

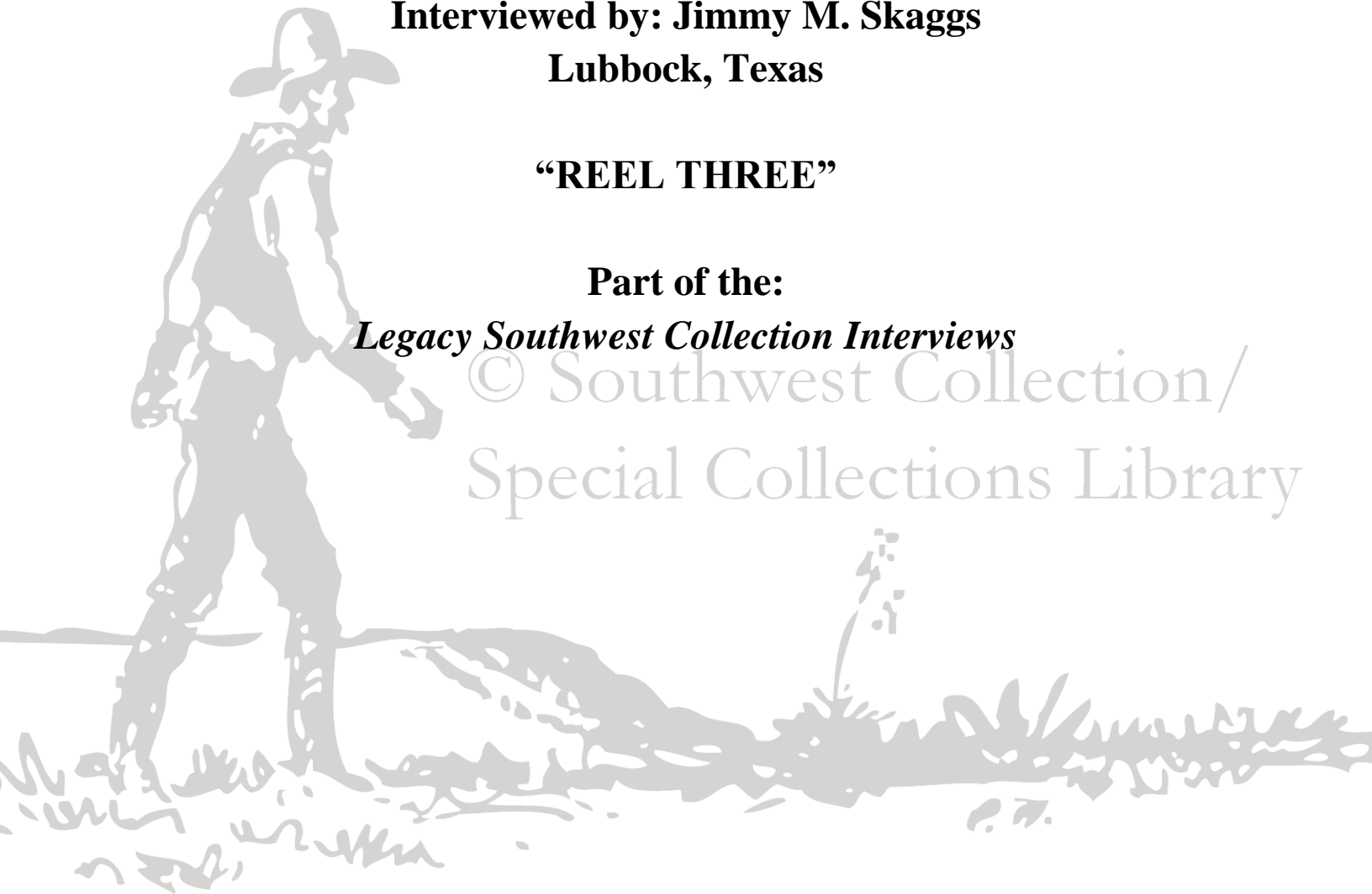
**Oral History Interview of
December 15, 1967 and December 18, 1967
William Curry Holden**

**Interviewed by: Jimmy M. Skaggs
Lubbock, Texas**

“REEL THREE”

**Part of the:
*Legacy Southwest Collection Interviews***

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Interview Series Background:

In the process of conservation and digitization, our Audio/Visual department transcribes existing interviews in the Southwest Collection's holdings for a new generation of listeners to rediscover. Such interviews frequently cover topics relating to the founding of Texas Tech and the settlement of Lubbock.

