INTERVIEW WITH JOHN HEINRICK
BY R. FRANKLIN THOMPSON

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T: John, were you born in Tacoma?

H: I was born in Tacoma, on Tacoma Avenue, at the present site of the County-City Building. The date of birth was October 1, 1904.

T: What did your father do?

H: He was a barber. He had a barber shop at the corner of Ninth and Pacific. The shop is still located there. My dad worked at that spot for over fifty years.

T: Is that the shop that Huber had for awhile?

H: Yes.

T: Did you go through Stadium High School?

H: Yes, I attended Stadium High School. After that I went to St. Martin's for a year, then two years to what was then called Ellensburg Normal, now Central Washington, and then on to the University of Washington where I received my bachelor's degree. Later I received my principal's credentials from the University of Puget Sound and a life teaching diploma from the University of Washington. In 1953 I received my master's degree from Seattle University.

T: You said you had your principal's credentials from...?

H: From the University of Puget Sound. I have never used the principal's credentials although I did pinch-hit a couple of times in high schools as an assistant principal.

T: Did you play football at Stadium?

H: I only weighed 135 when I graduated but I played midget football and also played varsity basketball and varsity baseball.
T: What position did you play in baseball?

H: I played shortstop. We had quite a ball team. Big Cliff Marker was a baseball hero at that time, along with Art Berg and some others. Our team was the best in the area.

T: You always had a very compelling interest in athletics, then?

H: Yes, ever since I was very small. I used to walk from my home on North Ninth and L down to the Tacoma Stadium when they had baseball turnouts for the city leaguers and chased fly balls for them. I spent hour after hour throwing or kicking a ball or shooting baskets.

T: Are you telling me that you lived in the area where the old College of Puget Sound used to be, and you said there was a naval barracks there?

H: There was a naval barracks there for about two years, I think, during the first World War, and the institution was located where Jason Lee is presently located. It was back where the P.E. Department is now, at Jason Lee. Across the street, there was sort of a boarding house for students and the building is still there.

T: Is it an apartment or something?

H: Yes, it's kind of an apartment--maybe three stories high. It served its purpose during that time to house the students.

T: Do you remember when they moved from the campus there at Sixth and Sprague to where it is now?

H: I don't remember the exact time, but I was familiar with the place where the new school was to be located. I had traveled through the woods many times to the spot where the school was relocated. The area was called the old YMCA grounds. As
youngsters, we played football and baseball there.

T: As I recall, you said you spent a lot of time up there—fellows used to ride their bicycles around the old track.

H: That's right. Of course, I didn't have a bicycle at that time. We did a lot of walking and running and trying to get into shape, like the young fellows did, probably even more than they do today.

T: When did you officially start to be connected with the College of Puget Sound?

H: I have been at UPS, I think, Dr. Thompson, approximately a third of a century. For two years, I still taught at Stadium while I was coaching basketball at UPS.

T: You started to coach basketball for us first, didn't you?

H: I joined the faculty as a basketball coach and when the opening came a year later, I became Athletic Director and coached football and basketball together and also served as Director of Health and P.E.

T: You had quite a bit to do with the design of the fieldhouse, didn't you?

H: Yes, I made a study of a number of other places and gave reports to the architect.

T: Do you recall some of your relationships with various coaches? You said there was one by the name of McMillan.

H: McMillan, I think, was the first one I knew and then came "Cack" Hubbard soon after. I officiated many of his football and basketball games during his tenure at UPS.

T: How did you get started in officiating?

H: The officiating thing was an accident. While out of a job and just married, I worked some scrimmages for "Cack" at UPS and one night, fortunately for me and unfortunately for the other official who took sick just an hour before the ball game,
I received a call from "Cack" asking me to officiate a college basketball game. It was a tough game to start with because of the rivalry between St. Martin's and UPS, but everything worked out O.K. "Cack" hired me several more times during the year.

I remember I worked the Central game, and I had played for both St. Martin's and Central. I told "Cack" this at the time, before he hired me, and his reply to me was, "I wouldn't have asked you if I didn't feel that you would do a good job." (Laughter)

So my first officiated games were college games rather than high school games.

T: You said that "Cack" was a very great influence in the lives of students.

