

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
WITH  
ROSS SPIELMAN

13 JUNE 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE  
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW #QMS.005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH  
ROSS SPIELMAN**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.005

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith collection designated as QMS. 1995. 5. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mr. Ross Spielman. Today is Tuesday, June 20, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. The tape of this interview, along with a transcription will become part of the Quintin Miller Smith Collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is that okay with you?

SPIELMAN: Yes.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

SPIELMAN: Ross Spielman.

FORSYTHE: And your birthplace?

SPIELMAN: Hagerstown, Maryland.

FORSYTHE: And your birth date?

SPIELMAN: October 14, 1932.

FORSYTHE: And your father's name?

SPIELMAN: Thomas E. Spielman.

FORSYTHE: And what was his occupation?

SPIELMAN: He was a sign painter.

FORSYTHE: And your mother?

SPIELMAN: Evelyn Middlecoff Taylor. She was a secretary and then a housewife.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any siblings?

SPIELMAN: No.

FORSYTHE: What is your wife's name?

SPIELMAN: Eva Mae.

FORSYTHE: And her occupation?

SPIELMAN: Teacher. She's on the administrative staff now in the county school system.

FORSYTHE: What are you children's names?

SPIELMAN: The oldest is Cathy Carter in Birmingham, Alabama. She's a nurse. Caroline Pistole, she's a State Farm agent in Nashville; and then Ben, he's the youngest, and he just graduated from college.

FORSYTHE: Did any of your family members go to school here?

SPIELMAN: Caroline is a graduate of Middle Tennessee. And Cathy went here two years and then went to the University of Alabama School of Nursing.

FORSYTHE: What degrees do you have?

SPIELMAN: I have a BS (1955) and an MA (1963) from here.

FORSYTHE: What majors?

SPIELMAN: Physical education on the BS and guidance and counseling on the Masters.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose to study at MTSU?

SPIELMAN: My mother was living in Nashville at the time, and I wanted to go to school somewhere close to where she was living. That's basically how I got here. I came here as a sophomore. I went to junior college in Maryland; then I transferred here.

FORSYTHE: What was your minor?

SPIELMAN: Education.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose that particular coursework?

SPIELMAN: I wanted to coach in Maryland, so I got the degree and went back to Maryland and coached high school for five years.

FORSYTHE: What classes did you take?

SPIELMAN: I took the science classes and the physical education classes, all the administrative classes you need for physical education.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have of being a student here?

SPIELMAN: The highlight of my life was here. My best friend. The memories are all very positive and good. It was a good time to be in school growing up. At the time, the college was relatively small. I think it had about 900 [students] when I came, probably about 1500-1700 when I left. Everyone knew everyone else. The teachers knew everybody. It was just a good, positive environment to be in.

FORSYTHE: What organizations were you involved in?

SPIELMAN: I was in the physical education club, ROTC, and the Sigma Club. I was president of the student body my senior year. Who's Who.

FORSYTHE: What did you do as president of the student body?

SPIELMAN: I'm not sure what we accomplished. We tried to support the school spirit. MTSU always had a reputation of being a suitcase college. We tried to encourage activities to [get students to] stay here on campus. It's hard to do that, but we tried to promote overall good college spirit.

FORSYTHE: What activities did you do?

SPIELMAN: Usually, we had pre-game activities. We started a radio station program that aired one night a week. In all of the events, we tried to enhance and upgrade the quality of the events we had on campus. We did a lot of publicity as far as trying to promote various activities on campus. We did that extensively.

FORSYTHE: What was the Sigma Club?

SPIELMAN: The Sigma Club was a men's group for academics. They had a group for the ladies as well.

FORSYTHE: What did they do?

SPIELMAN: We just met, and they had speakers. It was more of an academic type function.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about the ROTC.

SPIELMAN: I was the assistant battalion commander the first half of the year, and the second half of the year, I was the company commander. We drilled one day a week. It was preparation for being an officer in the military upon graduation- primarily the academic training of military science.

FORSYTHE: What is the MSN?

SPIELMAN: Methodist Student Movement. It was an on campus organization sponsored by the Methodist church. The Baptist Student Union had a group, and the Catholic organization had a group as well.

FORSYTHE: What about the drama club?

SPIELMAN: They [produced] plays. I was in there. I wasn't an actor. I was just kind of a handyman.

FORSYTHE: Track and Saber Club?