Transcript Overview:

This interview features Dr. William Curry Holden. Holden discusses the founding of the Southwest Collection and the process of gathering and preserving early archival materials. Holden talks about J. Evetts Haley's role in assisting with the Southwest Collection and the hiring of Seymour V. "Ike" Connor. Holden also discusses his tenure as head of the history department.

Length of Interview: 00:53:59

Subject	Transcript Page	Time Stamp
Founding of the Southwest Collection	5	00:00:00
Gathering archival materials	7	00:10:05
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J. Evetts Haley and the Southwest Collection	9	00:20:40
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Texas Centennial	13	00:37:20
Tenure as head of department and becoming a dean	15	00:41:12

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archeology, archives, higher education, history, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech Museum, Texas Tech University

Jimmy M. Skaggs (JS):

William Curry Holden interview, reel three, side one. I believe you were about to tell us about the Southwest Collection when the reel ran out, Dr. Holden, would you like to continue?

William Holden (WH):

Well, the Southwest Collection had a really devious origin. I would say, perhaps, the nucleus—or the germ of the idea took place about the year I came here, '29-'30. At that time, Dr. Clifford B. Jones was the manager of the Swenson interest of the Spur ranch—the Swensons had bought the Spur ranch out in 1907, and Clifford's father was the first manager after the Swensons and associates bought out the ranch with the idea of colonizing it and building towns and breaking up the parts of it that were too rough for farming into small ranches and things. And Mr. Charles A. Jones—Clifford's father—was sent by the Swensons to take it over, and he served in this capacity for about six or seven years. Then Mr. Charles Jones was sent on down to—oh at the coast, the Swensons have big sulfur projects—Port Aransas—Aransas Pass, I believe is where it was.¹ You know, today, they use sulfur in their refining processes of petroleum, and that thing has proven a gold mine to the Swensons. Well anyway, when they were developing that, they sent Mr. Charles Jones down to develop that—and Clifford had come here in 1907 as his father's assistant manager, and so he was promoted to manager. By 1929, he had become very large in the development circles of West Texas—West Texas Chamber of Commerce, and all—there was not a state committee of any kind but what he was on it. He was well-known and highly respected. I met him some place—I've forgot where—but anyway, after I came here, and after I had finished *Rollie Burns*—no, the first thing I did after I came here—I started immediately the year we came here, in '29, to get out *Alkali Trails*. I had to add some new chapters and take some out, and edit and spruce up the whole thing. We got it published, I believe, in '30, and as soon as I got that out of the way, our next *Rollie Burns* showed up. That's a story unto itself—remind me to come back to it sometime.

JS:

Yes sir, I had it on the list.

WH:

Then it took me about a year to do that [*Rollie Burns*] and get it published, and in '32, then, I was ready to take on Spur Ranch. All the time, I was teaching fifteen hours.

JS:

My goodness.

¹ Corrects to Freeport

WH:

And [I was] also running the field camps in archaeology and the museum and so on. Then I remembered that Clifford Jones and the Spur Ranch, so I went over to see him and tell him about my interest in it, and he showed me all of the records which had been kept, fortunately—the old letter books and the journals and the payrolls—you know, you've seen them—Yes. Then I was very hesitant about asking if I could come over there and use them, and it wasn't too long after that—one day I went up—interested in the library at that time. The library was on the ground floor in the west end of the administration building in what is now the registrar's office. That was all the library we had, I guess—you could haul all the books in about four wheelbarrows. Then the cataloguing department was across the hall; the room has since been used for something else—kind of the—

JS:

—student offices?

WH:

