

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
WILLIAM PATTERSON

21 JUNE 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.007

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

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
WILLIAM PATTERSON**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.007

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q. M. Smith Collection, designated as QMS.1995.7. This is Regina Forsythe, I am interviewing Mr. William Patterson. Today is Wednesday, June 21, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the conference room of the Learning Lab, Room 101, of the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. This tape of the interview, along with a transcription of the interview, 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 all right with you, Mr. Patterson?

PATTERSON: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Let's start off with your full name, please.

PATTERSON: William Lytle Patterson, II.

FORSYTHE: Your birthday?

PATTERSON: 12 November, 1918.

FORSYTHE: And where were you born?

PATTERSON: Right here [Murfreesboro, TN].

FORSYTHE: So, you have been a life long resident?

PATTERSON: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Your father's name?

PATTERSON: John William Patterson.

FORSYTHE: And his occupation?

PATTERSON: The family owned a plant here, called "The Bucket Factory." They made cedar buckets and also pencil slats. My grandfather started the business, working with the people that owned it. In 1902, he and some partners bought out the business, and it stayed in our family until my brother and I came

along. The war kind of messed us up a little bit. Times had changed so much, that we finally closed the plant down in 1950, I believe.

FORSYTHE: What was your mother's name?

PATTERSON: Josephine Amanda McGuire Patterson.

FORSYTHE: And what was her occupation?

PATTERSON: Housewife.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any children?

PATTERSON: I have a son and two daughters.

FORSYTHE: Okay, and what are their names?

PATTERSON: My son's name is William Lytle Patterson, III. My daughter's named Carol Atwood Patterson Beck. My other daughter is named Irene Julia Patterson. Julia, that's an old family name.

FORSYTHE: How do you spell Carol's middle name?

PATTERSON: Carol Atwood, that was my wife's name.

FORSYTHE: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

PATTERSON: Have a brother, Dan Thomas Patterson.

FORSYTHE: And what is your wife's name?

PATTERSON: Harriet Atwood Patterson.

FORSYTHE: And her occupation?

PATTERSON: She taught out here for twenty-six years.

FORSYTHE: What did she teach?

PATTERSON: She was a voice major. She graduated from Michigan with a degree in voice.

FORSYTHE: What years did she teach here?

PATTERSON: Oh, let's see. She retired about four years ago, I reckon.

FORSYTHE: I'd like to interview her, then. Did any of your family members go to MTSU?

PATTERSON: My son graduated here. My daughter Irene graduated here. My other daughter took two semesters here and got married.

FORSYTHE: About what years did they graduate here?

PATTERSON: Oh, let's see. That's kind of hard to figure back. Bill, my son, is forty-six, I believe. So you can count back about twenty three or four years. It was in the 1970s.

FORSYTHE: Okay. What degree do you have?

PATTERSON: Just a B.S.

FORSYTHE: Here at MTSU?

PATTERSON: Yes.

FORSYTHE: What year?

PATTERSON: I was in the class of 1940. We graduated in December, 1940. Which would make me the class of 1941.

FORSYTHE: When did you start here?

PATTERSON: In 1936, I reckon.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about MTSU at that time?

PATTERSON: Oh, gosh. They've got more [people] on the faculty now than they had in school when I was out here. The school was great. It was a typical small school, and the buildings were ideally placed. The type of architecture fit in well. Of course, now it's such a conglomerate, it's not pretty at all. Mr. Julius Bayer taught botany, I believe. He was in charge of the campus landscaping. Mr. Bayer was here when campus was organized. And when I came here, he was still alive and still taking care of the landscape. He planted plants that were blooming and flowering the year-round. Just as soon as one batch would die, [he would plant] another one. So the botany classes were all held in the spring, and the students were taking field trips and watching everything. Of course, it was so long ago, and quite a bit of that is gone and it's the way the school [buildings] is spread out that's taking up so much of the campus. I remember the campus being so pretty. Back in those days, Old Main was such a great place to sit around and loaf and to sit in the sun and dodge the teachers. They'd be coming up the sidewalk, and you'd hide behind the columns and cut class. It was a great day. I had an old A Model Ford car

with a rumble seat, and I was living in town. It provided a certain amount of transportation. And the boys were always doing something like trying to make fun of you or having some fun with you or with the car. Back when I was on the football squad, I'd come back from home, and that car would be hanging up in a tree, or they'd jack up the back wheels a little bit - right off the ground where it wouldn't run. There were a lot of things like that going on. The boys in the dormitory had the best time in the world. Nobody had any money. Someone would have a date and they'd say, "Well I've got a date going with so and so." "Well, what do you need?" "I need about fifty cents. We are going to the picture show." And they'd gather up nickels and dimes to get that. If he needed some clothes, he'd just go down to each room and they'd find a pair of pants that would fit him and a shirt or a tie, shoes, and everything. Randy Woods was here at that time. He ran the store in the dormitory.

