

T: Isn't his name your wife's maiden name?
B: Yes, that's right. His full name is Ernest Robey Banks.

T: You have been retired since 1970?

B: October 1, 1970.

T: Anything special you have been doing since then.

B: Well, I found out that my wife's interest and my interest in music and opera and ballet, especially, plus the duties around the home trying to keep it in good shape have taken most of my time. In other words, I don't feel that I ever run out of something to do that should be done. I like to read as much as possible, and I have not been gainfully employed since that time.

T: Your outstanding reputation and your outstanding career was recognized by an honorary degree and that was given by . . .

B: Willamette University in 1964, the year my youngest son graduated from Willamette.

T: That must have been very nice to have both events at the same time.

B: Yes.

T: That was a degree of?

B: Doctor of Business Administration.

T: That was wonderful recognition of your career.

B: I appreciated that very much; it was through your help that I got that.

T: It was because you deserved it. I want to say that in the history of the University of Puget Sound your influence and your leadership and your business expertise are certainly writ large and when the history is ultimately written there will be a very wonderful section on Dr. W. Gerard Banks. We are very grateful and it has been most meaningful and I want to say, personally, what a joy it was to work with you and to have you as one of the key administrative officers. Many a time I turned to you for advice and for suggestions and expertise and you were always there and very, very helpful.

T: We were talking about Mr. Robbins earlier in the tape. Can you tell me a little about his career at the University?

B: Dr. Robbins came to the University in 1916 and since there wasn't too much to do as a business manager he taught Spanish, I think, at the same time. Mr. Robbins
served the University, as I said, for 30 years. And my tenure there lasted from 1946-1970, a period of 24 years, so it has been a point of pride with me that together Mr. Robbins and I served the University for 54 years. I think you can say something of the same thought concerning your presidency and the presidency of your predecessor. I think Dr. Todd was there for perhaps 33 years, something like that.

T: He came in 1914 and he left in 1942, so it was certainly the same way. As we said earlier, Dr. Robbins was certainly a great man. The alumni used to rather interestingly kid about how Dr. Todd raised the money and Charlie Robbins kept it. (laughter) That's the reason the University existed through all the years.

B: Through all the troublesome years.

T: I have great admiration for those men because I often think of Dr. Todd, for instance, going out to raise money and there was no tax incentive in those days, and he just simply had to sell people on giving it; and he would take it and Charlie Robbins would carefully, carefully, carefully husband it. Of course, they had the Jim Hill Challenge in those days. Then before those pledges got paid, the depression came and you and I inherited some headaches that had to be straightened out, but it worked out very, very nicely.

Along toward the end of your career here, the University recognized you. Can you tell us about it?

B: I was surprised, pleasantly surprised, to hear that President Thompson was recommending to the trustees an honorary degree for me at what was probably to be President Thompson's last commencement as President. That was very fine as far as I was concerned, and I appreciated it very much. It was the degree of Doctor of Letters.

T: Well, I remembered that you had your literature degree way back yonder. And all through the years you had been reading and it seemed very fitting, and I was very pleased with that. That was my last commencement and I thought it was a very fine thing to be done.
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INTERVIEW WITH
MRS. AGNES BENBOW
WIFE OF LEWIS BENBOW, SON OF
PROFESSOR L. L. BENBOW
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND 1909-1913 (APPROX.)

September 12, 1978
Seattle, Washington

T: You knew Professor Benbow?

Mrs. Benbow: Oh, yes. We were married in 1943 and I met him the year before.

He was living in Seattle in a hotel downtown with his son. Then he went to the Masonic Home out at Des Moines.

T: In some of the material, it mentions Kapowsin.

B: They had a resort there. It was the most heavenly place you ever saw. Tiny, my husband (we always called him Tiny), was interested in agriculture. I believe it was after Mr. Benbow was Pierce County Superintendent of Schools that they bought about 500 acres up there—all virgin timber and everything.

T: It mentions that the faculty often had their retreats out there and tells about the Benbow Inn.

B: They had a different type of clientele; I mean the people who came there. Most of them were doctors here in Seattle, and when the hospitals had their picnics they went up there, etc.

T: When did you meet Professor Benbow first that you recall?

B: That was in 1942. I was teaching in Downers Grove, outside of Tacoma. My home was in Chicago and I had signed a contract so I had to go back the next year. Then we were married in 1943. Mr. Benbow spent most of his weekends here.
T: Describe him to me. What kind of man was he?

B: He had a very dry sense of humor. He had the most spectacular eyes that I ever saw. They were just as bright and shiny and he was almost 80 then. He had interesting things... of course, he was more interested in education than anything else.

T: Did you ever hear him talk about the College of Puget Sound?

B: Yes. But after that first year, he started to go down hill and he passed away over at the Masonic Home the next year---about 1944. He just lived a year after we were married.

T: Do you remember anything he said about the University of Puget Sound?

B: Well, yes. He just talked in general about how wonderful it was there.

T: In about 1908, he organized the faculty and they had a summer school; he did such a good job of it that the trustees asked him if he would make it a permanent thing, and then, of course, they came on difficult times, financially, and the trustees asked him if he would be dean of the school, and then about that time they really hit bad times, financially, and there was a question of whether they could continue and he was drafted to be president of the College and he did a very good job of it, and they were very appreciative. Do you know anything about this?

B: Well, I have the Maroon, for the year 1910.

T: That has now become what we call the Tamanawas. This is a very interesting document. When you are finished with it, I would be very happy if we could have it for our archives. That is a beautiful picture of him. He is listed as
one of the 13 presidents of the school.

B: It tells all about him in that publication.

T: As I told you, we have a former employee who told me about working for you and seeing this loving cup. Can you tell me about it?

B: The students gave him the silver loving cup and his English history class gave him a deluxe edition of the "Rise of the Dutch Republic" and he just really enjoyed it. I have that there, too. The students had written quite a nice article about him in the Maroon.

T: What is on the loving cup?

B: I've been going to have it replated, as you can see how old it is--1910. It says, "Presented to Professor Lee L. Benbow as a token of love and esteem from the students of the University of Puget Sound. Tacoma, Washington. January 27, 1910."

T: Isn't that wonderful. It is a beautiful loving cup, about 8 inches across; gold embossed on the inside and silver with two very beautiful handles. Who will, ultimately, get this cup?

B: Well, I don't know because we didn't have any children. He came from a large family, though.

T: If no one has any desire for it, we would love to have it. It is the kind of thing that is passed on from generation to generation and that would be the natural thing, but I am sure we would be extremely pleased if, ultimately, it could come to the University for our archives.

B: Yes, I think that would be a good place for it.
T: It is such a beautiful thing and what it really says is how much the students loved him.

B: His mother kept a lot of things but not as much as I hoped to find. He came from a large family and his mother died. They lived on a farm in Indiana. He was really a brilliant person and he ran away from home, I believe, when he was about 15 and went to Mount Morris, a prep school, I believe. Anyway, at that time, he worked his way through by filling all the lamps, which, of course, were all oil then, cleaning the lamps, and working also in the kitchen--for his room, board and tuition.

T: In this newspaper article, it says, "The esteem and respect in which Professor Benbow is held at the University has been strikingly exhibited. His English history class presented him as a farewell token a deluxe edition of Motley's "Rise of the Dutch Republic", and on Thursday morning at chapel a beautiful gold and silver loving cup was presented on behalf of the student body. The speech of the presentation being made by Mr. Matthews of the senior class who bade him remember should the clouds ever come to let the cup remind him that in the student body he had many friends and that this remembrance would cheer him on his way." Isn't that nice?

B: Yes.

T: Do you suppose I could borrow these and copy them and send them back to you?

B: Yes. And he has this book, Pierce County, Washington, Biographical Histories, Volume 3, by W. B. Bonney; and I had some copies of his biographical
xeroxed which tells all about him and you can have a copy of that.

T: That's wonderful. W. P. Bonney was historian for the State for a long time and Executive Director of the Washington State Historical Society. That is a very interesting set of books. It probably has quite a little value.

B: I just found this the other day; an article when he was presented the gold watch while he was County Superintendent of Schools--from the teachers of Pierce County.

T: He must have been very highly respected all the way through. I see that Dr. Padleford was one of his friends. I knew Dr. Padleford.

B: I just found this article today.

T: That's a good picture of Bonny Macdonald, Dr. Todd, Bishop Lowe, Mr. Blaine and Professor Benbow. This was in the Tacoma Times, Thursday, February 16, 1939.

B: I was going to have this Class Chronicle piece xeroxed but I never got around to it. It was written by Mae Reddish.

T: Oh, yes. I remember her. She was very old when I came but she was very precious.

B: I imagine Mrs. Benbow had cut this out of a copy of a Maroon.

T: That was the yearly annual.

B: There is another one here that tells about when he was County Superintendent. Then I thought this one was very interesting.

T: (Reading) This is dated April 9, 1908. "To President L. L. Benbow,

University of Puget Sound: We, the faulty members, present wish to express our
hearty congratulations on your election to the presidency of the University of Puget Sound. Please allow us to express an also our and unanimous approval of your past leadership and our unanimous sentiments of cooperation in the future of building a marvelous institution.

By the Committee
Unanimously approved
Faculty meeting April 9, 1908"

That is wonderful, particularly in view of the fact that they had been having such difficult times, you know.

You said his son's name was Lewis but you called him "Tiny".

B: He was big--six foot three, and he weighed about 280 or 260.

T: What did he do?

B: They were up at the resort or inn until the depression came and they practically lost all of that then. He was with the Army Engineers. He went to Pullman--Washington State--and was on the football team and he injured his spine, so he was rejected when he tried to enlist in the service; so he was with the Army Engineers.

I thought this was rather interesting--just ran into it today--from Herbert Hoover.

T: Reading: "January 18, 1930. THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr. L. L. Benbow. I have your considerate letter of January 8. I wish to thank you for the warm friendship and support.

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT HOOVER"
Do you know whether Professor Benbow visited the University of Puget Sound campus very often after he left it?

B: That I wouldn't know because I didn't meet my husband until 1942.

T: Professor Benbow was really in education all of his life, wasn't he?

B: Yes, he was.

T: Superintendent of Schools and then with us. Did he go from the superintendency of schools to Puget Sound?

B: This article from the Pierce County History tells just where he was and all the different things he did. He went to Kapowsin in about 1920 and they were there till about 1939, I believe it was.

T: Actually, his election to the presidency was in 1908. (Quoting:)

"In 1894, Mr. Benbow came to Tacoma, Washington, and due to the business depression of that year was glad to pick hops and do such other work as he could find in order to make a living," etc. The Panic of 1893, of course, was one of the very difficult years, nationally. That's when the University lost 640 acres overlooking the Narrows, which is now called University Place.

B: I didn't know that.

T: Do you think of anything else about the relationship of Professor Benbow and the University?

B: My husband talked a lot about Miss . Did you know her?

T: I knew of her.

B: We had so many pieces... she must've been in art because she painted so
many pieces of china and gave them to Mr. Benbow.

T: In those days they tried so hard to keep the University going and they had such a difficult time. Many of the people secured a portion of the tuition of the students, like 40%, so the faculty got out and tried to get students. The art group did that and so did music and they were, sort of, off shoots, like a conservatory. It was very difficult for a lot of those people to make a living and they worked hard at it. Of course, one of the interesting things about Mr. Benbow was that he brought some kind of order, financially, to the situation. When I read the history, it almost makes one ill to hear of the terrible times they had. The trustees would meet and decide they couldn't keep going another year; then we had a trustee by the name of Everell S. Collins of Portland and the minutes read that he hadn't said anything until finally he said, "Gentlemen, you only need $6000 to continue another year. I'll give $3000 if you'll raise $3000." With great joy Mr. Collins' challenge was accepted, etc. This happened at least twice and maybe three times that Collins saved it. The family gave us considerable money for the library, so we have the Everell S. Collins Library. But it goes right back to the time when Mr. Benbow was actually making great sacrifices to keep the school open.

I had a minister's funeral about 15 years ago and as we were leaving the cemetery I walked with the daughter to her car and she said, "You know, Dr. 'T'", I hated that school when I was little. When I needed shoes, my father
would say, 'Honey, I guess you're going to have to put cardboard in the soles because we have to send the money to the University to help keep it open.'"

It is sacrifice like that that really kept it going, and, of course, now it is the largest private school in the State, and we have 550 students and $9 million in endowment, so the sacrifice of men like Mr. Benbow and Mr. Revelle and some of the others made it all possible for us to be what we are today.

B: We had a little girl over here a couple of weeks ago, Diane Donahue; she lives in Puyallup and just graduated from the University of Puget Sound. She, of course, is so interested in everything, you know.

T: If you find anything more, I would be thrilled to look at it.

B: He has a lot of books, two bookcases of books, and I never have gone through those books.

T: If you get a chance sometime, go through them and see if there is anything in them.

***

R. Franklin Thompson, Interviewer
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T: This is an interview with the son and daughter of Mr. E. L. Blaine who was a member of the Board of Trustees at the University of Puget Sound for forty years. The tape is being made at the home of Mr. E. L. Blaine, Jr., in Seattle and his sister, Mrs. Ethel B. Sandvigen, is also present.

You said your father was born in Lebanon, Oregon.

B: Yes.

T: There was a rumor that he was one of the first white babies born in this geographic area. Is that true?

B: No, because his brother, Uncle John, . . .

S: Uncle John was born right here during the Indian uprising, so they took Grandmother down on board the Decator and after awhile she came back but she had to go back right away.

T: Was the Decator a boat?

B: A gun boat. Sloop of War Decator. It was here to protect the settlers.

T: Didn't your Grandmother take your father out to the boat to protect him?

B: That was Uncle John, his brother.

T: How much older was John than Edward L.?

S: Seven years.

T: How many children were there in the family?

S: Three. There was a daughter, Louise, and she was married to a Methodist
minister.

T: Was she younger than the boys?

S: Yes, about two years younger than father.

T: Wasn't your Grandfather one of the first Methodist ministers in this area?

S: Yes.

B: He was the first Protestant minister in Seattle. As a matter of fact, he was the first minister of any faith permanently assigned to Seattle. There was a Catholic priest, Prefontaine (Prefontaine Place downtown here), but he was a circuit rider and he stopped in here from time to time, but to the best of my knowledge, they had no church or anything, any more than the Methodists had when they first started.

S: Grandfather built the church.

B: Yes, he built it, personally.

T: Literally.

B: I don't know where they used to meet prior to that time.

S: In Denny's home.

T: Was that Professor Denny?

S: F. A. A. Denny.

T: Oh, yes. Your Grandmother wrote many letters back home, didn't she.

S: Yes.

B: Right.

T: I have read those letters and they are some of the finest historical material that you could possibly imagine. We have copies of them in the library at
the University and it is wonderful to have them, because those people were in on the very beginning of the history of the Pacific Northwest. As I recall, your father went to Wesleyan University.

B: That's right.

T: He talked to me often of his days at Wesleyan. Did he talk much to the family about it?

B: No, not particularly. Mother, lived there in Middletown, Conn., so they both spoke of Wesleyan and Middletown. I spent my first college year at Wesleyan.

T: Then where did you go to school.

B: Right here at the University.

T: Did you go to the University of Washington, Mrs. Sandvigen?

S: No, I didn't.

T: What was your father's work?

B: To the best of my knowledge, the first job he ever held here was with Osborne-Tremper Company, an abstract house. That later became, what is now, Washington Title Insurance Company, through a series of mergers. I worked there later during the summer months as a sort of office boy.

T: Was this your father's main work most of the time and did he work at it all of his lifetime?

B: Oh, no.

S: He taught school to begin with. He had charge of an Academy, didn't he?
B: That was back East. He was head of an Academy in New Hampshire. When he came out here, the first job he ever held was with Osborne-Tremper.

S: Wasn't he with the Seattle Trust and Title?

B: That was the successor to Osborne-Tremper and then Seattle Trust sold the abstract business to what is now Washington Title Insurance.

S: He dabbled in many things, didn't he? He built the Liberty Theater Building.

B: That wasn't a job, though.

S: No, but he was connected with it, and the theater building had the name Blaine on it, I know that.

B: He was administering Grandmother and Grandfather's estate. They owned the property.

S: Yes.

B: They owned that property and it was a "dog" because there wasn't any important business there. I think most people thought it was a "dog" when he started to put up the theater. But it turned out that he had found a smart architect who came up with the idea that the old staircase that you had to climb to get up to the balcony in all theaters should be done away with and they put in the first ramp theater. The only other ramp theater for a long, long time was the Coliseum. The owners put a ramp in because they had leased the Liberty Theater and found it so successful that when they wanted to build their own theater they got father to get this architect (I don't remember
what his name was now) and they did that. Then when they built one in
Butte, Montana, they got father to go over and supervise the general con-
struction of the building, so he was there during that time, with the same
architect again.
S: Rialto, that was the name of the theater in Butte.

B: But that was not a job. His job was with the title
company. Then he ran for the City Council.

S: He was on the school board, first, wasn't he?

B: I think he had served in the meantime. I don't look on that as a job--
it is, but I'm thinking of something that was earning him money. His first
term on the City Council was when Hiram Gill was Mayor. I don't know whether
you ever heard that name, but he was an old-fashioned mayor with a corncob
pipe. His chief of police went to the penitentiary for graft, and Hi Gill was
recalled and then there was a period (I can't tell you just what the years were)
that father was off of the City Council. I can't remember whether he went back
and did any work with Osborne-Tremper or whether he just filled in the time
and then he went back on the City Council.

S: He did quite a bit of construction work.

B: He was part of a company which had the Neptune built and the company
then operated it for many years.

T: Did your Grandfather acquire quite a bit of property while he was a
minister?

B: I would say no, not while he was a minister, for the simple reason that
he was only here as a minister for approximately three years. Then he went
down to Oregon where he was assigned to various congregations and ultimately became head of Santiam Academy in Lebanon in 1859. Father was born in Lebanon in 1862 and the family returned to New York in 1863 and resided in and around Seneca Falls, New York. Father was educated at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. He married Julia Hubbard of Middletown in 1886 and after a few years as head of an Academy in New Hampshire came again to Seattle about 1890. For awhile the family lived on Jefferson Street out Leschi Park way and then built their home on Highland Drive on Queen Anne Hill next door to Grandfather and Grandmother.