No, that room has been eliminated, when they built that wing on there. They opened up a passageway, so where the passage is from that wing back to where they have the windows there today. Well that was cataloguing and all the rest of it. Well I went in there one day and lo and behold, here was all the [Spur] all this stuff. He'd brought it all over here—and incidentally, he was on the first board of Texas Tech, and to him, Texas Tech was the child he didn't have—always has been. And when he saw I was interested, he just brought it over here and gave it to Ms. [Elizabeth Howard] West, the librarian. That is the first real archival material—and I used it in the old library. They let me go up there Sundays, when it was closed. My first wife, Olive, when we came, got it—she was a trained librarian, and so they hired her as soon as she got here, and she was, I suppose, the third in rank there—the librarian, assistant librarian, and then Olive. So I had access—even had a key to the library—and I ran those records all up there, usually on Saturday afternoons and Sundays—and I whipped that out in a year. We got it published, I think, in '34—I did it in '33, and we got it published in the early part of '34. Now that was the first archival material, but nobody thought of it as such, but Ms. West, who was a historian as well as a librarian. To her, those things were sacred, and she just kept them in special cases and things—locked up—she realized the value. And then when she retired by old age and so on, she was succeeded by Ms. Maine—Emma Main—who had—she just thought all that kind of stuff was just so much junk—oh, she thought a library was nice, new, shiny books, so she didn't pay much attention to it. And then, finally, she was superseded by a Mr. [Augustine S.] Gaylord [Jr.], who had been a librarian of some kind on some kind of a government project in California. And although he was a history major, he knew nothing about [research]—all that he knew about history was classroom work. He knew nothing about writing it or the research, the technique, or anything. So when he came in, he just gathered up all this old stuff and locked it up in one of the storerooms, at this time, over in the, what is now our quarters—and he just put it away. He

wasn't particularly interested in keeping files of historical journals or newspapers or anything. He thought like Ms. Main—that it was pretty much junk. Finally, one day, he was having a big housecleaning over there—and the purpose of the housecleaning was to just get rid of a lot of stuff—the most valuable stuff in the library. And I suppose if those Spur records—if he'd stumbled across them—I suppose he'd have thrown them out to be hauled off by the trash man to the city dump. But the thing that brought it to my attention was Dr. [Seth Shepherd] McKay. At this time, I was head of the history department, and—I guess I was graduate dean, too, at this time—and also director of the museum. By this time, we'd elevated the title a bit. And Dr. McKay came storming into my office one day and said "Say," —he had been doing a lot of work, as you know, on—his hobby was political history, and the only interest he had in history was political history, and he just avidly kept up with every campaign and how many votes everybody got in every election down to dog catcher to governor to president—everything. He had been using one magazine file that Ms. West had collected faithfully, somebody's monthly. It was published in Dallas—first name started with an "M" —I can't think of it. Well, among other things that Gaylord was throwing away were the files of this thing that McKay had used a great deal. McKay came storming into my office and said, "Say, this new librarian over here" —he had such contempt for him he wouldn't even mention his name out loud—he says, "he's throwing away a lot of valuable stuff. I passed over at the back, there, where they have the trashcans, and all the files of this so-called monthly he has out there to be hauled off. Do you think there'd be anything wrong of my just going over there and getting them and taking them home?" And I said, "Well, if you're sure that they've been put out there to be hauled off, yes, go get them." So he went over there with his car and started putting them in his car. Well, some of the underlings of the library looked out and saw him putting these things in his car, and Gaylord—went and told Gaylord that there's a man out there loading up his car with some of that stuff. Well, they'd put it out for the trash man. Well, Gaylord went out there and found out that this was a professor, and he just laid him low. Then Gaylord came storming over to my office, and without much as "How do you do?" or anything, he stormed in—and I'd only met him a time or two—and he could cuss like ole Andrew Jackson. He said, "What in the hell is your faculty member meaning, coming over there and hauling off my stuff?" And it took my quite a little while to find out what he was talking about. Finally, it came through to me, and I said, "You mean the stuff that you put out to be hauled off to the garbage dump? And you object to somebody coming who can use it and who wants it?" and he—so-and-so—he said, "Well, he should have come and asked me." And so he stormed around a bit, and I didn't—it was jarring to me, all this business. Finally, he spoke his piece and he started out the door. About that time, well, I was thoroughly riled up—and I'm very slow to anger, and I let go about once every ten years. Well, when I do let go, I do a pretty good job of it. So when it all dawned on me as he went, about ready to slam the door, and I yelled at him, I said, "Gaylord, come back in here," and he reluctantly came back. And I turned in on him, and I gave him the worst Dutch uncle talking-to he'd ever encountered. I said, "You claim to be a librarian," "Yes," "You claim to be a historian," "Yes," "Well how do you think history is made?" I just let him have it. His eyes got

