

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
EDWIN VOORHIES

27 JUNE 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.013

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert Gore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL NOTICE

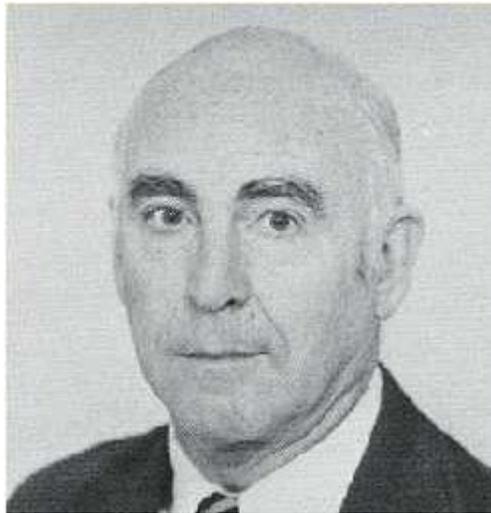
This is a transcript of a tape-recorded interview conducted by the Albert Gore Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University. The original recording and associated materials are archived at the center, whose collections may be accessed in person or via the web site gorecenter.mtsu.edu. After a draft of this transcript was made, the interviewer, or in some cases another qualified staff member, reviewed the draft and compared it to the tape recordings. In a few cases, the interviewee also contributed editorial corrections. This final transcript incorporates the corrections and other changes suggested by the interviewee and interviewer. The transcript follows as closely as possible the recorded interview, including the usual starts, stops, and other rough spots in typical conversation. The reader should remember that this is essentially a transcript of the spoken, rather than the written, word. Stylistic matters, such as punctuation and capitalization, follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition. The transcript includes bracketed notices at the end of one tape and the beginning of the next so that, if desired, the reader can find a section of tape more easily by using this transcript.

RESTRICTION

The interviewee has donated her or his copyright in this interview to the state of Tennessee through Middle Tennessee State University and has agreed that use of the recorded interview and transcript shall be governed by the director of the Albert Gore Research Center.

Researchers may read, quote from, cite, photocopy, and download this transcript without permission for purposes of research only. Publication is prohibited, however, without permission from the director of the Albert Gore Research Center.

ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
EDWIN VOORHIES**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.013

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q. M. Smith Collection designated as QMS.1995.13 This is Regina Forsythe, I am interviewing Dr. Edwin Voorhies. Today is Tuesday, June 27, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the Gore Research Center, Room 111 of the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. The tape of this interview, along with a transcript, will become part of the Quentin Miller Smith Collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is this all right with you, Dr. Voorhies?

VOORHIES: That's fine.

FORSYTHE: Okay, good. Let's finish up with the buildings. Nicks Hall.

VOORHIES: That was one of several buildings that were built after Beasley Hall. It was a men's dormitory, and was one of the later buildings like Gore Hall, Clement Hall, Wood Hall, Gracy Hall, or Judd Hall. They were all among those buildings behind Smith Hall. Smith Hall was a large dormitory building, and these others were smaller ones. Nicks Hall was completed in 1969, for male students. It was a relatively small building.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Abernathy Hall.

VOORHIES: It's the same sort of thing, Abernathy Hall was completed a little bit later. It was completed in 1973, but it's among those buildings that are over there to the rear of Smith Hall. It's in between Smith Hall and the married student apartments.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Ezell Hall.

VOORHIES: It was completed in 1973, and it's a partner to Abernathy Hall.

FORSYTHE: Okay, the Maintenance Office Building.

VOORHIES: The Maintenance complex was completed in 1969. Up until then, we had several temporary buildings for maintenance operations. One of them, before we moved over there, was an old block building right where Corlew Hall is today. The

maintenance complex was built over on the Greenland Drive side of the campus, in order to have easy access, along with shipping and receiving, some storage and some warehouse space. The maintenance office building, vehicle maintenance and other campus maintenance [buildings are over there], as well as the cabinet shop and sheet metal shop, and so forth. All those separate buildings are where the maintenance operation is today.

FORSYTHE: Okay, the Child Development Center.