T: In the history of the University, it says that E. L. Blaine became vice president of the Board of Trustees in 1905. Do you have any knowledge about how he happened to become a part of the University of Puget Sound?

B: Well, I won't say I have any concrete knowledge. While Grandfather was here, one C. D. Dorin gave a tract of thirty acres adjoining the village survey to be used for a seminary. The church didn't have the money, of course, to go ahead and do any building and sometime, not too long after that, the University of Washington was started, where the University Tract is in downtown Seattle. The time came when they had some money in the church, but by this time, Grandfather had gone to Oregon where he ran the Santiam Academy in Lebanon. Later, a decision was made not to attempt to compete with the University of Washington, which was already functioning, so I think they got a grant from somebody of property in Tacoma and they put up what was to become the College of Puget Sound.
T: The school actually started in 1888 and had about 640 acres and it was in a very tenuous financial position. It was then called "University Place". Then in the Panic of 1893, they lost it and we have folders, for instance, showing Old Main and articles stating "Send your daughters here because there is no malaria" and all this sort of thing. Then your Grandfather was very much involved in this.

B: Yes, he was the head, if you want to use that term, of the Methodist Church in Seattle. He was under a minister whose headquarters were in Olympia. That was the region.

T: District superintendent.

B: The four Methodist churches in this area were located at Olympia, Steilacoom, Seattle and Whidby Island.

T: Yes, there is a monument there at Steilacoom.

B: Grandfather and Grandmother landed at Alki Point November 26, 1853, and at that time there was nothing where our business district is. There was one family that was up by the Duwamish River, in what is now Georgetown. There was another family out at what is now Smith Cove (Pier 91 or 93) and the rest of the city consisted of about twenty families at Alki and across the Bay.

S: They had come over to this side of the Bay, which is where Seattle is now, because they found out that the water wasn't deep enough off Alki.

B: He preached his first sermon at Alki on Sunday, November 27, 1853.

S: Yes. On Monday they went across, to where Seattle is now, in dug-out
canoes.

B: The menfolk there found or decided that there was deeper water so the whole group, for the most part, moved over and settled. It was all woods at that time, right down to the waterfront.

T: I remember your father describing to me how they washed the hill down and made the level area.

B: That's where the first regrade was--where the Washington Hotel stands; the hills were washed down by hydraulic pressure into pipes that carried it out into the Bay and filled in the area south of the Union Station. For the second regrade (back to Denny Way) they hauled the earth down in trucks to the waterfront, loaded it in barges, towed them out and then shifted the ballast in the barge so it turned over and dumped the dirt in Puget Sound. The barge was hauled back, the bottom filled with dirt, and then the process was repeated.

T: Then your father's association with the University of Puget Sound was the natural following of his father's interest in it?

B: Sure.

T: As I said, he was vice president of the Board of Trustees in 1905, and in 1909 he became Chairman of the Board of Trustees. In the history of it, it says that he was involved with four presidents. Do you people remember anything about that or any discussion of his involvement? Reading from the
history written by Dr. Todd, it says, "Mr. E. L. Blaine was elected vice president of the Board in the fall of 1905. November 1909 he was made president in which capacity he served during the administration of four presidents and played an important part in selecting three of them. He resigned from that position in the fall of 1945 and was elected chairman emeritus of the Board. His devotion and loyalty to the college have won him a deservedly high and worthy position in the annals of this institution. His record has been such that the history of the college would not be complete without giving his name a prominent place." Do you remember any discussion at home about his work with the college?

B: No, there was very little.

S: Well, Dr. Todd used to come over and have dinner with us.

Mrs. B: I remember that; it was when we were first married.

B: I'm trying to think of the names of the other presidents.

T: Well, there were . . .

B: Todd was there a long time.

T: He came in 1913. You remember from 1909 to 1913 there was a financial crisis and they had about three in two or three years--there was Boyer, C. R. Rington.

Mrs. B: I thought I read just recently that he was President of the Board in 1908.

T: He would have been. He came on in 1905 and then it was probably in
1908 or 1909 that he was elected President of the Board of Trustees.

I came in 1942 and I had three years with him. He was a wonderful person with whom to work.

Mrs. B: He was responsible for your being here.

T: I am very pleased and very happy because it was a happy solution.

B: I remember when he was searching for a successor to Todd, and I don't remember anyone before Todd.

T: It would probably have been problematical because they were only there for two or three years.

B: Todd was there from 1912, you say.

T: From 1913 to 1942.

B: I would only have been a little over 10 years old so at that time I wasn't paying too much attention to what he was talking about, at the time Todd came in. You mentioned a Boyer.

T: Yes, Boyer and I think it was Cherington.

B: That name—Cherington—I didn't think it was Cherington. I would have said Harrington—that name has a little ring to me.

S: There was a Dr. Harrington that father knew; he used to be an old Methodist minister and sat in the front pew at First Methodist Church.

T: You said Dr. Todd used to come to your home.

S: Yes, he used to come in and have dinner with us quite frequently. We couldn't talk because they were talking. (laughter)

T: What do you remember about Dr. Todd?
S: Well, he was always very jovial.

B: A small man, relatively.

S: Always seemed very happy.

B: Quite a bit of enthusiasm and energy, bubbly sort of a character.

S: Remember in Sunday School when we used to have to say, "Our University." He'd have us all say that.

T: To this day I meet people who say, "Yes, he taught us to say, 'Our University--our University.'" And it did a great deal. He was a very dedicated person and a very wonderful person.

B: Yes, he was.

T: Your father and Dr. Todd made a very good team.

B: I know they used to work together on soliciting help for the endowment fund and things of that sort.

T: Do you recall anything about your father being very instrumental in getting the Hill Challenge--the James Hill Challenge from the railroad builder.

S: They both went East one time. Was that the time?

T: That's it. That the time.

B: I have a very vague recollection but I don't remember the details.

T: You may recall that your father and Dr. Todd went to talk to James Hill. He was just building the railroad out here. They got him to agree that the Hill Foundation would give $250,000 if the University would raise $750,000. So that Challenge was made and that's how we got our first million dollar
endowment. Your father had a lot to do with the move to the new campus from downtown. Do you remember anything about that?

B: No, frankly, I didn't know that he had anything to do with it.

T: He was Chairman of the Board when they had about nine acres at 6th and Sprague in Tacoma. In 1924 they bought the new campus, way out in the wilderness.

B: I know where it is.

T: Your father was very instrumental in that. As a matter of fact, when Dr. Todd was going East to meet with the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, there came an opportunity for them to buy the campus and to sell the old one to the School Board and your father and Mr. Lister, who was on the Board of Trustees, together decided to sell the old campus and buy the new one. Of course, it was one of the greatest thing to happen in our history.

B: I don't know why I always thought that Norton Clapp had quite a bit to do with that.

T: Norton Clapp didn't come into the picture until about 1932, and he had a lot to do with the development of the school.

B: I didn't know they moved out to the new campus that early.

T: 1924. Your father had a lot to do with it and he and Dr. Todd were very great teammates.

B: Is it possible there was an interim location?

T: There were four locations all together--in the Panic of 1893 they lost the
640 acres and they moved downtown into what is now an apartment house; then they moved to another building, which was an abandoned school building; then they moved to this other place which is where the junior high in now located; and then in 1924 they bought the sixty acres which is where it is now, and your father, Dr. Todd and Mr. Lister were the ones who really did it.

When I came, I wondered if all the meets and bounds are proven up, and I found there were fourteen gaps so we had to go to court and get a quieting title. They did a marvelous job.

I used to go around Seattle with your father, raising money. He was a genius at it. I remember we went to see Mr. Swabacker and Dr. Spector, and a good many others, and they had the greatest regard and respect for him...

B: He had been active politically here for quite some time, not politically in the true sense, but he held a political job but he was not an aggressive politician in that sense. He ran, and if he was elected, fine. I think he had a pretty good reputation. I never forget the story he told me. Old Hiram Gill, whose appointee went to the penitentiary and Hiram was pretty rough sort of character... When father first went on the Council, he wasn't getting very far in getting the things he wanted, and he was sort of a lone voice there for those things, and he told me about going in to see Hi Gill at one point and Hi Gill said, "You've got to learn how to get along in politics." Father said,
"I know I'm not too well informed, but what do you mean by that?" He said, "Politics is a game of compromise. If you want certain things and the other fellow, he wants certain things, you're going to have to occasionally vote for what he wants if you want him to vote for what you want." He told me that and I'll never forget it, because he, of course, being a strong church-goer, was not very much in favor of some of the things the others on the Council were interested in.

T: I notice that there is the Blaine room in First Church. That's named for his father, wasn't it?

B: Yes... Well, now wait a minute. I'm sure it was...

Do you know whether the Blaine room was named for Grandfather?

S: Yes, it's named after Grandfather.

B: I was wondering. You see, Father was so active in the Sunday School work at First Church and on the Board of Trustees for years and years and years.

S: He was well and active when that room was named, though.

Mrs. B: Yes, it was named for your Grandfather.

B: I would assume so, but I just don't have the facts as to...

S: If they had named it after he was gone, I could have believed it, but I think it was named after Grandfather.

T: I came in 1942 and it was there then. There is a Blaine Avenue or Blaine Street.

B: Blaine Street, here, I think, is named after James G. Blaine of Maine.

T: Now is that any of the family?
B: No. He was the Republican candidate for president of the United States.

S: They have a Garfield right up along side of it so I imagine that is true.

Mrs. B: We have a great difficulty over this whole problem, because I read somewhere that Denny Blaine was named for E. F. Blaine because they lived out there.

T: Your father's initials were E. L. What did that "L" stand for?

B: Linn. Named after Linn County, Oregon, where Lebanon is.

T: Do you recall any of the unusual events in his life that related to the College?

B: No, frankly, I can't think of anything. He was pretty regular attending their board meetings, and toward the end, when he couldn't get around too well, Norton Clapp used to come over and pick him up in the car and drive him over to the meetings and bring him back. He was active at all times but he was not involved in anything specific that I can think of.

T: He was very, very good and he used to call me and say that if I could spare a day, to come over and he would go out with me. Then he would say, "If you're going to be in Thursday afternoon, I'd like to come over and sit down and talk with you." Then we'd talk about what were the next projects and what committees should be made and which trustees were serving well and which were deadwood. He was very active right up to the end.

B: Yes, he had a keen interest in it at all times.
T: How long had his hearing been impaired?

B: I would say that he was in control of all of his faculties up until about five years before he died.

Mrs. B: He lost his eyesight and he lost his hearing, too.

T: Did you say he used to read to the family?

S: Oh, yes, every evening almost.

Mrs. B: He read to me.

S: That was after Mother had gone.

B: While you were ironing he would come out and read. He enjoyed reading, and it was sort of a performance.

S: He'd use different voices for the characters in the book.

T: What year did your Grandfather die?

B: I would say about 1900.

Mrs. B: Your Grandmother died in 1908.

S: She was only in her 70's, I think, when she died.

T: Do you people have copies of her letters?

B: Yes.

T: Have they ever been published in a book?

B: No, not as such. They have been typewritten. Father had them typed one time and there is a copy, if I remember correctly, at the historical society in Olympia; then he gave others to various people. I don't know how many copies he had made. Then we've had sufficient demand so I had six or eight more run off, not individually typed but photocopied.

T: We have a copy in our library and some of the original letters are in the
Methodist archives in Nashville. They wanted them as part of the primary sources of the Methodist Church of the United States.

The End
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INTERVIEW WITH
HARRY L. BROWN
BY R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON
August 31, 1977

T: When were you born, Harry?
B: March 6, 1886.
T: Were you born in this area?
B: No, I was born in Centralia, Illinois.
T: What did your father do?
B: He was a railroad engineer. In the east he was with the Illinois Central and then he came west to Montana where he lived for four or five years and he worked for the Montana Central, which later the Northern Pacific took over. Then he came out to Tacoma and went to work for the Northern Pacific. When he retired, he was the engineer on passenger trains #1 and #2 between here and Portland.
T: How many brothers and sisters did you have?
B: I had three brothers and three sisters. The older was a railroad man also; he worked as a fireman with the Northern Pacific Railroad and then I had my brother, Charley, whom I think you knew, and a baby brother that was scalded to death.
T: Tell me, when did you start to be associated with the University of Puget Sound?
B: My recollection is that Dr. Todd came to our Fowler Methodist church some time in 1907 or 1908, I can't remember the exact year, and it was at the time he was getting people interested in the college, and he gave a nice talk and after the talk in the church he got us all to say, "Our University," and he was doing that all over the Conference, as I later learned. I think that was really my first, and it got me to thinking about the university.

T: When did you come on the Board?

B: That I can't tell you. I remember that between then and 1900 we gave them small pledges but I can't tell you how much. I have my check books back to 1926 and in 1926 I was on the Board and I was on the Building Committee for, I think, Jones Hall.

T: Well, you could very well have been because it was built something like 1922-23-24.

B: Then, I was on the Building Committee when we built Howarth Hall and also on the Committee that raised the $200,000 on the Jim Hill Challenge which was a $50,000 gift.

T: Do you remember that the Howarth Bequest was given to the City of Tacoma, to be used where the best use could be made, and were you involved in getting that to come to the University?

B: Yes, I think that was when I made my first pledge of any size. I find in my book on checking this morning that in 1926 I was paying on a pledge then, and between 1926 and 1930, I made another pledge of $10,000 and those pledges were
paid off during those years of 1926-30. The reason I didn't give a lot up until 1900 was because our salary was only $150 a month up until then.

T: Then you were involved in the Building Committee of Jones Hall and also probably Howarth Hall.

B: Yes.

T: Didn't they build the basement of Howarth Hall first and they used it for awhile and then put the top floors on afterwards.

B: Yes, that's right. Then, also, the architect that built Jones Hall gave the money for the quadrangle--that was Mr. Sutton.

T: He had been around the world, and hadn't the trustees asked him to study college buildings and come back and report?

B: Yes, he did. That's when they laid out the entire program for the University of Puget Sound, how it was to be built and continued to be built upon.

T: That's right. The only difference is that we don't have arches all around it because it cost so much. And also in his day he didn't have to arrange for parking lots because students didn't have cars. Do you remember when Norton Clapp first came on?

B: I have tried to think and I remember Norton Clapp followed Roe Shaub.

T: I mean when he first came on the Board.

B: Well, it was only a couple of years before that.

T: I remember talking with you a good many years ago and you said that you used to see Norton Clapp playing volleyball up at the YMCA.
B: That's right.

T: You said he was a tall, young fellow, not quite as coordinated as he might have been, and I recall you said--check me now if this is not true--that you thought he might be a good person to get on the Board, and you talked to him about coming on the Board originally. This would be in 19...well, something like 1932 or '35 or '37--something along there.

B: It would have had to been then. I tell you who I talked with about it. It was Van---

T: Vander Ende?

B: Van, yes.

T: We will be talking with him. Clapp just came on, then, as a regular member of the Board and it wasn't too long till they made him Secretary.

B: That's right.

T: Then I remember when he got involved in the war and he asked to be relieved of that because he was with the Navy in the Exchange Building in Seattle, but his interest was very, very good. Tell me quite a bit about Dr. Todd's administration, you were probably the best acquainted with him of any man we have.

B: Well, he was a man who had a great vision and a very hard worker. He had a love for people.

T: It must have been very difficult to raise money in those days because there wasn't any income tax factor.
B: That's right.

T: I remember him telling me about getting money from Mrs. Jones, for instance, and she didn't have any tax break at all on that -- she just gave it.

B: In those days, when I gave $10,000, it was given outright.

T: Yes, right out of your pocket.

B: I wasn't making a lot of money in those days either. I never could have paid it off... anywhere from $200 to $600.

T: That's what made the University what it is today. Do you remember our conversation when I first came and you said what is the most needed for the University and would be the most difficult to get?

B: Yes, I do.

T: And we talked about sidewalks and pavement and you recall, of course, there wasn't a sidewalk on the campus, and the only pavement was in the Sutton Quadrangle in front of Jones Hall? That was when you suggested that we have the Harry Brown Family Roads and Paths Fund, and every square foot of paving and every square foot of sidewalk has been done by you and your family and what a wonderful, thrilling thing that has been. Actually, you have kept the kids out of the mud and it has just been wonderful. There is a new sidewalk that has been put in by the chapel---- so people coming from Puget Sound Street and that area can go across the campus without getting wet feet.

But I remember that you said you wanted to do the thing that would be the most difficult for us to do and yet would be the most helpful, and...
B: There was one other thing, too. In looking over my books, I find it brought back to my memory that I was very much interested in the athletics. At that time, the University of Puget Sound often took the team from one place to another and I made little gifts for this. Also, I notice where I bought a cup for one of the awards. And that was when I got interested, I think, when we built the first Tennis Courts.

T: You built the first two and they are still there and still going strong.

B: Then I think we put half on the second...

T: Yes, that's right. Then, of course, there is the Brown Quadrangle which...

B: That was later, yes.

T: That was a real thrill when we dedicated that. I remember we had a covering on the plaque which read that it was donated by you and your family and everyone took a hold of the rope and they pulled--down to the grandchildren--little, tiny grandchildren--and it was really a very very wonderful moment.

B: Yes:

T: Let's talk about the President's house. Do you remember the speech you made to the trustees?

B: At a trustee meeting, we were discussing the president's house and the thought came to me during the meeting that why shouldn't the Board of Directors have a project of their own and build that, and that was what I
proposed—that the Board of Directors do it and we got subscriptions from them for, I think, $30,000 and of course it cost just about double that.

T: You made quite a speech and said, "I would like to pass this paper around and see what would happen." And actually, it got $32,000. Then you remember that Norton Clapp got it and he said "I'll match it dollar for dollar." So out of that meeting, where you made that speech, came $64,000 and the house cost $90,000, and the furnishings were beside that. You were the one that actually started that.

Going back, I was trying to remember exactly what happened, as I had no idea this was going to happen at the Board of Trustee meeting. You said, "We brought this young man here to follow Dr. Todd, and Dr. Todd had his own house. We promised him we would build him a house, and a year or two has gone by and we haven't done anything about it and I think we have a moral obligation to carry out our promise. For that reason, I would like to pass this paper around and see what happens."