big and he just subsided, and he sunk down in a chair, and he just stared at me in amazement while I let him have it. I said, "You should thank your lucky stars that somebody thinks enough to come along and clean up after your blunders," and so on. Well, this gave a new insight to him, and he cooled off and he says, "Well, I guess you're right," and you know, that raking-over made that man my friend for life? I suppose, of all the people today—he's living out in California, and he's a little younger than I am, but he's had all manner of things happen to him. He's not well at all. And I suppose that he considers me the closest person on Earth that he has, except his wife. He wants me to come out and to stay with them and all that—we just got Christmas cards from them yesterday. It simply opened a new door, I suppose, that he'd never thought of. It was this incident about what had happened to this material—by a professional librarian—that caused us to do a lot of thinking. I worried about it a bit, and I decided that I—I talked it over with Dr. Jones—Clifford Jones. By this time, he had retired, but he was living here like he is now. He was the chairman of the board at the Lubbock National Bank. I told him, I said, "I suppose, if those Spur records had been visible at the time they were having this clean-out, that would have gone with it." And we discussed, then, that this thing ought to be organized—definitely—and apart **[from the library]** and emphasized, and that we should promote it. And then we decided to get some help on it, and we decided George Dupree would be a good one to go in with us. And so, at my suggestion—and we decided to take Gaylord in with us, make him part of the company—and so Clifford Jones and Gaylord and myself met down at George Dupree's house one evening after supper. There, we began to formulate and crystalize what we could do with the record department of the library. By this time Gaylord, having been converted like Saint Paul—who was knocked down, you know, by big lightning, or something, that knocked him unconscious, but he came up a great follower, you know, of the Carpenter—well that's what had happened to Gaylord. He was really—he became just as enthusiastic for this thing as he had been diverse when he caught McKay hauling off the files of this magazine. So we decided that the thing to do was to organize what would be called the Southwest Collection—and we talked about [a] Texas Collection, and other wordage, and finally we decided that in view of the fact the University of Texas has a Texas Collection, that we would not want to duplicate that. They had too much headway and too much money—they had the Littlefield money, as you know—that **[Dave]** Gracy's family and so on—to promote theirs. And then we decided—and we kept fumbling with terms, and finally we decided, "Well let's just block out something new that nobody has done. Let's just call it Southwest, and we'll begin about the hundredth meridian and go on to Arizona," so we decided on the name and the scope. And Gaylord agreed, then, that he would furnish a room and this would be given the first priority in the library and everything—and did—and he got all of those things together and he found the—in the meanwhile, I had brought in the C. W. Post records and, with the assistance of Clifford Jones, I had brought in the Matador records—that is, those at the Matador division. I know, at this time, the Swensons owned and operated, among other things, the Spur Inn—and Clifford and Audrey lived in the Spur Inn—and I'd go over and spend the night at the Spur Inn, and I'd go on up—and Clifford had contacted Mr. Riley, the then superintendent **[of the Matador Ranch]**, and got him to agree to give us all their

dead records. And I went over there in my old Model A Ford—by that time we had the Model As—and hauled in two loads—I made two trips—to bring in—well, you know, they must have a hundred letter books and so on. And all that stuff—it was pretty heavy—and each time I came in with my car sitting right down on the axle. So Clifford Jones was the go-between on that. So I brought those in and we got—I went down and negotiated to get the C. W. Post—the Double U Records, they were called. They're there somewhere—I've never seen them. Then Gaylord got all of that stuff together and put it in a room and guarded it with his life, you might say—he didn't have—his appropriations were withheld—and there was no way to catalog it or anything, but he did keep it together. Then Gaylord got in trouble—some people put it like this: he developed woman trouble. He got to carrying on with one of his librarians that he'd brought in and it became quite a scandal, and when Wiggins came, the first thing [D.M.] Wiggins did [**as president**] was fire Gaylord. Then Wiggins brought in the present librarian, [**Ray Curtis**] Janeway. So Janeway came in, and he'd hit this thing cold, and his idea of a library is a lot of shiny books—

JS:

Same problem—

WH:

