

**Oral History Interview of
Robert “Bob” Carr**

**Interviewed by: David Marshall
July 15, 2014
Lubbock, Texas**

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This interview features Robert Carr. Carr talks about his interest in West Texas history, his involvement with various historical centers in Lubbock, and his work in politics.

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David Marshall (DM):

The date is July 15, 2014. This is David Marshall interviewing Dr. Robert Carr at his home in Lubbock, Texas, and this is part three of an interview series. We've already talked about your early life and early influences, we've talked about your medical career, and I want to talk about some of your community service and historical interests today, and then we'll talk a little bit more about your family. But we were just before I turned the recorder on, we were talking about how you met Betty, and we've already recorded that story. But it brought up one interesting subject, and that is you were talking about putting out leaflets for the Methodist Church while you were at Texas Tech. I know that you're pretty much a lifelong member of First United Methodist downtown, right?

Robert Carr (RC):

Yes, in fact when we moved out here in 1932, my mother's father had been a Methodist circuit rider up in Arkansas. And she went with him many times, played the piano, when they went to various revivals and things like that. So the first thing we did when we came to Lubbock in 1932 was join a church. I always have been a member of the church. So in 1932 then, we joined First Methodist Church here in Lubbock. All the family went down, and so I've been a member of that same church then since that time, from 1932 to the present time.

DM:

Were there any other Methodist churches in Lubbock at that time?

RC:

Oh yeah, there were about four or five others probably I imagine. They were all fairly new, a lot of them were very small, like St. John's Methodist Church and some of the others, but yeah, there were a few Methodist churches.

DM:

Okay, so when you came back to Lubbock, after having been in the military, after going to med school, you came back into Lubbock and you were married, and did you rejoin the church, First United Methodist, at that time?

RC:

Yeah that was the first thing that we did really, when I first—

DM:

Okay.

RC:

When we came back, we had not changed our membership of course, so we just started going back to the First Methodist Church again.

DM:

Okay, so you've actually been a member since 1932 or so.

RC:

Oh yeah, yeah.

DM:

Wow, okay. Have you had other responsibilities at First United, besides being a member of the congregation? Have you taught Sunday school, and things like this.

RC:

Oh yeah, Betty and I were sponsors of the college department area. And then I often times would have, at least several times a year, I would make talks to the various classes in the Sunday school—both adult classes, and children-appropriate ones. I would often times go as the doctor to the young kids and pre-kindergarten, or kindergarten. I would take my stethoscope down, and we'd have a session or two where I'd show them the stethoscope and how I felt of their tummy, and have them listen to their heart, things like that. And they really enjoyed all that so much.

DM:

I imagine, I imagine.

RC:

And I had over the years many kids that later became prominent in the community, that remembered my doing things like that. Doyle Gamble, who was a director of the bands here in Lubbock was one of them that we knew in the high school department there. But anybody that would belong to the church I would probably in some way of have had some association with.

DM:

Okay. Did you say you focused on college group though, when you were teaching Sunday school, you taught in the—

RC:

Yeah, well not so much focused on that—we were the sponsors for them for a number of years.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And so we had to focus in at that time. But otherwise we made talks and everything to the various classes.

DM:

What do you mean by sponsor of the college students?

RC:

Well you had to have somebody when they had a party, or you had to direct them as to what they needed to do, or to get back on topic. And Betty and I did that.

DM:

Okay. Did you ever work on the history of First United Methodist, did you get into that, I know it has been done.

RC:

I didn't at the time—later on I did.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

In fact, Betty and I have done a lot with it. She was the archives director at the Methodist church for a number of years, I think fourteen, sixteen, eighteen years, and she did that because of the education she got in archiving there at Texas Tech.

DM:

Perfect. Well you also have had long-time ties with Friends of the Library I believe?

RC:

Yes.

DM:

Okay, can you tell me about that?

RC:

Well of course obviously being a doctor, I read all the time and so we enjoyed doing that as far as that. We always helped with their book sales, and we gave a lot of books to the library, because we'd read them and pass them on down. I rarely read anything else besides medical

books, educational-type books like that. Betty's forte was about reading about novels, and some historical things, but mostly hers was an entirely different category to mine.

DM:

That's an interesting similarity that you have—you both like history.

RC:

Yeah, well that all started actually whenever—Betty had an unusual career of education. When we got married after she became a sophomore at Tech, I was in medical school, had been there my second year also at medical school. The way I got in rather early is because at that time—and I had no doubt that they have the same program now, maybe they don't—but you had to have a hundred and twenty hours to graduate from Texas Tech, just to get a regular degree. And so they had a deal that if you had a hundred hours, then you could apply to medical school, or law school, anything like that at all, and if they accepted you ahead of time, so to speak, then you could go ahead and go to the medical school. And then after two years, then you automatically got your degree from college, from the university, which at that time was a college, Texas Tech college. So anyway, so that's what I did, and so I had gone back to school again to get some more work, to get up to that hundred hours. But then got accepted, and after that hundred hours, the medical school accepted me at Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

DM:

Okay, and so but Betty put hers off for a while.

RC:

Yeah. Let me add on, because I started to add about that. Betty decided that we should get married. She kept telling me how lonesome I was, and I kept telling her I really wasn't lonesome at all, because I studied so hard and everything. But finally after the end of the second year, she said "Well I think we ought to get married."—well she didn't say it like that, but I decided we should get married. So we decided to get married, and so at the end of my sophomore year, and so several things occurred that I think was kind of funny. One is that—we decided this at the end of the sophomore year, when I was taking all my finals and trying to study so hard and everything, and of course she was interested in starting the home life and everything. And so she decided that I should be the one to go over and get an apartment, because I was in Dallas, and she was here, and she couldn't come to make trips back and forth to Dallas. We didn't have any money. So she told me to go get an apartment. So I looked around, and I finally found one that was advertised. It was over near Baylor Hospital, about a block away from Baylor Hospital. It was an old two-story house, and had a porch out on the front, which I thought I would enjoy very much. But it had been converted over from this two-story house. And on the second floor were two apartments. They were joined by a bathroom, and both apartments used the same bathroom. And so I went over and I thought it was worth the money they were asking for it. And so I went

ahead and told them we would take it, and I gave them a deposit of forty-five dollars, or something like that—wasn't much more than that per month. And so I gave them the deposit, and Betty called me that night and asked me if I had finally found an apartment, because I was having a hard time getting a way to spend the time to do that. So I said, "Yes, I found one today, so we can forget about it, it's up on the second floor, has a big, wide porch, it's close over there to the hospital that maybe I'll be at some, and so that'll be nice." And but I said, "It doesn't have but one bathroom, shared by the two people in the apartments." And I said, "The other thing is that it has a living room, and then it has a bedroom, and then it has a room they've converted into a kitchen, and sort of another—had everything—and she said, "Well, what kind of refrigerator does it have, what kind of gas rings does it have?" And I looked around to my friend who had gone with me to see the apartment and I said—and I hardly ever say a bad word or anything—but I said, "What in the hell did that apartment have as far as water is concerned?" Because then I realized it didn't even have but just a little dish to put water in, and didn't even have running water in the kitchen.

DM:

Oh.

RC:

And it also had an icebox, which you had to add the ice to the box, which meant that you couldn't be gone more than a couple of hours, because it would overflow on the floor when it melted. And I said, "What in the hell had happened with that over there, where is the water, and everything?" And then we realized that this is what's going to happen. And so I told Betty, I said "Betty, we don't have anything, but we've got water out of the bathroom to drink and everything, and we got to put ice into the box all the time." And she said, "Well, then if you had to look for it and that's what you found, then that's what we'll take." So anyway, That's when we did that.

DM:

Well she was really dedicated to this idea of getting married then?

RC:

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. So the first year when I got out, I not only got married, but we moved in this apartment. And then see in medical school then, you had semester hours that were about like they are now. And what we did was that we'd gotten into the apartment, then I figure well I've got to make some money, because I'm out of school for two or three months here now, almost three months, and I've got to have some money to go back, because the government's playing forty-five dollars a month because I was a veteran. They were furnishing my books and the things like that to go to school, but then anything else, living expenses, I had to pay on my own. Well Betty got a job immediately, and then I got a job at a grocery store, because the only thing I

knew how to do was to stock shelves at grocery stores. Because I'd worked at Furr's food down here when I was a little bit younger, and I would stock their shelves, and I would go and carry out the groceries then, and I would go ahead and count all the eggs and things like that. So anyway, that's the only experience I had, so I got a three months period of being able to do that. And then the next summer, I got a job as book seller. I took the *Book of Knowledge*, and went door-by-door just cold, no leads or anything, and tried to sell families the *Book of Knowledge* for their children. And I just hated that, because we always beat them down a little bit, because we'd start out well you want your child to have a good education and everything. Well they all did, and most parents did at least. And so we would be able to get into the house with that, and we'd talk with them about it. I sold maybe half a dozen books over a whole summer, so I didn't make hardly any money at all, I just hated what I was having to do. Anyway, the next year, next summer, I got a job at Baylor Hospital as a nurse. Not a registered nurse, but just a babysitter nurse. And so for the whole summer I would go there, probably would go about nine or ten o'clock at night and get the patient we were going to watch, get them all settled and cleaned up and everything, ready for then night. And then we would spend all night long sitting by the bed in case they needed anything, or needed to get up to go to the bathroom. And so I tried to read at first, but after you've read for two or three hours at night, and it's three o'clock in the morning, it's hard to keep on reading. So I sat up many a morning looking out the window trying to keep my eyes open, watching the sun come up at Baylor. And so that was really something, but anyway, we had those jobs in the summertime, and gotten into medical school then of course, and graduated in 1951.