I was very much surprised when we got the kind of response we did. It was wonderful. Of course, that house, Harry, has been marvelous. Lucille designed it and furnished it, and we had 10,000 people there every year. And we tried to have every student in and if a student was homesick, I would say, "Come on over and we'll have a bowl of soup." Really, those kids used to clean out the refrigerator every week. (Laughter)

B: It has been a great pleasure for us to watch the growth of the college.
T: It's been a great thrill, hasn't it?

B: Oh, it's been wonderful. And it's a thing that our children--you see we have not only had all of our five children attend the college but our grandchildren, right up until this last year.

T: That's right. I think I told you I met Jerry Boyd.

B: Yes, he spoke about it--he was so pleased that you recognized him.

T: I was kind of surprised for there were three or four Sigma Chi's, I think it was, all there, and I said, "Good heavens, what are you doing, having a Sigma Chi meeting?" He said, "No, I came over here on a real estate deal and Jerry is going to take me around and show me--he's involved in it." It was so thrilling and it was like the success of your own young people.

All of your children did attend? Did your oldest son go to UPS, too?

B: Oh sure, he took his pre-med......Harry...... at UPS and then went to Chicago, the University of Chicago.

T: Don is a doctor, too.

B: All the children graduated from UPS except Al. Al took his first two years at the University and he was taking up business and he felt he could get his last two years and what he wanted at Stanford.

T: How many children and grandchildren have gone here, do you know?

B: I don't know. Al's daughters, all but one, I think, attended some, and then Mildred's three -- Bob, Jerry, and Janet. Harry wasn't here. I don't
think any of Don's went here. Oh yes, Steve and Tom went to the University.

T: Don played basketball.

B: Yes, Don played basketball.

T: Dick played both basketball and football.

B: Yes, that's right.

T: And did very, very well.

Do you recall any unusual Board of Trustee meetings?

B: I haven't thought of that for so long.

T: It seems like we were always authorizing another building and that sort of thing. We were, of course, very closely related to the Methodist Conference.

B: I think maybe the one I remember most was the one when you decided to come. We needed someone so bad to follow Dr. Todd and we were so thrilled to have you come.

T: Do you remember if you had a good many meeting about this before this?

B: Yes.

T: Did Dr. Todd decide on his own volition that it was time for someone to follow him? He must have been in his eighties, wasn't he?

B: Yes, I think that more or less he did. He was thinking about it and the Board was thinking about someone to replace him because of his age.

T: Do you remember some of the men who came? Do you remember someone by the name of Nyles from a Methodist school in Iowa?

B: Yes, I remember.
T: I guess it finally got to the place where the Board was deciding between the two of us.

B: Yes.

T: He had raised $100,000 for the school in Iowa, so I kept hearing, "don't count on it because he has a reputation for raising money."

B: To be honest with you, Dr. Thompson, I think one of the main reasons (and there were several of us on the Board) was that we were trying to hold ourselves to a religious school, and we knew that you were active down in Willamette and all of your recommendations were so high that we were just thrilled when we knew that you were coming.

T: It was a very interesting decision for Lucille and myself, because we were being invited to go as Dean at Ohio Wesleyan, and it was a question of going there or coming here, and I listened to Bishop Baxter quite a little bit. Of course, he was on the Board and he didn't know exactly what would happen or if it would come or not. I remember Mr. Dix Rowland called me and said he and Mr. Blaine wanted to come down to see us. When I hung up the phone, I called Bishop Baxter and I asked him what this meant and he said, "Well, there is no doubt but what they are coming down to ask you to come up."

B: What was the man's name down at Ostrander?

T: E.S. Collins.

B: He was also very interested in your coming.
T: Collins was a very interesting person. I used to preach in First Church at Portland every once in awhile and so one time I went to his office and he said, "You know, I am on both Boards. While all my young people have gone to Willamette, I think Puget Sound has a tremendous future." I was vice president of Willamette at that time, and I said, "Tell me why?" And he said, "Well, it has the location, it has the potential and all it needs is leadership." I asked a lot of questions, then, because he was on both Boards and in many cases, he sort of kept the College of Puget Sound in those early days.

B: I remember him as being an outstanding man, and we were thrilled when he would come to the Board meetings--he couldn't always get there but he was at most of them.

T: He was a man who sat there and listened and when a crisis came along he would say well you only need this, I'll go half if you raise half, and there are three or four cases in the history of the University where he did that.

B: There were times when nobody else gave and he gave, too, when they really needed it.

T: He actually underwrote a pension system for all the Methodist missionaries. He gave millions of dollars to the Pension Board to underwrite the pensions. His grandson is now on the board, and he goes back to Philadelphia for those meetings and sees that the Collins money is properly spent.

B: In looking over my old checkbooks, (I have a book for 1926 to 1930 with
just gifts in it) and we were in those days giving to that fund, and the missionary fund was raised on the outside, then, too.

T: That's right. Well, Harry, you have been a wonderful, wonderful trustee; your family has been wonderfully loyal and I appreciate very much talking with you. We don't seem to have covered very much, and I wonder if there are other things you would like to cover.

B: In regard to the University of Puget Sound, my thought has always been that our young people, along with their education, needed a Christian education. And they got that from some wonderful professors at the University of Puget Sound.

T: Do you remember some special professors?

B: Davis--Senator Davis. I can't remember their names now, but I knew them all from the early days--there was Slater, and...

T: Weir, Hanawalt...

B: Yes, Hanawalt was marvelous.

T: Martin, who belonged to Mason.

B: Yes, Martin.

T: He was a retired Methodist missionary.

Harry, part of your great support of the University has been a part of your tithe. When did you start tithing?

B: I started the very week that I was converted at Little Fowler Church in 1905. I was working in the candy business, making $17.50 a week. The week
that I was converted, the next Sunday I dumped $1.75 in the collection plate, and the good Lord has kept me at it ever since.

T: Were you working in some candy factory? Or was this your own business?

B: No, at that time I was working in a candy factory. Three years after, in 1907, I started my own little retail store up on Boardway. I started that September 10, 1907. My wife worked for me as a clerk. We were married in January, 1918, because I couldn't afford to pay her wages anymore! (laughter) And the first year, out of that little store we drew $25 a month. And we tithed. We did not keep open on Sunday and we found that I needed more business than we were going to get out of the retail store, so I started looking for two or three stores that I could make candy for, and after doing that for about a year, I found out that that was the better end of the business and gradually worked into the wholesale business.

T: What was the name of the business?

B: Oriole Candy Company.

T: When did Brown and Haley start?

B: I built a little factory on East 27th Street, a one-story building, 120 feet deep. I started in the wholesale business during that period I had two or three salesmen, and it was hard to keep salesmen. Mr. Haley used to call me to sell me extracts. I proved to him one day that the extract that I was using was better and giving me a better strength in the candy than the ones that he was selling. That got him interested and he kept wanting to buy into
the business. In 1914 I sold him a full half-interest. That was the start, then, of Brown and Haley.

T: You manufactured it then and he sold it?
B: Yes.

T: Then you started a Rogers Candy Company in Seattle after you sold out.
B: In 1944, because of the fact that my son, Al, had come into the business and Mr. Haley had brought two of his sons into the business, and they were not getting along together, it was decided to buy or sell and I sold it to him.

T: When did you make Almond Roca? You made that personally, didn't you?
B: Yes, that was in 1925.

T: That candy in World War II was one of the most acceptable and sent all over the world.
B: All over the world, yes. And the Mountain Bar was my concoction.

T: They have a regular one, a cherry one, and a peanut butter one, now.
B: Peanut butter--that's a new one. But the Mountain Bar and Cherry Bar were both mine.

T: It's wonderful to have you on the Board of Trustees. You are an honorary member now, but Dick is in your place. He is very much interested and he helps on the committees and he is very fine. Who are some of the earlier trustees that you remember?
B: Dix Rowland, Arthur Lister, Billy Hopping, and George Scofield.

T: George Scofield, you said, was interested financially and he made a major
pledge?
B: Yes, I think it was $25,000. In those days that was a big sum of money.
I think that inspired me to give the $10,000 pledge in 1926.
T: Wasn't Lister secretary of the school board and also secretary of the
Board of Trustees?
B: Yes.
T: He sort of maneuvered the sale of the old campus to the school board, didn't
he?
B: Yes, he did.
T: Do you remember anything about that?
B: No, I do not, because that was really done before I was on the board.
T: You don't remember when they moved from Division Avenue?
B: Yes, I do, I remember the march that was made from the old campus to
the new campus.
T: What did they do? What was it like?
B: Oh, I don't remember exactly, except it was a march and everybody was
thrilled and happy--singing songs as they marched along.
T: One of the men yesterday told me they carried two little holly trees and
those are the two holly trees at the entrance to the campus now. There were
two beech trees, too, and one of them got broken in a snow storm a few years
ago. Let's see now, who are some other trustees? Was Mumaw on at that time?
B: Yes.
T: And how about Newbegin?
B: Jim Newbegin.
T: Newbegin was mayor at one time, wasn't he?
B: Yes, he was mayor.
T: Mumaw had a telephone company in the Grays Harbor area.
B: As I said, George Scofield.
T: There was a Hopping?
B: Billy Hopping.
T: The Savings and Loan man?
B: He was the Tacoma Savings and Loan and he started the Tacoma Savings and Loan.
T: It was a smaller Board in those days, wasn't it?
B: Much smaller. It seems to me we only had about eight or ten members.
T: Do you remember any of the ministers who were on it?
B: LaViollette.
T: That was Fred Pedersen's father-in-law.
B: Yes, I knew LaViollette very well. It seems to be in those days the District Superintendent of Tacoma District was always on the board.
T: I think that's right. There was a... what was his name...?
B: Oh, yes. I think his name was Selliger, sorry but I cannot think what it is for sure.
T: Gerald... I had his funeral and his daughter said to me, as we
left the cemetery, "You know, I used to hate that school with a passion."
I said, "Why?" She said, "When I was a little girl and I would get a hole in the sole of my shoe, and I would tell my dad I needed some new shoes, he would say, 'Honey, we'll have to put some paper in there. We have to give the money to the school.'"

B: He was fine man.
HARRY BROWN ROADS AND PATHS FUND

Mr. Harry Brown, who has been Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees for many years, has been one of the most wonderful supporters of the University of Puget Sound. He gives a regular portion of his tithe to the University. Many years ago, when I first came, about in 1944, he said to me one day, "What is one of the things that you need help on most that is onerous, that you have real difficulty in getting help with and that would be a great deal of service to the students, to the University and to you personally?"

At that time, we had no paving on the campus except the Sutton Quadrangle. We had no cement sidewalks. There was a trail that went from Jones Hall over to the Girls Gymnasium. There was a wooden sidewalk which got slick every time it rained between Jones Hall and the Girls Gymnasium.

I pointed out that most often the students were walking in the rain and in the mud; that the paving was chucky and had big holes in it and needed constant repair and that if Harry Brown and his family could establish a Roads and Paths Fund, to be called the Harry Brown Roads and Paths Fund, it would be one of the finest things that could happen. This money could be used to build sidewalks, to pave roads for the University and it would really make the campus beautiful and keep the students out of the mud and keep their feet dry.

So the Harry Brown Roads and Paths Fund was started and it has paid for all the cement sidewalks and most of the paving on the campus.
I recall that one of the first administrative acts I had to do in 1942 when I came was to treat a boy who had fallen off a bridge in the ravine between the Girls Gym and Lawrence. He had ridden his bicycle over this little bridge and had fallen off and had a laceration on his forehead. I suggested that we have a doctor take a look at it, stitch it up and that then we should fix the bridge.

To this day, there is a little indentation in the pavement which you can notice as you drive from the Girls Gym to Lawrence Street, just below the cottage and New Hall. This is where the ravine was filled in and the earth has sunk three or four inches. This pavement will crack one day and it will have to be repaved because of the gradual settling of the earth fill underneath.

The Harry Brown Fund has provided all the paving and sidewalks and Mr. Brown would like to have us construct a "Prayer Garden" which would be located in the area between the President's residence and the girls dormitories, in relationship to Kilworth Chapel. We would like to do this as early as we can and it would be paid for out of the Brown Roads and Paths Fund.

R. Franklin Thompson
Circa 1970
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INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET BROWN  
BY R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON  
June 29, 1978

T: When did you first come to the University of Puget Sound?

B: In the fall of 1921.

T: Where had your home been?

B: Seattle.

T: What high school did you graduate from?

B: I graduated from old Broadway High School, Seattle.

T: Broadway--that's where they have one of the junior colleges located now, isn't it?

B: Yes.

T: What did your folks do?

B: My father was an electrical engineer and he was in charge of building the three power plants at Ft. Casey, Ft. Flagler and Ft. Worden. In 1913, when I was eight, we moved to Seattle and he was in charge of installing all the electrical machinery for the present government locks, so that is kind of a historical thing in itself. My mother also contributed to the pioneer history. She accompanied Mrs. Rita Denny (of the Denny pioneer family) to Seattle by train. She was one of the first registered nurses to the Northwest and assisted at many of the births in the pioneer families.

T: That is interesting. When did Ralph come to CPS?

B: He came in 1922.
T: Where had his home been?
B: He came from Vancouver, Washington.
T: What did his father do?
B: His father and his grandfather were both Methodist ministers so he was a third generation; in fact, his grandfather was a circuit rider.
T: Was that in Oregon?
B: In Oregon, and then he did kind of double duty; it's hard to understand but he drove cattle north as he did his ministry and also brought the mail. When the cattle would fatten in the north, they would work back down south again.
T: In the rich Oregon valleys, I suppose. Ralph came in 1922 and you in 1921. When did he graduate?
B: Well, I went two years and graduated from the Normal school at CPS in 1923 and went off to teach. Ralph had one more year there and it made his two years in 1924 and he was president-elect of the student body, but due to my pressure he came to the University of Washington and we both got our degree there.
T: Then he went into the ministry?
B: Yes, in 1925 and at that time he was preaching at the deaconess settlement in the Rainier Valley and in Lakeside Church. Then the night we were married (we were still in the University and had rented a little house, got it all furnished and put three coats of paint on the inside and worked like everything to get it ready), Dr. Byron Wilson, the District Superintendent, offered us Redmond. So we broke our lease and went as bride and groom to Redmond
and had a wonderful, wonderful year there. In fact, it was just a little old-fashioned white church. We had a big dinner one rainy, terrible night and Dr. Wilson said he wouldn't give two hoots that we could raise any money at all but we got $10,000 that night to move the church to a quieter location, which is where the present Redmond Methodist Church is with the brick finish. It is quite a nice little church. Then we decided to go back to Drew and they gave us a purse of $100 and in our little Ford coupe we toured back to the East Coast.

T: Where did you live on the Drew campus in Madison?
B: At first we lived in the married dormitory and was I ever homesick!
T: Was that Embury Hall or Hoyt-Bowne Hall, do you remember?
B: Probably it was Embury.
T: It is the old carriage place that had been made over into a dormitory.
B: Yes, that was it - Embury Hall. That was where they had the married couples.
T: We lived there, too.
B: Oh, did you? I had forgotten that you were at Drew. Then we kept going to each district superintendent hoping to get a charge and no one wanted to do much about it because we were students; but Dr. Baugh had received a letter from Bishop Leonard saying that when these "Kiddos" arrived to take care of them. (Laughter) So we got a very good charge at Scotch Plains, New Jersey. We were there for four years. Warren and Peggy were both born there.
T: You stayed in the parsonage while he went to class.

B: He went to class and I ran the church. (Laughter)

T: That was the way it was. We did that, too, and it was a great experience really but it was very hard on the wife.

B: They had had 49 preachers in 52 years in that church and the chairman of the board said, when we left, "You came here a breeze out of the West with much intestinal fortitude, and you stayed four years." (Laughter)

T: Then did you come back here?

B: Then we came back to Highland Park, Seattle, in the depression. Then he served as minister at Asbury-Seattle, and Gooding, Idaho.

T: When did Ralph start his military career?

B: In 1937. We had gone to Gooding, Idaho, and while he was pastor of the church I taught in Gooding College.

T: What did you teach?

B: They said they needed a foreign language teacher. I think my French teacher, Miss Crapser from UPS, would have had a terrible time thinking of me teaching French (Laughter) but I taught beginning and advanced French, comparative religions and Indian literature.

It was a wonderful experience in that faculty. None of us received any pay, hardly. The couples that were dependent on the college were in real hard straits but we all had a good fellowship together.

T: Was Ralph full time to begin with or was he in the Chaplain Reserve?
B: He had been in the Reserves and I used to say to him, "What if a war came and you had to go?" He said, "Do you think I would stay home with everyone else going?" He was quite adamant about the chaplaincy and there was quite a backlash by the men of the church at that time putting the "bars of Mars" on the ministry. We had had a very close friend who was chief of chaplains when we lived in New Jersey and we had seen the wonderful work he had done (in fact he had baptised me as a baby), so we went into the chaplaincy with that idea. We went to Laredo, Texas for three years. They had very bad conditions among the men there—the highest venereal rate in the Army—and they hadn't had a chaplain in 18 years so he was sent there to clean up the mess. I taught school while we were there at Laredo Institute which was a Methodist school for the Mexicans.

T: Did you speak Spanish?

B: No.

T: How many children do you have?

B: Three. Two were born in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, while Ralph was at Drew. Then Dick, Ralph, Jr., was born here in Seattle during the depression, while we were serving at Highland Park Methodist Church.

T: You say you have ten grandchildren?

B: Yes. Of Warren's children, the oldest one is a boy 26, two girls 24 and 21. Then my daughter, who lives in Florida, has three children, one 20, one 18 and one 17 (two boys and a girl). My other son lives in Vancouver, Wash-
ington, and he has four daughters ranging in age from 21 to 15.

T: What a beautiful family. Do you remember some of the professors at the College of Puget Sound?

B: Of course. Everybody there always loved Senator Davis. He was just one of us. He went to all of our house parties over at Indian Point when we did anything in the Amphictyon Society or the mixed groups. Senator Davis was always our chaperone, much to the shock of my mother—to have a man for a chaperone!

T: You were an Amphic?

B: Yes.

T: There were the Philomatheans, and the Thetas and the Sigma Zetes.