FORSYTHE: What kind of store was that?

PATTERSON: Just anything that you could go in there and buy, say like candy or things like that. Just small items. He was always an entrepreneur. You know who I'm talking about?

FORSYTHE: No, I don't.

PATTERSON: Well, my goodness. Randy Woods started in the record business. He was one of the originals, and he started the biggest record company in Nashville, even in the United States. He has donated so much money to this school, you wouldn't believe. You'll have to investigate him.

FORSYTHE: Yes, I will. Did you ever live in any of the dorms?

PATTERSON: No. But I stayed over here with a lot of them, a lot of times.

FORSYTHE: How many of them were in a room?

PATTERSON: There were usually two beds. I'm sure that the boys still have those kinds of days, and enjoy being together like that and everything. But it's kind of hard to reminisce because quite a few have passed on now.

FORSYTHE: Did a lot of people have cars?

PATTERSON: No. I don't reckon there were even two dozen cars. A lot of faculty didn't even have them.

FORSYTHE: So you didn't have a parking problem?

PATTERSON: Oh no. One of the amusing things... John Bragg, you know who I'm talking about? He was editor of the *Midlander* [MTSU's yearbook]. Sam Smith was one of his co-horts. Sam was a great athlete, and he was a sports writer. Right out in the middle of the road, in front of Old Main, there was a pot hole. It was about the size of a saucer, and it kept growing, kept growing, and kept growing and got as big as this table. John and Sam wrote an article in the paper showing that little hole, and said, "You know, one day the Grand Canyon was just like this." So they fixed it.

FORSYTHE: What did you choose to study at MTSU?

PATTERSON: Oh, I didn't have too much choice from what was available. Most everybody around here came here to school. It was a teachers' college. "We're going on somewhere else, and so we'll go to school here while we're making arrangements." Of course, the cost was a whole lot then, but it was nominal now when you think of it - about eighteen dollars a quarter plus a few fees or something like that. So if you lived here, it wasn't very costly at all. Put it this way. In today's terms it wasn't too costly, but in those days, some of those boys [couldn't afford it]. I can remember Lester Carver coming here with no money at all, just no money at all. Mr. Woodmore and oh, the bursar... I can't think of his name. They'd make some kind of arrangements for these fellows, the ones that wanted to [get an education], that would show that they wanted to. At that time, there was a federal grant of some type called NYA, National Youth Association, that would make some kind of arrangements for jobs, where the students could work and pay their tuition. Some of them would get on that. But then of the students that came here, I always say that if you want to get an education, you can get it.

FORSYTHE: Okay, what was your major?

PATTERSON: Well, let's see. Everything that came after 9:00a.m., and then in the afternoon.

FORSYTHE: Did you minor that way too?

PATTERSON: Let's see, I had a major in English literature when I was a junior. I also had a major in social science, and had a minor in history, I reckon. When I was a junior, Dean Beasley called me in and said, "Bill, you're supposed to be a junior now, what are you majoring in?" I said "What's that?" So he explained to me what you had to do [to graduate], and he got out my transcript, and I already had some majors. That's how some of us were doing in school. We were taking the things that we liked. I wound up taking some freshman courses during my last quarter and getting a half credit in them because they were required. We had the best professors - without a doubt, the best anywhere. I don't see how we could improve on any of them. They had such appealing ways of teaching that things didn't bother them, not one bit. Poor old Dr. Golightly, we used to sit in his classes in psychology and education,

and he couldn't see [very far in front of him]. He would number the seats, give everybody a seat or number them alphabetically and call the roll, one - two - three - four. I remember John J. White and John Bragg had been to a big party down in Nashville, and they finally got to class, and half the class wasn't there. He started calling the roll and got a hundred percent.

FORSYTHE: And he never noticed?