H: Yes, very much so. We had a get-together, a UPS hall of fame deal, two years ago to honor the coaches of the past. "Cack" was there, Roy Sandberg couldn't make it that night, but "Cack" and many of his old guard attended to honor him; e.g., Dave Ferguson, Red Tatum, Frank Gillihan, etc. "Cack" was well thought of by everyone who ever played for him.

T: Was he followed by Sandberg?

H: I think there was a coach in between but I am not sure. Roy Sandberg, in duration of time, was probably there longer than most of the other coaches. I would consider Sandy one of the very top coaches of his time.

T: Didn't he go from place to place, though? He liked to go up the ladder, didn't he?

H: Yes, he felt by moving he was accomplishing his goals. His philosophy was entirely different than mine. I felt there was a job to be done, whether I was coaching in junior high in Tacoma or high school or college; and if I gave it everything I had I was contributing to the welfare of many, many people. I had several chances to move after I was at UPS, but each time I would make the decision that there was a job to be done
here. In fact, there were a couple of times I had an opportunity when an athletic
director for the Tacoma Public Schools was chosen to take that job. Again, later,
when Bob Hager retired, the opportunity came to head the Health (doctors and nurses),
Personnel, P.E., and Athletics in Tacoma, but each time I decided I didn't want to
be in an "ivory tower" somewhere. I wanted to be with individuals, working with
them. I have been very happy that I made that decision.

T: You had a great influence on the lives of many very outstanding athletes. Do
you remember some of them?

H: Yes, there are so many of them, Dr. Thompson, that it would be hard, in this
short time, to mention all of them. I don't know how much I contributed to their
success in life, but I know I did help some. There are three that stand out in the
educational area: One of them is Frank "Buster" Brouillet, who is in Olympia as
head of our State educational system; Cal Frazier who is in Colorado and holds the
same job there for the State of Colorado, and Don Egge who holds the number two
spot in Oregon in education. That's just in one category of achievement. I could
point out a number of successful principals, superintendents, coaches and teachers
who received their early training in classes at UPS.

T: Actually, you have had many, many of them go out to be successful. Have you
kept any kind of a record of it?

H: Yes, we did make a study one year, about halfway through my coaching career,
at UPS, and it numbered about four hundred. We contacted people through question-
naires. Of course, some of them had moved out of coaching into administrative jobs
by that time. The number over the entire period of my tenure at UPS would be close
to 700 or 800.

T: You evolved into the department of education after you got through coaching.
H: Yes. I feel this way about the approach to teaching and coaching. The purpose is to be an educator. I like to use the word "educator" not "teacher". An educator, to me, is a person who really tries to get the best out of every student under his jurisdiction, whether he is in the classroom, on the field, or in outside activities; and my big objective in life is to go ahead with the educational process in every way possible and be known as an "educator" rather than just a "teacher". I have gained a great deal of satisfaction working with individuals and their problems, as well as helping large groups of students in the classroom. When I was offered an opportunity to join the Education Department eight years ago, I was indeed pleased to make the change. During my first three years in the department, I taught all the required Secondary subjects. At present, I am primarily handling 201 (beginning education students) and student teachers. Education 201 is a course where the students are introduced to teaching in the Intermediate schools. The job openings are primarily at the Junior High level, and the general feeling of educators is that a teacher who can do a good job in Junior high will also be able to do well in High school. Getting back to supervision, I feel it is much more difficult to teach now at the Secondary level than it was some years ago because state laws have made a situation where teachers are not protected, either legally or physically, from using necessary methods to insure discipline and there are too many loopholes for the students to use in getting out of accepting their responsibilities.

T: Do you go into the schools and confer with the 201 students and practice teachers?

H: The way it works out in Ed. 201, the group starts at UPS and we spend about
three weeks indoctrinating these students with what they are going to see and we point out some of the things to be careful of and try to get them to work out a concept of what they think effective teaching is. Each member of the staff has a different idea as to what effective teaching is--there is no uniformity. As long as a person gets results by applying his personality traits and teaching stategems in meeting the needs and interests of the students he is doing a good job. There is no best way of teaching; the best way, to me, is using one's own capabilities to the greatest extent possible in meeting the needs and interests of the students. We explain to them what we think are some of the important elements of teaching, and then they go out and are assigned to a teacher. At the 201 level, students don't necessarily do any teaching, although sometimes we have graduate students, as well as freshmen and sophomores, who really have had some experience in teaching, so we give them more opportunity to take over in a classroom.