B: Yes. The Thetas and the Sigma Zetes have all gone into national fraternities now.

T: I ran into another one the other day—Uthra or something like that. Did you ever remember that one? I guess it was one for just a little while.

B: I guess so.

T: What leadership did Ralph assume. You said he was student body president.

B: Elect—and I talked him out of it to go to the University.

T: He must have been a natural leader on the campus then.

B: Yes, he was a great debator and he was on the debate team and of course he was in the Sigma, what is Sigma Chi now, and I was in Lambda Chi, which is now Alpha Phi.

T: Do you remember who was his debate teacher?
Mrs. Hovious - Lynette Hovious.

She planned a lot of extra programs and pageants.

Oh, yes, we was a very prominent teacher; and, of course, everybody knows Dr. Slater.

Yes, he has been a wonderful person. Do you remember a pageant Mrs. Hovious put on that had Ezra Meeker and the soldiers for Indians, etc.?

No, I don't remember that.

Were you there when they moved from the old campus to the new campus?

No, I was only on the old campus, but we used to go up to the new campus for get-togethers and then, of course, we crowned two May Queens there.

Who were the May Queens, do you remember?

Esther Graham and, I think, Helen Pangborn.

Oh, yes. Helen just died.

And so has Esther--both this year.

Helen was a very precious person.

She was one of my bridesmaids.

Oh, is that right. Through the years, she was so loyal and so dedicated.

Who else of the professors do you remember? Did you ever go to Olympia with Senator Davis to visit the Legislature?

Yes we did that; then there was Miss Crapser, of course.

What did she teach?

French. I loved Miss Crapser. Of course, she is gone now, too.

One of the funny things about Dr. Slater, whenever you would give a correct
answer he would always say, "Cracker," and we would all get such a kick out of him calling us, "Cracker".

T: Did you ever have Miss Reneau?

B: Yes, Georgia Reneau. I think she taught English and a type of sociology. It was quite new at that time. Then Professor Harvey. I never had him but Ralph did and he taught physics or chemistry--some terrible thing. (Laughter).

T: Tell me more about Ralph. He was a third generation Methodist minister; you had these churches that you talked about in New Jersey and then you went to Texas and then he was full time in the military from then on.

B: Yes, Regular army.

T: Where did you go from Laredo?

B: We went to the Philippines.

T: Were you in Manila?

B: No, we were 70 miles north of Manila at Fort Stotsenburg and Clark Field.

T: You were there, too?

B: Yes, the whole family. I just got back from a visit there in May 1978. But Clark Field when I lived there was 150 enlisted men and seven officers and they could get one plane launched at a time off the ground. By the time we left troops were pouring in. We came home May of 1941 and they were building like mad. When I went back in 1969 to visit, I couldn't find my old home because of all these new buildings that were not familiar to me, so I asked the driver to take me to the officers club because I thought I could find it from there and I did. I took Ralph's sister back this year (1978). He was decorated with
the Distinguished Service Cross for taking the wounded off the field at Clark Field the first day of the battle.

T: That was his first decoration, wasn't it?

B: Yes.

T: Then he also received several others.

B: The Legion of Merit, of course; the Purple Heart which no one wants to get.

T: Where was he wounded - in Manila?

B: No. I'm not just sure about that. He was on those prison ships, you know, and they were bombed out of the first one and they landed in Taipei (which was Formosa at that time) and then they went on to Japan and he walked off under his own power there but the men that were with him said he weighed about 70 pounds. It was just a matter of starvation. When they all left Manila they were in top condition.

T: He was on the Bataan march, wasn't he?

B: Yes, they had a death march. They went up to Cabanatuan which was an old haunt of ours and then the soldiers, particularly the Philippine soldiers, died like flies from lack of food and bad water, etc. He buried them and collected bottles wherever he could find them and put information inside about who they were and their serial numbers, etc. Many of those men could never have been identified, when found, otherwise. Then they were sent over to Cabanatuan and there he raised a little garden of flowers so he could have flowers on the altar. They had to pay $5 for a little can of sardines
in order to get some Vitamin B. They were imprisoned there three and half years.

Then he went down to Manila and he was held in Bilibid prison, to go on a
ship, and a very close chaplain friend of his, a Methodist from the East Coast,
was there very ill with TB. Later, he attended Ralph's funeral in Arlington
with me--that same chaplain.

T: Ralph is buried in Arlington?

B: Yes.

T: He died in prison camp?

B: He died right after he got off those ships in Japan--in Kyushu. A Buddhist
priest took those men and cremated them, labeled the ashes and then when the
war was over I was notified that the government had them. The priest had
turned them over to them. Ralph had always said he would like to be buried
in Arlington, so that is why he is back there.

T: How old was he when he died?

B: Let's see, he was 42. It was in 1945.

T: The children were still small, weren't they?

B: They were 8, 11, and 13 years when we came from the Philippines
and I had never had any responsibility for the car or anything, so when we
talked to him by shortwave radio, I'd get advice on what to do with the car
and the children, etc.

T: He received the Distinguished Service Cross...?

B: Legion of Merit, Purple Heart.
T: He had five Bronze Star medals, you say.

B: Yes, and the Distinguished Service Cross was the second highest honor the U.S. bestows.

T: I see eight different decorations. You told me he was the most decorated chaplain.

B: Well, when we were thinking of going into the chaplaincy, we went to visit a very interesting Catholic chaplain at Fort Lewis who had been the highest decorated chaplain in World War I, and I think it was Ralph's ambition that he take his place in World War II, which he did.

T: You suggest that these decorations and awards be put in a specially-built case and become a part of the ROTC exhibit.

B: Yes, I'm thinking that would probably be a proper place for them. I'll have to talk it over with the boys.

T: Why don't you talk it over with them and I will talk it over with the Commanding Officer.

B: Isn't this a beautiful thing?

T: Yes, beautiful. Which one is that?

B: This is the Legion of Merit and I have the citation. I wanted to tell you an interesting story about when Ralph was small, I imagine about five years old. Dr. Todd used to go around to each church, as you have done many times, and tell people about the college. When he stayed over night in their home to preach the next morning, he would have Ralph sit on his knee and have him shout "Our University". So one time the folks were going down to Portland on the train and it was probably in Tacoma that the trains passed and pulled
opposite each other in the depot and all of a sudden his folks heard him
yell "Our University" and there was Dr. Todd sitting on the other train.
(Laughter)
T: Wasn't that wonderful. Dr. Todd was a great man. Do you remember
any instances about him when you went to school?
B: Not anything in particular. I loved Mrs. Todd. She was just a cuddly,
grandmotherly type of woman, and Florence Todd was, of course, a contemporary
of ours and I was very fond of "Toddy" as we called her.
T: Did you know Junia?
B: No, I didn't know her.
T: Florence was very artistic, wasn't she?
B: Yes.
T: How did she express this? Was it in painting, prose or...
B: In painting and well done. She always dressed very "arty", too.
Is Rita Todd a cousin?
T: I really don't know.
B: She did a lot of vocal work there at UPS.
T: Tell me about Mrs. Todd. Not many people have talked about her.
B: She was a very small woman, pudgy, sparkley, black eyes and snow-white
hair and just giggly and bubbly and always so friendly, you just wanted to hug
her.
T: She certainly was a great teammate for Dr. Todd. She had a personality
all her own.

When you came home from Manila, was that the last time you saw Ralph?
B: Yes, in the harbor in Manila. We were on the Washington. They had made it over into a troop ship and the crew wasn't very happy to have their beautiful ship slung with hammocks. We got on board with 1,000 women and children they were bringing home. There were 100 bottle babies and the first night they couldn't find any milk supply and they tried giving them dry corn flakes and the mothers were crying harder than the children, so it was quite a tragic homecoming.

T: Did they find the milk?

B: The next day we got kind of oriented and we finally roped off one single deck where the children could race and play and the rest of us got on another deck and it was peaceful. We said goodbye to Ralph there in the stateroom in Manila and he and a flier followed us out as long as they could as the ship went around the other side of the island and they dropped letters to us with rocks in them--so they would drop on the top deck and we would pick them up and read our little love notes. (Chuckle)

T: We named the ROTC Unit 900 for Ralph. Did the Commanding Officers come to you and ask if that would be all right?

B: They probably did but I don't remember.

T: I remember we discussed it at length and knowing of Ralph's outstanding career and how dedicated he was to the Service, I suggested that it be named for him. It has been a great unit. While I was President, it was decorated as the outstanding unit in America.

B: You can be very proud of it.
T: Yes, and the men are very proud of it. Of course, each year at orientation the men are told of the service Ralph rendered.

B: He wanted a D.D. from UPS so badly and one of the very few messages I got from him was, "Received the Distinguished Service Cross today. Contact Todd for DD."

T: Well, you have been to some of the ROTC reviews, haven't you, and you have made certain presentations to some of the key young people, haven't you?

B: Yes. Ralph received scrolls from both Presidents Truman and Johnson in recognition of his service.

T: As you look back on your years at CPS and Ralph's years, how do you evaluate them?

B: Well, I don't know about Ralph, but for me, it was the making of me because I had been very, very protected at home and my mother wanted me to go to the University of Washington but I didn't want to go there. I wanted to go to CPS. When fall came, she thought I'd weaken and enroll at the University but I didn't--I went to business college, and after CPS had been going over a month she finally relented and let me start a month late. I was determined that I was going there my first year and experience some real college life. We had lots of activity and my roommate was Marjorie Anderson and we were known as Nip and Tuck. Everybody on campus knew Nip and Tuck because we were into everything. I can still remember the Bag Rush--do they still have the Bag Rush?

T: Not anymore, but we did for a number of years.
B: She was kidnapped one time and taken away, out near Spanaway somewhere, and she finally found some rusty scissors and pried open a window and slid down a drain pipe and got on the streetcar and got back to CPS in time for the Bag Rush. Another night we went out and I don’t know what we were doing but we were on a streetcar (I think of how Tacoma must’ve put up with CPS students) and as we came through the college area we didn’t want to be seen because we were afraid we would be kidnapped, so with people on the streetcar we ran around and pulled all the shades down and rode happily through the crowds and came home!

T: Do you remember the Ernsts?

B: Oh yes, Henry Ernst, Ralph, Harold Wade, Eldon Chuinard and, I think, Preston Wright were called the Happy Five and they lived in a boarding house where the lady put the phonograph on while you ate your soup.

T: The Happy Five... (Laughter)

B: That was when we knew Henry first.

T: It is really wonderful how successful most of those people have been. Eldon, you know, is one of the outstanding surgeons for children in the Shrine hospitals and Henry has been outstanding. Then you knew Ellena Gouldner who wrote the Alma Mater.

B: Ellena played the piano for my wedding and Ralph was best man at their wedding so we were very close.

T: When I talked to Mrs. Goudner not too long ago, I asked her how she happened to write the Alma Mater and she said she did not remember too much
about it but evidently, she may have written it for one of the literary societies to be sung by a group.

B: Yes, Ellena and I did one song together. She wrote the music and I wrote the words.

T: Do you remember if we had an Alma Mater song when you were here, before hers became accepted?

B: I think mainly we did "We are the best school in the West, in the West." (Singing) Do you know that one?

T: Yes. What were some of the Amphictyon programs and what were they like?

B: Well, at the first meeting in the fall after we came back from the summer we had to give a program on our summer activities. I had worked as a secretary for the Washelli Cemetery Company so my topic was "Coughing and Coffin". (Laughter). We came in with this fake coffin and candles burning and coughing, for that program!

Many of them were very literary and I don't know if you ever heard of Eleanor Kenrick or not. She was an excellent pianist and I can remember her piano numbers were very fine.

T: Well, the Amphictyons and the Philomatheans required that the members contribute to the programs and it helped in their development.

B: They were literary societies. Paul Schneider was president and Clyde Kinch. . . .

T: Do you remember any of the financial campaigns of the school?
B: Not really. I don't think it worried me.

T: I was thinking of Dr. Todd and some of the challenges for endowment, etc. Now, on the old campus there was an administration building, a classroom building, a gymnasium and a dormitory. The dormitory was off campus. Did you live in the dormitory?

B: Yes. The second year my mother was housemother at the dormitory and that did not make me very happy because I had to keep in line. (Laughter)

T: You were under constant surveillance.

B: Yes. Then there was the music building down there right next to the dormitory.

T: Wasn't that the one that's next to the Baptist church?

B: Yes.

T: That was where Senator Davis lived after we moved to the new campus.

B: Oh, he did?

T: I was there a number of times and he had a little path among the piles of books and papers and he knew just how to maneuver through. He was a wonderful person. Did any of your children go to the University of Puget Sound?

B: Yes, my oldest son, Warren, graduated from the University in 1947--no, it must have been later than that--it must've been about 1950 or '51. He was so active at Sigma Chi I began to wonder if he was going to make his grades he was so busy doing for the house.

T: Well, that was part of the maturing and part of his development.
B: I also had a granddaughter that went one year. Warren's oldest daughter, Karen Brown, went one year—must've been in the 60's or maybe later than that, probably in the '70's. She has a degree in biology now and has been living a life that has been very exciting to me. She is quite a mature girl and has done work back in Minneapolis and a year ago this summer she was at Grand Canyon working on the program there for the tourists, explaining the flora and fauna and then from there she got a job at Monterey schools as an outdoor instructor.

The End

R. Franklin Thompson
August 11, 1978
Major Ralph W.D. Brown, Chaplain in the United States Army, died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp on Honshu Island, Japan, January 31, 1945, as reported by the Secretary of War.

Chaplain Brown, a graduate of the College of Puget Sound and Drew Theological Seminary, was admitted to the Pacific Northwest Conference in 1925. He held pastorates at City Missions, Seattle; Redmond; Highland Park and Asbury, Seattle; as well as at Gooding, Idaho. He entered the regular United States Army Chaplains' Corps in 1937.

For courageous service on December 8th 1941 at Clark Field, Philippine Islands, he was given the Distinguished Service Cross. Taken prisoner, at the fall of Bataan, he survived the three day "march of death" to infamous Camp O'Donnell where he served as senior Chaplain, as well later at Camp Cabanatuan. He survived two sinkings of prison ships, one a torpedoing and the other a bombing. In the later he was seriously injured and later died in prison in Japan.

Chaplain Brown was unusually successful as he served his men with great devotion. When suffering from a severe case of malaria he arose from his sick bed to assist the evacuation of the sick from a front line hospital to the rear. Holding many services of worship when he should have been in the hospital he gave of his strength in serving the men at the front line and on the beaches, and later in the prisons where he was held.
A true servant of God and a good minister of Jesus Christ he felt through all his trial of the last days of Bataan that he had been divinely cared for to well to have any fear." He further wrote: "I just go ahead as events take me and God leads me and I say 'His will be done'."

He died unafraid and confident that his Lord was the author and Redeemer of his life; a faithful minister of the Methodist Church in whose service he surrendered his life; and a valiant soldier of his country, faithful unto death, in his duty as a chaplain.

Surviving, are his wife, Margaret; two sons, Warren Frankland and Ralph Richard; a daughter, Margaret Annette; and his father and mother, Rev. and Mrs. Arthur W. Brown. His father is a retired and honored member of the Pacific Northwest Conference.
Ex-Tacoman Died In Jap Prison Camp

The many friends of Maj. Ralph W. D. Brown, College of Puget Sound alumnus and army chaplain, were grieved Friday to learn that he died last Jan. 31 in a Jap prison camp.

Rev. Brown is well known in Tacoma, having attended CPS four years, graduating in 1926, following which he served a number of important churches in the east and northwest. He joined the army chaplain corps in 1937.

He was the brother of Capt. George M. V. Brown, former Pierce county welfare administrator, now serving with the allied commission in Italy.

Sent to the Philippines, Maj. Brown was stationed in Manila when the Japs struck Clark Field Dec. 8, 1941. For heroic services he was personally decorated by Gen. MacArthur with the distinguished service cross, the first army chaplain to receive the medal in World War II.

It was learned that in two attempts to take him to Japan, following survival of the infamous death march to Camp O'Donnell, his ship was torpedoed the first time and bombed the second.

His wife, Margaret, also a CPS alumnus, and his three children will remain at their Seattle home, 4003 Wallingford ave. She is a teacher at Lake City grade school.

The official message from the war department came to Chaplain Brown's parents, Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Brown, of Oregon City, Ore., which was relayed to his wife in Seattle. It stated only that he had died on Honshu Island.
Oct. 3, 1945

Ernest P. Goulder, Lieut, Ch.C.USNR
Hdq. 13th Naval District
Seattle 14, Wash.

Dear Ernest:

Thanks very much for the obituary of Ralph Brown. I have sent it on to Harry L. Allen, who compiles this material for me.

We had our student reception last night - 150 present, about a third of the group being men students. It certainly helps to have men on the campus again. Of course our group is never as large as you had at Pullman, for we have only about half the number of students - about 1400 this semester, as against 2800 pre-war average. Our Sunday evening Wesley Foundation group is starting off unusually well, and we expect to have a great year.

Thanks again for the obituary.

Yours,

Willard
24 September 1945

Rev. Willard E. Stanton
302 East 3rd Street
Moscow, Idaho.

Dear Willard:

Several days ago Rev. Arthur W. Brown, Ralph's father, came to me and said the family had requested that I write an article for the Christian Advocate relative to Ralph's death and also if I would write the obituary notice for the Conference Minutes.

Inclosed is the obituary. Will you please see that it is included in next year's minutes.

Margaret is taking Ralph's death in a perfectly wonderful and Christian manner. Her courage through it all has been an inspiration to those of us close to the family.

I am on duty here in Seattle and expect to remain here as Assistant District Chaplain until the time of my release. Unless the Conference has something for me prior to next Conference I shall remain in the service until next May.

Best wishes to you and yours,

Sincerely your friend,

Ernest F. Goulder
Lieut. ChD, USNR
Cabanatuan Prison Camp #1
9/1/43

Dear Margaret and Children:

Again I will write you and send the letter to Dr. E.E. Tuck to hold till mails are open again. I probably will get word to you before this, but—anything can happen as this thing comes to a close, as we hope it will soon. So just in case it should go rough and the Japs decide not to surrender any prisoners I want to get this letter off and away.