—and he got all of this stuff and put it away and locked it up—wouldn't even let us see it. I don't know, but he might have hauled it off if he hadn't known that some of us was watching him because he thought nothing of it. And so it stayed locked up and un-accessible to the public, he wouldn't let us in there. I never felt like taking him on about it, so I let the thing drift, and then [J.] Evetts Haley got on the Board, and he was the great “Against-er.” I think he voted against everything that came up except when I made medicine with him about us activating the Southwest Collection, and he took that and he made that his baby. He agreed that that ought to be given priority. There's no way that we could go about it with Janeway because he was not interested. So the activation of the collection of it is today was done at the board level. Evetts and I decided that it ought to have—ought to be, in the first place, because Janeway didn't—would take no stock in it, didn't believe in it, “Let's separate it. Secondly, let's set up its own budget. Thirdly, make it independent of the library, completely. And fourthly, bring in somebody that's capable of doing something about it.” So Evetts brought it before the board, and I think modest separate appropriation out of the general appropriation—oh, I think about fifteen thousand, enough to get a director and assistant director and have some incidentals and a few things. Having got that set up, the question was where would we put it? And Evetts and I had a lot of conferences about it and we didn't see any way, hardly, of—we thought the best thing is to keep it physically separated from the library, or else we'd run into skull-cracking with Janeway. And so we had a room there in the museum, and I said, “Well, now, let's take that room to start with, and then as soon as we get that full, let's make it our business to put this into the budgets of the future and the building program of the future.” So Evetts went for that good and strong. Then the

question came up, “The first thing we need is a director.” Evetts suggested, he said, “Well, I think I know somebody capable of starting this thing off. His name is [Seymour V.] Ike Connor.” Well I’d seen Ike a time or two—Evetts brought him down here one time, and he was up at Canyon a year [as Archivist of the Panhandle-Plains Museum]—

JS:

Working for Boone McClure.

WH:

Working for Boone McClure, and I believe he was working in the records there.

JS:

Yeah, he was an archivist.

WH:

And so on. Boone was coming down here, taking a course with me on Saturday. One time he brought Ike down, and Ike had just finished his manuscript for—oh, what is that colony up there?

JS:

Peter’s Colony.

WH:

Peter’s Colony—and so I found that out, and so at the next week, I asked him if he wouldn’t come back and spend the entire period telling us the history of that—it was a seminar class, met on Saturdays—and he said he would. He came back and did a jam-up good job. He held up and he knew his specs, you know, Ike’s smart as a whip. And so I had a—I’d seen him in action. That’s the only two times I’d seen him, but I was well impressed, and so I agreed with Evetts, that he would be good. And so then Evetts brought him down here for us to have a conference, and I remember—brought him in, up from the sun porch up there and we had just pleasant talk a little bit, and then Evetts said let’s, he and I, come down here and talk. We left ole Ike up there and so we came in here to discuss what salary we could afford to pay him and so on. I remember when—we must have been down here an hour and my wife said Ike was just as restless as he could be. He was just walking around and looking at the door to see if we were coming out, because he sure wanted this job. When we finally went up there, he practically jumped in our arms—and we decided—I’ve forgotten what, I think we agreed to pay him six thousand dollars—at that time, it was a darn good salary. It was as scarce as a twelve-thousand-dollar salary is right now. It was equivalent to a full professor’s salary—twelve months, at the time. The deal was that we would put him on the history department—I was still chairman of the history department—put him on that for half time to get half of his salary on instructional budget, and then we’d pay half out of this modest—this budget that had been created. And we

moved him in there with one old table and we got some old lumber, and somehow or other, we borrowed the—from the library—they had some stacks that they'd never put together. We got going on a shoestring—and then he brought **[Roy] Sylvan [Dunn]**. I don't know where he found Sylvan, but he did that. I had nothing to do with that.

JS:

He was in the State Archives.

WH:

What? I didn't know that. I never knew where he came from, but anyway, he brought him in. We had enough money—we had some money to buy a machine or two, and so on. And then, from that time on, they began to get that kicked up—especially while Evetts was here, because that was his baby, really, and he would just hold up everything else in the Board until they gave him what he wanted for the needs of the Collection. Most of the Board weren't interested in the Collection at all.

End of recording

WH:

This is side two of—what is it, reel three today?

JS:

Yes.

WH:

And we were speaking of the Southwest Collection. They filled that room full of things right away. Of course, we got all of these things previously brought in, and they started indexing and all the processing and laminating and everything. Ike did a terrific job on it—you know, he works with a great drive when he does work. He had a way of inspiring his staff to where they really made a lot of headway. Pretty soon, we had that room filled up. In the meanwhile, they were building the present library building, and I thought perhaps the future of the Southwest Collection—they had a built-in situation over there in the old library building with stacks there and everything. I advocated that we get the board to set that aside for the collection—seemed like the Army **[ROTC]** wanted to move in to use it for a warehouse. Ike wasn't too hot for the idea at first. He was understandably—and I think rightfully—wanting to keep this thing separated from the main library. He was afraid if we got it there—even the old library building—that Janeway might come to have some kind of a dominant authority about him. So he didn't even want to go over there at first. But we finally won him over, and we got that designated with as much outside room as might be needed, which, we thought what they set aside would be ample. Now we're about to decide it wasn't. So it **[the old library stacks]** was set aside for