SPIELMAN: The Track and Sabre Club was a club sponsored by the ROTC. If you remember the ROTC, they did social functions and they had activities to promote ROTC on campus. I was just a reporter for a short period of time.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have of that?

SPIELMAN: I wasn't that involved. I grabbed some material and some articles. When I ran for student body president, I didn't really have as much time to do that.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have of Q.M. Smith?

SPIELMAN: Mr. Smith was a very imposing person. He was about 6'1" or 6'2", ram-rod straight and very distinguished. When he walked into a room, you knew the president of the university was in the room. He had an aura of authority and respect about him. I'm sure you realize that during WWI, he had been gassed and his speech was somewhat difficult to understand. But it never seemed to deter him from doing what he wanted to do. Because of his speech, he was not very talkative. He would communicate, and people would listen. That was probably an advantage, because you really had to listen when he talked, so there was never a misunderstanding of what he was saying. He carried a lot of authority and respect due to his demeanor and personality. He was obviously in charge. If you talked to students and faculty members on campus, I think they all really respected him. I think they had a great admiration for him. He was well thought of. He was president, as you probably know, of Tennessee Tech, and then he came here as president of MTSC. The rivalry between Tech and Middle Tennessee was probably at its peak during the late 1940's and 1950's...[the two colleges competed] athletically, academically and any other way you measure universities. I know he felt very strongly about how and what we were doing compared to Tennessee Tech. He took a lot of pride in this university and its accomplishments in every area, particularly when competing with Tennessee Tech. He was the type of person, I think, that could handle money very well. He was very intelligent. During this period of time, money was not that plentiful. Veterans were coming back from World War II. The Korean War was starting up, and there was growth here at the university. Yet the money was not as plentiful as we would have liked. He was able to manage what we had, and did

things that I'm not sure many people could have accomplished in the manner in which he did. He was very good at planning and very good at using the resources that he had. He took great pride in what he accomplished. I remember one day, he and I walked around the campus together- it was my senior year. He was showing me things, projects that he had completed and plans that he had for the future. He was excellent at planning and utilizing what he had to work with, and I think that was probably one of his strong suits. He had a very strong personality. My junior year, Nylan Taylor, who was a judge in Shelbyville, was president of the student body. And I remember at homecoming that year, the grand marshal was Hank Snow. He came up to the university in a baby blue Cadillac convertible, and in the parade, the queen was on the convertible. At half time during the football game, he took the queen out on the field in the convertible. Then, that night, they had a dance, and Hank Snow was there to crown the queen. [President] Smith was very upset that Hank Snow was invited because he didn't feel he represented the type of personality to be the grand marshal of the homecoming. It may have been that he didn't like country music. I was impressed with the fact that Snow was here. I'm a big country music fan, but Mr. Smith did not like [country music]. And he had pretty well instructed the faculty that they were not to associate with Mr. Snow. I thought it was a little embarrassing. During the dance, no one would go over and talk to him. Nylan Taylor, who was the [SGA] president, spent the whole evening with Hank Snow. It was obvious [that] he was being snubbed. I think it was just Mr. Smith's strong feelings about the type of person that should be the grand marshal. I was made aware of the fact that we didn't want that type of person to be the grand marshal. So, I was going to improve on that the year I was president. The summer before my senior year, Frank Clement was the governor. I went to Nashville [to see him], and his sister was his secretary. I invited him to be the grand marshal at our homecoming parade. I thought he was about as good as you could get- the governor of the state. He agreed to come, and I was really excited. When school started, I met with [President] Smith, and we were talking about the school year and what the students were going to be doing. We talked about homecoming, and I was so proud of the fact that I had secured the governor to be the grand marshal. I told him that, and he made it very clear that I would have to go back and uninvite the governor. Because it was hard to get governors to come to the campus because they were so busy. He had plans for the governor to come in the spring of that year for another function, and you just couldn't get the governor there for two events. He wanted me to uninvite him to my function so that he could come that spring, which Mr. Smith thought was more important. So, I had to go back and talk to his secretary [Anna Belle Clement O'Brien], who was his sister. She was a super nice lady. I explained to her what I had done. She was very nice and very understanding. Of course, the governor's schedule is so busy that he had plenty of events to replace [homecoming]. But, I did have to go back and cancel because Mr. Smith felt very strongly about it. He was a conservative person. He was ramrod straight and had a lot of dignity about him. He usually wore white shirts and dark suits. He had gray hair. He later retired and helped organize a new bank here in Murfreesboro. I believe it was First National Bank.