First a little review. I was assigned Chief Chaplain Far Eastern Air Force. Thru Bataan I covered 20th A.C. outfits in Bataan. I drove two thousand miles the month of Jan. day and night—bombs or no bombs. In February, Gen. George (Air Corps) moved my Hqtrs. to Bataan Field to be closer to the boys flying. I sent each plane off in the Algona Battle and stood by Gen. George and watched the big fight the day our boys went out and knocked down six in an all out battle.

Generally I left camp Monday and got back Saturday night. Slept and ate with whatever outfit I was with at the time. Every day was Sunday when I got to a camp. I tried to hold services once a week at all of them. When action was coming up, I went up to that position. Every couple of weeks I would go to the front line and visit our A.C. Boys and check up with my three chaplains on duty there. We had more action on the beaches and fields in my sectors than on the front lines, up until the final week. Of course you know of the lack of food in Bataan. We were down to just a little rice twice a day the last month and a half. I really learned how to go hungry. I had two does of dysentry in Bataan and came down with Malaria the 4th of April, just before our surrender. I lost weight but kept going after short breaks. While down in bed I kept your pictures always in sight at my camp. The 7th of April my camp was bombed out. By tent and cot riddled. I was in my fox hole just outside the tent. A bomb fragment put a hole thru the picture just above your head. I still have the picture, its here in the room smiling at me now. It's been my great consolation all the way thru these prison camp days. I thought I was sick the day of the big break thru; hadn't had my clothes on in three days. I got up, helped care for the wounded. When we abandoned our camp, I took two wounded flyers back to the hospital. In the jam over a back trail, my car gave out, so I got my men on a 31st truck and so to the hospital. Then I hunted up an Air Corps outfit and so back to Mariveles. I never had my clothes off till I reached O'Donnell. The Japs took us the night of April ninth. The tenth we started the terrible march on foot to San Fernando. We went three days without food. The story of this march and Camp O'Donnell is one of the blackest pages in history. Enough here to say, somehow I got thru. Only fighting horserad and men who had the will to live of the Bataan men are alive today. By God's help and thru the strength and power of your love I was pulled thru. More than half of the air corps men I served in Bataan are now dead—few of them died before the surrender. (Bruce Shorts died here Oct. 29, 1942) For three weeks after I got to O'Donnell my heart beat didn't get above 45. I served the combined air corps and 31st Inf. there.

June 4th, what was left of us were moved to Cabanatuan Camp No. 2. June 8th I was ordered to Camp Ill eight miles east. It was a good camp. Men from Corregidor who were not beaten and starved as we were. They had life and go, a something I had forgotten existed. I was Senior Chaplain of this camp until it was abandoned. We had six thousand men. There I got me health and weight back. And November 1st when I came back to camp I weighed 200 lbs. I have been here ever since. Olliver is here and 20 other Chaplains. I have been Senior of group number two. We have carried on a strong program, Sunday services, Week day Bible classes and lots of interest. Men are interested in religion here.
From January 1943 to May I continued to lose weight although feeling quite well. I had the Doctor check me and found that I had Amoebic Dysentery. I had thought so for some time. Harry Packard also was discovered with the bug. Art Irons had been marked for some months. So we were all put together in the same room in the Dysentery Barracks. It's nice to be together again, we had quite a bit in common. I wrote Dr. Tuck who is free in Manila and he sent me some money and some Dysentery medicine. I have now taken the first course and next week will take the second. I now weigh 185 and am feeling good and caring on my work, preaching and teaching bible class and visiting my men in the barracks and hospital. I am sent out to work on the farm 3 or 4 days a week the last n two weeks while taking this treatment I have been let off.

As I opened by saying, we believe that our time as prisoners is getting short. We are not allowed any news but rumors get in, most of them false but a little knowledge of the situation does get through. God has brought me this far and I believe our prayers will be answered and we will be in each other's arms before too many months has passed. Mippy darling, and Warren, Peggy, and Dicky, I really have discovered just how much we love each other. Life is so empty without you and my greatest ambition is to be back at your side and make up some of the lost time of companionship with my two boys and my young lady. I know you have been mother and father to them Mippy and thank God for you every night. Your load is with your worry of uncertainty have been much harder than mine. I could fight death and for life in a realistic battle. Yours has been harder in just nothing but uncertainty.

Dr. Tuck has sent me a hundred pesos and some medicine that I agreed to cover when out. Some of this money I relent to friends but this has been the margin that has cared me through. I am now able to get bananas, duck eggs, beans and peanuts. We are now being fed 25 pesos a month by the Japs. The food issue is far better than it was earlier and as a result our death rate has dropped from 40 to 50 a day to 1 or 2 a month. Some difference. I got a radio message from you, the only word received, the early part of August 1943. It was a breath from heaven. The Red Cross has not been allowed to come in or help us. We got two Red Cross Christmas packages last Christmas and it was that food that stopped our terrible death rate. They have given us very little medicine. Well darling, I'm feeling fine honest and looking forward confidently to the next few months. I know our prayers meet daily at the throne of Grace. May God continue to uphold and keep us both and reunite us in the near future. Whatever happens you will always know our eternal love and the joy it has brought to us. Love the children for me.

Love,

Ralph
Canathanuan, Camp #1
Nov. 6, 1942

Dear Mippie and Children:

Again I take my pen and try to get through. We don't know what is ahead so I will try to get this to Elmo, in Manila who is free and can some day get it back to you. I am well and doing all right. I weighted October 30th at 196 so you see I haven't wasted away. I still worship at the shrine of my families' picture each day and pray God's watch, care and protection over all of you and that you will be given divine assurance of my welfare. I want to give you my story this far as much as I can because I may not be able to later. We had a paper (Jap propaganda sheet) telling of the sinking of a Japanese transport carrying war prisoners. So any such trip won't be any too safe. I don't mean I'm scared. I've been divinely cared for too well to have fear. I just go ahead as events take me and God leads me and I say His will will be done. But should trouble be ahead I'd like to get this much of the story to you while there is a chance.

We were bombed incessantly at Clark Field from the 8th till the 28th of December, five or six raids a day. I was all over the place visiting and encouraging our men. I refused to get down or hide till the planes were actually over me. Some of the doctors got mad at me because I wouldn't hide with them every time the siren blew. I made two trips to Manila sending radics for the men (and myself). Sent off more than $5000 worth. I sent you a money order December 24th. I never received word from you after your air mail that I got November 29th till I got your word from you after your air mail that I got November 29th till I got your two through Cebu while in Bataan. I went back each night for a week and was there last on Dec. 31st. I had to abandon foot locker and all my things except my field uniform. I was post Chaplain the last two weeks at Stots Jan 11 I was assigned as Senior Chaplain of Far Eastern Air Forces with Hq at 169 (Little Bagio) in Bataan. A few weeks later Genera George moved me to Bataan field Km 156 where I lived until the night of the surrender, April 7th. I covered all of Bataan serving the beaches and fields and checking with my three Chaplains on the front lines frequently. I covered 2000 miles on Bataan roads in January. I would leave my tent Monday, get back Saturday. Held an average of 2 services a day and six on Sunday. I ate and slept with whatever outfit I was with when the time came. I haven't been in a bed since December 23rd, 1941. Most of the time I've slept on the ground or on boards since the capture. I have one woolen blanket. We're very thankful for a warm climate. Holy week I held 18 services and hundreds of men took part. We didn't realize how close we were to the end. Our men were in bad shape, our medicine was given out and our air men were trying to fly in quinine in an old 11 yr old 100 miles an our plane without a gun on it, Blanca Monoplane. I got a bad case of dysentery on Bataan but sulphathiazol saved me. Our meals were cut to two a day Jan 1st. Supplies started running low by the end of January. The middle of February bread ran out. Meat of any kind was soon gone. Sugar and salt were gone. We ate rice. By the middle of March we were getting very small servings of that. Occasionally we got a piece of carabao and horse or mule. A small piece for each camp. Of course the quartermaster and Hqts groups ate but the men doing the fighting starved. I know what it is to go to bed night after night with that gnawing ache in my middle because I had almost nothing to eat that day. Corregidor ate well right up till their surrender a month after we were gone and then the Japs got ship loads of food out of the tunnels.
November 9 - I kept quite busy there, was senior chaplain, had Navy Chaplain Quinn (Episcopalian) and 3 Catholic priests. The camp was in 6 groups, about 2000 to a group to start with. I handled groups 1 and 2, Quinn Group III (Navy and Marines) & a little hospital. I held Bible classes 3 nights a week and had 200 to 300 present nightly. It sure surprised me. Our Sunday services had 400 to 500 per Sunday. I had to write my sermons each week and submit them for Japanese approval. Occasionally parts were red penciled.

My cemetery at Camp III was the best in the Islands. Located on a little knoll, with good drainage. I got the Japanese cooperation and a glass bottle with full data on each body permanent identification buried with them at the head of each grave. No other cemeteries here have any permanent identification buried with their bodies.

I am now at Camp I. It is not so good but we'll all be right. Am glad to be back with Harry P. He is running a kitchen and I get extras that help, through him. Shorts died here Oct. 30. Lt. Griffith (now Major) died 2 months back. He never saw his baby born Dec. '41. Jullie went to Mindanao on Jan. '42. Haven't heard since. Hope he's O.K.

Our rainy season this year was late but has continued through Oct. The last 2 days it seems to be clearing up. Raining today. It has been disagreeable at times but we've gotten through pretty well. We eat rice 3 times a day with greens or soup made from potato (comodi tops) We got Carabao once or twice a week about a 1 inch cube each. The last month the meat ration has been tripled. I bought all the canned meat and fish I could get. That is why I have kept up so well. Men that didn't get it are now going blind, getting paralysis, sores, etc. Americans can't live on rice. The vitamin deficiency is continuing to kill our men off. We have hopes we may be paid by the Japanese. We have been promised pay several times since the 1st of August, but none yet. We sure would like to know what's going on in the outside world and how long this thing will continue. In a few more days you will have another birthday and then another Christmas. The children will be a year older. Warren is a young man. Peggy a young lady & Dick wishing his Dad was home to take him hiking. Patience is sure a virtue hard to attain. But it will all pass through.
Saturday night, Easter eve I came down with 106 temperature and fever, a bad case of malaria. The doctor dosed me so that I broke out in a sweat about 3 A.M. and I really soaked everything. I had seven Easter services scheduled and insisted I must go. They kept me doped so I didn't wake up till 7. Missed my first two services, hurried to 8th Interceptor Command for 8 A.M. service, got through it somehow. Then Bill Kennard and Col. Churchill (who replaced Gen. George in command) came and gave me a Direct Order to proceed to my camp and go to bed and hold no more Easter services. I didn't argue. I was licked and sick. I didn't leave my bed till Wed. Went out to the toilet, was chased off by bombers and the toilet I was on 3 minutes before was blown to bits. Went back, got my clothes on. They came back, I got in my fox hole, a 500 pounder hit 25 yards behind me, another detonated in a tree just over it. My tent was riddled and my bed torn to pieces. Your picture got a hole through it just above your head. I helped care for the wounded. The Doctor came and ordered me back to bed "before I had to be carried back." That was 4:30 P.M. at 7:30 we got orders to evacuate our camp, that the lines had disintegrated and the Japs were coming. I took two wounded officers and left for the hospital #11. My car had a hole in the gas tank. It was all shot anyway (the third car I'd gone through in Bataan, Ponty, Chevrolet, and Ford V 8). My car finally quit and I pushed it into the ditch and went on on the a 31st Inf. Truck, got my men to the hospital and went on to report to our Hqts which were then at 169. Just before I got there at 11:30 P.M. they blew our magazines through which I was to go to get to our Hqts. They blew 4 A.M. No one knew anything, confusion was wild. We heard that surrender would be effective at 6 A.M. but we were bombed and machine gunned mercilessly all that day. In the afternoon we got word to go to Km. W160 where A.G. would surrender. We marched the three kms under a white flag. I got my first good meal for three months, a canned ration. Our men broke in and took them. That night the Japs came in while we slept. 8 A.M. we went back to Mariveles field where we lined up and started marching. We were continually plundered by Jap soldiers and a bayonette thrust you was the penalty of objection. Your ring was yanked off your finger before I had gone the first Km. We marched all day and into the night, no food, a very little water, I was beat with a canteen once, casual, the amusement of the Jap Pvt. Otherwise I was lucky. My wallet was taken. That night the Japs came crowded paddy field into a rough plowed rice paddy. We drank foul, stagnant water and it was wonderful to get it. Didn't have room enough to stretch out. Early we started marching again. Marched all day, no food again. We were promised food at Balanga, but instead we were lined up and started marching again. We marched on to 0 ani, got in between w and 3 A.M. We're crowded into a filthy pond with thousands of Philippinos and again there wasn't room to lie down. Many of our men fell out exhausted. That got them a beating, later shot. The next day we sat in the sun all day, no shade, April 12 terribly hot. More men went down. I worked all day trying to help the sick. Worked my arm band and got out of the stockade and at 3 P.M. they gave us half a cup of cooked rice. It got to two-thirds of our men. I beg and pleaded for the rest. Came near getting it (beating) but finally they came through and served the rest. I burried a Capt and an A.G. boy there. Had to run to catch my column as they marched at 6:00 P.M. We marched double time for the first two hours, guards rode bigyoles. Then we walked a snails pace the rest of the night which was harder than the double. Allowed us no water that night. Morning found us in Lubao. A 10 minute stop and we were on the road again, no food. That was my worst day. We got to San Fernando about 3:30 P.M. completely done in. Put in another
in time and be just a bad dream. We have some wonderful years ahead yet, dear. So let's look forward to them and in their light pass through this period. Harry Julian who came over on our boat has teamed up with me. He is now a temporary Major too. We have pooled our food. Do our cooking together, etc. His wife Anna Bell is at 289-B St Joseph Ave Long Beach, California. If this beats me home you might write her. He is well and O.K. Harry P and A. Irons are both well and doing alright. Col. Fields is better than I've seen him since the war started.

My Majority was on the order publicised April 7 and I accepted April 8th. Well darling I sure hope I beat this letter home but if not I sure hope it gets and will fill up to some extent a lot of voids. In many ways your suffering has been much harder than mine. The uncertainty of the situation must have almost driven you crazy at times. I do love you, darling, and believe we have more wonderful years ahead of us to grow older together in. I've tried hard to do my duty to God and my country and build a record my wife and children could be proud of. I was told since coming to this camp that General King will recommend me for the Distinguished Service cross when it's over. The Air Corps units I served have been sighted three times. So in medals, etc., starting with unit I served my D.S.C. I'll be well decorated. Love me on through, dear, because love will win.

Love
Ralph
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INTERVIEW WITH

MR. NORTON CLAPP

BY R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON

November 8, 1977

T: Norton, I noticed that you were born in California.

C: That's right, Pasadena, California, April 15, 1906, which was Easter Sunday.

The next time Easter Sunday comes on April 15 is in about the year 1979.

T: I notice in Who's Who that your father's first name was Eban. Is that right?

C: Eban.

T: Is that a family name?

C: I think so. His name was Eban Pratt Clapp and he was named after some relative by the name of Eban Pratt.

T: Wasn't he a medical doctor?

C: Yes.

T: I recall him going around with me for speeches when he was visiting here many years ago. Did he practice in Chicago?

C: In Evanston, Illinois. He went to school at Northwestern University and then he went to a school called Hahnemann, which was a medical school but it is a form of practice which has pretty well gone out. I remember he had a medicine case with a lot of little bottles in it, and each bottle had fluid, and he would take some plain pills, which were known as sugar pills and pour a few drops of the fluid into that bottle and shake it and then he would right then and there give it to the patient so the patient did not have to go to the drug store.

T: Didn't he have something to do with reversing of the Chicago River?

C: I don't know about that. I know that he was back there at the time that they did it.
T: He told me, as I recall, that he had something to do with reversing the Chicago River so that it didn't empty the garbage from Chicago into Lake Michigan but emptied it down the Mississippi River.

C: That's where it went, yes. Father was the health officer in Evanston, Illinois, and that was in the early days of the sanitary codes and health officers.

T: When did he move to Pasadena, do you remember?

C: My grandparents bought a house out there in 1900 and I guess my father and mother went out to visit them and my grandfather built a house for them in 1905, and I was born in that house in 1906, but I can also remember that after that, until 1912, we would go back to Evanston, Illinois. In 1912 and it seems to me it was right in the middle of the school year as they took me out of school and we moved to California permanently.

T: Can we go back even a little further in the history of your family? Did you have a home in Winona, Minnesota?

C: My mother was born there and my grandparents did live in Winona, Minnesota, and they had a home there, yes.

T: Was it in Winona where your mother had the fireplace in her bedroom which you gave to the University?

C: Yes, that was her own bedroom, upstairs, and I remember when they tore the house down I had the fireplace tiles saved because it was made of rather nice, special tiles and when the president's house was built at U.P.S., you and I agreed it would be a nice place to put them.

T: It has been an ideal spot in the president's study. For the 31 years I lived there,
not quite 31 years--25 years--I looked and there was "Tempus Fugit". Time flies! And it certainly did.

C: That was pretty good.

T: We had the architect design it particularly for that fireplace and the tile, but I remember you told me many years ago you used to like to go up to the bedroom -- was it your grandmother's or your mother's?

C: That was my mother's.

T: Your mother's bedroom, because you enjoyed so very much being there when you were very young, where she read to you and told stories to you. So I am very thrilled that this has meant the same kind of precious situation at the University.

C: Didn't some of the furniture from the house in Winona go in there also?

T: I'm not sure but I think probably some of the furniture that you had at Greenwood came to us. It is still there--a davenport, a loveseat, special credenzas, and that sort of thing. It is beautiful furniture and has rendered great service.

I am trying to remember, Norton, whether it was your father or O. D. Fisher that told me the beginning of the Weyerhaeuser Company. Tell me whether this is legend or lore or fact. There were three--the Norton family, the Clapp family, and the Weyerhaeuser family and all had timber holdings in Minnesota and they would cut the trees down and then float them down in the spring and it was a difficult job separating them, so the three of them one time said let's form a company. Do you know whether this is fact or fiction?