PATTERSON: Well, no. I don't know. He might have said something, but he might not have because he was a dreamer, but so smart. Along that line, you remember *Breakfast in New York*?

FORSYTHE: Tiffany's?

PATTERSON: Tiffany's.

FORSYTHE: That's a good movie.

PATTERSON: [In the book the story was based on], her name was "Golightly." I think. Anyway, Dr. Golightly's daughter was named Bonnie Golightly, and she was up there. That book was more or less a biography of her. A lot of the girls here knew her when they were all in the team club. During the war, they'd have a chance to be up there [in New York], and they'd always run into Bonnie. She was a most unusual girl.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about P.A. Lyons?

PATTERSON: Professor Lyons [was getting old], and I really didn't know too much about him. I wasn't too involved then because I was a freshman or something like that. You stayed away from the faculty and administrative and the executive end. His son in law, Horace Jones taught math. Professor Jones had two sons. One of them was a little older, and the other was in the same age group that we were in. We were all in school, so we knew Professor Horace Jones. He was another great mathematician. I could tell stories about him forever and ever. He was a good golfer. Mr. Judd was a fine teacher.

FORSYTHE: Who was that?

PATTERSON: Mr. Judd taught economics. I can remember. You've got me reminiscing now.

FORSYTHE: Good.

PATTERSON: In our freshman class, we took economics trying to find out what it was like to be a freshman. I think I came up with a C or something. Earlier, I took another course of his, and I didn't do too well. I probably had a D in that one. Then I came back and I told him, I said "Mr. Judd, I'm going to do anything

you tell me. I want to make a B in this class." C. I did everything I could and got a C. The next quarter I said "I'm not going to do anything." C. So it didn't take long to find out that when you went to some of the teachers. You became either an A, B, or C student. James McCannon was in that class. He is one of the exemplary scholars that graduated here. I have to get my schools right. He got a Noble Prize. Is that the one that they give the scholarship to? Anyway, he won one on economics here. He teaches in Judge Mason School in Washington, D.C., in Fairfax County. But anyway, Jim is teaching there now. I'm getting off the subject. He sat right beside me [in economics class], and I learned as much from him [as I did from the professor]. He helped me get through, so I always thought, "That boy is going somewhere." And he did. I probably got all those terms confused. But he won a big prize, and he's a great teacher. He visits here frequently.

FORSYTHE: I'll look him up. Do you remember why President Lyon left or when he left MTSU?

PATTERSON: Lyons, oh yeah, Knox Hutchinson got him fired.

FORSYTHE: The senator?

PATTERSON: Knox Hutchinson, he taught agriculture here. He and Dr. Lyon had some kind of disagreement. You might need to verify some of these things I'm telling you, especially about the faculty. It got to be pretty vicious situation between them. He decided that he was going to get Dr. Lyons fired. So he went to the senate or representative, I've forgotten which, of the state legislature. He got a law passed that all presidents of state schools have an iron doctor's degree, I understand. What I'm telling you are not perfect facts. They're hearsay and so on. He only had an honorary degree, so that's when Q. M. came.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember when he came, President Quintin Miller Smith?

PATTERSON: Oh yes, very well. The first thing he did was fire our football coach.

FORSYTHE: Who was the football coach?

PATTERSON: Johnny "Red" Floyd. The one that the football field is named after.

FORSYTHE: Do you know what he did?

PATTERSON: They had some other kind of conflict. [The Raiders] didn't have as good a winning season, maybe. I don't know the background on that, but I know it upset the team very, very much.

FORSYTHE: Who did he hire?

PATTERSON: Let's see, "Herk" Alley, I believe.

FORSYTHE: "Herk" Alley?

PATTERSON: Uh huh. He had played at [the University of] Tennessee. He stayed here about a year, maybe two years. That was when the war broke out. And when that happened, I think that was when Q. M. hired "Wink" Midgett. Midgett stayed here for a long time.

FORSYTHE: He was the coach?

PATTERSON: Yes. He was head of the typing and accounting. What do you call that?

FORSYTHE: Business School.

PATTERSON: I think they use the book that he wrote for a text.

FORSYTHE: I've gone through the annuals, and got some names of the professors here. Can I call the name, and you tell me what you remember?

FORSYTHE: Clayton L. James, Social Science.

PATTERSON: He was as good a friend as I had.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about him.