He was one of the organizers and became the president of the bank. He may have been the first president or first chairman of the board. I had the opportunity to visit with him in his home over on Pitts Lane. He was very active in the community back then. The business community recognized him for his leadership and his ability to handle financial matters. He was a real gentleman and a great person. This university is greater because of his presence. He was an outstanding person.

FORSYTHE: How did the students relate to him?

SPIELMAN: They had a lot of respect for him. There seemed to be more respect for authority figures in those days than there seems to be today. When the president spoke, you listened and you did what you were told. There was a small group that wanted to have fraternities on campus back then. It was made very clear that we weren't going to have fraternities. So, there wasn't much to talk about. In some respects, there was probably a fear of him, but there was also a respect. He was the president of the university, and he knew what was going on. I don't think he was overly close to the students. I may have been as close to him as anyone on campus, because of being president of the student body, but there was a definite separation.

FORSYTHE: Where was his office located?

SPIELMAN: When you went into what is now the Old Main, there was a door on the left. His office was in there. They had a reception area and Bonnie McHenry was the secretary there. She was the secretary forever and ever and ever. Right behind her office was his office. It had high ceilings and a big desk. It was very imposing and very impressive. It had old-type furniture and so forth.

FORSYTHE: Wasn't it on the second floor?

SPIELMAN: I thought it was on the first floor. You go down in the basement and then you go up the steps. As you go to the top of the steps, it was the first door on the left.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Dr. Cope?

SPIELMAN: Dr. Cope. There's a lot of similarities there. Dr. Cope was probably more of a politician than Mr. Smith. He had been Commissioner of Education for the state and had been involved with politics for quite awhile- particularly in the education field. He was another strong personality. Of course, he didn't have a speech impediment. He probably communicated a lot more than Mr. Smith. He was another one that [had the presence of authority] when he walked in the room. He carried with him dignity, authority, and respect. I think he came to MTSU at a very appropriate time. When Mr. Smith was here, funds were hard to come by, and Mr. Smith's strength was being able to utilize what he had. When Dr. Cope came, there was more progress being made. He was getting funds. He was a

good manager and a good planner. He was able to deal with the legislature and government offices more effectively than previous presidents simply because of his background. He was an excellent president. He held the position of authority with dignity. A lot of people were fearful of him, but most everybody really respected him. They were both good leaders, and they were strong leaders. There was never any question who was in charge on campus. He contributed as much as anyone to the growth and the professionalism of the university. Murphy Center was established under Dr. Cope's administration, and he raised the money and the finances for it. He died before it was built, but the monies were there for it under his administration. He was as supportive of athletics as Mr. Smith. I would say they enjoyed seeing the university succeed in all areas- academics, athletics, and so forth. He had a lot of foresight and was a good planner. I hated to see him go. He was here about ten years, then he left and went to the University of Tennessee. He made some valuable contributions. I believe we became a university under Dr. Cope.

FORSYTHE: What about Dr. Scarlett?

Spielman Dr. Scarlett came at a time when his style of leadership and his expertise contributed to the university. The university seemed to do more under Dr. Scarlett in the academic area as far as curriculum, broadening the courses and things like that, than it did the other presidents. The other two's [strengths] seemed to be in the area of building the physical structures of the university. When Dr. Scarlett came, we seemed to concentrate more in the academic area. I think the doctorate program we had was under Dr. Scarlett. He was also a big supporter of athletics. He was probably more vocal toward athletics than Dr. Cope or Mr. Smith. He attended the games. He enjoyed winning. He liked to win, and he was vocal at the ballgames. My seats were in front of his seats, and if there was a bad call or something, he would get up and yell. He was very vocal in that respect. Dr. Scarlett came from out of state, whereas Mr. Smith and Dr. Cope were Tennesseans. Dr. Scarlett, I believe, graduated from Catawba College in North Carolina. He was a very intelligent person, and I think he had good vision with regards to how to enhance our academic program. Mr. Smith graduated from Middle Tennessee State, and he was the first president of the student body at Middle Tennessee. He always took pride in that, and I think he felt like the fact that he had been the student body president was a significant link between him and the students. All three of them had lovely wives. Laura Smith was a great lady, as were Mrs. Quill Cope and Dr. Scarlett's wife. All three of those ladies represented the university well. They were good first ladies. They had a lot of dignity and a lot of poise. Each one in their own way contributed significantly to the university and were a great support to their husbands. Mrs. Scarlett was probably a little more outgoing than the other two ladies, and more active in community affairs than Mrs. Cope and Mrs. Smith. The wives of our three president's were outstanding people. Dr. Scarlett was probably a little more progressive in some respects than Dr. Cope and Mr. Smith. They were probably a little more conservative.