DM:

Ya'll were working hard through this, and Betty was working also to help you out with your school.

RC:

First of all, she got a job in the insurance company as a secretary.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

She knew how to type a little bit, and she worked at it and got to doing that pretty good. And so she worked there for a number of months, and then they called her and told her to come back. She applied to the VA hospital there just north of Dallas.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And so she got a job out there after that. And I think she can tell you if you talk with her later on, but it was just a—certainly by today's quotients—that I think she got a hundred fifty dollars a month.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And then I was getting forty-five dollars from the government, plus my tuition and everything. So, and we made it alright, because we found another apartment after being over there about a year or two. We found another apartment closer to the medical school, and it was the same price—forty-five dollars a month.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

But it was under OPA—at that time, if the government had given them money during the war to let soldiers stay there, then they told them if they didn't go up on the rent—that they couldn't go up on the rent, they told them they couldn't.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

So they were getting forty-five dollars a month, which is what we used.

DM:

Okay, I think either you or Betty, one of you have listed on your résumé that Betty's first degree was actually a "Ph.T."

RC:

Yeah, that's right.

DM:

"Putting hubby through."

RC:

Putting hubby through, yeah that's right.

DM:

Did she go back after all of this and work on her bachelor's?

RC:

Yeah, see she therefore had about two years I think at Texas Tech. And when she went back, she didn't do any of her education then, but then when we moved back to Lubbock, and she decided that she wanted to go back to school. But of course by that time she had three children, and so we want her to stay home if she could. So we got by just with what I was making as a new doctor, "by" because it was a—Well, the doctor that I went in with, Dr. Donaldson, was very generous. And I will admit this—did admit to him several times of this—he paid me a thousand dollars a month, was my salary, for the first three months. And he said, "And you'll get nothing out of the business except this salary I'm giving you. It's your own salary. But now after three months, if you're not making more than a thousand dollars a month, than if you are then we'll go off salary, and you just keep what you make."

DM:

Okay, okay.

RC:

And I thought well that's a generous deal.

DM:

That's fair, very fair.

RC:

So kept me going, and that's the way we did it, yeah.

DM:

So Betty, did she start back to school during this time?

RC:

Started back to school, yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

She went back to school after—well, the funny thing was that I think Bobby our—Robert our son, the oldest son, came back one day and she had always said she wanted to go back to school

again, and so he went to the registrars at Tech, and told them that his mother wanted to maybe go back to school—

DM:
Okay.

RC:
And you'd probably find that it was in the "dead file", where her records were. But he always thought that was funny, because he said it'd be in the "dead" file. So anyway, so she got everything and joined again. And then she started taking not a full course, but a certain amount of hours each time. And that's when she had been—she could, again, tell you things like this better than I can—but she had been just on a scholarship to get a regular B.A. out there, I don't know in particular what. But anyway so she went back and she decided that she wanted to go—oh, journalism, she was interested in journalism.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
But when she went back she said, "Well you know, I think I'd be interested in doing something else maybe." So she got interested in history, that's where her history interests began. And of course that took her over to the Southwest Collection, and she met a lot of people over there, because she was an older student, and they were nice to her and everything. And she got to know the head of the organization over there, and the people that worked there. And they invited us to parties, and we had had them out to our house. And so we enjoyed that so much, and I got a new circle of friends because I'd always had doctor friends and doctor wives. But that's where my interest in history began.

DM:
Oh, I see, okay.

RC:
Yeah, Betty was so interested in it, and—

DM:
Yeah.

RC:
And got in a degree in it.

DM:
Yeah.

RC:
And went on and got her second degree.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
That I decided that we were getting to know everybody up there, and they're nice people. So that's how my interest grew in history.

DM:
Well I've always been curious to know that. I didn't know if it was something from your childhood, or something that developed separately and came together. But it was Betty introducing you around.

RC:
Betty was the final impetus, at least.

DM:
Isn't that interesting?

RC:
Yeah.

DM:
And I'm so glad for it, because you've made a lot of contributions to history, and let's talk about those a little bit. I've got a list of them here, and it's only a small list of a lot that you've actually done, but one is your service on the Lubbock County Historical Commission, you in fact chaired that—

RC:
Yes.

DM:
For a while.

RC:

I did, one of my close friends was a lady that lived up at Crosbyton. Had the house that she eventually gave to Texas Tech out there.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

What was her name?

DM:

You're talking about Georgia Mae Ericson?

RC:

Georgia Mae Ericson.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And Georgia Mae and I, and Betty, were remembers the Westerner's Club, which is sort of a history club here in town. And so Georgia came to me one time, and she said that the historical commission had stopped functioning here, and this was probably in the early, or mid-1990s—and she said, “They’re trying to get it started, and I think you would be a wonderful person to be in charge of that, get it started and get it running again.” And I said, “Well, I think I would be interested in that.” So that’s how she got me back on that, and we got good people on the committee. County commissioners appointed us officially, and gave us a small amount of money to look out for historical places. So we did that, and we grew from that into many other things. I also belonged to a re-enactment group for the 4th Cavalry.

DM:

The doctor for the 4th—

RC:

Yeah a doctor—my son Bobby—Bobby and I were looking for something we could get in together, to get closer together and understand each other a little bit better. So he liked horses, and I didn’t, but I did like medicine, and he liked medicine too. So we went out there and told them we’d like to volunteer for being the medical contingent of the 4th Cavalry, and they were tickled to death you see.

DM:

The medical contingent?

RC:

Yeah, yeah, yeah, and so they said, "Yeah, that'd be fine." So whenever we'd have a campout, as we often times did like at Billy the Kid days, and other places, or we went other places to make talks. Well Bobby and I would go as a medical contingent, and we got some Civil War knives, and saws, and equipment. And we bought appropriate coat and everything that we needed for that, and tried to make it as appropriate—because at that time, the head of it was a guy named—that was out at Tech. He was there, then he moved from Tech over to near Dallas. But he was a stickler for having everything accurate.

DM:

Who was that, can you remember?

RC:

Bob, somebody—Bob—

DM:

Maybe it'll come up in a minute.

RC:

Yeah maybe so.

DM:

Yeah.

RC:

Betty probably remembered, but.

DM:

Well did you have tents, did you stay in tents?

RC:

Oh yeah, yeah, we did some camping out. We had, for a time, about fifty or sixty members, and probably half of those had horses.

DM:

Oh.

RC:

And we rode in parades. And one of them made a Civil War cannon that they could drag around, and so we really did enjoy it, it was a lot of fun.

DM:

What did you learn about medical practices in the nineteenth century through this experience? Did you learn a lot?

RC:

Oh yeah, I gave talks about it, speeches and so forth. So yeah I really did, it was extremely interesting. In fact, Bobby and I, later on, several years had passed, we decided we could make a talk ourselves. So we made a talk where both of us talked, but at the same time it made it a little long at times. We had to cut it back. But I talked about the Civil War as far as the diseases, medical aspects of it, the diseases that were present how things like that, medical aspects. And he talked about the surgical aspects. And at that time, he would bring out all these knives, and saws, and everything they had for amputations, and he would show these and tell a little bit about how to use them.

DM:

Get some gasps from the audience, huh?

RC:

Oh yeah, always did, and we decided he should wear one of these butcher's aprons. We got some iodine and splattered around on it. So he would always wear that, particularly when we were out on—like at the Billy the Kid days, where we had a tent out. This was our medical tent, and we did some charade-type things. He got his family involved, because we had his daughter who liked to play, make a lot of plays and so forth. And she decided she could act as a wounded person that had her leg amputated.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

So we played all this, and we had to play it down, because one little child—We had an old leg, that was not a real leg, but just a play leg—

DM:

Prosthetic?

RC:

Yeah it was a play leg. It had blood on the end of it, so we put some more there. And so supposedly his daughter had been thrown off a horse, and her leg had been broken, and he had to remove it. So we went into the tent, closed the flaps, and then he threw out this bloody leg. And some of the kids we didn't know it would affect that much, but some of the kids were very upset, because that beautiful girl had lost her leg right in front of them. So we had to tone that down a little bit. But anyway, and the thing is we got a bunch of awards. We got a state award for doing this for the auxiliary for the County Medical Society Auxiliary, a best talk for the year.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

In their bunch, and then we got award some other place I've forgotten, for having the best talk for them.

DM:

Oh okay.

RC:

But anyway, so he called me the other day and says, "You want to do that talk again?" And I said, "Well maybe someday." But anyway, we enjoyed doing that. So it got the family back together too.

DM:

Did anyone ever videotape your talk?

RC:

I don't think that one. Sometimes they'd videotape some of the others, but.

DM:

Will the Southwest Collection get a copy of the write-up of this speech at least, of this talk? Do you have an outline for one?