PATTERSON: He was the principal of the high school in Lebanon, and then he came [to work for] the state. Seems like his job was going around and checking on the different high schools or something. I'm not sure what it was. Then he came here. He taught sociology. Like I said, we had the best teachers, and he was one of them. He had a great sense of humor, and he understood his students. He could identify with them, and it was a pleasure. I keep getting around to all of my teachers.

FORSYTHE: That's good.

PATTERSON: I didn't do too well, but I got along with them all.

FORSYTHE: Okay, W. B. Judd.

PATTERSON: Oh, Mr. Judd, I was telling you about him a while ago, in economics. I played golf with him while I was still in college. We'd wind up out there at the old county club. All these words I'd be repeating because he was an excellent professor. He knew the facts of what he was teaching. A lot of times some of the professors would come across in a lecture way and others in a fact way. Of course, in economics, you had those darned old mathematics problems at

the end of each chapter, that you had to figure out some way to work. I thought so much of him.

FORSYTHE: Eva Burkett, she was in English.

PATTERSON: Miss Burkett. It was Dr. Burkett. She had a doctor's degree. That's just another one. When I was in high school, I was very poor in grammar. When I got in college, about half way through, literature wasn't too much trouble. But I thought, "I'm going to be using grammar all my life, so I'd better get busy with that." That's the reason I got a major in English when I got to college, but most of it was in literature. I remember a class she taught in Southern Poets. A bunch of us roughnecks were in there, and we got more out of that class with her than anyone. She was very patient. I have trouble finding more good words to say.

FORSYTHE: George Davis.

PATTERSON: Oh, Mr. Davis taught biology. He was one of the finest. Here I go again. He was very elderly. His method of teaching was, you come into class and he'd say, "In this class, we'll have a lecture every day. And we'll have either one or two questions on yesterday's lesson so you know how you stand. Because when you get through, you just take both grades and that's what you're going to make." And his method of teaching was three ways, he would write it on the board, spell it, and tell you. He figured that one of those ways would help you get it. That's his method. And I made as sorry grades I reckon as I ever did, but learned more. Literally learned more under him than almost any teacher I ever had. His son, James Davis, Jr., taught chemistry in high school when I was there. I had chemistry under him. And then his son went to North Carolina, and I kept up with him.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about him.

PATTERSON: Well, actually, the only dealings I had with him was taking chemistry from him in high school. I think it was his first or second job, so he didn't know any more than we did. But then he worked hard, and he stayed in it. He got married while I was in there, and a bunch of us went to his wedding over in Columbia. That about tickled him to death - that his students would take that much time. So he is the kind of fellow that that would happen to. He passed away not too long ago.

FORSYTHE: Philip Cheek.

PATTERSON: Dr. Cheek, I didn't have any dealings with him. He taught German and foreign languages. He was, I remember, a typical college professor with a tweed coat,

wandering around, smoking a pipe with burn embers all over his clothes and everything. But the ones that had him, they always spoke well of him.

FORSYTHE: Marion Edney.

PATTERSON: Dr. Edney, he taught biology. I had one course in biology with him, and I never did know what was going on. He did his best to help. You know, I don't remember any of my instructors that weren't knowledgeable. Dr. Straw was the smartest one of all. He taught geography.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Dr. Straw.

PATTERSON: Dr. Straw came here from Kalamazoo. I thought, "Oh, I'll take a little geography the first quarter." I got in there, and after getting used to him and finding out what was expected and everything, and it begin to dawn on not only me, but some of my friends that [he had a particular method of teaching]. We'd get ready for the class. And he'd come in the door. And he'd be about half way down to his podium there, and the bell would ring. He'd walk over there, open his book up, and start lecturing, and his lectures were good because you could take your notes in outline form. Big topic, subtopic, sub-subtopic, and you didn't need a book. All you had to do was take notes and study those, and you didn't have any trouble with the test. He'd give his lectures, and just as he'd be closing his book, the bell would ring and class would be over. He had the thing down to within seconds, almost. He didn't stay here long about three or four years, and he moved on. He was kind of a young fellow, too. I think he'd spent some time getting his doctorate degree, and I think he went back to the University of Kalamazoo. I'm not sure.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Philip Mankin.