FORSYTHE: What are some teachers that you had here?

SPIELMAN: Dr. James A. Martin, who taught in the Education Department. He taught psychology, and he was the first guidance counselor on campus. Dr. Jim Covington, who I believe is now the guidance counselor, was later hired as his assistant. He is an interesting person. Dr. Roscoe Strickland, a history professor, was an outstanding individual. Dr. Frances Riel, head of the Physical Education Department was just an excellent individual. I remember having Buleah Davis. I had Dr. Gerald Parchment and Dr. Patton, who were both in the Science Department. I also had Dr. Ed Howard, Dr. Battle, and Dr. Emily Calcott, who were all in the English Department.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember Dr. James Martin?

SPIELMAN: Dr. Martin, we called him Skinny Martin. He was very thin and an immaculate dresser. He probably was then and is today the best dressed faculty member we ever had. He wore Brooks Brothers clothes, which are very, very expensive. He was very stylish and a very interesting person. Some would say he was a little eccentric. I was in the first class he ever taught on campus. The first day he came to class, he jumped up on the desk and crossed his legs. And proceeded to tell everybody that he and his brother were the two smartest people in the world; and if there was something he didn't know, his brother would know it. Together, the two of them could tell us everything there was to know. He told us that he wore glasses because he was so good-looking that women found him irresistible. That was not true at all. But he was really a fantastic person. After that class, the word got around campus pretty quick that there was a guy on campus that was kind of in left field but, everybody learned to respect him and love him. He became the guidance counselor on campus which was certainly a test of his ability to relate to students and so forth. He was loved and respected by the students as much as anyone. He always took pride in saying that his first office was a broom closet, and it really was. It was on the basement floor of Old Main. It was literally a janitor's closet. They had a little desk and chair in there for him. He is now retired and lives with his daughter in Illinois.

FORSYTHE: Jim Covington?

SPIELMAN: Jim is still on campus. He still teaches, and I believe he is head of the Guidance Department. He is much younger than I am. He came here as an assistant to Dr. Martin. His father was a Presbyterian minister here in Murfreesboro who was loved and respected. And I think Jim has carried on the tradition and has certainly made a contribution to the university and the student body. He's a good person.

FORSYTHE: Roscoe Strickland?

SPIELMAN: A great teacher. I know we have a great faculty today, but back in those days, the commitment to education, professionalism and to the students [seemed to be greater]. There was just a closeness that doesn't exist today. That's not a criticism of today's teacher, but I just think the times and the size of the university are different. Strickland was a very learned person, and students related to him. He was the kind of person that would sit and talk with you as long as you wanted to after class. His name was Roscoe Strickland, and my name is really Roscoe Spielman. There's not many of those Roscoe's around. He always got a kick out of having a Roscoe in his class. That was probably an advantage of mine. He's still living, and his wife is an attorney here in town. He left here and became the president of a school in North or South Carolina. And then retired here in Murfreesboro. He comes to sporting events, and he is one of those people that represent all the good things you see in teachers- professional, caring, intelligent, and a good person.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Frances Riel?

SPIELMAN: Dr. Riel was from Massachusetts. He was a handsome person, and he's still living. He lives up in Monterey, Tennessee. He was my advisor while I was here, and he was just an outstanding person. If you were an athlete, or in the Physical Education Department, he was the kind of person you would want to emulate. He was handsome, trim, and very intelligent. He had his doctorate degree, and he had played professional baseball. He also played football in college, but he was very intelligent and dressed very professionally. He was active in his church; he was Catholic. He was active in the boy scouts. He liked camping and that sort of thing. He should be credited with getting the physical education at this school off on the right foot. His son is a dentist here in town.

FORSYTHE: Was he your undergraduate advisor?

SPIELMAN: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Buleah Davis?

SPIELMAN: She worked in the Physical Education Department. She's still living. She comes to all the functions here on campus. She taught dance and other physical education classes. You only got an hour or two hours worth of credit for her classes, but everyone thought they were as hard as any biology, physics class, or math class. She was a very professional person and very demanding. She was very fair, but she had high standards. And she expected you to do it right. You might be taking a course in square dancing and she'd make sure that you learned everything there was about square dancing. She was good, and she's still around campus. She's a great lady, very professional, and a great teacher.