RC:

Well, I think I have the whole talk that I gave. I have it, so you're welcome to a copy of it.

DM:

Okay, well I'd like to—

RC:

All these things are going to go to the Southwest Collection when I die anyway, but if you want it ahead of time and make a copy, that'd be fine.

DM:

Well I'm especially making it for the record here, so that when someone listens to this they'll go, "Hey I want to go see that talk."

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

That's intriguing.

RC:

Well, I hope we get to do it once or twice more, because he and I enjoyed giving it. We really did. And we could make it as gory as we needed to, or wanted to.

DM:

Or tone it down.

RC:

If we felt like somebody was going to sleep out there, then he would take out this big saw that he has, and tell about how they used to cut off a leg.

DM:

What is something that really sticks in your mind about your talk, something that you learned about nineteenth century medical procedure, or disease, or illness?

RC:

Well the Civil War thing—now I had other talks about the Civil War too. But the Civil War thing I really didn't get as deep into that as I would have liked to have done, because I was really more focused on Lubbock history, and West Texas history. But yeah I really enjoyed giving those talks. I gave one talk, for example, about early medicine on the South Plains. And I went down to the Spanish Pharmacopeia that they had here in town, and I understand they have one now again. But I talked to this fellow, this is when I was in practice, and so I told him what I wanted. He didn't believe me at first, I think he thought I was from the TMA [Texas Medical Association] Investigation Committee to be sure he wasn't practicing medicine without a license, because he didn't want to talk to me at first. But when he saw I was really interested, then we

went around and we picked—and I still have the talk, I have the things he gave to me, articles—not articles, but pieces of the plants that he gave to me. I still have back there all these things. So that was a good talk I used to give a long time ago.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
So it helped me to know a lot more about medicine too as well as the history itself.

DM:
I bet you were grateful for the advances by the time you came along and you were involved in the career.

RC:
Oh yeah, goodness.

DM:
Did you own your uniforms, and tents, and all of that?

RC:
Oh yeah.

DM:
That's quite an investment, getting it right.

RC:
Well the tents were owned by the organization.

DM:
I see.

RC:
Because the cannon was owned by the organization too. But I've got my uniform here which, again, will probably go to the Southwest Collection. But I've got my uniform and the old grey coat and things like that. It was a lot of fun, I had to take the coat in and out two or three times, because over the years I grew bigger, and then I lost weight, and then I grew big again. So we had to keep changing the waist size. But I still have it.

DM:

How many people were in the organization when you were in?

RC:

Well, in the 4th Cavalry?

DM:

4th Cavalry.

RC:

Reenactment group—I imagine the most was probably sixty or seventy, but we had, as I say, probably about twenty or thirty people ride with horses. And the rest were cooks, and just people who wanted to dress up like soldiers.

DM:

Really interesting. You also did docent work. You were a volunteer weren't you at the Ranching Heritage Center?

RC:

Oh yeah. I was head of the first docents that were developed at Texas Tech in the museum. Betty and I were the head of that.

DM:

Do you know about what year that was?

RC:

Yeah I have a talk about that too, that I gave just the other day to the docents out there this year.

DM:

Oh, okay.

RC:

That was about, oh maybe late fifties, early sixties.

DM:

Okay. Did you volunteer like at Christmastime at the Candlelight at the Museum and things like that?

RC:

Yes, we did all that.

DM:

Was there a particular building that you—

RC:

Yeah, the Jowell House, J-o-w-e-l-l House. We enjoyed that so much, and got started on that, and that's where we stayed.

DM:

What was it about the Jowell House that you liked?

RC:

Well it was the only one out there that looked like a fort, and it had gun port in the front. It had the windows that were small, and it was hard to get in. It had a trapdoor between the first and second floors, two stories, and it had the trap door there that if the Indians were ever to attack, that the family would not have to go outside, they would actually go up through the trapdoor to get up to the second floor so they could fire their guns out the gun port and everything. And then they had some hearthstone, was one of the few that they had that early. Put in their by a professional that came out to do it for Mr. Jowell. And then they had several interesting things, a cistern, was the first cistern that they knew of that had a filter system in it that early, to keep the dead birds and critters out. And they had rocks that would filter the water through, to make good water for the people that was there. And then they had a house that had running water, which kept the butter cool, and things like that too. So yeah, a lot of history in that thing, that was really interesting.

DM:

That is one of the really interesting buildings at Ranching Heritage.

RC:

Yeah, and they didn't have the stairs going up the side, because they didn't do that until after the Indian scare was over with, they put that in later. Only way you could get up to the second floor would be to go up through the trapdoor.

DM:

Trapdoor, yeah, very interesting. Now you were also volunteers at Lubbock Lake Landmark?

RC:

Yes, I got interested in that. Just anything history interested me at that time.

DM:

The history bug really bit you, didn't it?

RC:

Oh yeah. Eileen Johnson was the head of that thing, and Eileen and I went out one day, and I said Eileen, "I know you're having a lot of people coming from all over the states here to work here in the summer, and I'd like to volunteer to come out and see them, if you'll give me permission to come out and walk around occasionally and do things." She said, "Well that'd be great, I'd appreciate that." So anyway, I would do that. Anybody that had a sunburn, or had a sore throat or something like that, they'd bring into my office, and have them come in and I'd treat them for free.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And I was the doctor for that bunch for several years.

DM:

Well I didn't know that. That's really interesting.

RC:

Yeah, and I enjoyed it, because she and I got to be pretty good friends, and knew each other real well. And she would take me out, and other people would take me out, and show me where they'd been digging. Because see that was a place when I was a kid that I used to ride my bicycle over. It used to have some water down there that was in the very bottom part of the thing, but the story on that of course is very interesting. I won't go into it here, but how they found the first Clovis point out there. There's a friend of mine who was in high school a year or two ahead of me, and they were walking around out there, and they found a Clovis point, and then took it over to the fellow that was head of that over there, so.

DM:

Was that Holden?

RC:

W.C. Holden, yeah.

DM:

Yeah.

RC:

W.C Holden. Anyway, so I had connection through that. But they used to use that as

motorcycles, so just they'd go rare down there, then they'd go up the side, jump over and come down like that. So they'd use that, and then if there weren't any motorcycles, we had a part that we used for bicycles, and we did that. And besides that, at the time I didn't know it, but that was the first house that was built by—

DM:
Singer.

RC:
Singer was out there at that area too, which later on I helped, because Eileen wanted me to come with a metal detector, I had a metal detector. And she said, "We think we know the exact location, but if you would come out and use your metal detector, you should find a lot of burned nails, because they burned it down." And said, "We'd like you to come out and see if you can pinpoint it better for me." So I went out and worked out there, and they put flags down where I found a bunch of nails and things like that. So we were able to pinpoint the point exactly where the store was.

DM:
And that's where the historical marker is now?

RC:
Yeah, yeah.

DM:
You've just been involved in everything. I didn't realize that.

RC:
I enjoyed all those things, I really did. And I went out, tried to find the burial place of a guy that the Mexican, that came out there, and got shot by—what's his name again, the one that built the—

DM:
Oh, Singer?

RC:
Singer.

DM:
Yeah.

RC:

Yeah got shot by Singer. But he always said he didn't shoot them, but he probably did. But anyway, and they found just the charred remains of his body there. And so they got somebody to drag the body, just drag it over next—and they told pretty much where it probably was. They scooped out a place to put his body down. But they moved it away from that site, because Mrs. Singer was over there all still living right there, and they didn't want the charred body up there. So and Mrs. Singer said he ought to have a Christian burial, and finally after she'd bugged Mr. Singer quite a lot, he did have somebody drag it over there and bury it. And I got interested in trying to find the spot, because I tried to visualize it as it could be where maybe I could find a skull, or bones, or something like that there. And never did find it, but I spent several weekends looking for that over in that area. I think I know about where it is, but either I didn't find it, or there's nothing left.

DM:

Were you trying to use a metal detector, hoping that he had some metal on him?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Yeah.

RC:

Because he might have had something in his pocket, burned, and might have had a coin or two, or something like that, and I maybe could find it.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And but I'd like to go back sometime. I wish I wasn't so old, so I could go back to a lot of these places like that again.

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DM:

What about the people who came in from different locations, I think from different countries sometimes, and worked the summers?

RC:

Oh yeah.

DM:

You met a lot of these people apparently, because they came to your clinic?

RC:

They had a magazine that told the archeologist, had a listing of all the places that were looking for people to come to work, for just board and room, they couldn't pay anything else. So I looked at that, and I saw that a lot of them, they were coming in. And there wasn't a big influx, like fifty and a hundred, it was maybe like five, ten, fifteen people would come in, and they would rotate through for a period of time, and then new ones would come. But anyway, I told them that I'd be glad to help them as much as I could on keeping them healthy while I was there, if I could get in. And so I got to know a number of them, not very much because my visits were short, and I didn't want to disturb them, and they were out in a hundred and ten degree heat, and sunburned, and mosquitos bites going on all the time. So I just helped them that way as much as I could.

DM:

I just always wondered, these people came from different climates, and here they are in Texas in the summertime, how rough they could be.

RC:

Yeah a lot of them came pale, sometimes as pale as the person never had been out in the sun, and man they left with their skin broken, and dry, and everything else.

DM:

Were some of these from—

RC:

And they were the dirtiest people, because they dug all day long. And if they cut their hand or something like that, I had to suture it. Or if they had something wrong with them, sore throat or something, she would bring them in. And I had a teenage room, that I was the first one in Lubbock to have an adolescent, teenage room, so the kids that were older didn't want to come in and sit in the front room with the little babies. They thought they were twelve years old, they weren't going to have to sit like that. So we fixed up this room that was a garage attached onto the building, and they just came in on their own door, adolescent room, and they'd come in and I

had things appropriate to their age—books, and magazines, and things like that back there. They would go up and register, and then come back and sit back there, and not have the indignity of having to sit up in the baby area.

DM:

And you let the diggers use that?

RC:

Yeah, the diggers came in there. But my nurse, she didn't like to have them come in too often, because they were all as dirty as can be, and sweaty, and they bled all over themselves sometimes. And so she said, "Dr. Carr, why do you see all of these people out there? They just do nothing but stink up the room and things like that." And I said, "Well, they got their room to themselves back there, we can air it out quickly when they leave." So anyway, I enjoyed seeing them, they were a lot of fun.

DM:

Were some of them from foreign countries?

RC:

I don't know, I think we had some Spanish ones, but I don't know if they were from Mexico or down south, I don't know.

DM:

I figured that these were archeology students coming in?

RC:

Yeah they were.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah, but anybody, didn't have to be an archeology student, it could be anybody that didn't need the money, and would like to have come and do some digging—they were invited through this magazine to come down.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Wow. How many years did you do that?

RC:

Oh probably three, or four, or five.

DM:

Yeah, well that gave you a good look into the inner workings of the diggings, and all of this.

RC:

Oh yeah, oh yeah, yeah. I enjoyed it, but they were sitting out there, and there were mosquitos, whatever little water was there, and they had these barrack-type things that had wire screens and things like that. And I'll tell you, I don't see how they stood it. Of course being kids it didn't make much different to them, a lot of them.

DM:

I see. They were roughing it though.

RC:

Yeah, they really were roughing it, I'll tell you. They cooked their own meals and everything. I think once or twice I took some hot dogs, or pizzas out to them, and they thought that was great.

DM:

I bet. How did you get involved in West Texas Historical? Was that through Betty also?

RC:

Yeah, yeah, West Texas Historical was through these friends at the Southwest Collection. And I don't know—we had joined the Westerners, Betty was among the very first—there was a group of three women that were admitted to our local Westerner chapter. It had been nothing but males, and usually professors from Tech, authors of Western history and so forth. And so they asked me—no, they didn't ask me to join—but anyway, they decided that people were dying. They had been there quite a long time. And if you looked at the people who belonged to it, they were mostly higher ups in the history department belonged to it. It was sort of a big boy's club. And so they decided that with the losing some of the members, that they would go ahead and have women join. So they [inaudible] Winifred—

DM:

Winifred Vigness?

RC:

Yeah Vigness, she with that, and Betty that, and there was one or two others they invited in. And Betty said, "Well I'll join if you'll let Bob join." And so that's how I got in, it was through her.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And so that point on—of course. I was sheriff several times, and Betty and I always had meetings at our house a lot too. So we enjoyed it too.

DM:

And this led you into West Texas Historical?

RC:

Yes.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah, well yeah I don't know exactly how we got into that. But anyway that led into it.

DM:

Because you've given a number of presentations for West Texas Historical?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay, and that's another place to look for your materials in the West Texas historical records. You probably have some publications as I recall.

RC:

Yeah, I have two or three books that I've written. Over here—

DM:

You have—yes, you've co-authored some books haven't you? *Lubbock County: Then And Now*, *The Battle of Yellow House Canyon*, yeah.

RC:

But anyway, those were interesting to write too, I enjoyed doing that.

DM:

And this was part of South Plains Genealogical Society, right, or you were involved with them?

RC:

Yeah, well they published it, they published it. I didn't—

DM:

Did you attend their meetings?

RC:

Yeah, well Betty was a member of that. She went into genealogy, and she enjoyed that very much. And so that just sort of went along with the history. And after we went into doing our *locum tenens* work, which is a traveling medicine work, we always tried to go places that her family or my family had lived, even a long time ago, because the Carrs were mostly from the Rome, Georgia area, and the Warlicks were from the South Carolina area. That's my other side of the family. And then the Sullivans of course came over, and they went—I don't know where they went. But anyway, came over, and she followed them along too, so.

DM:

Okay. Did you get into genealogy at all, or was that more Betty's deal.

RC:

I left that to her.

DM:

Yeah.

RC:

Yeah, yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Actually how she did it was, she'd done all this with the history a little bit already, but when we went up to Ohio, we were up there, and there was a course that she noticed—and we always tried, again, to go to places we thought would be interesting—and so she went up there and—what university is up there, is it Ohio University at Columbus, Ohio? But anyway that's—

DM:

Is it Ohio State, or University of Ohio?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

I can't remember.

RC:

But anyway, she read in the paper that they were going to have a class on genealogy. And she said, "You know, I've always wanted to do that, and I'm just sitting waiting for you to come home at night, so I'm going to go and register for that." Which she did, and then she got interested in it. And it helped her with her genealogy and everything too.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And then as I got into my later years of medicine, then I began to get interested, because she was always going to libraries and finding—we went to all the state libraries, and archival areas too.

DM:

You got to travel along, and you got drawn in.

RC:

And I got interested in doing it too, yeah, that's right.

DM:

Okay, and I guess the Lubbock Agricultural Museum Association, are you involved with that now?

RC:

Not now, but I was when it first started. Some of the people out there I'd known a long, long time. And so I thought that with all my other extra things, I ought to be involved in that for sure.

DM:

Okay, and then I also have listed here Texas Tech Museum Association, Ranching Heritage was one thing, but Texas Tech Museum Association also, or?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

We belonged to that.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

We never held any offices as far as I recall there.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Alright, well can you tell me about some of your favorite talks? For example—

RC:

Favorite talks that were given, yeah.

DM:

Some of the most memorable talks. You've given a lot of talks.

RC:

I've given a lot of talks, I sure have. If you have just a second, let me just reach here—here's some of the ones that I—

DM:

Okay.

[Paper rustles over the recorder.]

RC:

And that's not even the late one, those are the early ones.

DM:

And I'm seeing several on here already that I'm familiar with. I've either heard them, or read some about these. And you mentioned your *Civil War Medicine*. This is a list, by the way, I'm saying this for the record. This is a list of some of the talks you've given, and one is *Civil War Medicine*, which we were mentioning earlier, where you were talking about medicine, your son was talking about surgeries. *The Art of Medicine a Hundred Years Ago*, that ties in. This is interesting, *Herbs and Plants of Early Frontier Medicine*.

RC:

Yeah, that's one I was telling you about earlier.

DM:

And the 4th Cavalry, *M.C. Overton*. I know The Battle of Yellow House Canyon is a big area of interest for you, you've published in that area, you've wrote a book on it, you give talks on it. Can you tell me just in a nutshell of a little bit about your interest there, what you've discovered?

RC:

Well, when I was reading over about history of Lubbock, I always thought as a kid, being in West Texas, there ought to be something that had to do with Indians and soldiers. Like early, early Western movies, which I liked, I liked all the cowboys on the movies, and said, "There ought to be something there that maybe I could be interested in." So I decided I'd go ahead and do some research on that. Now before we talk a little bit more about that, those are all the talks that I've given over the years.

DM:

Oh, okay.

RC:

So turn that off just a second, and I'll be back and let you look at that.

[pause in recording]

DM:

Sure. Here, yes, okay, so you've given me a list here of lots and lots of talks that you've given, sometimes to hundreds of people, over the last ten years—hundreds of people at a time. And this spans pretty much the last ten years, and I think you were giving talks well before that also?

RC:

Well probably I was.

DM:

Yeah, okay.

RC:

But those were the main ones that I decided to go ahead and keep after a period of time.

DM:

This in itself is history, and I hope that the Southwest Collection gets a copy of this.

RC:

Okay.

DM:

But anyway, so there's a lot, it's a lot of research, and it's a lot of preparation for these presentations. Which is your favorite?

RC:

Oh I don't know, for a while one would be my favorite, and another would be—

DM:

Of course.

RC:

I guess the one that I really enjoyed doing the most was the first one I think I ever gave, was *History In Your Own Backyard*, because again, people didn't realize how much history we had here, like that Indian fight, and like all the other things and that's why that, as I say, we first came out here and there wasn't nobody told me about Indians being here. I read a little blurb one

time that the last Indian that came through here had a teepee down on Texas Avenue & 18th Street with his squaw, and a bunch of little Indians stayed down there for a little while. And everyone wanted him to stay out of town, because he was so dirty and everything. But he was the last Indian that camped out here on the side of Lubbock.

DM:

Wow, when was that about, do you remember?

RC:

Oh I don't know, it was probably—I read about it in some of the histories, so it must have been about 19—

DM:

1909, or so?

RC:

Yeah nine or ten or something like that.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Because the town had just been established, so.

DM:

Then you talked about the Rath City Buffalo Hunters that came up and got into the debacle out in Yellow House Canyon.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Yeah.

RC:

And then that's how I got started on that. Because I thought, "Well I wonder why I never had read anything about this, because gosh, this is said to be the second biggest battle ever between the Indians and a non-military force." The biggest one was up near Amarillo at—what's the name of that?

DM:

Adobe Walls?

RC:

Yeah, Adobe Walls, that was the biggest one, but this was the second biggest one that ever occurred. And I thought wonder why I never read anything about that, and then I began to look, and read, and begin to get more things, and they had some things. Most of these things I got out of the Southwest Collection, and they began to found out there were three people that said they were in the battle, and they'd written their things about it, and I got those and read them. So I began to give that talk about history in your own backyard, and everybody just loved it.

DM:

Oh yeah, I imagine.

RC:

Because they were kind of like me.

DM:

Yes.

RC:

And when I tried to make—Something funny about it, not just a big old battle, and people getting killed, because there wasn't that many people that got killed.

DM:

Yeah.

RC:

But anyway, so and then I decided to talk about Estacado. Which was the first city out in the whole area here, and where did they come from, and where did they go. It was a story about ghost towns, and cities and settlements here in Lubbock, and Lubbock County. And I think I finally came out with about sixty-eight little cities or settlements that I could verify actually were in Lubbock and Lubbock county.

DM:

Wow.

RC:

And because I would get a thing, and it'd say that over here was, Center, Texas—that people visited from the Center, Texas into Lubbock. Something like that, and I thought where's Center,

Texas? And I found it was right up here near Shallowater. And so anyway, it just spread out, Civil War medicine, joining the 4th Cavalry, herbs and plants, then Dr. Overton, who was my pediatrician, and I knew him. I asked him if he would take me on as a doctor when I came out, and he said he was going to retire, so. But anyway, it just developed, and I can still sit here and get enthused about some of these things, maybe finding a little bit more information about them, or at least making these things available. And I enjoyed telling my kids about it, because they don't know anything about it either.

DM:

And what a real dimension it has added to your life I would think. I mean what a learning experience.

RC:

Oh yeah. I never did learn to play golf, and I never did like to travel, be gone all my life to other places. So I just settled on this, and I've enjoyed this tremendously.

DM:

Okay, and some others by the way that I know you've given talks on—first of all, you fifty-five years as a pediatrician.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

That's an important talk, because it reflects back on your entire career.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

And then there's the JFK story, I've heard this one.

RC:

Yeah, yeah.

DM:

And because you have an interesting insight into that, and we'll come back and talk about that here in just a little bit. Are there any other, these many, many presentations that really stick out in your mind as favorites?

RC:

Well, let me just look at some of the lists here—the last talk that I made that I thought was really very interesting was a talk about the two canyons around Lubbock, the Blanco Canyon and then MacKenzie Park Canyon, Yellow House Canyon. And I enjoyed that, because I pointed out all the interesting places. De Soto for example that came through here, and Coronado De Soto came through here, and we found his camp over in the Blanco Canyon.

DM:

Some really old history here isn't there?

RC:

Yeah, old history now. But it's on our ground, and that's what I was interested in.

DM:

That's right, one of your presentations has been historical science in Blanco Canyon, so that touches on that.

RC:

Yeah, and the Dust Bowl years I even talked to the Master Gardeners. They called me one day and wanted me to talk to them about it, and I said, "What in the world can I talk to the Lubbock Master Gardeners, I don't know anything about gardening." And they said, "We want you to talk about the Dust Bowl years." And I could because I was here at the time. So we talked about that, and then here's one I don't remember, early—oh, I gave it to the grade school, *Early Experiences in the Life of the Carr family in Lubbock, Texas*. And then—

DM:

Well it's an incredible list.

RC:

It really is.

DM:

You look back now and go how did I do all that?

RC:

Yeah, I really did, I really, really did. And I did it because it was interesting. It was one of the things I really wanted to do. I guess Betty and I were laughing one time that some people make a lot of money giving speeches. The most money I ever made was one time, and that was about last year or two I gave a talk to the Lubbock Arts—no, that's, I saw it over here—to the Knife & Fork Club here in Lubbock, and they gave me a stipend more than I had ever gotten from adding

all the other talks I'd given to everybody. Because usually it was to a women's club, or July the Fourth celebration, or something like that, where I either got twenty-five dollars, or nothing, and I enjoyed doing it. I didn't care, it was fine.

DM:

Yeah, well another great thing about this is it's a interest that you and Betty share.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

So that's really great.

RC:

Yeah, yeah it really is. I talked to a lot of her women's clubs that she puts me on the speech committee.

DM:

Oh Betty has a built-in program?

RC:

Yeah, and that's a great advantage for her I think.

DM:

Well I've touched on some things here, or you've touched on some of your interests in history, some of your service on historical committees, or with groups. What are we leaving out, because I don't know what else you might have been involved in. Have we touched on most of what you've been involved in?

RC:

Oh I've talked so much here, I don't know what I've touched on and what I haven't, but—

DM:

Oh I do have one other thing. You were on the, it's a service organization, you were on the board of the Texas Boys Ranch?

RC:

Yeah, yeah.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
Yeah I was asked to be on that board, and I was on that for two or three years.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
And I was noticing here, I don't think I mentioned the fact that a couple of my awards that I was very proud I won was a Hippocratic award, that was given by the county medical society, and it's given by a vote of the doctors in the society. For they felt like one who epitomized the way a doctor should be. I'm saying that without knowing exactly what they say But anyway, I got that and I was chairman of the health association, I was on the city county health unit, and family service unit is what I'm trying to say. Catholic Family Service Unit, I was the first one on that.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
And I was the first one to be appointed to a county board on health. And so I really enjoyed doing things like that where I could use my knowledge about things like that too.

DM:
You were a state board member of prevention development disabilities?

RC:
Oh yeah, I was on that for children who had developmental disabilities, like children with ADHD, or children that had any sort of mental retardation. I was on that board.

DM:
Okay, we did talk about that last time, I just didn't know if this was the same thing or not. Okay, well it's been—

RC:
And I was also appointed—that was another thing—as many doctors in Lubbock were, that when they opened the medical school out here, I was chairman of the Lubbock-Crosby-Garza County Medical Society, and I helped to get the medical school into this area, to develop that.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
And I was also then on the original faculty out at the medical school. [Clock strikes two]

DM:
Okay.

RC:
I was in charge of the outpatient clinic for pediatrics, when they didn't have very many doctors out there, I took care of, for a period of time, the outpatient pediatric clinic at Texas Tech School of Medicine. I was also a clinical professor of medicine in family practice, and in pediatrics.

DM:
So you had students out there?

RC:
Yeah I had students, gave talks, and so forth too.

DM:
Is this while you were running your private practice?

RC:
Yeah.

DM:
Well how much do you sleep at night? [Laughter from both]

RC:
Well I had to work because I wasn't getting any money for that, so.

DM:
Okay, well I mean it's a lot of activity.

RC:
Oh yeah, well—

DM:
It's a busy profession.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

And then to be able to find the time to delve into history to the degree that you have. And all of the other projects you've been involved in.

RC:

Well, and the people in Lubbock have always been so nice, they really have been. The black population here in Lubbock have been wonderful to my family, and to myself. And some of my people that I knew and admired so much were Dr. Chapman, John Chapman, who was the first black physician here in town. If I can tell this and maybe I shouldn't, but anyway I'll tell you. I was head of the medical staff at West Texas Hospital, and I got a call one time from a government agent, and he said, "Dr. Carr, I understand you're in charge of the group down there." And I said, "Yes I am." He said, "Well we noticed that you don't have any black doctors on your medical board down there on your staff down there at West Texas Hospital." And I said, "Well I guess that's right, I hadn't thought about it, but you're probably right." And he said, "The government would like for you to invite them over to be on your staff." And I said, "I'm sure that'll be alright, I'll ask the staff and it would be fine to do that." So I went over to talk to Dr. Chapman, and he laughed about it because he said, "Yeah, the government's always trying to do things like this." He said, "Sure, I'll join." I said, "Well I've got my own hospital here, I'm not probably ever going to send a patient down to you. But I'll be glad to join your staff." So he did, but I mean it was just one of those things that was kind of an unusual event that happened.

DM:

The government was happy after that, huh?

RC:

The government was happy, all they had to have was the name of a black doctor on the staff, and that's what we did. But anyway, it's been a lot of fun to practice medicine in Lubbock. It's just really has been nice.

DM:

Well I really like the way you've—first of all practiced medicine, then you studied history, and the way you've combined the two into some of these talks about medical history, that's really nice. Can we turn to another subject now, and talk about your brothers?

RC:

Sure. Yeah.

DM:

Okay, you're doing okay on time?

RC:

Oh yeah, I'm available as long as you want.

DM:

Okay, well your brothers are well-known, Waggoner and Warlick.

RC:

Well they are, and I'm very proud of them, I really am. I really am proud of my family, not only my present family, but the family that went before me, my mother and father. We lived in Fairley, Texas, which is close to Commerce, and during The Depression he was a banker. And as the government closed all the banks because The Depression, his bank was closed too, and so there was nothing to be done there, so my mother had a brother who lived in Lubbock, and he was on the Texas Tech staff. He was the person that planted all the trees out there. He was a yardman out there—not a yardman, but he was in charge of the maintenance program.

DM:

The campus, okay.

RC:

Yeah, and so he said, "If you come out, we'll get you a job." So daddy came out, we moved out here, and he got a hundred and twenty five dollars a month when he moved out here. He got a job as a bookkeeper, and that was in 1932 as I told you before, and it was very, very enjoyable from that point on. It's like anything else, there were bad days, and good days, but gosh I wouldn't live any other place, and I'm so proud that my kids came out to follow me, and decided to stay in Lubbock too. So we don't have to worry about going to live where they live, when we get a little bit more invalid than we are now. But anyway, so—what was I going to tell you about—

DM:

Well, we were talking about Waggoner and Warlick, and ya'll all came out here.

RC:

Yeah, Waggoner and Warlick were born in Fairley, Texas, and that's what I started to tell you. And I was born there too, shortly before we moved out here, because I was about seven when we moved to Lubbock in 1932. And then Waggoner, was my older brother, was almost five years—well there was Waggoner, and then about two or three years later was Warlick, and then five years later was me, and five years later was my sister Virginia. And Waggoner and Warlick both

wanted to be lawyers. As far as I know, they didn't want to be anything else, just like I never wanted to be anything but a doctor. And so Waggoner, as he grew older, he got into politics. He was a county attorney, he got into legislature, he was speaker of the house, he became attorney general, and then after that, that was as high as he got.

DM:

This is the really interesting thing about those two, what I have here is that Waggoner was born in 1918, and Warlick in 1921, sound about right? So they're about three years apart, they graduated from Lubbock High I believe at the same time?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

And then Tech at the same time, and I know you have a little story about that. They were both in the Army Air Corps?

RC:

Yeah—well no, they were both in the—First let me go back, the reason that they were in the same grade was that in Fairley, there was really only a one-room school, and the teacher then taught this group over here for a little while, and then she'd go over and teach this little group over here. So Warlick always listened to what Waggoner was being taught, and of course Waggoner did the same thing. But they decided that Warlick was smart enough that he could be double-promoted they called at that time. So instead of being a grade or two back, he actually was promoted up in the same grade that Waggoner was. So from that point on, a lot of people thought they were twins or something. But they really weren't, there was about a two and a half year gap in there.

DM:

But there are some similarities in interests there, like you said they both wanted to be lawyers, they followed a similar path, they both went to UT Law School, does that sound right?

RC:

Yeah they went to UT Law School. Warlick got a scholarship to go to Columbia University in New York as a result of his being pretty smart.

DM:

Did he go?

RC:

And he went there for a year and then came back. Waggoner went on down to University of Texas, the Law School, and then Warlick came back and joined him, and then they both got their degrees from the University of Texas.

DM:

And then they launched a law firm together?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Carr & Carr?

RC:

They had two rooms up in the Myrick [-Green] Building, the old Myrick Building down here. And Warlick laughs, because they didn't have any more money than that to pay rent. So anytime that one of them had a client that came in, one of them had to go out to get coffee or something, because there wasn't but the two rooms. And the secretary was in one room, and they were in the other.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And so they had to have their privacy of the client. So, one of them was always going out of the office, while the other was there if they had clients. And they've laughed about that many a time.

DM:

Well then, so much in common between those two it seems like. What about their personalities?

RC:

Well they were very similar. The only thing, Waggoner was a little bit more driven than Warlick. Warlick was a mother hen-type person, and he took care of Virginia, my sister and I. And was more or less kind of—mother was working so hard in the garden, and yard, and cows, and chickens, and things like that, that Warlick was more involved with the family. And Waggoner I guess was more involved in doing things, bringing money into the family. We didn't have delivery service then, but there was a market that sold chickens. They would dress chickens for you, and then they would send them out to your house, and they didn't have anything to send out except somebody on a bicycle. So Waggoner got a steady job being a deliverer of plucked

chickens, from the barber shop down that was almost downtown, to wherever they wanted to go to deliver that chicken, after they got it ready for preparing. And so he did work there. Warlick worked any place he could work, getting all sorts of jobs, mowed lawns and things like that of course. And then I came along, I worked at Furr's Food all the time, so.

DM:

Well I think you've described Warlick as a kind spirit.

RC:

Yeah, yeah, that's why I say he was called a mother hen, because he watched after us.

DM:

That sounds like more of the personality of a pediatrician than a lawyer. I mean that's just a stereotype I know. Did he remain that way all of his life, just kind?

RC:

All his life. Yeah, he always took care of us, and be sure everything was fine with us. Mother—I don't mean to say she didn't do the same thing, but Warlick was just a nice, kind person. For example, Waggoner would get mad sometimes at me, or with Warlick sometimes, and Waggoner had a way of wrestling you. He didn't hit you or anything, but he'd wrestle with you. And one of the things he did was to take your hand and pull the fingers apart, make you say chicken or something like that. And he would do that, and Warlick would make him stop. And I was always bugging Waggoner anyway I guess, so anyway they did that. But Waggoner was that kind of individual that had more or less an aggressive thing. I guess he needed that for being attorney general for the state of Texas. But anyway, Warlick was a much more kinder, gentler, introverted type of person. He made talks and so forth too, but I main thing he did was just he was a good lawyer.

DM:

It sounds like that he would really be good for his clients.

RC:

Oh he was, he was honest as the day was long, and so was Waggoner. My father was one of the most honest people I ever knew in my life, and mother was too, with her father being a Methodist minister. But yeah, Waggoner was just a little bit more aggressive in things that he did, like getting into politics. Warlick and I never did like politics. We helped Waggoner as much as we could, we went on Carr caravans, C-a-double-r caravans around this area when the guy that was running for an office always wanted to meet and press the fingers, press the hands. And anyway, so we would go on those things, but we just didn't like politics at all.

DM:

So Waggoner would go, he would take his two younger brothers, and you would help him press the flesh a little bit, shake hands, and—how interesting.

RC:

Yeah he was running against—and I didn't know what I was doing, because he was running against a guy from one little small town around here, Brownfield or someplace I think, and so we had a caravan to Brownfield, took and handed our circulars out for Waggoner. And he said, "Bob, why don't you just go around the square here, so you won't have to walk so far. We're going to go put in some of the houses close to the square, and I'll be talking to people too. You just go around the square and hand out the little cards." So I did that, and I decided well, I'll just go into the newspaper office here where they printed the newspaper. I didn't even know who was running against him, and it happened to be the guy that was the editor of the paper, who was the guy running against Waggoner. So I went and I explained to the lady at the desk who I was, and I was there to solicit the vote for herself, and for anyone else that she could talk into a vote for Waggoner. And she said, "Well son, I think you must know that my boss is running against Waggoner." So I told Waggoner I said I was so embarrassed about it, he said, "Don't worry about it."

DM:

Good try anyhow.

RC:

Yeah that's right, that's right.

DM:

Oh that's interesting, I had never heard that story about you helping out Waggoner with his campaign.

RC:

Yeah and Waggoner, one time, talking about his disposition, when he was running for state office, he was running against a guy from Amarillo, and they used to have radio debates then. I don't know whether it was TV, or probably just radio, but anyway, the guy said some things about Waggoner, about accusing him of lying, or stretching the truth, or something like that. It made me just so mad I could spit, so next time I saw Waggoner, I said Waggoner you know what that guy said about you? And he said, "Yeah." And I said, "How in the world could you keep from hitting him in the face every time you see him?" He said, "Ah Bob forget that, he and I are friends, and after this thing is over with, and whoever wins, we'll be friends again. That's just what politicians do."

DM:

Okay, so he had a pretty thick skin, he could take these—

RC:

Oh he had a thick skin, yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah, I'm sure that he presented a thick skin, but whether it hurt him deeply or not, I don't know.

DM:

It seems like being a politician, you would have to have, or develop a thick skin.

RC:

Oh you'd have to have a thick skin, yeah.

DM:

Well it's interesting though, this closeness between Warlick and Waggoner graduating together, becoming lawyers, and then suddenly Warlick is in private practice, and Waggoner is in politics. That's an interesting thing, but you've described it according to their personalities.

RC:

Yeah, that's right.

DM:

It sounds like.

RC:

much as anything else.

DM:

Okay, so I have that he became ADA, 72nd Judicial District, in 1948, and then on to Lubbock County Attorney. Does that sound right?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

And then in 1950, Texas House of Representatives—oh, and I was going to ask about this, when he was in the House of Representatives, I have notes here, and you correct me if it's wrong, he focused on water quality and availability, does this sound right?

RC:

Oh yeah, that's always been a problem out here, even now.

DM:

Well and this was the fifties too, early fifties, that terrible drought.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Do you remember anything that came out of that, what stance he took on issues?

RC:

I really don't.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

I really don't, except he was obviously for anything that would save water.

DM:

Well he helped found the Texas Water Development board.

RC:

Well the irrigation was coming in then, the big old wells, and I'm sure he had a lot to do with some of the regulations put on those things.

DM:

Which is kind of a tough thing, because you have the farmers on one side that really want to use this water, and then you have to concern yourself with the water supply.

RC:

Yeah.

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DM:

It's a tough position to be in.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

I also have that he was instrumental in the state library and archives building, do you remember anything about that?

RC:

No I really don't.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

I don't remember much about that.

DM:

He was involved in a lot of things.

RC:

Yeah, yeah.

DM:

Well I know that he was attorney general of Texas in 1962, and soon after the next year JFK was assassinated. Can you talk in general terms about that? For example, I know that he had breakfast with Kennedy and Jackie, and can you just give a little brief account?

RC:

Yeah, actually he was attorney general, and of course as somebody told me, he was the third most powerful person in Texas. Because it goes from the governor, lieutenant governor, who's in charge of the senate, and then Waggoner, who was in charge of the House of Representatives. And so Kennedy came down because there was a lot of political infighting at that time between the two of the—I've forgotten who the two guys involved were—but in other words, Kennedy was going to run again, or just to run or something. Anyway, he was trying to heal a little breach that came in the Texas Democratic Party. And so he was coming down for that, and then also raised some money. So I think he came into San Antonio first, I'm not real sure. And they decided that they would go and all meet over in San Antonio, and then fly from there the next

day where he'd made his speech that night, fly to Fort Worth, and then in Fort Worth in order to make the impressive entrance into Dallas instead of driving over, which wouldn't have been as impressive-looking. They took the big old Air Force One, and flew from Dallas to Fort Worth, so they could land at Love Field.

DM:

From Fort Worth to Dallas?

RC:

Fort Worth to Dallas.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Well Waggoner flew in the Air Force Two, from San Antonio along with his wife Ernestine, flew there to Fort Worth, so he could be present, because he wasn't going to be able to go into Dallas, because he had a speech he had already signed up for up in Dimmitt, some place up in that area. And so he met with him, and talked with him some that night, along with the general reception. And then he went out the next morning to be with him for breakfast, and of course this is a meeting, and big fundraising-type thing. And Waggoner said that just before he left, he was going to go out to his plane to take it on up to Dimmitt, a private plane, and he was going to do that, and Kennedy came over to him and said he was very glad that he was able to go on that part of the trip with him, that he certainly had been very impressed with the way Texas was and the greeting that he got, and he would like to come back again sometime. So he and Waggoner had a few words of pleasantries after breakfast, and then Waggoner went on out to the airport, as did Kennedy. Then he got on the plane and they were flying, and then Kennedy got on his. And Waggoner was flying, and of course from Dallas to Dimmitt or where they were going was a little plane that didn't go very fast, and probably had wind against it. And they were still up in the air, when they got about two thirds of the way, they got a message that was somewhat garbled because of the distance, and the little plane. But that told them that Kennedy had arrived in Dallas, and he'd just been shot. And then Waggoner said, "Well what do you want me to do?", whoever was talking to him, and it may have been LBJ, I don't know, because probably it was. Well maybe not because he was busy doing other things. But anyway someone had called him and told him, and he said, "LBJ wants you to go back to Austin and to go to your office, so he can get a hold of you any time he needs to. Didn't know what he wants you to do right now." So Waggoner then turned the thing around, got gassed up and turned around, went down to Austin. And that's why he was in Austin then the rest of the time.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Then LBJ called him there, and told him that he would like to set up a Texas Commission that would look into the assassination, because it was an in-Texas murder, and therefore had to be investigated, according to law, by our laws here in Texas—had to be investigated here. And there was no Texas law against killing the president. It had a law against killing, but not against the president. So you couldn't take it all the way back to Washington legally from a law standpoint. So Waggoner said, "Well okay, I'll stay down here and I'll set up this commission for you." So he called Jaworski and some of the other that he had on the committee, and had them sign up for it, so they would be on this committee that Waggoner wanted to setup. And so I don't know when it was, it wasn't very long, maybe the next day or two that they got another call from LBJ, and said that, "They've asked me not to have this commission from Texas, because they feel like it just muddy up the waters. That they want to have a national thing, since he was president." Even though that was not the legal way that you would do it. But he said, "We're planning on doing that, having a national thing, and because you all are all going to be talking if you had two committees, you'd be talking to the same witnesses and everything else, so were going to have just your committee stand by, and then we'll go ahead and have them handle it here. And you'll try to keep some connection between the Texas commission, and the Washington commission." Which they did, because they had to make several trips to Austin to Washington in order to correlate what they were doing there with what he was doing here.

DM:

That was the Warren Commission?

RC:

Yeah that was the Warren Commission, yeah.

DM:

So he wasn't on the Warren Commission, but he was helping with?

RC:

Yeah, he was not an official member, but LBJ asked him to sit in, or have someone sit in—he didn't know how long it would last—sit in on all the meetings of the Warren Commission as a representative of Texas.

DM:

And this thing lasted quite some time?

RC:

Oh yeah, months and months I think.

DM:

I bet you didn't hear from Waggoner at all during that time?

RC:

No we didn't, no.

DM:

I don't know if this is just speculation, but what if he hadn't had that thing in Dimmitt? What if he had gone to Dallas. What if he had somehow been in—there's a lot of what if's of course in history, but.

RC:

Well of course, he would have been in the car with Kennedy, because it was the governor was in there. So he would have been probably in the car back behind Kennedy, one more.

DM:

Still a little too close.

RC:

Little too close, yeah.

DM:

And then Kennedy went to Parkland didn't he? Didn't they take him to Parkland?

RC:

Yeah, and see my connection with this was not only Waggoner, but Parkland was where I did most of my studies, and I knew most of the doctors that took of it. That's why I have these medical books, written by the medical doctors that took care of him.

DM:

Okay, and you have read a lot of that I know, you've studied that closely. You've read the conspiracy theories and all of this. At this time and place, what is your take on what happened?

RC:

Well I think that probably that there's no doubt about the fact that Oswald was involved. I think he was probably at that day at least, the lone shooter. I don't think there was anybody else shooting. I do feel like that probably he was influenced a great deal by his own handling of the

Communist Party, the things he'd done for the Communist Party. So I think he was influenced a great deal, to do the things he did by other people. But I don't think that whether they were going to reward him later for it, I don't know. And Waggoner always said that, I told you about the time that when we had our family celebrations every summer, that Waggoner would come down, and he and I would take at least a part of one morning or afternoon, and sit and talk about it. I kept reading about it, and he kept—but he couldn't tell me an awful lot as long as the commission was in session, until they came out to an official thing. He didn't want to tell me any secrets or anything. So he and I would sit there and I'd ask him questions about Oswald. He'd answer the way he had to answer, or could answer. But his opinion, and the letter that you've seen that he wrote to me about it, he was definitely still of the opinion that Oswald was a lone shooter. You've seen the letter that he sent to me, if not it's in your things out there at the—but I gave it to you. And then whenever I die, then these books are going to come out to the Southwest Collection too.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
All that whole row there is books of the assassination.

DM:
That's a wealth of information on the assassination, and what an interesting insight into it, a personal connection. Although I know it couldn't tell everything, but finally he was able to say he thought it was Oswald.

RC:
Yeah, I told him, I said, "Waggoner I really want you to write this letter, and write it down so I can tell somebody look this is a letter he wrote to me, this is what his feelings were." I didn't want to draw a thing and say well I think he felt this way, because the letter tells how he felt.

DM:
Okay, now as I recall, he also prosecuted Jack Ruby, did he not?

RC:
No, he didn't prosecute him or anything, I don't think so.

DM:
Okay.

RC:

I did not know about that if he did.

DM:

He was involved in the Jack Ruby case?

RC:

Well just because it was influenced on the other case, whether Jack Ruby was a mafia guy, or a mob guy that killed him at the request of someone else. So he knew a lot about it, but he didn't investigate Ruby.

DM:

Okay. Did he ever tell you anything about Ruby?

RC:

No, he didn't.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

No. I had friends of mine—one of the friends was a doctor of Ruby, that took care of him when he was there in the jail in his cell, and he said Ruby eventually got a sort of a little bit off his rocker a little bit, and that he was just one of these guys. He didn't think that he had anything to do with it, but he had so many connections with the mafia and the mob people. And I don't know, I think there's a possibility that there's more to it than even I would think. But I just don't think that it was a national thing. People said that LBJ did it, he was involved, that this man did it, or I think there was some mafia involvement, maybe that was through Oswald—I don't know. So but I'm not sure that I would think that probably that it was all a lie or anything at all.

DM:

Another interesting thing that Waggoner was involved in was the Billie Sol Estes situation.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Do you remember anything about it that you can talk about?

RC:

Yeah, because that was kind of funny for us, because there this multimillionaire was sitting down there in Pecos, Texas, and Waggoner had tried to get some money back to get this guy, put him in jail. It was a big thing in his life for a long, long time. But Pecos, little old town that's so dried up, and when you go down to the house, which, last time I was down there was still sitting at the end of a rural road, sitting down there, big two or three-story house down there. Billie Sol Estes, yeah.

DM:

Has it been unoccupied?

RC:

Well no, at the time—well of course it's getting so old by now maybe it is unoccupied. But at the time I was there there was people living in it.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Waggoner did that, that was interesting type thing. He also was a lawyer for Geronimo's family. Geronimo, when the people jumped out of the airplanes, the Army, and Air Force, they would yell "Geronimo!" and jump out. And then also there were a lot of people that used "Geronimo" as a term in their advertising and everything. And one of the sons of Geronimo came over to see Waggoner one day, and asked Waggoner if he would represent the Geronimo family in trying to get money to keep people from using Geronimo's name without paying them something for using his name all the time. Well Waggoner went over and visited in Geronimo's teepee near Ruidoso, his family, and talk with them. He worked on that for several months, but actually the number of years had gone by that he could claim that he could get any money out of it. So it was interesting, because he found out a lot of history for Geronimo. And I think he has—in these files that Monte has been trying to get from David, I think there's a lot about the Geronimo trial. The other thing he had that I thought was extremely interesting was that Jessie James had a nephew, or somebody like that that he claimed that—First of all, he claimed he knew where some treasure was that Jesse James had buried, and it was down in the town of Waco, almost downtown, near the river. And so he said with Waggoner, they were going to try to dig it up, and Waggoner worked with him so they could go and retain the money if they found any money, or treasure there. So Waggoner got everything he could about Jesse James, all this other stuff, and proved a family relationship between this guy who was trying to sue and Jesse James, got a lot of history there. And so they started digging, and they found that it was near the river down there, and there was just mire underneath the ground, get ten or fifteen feet below ground it was just muddy, just mud from the river having been there for so long, and seeping into all that area.

DM:
Right.

RC:
And so they were digging where they thought it was, and by gum if they didn't hit a metal object down there when the claw went down one time. And so they thought they had it, and they started to bring it up, and they got it up far enough to see it was a box of some sort, a big box, not just a little teeny thing, but a big box. And all the water as it dropped back into the hole, and they could never find it again, so it's still there.

DM:
Oh the box dropped back in the hole?

RC:
And so it's still there, but it costs so much money, there was a guy from Saudi Arabia who was financing it.

DM:
Okay.

RC:
And so it'd take millions and millions of dollars, and they've never done anything more about it.

DM:
Golly, how interesting.

RC:
But and they don't even know it was what they were looking for, but they thought it was. Certainly was in the place it was supposed to have been, but Waggoner got a lot of history about Jesse James. He told me later he had to return all that, or a lot of it, because being he had to return it to the family. He couldn't keep it of course.

DM:
Right.

RC:
I'm sure he kept something.

DM:

Yeah how interesting though, to delve into something like that.

RC:

Yeah but Jesse James, and Geronimo, and then JFK, and all this other stuff, he had an interesting life.

DM:

He did, well he ran for US Senate against John Tower in 1960—did you help with that campaign?

RC:

Yeah a little bit. He asked the family if he should run that campaign, and that was when everybody was kind of feeling about the Obama thing. Everybody disliked Obama too mostly, and so at that time it was because of whoever was the Democrats, which Tower was a Democrat, had come into favor again, and the Republicans way down in their popularity. So we told Waggoner, I said, “Waggoner we don’t think you ought to run, our advice is you know better than us.” But I think he had a bunch of people telling him how good he was, and he wouldn’t have any trouble beating Tower. He was a professor and wouldn’t have any but theoretical ideas, and he’d never done anything politically. But and we told Waggoner, I said, “Waggoner you’re not going to win this race, because the tides are changing, and it’s going to the Democrats now, away from the Republicans, and you’re going to have a hard time winning, if you win it at all.” But he kept listening to the people that told him he could win it, so he said, “Okay, I’ll try it.” So he tried it, and lost, of course. And then after that, Nixon sued him, the United States government sued him. Have you had that book about, “Not Guilty” that Waggoner wrote?

DM:

Yeah we have it.

RC:

But anyway, that was about the trial, and the reason they did that, Waggoner found out actually by he had found some things Nixon had written that he wanted to go ahead and murder the Republican party—or was it Republican, or what, Democratic—I don’t know which one Waggoner was for—they were going to murder the political party so that they wouldn’t have so much trouble in running with their people they wanted to run.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And so Nixon had told them—who was attorney general at that time, whatever his name was—and then his secretary—that they should go ahead and do anything they could to ruin the party here in Texas. And Waggoner, having been a very popular leader before, they thought if the tide changed again, Waggoner would run, and he would have, and would run for something and get it.

DM:

So they went after him?

RC:

So they went after him. And I asked Waggoner, I said, “Now Waggoner, tell me the truth, did you have anything to do with any of this at all?” I just couldn’t see that he did, because he always was so honest, and so sincere. And he said, “No I did not, they’re trying to ruin the party. Nixon will do anything, he’s a political buff, and he’ll do anything.” But he couldn’t bring that out in court obviously, and so they did enough to ruin him, and he finally got a not guilty verdict, but it was only after his reputation had been besmirched.

DM:

And he was indicted in ’71, and acquitted in ’74, three years.

RC:

Yeah, three years. They made him bankrupt, he said, “Bob, they got all the money they get in taxes from all over the United States, they’re using that to fight me, and I’ve got me. I don’t know whether I can—” And he went bankrupt entirely, and had to start over.

DM:

Golly, terrible what people get by with. At least glad of what happened to Nixon. Well even before this he ran for governor, Waggoner.

RC:

Yes he did, and the only thing bad about that was that the fellow that has his office out at your place, what’s his name?

DM:

Preston Smith?

RC:

Yeah, Preston Smith. Preston Smith was of course obviously from Lubbock too. You had two people running, so any of the main people that would vote for him were out in this area, a block thing. And of course they divided it immediately with Preston being all the things he’d been, and

Waggoner would do the same thing. You had half the people voting for Waggoner, and half were voting for him, and then you had everybody downstate voting for somebody else, because they didn't like West Texans. So Waggoner came in I think third, or fourth or something like that.

DM:

Yeah that was an unfortunate division, how that happened.

RC:

Yeah, it really was.

DM:

I wonder if Preston Smith and Waggoner knew that the other was going to throw his hat into the right before it actually happened.

RC:

I don't know. Preston was another fellow that had a egotistic—in my opinion—was very egotistical. And Waggoner had to have that too I'm sure, but I think that he thought that he had to run because he was the proper one to get it.

DM:

Did you help with that campaign, the primary campaign?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Was it the Carr caravan still?

RC:

Yeah, well, by that time, you didn't do that quite as much, but yeah we did the same thing. And I wrote letters to doctors all over the state, and things like that too.

DM:

Okay. Did people come into your office bringing their children and wheedle you for information on your brother, what your brother—because he was a well-known state figure.

RC:

No, everybody was extremely nice.

DM:

They were nice about that?

RC:

Yeah they really was nice.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

And even when the trial was going on, they usually didn't mention it, or maybe didn't get the connection through.

DM:

That's good.

RC:

But anyway, yeah, I really had no doubts after he told me. Because it think he would have told me the truth.

DM:

So in 1994 he was diagnosed with cancer?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Was about a ten year battle with cancer?

RC:

Yeah.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

Yeah he was diagnosed, and then he opened up his office again, but his health continued to deteriorate, and they lived in Austin by that time anyway. He'd lived there for so long, he decided to stay there.

DM:

What kind of cancer was it?

RC:

Well he had I think a colon cancer, I'm not real sure about that.

DM:

Okay.

RC:

I think he had a prostate, and maybe a colon, and a metastases from where the primary source was.

DM:

Okay, and then Warlick four or five years later?

RC:

Yeah Warlick had a colon cancer, and before he had enough symptoms to diagnose it, it'd already metastasized too.

DM:

Right, he didn't last very longer after?

RC:

No, and I tell you what, both of those people as I say in my prayers every night, I really, really thank the good Lord for giving me a family like I had, because I love my brothers.

DM:

Well it's an amazing family. I wanted to get a little more information, there's a little here, a little there, I just wanted to hear it from the younger brother. And you must have really looked up to them over the years.

RC:

Well Warlick and Waggoner used to say, "You're the only one with sense, that didn't go into being a lawyer. He's a doctor that knows what he should have done."

DM:

Well, is there anything else you would like to add about your brothers?

RC:

No, I don't think so, just that—and my family, I think my father, being of that character, I think my father and mother, I couldn't have asked for a better family. People that I'm sure at times like any person does you dislike a certain thing about them, but it doesn't last very long, you're still family. And I tried to keep my family like that, I raised them in the same principles. And I think my family, even though one of my children have very definite political views than I do. But I think really that we tolerate each other, and really enjoy each other.

DM:

Okay. Well in these three interview sessions, we've talked a lot about your family. We started out early on talking about your early life, and early influences, and how your family was so important to that, and then through your career, your historical interests, and now back to your brothers in particular. Is there anything else that you would like to add before I conclude this?

RC:

Well I'm sure they'll be things I'll think about as there always is when you give an interview like this, I'm sure most of yours will say the same thing, but yeah I don't know of anything I'd like to say. I really have appreciated being able to give this, and I hope that it'd be of some interest to some people in the future. I think the main thing is that I think it's helped me to do is to get things into situation where I can give this to my kids, and have something, a big thing, because I have written things from both my grandparents, one that was in the Civil War, and what happened to him and everything. The other one was the preacher that went all over Arkansas, and preached the gospel, and then I have many grandchildren that enjoy reading about their grandfather too.

DM:

Well I'll go ahead and stop this.

End of interview