PATTERSON: Philip was kind of controversial. He was supposed to be an agnostic. He had some problem along that line - some problems with his religion, or lack of religion. But it was never in the classroom. Never. He taught, I've forgotten, it was English literature, might have been Southern Poetry. He had a good method of teaching, and he was a fine man with a fine character. He had raised some of his sisters and brothers, that were practically in poverty, and he'd taken care of them. He never married, and he and Dr. Cheek were big friends. I never will forget. We were in Old Main in the summer time with all the windows open and everything. And he was up there reading a poem or something. A bird was out there singing. And he stopped and said, "Have y'all ever heard anything like that?" "Have you ever heard anything that goes along with what we're talking about any better than that?" Then he'd go right on with the lesson. He was exemplary.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you more about Philip Mankin. There are some clippings that said that he was fired. Can you tell me more about that?

PATTERSON: I don't know too much about that, but that his agnostic way of life was basically the cause of that. He had taught down at Vanderbilt too. I think he had a doctorate degree from Vanderbilt.

FORSYTHE: Neil Frazier.

PATTERSON: Oh what a saint! What a saint! I took New Testament Literature under him. I learned more from the Bible than all that going to church. We'd read the Bible, the New Testament, and we understood everything. I found out when I started trying to read it, that I was having the same problems trying to read Chaucer or Spenser or somebody like that. So with these new translations and what have you, it helps a whole lot. He would read those passages to us and then explain them to us in such a dreamy way, it was just a pleasure to go to his class.

FORSYTHE: I don't know how to say this first name, Isalee Freeman?

PATTERSON: Oh yeah, that's right! Isalee, she was a librarian, and I see her regularly at church - she and her husband, Lawrence Freeman. She was Isalee Sherrod then, I believe.

FORSYTHE: Sherrod?

PATTERSON: Sherrod, you'll have to verify that. Then she married Lawrence Freeman. I think her father was in education, but he could have been president of East Tennessee State. I'm not sure of that, but then her family was tied up in education some way.

FORSYTHE: O. L. Freeman.

PATTERSON: "Nooby" Freeman. You never did call him Nooby. Only the old people did, but behind his back. He taught manual training, and he was freshman football coach. I never had any classes under him, like mechanical drawing. Oh, what a character he was. Just being around him when you were away from everything, and then of course later after getting up and growing up. I was a real estate appraiser, and I'd run into him every now and then. He'd be wanting something, to talk or something. A lot of these teachers, after we got away, and we were all aged some. Association was a little different. You'll have to get one of the football boys to tell you about Nooby.

FORSYTHE: B. B. Gracy, Jr.

PATTERSON: Oh yeah, he taught health. I had class under him. He was just a knowledgeable, well-versed man that knew his subject matter. He had two daughters, and his son was wounded in his back in World War II. And he became a paraplegic. This was after he'd got out of school, and he lived over there next to Dr. Gracy. I only had one course under him, and it was all right. I did typically. I knew him, and he associated well under certain situations after college. He was very prominent in the city.

FORSYTHE: Ollie Green.

PATTERSON: Mrs. Green taught chemistry, and I stayed as far away from her as I could.

FORSYTHE: H. G. Jones.

PATTERSON: That's Horace Jones. He was a math teacher. I told you about most of our dealings with him and his son back up in the class. He taught math, and most everybody in the freshman class that got through high school algebra got through freshman algebra and part of sophomore algebra. It wasn't too hard. But when they threw those statement [word] problems at you, that's when problems happened. During the first part of the quarter, we were all getting by pretty well, but then the story hit the fan there, and we weren't doing well at all. [That was] me, [his son] H. G., Sam Smith, and "Wormy" Jones.

FORSYTHE: Wormy?

PATTERSON: Yes. Sam just died recently, and H. G. has been dead some time. But "Wormy" Herman Jones, he was quite a baseball player. But he quit school after the first quarter, so he wasn't around much. W. E. Knox lives in Lexington, if he's still alive. We were all in high school together and came out here together. He said, "I want to see y'all after class." "Yes sir." "Oh what have we done? What have we done?" He got us all in there and said, "Boys, you're not doing to well, are you?" "No sir." He said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll make a deal with you." "Yes sir, what's that?" "If you'll promise me you'll never take any more math as long as you are out here, I'll give you all a C." He just made a deal! And we stuck to it! I look back now. That was the smartest thing. He wasn't giving us anything. He was saving the teachers and him and everyone else some wasted time. And [he was saving]us flunking our two or three courses, and not accomplishing a thing. He was a great fellow, I played golf with him some. I wasn't even a sorry golfer, but then I played with them.