C: Well, partly both. The Clapps were not in that one. This was before the Clapps came on the scene. The Nortons and the Laird-Norton Company consisted of my grandfather, his brother, James L. Norton, and my grandfather was Matthew G.
Norton; and then their cousin, William H. Laird. That was Laird-Norton Company. They operated as one unit, first as a partnership, later as a company, and that company is still in existence. Then, there were other people who owned timber and cut timber in Wisconsin and then floated it down the streams and rivers of Wisconsin to the Mississippi and then down to the mill. Now, the highest mill on the Mississippi was the Laird-Norton Mill and then later down the river there was a mill in Clinton, Iowa, (I forget the names of the people), and then at Muscatine, Iowa, the Musser family, and at Rock Island, Illinois, was the Weyerhaeuser-Denkman Mill. Mr. Weyerhaeuser's first partner was Mr. F. C. A. Denkman who was Johnny Hauberg's grandfather. Then up in Wisconsin were the Ingrams at Eau Claire. What happened was that some years you had floods; some years you had droughts; some years all the logs went busting through; some years they got hung up, and so all these mill operators got together and formed a company, known as the Mississippi River Logging Company, and it, in effect, ran a pooling of the logs. It was their job to see that the logs got down and to the various mills. By pooling, I mean that in some instances you didn't get your own logs, you got someone else's equivalent logs just because of what nature did that year. So the result was that the Mississippi River Logging Company became a little group where these people got acquainted and then later on, as Mr. Weyerhaeuser, who was the natural leader of the group, got more ideas for investments he would usually invite the others to come along with him. This happened in Minnesota; this happened in Wisconsin, and it happened later on in Idaho and finally in 1900 this is how the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company came into being. In each case, the various people were given the opportunity to come in and become
shareholders.

T: In the history of the Pacific Northwest, when the railroad came, the federal government gave them every other section six miles from the line.

C: It was more than six.

T: Was it?

C: It was either ten or twenty, I forget which.

T: But it was spotted.

C: Checkerboard.

T: Checkerboard. Now, the leadership of the Weyerhaeuser Company worked it out so that the checkerboard could be made solid.

C: Well, what happened first was that the first purchase was made from the Northern Pacific Railroad and that was definitely a checkerboard purchase. When it comes to operating, it is pretty difficult to operate a checkerboard. It is a lot easier to operate solid pieces of land, so the first few years of the company were involved in acquiring the missing sections, some of which were homesteaded, some of which were issued on Northern Pacific script (and I'm not sure what that was exactly) but gradually, in some cases they were able to block it up and in other cases they would exchange it with other owners. Even today, that exchanging is still going on because it still is a solid idea. Today most of the exchanging is done with the government, which often happens to have the national forests as alternate sections.

T: In the history of the Pacific Northwest, there is a statement, and I wonder if it is true, that this exchanging and acquiring amounted to 900,000 acres, the largest transaction.

C: That was the first purchase.

T: Now I notice in the Weyerhaeuser Company report there is something like 1,540,000 acres.
C: In the State of Washington? I suppose. The Company owns 5,300,000 acres now, I think, but that is Washington, Oregon, Oklahoma, Mississippi, North Carolina, Arkansas, Alabama.

T: Riding along in Arkansas last summer, all of sudden, here was a logo from Weyerhaeuser.

C: Made you feel at home!

T: Made me feel right at home. I told Lucille we were right at home with Weyerhaeuser.

C: Roughly half of that land is in either Washington or Oregon.

T: That's been the largest single private transaction in history, hasn't it? The only other bigger one was the Louisiana Purchase.

C: I don't know whether that is right or not. I have never heard that.

T: I have been giving a speech on "The Washington We Don't Know."

C: I really don't know.

T: This came out of part of the research.

C: Comparing it to the Louisiana Purchase is really rather unfair. You're talking about a private purchase of land.

T: Yes.

C: But I think Southern Pacific and International Paper each own more land than Weyerhaeuser.

T: What I'm really saying is that it was a marvelous organization and very astute, thoughtful thinking. When did the Clapp family come into this? Out of the negotiations of the Mississippi company?

C: No, no. The Clapp family came in when my father married my mother. Then
later on he became a director of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and then he became a director of Boise- Cascade Lumber Company and for several years served as its president. He was also a director of the Potlatch yards and Potlatch forests and Northwest Paper Company. So he was sort of a representative of our family on these various boards in which our total family had stock ownership.

T: You were born in California. Where did you go to school—did you go to school in California?

C: I went to Polytech Elementary School in Pasadena and then I went . . .

T: Was that a private school?

C: Yes. I went through the first eight grades; then I went to Pasadena High School for four years; that was public school. Then I went to Occidental College for three years and then I went to the University of Chicago and took law for three years.

T: Did you go into law school early? I mean you only went to high school three years . . .

C: Four years to high school and three years in college, but there was an arrangement at Occidental by which if you took your fourth year at a graduate school you got a bachelor's degree.

T: What were your special interests in high school?

C: I don't remember.

T: Were you interested in debate, athletics?

C: I worked on the stage crew in the theater. I enjoyed anything to do with electricity. I belonged to the radio club. I belonged to the ROTC and my father had me study Latin. I remember he said you couldn't be educated without studying Latin, and I didn't care much for that. I don't remember anything awfully spectacular about my
high school education. I remember I rode my bicycle three miles each way to go to school.

T: When you got to Occidental, what did you major in?
C: I majored in political science.
T: Was college easy for you?
C: I think it was relatively easy, yes.
T: Did you like mathematics?
C: No, I hated it. I had a little trouble with that. I enjoyed science and in high school I took physics as I wanted to take physics at Occidental. I was told I couldn't unless I took mathematics, so I said all right, I'm not going to take physics and I didn't.
T: Then you went to the University of Chicago School of Law.
C: Yes. Then I started learning what it meant to study.
T: Do you remember who the dean was?
C: Yes. His name was James Parker Hall.
T: Who was the president of the University of Chicago then, do you remember?
C: Woodward.
T: That was before Hutchins.
C: Just before.
T: Dean Hall was quite an author, wasn't he? He wrote several books.
C: Yes, he did.
T: I remember his books. Were you on the Board of Trustees at the University of Chicago when Hutchins was President?
C: Oh, no, I went on years later.
T: Did you major in any special phase of law?

C: Well, we didn't have much choice. It was a pretty general program and I don't remember that we had many options. I think I just took pretty much the standard course.

T: They now have the standard course the first and second years and then they have several options.

C: Well, I think there is more specializing now then there was then.

T: As you well know, you can go into state, tax, corporate, marine law, etc.

Then, after you graduated from the University of Chicago, where did you go then?

C: I got married that year and we went to Hawaii and I took both the Washington and California bar exams and then I moved to Tacoma and was hired as a clerk in the law firm of Hayden, Langhorn and Metzger. This was probably October of 1929.

T: It must have been quite an experience to work with Metzger.

C: It was, but you should have seen the other two.

T: I knew Langhorn but I didn't know Hayden, but I knew Langhorn and Metzger.

C: Well, they were all different.

T: Metzger had been a Rhodes Scholar.

C: Yes.

T: He used to call me after he had a little liquid libation and say, "Blankety-blank, Franklin, let's get all the Rhodes Scholars together and you put on the program and I'll furnish the entertainment and the refreshments," and we would discuss that at some length. I had great regard and affection for Metzger.

C: A good man.

T: You bet. When you went to Hawaii did you then think about the Halakulani?
C: I stayed at the Halakulani, and at that time it wasn't very much of a place but it was a very pleasant spot, and that's when I got acquainted with it.

T: It certainly is a beautiful spot even yet. I think I told you I had lunch with one of the main architects in Honolulu and he said that he desperately hoped that it could remain as it is. I asked him if there was anything he could do to help the tax situation. (laughter) His son graduated with us and is very much interested in it. Then you worked with those three men for a number of years?

C: I was in there for about two or three years. Archie Blair was the other clerk and the law business got so bad that they let me and one of the secretaries go to cut down their costs. I would guess that was maybe in 1931 or '32. Meantime, however, I had gotten acquainted with the town, the lawyers and the courthouse and I thought that I had a pretty good start.

T: Was this about the time when you used to go up to the YMCA to play volleyball?

C: Gee, I forgot about that. I guess it must have been. I do remember doing it a little bit--either there or at the Congregational Church. I don't remember which one it was.

T: Well, you played volleyball almost every noon at the YMCA. Do you ever remember meeting Harry Brown when he was president of the YMCA in those instances?

C: I don't remember, no.

T: In my interview with Harry Brown on tape, he said that he remembered when he was president of the YMCA he used to come and watch them play volleyball at noon and that you were one of the best volleyball players.

C: I was tall and skinny, then.

T: He said at that time he broached the subject of your coming on the Board of Trustees at the University of Puget Sound. Do you recall that at all?
C: No, I don't. One interesting thing was that before I knew Harry Brown I knew Haley, his partner, and I remember that the Haleys had Mary and me up for Sunday lunch once in awhile at their house.

T: That was Cliff Haley, Sr.?

C: Yes. As did also the J. P. Weyerhaeusers who were George's grandparents. They lived out, as you know, on the bluff up towards the Smelter.

T: Yes, that was Haddon Hall.

C: Hadeway Hall.

T: That was a copy of Hadeway Hall in England.

C: Well, it looked very English.

T: I know I talked to Mr. Weyerhaeuser one time about it and he said it was a modified copy.

Do you ever recall being associated with Dr. Todd in those early days?

C: Well, somewhere along the line he came drifting in the office to see me, but I don't remember just how I got on the Board--whether it was he or Harry Brown. I'm trying to think who was Chairman of the Board then.

T: E. L. Blaine.

C: Yes, E. L. Blaine. Anyway, somebody, probably Dr. Todd, got me on the Board, and we used to meet in the morning, as I remember, in an office right across • the hall from the president's office.

T: Yes, that's right--that was called the Trustees Room. Harry Brown tells me that he watched you play volleyball and he liked your interest and he suggested to Dr. Todd your name and Dr. Todd worked on it.
C: It could very well be.
T: Do you recall ever meeting Mr. Everell S. Collins at those meetings?
C: Yes. He showed up once in awhile.
T: Can you tell me a little about him?
C: He was a . . . shall I use the word, dour?
T: It's a good word.
C: He didn't say a great deal but I think when he did say something people listened. I think we appreciated the fact that he came all the way from Portland to a meeting. I can't remember him doing anything very exciting or outstanding but I remember he was one of the old guard when I got there.
T: He was the one when in 1913 the trustees had a special meeting to determine whether they would keep the school going and he said, "You only need $6,000. I'll give $3,000 if you will raise $3,000," so he kept it going and there are three different times in the history when that situation appears in the minutes. Is it fair to ask you what you thought of the school when you first started going to the Board meetings?
C: It's fair to ask. I think, with my legal background, I was rather interested in the way a board of trustees acted and how they met and the procedures and the discussions, etc. I would say that my interest was as much in that as it was in the school. I knew that the school was a good school and all that, but I think really I was attracted more to the way the board functioned and the way President Todd reported to us and how the trustees reacted. I got to thinking this morning that there is nobody around now who was there when I was first there. But we had a group of trustees who were, I would say, just about as interested as they are today--probably
a little less because we are working them harder today. They came distances and con-
tributed...

T: You probably remember Dr. Whitacre, Mr. Newbegin, Mumaw, and the group like that.

C: Mumaw came from the Harbor. I knew Horace Whitacre quite well. He was a
determined soul.

T: He was strong-willed, all right.

C: I remember Newbegin was mayor one time.

T: He was the man who when they were going to build Kittredge Hall got eighteen
different kinds of plywood so it could be a display of the use of plywood. Plywood was just coming into being at that time and he got a lot of plywood donated by the various companies.

C: It was really quite a group. There was a lawyer from Seattle who became a judge over there later. He did a lot of talking. Al Hooker was there.

T: The lawyer was Cramer. Later Judge Cramer. He was an alumnus.

C: Yes. I do remember that I helped push through the deal by which we decided there wasn't too much risk having six alumni trustees. I remember I thought that was a real step forward.

T: It has been very good through the years. Could you characterize Dr. Todd?

C: It has been a long time since I thought about him. I would say that he was certainly a minister turned college president, but I think he always looked more like a minister than you do! (Laughter) I don't think he ever got away from his ministerial characteristics. I think people liked him and I think they were glad that he was running the school. I wasn't close enough to know how much he was doing
and how much the Board was doing in the early days. Meetings seemed to go along pretty smoothly except when Cramer kept bringing up things—but they were more interesting that earthshaking. Todd would make a good talk. I think he was well but liked in the community. I think he overstayed his time.

T: When we dedicated Todd Hall, he said, "I am glad to have this building named for me but I wish it were an academic building rather than a dormitory because I'd a lot rather be known as an academician than as a money-raiser," and, of course, we all feel that same way, but I think he knew, too, that it would probably be the only building that would be built while he was alert, and for that reason it was named for him, as you know.

C: I think it was nice that it was done.

T: Were you a part of the James Hill campaign to meet the challenge?

C: I don't seem to remember being involved in that.

T: How about the allocation of the Howarth funds to the University from the City? Do you remember anything about that?

C: No.

T: You will recall that Mr. Howarth left $150,000 to the City to be used where its greatest use could be and there was a lot of politicking to get it for the University, which finally happened.

C: I don't remember being involved in that. That could have been before my time.

T: I think it was.

C: Howarth Hall was built when I came on the Board.

T: It was built in two stages—first the ground level and then on top. Were both phases completed?

C: I kind of think so.
T: Do you remember being elected secretary of the Board?

C: Yes. What was the name of the man who was secretary before me?

T: Dix Rowland.

C: Dix, I guess, was both secretary and treasurer. He was secretary and I guess he thought it would be a good idea, since I had law training, to take that over. Then I think Dix continued on as treasurer. Being secretary was a thing I liked to do, because I got myself into writing minutes and keeping records.

T: Would you tell me a little about Dix Rowland?

C: The first time I ever met Dix Rowland was when I came out to the State of Washington in 1929 and took the bar exam and he was one of the three lawyers who was in charge of giving the bar exam. He did that for years and that was when I met him and I think I had an interview with him. After all, I was a guy from out of state. He was always nice to me, from the very beginning, and I have always enjoyed him. He had a very gentle way about him; he had a firmness to him, too, but he was very much of a gentleman, and I think he generally fit the role of secretary well and he was a good trustee and a good treasurer. I know that for years and years, in the Finance Committee, it seems to me that he and I were there at practically every meeting when the others might or might not. I can't for the moment remember who else was on it. We used to meet in my office in the Washington Building, as I remember.

T: Was Will Kilworth on it at that time?

C: Either then or later. I am not certain. I'm now talking about pre-war days. I remember that we had a terrible lot of mortgages and not much else. We gradually got more and more worried about mortgages. This was in the depression when they were foreclosing them right and left; and as we had a chance we moved into more conventional securities.
T: Didn't Dix Rowland and Charles Robbins go out and evaluate houses and put ... 
C: Yes, yes. Charlie Robbins, that's right. He was the bursar and Charlie would look at everything and I think Dix would look at a good many things and not only would he check the new mortgages but he would sort of come back with a long tale and tell how bad the old ones were.
T: I remember when I came there were about 15 houses mortgaged and we worked out of them as fast as we could to get into something else.
C: We had apartment houses--I remember we had an apartment house down in Olympia.
T: That was owned by Mr. Dawley.
C: We held
T: We finally got all of our assets out of that, and I tried to talk Mr. Dawley into remembering us in his will. He died about six months ago, but he didn't do it. As a finance committee, you carried that apartment house for years without getting any interest on it. Finally, the state bailed him out.
C: We became experts in the way of losing mortgages, as we had so many of them.
T: Do you recall Charles Robbins and can you tell me a little about him?
C: He was a big fellow and very friendly man; he was almost kind of like a big bear. He was pretty precise and insistent in things that he felt was the way to do things. I think in his latter years he became pretty stubborn, as I remember.
T: He was strong-willed.
C: Strong-willed, that puts it nicely. But I think when his successor came along ... I'm not sure how old Charlie was when he retired, but he was a well-liked person. I can remember the students regarded him as a bit of an ogre.
T: There was a rumor or folklore that went around that Dr. Todd raised the money and Dr. Robbins kept it and that was the reason we were on good financial ground.

C: I think there was a lot to that. He really worked for the University and he was pretty tough. He was what we needed at the time.

T: He taught Spanish and his wife taught Spanish and he sort of worked into this business of business manager. I found him to be most helpful, congenial and consistent, and really an outstanding person in the administration of the University.

C: I think he was. Along toward the end he got a little more difficult, as we do when we get older, don't we—yes? (Laughter)

T: Now we haven't talked too much about E. L. Blaine. Do you remember him and his administration?

C: Yes. I remember him quite well. He again was very much of a gentleman, a quiet man. He presided at the board meetings and did it well; gave people a chance to talk and yet he kept things on the track pretty well. I think one of the last and most interesting memories that I have of Mr. Blaine was when I think we got the Harris Trust. It was at the Seattle-First National Bank, and at that time the trust department was on Second Avenue, on the east side of Second Avenue just south of Columbia Street. The northerly building, not the Dexter-Horton Building. Mr. Blaine, as Chairman, and I, as Secretary, had to go in and sign something at the bank, whatever it was. As we walked into the door, he stopped a minute and he said, "Father and Mother used to live right here." His father was the first, I guess, minister to come to Seattle!

T: It was interesting that when he took me by there one day he said, "This is where
I used to play on my front steps." Now again, I don't know whether it is folklore or fact, but he was reputed to have been the first white boy born in Seattle and when Chief Seattle and the Indians caused some problems his mother took him out in a boat so that they would be safe.

C: I never heard that.

T: I don't know whether it is folklore or fact but anyhow it shows how new this Seattle area really is.

C: Right.

T: I didn't know him until 1942 and he must have been in his eighties then. I remember him as completely dedicated to the University and the kind of person... he would come over every once in awhile and I would see him walking around the campus and he would appoint committees that probably didn't need to be appointed but at the same time he was very much interested. He used to say to me, "Come on over and I'll help you raise money." We would go to his friends and we would get some—not too much. But they were always a little suspicious, because evidently he tried to sell South American bonds or something. Do you recall him wanting the University to invest some of its endowment in South American bonds?

C: No, I don't remember that.

T: Well, I know that when we walked in and we would talk about the College of Puget Sound they would breathe a sigh of relief because they thought he was going to try to sell them South American bonds.