FORSYTHE: Gerald Parchment?

SPIELMAN: He's still living here in Murfreesboro. He comes to all of the functions. He was an excellent teacher and had a fantastic sense of humor. He was very entertaining in class. He taught biology and genetics, and he made difficult subjects entertaining and fun. He had two sons, who are both very successful in the field of science. He is a Tennessean and still has a sense of humor. Everyone knew Dr. Parchment. Everyone loved him and respected him. He was good.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Patton?

SPIELMAN: He was head of the Science Department. He taught biology and botany. He was very professional. He had some academic honors. He specialized in certain areas in the field of biology which gave some national recognition. He was very fair and very professional. He probably wasn't as humorous as Dr. Parchment, but he had a genuine interest in the students and was probably a little tougher taskmaster than Dr. Parchment. Both were very professional and real assets to the university.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Howard?

SPIELMAN: Dr. Howard still lives here in Murfreesboro. Dr. Howard was right up there with Dr. Martin in regards to dressing nice. He was always an immaculate dresser. He was very neat and very well-groomed. He was excellent in his profession, fun to be around, and a nice person.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Battle?

SPIELMAN: He was really a good teacher. I just had him for one class. He did not stay here that long. The students liked him, and enjoyed being in his classes. He had a way of making a subject like English entertaining.

FORSYTHE: Emily Calcott.

SPIELMAN: Dr. Calcott lived right off campus. She never married; she was a spinster. She had a little house within walking distance, and she walked to class every day. She wore her hair up in a bun. It was interesting, because she was an expert on cartoons. She was an English teacher, but she studied in the philosophy and dynamics of cartoons, which didn't seem to be in character for her because she had the typical spinster teacher apparent. She was somewhat quiet and a rather serious person. We had assemblies at MTSU every Tuesday. We were required to attend chapel. Everyone had an assigned seat, and there were students that would check and see if you were in your seat. If you weren't there, you would be called in as to why you weren't there. Once a year, Dr. Calcott would give a chapel presentation on cartoons. It was really entertaining and good. It was amazing that she had that interest. She had never married, and she was respected and liked. She was the type of person some people could take advantage of, but she was a very good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Voorhies.

SPIELMAN: Dr. Voorhies probably should be credited with being the architect for a lot of our planning and buildings here. He was a Georgia Tech. graduate. He and Mr. Smith and Dr. Cope were very close. I would suspect that he had as good and as close of a relationship with those two men as anybody. There was a time when he knew where every light plug and every pipe and every door knob was on this campus. He worked in the Industrial Arts building. He was the planner, the architect, and just a great individual. He's still living in Murfreesboro and still very active. He will go down as one of the truly great faculty members on this campus. He was a good person.

FORSYTHE: Dean Beasley?

SPIELMAN: Dean Beasley was the Dean of Administration. He was also a Methodist. He was a very active member of the first Methodist church. I would suspect that if you went through the archives of the Tennessee Conference for the Methodist church, his name would be in there many times. He was very conservative and very professional. His handling of the responsibility of admissions and the records of the university was probably as good as any in this state. His son, Dr. Bill Beasley, was an English teacher here. Dr. Beasley was a good teacher. He was loved and respected by the faculty. He died of cancer some years ago, but everyone who knew Dr. Bill Beasley loved him and liked him. Dean Beasley was one of the pillars of this school. Dr. Cope and Mr. Smith relied on him with regards to the responsibilities that he had in the admissions office.

FORSYTHE: Anyone else you remember?

SPIELMAN: Neil Wright and his wife were head of the Music Department. Mrs. Wright is still living, but her husband has died. They were great people. They were both talented musicians and were probably the ideal couple to start a Music department on campus. Any success our Music department has, can be contributed to their foundation. Mrs. Wright was an outstanding organist, and she loved to ride horses. They had a very fine family. One of her sons owns a horse stable here in Murfreesboro. Another one was an outstanding tennis player. The person who wrote our Alma Mater, Doug Williams, was a protege of Mrs. Wright. He played the marimba, and she probably influenced his life greatly in music. He became a concert marimbist and traveled all over the United States. I believe he lives in Nashville now. His sister was named Francis Williams, and she was a receptionist for WSM, and she later married the owner of Preston Automotive Dealership. She is the president of BMI which is one of the most powerful music organizations in the music industry. She has a home in California, but her brother was a very, very talented musician here.