FORSYTHE: Nance Jordan.

PATTERSON: Oh yeah, Nance came here. I didn't have any classes under him. He was a Vanderbilt football player. Actually, he might have come here after I graduated, I think. I knew him well. He started a laundry here, a shirt laundry.

After he retired, he sold cars. He was an entrepreneur. Also, his wife was very smart. I think she was in some phase of teaching, but I don't know whether it was in college or not. They are both passed away now. They were good citizens.

FORSYTHE: Charles D. Lewis.

PATTERSON: Dr. Lewis talked through his nose. He taught education. He put it out there, and he'd whine. But you didn't realize it, and he didn't either. I remember one day in class, W. E. Knox was sitting across from me, and Dr. Lewis hit him with a piece of chalk! "What did you do that for?" he asked, and Dr. Lewis said, "I'll ask you, why do you think I did that?" He said, "I wasn't asleep!" But [Dr. Lewis] was making a point [about education] that he was trying to tell us. He figured that would work. And it did, but I don't remember what [the point] was.

FORSYTHE: W. M. Mebane.

PATTERSON: Mebane, he taught chemistry. Bill Mebane. I had no classes with him, but I think he was a distant relative. We got to talking, and my great-great grandmother, Mary, was a Mebane. She married Robert Light, Captain William Light's father. They're all from North Carolina. He used to come over to the mill there discussing families with my aunts and my father. I believe he [W. M. Mebane] was teaching in the old Science Building. It might have been physics. He was talking about a barometer. Do you know about a barometer?

FORSYTHE: No.

PATTERSON: If it is high, the weather is pretty good, and if it is low, you got a tornado or a hurricane coming. He was telling us about the barometer. About 31 degrees, more or less, is what it is out there today. When it drops down to 28 degrees, you have bad weather, and if it gets down to 27 degrees, you are in big trouble. So he said, "Now look and see that this barometer tells you the good weather and everything. When it gets down to around 27 degree, (SHOUTS) get out of here!" The roof lifted about ten minutes after he said that. They were right in the middle of a tornado coming by. It was the old Science Building.

FORSYTHE: And the tornado came through. Wow!

FORSYTHE: E. W. Midgett.

PATTERSON: "Wink" Midgett, oh yes. I never had any classes with him, but I knew him well in the service (the military). I used to run across him in taking flying [lessons], and we played golf together out there on the islands. Wink was

apparently a very, very good instructor and everything because I think he became head of the [Business] department and wrote a book that they used. Also, he was a fair-haired boy of Q.M.'s. He was playing football up at Cookeville when Q.M. was president up there. Q.M. was familiar with his actions and everything. He finally came here, and he became assistant football coach under "Herk" Alley. That was about the time we were all leaving for the war. I don't know whether they had him in coaching then or not, but he started coaching right after the war.

FORSYTHE: Katherine Monohan.

PATTERSON: Ah, Miss Monohan. Am I telling you anything you know already? Have you heard any of this?

FORSYTHE: No, you're telling me all new stuff. I'm loving it.

PATTERSON: Miss Monohan, I can see her right now. She was old enough to retire, or it appeared that way. She taught American history. She was just as feisty as she could be as a teacher, but her age was beginning to show a little. I was pretty good in American history. Baxter Hobgood taught American history when I was in high school, and he taught out here too. I got as good a background as you could. In fact, I learned all you could learn. So I took American history under Miss Monohan, and it was a waste of time. I already knew everything that she could tell me or anybody else. I'd go in there at the first of the quarter, make up the role, and announce everything. Susan Lytle and John Bragg, you know who I'm speaking of? Susan and John were married, then divorced, and still back now. But we were all in the same group. We would go in there, and Miss Monohan couldn't stand boys and girls getting together at all. So I'd always get over there by Susan and reach up there and grab her. [Miss Monohan] would throw a fit! I'm trying to think of this director and producer of movies named Browning. I'm talking about in the late 1920's and early 1930's. He was from Knoxville, and she (Miss Monohan) had taught him in school somewhere. She made a great man out of him, so he was just trying to do something for her all the time. If you could imagine a Hollywood producer? She had close contact with him, and she had a background like that. It was certainly a joy just to see her come wobbling up. We'd all be setting up there on the steps at the Old Main. And gosh, I didn't want to go to class. She could see us from there. She'd be coming up the steps on this side and you'd be on the other side walking [laughs]. Then you'd go on back down and wait for the next class.