C: Was he in the security business?

T: Well, evidently, as a kind of a hobby or something.
C: I never really knew what he did. I sort of figured he was retired by the time I knew him.

T: The same thing was true of Mumaw. You remember Mumaw?

C: Yes.

T: He would call me and say, "Come on down and we'll go see Bishop and some of the others." So I'd go down and as we walked in I could just sort of sense that people were -- not antagonistic but on their guard. So finally I said to one of the men, "Tell me, does Mr. Mumaw call on you for other things?" He said, "Well, yes, he tries to sell us South American bonds." (Laughter) But Mr. Blaine felt that the bonds were good and they were supposed to pay 12% and he was thinking they would pay very good interest.

C: Sure, as long as they pay it.

T: I don't think they paid it but this was a very interesting little sidelight.

I am to talk to his son, E. L. Blaine, Jr., about his father and I plan to talk to Mr. Rowlands' two daughters about their father.

C: Good. I haven't see Ed Blaine for a long time. He has retired from Washington Mutual, hasn't he?

T: That's right. Mr. E. L. Blaine, Sr., said, "Doctor, I want to give you a mimosa tree for the University." I said, "Fine, that would be fine." He said, "Send your truck driver over and I'll have it for you." So the truck driver called me and said, "Say, I have a real problem. He wants me to dig this mimosa up right in front of a beautiful house and I don't think I ought to do it." It was in Broadmoore I think. I told him, "Don't do that," and the driver came back. I called Mr. Blaine, Jr., and
told him about it. He said, "My God, if that tree were gone, my wife'd have a heart attack. We'll buy you a mimosa tree." So we got a mimosa tree which we put in back of the president's house.

C: Was E. L. going to give his son's tree to the University?

T: Yes. (Laughter) Right out of the front lawn!

Do you recall the end of the Todd regime and when they talked about getting a new president?

C: I think this was when I was in the Navy.

T: That would be 1941-42.

C: Yes. I was really away about then. I sort of had a leave of absence from the school and I remember I wasn't even on the selection committee.

T: When did you go into the Navy?

C: I went in the Navy September, 1942.

T: I remember calling on you in the Exchange Building.

C: That was after I was in the Navy.

T: Yes. You were on the top floor and Truman Collins was about four floors below.

C: I was on the ninth floor, I believe.

T: I remember you had a commanding officer who had a voice box.

C: Right. Captain Ingraham.

T: He seemed like a very interesting person.

C: I sort of think--of course, I was sick and that's when I had my gall bladder out, so I didn't have a very good summer in 1942 so I was pretty much out of touch at the University. When did you come there?
T: August, 1942.

C: Well, I was just about out of the running by the time you came on the campus.

T: When did you come out of the Navy?

C: I came out in December 1945.

T: Then you came back to Tacoma?

C: No. We stayed there in Seattle and later in Medina.

T: When did you come back to Tacoma?

C: When I became president of Weyerhaeuser in January of 1960. I had an apartment over there and later we built a house.

T: Do you remember anything unusual about the University in those years?

C: The unusual thing was you. We had a new president who was gung-ho to build the school for the future.

T: It was a great experience working with you, because I enjoyed it very much. I never felt that I wanted to usurp on your time and yet at the same time, it was wonderful to sit down and talk with you from time to time. You became Chairman of the Board in 1967.

C: I couldn't remember. Ten years now. That's good. I'll mark that down and run out my ten years and get someone else. I have decided one thing. I'm not going to be senile--I'm going to get out before I become senile.

T: I think that is commendable for all of us.

Do you recall any special things as Chairman of the Board? Remember the Long-Range Planning Commission we set up?

C: Oh, boy, I'll say.

T: Do you remember the philosophy back of it?
C: I guess the philosophy was that we really ought to take a look at everything we were doing and try to determine what kind of a school we wanted and how to get there.

T: Do you recall that in 1943 I asked the trustees to set up a long-range planning commission because we had some real problems. The facilities, the library, the athletic facilities, the basic philosophy of the school, how large we wanted to become, trying to anticipate what would happen after the war?

C: No, the one I remember is the more recent one. I don't remember that 1942 one. Was I on it?

T: I think you were.

C: I don't seem to remember it.

T: I checked the minutes not too long ago in writing this history and about the second or third year I asked for a long-range planning commission to face the problems we would face right after the war.

C: I remember we had some real problems with enrollment during the war and then the tremendous rush of G.I.'s that came in afterwards. I remember you were scrambling like everything to cover all the bases and to get the plant built to handle them.

T: It was a real problem because, as you said, we were down to about 400 students, with 43 men and the rest were women. Then we got the Army Specialized Training Unit and I had to fly to Washington to get that, and we got it through our congressional delegation. It was only there about a year, but you will recall that we had to make all kinds of adjustments for fire protection, fire lines, water lines and all that sort of thing and we finally got the government to pick up the tab on it. Then after the war was over we had a 500 student influx between first and second semester.
C: The G.I. Bill of Rights came in there somewhere and the government would send
the kids to school and all of a sudden we just had lots of kids.

T: We had some real problems because of the fact that -- how do you staff a faculty,
for instance. We had them meeting from six in the morning until midnight and on
Saturdays, and everything else. I appreciated so much the flexibility of the trustees
in helping us meet those things.

C: I can remember after the war we had General Jonathan Wainwright come and we
gave him an honorary degree or something. He made a tremendous impression on me.

We used to have some pretty good convocations in those days. I don't know what
has happened to convocations but they were fine. School was smaller and it was
easier. We used to spend more time in the auditorium there in the main building
than we ever have since.

T: We had Patrons and Founders Day, you remember, and we had other convo-
cations. One of the chapters that I hope to do in this history is to tell about the
unusual people that we had--we had Carl Sandburg, we had Eisenhower, Nixon twice,
we had Wainwright, we had the editor of the Methodist papers, lots of bishops here,
and it is going to be very interested because we must have had fifty different ones
and we exposed the students to them and it was part of their education. Another
chapter I want to do is on the minorities. We have always had minorities and our

charte r, thank God, said in 1888 that no one shall be denied admission because of
race, creed, color or sex. I was called long distance on that last week--on what did
our charter say on this and I was happy to quote it.

C: Who called you on that?

T: Well, it was some black leader out of Olympia. I said I was very happy to say
that our charter in 1888 said this and there wasn't much more that could be said.

Do you remember setting up the University Council?

C: You mean the one with Vander Ende as Chairman? Oh sure. I think what happened was that we had bombins in Seattle; we had great student unrest, and then the faculty started swarming around. I recall that, very gingerly, the Board decided that we'd better meet with the faculty and I can remember that our first meeting was down at the Puget Sound National Bank where we felt that the trustees would be more comfortable and with the faculty away from their home ground. We sort of sat across the table and stared at each other, but I really think that was the beginning of a new era of confidence and trust and communication that I don't regret.

T: I thought it was a very fine way of handling the situation. Every one of the 2600 campuses had problems and there was kind of a psychology of "if we're not involved in it there is something wrong with us" and this gave us a chance to hear the students and the faculty, etc. Before we get into that, do you recall taking me to lunch in 1942 and saying that it wasn't fair that there was a debt on Kittredge Hall and we ought to do something about it?

C: No, I don't remember that.

T: Well, on the 16th of November you took me to lunch and said that it wasn't fair—that Kittredge Hall should have been paid for before the new administration came into being and you looked at me kind of quizzically and said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll match every dollar you can raise between now and December 31 in order to do away with the indebtedness." The minutes of the Board of Trustees are not clear. It said that the building would cost $25,000 and then they took it up to $54,000 and then it says there was a debt of $40,000. My understanding was that there was
a debt of $8,000 when I came. So we had good fortune and I took you to lunch on
the last day of the year and told you that I had raised $31,634.25. Do you remember
that?
C: You mean you bought the lunch that time?
T: I bought the lunch that time. Do you remember you looked at me and got a twinkle
in your eye and said, "Franklin, remind me never to do this again as long as I live."
(Laughter). But you wrote out a check and God bless you, it did away with the
indebtedness on Kittredge and began the fund to landscape the campus.
C: I had forgotten it was Kittredge but I guess you are right.
T: That was a wonderful relationship. I think I mentioned to you some time ago
that it taught me how to raise money.
C: It was the proof of the pudding on the utility of matching gifts.
T: It really was, and it taught me that I could do it. I shall never forget that when
I was being considered for the presidency, Mr. Blaine said to me, "Would you be
afraid to ask Mr. Weyerhaeuser for money?" I was sort of taken back, and I said,
"Well, he's a human being just like anybody else. If he can give it, he'll say yes
and if he can't give anything, he will say no. He can be kind or not. Surely, I
wouldn't be afraid."
C: Sounds like you did it more from optimism than conviction at the moment.
T: It was a strange question.
C: It was a good question, though.
T: Yes, it was. You don't remember the selection but they had about ten different
candidates and they screened them down to two--Mr. Niles of Iowa and he had used
a money organization and raised $100,000 and I had only raised about $20,000 for
Willamette’s 100th anniversary, though my responsibility wasn’t to do that, it was to teach. So I appreciated the question but I was a little bit non-plussed with it.

You were most kind and took away the indebtedness on Kittredge and at the same time taught me how to raise money.

Let’s talk about the president’s residence. Do you remember the Board of Trustees meeting about the president’s residence?

C: Not in detail. I remember there was an awful lot of discussion on whether we ought to use our money for that or not and I think we concluded that there were some real tangible benefits to having the president on the campus. I remember that part of it and I remember that it took a long time to really figure out how to finance it.

T: That’s true. Now again, when Lucile and I came to the College of Puget Sound the trustees had said that one of these days they would build us a house and this was a part of the original agreement. When we came there was only one house to rent and that was on North 30th Street. When the war was over, I said to Lucille one day, "If Bob Ketner, who owns this house, is smart, he will sell it while the market is up." It wasn’t three weeks until he called me and said he wanted to talk to me and told me he was going to sell it. We found one, then, down on North J Street. But I remember that Carl Mahoney, who was district superintendent of the Methodist Church, got up at a meeting and said,"We promised this young fellow we would get him a house as president and we ought to do something about it." Then Harry Brown got up and said, "I’d like to start the fund and I’ll give $2500," and then he said he would pass around a paper and people could subscribe whatever they could. This was sort of an anonymous thing that went around and then you remember that Norton Clapp took the paper and said, "There is $32,000 here. I’ll match it dollar for dollar."
Do you remember that?

C: No.

T: Well you made the president's residence possible. Then I was commissioned to raise some more money for it and it finally cost $90,000. But the first year, Lucille designed it along with the architect, and we had 10,000 in it and each year for many years we had many people there.

C: I think that house has worked out pretty well over the years.

T: It has worked out beautifully.

C: It is well designed, and comfortable.

T: Lucille talked to Mrs. Baxter, who was the wife of the president of Willamette, and she told her to work it out so people could come in the front door, go left down a receiving line, have the living room big enough so it could be a holding operation, then have expediters positioned so that after guests were served in the dining room others could move in there; the french would doors allow guests to go out on the patio on a good day and in poor weather, guests could go into the family room. If it were a large crowd, they could go down in the recreation room. They would never have to cross over, and the arrangement handled the large groups beautifully.

C: A revolving situation.

T: We also had rooms upstairs for the family, so we could have individual family life as well as the public life, so it has worked out. I had always lived in a house with a terrace, which was always a problem, so I said this house would have an 18 inch incline from the sidewalk to the steps and it was done that way. We landscaped it, and Sherman Ingels was the landscape architect, and we had an orchard from
Mr. Morrison of Buena, who couldn't give any money but said he would give us fruit trees. But you made it possible by matching, and we have been forever in your debt. This is what I meant when I said that in the history of the University of Puget Sound there is no doubt that you will be the most outstanding person in the development of the University and I really mean it. I have never totaled up how much you have given to the University but it is a very sizable amount, probably more than any other four or five put together, and it has been most meaningful and helpful. Do you remember any other basic things like the president's residence?

C: Oh, I can remember that I was watching and guiding to a considerable extent this second long-range planning commission when I was chairman of it. I also kept an eye on the University Council and tried to keep the faculty and the trustees, the students and the Council all in their places, and I would rear up sometimes when anybody was stepping across the line. And happily, when I finally told either the students or the faculty that this was as far as they could go, they never went beyond it, and this was pretty fortunate. But I have believed, and I still believe, all along that the trustees are the continuing part of the University. A faculty member--some have loyalty, a lot of them don't have loyalty. Their loyalty is to their profession; they loyalty is to their particular field, and if they see a chance to do better in their field at another school they will pick up and go. That isn't to say that we don't have a lot of loyal faculty members at U.P.S. I would say at that school we have less turnover and that they are good, but I think the only permanent people you have around are the trustees and the alumni. So I have made the point
that the buck stops at the Board of Trustees and the Board will listen to you but
if there is a decision to be made and there is a conflict, the Board has to do it,
and under the law we are the governing body of the University; nobody else is.
T: All the final decisions rest with the Board of Trustees.
C: You ask me what I have been doing. I think I have been doing that more than
anything else over the last few years. Quietly, in the background, but seeing to
it that we are not surrendering something for which we are responsible.
T: That is one of your basic principles of education. What would you say your
philosophy of education is?
C: I don't know that I can answer that because I'm not sure exactly what you mean.
But I'll take a run at it. The Long-Range Planning Commission came up with what
I thought was a good goal for the University and that is that we should give a true
liberal arts education and one of the virtues of a true liberal arts education was
that it prepares people to go on to more specialized work later on, and that in addition,
we would run specialty schools in disciplines where we had special competence and
where there were special need in the area for them. This is one phase of my philosophy
of education. I think the school is about in the right areas. I think where we are
weak is when we forget that times change, and it is awful hard to lop off something.
T: You are talking about specialized schools like Occupational Therapy?
C: Right, and the School of Business, School of Music...I think the important thing
is what the student comes out with, and I think, if I have learned anything in my
forty years of business and law is that much of the technical things that were taught when I was in school are for the most part completely out of date. The fundamentals of history, philosophy, mathematics and some of the liberal arts stay with you. So I think it is terribly important to give young people a broad education on which they can continue to build during their lives and it should carry with it a willingness and a desire and ability to accept change, and I think the one thing that is true in this world is change. As you and I sit here, you look back thirty, forty, fifty years, if anybody had described to you and me the world that we are in today we wouldn't have believed it.

T: You are absolutely right. Think of all the things that have happened.

C: I remember saying up to the time that they went to the moon that one of the great improbables of the world was the statement, "That's just like flying to the moon!"

And all of a sudden, these two guys go up to the moon. Who is to say that we won't have just as much change in the next fifty years?

T: Let's go from your philosophy of education to maybe a little sensitive area but I would like to discuss it. Your philosophy of philanthropy--I have a sneaking suspicion that you are more sought after to support various and sundry causes than probably any other person in the Pacific Northwest, and I know what you have done for the Boy Scouts, for instance. Tell me a little bit about the work of the boy scouts. You were a scout yourself, weren't you?

C: Oh, yes, I went all the way through. I started in as a boy scout; then I was an assistant patrol leader and I was a scribe and an assistant senior patrol leader and a senior patrol leader; assistant scout master and a scout master and then...
later on I went on the executive board of the Mt. Rainier Council at Tacoma, and I was involved with sea scouting over there under Bart Rummel and then I went on the regional executive committee; and then I got put on the national executive board and a good many of the national committees and finally ended up being the President, after being Vice President for about twenty years.

T: Do you remember the year you were President?
C: I think it was 1971. It was a two-year term that started in the middle of the year. I would say mid-1971 to '73. I think that is right.

T: Didn't you give the national scout organization a very large land holding in Arizona or Nevada?
C: I was chairman of the Phillips Property Committee and that Committee was in charge of the Philmont Scout Ranch, which is the biggest camp of the Boy Scouts, and I spent a lot of time down there. This is in northeastern New Mexico, near Cimarron which you can hardly find on the map. It's near Raton, and there was a tract that came on the market, and I just felt that the time of buying cheap land in that country was about gone. As I remember, this came on the market at $20 an acre and I said to myself, $20 an acre isn't very much for land. But it seemed high by historical standards in the area. I finally said to the Boy Scouts, if you fellows will put up part of it, I'll put up part of it. I didn't want to give them something unless they really wanted it. So they had to make up their minds to allocate some of their own funds. Then, between us, we bought it. A year or two later I paid them back what they paid. Maybe that is the way I do charity, but in this case, I wanted a conviction on their part that it was something they wanted rather than
just me saying it is a good thing for you to have. It worked out fine and they
got the top of Baldy Mountain, which is 11,000 feet high.

T: Is it 10,000 acres?

C: I think it was roughly 10,000, but that was added on to the 126,000 they already
had, so it went from 126,000 to 136,000. That seems like a lot of land but I remember
when I was down in Colfax County and I said, "Gee, this is a big ranch." And a
fellow said, "Yeh, it's the fourth largest in the County!" (Laughter) So I got a
little idea of open spaces.

T: You have used this system of matching grants in many cases; I mean like you
did to form Kittredge Hall. Is that a part of your basic philosophy of philanthropy?

C: Yes, sometimes I do; sometimes I don't. There are times when I feel that it will
help the institution to get other funds I'll do it. Sometimes you blast money out and
the result is that your dollars have a multiplier effect.

T: It's a wonderful way to stimulate people to help.

C: It is amazing how people will do it if they think they are getting something free
or are making a gift at half price.

T: Or twice as much. Have you a category of things in which you are interested?

C: I suppose I did. I never really have written it down. I think largely I am
interested in the things I am mentally and emotionally interested in, as well as just
given to.

T: Once or twice in the many, many wonderful years I have known you, I have
heard you say, "I have absolutely no interest in that project,"--not so far as the
University is concerned but about other things.

C: Yes, I find I am not interested in everything.
T: I remember once we talked about the possibility of the music building. Do you remember that? Another project was brought up and you said you had no interest in that project. Of course, you have influenced me tremendously through the years and I was very much interested in the fact that you had a discerning knowledge of what you were interested in and what you weren't interested in.

C: I just have very little interest in music, so I suppose that was why I wouldn't be interested in the music building.