T: Does your group stay in the same schools from year to year?

H: We change around some but generally we have groups at Hunt, Jason Lee, Truman or Mason Junior Highs, and a couple of years back we had groups at Foss and Wilson High.

T: Getting back to the fieldhouse, do you recall the kind of research that you did in planning for it?

H: Yes. I went to Washington State, University of Washington, and Montana State and talked over problems with the people who actually used their facilities. An architect quite often misses the boat, not as much now as in previous times, by not quite understanding exactly the functioning of the program. A teacher isn't com-
pletely equipped to make decisions either because he doesn't understand the architectural necessities which have to be taken into consideration, so most of my time was spent talking about mistakes made which should be eliminated. The UW had set up its gymnasium, allowing dust and dirt to come into the offices and there were little things, here and there, which we tried to avoid in designing the fieldhouse. The one thing we did have to do, though, and you will remember it because you, Dr. Thompson, were the one that (laughter) raised 98 per cent of the money for the structure, was that we had to cut down a little at the end and not make quite as big a building as we wanted to, which left a vision problem for the people who sat in the first couple of rows upstairs. In retrospect, I don't think too many mistakes were made in the overall construction of the fieldhouse.

T: I remember that Don Shotwell and I were sitting on the west side and the City code said you had to go up 18 inches and back 24 inches on the seats in the balcony and while we sat there, Don said, "You can't see about four feet of one side of the playing area." Since we hadn't put up the east side yet, we lowered the wall twelve inches on the east side. No one would know it as he walks in the building but there is better vision on the east side than on the west side. There are plans now, as you probably know, to completely renovate the fieldhouse, which will cost $800,000, and it will make a very good building out of it. That building was built about three or four years before laminated beams and if we had had the laminated beam process we could have done a better job on it, but it has served magnificently and well for 25 years, I guess.

H: Yes, it sure has.
T: It has also had to serve as a civic auditorium, as well as a P.E. facility, which has called for all kinds of maneuvering around. John, you have a very large family. How large is it?

H: The immediate family, of course, is just the two of us. When we take in all the members of the family, from our sons and daughters and grandchildren and now one great grandchild, it adds up to 26. There were two marriages involved. Unfortunately, I lost my first wife, Irene, and my second wife had two daughters with a number of children, so it is a little rough at Christmas and birthdays. (laughter)

T: Christmas and birthdays for 26 people—you need a computer to do that!

H: That's right.

T: I certainly have appreciated your coming down and talking about this. You have had such a wonderful experience through the years and so many people have been influenced by you that I feel it is only right to talk with you about it for the history. If you think about other things that should be included, we can talk again.

I am certainly very grateful because you were very outstanding in your years at the University of Puget Sound.

H: I am very appreciative of the fact, Dr. Thompson, that I have had the opportunity to come to UPS, and I have enjoyed every minute of it, and I certainly enjoyed working with you all those years and with the new president the last four years. I don't see too much of Dr. Phibbs because I am away from the University so much. But, believe me, the fact that I am still working at UPS is the greatest honor of any I have been presented with over the years. It means more to me than anything else.
T: Let's see, talking about honors, weren't you in the Hall of Fame?
H: Yes, I made all three of them.
T: Which three were those?
H: The first one I entered was the National Hall of Fame, the first year they had it. There were five coaches in the United States chosen. We went to St. Petersburg, Florida, and Red Grange presented the coaching awards. Two of the coaches weren't there as they had passed away. This was the start of the National Hall of Fame. Then Pierce County inaugurated a hall of fame here in Tacoma, and not too long ago the State of Washington started one. I happened to be fortunate enough to be in all three of these. Pictures of the State Hall of Famers are now located in the new Domed Stadium in Seattle.
T: That is fine recognition of all the influence you have been through the years in the lives of individuals at the University of Puget Sound, and I want to say to you that it was a great joy to work with you through these years and I look forward to many more.
H: Thank you, Dr. Thompson