FORSYTHE: Anne Ordway.

PATTERSON: [She taught] English and oh, she was the most popular person in the world. She was a scholar of the old school in teaching. I might have had one class with her, but I knew of her. And I knew of her family and everything. She

had a sister that taught down at Ward Belmont. I think there was another one too, there might have been three of those girls that were teachers. But she was a southern lady, and she taught so well. I don't believe I had a class with her, though. But I did respect her greatly. I had contact with a lot of these teachers after I got out of school. It was always a pleasant thing when we could get together.

FORSYTHE: Tommie Reynolds.

PATTERSON: Miss Reynolds, she taught math. She was a... She taught math, and she was all business. My goodness, she was all business. Either you got it or you didn't, and let's move on.

FORSYTHE: Rubye Taylor Sanders.

PATTERSON: She was in the Music Department. I don't know whether she really taught or not, but she might have been on the faculty. She played the violin in all the orchestras around here. She might have taught some classes, but I'm not familiar with that [subject] at all.

FORSYTHE: C. C. Sims.

PATTERSON: Dr. Sims, he taught history, and he was an excellent teacher. One of the reasons why everybody wanted to get [into his class] in the fall quarter was that he was a great baseball fan. During the World Series, he would bring a radio to class, and that's what you would do. Listen to the World Series.

FORSYTHE: Were you tested on that?

PATTERSON: Yes, he was known for that. He was so knowledgeable. Really smart. He knew how to [deal with his class]. One of the reasons I finally had to rearrange my schedule, was because his class started at 1:00p.m. after lunch when everybody was tired and everything else. I finally started sitting in the front seat, so I could stay awake. Then I figured, if I stay awake I might as well take notes. So I did that, and that helped keep me awake a little bit. Uncle Bud Knox [W. E. Knox] and I, we, were always in trouble. We were sitting up there, and [Sims] stopped the class and said, "I want to tell y'all something. I got two men up here looking at me with both eyes wide open, and they are both sound asleep!"

FORSYTHE: Got caught!

PATTERSON: He was a good teacher. All of them were good teachers.

FORSYTHE: Gabriel Valdes.

PATTERSON: He was in the music department, and he spoke Spanish. He spoke English about like I'd speak Spanish. He and Miss E. May Saunders ran the Music Department.

FORSYTHE: So you couldn't understand him?

PATTERSON: Well, I had no reason to because I wouldn't fool with music.

FORSYTHE: J. C. Waller.

PATTERSON: He taught some sociology and some education. He was a typical "all-business" teacher.

FORSYTHE: J. C. Wheeler, Mechanical Drawing.

PATTERSON: Yes, he came after me because we were in school together, I think. He's a very well-known architect. Are you familiar with Nashville?

FORSYTHE: A little bit.

PATTERSON: The Genesco building? He built that one out there by the airport. For a lot of these buildings around here, he was the architect in charge. We were in the same age group. The high school had a dance band, and he played saxophone. And he played out here also, I'm sure.

FORSYTHE: Bettie Murfree, she was a librarian.

PATTERSON: Miss Bettie Murfree. Oh they have messed up this campus something awful. That was the prettiest little building over there (reference to the old library). They should have kept it for something, even if it wasn't big enough. She was just so busy with her hair doing this all the time. And she knew all about the books, but she didn't have much to do with anything else. If you were over there taking library science with her, you learned how. The only thing is she and her kin were friends with my grandmother. And they were all in the same age group. I had no real connection with her.

FORSYTHE: Dean Beasley.

PATTERSON: Dean Beasley, he was a good dean and he was trying to do something for the students. Back in those days, we would have maybe five hundred students. There were three quarters then. In the fall quarter, [enrollment] dropped down to about four hundred. Then in the spring quarter, so many back in those days, especially the women, had two year teacher certificates, where they would teach in rural schools everywhere. The rural schools would let out early. And they'd come back to school to get more credits and more courses, so they could go on and get their degrees. There would be about six or seven

hundred [students] here then. It was a completely different school in those days. (*Enrollment in 1939 was 741. In 1940, it was 732 and in 1941, 536.*)

FORSYTHE: Did you have a job while you went to school?

