

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

MAIN ENTRY: McNally, James

DATE OF INTERVIEW: September 7, 2005

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Lubbock, Texas

INTERVIEWER: David Marshall

FORMAT: CD

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 3272 2112 4621

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 3:52

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: James McNally talks about his early experience swimming in high school and later in the navy, as well as his college education and the University of Oklahoma's influence on his later career. Lastly, he discusses his career starting from a coach in Boy's Club and his contribution to the Texas Tech competitive swimming program, its development and demise.

ABSTRACT:

CD ONE

TIME STAMP

Background information

0:00

Born in Austin, Minnesota 1927

Father was an athlete

Taught him how to swim

River swimming

Junior high school

Not selected for basketball and football

Met the swimming coach

Joined the swimming team

Coach's desire of winning a state championship

Excellent swimmers in high school

Won state championship in 10th grade

Went to the military service in 1946

High school swimming coach's coaching style

Techniques adopted from high school swimming coach

0:15

Adapted skills in track	
Information-gathering skills	
Events and swimming strokes in high school period	0:17
Size of the pool	
150 yard medley	
Confusions in the record	
Breaststroke and butterfly	
Standard strokes	
Different lengths in high school	
No uniformity of pools	0:22
Three pools in West Texas	
Olympic size pool	
Reason for Tech pool's design	
Issue of metric system and standard system in track	
Training in Jacksonville, Florida	
Compared differences among coaches	0:28
College swimming coach	
Yale's swimming coach	
Original application of electronic timing	
Ways to increase swimming speed	0:31
Goggles did not exist	
Shaving	
Baby oil	
Girls who shaved head for swimming	
Goggles became used	
Pools in Minnesota	0:36
Two basement pools in Minnesota	
Advantages of basement pool	
University of Minnesota pool	
Outdoor pool	
Strength of swimming	0:39
Distance swimming	
800 meter swimming	
Try-out for Olympics	
Navy swimming team	
Coaching in military service	
Interval training of swimming	
Interval training developed	0:46
Intervals and flat out training	

Sprint and long distance	
Term in the Navy	0:48
Went in for the first time 1945	
Duties in Navy	
WWII Victory soon after beginning of the service	
Duties on an aircraft carrier	
Stayed in Navy until 1952	
Stationed at San Diego Naval Base	
Not aware of the potential of the war	
Underwater atomic bomb test	
Transferred to Chihuahua	
University of Oklahoma	0:59
First impression of OU	
Stipend in college	
Met swimming coach at OU	
Benefits of starting college	
Attended classes at OU	
Decision to go to University of Oklahoma	
Training facility at OU	
Swam only one year in college	
First year of college	
Improved studying skills in “Learn How to Study” program	
Physical education program	01:16
Got degree in physical education	
Football coach at University of Oklahoma	
Split team of football	
Help from coach for the trip to Lubbock	
Criteria of evaluating a person	
Virtues of the coaches he met	
Graduated college in 1952	
After college	01:26
Sent out applications to many high schools	
One visit to a high school in Oklahoma	
Lubbock Boys’ Club	
Met an alumni in the same club	
Accepted the job offer in Lubbock	
Started competitive swimming program	
Size of Lubbock at the time	
Focused on swimming program	
Other duties in Boys’ Club	

Transition from Boys' Club to Texas Tech	01:37
Incidents that caused transition	
Physical education program at Texas Tech	
Founders of Texas Tech physical education program	
Invited by Texas Tech swimming training program	
Started teaching swimming classes to college students	
Learned how to teach college students to swim	
Got the chance to coach the college team	
Plan for a competitive pool at Texas Tech	
Pool built in 1957	
Became the staff of the program at Texas Tech	
Development of program at Texas Tech	01:52
Motivating factors in program growth	
Stimulated by football program	
Started competing with other teams in the Southwest Conference	
Big time for Texas Tech	
Never thought about leaving Texas Tech	
Became the head swimming coach of Texas Tech in the 1959-60 season	
Beginning of the swim team	02:06
Found out about his promotion from SMU director	
First couple of races	
Swam against Texas, Texas A&M and SMU	
Beginnings of the other swim teams in the Southwest Conference	
Good swimmers who were recruited	
Scholarships of the program	
Early members of the swimming team	
Strategy of recruitment	
Academic grades of the swimmers	
Tuition payment of the swimmers	
Comparison with other schools in the conference	
Dining problems	
Weight training	
Training schedule of the swimming team	02:25
Morning work out	
Middle distance work out	
Mileage-running's impact on swimming	
Ways of weight training	
Universal gym	
Weight training for Olympic swimmers	
Team travel	
Coaching style and recruitment	02:36
Learned from former coaches	

Encouragement for swimming	
Philip Simpkins from Lamar High School, Houston	
Got one scholarship for Philip	
Philip became Tech's first All-American swimmer	
Other outstanding swimmers recruited	
Jesse Marsh from San Angelo	
Robert Graham from Tyler	
Letter from Robert's mother	
Robert beat many pool records in freshmen year	
A race at New Mexico University	
NCAA game in Michigan State	
Developing of the swimming program	02:44
Robert's entry to Tech Hall of Fame	
Tennessee's swimming program	
Tech moved up to 3 rd place in the Southwest Conference	
Never beat SMU	
Beat Texas in some races	
Air Force Academy and Denver University	
Academic performance and travel of the swim team	02:58
Rules for swim team members	
Schedule of swimming competition	
Traveling in Colorado	
Swimming in guest venue	
Skiing experiences in Colorado	
Swimming coach at Arkansas	
Benefits of travelling	
Friend's career	
SMU's swimming competition	
Swim team in athletic department	03:10
Difficulty in schedule	
Different treatment than other athletes	
Second-class citizen in athletic dining hall	
Viewpoint on fraternity	
Double T Association	
Minorities in swimming	03:19
Minority students in the program	
Reason for little participation of minority students	
First Mexican American student on the swim team	
Retirement	03:22
Retired at the end of 1989 season	
Only retired from coaching	

Worked as a coach for 26 years
Stayed at Tech until 1993

Thoughts on quitting the program 03:26
Talked with the athletic department about the reason for quitting
Rehabilitating the pool and equipment
Directors were disappointed by the decision
Reason for dropping the program
Women's athletic department
Cost to restart the program
Donations from the swimmers

Other travel experience 03:39
Travelling on the west coast
USC's swimming facility
Seeing different things
California and Yale
Fish restaurant in Houston
Sightseeing at the Astrodome
Son's chance to see Air Force Academy

Other people who could provide information for the program 03:48
60 former members showed up at last reunion
Recalled one journey to New Mexico

DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT: 1927

GENDER OF INFORMANT: Male

ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT: