

Interview with Oden Hansen

This is an interview with Oden Hansen, who from 1934 to 1938 was a student at Humboldt State. Upon completion of his education, he took a teaching position in the Sacramento area. After a varied career in the teaching and education administration field, Mr. Hansen returned to Humboldt State University in 1971 to assume the position of Dean of Campus Development. He retired from that position in 1977 and has remained active in the alumni association. This interview is being conducted in Mr. Hansen's home in Arcata on January 13, 1984. The interviewer is Edie Butler representing the HSU Oral History Project.

EB: First I'd like to review with some attention to chronology your associations with the college so that we can have that at the beginning of the tape and know the perspective that you are speaking from.

OH: I started school at mid-year. The Eureka schools at that time had a mid-year promotion, which meant that I started Humboldt State at mid-year when I graduated from high school, and I started Humboldt State in January, 1934, one week before I had graduated from high school because the calendars were not synchronized at that point in time. Humboldt State was quite an interesting place at that time. It had Founders Hall, it had the college elementary school and what later became known as the women's gym as permanent buildings. At the end of, the south end of Founders Hall, where the engineering building now stands, which was earlier the library, were some temporary buildings from the original days of Humboldt State when it was a wood burning school. And those buildings housed a small gym, very small – not much larger than this living room, an industrial arts complex, drafting, cafeteria, and some of the music instructional program. At the end was a bench which was great when you were between classes because you could enjoy the view of Eureka, the bay, Arcata, the ocean, and on warm days it was just a great place to be.

EB: Sheltered from the wind just a little.

OH: That was Humboldt State when I arrived. Founders Hall no longer housed the college elementary school since it had its own building but the front end of Founders Hall, the south end, on the bottom floor, contained the secretary to the President, the President, the Registrar's office which at that time was Imogene Platt. And Miss Platt was the Registrar with no other employees in there, possibly some student assistants. And then there was a group of rooms which I've forgotten what they called them, sort of a town and gown facility with a fireplace, davenport, carpets, a nice place for teas and formal activities of that kind which students never did get into. The north end of that hall (interruption by EB)

EB: Never did? Did they use that room between classes as a place to relax and study?

OH: Oh, no. Students weren't in there at all. It was a formal room for official college functions when board members might be up from the State Board of Education or visiting presidents or possibly faculty meetings may have been held in there in those days. I don't know. But it had a small kitchen and a sort of a dining facility, and then a lot of very comfortable chairs for sitting, and the fireplace. The north end of Founders Hall, on the bottom, contained the financial office and Jessie Woodcock was the wheel in there, and in later years – no, I won't speak to that right now. And next to her office was one little hole

in the wall which was the college bookstore. At that time the bookstore was manned by Faul, who later had the ice cream business in Arcata. I'll think of his name at a later point. And also Kenneth Samuelson, who later became Father Kenneth Samuelson. Along that same floor, on the north end, were housed Economics and History classes. Homer Balabanis was teaching there, Vernon Puryear, P-U-R-Y-E-A-R, taught history classes there, and he was the History Department and Homer was the Econ Department in those days. The room which I think now is a study hall was the college library. Period. It was the only one on campus, and then on the east end of the main floor, you had, near the old auditorium, you had vocal music, dramatic workshop, some science classes, and the basement room on the east side – the basement rooms were all science classes, the whole gamut of them. The upstairs, south end, had English, Art, the health unit was in underneath what is now Kerr Tower. And in the north end, along there, were more instructional classes in math, occasionally history and some of the other classes offered by the college. That took care of Founders Hall and, of course, we had the old auditorium with its Greek _____ along the side which did house the whole student body at that time of 300 students.

EB: Uh huh. Where was the auditorium?

OH: We had college assemblies in those days. The President would open them. There was the Student Body President. Everybody would go to everything in those days. Most of the students attended the dramatic presentations. They attended the musical concerts. They attended the athletic events.

EB: Were those free to attend or was there a charge?

OH: Pardon me.

EB: Were those free to attend or was there a charge?

OH: They were free in those days for the students, as I recall. Possibly there was a 25 cent charge, I don't know. But it seems to me that they were free. A couple of traditions at that time – and am I getting in the things that you want to here?

EB: Yes. Yeah.

OH: Freshman, when they entered Humboldt State, for the first month had to wear what was called a "Frosh Cap" to designate them separate from all the other students on campus. But wearing that cap resulted in numerous pranks of all kinds. But it was a tradition that was enjoyed by all at that time, I think.

EB: um, huh – the pranks weren't malicious, they were...

OH: At the front steps of Founders Hall, at the bottom of the steps, can still be found the Senior Bench, and woe to any student who was not a senior that sat on that bench; and at that time the level of the street was a bit lower than the blacktop which is now there, which made it a comfortable bench to sit on. Now it is too close to the ground because over the years they have put in more coats of blacktop in there and as a result it no longer serves very well as a bench. The fountain in the middle of the court of

Founders Hall was occasionally used for the prank of dunking freshman or somebody else for any particular reason that they might have. Do you want more traditions?

EB: Yes.

OH: Back in those days Pop Jenkins, Industrial Arts professor, was a great leader and worker with students in terms of social events. He made, he had an annual donut dunk for the whole student body which was a night-time activity, usually held in the cafeteria building. And that donut dunk consisted of donuts being made that were probably 12 inches in diameter. They would fill a whole frying pan, one donut. That was...

EB: How did he cut them out, just with a knife? Freehand?

OH: I don't recall. But they had their deep grease to fry them in and they were good. But that was one of the traditions students looked forward to. Another one under Pop Jenkins's direction was the Annual Taffy Pull and the students actually made the taffy and would pull it and then eat it, I presume. You may not want this for your tape. I'm not sure, but I can remember one time that we had a taffy pull and one of the students brought some taffy in to the Econ class and sat it right on the instructor's desk in a place where he always sits, Dr. Balabanis. And you might know that, of course, he sat there.

EB: Oh, dear.

OH: Another time he gave him some taffy and it got lodged in his dentures to the point where he had to leave the classroom to get the taffy out of there.

EB: Yeah, those kinds of things we want on tape also.

OH: Garff Bell Wilson, who later worked as an Assistant to the President of the University of California, was in charge of dramatic presentations. And they had some great plays during his days. And the stage settings and the lighting and all were arranged by John Van Duzer, and later years, after whom the new theatre building was named on the Humboldt State campus. They had some very good plays for their day and fine sets for the facilities that they had to have them in – in the Founders Hall auditorium. The stage was small, cramped space, but they made the best of it. Edmond V., I think it was Vernon, Jeffers, J-E-F-F-E-R-S, was in charge of both instrumental and vocal music at that time. Jeff was very ambitious, a perfectionist as far as that goes, but he put on some musical versions of the opera Carmen and several other operas during his tenure at Humboldt State. Also under his leadership, an annual choir trip was set up where the acapella choir from Humboldt State visited various high schools and other institutions – Mills College included – in Northern California. I believe the underlying purpose was not only to advertise the Music Department but was to recruit potential students for Humboldt State. They'd stop, for instance, at Willits and Ukiah high schools, Laytonville High School, excuse me, not Laytonville, Clearlake High School, somewhere in Santa Rosa, somewhere in Marin County, a place or two in San Francisco. They actually broadcast on one of the radio stations down there, an appearance at Mills College and somewhere in the San Jose area, I've forgotten just where.

EB: Were you involved in that?

OH: I was the Music Manager and had to make the hotel arrangements and meal arrangements for the choir and so I went along on those trips. One of the most inspirational moments of my whole life came when the choir had finished its presentation in the auditorium at Mills College and there was a door at the back of the stage and they went out through that door which entered into the stage of a Greek Theatre out behind the auditorium, in the open. The stars were out that night, the moon was out, and I can still hear them singing "I dream of Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair" without Jeffers leading it. It was just a spontaneous reaction to the setting right there after the concert. It was kind of an inspirational moment for everybody concerned, I'm sure. Some of the people who were in that choir that I remember were Ruth Carroll, Mae Willis Spear, Ethel Carroll, Charlie Fulkerson.

EB: He was a student?

OH: Charles Fulkerson was a student, Ray Possick, Bill Beer, B-E-E-R, Just to mention a few. In describing Founders Hall, I left out the fact that we had French classes upstairs in Founders Hall at the south end with Mademoiselle Johnson as the instructor, who was very dearly liked by the students. And Bert Wilson taught the Business classes at the north end of Founders Hall. Some of the Science teachers at that time were Jay Wendell Howe, H-O-W-E, Robert Poultney, P-O-U-L-T-N-E-Y, Dr. Macginitie, I've forgotten his first name, and Dr. Bill Lanphere and in whose memory the Lanphere Dunes were named. One of the other traditions of Humboldt State at that point in time was the Annual Work Day, which was established by the late Robert Madsen, M-A-D-S-E-N, from Eureka, who later became student body president. But he set up this Work Day, and dollars for landscaping at Humboldt State during the Gist administration there were quite limited and so the students and faculty, believe it or not, worked together with hoes, and shovels, and rakes and cleaned up the whole campus.

EB: Do you think that could occur now? Today?

OH: Pardon?

EB: Do you think that could occur again?

OH: With 7,000 students up there, I'd question it. But I don't know. But the spirit, which was there, the spirit of cooperation with the campus itself as well as with students with one another and students and faculty together with one another was kind of inspirational in that day, and the college was small enough that those kinds of things could happen. In the Vocal Music Department, and also teaching piano because elementary teachers needed a basic knowledge of piano, was Marie Ostrander. And her daughter's husband, Marks is still connected with the college. The Art classes were taught by Stella Sankey Little, and she not only taught the Advanced Art classes and Beginning classes but she had to prepare elementary teachers – potential elementary teachers – to teach art as did Mrs. Ostrander with the music. Fred Telonicher was the Phys Ed Department for the men, and he also taught Health classes. And for the women you had Monica Hadley, who was Monica Wright at that time, and Anne Craig, whose dad was connected with Craig Shipbuilding somewhere on the peninsula. Dr. Balabanis mentioned the College to elementary school – he mentioned Leo G. Schussman as the principal and he mentioned Myrtle Sholty, who was at the time Director of Teacher Training, S-H-O-L-T-Y. But he left out

three very fine people who were a tremendous help to potential elementary school teachers, because in my day at Humboldt, they were not training secondary school teachers or not educating them.

EB: Just elementary.

OH: Ruth Bestor, B-E-S-T-O-R, was Primary Supervisor, Belle, B-E-L-L-E, Dickson, D-I-C-K-S-O-N, was Intermediate Supervisor, and Henry Cluxton, C-L-U-X-T-O-N, was the Upper Grade Supervisor. A personal item with Mr. Cluxton – when I was ready to graduate from Humboldt State, also for President Gist, when I was ready to graduate from Humboldt State, over the Christmas holidays that year, I had a call from President Gist, who at that time also involved himself with teacher placement, and he told me about a vacancy in a school in Sacramento County and wanted to know “was I interested.” I told him “by all means,” because I was graduating supposedly at the end of January. Went down for interviews during the Christmas holidays and landed the job. These were Depression years when teachers were a dime a dozen. Most Humboldt grads had to go out to the one-room schools at that time. Anyway, Henry Cluxton, unknown to me until several years later, during his Christmas vacation on a trip to San Francisco made a side trip to the Sacramento area and talked with the superintendent and some of the board members over there about my capabilities, which helped me land the job. But I had no knowledge of that until, as I say, several years after it happened. But that was the kind of personal interest you got in those days from the President of the institution as well as from faculty members, and I’m afraid growth has probably limited that type of activity in this day and age. Every student knew everyone else in those days, with a student body of 300. It was the friendliest place I ever saw. And I don’t know whether we got this on tape or whether you and I said this ahead of time but a major part of the student body turned out for most college functions – athletics, drama, music, dances, and so on. There was a red-hot volleyball game played every noon in that small gym at the end of Founders Hall, at the end of the temporary buildings. And you would find many, many of the students, student body, at that time in that little gym taking a little relaxer from their studies at noon with a volleyball game. There were two fraternities on campus at that time – Chi Sigma Epsilon which was the honor society and Alpha Psi Omega which was the dramatic society. I don’t know whether Alpha Psi Omega exists on the Humboldt campus anymore or not. Also the College Y – YMCA. There may have been some organizations for the ladies of which I’m not aware. And there was at that time a men’s association and a women’s association as an organized group similar to the student body.

EB: What things were different about them?

OH: The men’s association would sponsor an annual beer bust out in the country somewhere such as at Riverside Acres at Carlotta, and for a social activity, and that was quite an event. Nearly every man would attend that.

EB: so that was men only attended?

OH: Men only. And the women had their own organization related to the women’s problems on campus, I presume. And any things for which women needed to be organized. I think it was called the Women’s Athletic Association. Well so much for those old days.

EB: Tell me again the contrast you saw between the high school and Humboldt and how it affected you.

OH: The main contrast between high school and Humboldt at that time, even though Humboldt was a small school – in high school every minute of your day was, in a sense, regimented. You had to be at a certain place at a certain time. And the college level, where you took, in those days, semester hours rather than quarter units, most students took from 15 ½ to 18 semester units, semester hours, excuse me. And a typical 3 unit class would meet three times a week for one hour. You were expected to study two hours outside for every hour you spent in class. And so you had some free hours on campus for studying purposes, if you felt like studying. Well, many of the freshman students, in particular, found it rather difficult to adjust to the freedom that they experienced over there. But they had to make these decisions for themselves as to whether they used the time for their advantage or goof off, and you had some of each in that day as well as today. That was what I found the major difference. The other major difference was the friendliness of Humboldt State which Eureka High at that time had 800 students in the old high school building and it wasn't the friendly place that Humboldt State was with 300. I think sheer numbers made the difference. The other thing is that high school you had to do this and had to do that as far as your subjects were concerned, and a teacher, having as many students as they did per day, didn't have the first-hand knowledge of each student that the college instructors had a chance to have, where their classes were much smaller in those days. A large class in my day at Humboldt was possibly 26 to 30 students. I don't know what they range today – I suspect some of them might be 200. If you wanted to go to the assemblies, you could go. In high school, you had to go. You were free to go to other things at the college, if you wanted to attend them. But in high school, you didn't have that choice.

EB: How did the friendliness at Humboldt affect you when you first got there?

OH: Well, as I said earlier, it shocked me. It made a turn-around in my life. I realized that – it brought some humility, which I needed at that time, going from the teenage high school senior to a college freshman. I should state also, I was 16 when I started Humboldt State, and 20 when I graduated from there after four years.

EB: Was 16 younger than the typical freshman?

OH: No. No, no. No more than it is today. There were a few of us that were younger. But I was a year or two or three younger than most of the people there and we have people in some of our classes that were in their mid-20's and then some returnees from the field who wanted to upgrade themselves and get their degree. Something about Humboldt State I should be sure and mention at that time too, that when I started, it was a 3 ½ year program, and during the first semester I was there, it was moved up to a 4-year program with a A.B. degree. The degree was not required before that time, and you could graduate as a teacher with 3 ½ years when I first started but that was moved up to 4 and all of us there were expected to conform to that.

EB: Was that okay generally with people? Or...

OH: Pardon me.

EB: Were people pleased about that or displeased? Generally...

OH: For my part I was pleased because I felt that it would do a better job in giving us the education that we needed to reach my objective. I always wanted to be a school teacher and I knew that when I was a little kid and I was enthused about going to Humboldt State. I really was.

EB: So you graduated in 1938?

OH: January, 1938.

EB: And you went to Sacramento.

OH: A district called Del Paseo Heights which became an all black district in later years and now the poor whites are moving back. But after having had 16 to 18 students in my college elementary classes and learning how to teach, I started with 52 students in the sixth grade, that five miles from the State Capital, which shocked me a bit. The class sizes were much larger in those days. At typical class was at least 40. Today the law allows you 20 to 25, 30 in some different class levels.

EB: Even when I was in elementary school, they were much larger. So how did you find moving from – you'd always lived in Humboldt County – how did you find moving to Sacramento or the outskirts of Sacramento?

OH: Oh, it was a shock.

EB: How?

OH: It was a shock to be on my own. I lived in a boarding house for the first year and a half and taught school. The thing I remember other than class size about those classes, and I could probably still name most of the students who were in those classes, and this is quite a few years later, over 40 years later, yard duty. It was a requirement for all teachers. Today they have teacher's aids that perform some of these tasks. But you had to go out on yard duty during recess periods. And coming from Humboldt where we had rain and really not too cold, getting into the Valley and out there with the snow on both sides of that great valley and north winds blowing, I had to wear my big heavy overcoat most of the time for recesses. It was really quite a change. The people were friendly. I got in with some friendly people in the boarding house that I'm still in contact with. Made some lodge connections, with the Scandinavian Lodge, that lasted through the years. It was nice being near the State Capital, being able to see Sutter's Fort, and the legislature in session, and all those kinds of things. I remember my first – oh, every time it rained in those days in Sacramento, the freeway system wasn't built in those days, you had two-lane highways and you had to go out under a railroad track to get out north of town to North Sacramento. And when it'd rain that underpass would flood and you had to go around by the garbage burning place called Jibbom Street, which was quite a slow traffic situation on the levee and that road is still there.

EB: Yeah, it is.

OH: But at the same time, why it made it, you had to leave for school a good deal earlier and you had to get home a good deal later at night than what you planned. One other thing that first semester there, we had one of those real strong windstorms. And you had elm trees down all over town, automobiles squashed. It was a horrible storm. I still have some snapshots of that. But it was an adjustment to leave home – to be away on my own. Salaries in those days were really great too. My take home pay for nine months a year was \$105 a month after the equivalent of 4 ½ years of college cause I took extra units every semester. And I had a car payment of \$35 a month, my board and room for two meals a day and one on Sunday cost \$35 a month, which didn't leave a lot for my lunches or recreation or anything else. And then what did a person do in summer? You were supposed to go to summer school. So you had to get a summer job in order to be able to go to summer school. And after that first year, when I got into my, the beginning of the second year there, reminding you that I started mid-year so I had a half year. Then my first full year there, the State minimum teacher salary law was passed at \$1320 a year. That seemed like a big raise for me at that time. But when one considers what teacher's beginning salaries are today, and the purchasing power of the dollar, it's quite a different situation.

EB: When did you return to Humboldt – to Humboldt County?

OH: I returned twice and left twice. I returned three times and left twice. I was teaching in Eureka Junior High School.

EB: What year? Did you...

OH: In 1940 to 1942 – ninth grade classes in math and social sciences, and the top salary that you could earn in Eureka at that time was, as I recall, \$1560 a year. I was offered the principalship of the Hopland Elementary School in Mendocino County for \$2,000, and with a second child coming up, we needed the added money so I accepted that teaching principalship and taught the sixth, seventh and eighth grades and was principal there. Then...

EB: That was 1942?

OH: From September of 1942 until February of 1943, January. In December the County Superintendent of Schools, Jack Taylor, I remember this as war years, John Taylor was his name. John Taylor gave me a call and said, "the principal of the Ft. Bragg Junior High School was ready to accept a civilian job with the military as an audio visual director and he'd looked over the qualifications of the various people in Mendocino County and I was the only one in the whole county qualified to take the junior high principalship over there. Would I consider taking it?"

EB: That was after only a few months?

OH: Yes.

EB: In Hopland?

OH: I said, "I have a contract in Hopland, I can't leave there." He said, "I'll arrange that for you, would you take it?" I said, "We have a new baby coming." "What?" "That'll take care of itself wherever you

are.” “Would you take the job?” I said, “Well, I suppose I would if they would consider me.” And the beginning salary there was \$3,000. With a second baby still coming along, I was very interested in getting a little closer to financial security. There was one problem with that job, however, that was Mr. Roscoe Lawson’s job to come back to after his stint with the military. So I had no permanence there, and was a potential inductee into the service myself because I was of an age then that I could have been inducted, even though after Ft. Bragg we had two children. On Leap Day of 1944, February 29, Ursley Woodcock, the Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools, came to Ft. Bragg, offered me a job as the General Supervisor back in Humboldt County for the Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools office, and with my parents, and all my relatives, and my wife’s dad, and her relatives all living in the Eureka area, we couldn’t get back here fast enough to suit ourselves.

EB: This was home, huh?

OH: And Mr. Woodcock told me that even if I didn’t work one day and would be inducted into the military service, that would be my job to come back to. He gave me that kind of security. So, of course, I had to say “yes” to that. I might say in retrospect that I had been offered a superintendency of the Ft. Bragg schools a couple of times since leaving there. And I am still invited to class reunions down there, certain classes, which is kind of nice, even though I was there only a year and a half. Which is a little bit flattering.

EB: Were you ever tempted to take them? – those jobs?

OH: No.

EB: You wanted to stay in Humboldt County.

OH: And so then in 1952, Hugh B. Stuart, Superintendent of Arcata Elementary School District, came to the County office one day and talked with Mr. Woodcock and myself, I was then Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, and indicated to us that three doctors had ordered him off the job immediately because of his health. And he was in, as I recall, his upper 70’s at that time. He’d been on the job for 44 years as Superintendent of Arcata elementary schools. So Mr. Woodcock and I talked about it as to whether either one of us would apply. Mr. Woodcock felt, although it would be an improvement in salary for him over the County Superintendent of Schools, that he would find it too hard to make new friends in another community at his age, why didn’t I apply for it. So I did and landed the job. I was superintendent in Arcata for ten years, from ’52 to ’62.

EB: Was that also principal at...

OH: At first I was principal Stuart School along with the superintendency and the district was growing. It had every class up through and including the sixth grade on double sessions, which meant they needed building programs. Mr. Stuart’s administration had built four rooms out at the Sunset School, and a corridor and an office. And so we moved ahead with building programs, I think we had three at Sunset, because you were very severely limited on your square footage you could build. You maybe noticed a

year or so ago they built a parking lot for teachers out there. We weren't allowed to build that when we built the Sunset School.

EB: Why?

OH: Because you could only have so many dollars for site development and we had to fix up the playground for kids rather than do the things for the adults cause the schools are for the children. So we had three building programs at Sunset, and we had the whole Sunnybrae School, plus an addition. We had the Bloomfield School plus an addition, plus a Special Ed addition. We had the Manila School plus an addition. And in 1960 the Arcata District hit 1,959 students. We missed the year by one student, to match the year. And that was the highest enrollment it had. Whereas today it's down to about 600 due to the fuel and other circumstances, employment opportunities, etc. And the opening of St. Mary's School made quite an inroad into it. Anyway, that was Arcata. Then I was offered a job at the East Whittier City School District as Superintendent. At that time that district had 13,400 students, about 840 employees, which was a nice feather in the cap and I accepted that job.

EB: Now what was title there?

OH: Superintendent, East Whittier City School District.

EB: And what year, 19?

OH: 1962. And I stayed there until 1971, was going to leave there at the end of that school year anyway, and landed the job as Dean of Campus Development of Humboldt State. I thought this was on Humboldt State rather than me.

EB: It's both.

OH: The highlight of my years at East Whittier, by the way,

EB: Cause the experience you brought back

OH: was the experience of being made Mr. Who's Who for Humboldt State in, I think the year was, 1966. But we did come up here for that. It was quite a nice experience, rode in the back seat of a, the rumble seat of a Model B Ford, in the parade, with my wife and we both really enjoyed it.

EB: Was this still considered home? Did you think you would move back here when you went to Whittier?

OH: Well, we had kept this home from our days in Arcata schools. Our son had lived there, both sons at first. And then one son and he had gotten married just the summer before we moved back. And we hadn't expected to move back that soon. And to make a long story short, when he found out that we were coming back, and his wife, by the way, is Susan Hansen, the Director of Career Development at Humboldt, but when they found out that we were going to come back, they bought a house down in the Bloomfield area, at a new subdivision down there, I forgotten just the name of it, in Scott Court. So we

were able to come back to our own house, which we kept all those years. We kept this house cause we knew we'd be back here in retirement anyway some time.

EB: Yes, this is still home.

OH: This was home. Then I started as Dean of Campus Development at Humboldt State on February 1, 1971 and I stayed there until August of 1977 – 6 ½ years. And they were busy years.

EB: They were, before we get into that, I want to ask more about the student days when you were at Humboldt. You mentioned that the new book that Homer Balabanis, his recollections, didn't pay as much attention to the arts as you thought was warranted.

OH: Yeah.

EB: Tell me what...

OH: The arts of any civilization are the culture which they pass on to the next generation. More so than the economics, possibly. Even history is made up mainly of the art developments of a culture. And their music passes along and their arts pass along the great masterpieces which were done in the Middle Ages we have today. And as far as I'm concerned, and I know Dr. Balabanis is very personally interested in the arts because he serves on the State Arts Council, he's done much to establish the Cultural Center, etc. but I felt that in his remarks on Humboldt State they weren't played up to the extent maybe they should have been.

EB: What would you have included?

OH: Well, I would have included the Lyceum which stressed more on that than he possibility did. I would have included the operas which were offered back in those days. I would have included some of the leading dramatic performances, some of which have been filmed in later years. The trips the choir took. He talked about athletic trips but he never said anything about the music trips and other things of that kind.

EB: Now the Lyceum and the opera...

OH: We had a Lumberjack, by the way, way back in those days too.

EB: The newspaper?

OH: Yeah. It was only four pages most of the time then.

EB: Yeah, I've looked at some of them...

OH: But a nice little paper.

EB: And it started in the 30's. Or it started...

OH: I think it was there when I came to school – the university – or the college.

EB: It had recently begun.

OH: I think it was before the 30's, probably. And they had a yearbook back in those days, Sempervirens. I had one somewhere upstairs. But the thing I missed in coming back to Humboldt State was the absence of the yearbook. With the size of the faculty up there on plays, it was somewhere around a 1,000, there was no way for a new person on the staff, who only worked basically with deans and department chairmen, to get to know who was who. You'd see these people in the lunch room, you'd suspect that they were faculty, you'd introduce yourself to a few of 'em, but by and large, your contacts were few and the yearbook would have had pictures of those people so you'd get to know who the other people were on the campus. And I think they're going back to one, maybe in the last year or two.

EB: The Lyceum and the opera, where were those performances? Were they always on campus?

OH: Well the Lyceum was a traveling show which was developed to take at all these high schools, and I presume, colleges and other places.

EB: Was it the kind of same circuit that the chorale group took, or a little different?

OH: I'd be speaking about something I really don't know because that was before my time.

EB: Uh, huh.

OH: You might get that kind of information from Humboldt's, one of our proud, Olympic star, Alta Cartwright Hendricksen of Ferndale.

EB: Uh, huh. Is she still living?

OH: I think she might know something about that because she's still around. I wouldn't be surprised if Frank McGaraghan might know something about that – of McGaraghan's store in Eureka.

EB: Okay, what was Hendricksen's first name again?

OH: Alta, A-L-T-A, I believe, or E-L-T-A. Alta Cartwright Hendricksen. Mrs. Maynard Hendricksen. M-A-Y-N-A-R-D.

EB: When did she graduate?

OH: Before my time.

EB: Very much?

OH: I can remember, if you want to go way back, as a young kid in Eureka, when Elta came back from the Olympics, she came back on the good old NWP and half the town was down there to meet her at the railroad station. And when she went to her home, which was up on H Street in Eureka at that time, somewhere very close to where the Episcopal church is, and the home is still standing somewhere up in there, it might be right across from the Veteran's Building, I believe it is, on the side street there from H. The whole town followed her home and she had to come out on the porch and make a little speech and

so on but as she did down at the railroad station. But she was of our claims to fame for Humboldt State, being able to get to the world Olympics.

EB: What Olympics, which year?

OH: I couldn't answer that, I was too young to remember then.

EB: But she's still living down in Ferndale?

OH: She's still living, and she was married to Les Stromberg, of Arcata, till he passed away and then in later years married Maynard Hendricksen. She used to have a gift shop in Arcata, and then in Eureka, where she carried Scandinavian items.

EB: Where was the gift shop when she had it in Arcata?

OH: Well, she had... I maybe wrong on the Arcata one, that could have been somebody else but the Eureka one was right near where the Red Barn is, there at Matthews, where Dalianes Travel is now. Right in there, one small part of that.

EB: I've researched a little of the Hotel Arcata, I think there was a gift shop in there at one time which is why I asked.

OH: There was – a Scandinavian gift shop, but as I remember back that, that was not Alta's. I thought at first it was, but recollecting it really wasn't.

EB: Anything else that you think didn't get mentioned as much as it should in the book on Homer's recollections?

OH: Ah, yes and I have a real thing about this. You read in the papers today, have we enough tape for a while?

EB: Ah, better switch it.

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE 1

OH: That didn't get mentioned in Homer's book. He indicated that the Teacher Education Program had changed in later years. And one of the... because when Humboldt first started, you should remember, it was Humboldt State Normal School and then Humboldt State Teacher's College. The whole emphasis there, major emphasis at least, was either on elementary education or possibly a somewhat of a junior college program, this was long before College of the Redwoods, to prepare students for pre-med or pre-dental or pre-architecture, engineering, or whatever. And the first two years, they could get some of their courses at Humboldt. But the whole emphasis, the whole major emphasis of the University or College up there at that time was elementary teacher education. They had an Education Department and, let me refer to my notes on this one, today due to the Leo Ryan Bill and the California State Legislature, most education courses as such were eliminated. Instead they were requiring, they are requiring academic majors of the teachers. I think the results of this, I don't fault the requiring of

academic majors, but I fault the washing out of the Education Department, the results of this are the present criticisms of the public schools that you read about. They led one to believe, or they would lead one to believe today that academic specialties alone are the answer for a person to be able to teach school. But in my opinion they are not the answer for quality education. Yes, you have to know how to read to be able to teach somebody else to read but the fact that you know how to read doesn't mean you know how to teach it. I play the organ but I'm not qualified to teach organ to somebody else. I might as a ham try it, but I haven't. But one prominent local CPA, to illustrate my point, decided he would teach a class or two in accounting up at Humboldt State, some years back. And he remarked to me at a meeting that I attended sometime later, "What dumb classes they had up at Humboldt State" – he'd given a test and the kids couldn't answer most of the questions. Never once did he realize at that time that he wasn't teaching, he had the knowledge but he couldn't put it across to the students and there's a significant difference between knowing a subject field and being able to teach that subject field. In the old program at Humboldt State, and maybe they ran this into the ground a little bit extending it too much, that resulted in the Ryan legislation, and of course, this was a statewide situation at that time. They had practicums in reading, practicums in math, practicums in art and science, language and composition, Phys. Ed., singing games, music, and art. Now a person might know about art but being able to teach it is something else. And I think that in eliminating all the programs, which the Ryan Bill did through the withdrawing of the finances for certain things, they've completely watered down the competency part of Teacher Education from the standpoint of being technically able to present this in such a way that somebody else is going to understand it.

EB: When did the Ryan Bill come in?

OH: Oh, the Ryan Bill came in while I was in Southern California. At any rate, I say that although today's teachers are probably much better prepared academically in their subject matter than some of us may have been in the earlier program, I don't believe they're anywhere near as well prepared as to how to teach children at the various levels. In later years Humboldt State began to offer the Secondary Teacher Credential and they offered Administration Credentials for both elementary and secondary.

EB: Did you ever take any of the Administration classes... was there anything...?

OH: Oh yes, sure. In fact, I have a General Secondary Credential out of Humboldt State. But when I was ready for my Master's, Humboldt didn't offer the Master's so I got my Master's at USC. And while working in Southern California, I earned my doctorate down there in Educational Administration. But I had courses at Humboldt State. They were good courses, can't fault them and because a university might be a major institution – like University of Cal or Stanford or USC, the fact that they have the reputations they do, doesn't automatically ensure that every professor you get at those places are outstanding professors.

EB: Definitely.

OH: You can get some duds there as well as anywhere else. I have a serious question also in the culture field again about art and music, and art, in particular. I think possibly music's in the same boat. Music, where it is offered, it's one of the first things cut when finances are tough to secure for the schools.

Music is occasionally taught to children by specialists who come around to teach the music, not the regular classroom teacher. In my day, every teacher was expected to teach music. In my day, every teacher was expected to teach art. In some school systems today, there's an art specialist or a music specialist. But as I say, when finances are tough, those are the first positions eliminated. So what happens to the kids? A whole generation of kids grows up and they haven't had any adequate training in art. The other thing that I differ with some of the art people on – I maintain that any curriculum field has a body of knowledge which should be transmitted to the student if it's an organized body of knowledge with scope and sequence. In art it might be such a simple thing as drawing a line and drawing it straight or drawing a circle and drawing it so it is a circle – other things like that. You learn perspective, you learn balance, you learn forms, shapes and a lot of things like that. But the art curriculum as such, at least in my most recent experiences in the public schools and even in visiting some of the schools in our own area, I see little evidence that there's an organized body of knowledge that's being presented with scope and sequence to students as they go through schools.

EB: In the field of art?

OH: In the field of art. And music – I can remember back in the old Washington School in Eureka, which is still standing, we had a music specialist at that time in the Eureka City Schools. It sounds a little contrary to what I was just saying but she'd come around on music appreciation and play records for us to listen to and we had to learn the names of the songs, the names of the composers, be able to spell them right, etc. And they had a contest for the whole city school system at the high school auditorium one time to identify songs. And you had to turn in your sheets, of course, at the end of the thing and if you got enough right, you got a phonograph record for it. Well, we learned some songs, way back at that stage, which I still recognize when I hear them. How much music appreciation is given at any level of the schools today?

EB: I don't know. I grew up in Rochester and we listened to the Rochester Philharmonic weekly on the radio as part of our program and they put on their tour of the high schools and all of the feeder elementary schools and people in the high school would go to that assembly and the rest of the city would listen to it on the radio. So I really had quite an exposure to it. So I didn't lack in what I think you're describing.

OH: Well, the schools where I have been, I've seen a decided lack of it. So... and having been a supervisor of the county schools with, working with all of this, I worked with the northern half of Humboldt County and all the school buildings there, I can say the same was true for Humboldt County back in the 40's at least.

EB: Yeah, I haven't heard mention that it's been a prominent...

OH: And a lot of the artists themselves were against having scope and sequence in art. They were for self-expression, which to me is a lame excuse for teaching. I don't think self-expression – you're experiencing something, yes, but if you have some technical knowledge to experience it with a little more quality.

EB: Um, huh.

OH: Seems to me that there's something decidedly lacking in the art curriculum there.

EB: Um, huh. What extracurricular activities did you participate in as an undergraduate at Humboldt?

OH: I was in nearly everything except athletics. I was young, I was tall, I was skinny, and very poorly coordinated, if you can imagine that at this point. And a, so I wasn't involved in athletics. But I was music manager, I was on the Board of Control of Student Government, I was on the – I was Student Body President at Humboldt State, sold tickets at the games and plays, concerts, College Y. Once at one time, President of Alpha Psi Omega (the little dramatic fraternity), I was in plays, was in the musical groups, used to accompany the classes, some of them, tap dancing, and so on. Played the piano in those days, play the organ today and piano.

EB: What are some of the important...

OH: I was Student Body President when Charlie Erb was football coach. I didn't know as student president that Charlie Erb... until I read Homer's book over Christmas holidays... that he got half of the gate from the receipts.

EB: Oh, the students didn't know that in those days?

OH: No, Homer was the faculty advisor to the student body and he knew that and the President knew it, but the students generally didn't know that. And there were some things that happened there that I wouldn't want to see anywhere in print. Charlie Erb, to get more money, had some special season tickets printed which were different from the regular season tickets, just slightly different, and I determined that, and I discovered that and went to Homer Balabanis with it and, of course, he went to the President and I never heard exactly what happened but I don't think Mr. Erb was there that next year.

EB: Um, huh.

OH: Because he had a compulsion to gamble which was unfortunate and he'd lost more than he could afford to lose and he was trying to make up some of his losses by printing more season tickets and then pocketing the proceeds.

EB: Not just the 50% that came to him anyway? But the...

OH: No. I don't want that in the report though.

EB: Uh, huh. Okay.

OH: I think probably the only living people who know that – Jessie Woodcock might know it – I think she does – would be Charlie Erb, er excuse me, would be Homer Balabanis and myself cause we didn't disclose that to everybody.

EB: Yeah.

OH: Erb was too popular to coach and he brought Humboldt a lot of crowd which Humboldt would never have had otherwise. Oh, one thing I left out – the San Jose football trip. I don't suppose Homer put that in his report either. One time Humboldt was going to play San Jose State College at San Jose and so the Humboldt Student Body chartered the NWP train and we went to the football game on the chartered train.

EB: Oh, wonderful.

OH: And as we'd go down the highway, there was some other students who didn't take that train that'd be tooting their horn at the train and we'd be yelling back and forth. It was quite an experience but quite a day.

EB: Did Humboldt win that game?

OH: It seemed to me that Humboldt won the game.

EB: I'll bet the San Jose people were surprised to see that happen.

OH: Then one other time they played San Jose while I was teaching in Del Paseo and I went to San Jose for the game there. I don't think they won that time but they were there. But I was still interested in what was happening at Humboldt State.

EB: Um, huh. What are some important events that occurred while you were a student at Humboldt?

OH: You're talking about 40 some years ago.

EB: Yeah.

OH: Important events that occurred where?

EB: Either on campus or in the community or worldwide or altering.

OH: Well, the thing that occurred during those years – most students at Humboldt State had to work at the barrel factory in order to be at Humboldt State and a...

EB: Was that particularly true during the Depression?

OH: In order to get the money as it was the tail end of the Depression in the 30's there. And that's why teacher's salaries were so low then too. But honor students even, like Lou Giontinni, his first job was out at Dyerville. Virginia Rumble's mother used to teach out at Shower's Pass. You know Virginia, the President's secretary.

EB: I know who she is, uh huh, uh huh.

OH: Ruth Carroll taught at Warner Creek and I think she was out in the mountains somewhere else before that, maybe at Dyerville. Why? There was a surplus of teachers during the Depression. When I

applied for that elementary job in Del Paseo Heights, there were 40 applicants for that one job. So that tells you a little bit of what was going on.

EB: Yeah.

OH: And many... now, Clyde Patenaude. Do you know Pat?

EB: No.

OH: The little ex-superintendent before me that retired. Pat was driving bus. He was an honor student at Humboldt State and he was driving a commute bus for the Humboldt Motor Stages which at that time I rode from Eureka to Humboldt State every day. There was a bus going there and back in those days and a good part of the Eureka kids came to Humboldt State on the bus rather than in private cars. Clyde Patenaude, who was a graduate of Humboldt State was driving bus for a living just to get bread and butter in his mouth.

EB: How did this affect your going to school to become a teacher yet around you you saw unemployed teachers? The same goes on today.

OH: Well, I was determined I wanted to be a teacher. And I knew that was my career choice. My father had a business in Eureka which I could have gone into, a machine shop. Hansen Machine Works which is still in existence over there.

EB: Where is that?

OH: On Broadway, near 7th and Broadway. But I didn't want to get into that. I had worked down there occasionally. I could run a lathe and a drill press and sure I'd learned some of those other things but it wasn't what I wanted for my career. I liked working with kids, with people. So as a result, even though the placement was tough in those days, I still, I think most of us who were there training to be teachers expected we'd somehow or other get a job. Why not go through with it? Then we stayed with it.

EB: Yeah, and then eventually the Baby Boom came along and things opened up.

OH: Well, of course, World War II opened the Baby Boom and you've seen what happened to the schools. When I went to Arcata there were about 1200 students there and it went up to 1959. East Whittier I hit at the peak – 1304, and from then on it went down and it's somewhere at 6000 today.

EB: You mentioned that a lot of the students worked at the California Barrel Company in order to afford to go to College.

OH: I didn't.

EB: You didn't?

OH: I had a dance band. I played on Saturday nights.

EB: Tell me about that.

OH: We made the big salary in those days, playing for a little dance band at the granges around here, of a dollar and hour. We'd play from 9 till 3 for six dollars. And it's surprising how those amounts of six dollars would add up if you put them away, which I did at that time and took several trips to San Francisco and other places and just used my dance band money to help out a little bit that way. But we'd pull in 500 people on a Saturday night at Freshwater Grange, if you can believe that. But in those days they charged 25 cents admission and 50 cents for a hot supper. Intermission from 12 to 1 with a hot supper. There would be terrible fist fights outside. Then the drinkers would get going out there and get all crocked up and...

EB: Were they called Wrangle Town out there or were they _____?

OH: Then at three o'clock they'd pass the hat for the band and we'd play another hour. And I can remember the time or two where they passed the hat at four o'clock and we played until five which was a long stretch.

EB: Yeah.

OH: That was fun. And I miss that. I had a dance band up until I went to East Whittier.

EB: So what other events or what events took place?

OH: I can't think of what took place while I was at Humboldt State other than we were coming out of the Depression. And of course when World War II hit, that had a major effect on Humboldt State and on Business and on everything – the baby births and the whole civilization changed.

EB: Um huh. Any events that happened though in Arcata or Humboldt County, California, the world during that time that stand out in your mind?

OH: I can't think of any big earthquakes or any big floods that occurred during my years there. Riding that bus to and from the college was an interesting experience – got to know those kids, as you'd call them a lot better.

EB: Everybody'd catch the same... catch the... see the same people every day.

OH: Yeah. It'd make a certain tour around Eureka to pick up students on their... on whatever established tour it was and then they'd come to Arcata. Prior to that day they used to come to the campus, as Homer said, on a train, at the foot of the hill, just to block away. There used to be a railroad station about a block and a half down the street from here.

EB: Oh, where?

OH: Down where the Humboldt Green is now or maybe just this side of there. And there was a little station there.

EB: Now there was also one down... there was one downtown.

OH: One downtown also. But the one out here was for the college students and then they'd have to walk up the hill.

EB: Uh huh. Not too bad a hike.

OH: I can't think of any particular situation during my years at Humboldt worldwide other than coming out of the Depression. I haven't prepared on that particular end of this thing. Of course, getting to the campus at the time you had either the bus or you had a private car. And the end of the campus, by the way, was just the front of Founders Hall where the senior bench is, and there were a couple of tennis courts down at the bottom there and there was a parking area where the Administration Building now stands. The rest of it was private dwellings from there down the hill. When are you going to get onto my days that I worked at Humboldt?

EB: In a minute. I have a few more questions. How would you have changed the preparation that you received as a student if you could have looked into the future?

OH: How would I have done what?

EB: How would you have changed it if you could have looked into the future?

OH: Changed what?

EB: The preparation you had at HSU, if at all?

OH: Oh, I think, possibly Leo Ryan's Bill hit on a need for more academic knowledge on the part of the teachers and I would have kept some of the education courses or at least modified them so that they weren't completely washed out – to be able to teach people how to teach these various subject fields. Elementary teachers then had courses in singing, games and folk dances cause they played a part in the elementary phys ed program. They had elementary school singing, we had a lot of school songs to learn, then we had to be able to teach at any grade level at the elementary school. Those things all took time and that kind of time probably took away from a heavier emphasis on academic things that maybe potential teachers would have had at that time. I don't know just what the proper mix would be. But I still feel that the Ryan Bill went too far the other way.

EB: Yeah, need to have it come back.

OH: Part way, at least.

EB: Yeah. What has been your participation in the University Alumni affairs?

OH: I'm on the Board.

EB: And you have been active?

OH: I was treasurer at one time. I won the Who's Who. One thing I left off my earlier remarks on Humboldt State, there used to be kind of a real nice place up behind the football stadium called Council Crest. And Council Crest had a barbeque built in there, and we'd have lots of informal college functions

up there and some of the other ones like the Men's Association or the Women's Association would gather up at Council Crest and have some of their socials like a hot dog roast or hamburgers or all that kind of thing. It was nice to have a place out in the trees literally with a clearing, which that was at that time, it's been cut away in the meantime for the women's field up there behind the stadium. But Council Crest was a real nice place to be able to go on campus.

EB: Uh huh. Uh huh. So it was pretty close in.

OH: Yeah. But it was out in the woods then.

EB: Yeah.

OH: And we had one gym at that time, as I mentioned, which was known later as the Women's Gym and that was already there when I came to Humboldt State. I can't remember what the stadium situation was. It seems to me it wasn't there, but we had just a sort of play field out there where the football team could practice but it was like an empty lot in the town that wasn't really developed. There hadn't been any...

EB: Were there any bleachers?

OH: Oh, no. I don't... there might have been temporary bleachers on one side but there was nothing built permanently as there is today. Incidentally, one of the problems I'm going to refer to in later remarks is the instability of the soil at Humboldt State which not only affects buildings but affects the stadium.

EB: Are things slipping down?

OH: Yeah. There are big cracks on the bleachers on the west side where there's been some movement of the earth. And that's being watched very carefully by geologists so they know they're still safe and...

EB: That will affect Founders Hall too.

OH: Yes, it will.

EB: Yeah. That's real close.

OH: And there's been movement on two sides of Founders Hall or Cypress Hall as I think it's called – that newest dorm.

EB: Yes. Oh yeah. That's really in trouble.

OH: And on the north end, and then there's been movement right at the north end of the bleachers where they had a slip out while I was there. Well, we didn't have a stadium at that time as such and so Council Crest, although it's located probably over what is now the women's practice field or the football practice field out behind the stadium, was way out in the trees. There's a clearing up there. They'd have bon fires and night activities there – all very nice types of things, nothing out of line. I'm sorry that I don't remember world events or community events in the 30's.

EB: I just wondered if anything stuck in your mind or came to mind?

OH: Not right off hand.

EB: Uh huh. Let's move on to your Dean of Campus Development position. What... in 1971, how was that job described?

OH: in 19 what?

EB: In 1971. When you took it? How did it stay the same or change until '77.

OH: Oh, it didn't change very much. Prior to my time there they'd had an Executive Dean who was Dr. Lawrence Turner, who had passed away, and they hadn't filled the job of Executive Dean for a few years. They had Don Strand come in as Vice President of Administrative Affairs and during Don's tenure as Vice President, due to the growth of the college and so on, they figured it was necessary to relieve him of some of his responsibilities on the building program, where he was over the administrative end of the college. So they reopened the job of Executive Dean but they called it Dean of Campus Development. And for all practical purposes, that's all it was. It didn't extend to the other areas of administration.

EB: There wasn't an academic arm to it?

OH: No. Not at all.

EB: What...

OH: The academic people have what they call an Academic Master Plan up there which more or less determines what academic areas the university is going to move into or out of and that's usually approved by the general faculty. And then for the building end of the thing, there's a Campus Master Plan which had already been adopted before I came aboard and so it was my responsibility to continue the building program in accordance with that stated master plan.

EB: So the academic plan, then the building plans would have to mesh.

OH: They would have to mesh so that you weren't building buildings for something the college was going to back out of.

EB: Right. So had those agreements been made and firmly in place or was there shifting going on?

OH: There's a little from time to time that there might be more emphasis on the engineering or less or more emphasis on geology or less.

EB: Um huh. Then you would have to...

OH: You know, it just depends on student enrollments somewhat and also academic majors and minors being offered. If they are going to create a new major, it might require more geology, well then you have to have space for it. Or it might require more of something else that you'd have to have space for.

EB: So as those shifts were made, that would change somewhat of the building.

OH: Change the housing of the university of classes that were being offered, faculty offices, etc.

EB: Uh huh. Any particular incidents or examples come to mind about?

OH: Well, engineering was one, where the university really had to fight to keep its engineering program going while I was up there and the academic people had many meetings with the Chancellor's Office and also with the legislative committees in Sacramento in order to keep Humboldt's engineering program afloat. The eventual result, which occurred after I left there, was that I did some of the paper work for some of it before I left, was a location of those portables you'll find down behind the engineering building to provide more classroom space for engineering and the new science building was supposed to house engineering and biology. Whether it does or not, I can't say because I am not up there.

EB: I don't know either.

OH: Now, you asked me what my responsibilities were. Well, basically they were all the paperwork that deals with any forthcoming building program, all the paperwork dealing with remodeling or refurbishing, or reconstructing, repairing. I don't know if you realize it or not but the State University system is a very tight, tightly operated organization and you have to get an okay from the Chancellor's office in Long Beach for nearly everything you want to do at Humboldt State. If you want to repair a classroom, you've got to have prior approval.

EB: Oh, really?

OH: And so there's a tremendous amount of paperwork which seems to me the local institutions could be given a budget and some autonomy for these things but evidently there have been bad practices in the past which have led to this kind of tightening up. I don't know.

EB: Now is the policy statewide or does it apply more strongly to some colleges?

OH: Statewide. Statewide.

EB: So you have to submit a plan and get estimates and...

OH: Everything you do has to go through Mother Chancellor and the facilities planners down there.

EB: At what point did you start referring to it as Mother Chancellor?

OH: The first year. In that office as Dean of Campus Development I was supported by Dorsey Longmire who was a facilities planner. And in order to get any new buildings for a state college or university, you have to first of all determine what you're going to offer in the way of classes in that building, what faculty offices will be needed, what subsidiary facilities will be needed, to the square foot. So Dorsey would not only have to work out a rough draft of a plan showing square footages, but for every room in the building you had to have a sheet to describe what was going to happen in there, the size of it, how many pupil stations there would be, how many faculty stations, how many lab patches, etc. etc. etc.

And so Dorsey is a licensed architect, was the logical person to do that kind of paperwork. Then when he finished with his paperwork, I'd take it, get it in proper form and quantity for the Chancellor's office, it seems to me it was nine copies.

EB: Oh, dear. And pay the postage.

OH: And then shoot it on down to the Chancellor's office. That's when you were in a formal building program. You'd have some tentative commitment that you would have a building approved during that year. Now each year, the Dean had to submit what I call a Sears catalog or a wish list of buildings for the next 10-year period for Humboldt State.

EB: Every year? That had...

OH: Huh?

EB: Every year that had to be redone?

OH: Yeah. Every year it had to be redone and so you'd keep resubmitting the things that didn't go the previous year. Maybe it was some modifications because the curricular changes or space need changes and so on.

EB: When you say the Dean, who do you mean? You. Okay.

OH: Yeah.

EB: So you'd submit that to Long Beach.

OH: Yeah. And we'd have to submit that to Long Beach and normally that document would have been approved by the Campus Planning Committee which is composed of some faculty members and student reps and some administrators from the university, and Dorsey and I were both on it. I chaired it. And then the documents would be shot on down to the Chancellor's office. But that was a once a year task and the book was approximately an inch and a half to two inches thick. It seemed a horrible waste of time because you knew you weren't going to get most of that anyway. Now, why do you know that? Well, number one – there's only so many dollars for building for the whole State College system – university system. Humboldt is in direct competition with the other 18 schools for every dollar they get out of that. Repairs, refurbishing and so on, if they're not too excessive, are done out of what is called Minor Capital Outlay and that's done through the Dean's office with prior approval from the Chancellor's office. In the spring each year you have to send a potential Minor Capital document down to the Chancellor's office for what things you're going to fix up, even if it's landscaping or whatever. So one of the major tasks we had when we were doing that annual Minor Capital and Major Capital lists and also hoping that with and through our Vice Presidents and Chancellor's office we could get support to the Legislature cause everything that our governing board of the university system wants to finance has to be approved by the Governor's budget or the Governor can blue pencil any of it. So you'd have to have strong support from the Chancellor's office to get every nickel you're going to get for a building program.

EB: Did you ever lobby separately or did all the...

OH: Oh, I think the State College system has a lobbyist. I never had any dealings with him but the Vice Presidents and the President would.

EB: Did you try and bring political influence to bear separately from what was going on.

OH: Only one time.

EB: What happened then?

OH: Humboldt had had its gym replacement approved for the old women's gym which was still on campus. It was very much outmoded and it had the gym approved and then for some reason or another, either the Governor blue penciled it or there weren't state funds enough to fund it and it had been sitting in limbo for about five to six years and I was trying to get that reactivated. So one morning while I was in Sacramento, I went and called on Randy Collier. "Who let you in here?" I said, "Well the doors were open and nobody was there to stop me." "Who are you?" So I told him. "Why are you here?" That was his way of dealing with people and I told him. I said, "Humboldt needs this very, very badly. It was approved several years ago, it wasn't funded, etc. etc." He was chairman of the committee, the finance committee that had to approve these projects and he said at a committee meeting that afternoon, which I think maybe I had a little input on it, "I'll be glad to approve some of these other things providing you fellows approve the gym for Humboldt State University." And I think I had a little input, but maybe it helped.

EB: Oh, just a little, maybe more than a little.

OH: Maybe it helped him to say that. Now I know our President, Siemens at that time, had been working with him before that time and so on but I had a little to do with that, I know. And that's my only attempt at lobbying because I felt that was not my place to do normally. I don't know why I did it that one morning, I guess it was just cause his door was open.

EB: You sound a little frustrated about it.

OH: Huh?

EB: You sounded like you were a little bit frustrated about it being delayed for all these years.

OH: Well, we were, very frustrated. What did we do when I was Dean? Are you ready for that?

EB: Yeah.

OH: Some of these things were the paperwork had been done on before I got there, for example the Natural Resources Building. No, I'm saying that wrong, it's the Forestry Building. Forestry Building construction started after I came aboard but the paperwork had been all done. So I was able to see that one through. The Kerr Tower Room.

EB: What had it been like before?

OH: Well, it was just an attic barn type place before. When the Kerr family donated money, we had to redo the stairway and redo the inside of the room and before we could get the necessary approvals – the fire marshal and everybody else to get that fixed up. Have you been up there?

EB: Just stuck my head up there.

OH: Used to be a beautiful place. I don't know what the furniture is like now it's probably run down some.

EB: I don't know either... it looked... I just have a very faint...

OH: It was a meditation place where a student could get just a quiet place to get off by himself if he wanted; and I'm afraid some things occurred out there that shouldn't have, as would in that kind of a place. I was actually involved in the Nelson Hall remodel for the student body, the University Center addition, where they about tripled the size of that, the last dorms, I think they're called Cypress Hall. Those of us who worked for the University didn't like the site for that any better than some of the other people did but that's the one that was approved.

EB: Because of the slippage?

OH: There'd been an old garbage dump there.

EB: Oh, well that doesn't...

OH: They found auto bodies and garbage cans and all kinds of stuff down in there, big logs.

EB: Where the Jolly Creek, Jolly Giant Mill

OH: Not the Jolly Giant Complex but the one to the east of that, that one that goes around a hill there.

EB: Wasn't the mill that used to be there?

OH: There was a mill there.

EB: Right near there.

OH: Somewhere in there.

EB: So the rubbish would have been from that.

OH: I'm not sure just where it was. I know it was in the canyon there somewhere. The Forestry – definite part in the west gym. The library expansion, we worked all the way through on. Had many meetings with the Librarian and the staff on that. Parking lots at the dorms and extension of them in the front of the campus, 14th and Union, and the Library lot. And for every parking lot, we had to remove houses. While I was chairman of the Parking Committee too up there, and our office would really get castigated by faculty and students cause of no parking on campus and we'd go build a new building and there was less cause you had to have construction space around the building and yet they

didn't want to give up any of the old houses on campus. And the State owned the houses but they weren't turned over to the University yet, so we had to get a lot of those houses turned over to the University – all those along the a, oh, a block up from what would be C Street, I guess, where Cluster College was and the Child Development Center or whatever that is up there, Child Care Center.

EB: Um huh.

OH: We had to get all those houses and the ones down near the Power and Transportation Building, all those old houses, some near the Courtyard. To get parking, we had to tear down houses. That was the only way you would do it. Faculty were fighting it, cause they liked them for offices. They got a little more space that way than they might get in a new building. So faculty was fighting it and complaining about the lack of parking, students were fighting it and complaining about the lack of parking and then came the freeway project.

EB: Yeah, I wanted to ask you...

OH: And the freeway project split this whole town wide open. And of course working with the Master Plan I had to take a certain position on that whether I wanted to or not.

EB: Did you want to take that position?

OH: Yeah. It didn't bother me cause I supported the freeway. And I'm glad we have it and we need a wide one right now, in my opinion.

EB: It did split the town. What kind of headaches?

OH: The first six months I worked in the Arcata School District here we were commuting from a house just this side of College of the Redwoods, by the overpass there, that brown shingled house. We lived out there. But I was forced off the road three times between Eureka and Arcata. It was a two-lane road in those days. When it went to four I was mighty happy. Of course, in the meantime we bought this house. But today the traffic is heavy enough I've been forced off the road once, under the present freeway, and with the amount of traffic that's on it day and night, I think it's not adequate for present needs, personal opinion. So, when the freeway was coming through the town and then split the town wide open, the city council, and the college staff, the faculty, you had faculty members testifying against it, you had faculty members testifying for it, you had students against, students for, I had to testify for it representing the University Master Plan. The only way the Master Plan could be achieved was to get all these old houses turned over to the University so we could then determine what would happen to 'em. Now Caltrans in getting rid of the old houses, there were very few of them that were demolished.

EB: They were moved.

OH: Most of them were recycled. And same with the houses on the University campus that we were eventually able to get, through much credit to them. They were recycled and even the Devery House, which is right here in front of the campus, they were able to recycle and two other ones up there this side of the library, but you had to have more parking up there. So the only way you could get parking

and still is is to get some more houses out of there. Now why am I anxious to get houses off the Humboldt State campus? Personally, I could care less but the Master Plan, excuse me, the State Chancellor's office has a policy there will be no temporary buildings on State college campuses. Every one of those houses up there are temporary buildings but the University is now using. Even that nice one where Nursing is up there now.

EB: Is that the Little Apartments?

OH: Pete Palmquist and I forgot who is downstairs. I think the Testing Program might be downstairs.

EB: In the Little Apartments?

OH: Yeah.

EB: Across from the...

OH: Yeah. The Little Apartments.

EB: The Counseling Center.

OH: Yeah. The Counseling Center is in there. But the only way you could ever get more parking in that area is to take those houses out of there. Now as a citizen that who lives this close to the campus, I strongly object to what that campus is doing to this town.

EB: In terms of...

OH: I can't park in front of my house during a school day. If I take my car, the place is gone. So, anyway to get parking lots you had to get houses. And Caltrans recycled all those houses. And the Plaza Apartments on the hill there were recycled, on Plaza Avenue, below the Little Apartments. They're now down on the south end of town. So all that happened while I was up there and it wasn't easy.

EB: No, it was real... it was exciting.

OH: You were damned if you do and you were damned if you didn't.

EB: It was exciting.

OH: We got the Foundry built and going. We got the Ceramics relocation to the old laundry done. We got that turned over to us from Caltrans. That was done while I was up there. The Gist Hall remodeled, Marine Lab expansion, elevators in many buildings for the handicapped which at Humboldt State seems awfully expensive for the few students we have and the State offices say let them go to some other college. We don't view it that way, we feel that they're entitled to go to Humboldt State if they wanted to go there so we need to be equipped for wheelchairs and so on. While I was there the University hired Casey Kawamoto of San Francisco, a leading landscape architect there, to be our landscape advisor on campus and we got several landscaping projects included

EB: Were they part of

OH: In the building, the ones around Founders Hall, the Library and between the University Center, all up through that central core. That was all under Casey's direction.

EB: Was that part of the General Plan, the Master Plan that you inherited when you came on the job or was it – all of that landscaping.

OH: Well, that would be landscaping. Buildings were sited but and the Library expansion, seems to me it was in the Master Plan but the landscaping and parking were requirements that went along with it. In other words, after you build a building, you had to clean up the site and make it look respectable. But I'm real proud of the way it looks today. Leasing of the University Annex was done while I was there. The old Trinity Hospital. The freeway controversy

End OF SIDE 2, TAPE 1

OH: I represented the University at the Arcata City Council meeting, had to negotiate with Trinidad City Council for the Marine Lab expansion. An interesting thing on that was they had certain ideas about commitments that had been made by the University and about expansion up there and we had other ideas that were down on paper. So I had to research the City Council meetings up there – minutes – for ten years. And that was kind of interesting, they have two recurring problems in Trinidad – dogs and water. Anyway, the Marine Lab expansion was eventually approved and we got that through. During my time we got bike racks on campus. There was a move to try to get more people bicycling. In our climate it hasn't gone too far but there are some racks at least to make it more convenient. We did the paperwork on the new science building, the paperwork on the Founders Hall remodel before I left there. I might say as far as Master Plan is concerned, the Master Plan states, and Marvin Tromp, the campus architect, calls that the Vocabulary of the Master Plan, the buildings would be tile roofed and stucco to conform to Founders Hall so that everything on campus is in harmony. How they ever got that new science building through, I'll never know.

EB: It's quite different.

OH: And it isn't supposed to be, by Master Plan requirements, and at any rate an architect got somebody's ear and finally got it approved, I guess, and it's there today.

EB: And they're having trouble with it

OH: And they're having quite a few troubles with it.

EB: Yeah, quite a few.

OH: What I'd like to give you now, if you want, are my perceptions of some problems on campus.

EB: Yeah.

OH: First of all though I'd like to talk a little about the two administrations. Is that all right?

EB: Oh, that's one of my questions.

OH: President Siemens took a personal interest in every tree and shrub on the campus. I can still remember his calling our office, "Can't you get that tree out of there?" "The students are coming in that the tree is just bleeding." When somebody cut a tree and the pitch would be running a little bit. And he was just as concerned as the students were. He made it his personal business to look into the major building program and the major thrust on the whole campus was during his administration. And, of course, he brought the University status to the campus instead of being called a college. And he lived there during the fantastic student, faculty and employee growth of the institution. President Gist, before him, while I was there as a student, had that personal interest in students and faculty. He knew every student by name. His door was always open. You'd go in and talk to him whenever you'd want. Course, it was a smaller institution so it was possible to do it that way without being screened by his secretary first. You knew every faculty member by name and they knew you. It was nice. You had identity, which I think today's student does not have up there. Vi, you about ready?

Vi: Yes, just a minute.

OH: Excuse me. Sorry that's on tape.

EB: Oh, that's all right.

OH: President McCrone has continued the landscaping program and they now have that beautiful soccer field in front of the campus. They've developed a stump farm which was master planned to be developed at the front of the campus – that redwood stump area that sort of looks very attractive now. One other thing that's in the Master Plan for that area that I'm not sure it's still there or not, but it was, there was to be another lake in that part of the campus along that little old creek bed that runs there and/or drainage ditch now. And I'm not sure what's happened to that. That... I'll get into major problems of the campus next.

EB: Okay. We'll take a little

OH: Major problems at Humboldt State that I see... blue clay. Most new buildings, including Forestry, including the University Center addition, including the dorms, Jolly Giant and the other buildings, some of them, the Jolly Giant Complex, the Library addition, I understand the Science building had to have this, the old Science building, possibly the new, possibly the Education building, had to be on pilings, some of them 60 feet long because of the blue clay underneath. And that blue clay is having its effect in slippage particularly around Founders Hall. On the east side, by the bleachers, you can see signs of cracking there which the State engineers are watching as well as local engineers. And we had some reinforcing along the bank there while I was still working there, just north of the bleachers, on the west side, to keep Founders Hall from slipping. And I understand there's been some slippage at the north end of Founders Hall since I left. All of which could endanger that building if they're not adequately taken care of at an early date.

EB: So it'll take constant watching and constant mopping up.

OH: Yeah. Parking continues to be a problem. The one parking lot, that's one of the prettiest on campus, doesn't get used very much because it's too far from the campus center. But since a good part of it was open land, it was practical to build a parking lot there rather than somewhere else.

EB: Over on Union?

OH: Over on 14th and Union. And Arcata neighborhoods are still impacted, including our own right here which I resent very much. When college is in session, people who live near the University should not be imposed upon by those who either attend or work at the University when there is far more parking up there than what they're using.

EB: What impact do you think the fact that there's a fee for parking on campus has on people still choosing to _____

OH: The feeling on it or the fee?

EB: The fee.

OH: Oh, I know the fee has some impact but where do you go that you don't have to pay for parking in this day and age? If you go to downtown Arcata you're paying, what is it, a nickel for 30 minutes and a dime an hour, which would be how much a day? 80 cents. Parking on campus was 18 cents a day while I worked there, which is far cheaper, and it seems to me that at least the administrators, staff and faculty have a responsibility to the community to park on campus and not be creating a problem for the town, which they continue to do. I could name some prominent administrators who are against that parking fee and maybe rightly so. Maybe other State offices provide parking free. I don't know this, like Caltrans for example, I don't know this but I'm under the impression that there are fees charged in Sacramento for State employees parking in various public facilities there and I had to pay for parking at University of Southern California. It's kind of a fact of life these days and Humboldt still does not have enough parking spaces in the right places to encourage people to park there. And to get those, it's going to require that more houses come down. Okay that finished that point. There's very expensive land acquisition to fill out the Master Plan of Humboldt State. The Mai Kai Apartments, right in the center of the campus are one example. How that ever got approved in the first place, I'll never know.

EB: When were those built?

OH: Oh, they were prior to my time. They were during the war years. It was an aid for student housing and somebody got them in there. I can't point any fingers at anybody, but I kind surmise somebody was personally interested in that. I don't want to say any more than that cause I don't know as fact any more than that.

EB: Okay.

OH: You've got the Baptist church over in the center of the campus or what is known as the center of the campus and Dr. Siemens was a member of the Baptist church. Some years ago one of the Baptist minister was encouraging the congregation to move off campus and get out where they had some space

to develop the school and other things they wanted to do. And it's been in our wish list for years to purchase all this property because we need to show that eventually it will be purchased by the State for the college. But so far it hasn't happened for Mai Kai or the Baptist church. Now due to the freeway project, that cleaned out a good part of the front of the campus except by the Power and Transportation Building, between the Education Building, and there are a few houses left along the 16th Street, I guess. There are two other houses at the front of the campus, on Plaza Avenue you've got the Williams Complex, there on the hill, which has been converted into student housing, privately by Mrs. Williams, who I understand is a widow lady or a divorcee and needs that income. And she certainly has improved on the value of that property. For terms of state acquisition it's going to cost a lot whenever they buy it. And then you have the house that belongs to the late Bennie Feuerwerker which also would be expensive to acquire right here at the front of the campus. Then right behind those two places, you have that other street with houses on one side of it. Well, they're on both sides of the Feuerwerker Street there, I guess you'd say, which are occupied for offices of one kind or another.

EB: Like the Briar House and the Financial Aid Office?

OH: Yeah. They're nice houses and they're practical for use for the college but if you're going to get people to park on campus, you've got to build a parking lot near where they want to park and it seems to me, I know this won't be a popular statement, but it seems to me that the logical place for parking development, if you're looking at a long time ahead, for the Library, for campus cultural events, you need more parking right up there in the core of the campus and it isn't there. So it's got to be there some time or other in the future. Humboldt State, we had applied for an administration building to be financed and that was going to be located somewhere between Gist Hall and the Education Building and the main campus entrance then would be eventually built at 16th street. What does that do? It takes away more parking. So it creates another problem that needs to be answered. But if you look at the administration of that school, where are they? They used to all fit into the Administration Building but the growth of the Business School forced them out. So the administration is really, in fact, no longer in the Administration Building. It's a business building, Siemens Hall.

EB: Because they're over in the Annex? A lot of them.

OH: Pardon?

EB: Because they're over in the Annex? A lot of them.

OH: Well, let me finish. You've got some people in Nelson Hall that ought to be in the Administration Building, on the one wing of Nelson Hall, the north wing. You've got the Campus Police force or security office which ought to be in administration and they're up in a house. You've got some other agencies like Native Americans and so on that ought to be in the Ad Building. They're in a house. You've got some other services – Community Development and so on that are in other houses. Then you have everybody that's in the Annex. And during my time there they leased the Annex and it was a godsend at the time because we had to get more space for instruction. After all, Humboldt State is in business to instruct students, that should be top priority in everybody's opinion, I believe; and in order to do that, you've got to have a facility for these other services which are needed and it ought to be where it's

handy for the people that need to get there as well as to faculty members teaching in the various schools on Humboldt to get to and from the Admin Building and for the administrators to get to and from the other buildings. So the Ad Building, in my opinion, should be centrally located on the campus, and it should also incorporate all of the administration instead of scattering it all over the town as it is right now, in my opinion. And I think the President concurs on that and Don Strand did and Milt Dobkin did. There has been an advocacy on the part of the Arcata City Council while I worked up there for boundaries of the Master Plan which had been approved by previous city council. And I'm now speaking of the area south of the Baptist church from 14th Street to the Baptist church. That was all in the Master Plan, right up to the boundaries of the Lutheran church. And somehow or other, the Arcata City Council decided that they weren't going to approve that. Well, interesting enough, the University owns land behind some of those houses and behind the church, owns all around the church except right across the street there on Union Street. But the, if the Master Plan is to be achieved, there's still a lot of houses on the east side that sometime or other would have to be acquired by the State. Now if I were Grant Ferguson I'd fight to hold onto my house cause he personally built that house with his own hands. I don't blame him for wanting to keep it. But again if the city came along and said they wanted this land for a city park, I'd be fighting it cause I like this house and I made a super effort to try to hold onto it while we were in Southern California. Well, so I know how those people feel. So you've got a, I suppose, a dichotomy of what's best for the State and what's best for the people, and as long as the college absolutely does not need it for building programs, I suppose it can stay in the Master Plan or hold that part in abeyance, either that or they ought to change the Master Plan and take those parts out of the Master Plan if they're not going to plan to buy them in the future. So the Master Plan needs updating. The other thing I would say to, as far as Humboldt State's concerned, in my opinion, the problems I pointed out earlier that I perceive as problems as a school administrator, on Teacher Education, that whole curriculum needs to be upgraded so people get the how to part along with the academic part of it, which they are not getting at the present time. Yes, there needs to be a revitalization of the Alumni Association. I don't know how that's ever going to be achieved, I'm on the Board right now. Some people on there are concerned about this and trying to do things to interest more people all the time by having foreign trips and other things of that kind but so far isn't doing much except the same people who always seems to be involved in administrating the Alumni Association.

EB: So it appeals to a real minority?

OH: Uh huh. We've seen a recurrence since I left the college of women's athletics which there are lot of pros and cons on, and Humboldt had some very fine women athletes, as I say went to the Olympics even. Then there was a period where women's athletics were downgraded clear to the ground and now it's recurring again. And the women have really never had a field that was exclusively theirs. They had what they called the women's field that was used for football practices and everything else – soccer, when they were re-growing the grass on the stadium. When they

EB: Oh, where is it? Is it the one up behind?

OH: Yeah. The one up behind the field house. But women's athletics have been treated over the years as a second priority up there instead of first and again, I don't know the medical side of that. There was

a time when the doctors said women shouldn't be such active athletes and bear children and so on and so forth. I don't know. Any questions?

EB: Yeah. Instead of just saying down here something about the differences and similarities between the different administrations, the different presidents of the college. And you didn't mention McCrone.

OH: Yes, I did. I said McCrone has continued the landscaping, didn't I say that?

EB: Yes, you did. Okay, I guess I

OH: And he's done a major push in instructional quality. That's been his stress. Coming from the University of the Pacific, he felt that anything he could do to upgrade the quality of instruction, he should do. And I think he's lived religiously with that thrust. You can just feel it when you talk with the man or hear him at Rotary Club or anywhere else. That's his commitment. And that's what it should be. I'm glad to see the President more concerned with instruction and less concerned maybe with some of the other things. However, when Siemens was there, he did what had to be first priority for the institution and that was the building programs, cause it was so run down and outmoded. Gist on the other hand was there, the first buildings, the original buildings were, some of them were there and some weren't, and his was teacher education because he came to Humboldt from a national association of elementary school principals, I think, and had that as a background and wrote books on supervision, and so on. There was a one-to-one relationship with Gist which you never did get with Siemens which you got at first with McCrone, I don't think I want this in print either. Siemens was dealing with the so called financiers in the area and he couldn't bother with anybody else, even the school people who helped support the institution, he couldn't even remember their names. McCrone remembers their names but I think after he gradually had his honeymoon there and got acquainted with everybody that he's more reserved and aloof from the people in the community, even at Rotary Club he usually sits over by himself or over at a table, comes late. I'd like to see him a little closer to the run of the mill people but that you can't put in your report either.

EB: Okay. Listen up Dr. Tanner. Can't put that in.

OH: I think each man was there meeting a major need at the institution when he was called to lead the institution. I can't speak for Swetman's period. I don't know anything about him or Van Matre. But I do know that when Gist was there Teach Education needed the priority because that's why the place was established. And if it hadn't been for that it would have been out of business. And Siemens, on the other hand, wanted to broaden curriculum and to get the buildings to do the necessary thing and with the growth because of the many students returning to school after the war, why, he was the right man at the right place at the right time and I respected his administrative ability very highly. I knew the man quite well also. I won't say anything about his golfing.

EB: Okay.

OH: And as far as McCrone's concerned, I respect that man right to the sky as far as a professional leader. He's warm and friendly when he wants to be and so on. He's... I think he's made a real effort to

bring emeritus faculty and staff back into the picture when anything goes on and I like that. I was invited to Dobkins's reception the other day, for example, which was kind of nice.

EB: Uh huh, when you were there with Dr. Siemens, he had such a strong interest in the area that was your responsibility. How did that work?

OH: Fine. He'd come in and look over the blueprints and "why're you doing this, why're you doing that?" "How are we meeting this need?" "How are meeting that need?" If I couldn't answer, my friend Dorsey in there, who was the architect of the office, and between the two of us we could get an answer that would satisfy him. Sometimes he'd say, "I don't want it that way." And so we didn't have it that way. But he was good to work with. As long as you did your job, why, you found he was supportive. Now one was people oriented and another was building oriented, as I see the three of them, and McCrone was curriculum oriented. And again, that's what's needed at this point in time. I wish they'd take a second look at the Education Department up there and what they're doing to prepare teacher's to teach.

EB: It's a worry.

OH: I don't know much about it specifically but I know that with the Ryan Act, I practically wiped out that school which was a major school up there.

EB: How would you say that the relationship between HSU and the Chancellor's office is or how was it?

OH: Fine. It's very good. Even in the Siemens's regime, he fought for what he believed in and we wouldn't have had the buildings at Humboldt State during Siemens's regime unless he put up a scrap for them cause he had to win them over the opposition of the other presidents cause they wanted buildings for their campuses.

EB: So he was doing...

OH: He was always justifying why Humboldt needed this more than somebody else, and he had to. But I think Siemens had a good relation and his vice presidents had a good relation with the Chancellor's office and our office had a good relationship with people there. I've heard some of them told off by Humboldt State administrators at the Chancellor's office when I thought they were being motherly and unreasonable, but I never did it. But to support my position one time, not the job itself, but something I was pushing for at the time, Milt Dobkins was acting President at the time, and I heard Milt just dress one person down there just, oh, he really gave it to him, and the person had it coming, in my opinion.

EB: It sounds like Humboldt's had to really put forth more effort, perhaps, than some of the other campuses in order to...

OH: Why? Where are we? We're farther away and there are many who opposed having the Chancellor's Office in Long Beach. They felt it should be where the State Capital is, in the Central part of the state. But where are most of your people?

EB: Down there.

OH: Down there, so it makes some sense having it there too. See the State college system used to under the State Department of Education. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed Dr. Dumke, who for many, many years, then when they changed the organization, was Chancellor of the State College/University System, when it became a separate system from the State Department of Education. Having that separate office and looking at some of the things they have to do, I sometimes, as one person having worked up there, think that, at least from my point of view, you could get by with a lot less people down there and have more of that money to use out in the field. I think they're duplicating, unnecessarily duplicating, some services.

EB: Yeah. If they're checking and scrutinizing everything that closely, they must have a powerfully big staff.

OH: They are. They are. Particularly on the building program. And at the end of the year, you have to deal with a financial report on your capital outlay money, goes along with your request for the next year. How you spent every nickel of it. Don't they trust anybody at this end? And the same goes for any of the other campuses. The same rigidity goes for all of them.

EB: Yeah, spend more money tracking the nickel...

OH: And I don't see a middle agency without many people working in it but I don't recall now how many that they have but I've been down there many times. They have a number of hired people and I question the need for that.

EB: Do you have any comments about the relationship between the college and the City of Arcata? From the time that you were a student right up til the present.

OH: Well, I think it's probably at a better level right now than it has been in some time because, remember again, how did the University get its land? By buying land out of what was then the City of Arcata. And the University has removed from the tax rolls of Arcata many, many dollars worth of tax dollars by expanding out to where its present boundaries are, because once the University buys the land or the State buys the land, they're off the tax rolls. And the State only buys it at the request of Humboldt State or Caltrans, as the case may be, for the freeway. But the City of Arcata, well, when I was superintendent of the elementary schools here, I took a very dim view of all these acquisitions because it took that much from our income as another tax using group. It reduced our tax roll when we needed the money cause we were growing. So there's been a real problem because of that growth and the same thing could be said for Trinidad. Trinidad takes a very dim view of any public agency, including State Beaches and Parks, including Recreation, including Humboldt State University of buying anything in that town that they don't already have cause they're taking too much of the town now, unquote. See the University even has a pipeline that runs out that wharf to get ocean water up to the Marine Lab – have that right of ways for those pipes to run.

EB: Oh, boy! Oh, so that gets real complicated.

OH: So every little encroachment Trinidad is watching like a hawk and Arcata is watching like a hawk. And although all this was settled at one time for Arcata, with the approval of the Master Plan by the Arcata City Council and the University, and there were a lot of hearings held on it at the time, and the City Council approves it, approved with the boundaries as specified by the, what'll I'll call the 1970 Mater Plan, recent Councils have reneged on that which I don't think is fair play. But they have under Alex Stillman's leadership, and Wes Chesbro and some of the others.

EB: So then old agreements didn't stay put?

OH: I think once the City had made its word, they should stay with it. I think once the University's made its word that it's not going to expand any further in Trinidad, it should stay with it. There's two sides of the coin, in other words. And a lot of people were looking askance when we moved in

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OH: The University had the Annex on a lease from the, I presume it's now the American Hospital Association or whoever owns the Trinity Hospital, a Mad River Hospital and so that's on a lease. And the University had no intentions of buying that and that's why we were pushing for an Administration Building to get the University functions back on the campus and out of the town. And putting all those employees out in the Annex has really affected that part of town with people parking on the streets.

EB: Indeed. Indeed.

OH: Why should they pay for parking when there's free parking right outside the door? And it's hard to answer that one from whichever way you look at it. So I think city relations are probably at a pretty good point. There's no freeway project that's dividing the town. The University isn't expanding its properties. The students are not giving people in the town a bad time other than with their parking and the same applies to the faculty. I don't think they are asking the City for a lot of services other people don't get. We'd had to talk to 'em about water and storm water and drainage fees and things like that, you know, which the City has money coming from. And there have been adjustments worked out mutually between the college and the City on those things. That was while I was working on 'em. But I had no part of that, that was a function of the business office. Anything else?

EB: Yeah. On the role of student government – how it's changed or stayed the same over the years since you were involved.

OH: When I was there, there were 300 students. Everybody knew who was on the Board of Control and knew who they were or on student council or whatever you want to call them. And they knew their student body officers. Today with 6500-7000 bodies on the campus, how do they know them? And I'm not sure sometimes how representative the group really is, personal opinion.

EB: Yeah, yeah. That's what I am asking for. Has the role of student government changed from what you remember it?

OH: Well, I think student government has changed somewhat everywhere because if you have in school districts, you have students attending school board meetings as official representatives of student body, you have this at colleges and universities, you have it in the junior college, you have an organization of student governments with California State Colleges that are attending meetings of the Chancellor's staff. So I'd say student government has more input than probably what it used to have on administration, as a chief point.

EB: What do you think the reputation of Humboldt College or University is statewide?

OH: Well, it's interesting. We have a daughter in Mexicali, Mexico, so we, I go to Rotary Club in El Centro and in Calexico and in Holtville once in a while when I'm down that way visiting. They've all heard of Humboldt State and some of them have sent their kids up here. So even in that rural part of California, which Imperial County is, they know about Humboldt and that's clear at the other end of the state.

EB: Yeah, in the opposite corner.

OH: And the place seems to enjoy a pretty good reputation. But particularly in the field of wildlife and forest management and things of that kind. Back in my day, I was the first one to be hired at that Del Paseo Heights school from Humboldt State, and after me they had a whole series of people cause apparently they were satisfied with what they got from Humboldt. And Humboldt teachers have had a good record of success all over the state. And we had an Associate Superintendent of Public Instruction from Humboldt State, George Hogan, he used to be there, down to Roy Simpson, for years. George Hogan went there from the Humboldt County Superintendent's office to, I think, at first, the Division of Credentials and later Associate Superintendent of Public Instruction. So Humboldt has had a good reputation over the years. No, it isn't Stanford, it isn't Cal Tech, it's Humboldt and it's meeting the need particularly for people at this end of the state but rather than being the so called area college with an area student body, it's no longer that. We've got 'em from all over the world up there and we have many from every state in the union, practically, if you look at the map they have up on the wall up there. And then they have probably more students from Southern California than we have from Humboldt County, a lot more, and from San Francisco, they're still coming up here. They like it. The other thing is once they get here, they want to stay, so many of them. They gripe about the weather the first year but once they're used to it, they realize the area does have something. I'm glad to be back here myself.

EB: What other people do you think that we should consider interviewing for this project?

OH: Have you talked with Ugo Giuntini?

EB: Not yet. I plan to.

OH: To get a woman's point of view, I've already suggested Elta Hendricksen to you, I'd say Elva Quarnheim. Q-U-A-R-N-H-E-I-M. Elva for many years was principal of the Washington School in Eureka and she lives out by Patrick's Point now. She and Kathryn Corbett, do you, are you at Humboldt now?

EB: Some.

OH: Do you know Kathryn Corbett?

EB: I know who she is.

OH: Well, Elva and Kathryn live next to each other up there, I think. They've been very good buddies for years. And if you want a faculty viewpoint of things from long-time faculty, Kathryn Corbett would be a good one to get a woman's viewpoint, which I think you should have.

EB: About when do you...

OH: Let me think. Clyde Patenaude out at Blue Lake, I would talk to. And there would be a long interview there. He'll tell a few stories along the way too.

EB: What staff members, people who didn't have a professional connection with the University but were employed?

OH: Say that again.

EB: What staff members, people who were not in professional positions but who were staff members, say grounds men or some secretaries? Do you know any of them?

OH: Well, you've already got Homer. Now some of the Deans who have retired from out there haven't been there very long like Hedrick, and Hallam and Ray from the Science school, can't think of his last name right now.

EB: But any people that just worked up there in...

OH: Hey, somebody that works up there, that's been there a long time, and I think went to the college elementary school is Gene Orlandi, G-E-N-E O-R-L-A-N-D-I, and he's in the Annex. He could give a student's view. He went to the college elementary school. I wish you could get Oscar Seaquist, who is now in Rancho Mirage and comes up here once in a while. Oscar was superintendent of Ferndale Elementary for a long time and he was there. He went to the college elementary school and then he attended Humboldt in later years and then was a practicing administrator in Humboldt County most of his years. He's a brother-in-law of Grant Ferguson, by the way. Grant is another one you might talk to. He's been president of the Alumni Association. Does a fantastic job as superintendent of the Freshwater School District.

EB: Oh, that's why that name's familiar. Okay.

OH: He does a real good job there.

EB: What year did he graduate?

OH: He, I don't know. He may have been there during part of my time but I think it was after my time, basically.

EB: Okay, somewhere in the early '40s?

OH: Let me think a minute on that one. Who else went to Humboldt State? You know who Jack Lahr is? L-A-H-R. He has been with Hugh S. Lynn, the group that relocated the elks from at Patrick's Point down to King's Peak.

EB: Oh, I heard about that but I don't know him.

OH: Jack Lahr and their office was in or is still in the old Stewart School here but Jack, I think, has gone private consulting but he's a Humboldt grad who is working in another professional field entirely and he could speak from the standpoint of science and so a... Classroom teachers, I don't know if Evelyn Cerini would grant you an interview or not. She went to Humboldt State and was one of the oldest living grads. C-E-R-I-N-I. And another one, Jessie Woodcock, who worked up there so many years. Have you talked to Jessie?

EB: Someone's going to. Uh huh.

OH: By all means. Another one that could answer a lot of questions about Humboldt in the earlier days, who's not too well now herself, she's in a rest home, was Dorothy Knapp. Mrs. Ray Knapp of Trinidad. She's in the Sunset Rest Home, I think it's called, behind the General Hospital. She's very rational. She's losing her eyesight, has diabetes, and a few other problems but her mind is sharp.

EB: She was one of the early students?

OH: Yeah. Before my time. Long before my time, when it was a two-year institution. Virginia Rumble went there.

EB: Uh huh, yeah. I think she's going to do an interview.

OH: She lived in the old dorms or Nelson Hall when it was a dorm. See a lot of 'em I would mention to you were there when I was, so you're talking about the same period of time. There isn't too much need for that. But Al McCole and I would have been before, I think, Kathryn Corbett. I don't know where she went to school. Whether she's a Humboldt grad or came here from somewhere else. But she worked there all those years. So she'd be good from a standpoint of view.

EB: Yeah. I think she came in '52.

OH: Lee Hawkins, the Arcata Elementary Superintendent, when to Humboldt in later years, after I did. Or Dale Engvhartson? Out at the Sunnybrae School.

EB: So they would have been the 40's and 50's?

OH: Oh by all means, though, get Alta Hendricksen. I kind a doubt that Evelyn Cerini will give you an interview. She hasn't been too well and she stays away from people she doesn't know – getting to be kind of a recluse.

EB: Did her husband have a jewelry store on the Plaza at one time?

OH: No. Her father had Seely and Titlow and a commercial, er wholesale grocery place in the Eureka. It sold to all the stores in the county.

EB: Are there any questions...

OH: I've taken more time that you wanted, I'll betcha.

EB: This is great. I'm real pleased. Are there any questions I didn't ask but should have? Anything we left out?

OH: One little comment. We had a professor of English up at Humboldt State named Alma Folsom, F-O-L-S-O-M, like the prison. She was a hard task master but she would have breakfasts occasionally for some of her students. And I remember going to her house one morning with several other students, one of whom is dead right now, the other is Paul Hunter, a local accountant, and having waffles for breakfast, then we took a hike down some of the campus trails, back to her house again, that was it. She's just trying to show a little friendship to some of her students which was nice. But I imagine she did that to lots of students that I don't know about. But there was a faculty-student relationship with small classes that was nice. And the instructor knew whether or not you were really learning something. It wasn't a reader who knew it.

EB: Um huh. Um huh. Yeah. It's much less personal.

OH: Yeah. So there's an advantage of a small school. I'm glad I went to Humboldt when I did. It was nice working there in later years too. I'm trying to think of anybody else in Eureka. Oh, Haven Howitt.

EB: Who?

OH: Haven Howitt. H-A-V-E-N. And he followed me over there at Humboldt.

EB: H-O-W-I-T-T?

OH: Um huh. Lives on F Street in Eureka. And he was Assistant Superintendent of Eureka City Schools. Jack Moore of Baker and Stanton was student body president of Humboldt State. Art Dalaines of Humboldt, of a Art Johnson's, was a student body president in later years at Humboldt State, if you don't have their names.

EB: The students who are helping with this are div... the students who are helping with this have broken up the time so one person is focusing on one decade and I'm focusing on another one, so some of these names may have surfaced. But we compare notes.

OH: Haven Howitt, although he's older than I, I think attended most of his years at Humboldt after my time there. No, I'm not sure. You got Ralph Bryant, who was Superintendent of the Cutten Schools for years, who could speak to the period, same period as Oscar Seaquist could, which would be another decade from mine.

EB: Um huh. So earlier...

OH: B-R-Y-A-N-T. He's a realtor in Eureka.

EB: But he would have been there before you or earlier?

OH: After.

EB: After. Okay.

OH: I can't think of many before. If you had anybody in Crescent City, Leo Sullivan up there would be very good and his wife, Dolores Header Sullivan. I think he's in Baker and Stanton furniture up in Crescent City. They could probably speak to this lyceum that I mentioned, along with Greg McGaraghan.

EB: Anything else before I turn it off?

OH: I'm trying to think of any long-time teachers. I think Maude Irish, here in Arcata, went to Humboldt State in the two-year period. She lives right near the college over on B street, across from the Annex. Maude Irish, lovely lady. She's been retired quite a few years. Was a teacher in McKinleyville and Arcata, various other places.

EB: Um huh. I've heard that name.

OH: Jessie Sorrenson would have been great but she's gone now. I think right off the cuff that's all I can think of. Why don't you give me your phone number in case I think of some...

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 2