PATTERSON: [My family] owned the mill here, and I worked there. We lived on a farm, and I worked on the farm. So I worked, but it wasn't a school job.

FORSYTHE: The cafeteria, tell me about that.

PATTERSON: I'll be telling secrets.

FORSYTHE: Well good. Let me get closer.

PATTERSON: Miss [Lorene] Neece ran the cafeteria for years and years and years. She always had a bunch of the boys with her. This is something that most of those students knew at the time. I was telling you a while ago about Lester Carver. You know, when I was talking about the boys in the dormitory getting everything. Well, he started losing his teeth from malnutrition. They were doing everything they could then, and when you'd go through the cafeteria over here, you know how you buy those books of tickets for the lunch meals? I'd buy a five dollar package of coupons. Do they still do that?

FORSYTHE: No, they have to use an I.D. now.

PATTERSON: Is that right?

FORSYTHE: Yes.

PATTERSON: Well, they did this, and it would have maybe five dollars worth of paper coupons. When you'd go through and buy something, they'd tear out twenty-five cents, or whatever the amount that your food was. When Carver came in there, he'd bring a package or folder with all the tickets out that he'd found. And he walked through there when old Tom Townes was there.

FORSYTHE: Tom Townes?

PATTERSON: Yes, Townes. He'd fumble with it, and he'd put a bunch of them [coupons] back in there. That's the way that boy existed. Everybody in the school knew he was doing it, and nobody said anything about it. But that was the kind of school it was then. There was a restaurant in Nashville named Hap Towns, and it was of the very top ones. It's gone now. He's died out. He had a son named Hap too, and I think he's finally died. But Tom was the other son, and he wanted to be a dentist so bad. He came up here, and he did everything possible to get through pre-med, and he did. He got a job selling pharmaceutical supplies for about two or three years until he got enough

money where he could make arrangements. He went to dental school at U.T.[the University of Tennessee]. He made it through and he's retired now, but he became a prominent dentist there in Knoxville. But you get to thinking about all these people getting through. This Carver fellow, he's very successful. You can do it. All you got to do is want to. It's here.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about the library.

PATTERSON: At the end of the quarter, [the professors] gave you a paper that you had to write up. So what you'd do the last week of the quarter is everybody would wind up in the library sitting at the table with about five books on the subject around them. You'd type a paragraph out of this one and a paragraph out of that one. Finally, you'd get as much information, bulk, as you can. And you'd sit over there and get to talking. Miss Bettie would come by and say, "Shhh," and we'd all point to Charlie Greer. "He's the one that's doing it!" "Charlie Greer, you're going to have to quit doing all of that! You're going to have to straighten up. It's supposed to be quiet in here." Of course, we'd get in there with the girls and everything over in the corner somewhere. And we'd be worrying the fool out of everybody. It was a nice rendezvous.

FORSYTHE: The Old Main Building. The Administration Building. Tell me about that.

PATTERSON: Oh, one of the janitors was named Ed. He was black.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember his last name?

PATTERSON: No. I did, but it won't come to me now. But everybody that was in school at that time and right after then knows Ed. He'd sweep, and they'd oil that wood there with some kind of saw dust with oil in it. And they'd sweep it up with these big old wide brooms. So that was one way of keeping it. Late in the afternoon, he'd be doing that. The plaster in the ceilings was coming off because there was no money appropriated for anything from the state. And he'd walk down there, and you'd see where the ceiling was falling off. Sometimes you'd be walking through there, and he would say "Watch out!", and then it would fall right behind you somewhere. Old Ed was such a great character. Everybody talked about Ed. He was always in the *Midlander* or something like that. He come sweeping through, and he'd always sing a religious song at the top of his voice while he was sweeping. Everybody got used to it, and they'd stop and listen to him a while. That didn't phase him one bit. He walked through there singing one day, and a great big chunk of that stuff fell on him. He never quit singing, just kept right on pushing.

FORSYTHE: It didn't hurt him?

PATTERSON: Nope.

FORSYTHE: The Science Building?

PATTERSON: I was in the Science Building I think for one quarter. I often wondered what that big pit was where they had the lectures. You know, where you sit around in a circle. It has some kind of name. I never was involved with that, and I wondered what they did down there. But under Dr. Edney, I had a class in biology. The rest of the class was under Mr. Davis. Those were just typical classrooms. I never got involved with chemistry or physics or things like that.