the—everything except the basement, which Ike would not consider because he said sometimes it might flood with water. So, then, they let the Army continue to have that [**the basement**] for a warehouse. The appropriations were increased. It looked like after the Tech board got used to it, that they have never turned down almost any request. It's a separate byline budget in the state appropriation, and it's completely separate from the main library, and it's equivalent to a department—and I think that's the way it should be. I know Ike—who still has an interest in it—is still afraid that somehow, someday, Janeway, seeing this big going concern, may want to come back and abscond with it, and he still worries about it. But I don't think there's any likelihood of that at all.

JS:

Not anymore.

WH:

I think the thing is now, definitely, on its own feet, and to my mind, it's the second-greatest collection in all the southwest—the Texas Collection, of course, is bigger and more extensive. Personally, I am just as proud of that as I am the museum and what little part that I've had in it. That's all we'll say about the Southwest Collection at this time.

JS:

All right.

Break in recording

JS:

This is Skaggs, December 18, 1967, continuing the interview with Dr. William Curry Holden.

WH:

We can turn that fire down when we feel like—

JS:

Dr. Holden, I'm perfectly comfortable at the present. Would you like to tell us about the campus when you arrived here in—what did you say it was—1929?

WH:

1929—June [1], 1929. Yes, campus was a big open place when I came. There were no trees, hardly, except one or two old Chinese elm at an old farmhouse about halfway between the administration building and the entrance from College Avenue and Broadway. An old farmhouse was still there, and they were using it to—turned it over to the journalism department, which had a class in photography, so they used that to have their darkrooms and things there—it's long

since gone. The main building, of course, was there. The home economics building—about one-third, I suppose, of what we have now—and incidentally, the offices for the athletic department, of all places, were in the home economics building. Then, let me see, there was an old bookstore in our temporary building, kind of south of the home economics building, pretty close to where the present book store is, and that was all over on that side. The textile building was there; it was one of the three first buildings built—and the west engineering building was there, and that was all. Practically everything was in the administration building at that time. The history department was up on the third floor, and the entire staff officed in one little office that was about twelve feet wide and, I presume, probably sixteen feet—maybe eighteen—maybe twenty—probably bigger than—I'd say about twelve by twenty, up on the third floor, the west end, north side. Members of the department at that time—and remember, now, it included philosophy, sociology, and—as I stated before—they added anthropology about two weeks before I got here, and that was it. Members of this department—this great catchall department—Dr. Granbery was head of it, and then Gus Ford and C. D. Eaves were professors of history—both of them dated from the first year they started.² Then I came as a professor, and I don't believe we had anybody else except four professors at that time. After a year or two—couple of years—we—after [H.] Bailey Carroll got his master's degree, we—he was with us for about two or three years as an instructor. Well, that was about it. We taught a little bit of everything, all of us. So far as my own positions on the campus are concerned, I came, as I said, as a professor, and in 1932 or '33—I think it was '33, perhaps—Dr. Granbery was what you would politely say was relieved of his position by the board of directors. To put it a little bit more bluntly, he was fired by the board of directors for no offense at all, except one of them just didn't like his political views. I think, perhaps, he voted for—

JS:
Roosevelt?

WH:
Yes, the first Roosevelt—no, it was the second Roosevelt. But certainly, he was an imminent scholar. He could speak and write Greek and Latin. He was the old time scholar. He had a very broad background in all of these things he had under him in the department. Really, he didn't deserve what they did to him, and it was unfortunate, because he was too old to go and get anywhere else, and he just literally starved to death the rest of his life. Incidentally, his father was a bishop in the Methodist Church—a very important bishop in the last half of the nineteenth century, sometime. Well, Gus Ford was the head of the department from '33 to '35. In '35, the legislature set aside a three-million-dollar appropriation to celebrate the centennial the next year. I think I mentioned the other day something about that, did I not—when I was talking about the museum?

² Dr. S.S. McKay came in 1928.

JS:

Yes, you did.