FORSYTHE: Did you live on campus?

SPIELMAN: I lived in Smith Hall, Room 202.

FORSYTHE: Can you tell me about Smith Hall?

SPIELMAN: At the time, it was one of the newer dormitories. And I guess it was a typical men's dormitory. When I first went in there, Coach Charlie Greer was in charge of the dormitory. He and his wife lived down on the fourth floor. He was there for a short period of time. Then, Coach Jones became head of the dormitory. He was one of the football coaches, and he later left and became president of a university in Texas. Then, Dr. Cunningham was head of the dorms for awhile. It certainly contributed to my college life, and a lot of good friends I have are a result of living in the dormitory with them. There was a closeness in there with each other. If you had academic problems or social problems, it was just like a family. There was a lot of activity and a lot of noise. On weekends, it was quiet. My home was in Maryland. I was one of the few out-of-staters on campus. There was many a weekend that I was the only person in the dorm. I was there by myself because most everyone else went home. They say it's a suitcase college, but it really was one back then.

FORSYTHE: How many people were in a room?

SPIELMAN: Two.

FORSYTHE: What was your roommate's name?

SPIELMAN: My roommate was Ben Hurt. He was from Pulaski, Tennessee. We lived together for three years. I was ahead of him in school, but we were very close. We were like brothers. He named his son after me, and I named my son after him. He became a football coach at the university at Houston. He retired and lives in Houston today. He was just a great guy. We always won the cleanest room in the dorm award. We always took pride in keeping our bed and our floors clean. We paired up well. They used to come around and inspect the rooms. And they'd leave a note on your dresser if your floor was dirty or whatever, to get the floor clean. We always had a note saying how clean our rooms were, and we took a lot of pride in that. But, they used to inspect the rooms every month or every week, but I don't guess they do that now, do they?

FORSYTHE: Coach Greer?

SPIELMAN: Coach Greer was a super great guy. He had a lot of personality. He taught in the Physical. Ed. department and was the head basketball coach. He was the kind of person you always enjoyed being around. He was very friendly and very warm. He was from Lebanon, and his brother, John Greer, was a State Farm Agent in Lebanon and was a very loyal supporter of MTSU. But, everybody liked Coach Greer. He was a really nice guy.

FORSYTHE: Coach Jones?

SPIELMAN: Coach Jones, he came here from Hillsborough High School in Nashville, where he was a very successful coach. He was a good athlete when he was younger, and he was an excellent coach. He was also very intelligent and went on to become a college president and got his doctorate degree. He was kind of a no-nonsense fellow. He didn't go for much foolishness. He demanded a lot of respect and had high standards. When he was in the dormitory, everybody listened. If there was any noise, he was there and made you listen. He certainly influenced all of our lives in a very positive way. He was a good person.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Cunningham?

SPIELMAN: Dr. Cunningham taught economics and was an expert in social security. He was a consultant for the government in that area. He did a lot of work for them. I think he was also in the army reserves - an officer. He was very, very intelligent. He knew economics frontward and backwards. He did not have charisma, humor, and so forth, but he had so much knowledge that you were really impressed by his understanding of the subject. He was an impressive teacher and a good person. He was a good, solid individual.

FORSYTHE: What cafeteria did you eat at?

SPIELMAN: Well, we only had one, and that was in the James Union Building. I washed dishes all three years there. Everybody ate in the James Union Building.

FORSYTHE: Can you tell me about washing dishes?

SPIELMAN: That was probably the highlight of my college career, washing dishes. I'm sure it's changed, but the fellows that worked in the cafeteria had a real friendship. We all had something in common. We were all trying to work our way through college. I still remember those days. There was a lot of horseplay and a lot of cutting up, but we got the job done. I don't know how they pay the students today, but back then you got all your meals for free. I think now they've changed it to where you are limited to what you can do. You could eat all you wanted back then. It was a good job, because you never had to worry about your meals. There was a good group of kids that worked on the serving line and worked back in the cafeteria. The university operated the cafeteria back then. ARA has the contract now. It was probably a little more relaxed environment. It was more of a closeness between the students and the workers. We had to get up early in the morning to eat first, so that we would be there to clean the dishes when the students came through. You got to see everyone on campus, because everyone ate there. It was just a good family environment back then.