T: You were almost once interested in it. Is there anything else we ought to discuss? We haven't discussed, for instance, the coming of the new administration but probably we shouldn't do that at the moment. Why don't we quit now and then I'll have this transcribed and send it to you and you can edit it.

C: That's fine.

November 14, 1977
INTERVIEW WITH
MRS. EDWARD J. COOPER
DAUGHTER OF DR. WEIR
BY R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON

May 18, 1978

T: When did you say your father probably came to the College of Puget Sound?

Mrs. Cooper: In the fall of 1922. And my, we were discouraged when we saw those buildings because we had come from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and the buildings were nice. That was from Iowa Wesleyan. Immediately, we were told about the new campus that was soon to be occupied. I went to summer school at the old buildings.

T: Your father was in education, wasn't he?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

T: Were you natives of Iowa?

Mrs. Cooper: Dad was born on a farm near London, Ontario, Canada. His mother died and he didn't get along with his stepmother so he left home at 15 and was on his own from then on. / Mother was a native of Illinois and I was born in South Dakota. From Dakota Wesleyan, he went to Simpson College; then to Iowa Wesleyan. We were at each of those places about four years.

T: Dr. Todd brought your father here?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

T: What education did your father have?

Mrs. Cooper: He had his Ph.D. from Jena University in Germany. It was a very famous place for a Ph.D. work and he was always proud of having gotten it there.
T: Were you in the family when he was at Jena University?

Mrs. Cooper: No, this was long before either my brother or I were born.

T: How many children were in your family?

Mrs. Cooper: My father was married before and had a daughter and his wife died. Then when he married my mother, they had my brother and myself.

T: You went to school on the old campus?

Mrs. Cooper: You see, I was still in high school--well, actually, I had graduated from high school and went to summer school on the old campus before I went to the University of Washington. The reason that I went to the University of Washington and there were several reasons--you know how it is with the children in school--and I wanted to major in Latin and they didn't have that at UPS, which kind of worked everything out right because the folks had had a little trouble before with students expecting extra, or actually the other way around. I went to summer school right after they moved to the new campus, too. I think it was between my freshman and sophomore years in college. I took a course in child psychology from my father and maybe you think I didn't work hard! (Laughter). But he was considered a very hard grader and people figured if they got a good grade from him they really had done their work.

T: I've heard nothing but the greatest of admiration from the alumni all through the years with regard to him.

Mrs. Cooper: Well, I think lots of times they felt that he was too hard on them, but afterwards, when they are alumni, then they realize and appre-
T: Dr. Powell has spoken of him so very, very highly, and I think Dr. Powell followed him, didn't he?

Mrs. Cooper: I think so, but I was away from the area at that time and didn't know exactly what was going on then.

T: Do you remember Dr. Todd?

Mrs. Cooper: Oh, yes, quite well.

T: Tell me about him?

Mrs. Cooper: Well, I just remember how he looked but I don't remember very much about him.

T: Do you remember when they moved the school from the old campus to the new?

Mrs. Cooper: I just remember that they did.

T: It is very interesting because students hitched up a wagon with a rope and carried the books from the library.

Mrs. Cooper: No, I didn't know about all that.

T: They carried the Color Post in great triumph and the two holly trees that are in front of the campus now were taken from the old campus. So it was quite a celebration.

When did you join Pi Phi—at the University of Washington?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes. I have just been reminded and it was in February, 1925, when I was initiated, so I am what they call a "Golden Arrow" now.

T: You helped bring Pi Phi on the campus at the University of Puget Sound.
Mrs. Cooper: Yes. I was the President of the Alumni Association at the time and then I was sent back to present the petition to the convention. Then they required me to handle the installation, which was considerable. I think we said at the last Founder's Day banquet that there were 130, or something like that, that we initiated in those three days; but members of the Grand Council came out, and it was quite an affair, too.

T: As I recall, you gave everybody an opportunity to join as a member of the local.

Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

T: Which local was that?

Mrs. Cooper: Kappa Sigma Theta.

T: That was a great service. You worked with Cleon Soule on that, didn't you?

Mrs. Cooper: Well, yes, he was practically a Pi Phi! (Laughter)

T: His mother was one of the founders, you know.

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, that's why and he was very active.

T: That wasn't at Miami, was it? Where was Pi Phi?

Mrs. Cooper: Illinois--Monmouth. I haven't thought about that for awhile.

T: I remember that Cleon was so very eager for both Pi Phi and Beta to come. He was a very strong Beta. I took him to lunch about two weeks before he died, and he had been so very thrilled because six of the Betas had met him at the airport and they had a special meeting at the fraternity and made him the official "Pater" and he was practically overcome by it. He was a
great fraternity and sorority person.

Mrs. Cooper: Maybe I am wasting your time but at the reception we had after the installation and everything (I think it was out at Betty Hilton's place), some people had borrowed pins to be initiated with and had to leave so one of them gave me her borrowed pin to return to the owner. I didn't have any pockets in my evening dress so I handed it to my husband and he kept it in his pocket. He's quite a kidder, as maybe you know, so he goes up to Cleon Soule and says, "They've made me a Pi Phi!" (Laughter) His face fell and it was obvious that he felt if anybody should be a Pi Phi, he should be! (Laughter) He really didn't think it was too good a joke, but we thought it was pretty good.

T: What courses did your father teach? Do you remember?

Mrs. Cooper: All the education courses: Child psychology was the course I took from him. I don't think he taught any philosophy here. But it was all education, as I recall.

T: Was his Ph.D. in education or philosophy?

Mrs. Cooper: Philosophy.

T: How many years did he teach?

Mrs. Cooper: No, I couldn't say. He was a Methodist minister long before my time in Wichita, Kansas, and other places that I can't remember. He did get some of his education at Northwestern and was much interested in that. He was a Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Psi.
T: I remember your mother. She was a precious little lady.

Mrs. Cooper: She was such an active woman. Lots of pep.

T: She was really wonderful. I remember her very well. She must've died in the latter part of the forties.

Mrs. Cooper: 1948. It was just right after the Pi Phi installation.

T: I was talking to Lucille last night about the fact that you were coming in and we got to reminiscing about how very precious she was -- lots of spirit, lots of life.

Mrs. Cooper: I couldn't keep up with her by a long ways. She was so much interested in people and friendly and willing to do her part.

T: Do you recall if your father was involved in the administration of the University, any committees, or anything?

Mrs. Cooper: I don't remember any of that.

T: Would you recall, for instance, anything about the famous Hill Challenge for endowment?

Mrs. Cooper: No.

T: Was your father studious? Did he study a lot, grade papers at home and all that sort of thing?

Mrs. Cooper: Oh, yes. Every evening he went over all his lesson plans for the next day, no matter how many years he had been teaching a course. The most important word in teaching to him was "significance". A statement was incomplete until the significance of it was given.

One thing that my brother and I discovered was that it was a mistake
to ask him a question if we didn't have the whole evening. If you asked him one question (I majored in Latin and he was interested in it so we would talk about that), and one question and your whole evening was shot! But, of course, it was worthwhile. He was the kind of student, he explained to me, that in the old days when they were studying if they came across any subject that was in what they were reading they had to go back and think all that out, too; so if they were studying one particular subject and it was related to other subjects, they studied the whole thing—all the relationships and everything. We don't do that now, I don't think—at least, they didn't when I was in school. But he did and that was the way they studied when he was in school, or least, he studied that way.

T: That was the way the German research did. You went here and then on this tangent and then on this tangent and you got a very broad education in the process, but it was rather time consuming and very difficult.

Mrs. Cooper: My Father was interested in many different subjects and adept in them all: languages, mathematics, history. My brother, sister and I were all school teachers for a time. My brother was a graduate of U.P.S. He majored in history and political science; my sister in mathematics and German at Dakota Wesleyan, and I in Latin and French. So you can see my Father's influence in each of us.

He preached for the anti-saloon league many years in South Dakota. He used to take me with him when I was young enough to travel by train free.
We got into some very primitive situations in the places we were invited to spend the night--dirt floor, half burned down hotels, etc.

T: Where did you live in Tacoma?

Mrs. Cooper: We lived first on Sixth Avenue, not far from the college. Off Sixth Avenue and Trafton. From there, we moved to 1927 North Fife and we lived there until Dad completely retired. Then he went to Medical Lake, you know, and was the psychological examiner over at Medical Lake for several years. I can't remember how long, but it was kind of an easy job for him and yet he was interested and really loved those children over there. It was right "up his alley" as it was what he liked to do. You know, he had such a sense of humor and when he was over in Medical Lake he had a birthday and he wouldn't tell anybody how old he was. What he said was, "Next year the sum of the digits will be half of what they are now." Do you
know how old he was?

T: No.

Mrs. Cooper: He was 79, going to 80. (Laughter) That was his type of joke. Something subtle you'd have to figure out.

T: Do you know what year he retired from CPS?

Mrs. Cooper: Let's see. He died in 1943.

T: It would be in 1935 or 1936, wouldn't it?

Mrs. Cooper: I think so.

T: Do you remember any financial crises the college had in those days?

Mrs. Cooper: You see, I didn't know very much about the college, really. I really wasn't at home a great deal at that time, so I'm not much help.

T: What year were you married?

Mrs. Cooper: 1929.

T: Right in the Depression.

Mrs. Cooper: We got married on our "paper profits", I want you to know! (Laughter) And they didn't last very long.

T: All of us went through it, and when we did those dollars were as big as harvest moons. Your husband was with the bank for many years, wasn't he?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, the Bank of California in Seattle and then here. In between those two, he managed an apple packing warehouse in Oroville. He wanted to get into something different; then they wanted him back here and we came back to Tacoma, where his origins were, and in 1957 he left the
Bank and went into the mortgage business and he had his own mortgage business eventually. He had help getting it started but he had his own mortgage company. He worked hard but he liked that kind of work.

T: He's been retired for some years, hasn't he?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, for five or six years. He was semi-retired for awhile so you can't really put your finger and say he retired at this particular time.

T: Do you remember when any of the buildings were built on the campus?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, I remember there was just Jones Hall to begin with and everything was in that building. Then the next building was the science building, wasn't it?

T: Howarth Hall, yes.

Mrs. Cooper: And I remember I was in that building a time or two. When I went to summer school, there was just the one building, and I had a course from Dr. Regester, as I remember. Then the next building was built and at some time or other I was in it, but I don't remember why.

T: Do you remember other professors besides your father and Dr. Regester?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, I remember Dr. Topping. I took a class in summer school from him, "A Harmony of the Synoptic Gospels". I learned much that has stayed with me and helped my thinking. This was on the old campus. I also remember the one in the State legislature - Senator Davis.

T: What sort of a professor was he?
Mrs. Cooper: Oh, sort of easy going and friendly, but you really felt as
though you were learning from him but there was no pressure.

T: Did you go to the legislature with him?

Mrs. Cooper: No, you see I was only there in the summer time.

T: He was very much beloved by everyone.

Mrs. Cooper: Oh, I know he was.

T: Some of the alumni tell me that they were in his political science and
history classes and he always took them by boat to Olympia and then when
he was in the legislature, the speaker of the house used to put him in the chair
while his students were in the gallery and of course he always recognized
the students and they stood and applauded him. It must've been quite a
thrill. Dr. Ralph Brown, whom you may know, lives in Olympia and he
told me that the Senator took them down and as they went over the hill he
could see the capitol and he said, "This is where I'm going to live." And
he has been one of the outstanding doctors in Olympia all these years
and four of his children went to the University of Puget Sound and now
his grandchildren are coming.

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, his wife was at the luncheon or brunch that we had
last week.

T: They are a wonderful family, and he told me that it was Senator Davis
who made him feel the love of Olympia.

Then your father came in 1922 and he probably taught for us until
about 1936.
Mrs. Cooper: Yes.

T: I have heard so many alumni, particularly in the field of education, say how much they learned from him.

Mrs. Cooper: At this 80th birthday I spoke about, some of his former students passed the word around and they sent him letters—hundreds of them—I get choked up thinking about it.

T: Of course, it is a very touching and a very beautiful thing. I know Dr. Powell has said to me on many occasions that Dr. Weir was one of the finest professors we ever had.

Mrs. Cooper: I'm sure he was.

T: He was much beloved by students and he was a good professor; not an easy grader but people learned a great deal.

Mrs. Cooper: Another thing that just came to me that I forgot was that he was at the City College of New York for awhile, before he went out to Dakota Wesleyan. There were some faculty fights there and he resigned, along with everybody else and he didn't go back there again. There was something he had to give in the matter of feeling what was right, and he wouldn't give up. He was very strong in his moral beliefs and on what he thought was right and he wouldn't say anything that he thought was untrue or accept anything that he thought wasn't right. He was not a diplomat and was sometimes tactless though never unkind. His strongest swear word was "confound" and he saved it to use when he was really angry, a very rare occasion. To ease his anger, his best relief was to chop wood—vigorously.
T: He, of course, was ideally trained for the College of Puget Sound because of the fact that he had come up through the Methodist tradition and you said one time he was a Methodist minister.

Mrs. Cooper: He was—off and on—in fact, between Dakota Wesleyan and Simpson he filled in at Deadwood, South Dakota. Then, as I said, he was at Wichita and various times in between other things and maybe while he was studying, he would fill in with the ministry. He used to help sometimes down at First Methodist Church, when they had communion and different things. He never made much money but was very frugal and was even able to loan money (never repaid) to his father.

T: Did he maintain a membership in the Conference here?

Mrs. Cooper: I'm not sure whether it was here or in South Dakota. I'm confused about his Masonic membership, which I think he retained in South Dakota, but I think he must've been a member of the Conference.

T: It would be very natural for him to move his membership as he went along because teaching in a church-related school it would be perfectly legitimate for him to do this.

Tell me about his Masonic relationship?

Mrs. Cooper: I don't know a great deal about that, either, except that he was a 32 degree Mason—that's as high as you can go in the Masonic Order.

T: There is a 33rd degree.

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, but that's something else and it's a big jump from one to the other and I don't know just what that is. But he was the chaplain at the Fairweather Lodge for some years.
T: You said he lost his first wife and there was a child by that marriage. Is that daughter still living?

Mrs. Cooper: No, she lived in South Dakota, and her husband was a prominent banker in South Dakota and she moved to Willamette View Manor in Portland and was there till she died in 1968.

T: What was her married name?

Mrs. Cooper: Rempfer.

T: Is your brother living?

Mrs. Cooper: No, he died about the same time—it was 1967. He was a teacher at Leavenworth, Washington, but he had various other types of work that he had done and he finally found that teaching was what he really wanted to do, but his health failed, then, and he couldn't teach very long. That was another thing about my father. He didn't like administrative work at all. He did some in Mt. Pleasant—he was the dean and acting president for awhile but he didn't like that. He really just liked to teach.

T: It sounds like he just loved students and wanted to be with them and they loved him.

Mrs. Cooper: He liked that type of work—of relating with them and teaching, but administrative work he just didn't like at all.

T: That's perfectly understandable, for it can be very difficult.

Mrs. Cooper: Well, he wasn't a politician; he was just his own man and did what he thought was right and said what he thought was right, without feeling
that he had to "kowtow" to anybody, and sometimes you have to do that in administration.

T: Did he ever write anything?

Mrs. Cooper: Yes, he wrote numerous articles which I don't know much about but he did write a book one time. But he wasn't very happy with it and a few years afterwards he said his ideas had changed. It was a religious book, of course, entitled: Christianity As A Factor In Civilization: An Evidence of its Supernatural Origin; Cincinnati: Cranston & Curts. New York: Hunt and Eaton; 1893.

T: This has been very helpful, because without a doubt, Dr. Weir was one of the very outstanding professors in our history and it is good to get this first-hand information about him.

The end.
WEINER, Albert Barne,称之zheng xin, invest., N.Y., born in New York City, July 3, 1873; son of Aaron and Frieda (Larsen) Weiner; educated in the public schools of New York City and at the Cooper Union, N.Y., B.A., 1897. Engaged in the real estate business in New York City. Address: 221 W. 42d St., New York City.

WEINER, Samuel, chem., investor, N.Y., born in New York City, Feb. 12, 1876; son of Aaron and Frieda (Larsen) Weiner; educated in the New York City public schools, and at the Cooper Union and the University of N.Y., B.S., 1900. Engaged in the real estate business in New York City. Address: 221 W. 42d St., New York City.

WEINBERG, Sidney James, lawyer, N.Y., born in New York City, Nov. 26, 1898; son of Rabbi Leo G. and Selma (Schwartz) Weinberg; educated in the public schools of N.Y. City, and at the University of Chicago, B.A., 1920; L.L.B., 1923; member of the bar for 20 years, and specialist in immigration law and related fields. Address: 1419 E. 47th St., Chicago, Ill.

WEINBERG, Sydney James, lawyer, N.Y., born in New York City, Nov. 26, 1898; son of Rabbi Leo G. and Selma (Schwartz) Weinberg; educated in the public schools of N.Y. City, and at the University of Chicago, B.A., 1920; L.L.B., 1923; member of the bar for 20 years, and specialist in immigration law and related fields. Address: 1419 E. 47th St., Chicago, Ill.


WINCK, Albert, sculptor, 1868 A. G. (Hartwig) W., of 91, Coral Gables, Fla., and 330 W. 42d St., New York City, sculptor and art dealer, born in New York City, June 26, 1897; son of Joseph and Alice (Goldstein) Winck; educated in the New York City public schools, and at the Cooper Union, B.A., 1919; artist. Address: 91 Coral Gables, Fla., and 330 W. 42d St., New York City.

WINICK, Arthur John, metal engr., N.Y., born in New York City, Sept. 2, 1883; son of Louis and Emily (Kolberg) Winick; educated in the New York City public schools, and at the Pratt Institute; artist. Address: 154 E. 13th St., New York City.

WINIART, James, sculptor, N.Y., born in New York City, Feb. 7, 1873; son of Martin and Sarah (Cook) Winiart; educated in the New York City public schools, and at the Cooper Union; artist. Address: 325 W. 31st St., New York City.

WINTER, William, attorney, and real estate broker, born in South Carolina, 1818; son of James and Margaret (Manning) Winter; educated in the schools of South Carolina; admitted to the bar 1848; engaged in the legal practice in Greenville, S.C., and in the real estate business; electrician and contractor; died in 1885. Address: 318 S. Main St., Greenville, S.C.

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