WH:

And Ford, among other things, after they decided to spend all the money on Dallas and Houston and San Antonio—all except, oh, two or three hundred thousand dollars, which they used for markers around, over the state. The big celebration, of course, for some unknown reason, was to be at Dallas, which is about as un-historic, as opposed to places they could have found to put it, but the Dallas chamber of commerce seemed to have had the best lobby, and so they took over—at least two million dollars of the state and federal funds—or more than that, perhaps—nearly three million to build the buildings on the fairground. In one of the buildings—I believe it's the one that's now used for—I don't know what they use it for now, really—but anyway, among other things, they were going to have a big collection of cattle brands, and Gus Ford and Dean Stangel—here, at that time, he wasn't dean, he was Professor Stangel—took a year off to go down and assemble the livestock business of the fair. And so Stangel, then, offered Gus Ford a year's job at, I suppose, a fairly good salary to go around all the state and gather some cattle brands, which he did, and wrote a little book. You've seen the little book about Ford—

JS:

Texas Cattle Brands

WH:

Yeah, *Texas Cattle Brands*. And so, when he left they made me acting head of the department. Well, Ford never did come back, for some technical reason—I don't know what. But anyway, the next year, then, I was made head of the department—I guess about the end of '36.

JS:

Along this same line, do you know any of the story of how Professor Stangel was able to secure the photographs from the Texas Centennial—the hall of the cattle kings?

WH:

I don't know the story, but he could tell it to you—you know, he's still here and his mind is very good. His idea of the cattle brands and the photographs of cattle kings, those are Stangel's ideas. He got these large pictures, which you know—which are now hanging over in the Ag Building. Incidentally, Stangel has expressed a desire to see those things hanging in the ranch compound—or at least part of them—when we get it made, over in connection with the new museum. I don't know just how they would fit in, or whether there would be a place for them or not, but he has expressed that desire. I think he doesn't trust the present ag people very well. That was a nice thing that he did, on those photographs—and the little book that Ford wrote is useful.

JS:

Yes it is.

WH:

He traveled all around—it was much harder to make a collection than now, because there wasn't very much—you just had to go and find the folks and find out about it. Now we have so many references and everything, you could do the thing much easier than when he did it. No, I guess that's about all I can tell you about that part of it. Now, as to the museum, did we work that up the other day?

JS:

Yes, I believe we did. You were just about to talk about your tenure as head of the department. Would you care to go ahead with that—and the people you brought in and changes that you might have made?

WH:

Well, pretty soon, we got rid of the sociology—it may have just died a natural death for a little while—I've forgotten just how we did that—and also, the philosophy, mainly because there was nobody available to teach it. It kind of dropped out for a while and later it was revised, and when they did, it was independent of the museum. During my term as head of the department, we brought Dr. [Oscar O.] Kinchen in—I believe Dr. Granbery had brought him here, and he was here—we just kind of inherited him. As you know, Dr. Kinchen is quite a scholar, and he's fulfilling a double role here at the college—one, being a very good person in the department, and the other one was being the absent-minded professor for the whole college and the whole town—and the stories of him, some true, and some have been connived and fabricated, but Kinchen was enough of an actor to try to act them all out, anyway. Everything went swimmingly in respect to the absent-minded part until he got married, and that ruined it. When he got married, well, he had to change his habits from nocturnal to daytime, and he had to wash his shirt occasionally—I don't know how long it took him to get all the gravy off the front of his shirt—and as a matter of fact, it just simply ruined a good absent-minded professor, to get married—so much so that he faded out of the picture completely as an absent-minded professor. Then we had Bailey Carroll—I don't believe he ever came back after he got his doctor's degree. We tried to get him back, but for some reason that I never did fathom, Dean Gordon of Arts and Sciences simply would not hear to bringing him back. He just absolutely vetoed it. I don't know why, unless the dean knew something about his escapades in his younger life, which were rather numerous and colorful. I want to say that after Bailey—Bailey went in to the University of Texas and then rose to full professor pretty soon, and became the—under Dr. Webb, he became the assistant director, I would say, of the Texas Historical Association, and then, after just a little while, well, Webb turned it all over to him, and I'm sure that you are fairly well familiar with his record after that. He did a fabulous job as directing the—and incidentally, he and Ike were very close friends for

many years. Bailey became—oh, when I knew him at McMurry College, he was really a young blade. He did everything that was in the book. He shot craps and had a lot of woman trouble—was a fairly good patron of the bottle, and all kinds of things, but as he got older, he became more conservative. Finally, when he married, and he became a vestryman in the Episcopal Church. Incidentally, the last two times I ever saw Bailey, I didn't think he was the same person I'd once known, and to be absolutely honest about it, he had become very humdrum, very prosaic, very proper, and all of the glitter and the glamor that he had effused in his younger days was completely gone. I've never known a person to change more—for his personality to change—than he did. Although, I suppose anyone would have to say that it was for the better, on the whole, but the thing that made Bailey Carrol Bailey Carrol had vanished completely. Now, let's see, let me get back to somebody else. We kept the department very static until just about the time I went out.

JS:
Seth McKay?

WH:
Seth McKay, by the way, got here the year before I did—and Dr. Granbery brought him here. Let me see, do you think of anyone else?

JS:
Ernest Wallace came in fairly late, didn't he?

WH:
Yes, we brought in Ernest about the time that—I guess I brought Ernest in. I'm pretty sure I did. And then, just a little later, I brought in Bill Pearce. Bill had—I believe Bill was here first as a student, as I recall, and probably senior year. Then he took his master's degree under me in anthropology of all things, with history for the rest of his course. He wrote his thesis, by the way, on an anthropological subject. I believe it was on the excavation of Aryan ruins, as I recall. And then he showed—as an instructor—he showed considerable promise, and we practically pushed him off to Austin to finish up his degree—which he did in two years—and came back, and then we promoted him along. And then, let me see, I think it was in 1950 when we moved into the new museum, when the museum demands were going to pick up considerably. I resigned as head of the department and recommended him to be my successor. I'm sure it was not very appetizing to McKay and to Eaves, but I think it was very much to the benefit of the department because both McKay and Eaves were—they were pretty much in a groove, with very little imagination about anything except their own little groove. Then, let me see, do you think of anyone else that must have been in about that time?

JS:

Well, let's see, I can't recall when Dr. Vigness came in

WH:

He came in about a year or two after—we considered bringing him in, but we simply didn't have a place. We just didn't have the money, and things opened up a bit just about—just the next year, I think, and Bill brought him in about '51 or '52. As a matter of fact, when I got out, it left a little bit of room, however, I continued to teach anthropology. I was still—it didn't affect the offerings of the history department at all when I got over. Now, going back a little bit on this dean business, in 1937—I guess it was in the early fall—Dr. William A. Jackson, who was head of the government department, and who started out to be just the chairman, you might say, of the graduate faculty—they didn't have a dean for two or three years—but he had been elevated to dean. They had finally made it into a division. I guess he had been elevated about '35, and in '37, in the fall, he went up to his office, which was on the third floor, one morning, opened his door—unlocked his door—and stepped into the office and fell dead—and the doctor said he was dead by the time he hit the floor—right in the middle of his—just that quick, and he'd had no warning or anything, but it was his heart, just like that. Then Dr. Knapp, who was president at the time, had the job of trying to get somebody else. Well, I don't know the politics of it, but there were two—not candidates—but two people were considered—myself and Dr. Goodwin—for the job. There was a division in the board, and it seemed like it was a tie. I didn't know anything about this. On the occasion along, I suppose, about November or December, of the dedication of the old library building—the one that you're in now—wasn't quite finished—but I know they had a—out on the northeast corner of the portal, they had a platform built up there. Have you ever seen that stone in there given to the officials and the board of directors and all that—well, they were laying that, was the occasion. Dr. Knapp, as part of the ceremonies, announced the new dean of the graduate school, and it was Dr. Goodwin. Then he says, "Now, we have another new dean to announce," and we all picked up our ears, and so he announced that Dr. Holden was the dean of—a newly created title of Dean of Archaeological Research—I don't know, it took three lines in the catalogs [**Dean and Director of Anthropological, Historical, and Social Science Research, and Curator of the West Texas Museum**]**—it was the darnedest thing you even saw—you got to go back to about a catalog of 1938, you'd see, I had the longest title that they ever had, and it meant absolutely nothing except salary—it was a title and a salary. I found out later what had happened. The board, which had tied up, they just compromised on letting Dr. Goodwin be the dean of the graduate school. Dr. Goodwin apparently just had one thing he could do—chemistry, and he could be—but I was a rather versatile person, so they just created this long title and said I was it. Well, of course, it meant nothing—it didn't add to my duties or anything—it was just a title and also—**

End of recording