VOORHIES: That was built in the center of Married Student Housing when Family Housing was built it was 1971. And along with that, in the center of the complex, was a day care center, which is still in operation. Abernathy Hall and Ezell Hall were the last dormitories built on campus because, as I think I mentioned before, up through that time there were federal funds available that allowed you to borrow money to build dormitories on campus for three percent interest. Then, we had a slight recession about 1973, and the federal government withdrew that funding. Since then, we have yet to build another dormitory. I can understand why, because if they did, the cost of financing it would be so high that students couldn't afford to pay.

FORSYTHE: The Chilling Plant.

VOORHIES: It was conceived along about the late 1960's. We had built a number of buildings on campus in the 1960's. Probably half the buildings that are here today, were built in the 1960's. The funds were available, and the federal government was a big help. State funds were available, and it was understood that campuses like ours needed [more buildings]. Enrollment had grown, but the facilities had not grown accordingly. Funds were appropriated, and campuses at that time we were able to do a lot of their own planning. Whereas today, it's a lot more controlled by state government. Campuses still have a lot of influence, but not as much as we did then. That was after President Smith left in 1958. In the 1950's, he could pretty much decide what he wanted to do. He went to Nashville and told them what he decided, and that's the way it went. Dr. Cope did a lot of the same thing when he came in to replace President Smith. That's when a lot of those buildings were built. In the 1960's, he had quite a bit of freedom to decide what was to be built, and state government usually agreed with him. He came here directly from the Commissioner of Education's office and had a lot of friends in state government. So, he was able to get done pretty much what he wanted. About 1965, we hired Charles Pigg, who is one of our former Industrial Arts majors. At that time, he was working for the state highway department and he had set up an office for campus planning. Up until that time, I was working part-time at that and part-time in the academic program. We began to get into a lot of projects that way. We had a lot of projects coming, and we needed more help from people who could work with architects, contractors and the state government, and could understand blueprint reading and whatnot. We decided that when we were having

to air-condition each building separately, and it was very expensive. We'd had years of experience, of course, with a central steam plant and running steam lines over the campus to supply needs for heating the buildings and heating water in the buildings. We decided to begin to construct a central chilling plant, which would keep cool water in one place and distribute it through pipes throughout the campus. What we had to do was have the cooling units, and the cooling tower to transfer the heat, in a central location. Then, we had to run a supply line for cool water and a return line to return the water back to the plant from all over campus. That was what that project was all about. It turned out to work very well, and has continued to do that ever since. A lot of the construction you see now, tearing up the campus, is running chill water lines from the central chilling plant. We decided not to locate the chilling plant right next to the heating plant, because that's part of the campus and it would disturb everything. We'd have to tear up a lot of the steam lines, so we selected a different site, where it would be fairly well centrally located but not where we would have to tear up a lot of streets and other buildings. We located it to the east of the baseball field, where it is now. That, as I said, is the central chilling plant, with a control system, units to chill the water, and a tower to transfer the heat. A cooling tower next to it takes up quite a bit of space. It was completed in 1967.

FORSYTHE: Okay, the Vaughn House, where the Criminal Justice Center is and the Center for Court Accreditation.

VOORHIES: Well, that's over on Main Street. That's where the Criminal Justice Department offices are. That is one building in our overall plan. What we did was draw a line down North Tennessee Boulevard on the west side, Rutherford Boulevard on the east side, Greenland Drive on the north side, and Main Street on the South side. We proceeded to purchase all of the property available within those boundaries. We already owned the Campus School west of North Tennessee Boulevard. We owned the Home Economics Center in the form of that old house that we talked about last time. It was decided by the State Board of Regents to stay within those boundaries. We've had some opportunities to buy some other properties since then, but if it's outside those boundaries, the State Board of Regents have not approved it. But they did approve everything on the south side, and have now purchased nearly everything between the main campus and Main Street. They just recently purchased the Earthman property, which is the old house behind St. Mark's Church. They don't intend to buy St. Mark's Methodist Church, but if the church ever ceased to use it as a church, they would want to buy it. The third house down from the Methodist Church on Main Street is the Vaughn property. It was an old two-story house. The Vaughn family is rather well known around town. Butch Vaughn is a member of that family, and is now principal of Central Middle School. For a long time, the community had owned the house. The parents of the family died, and the sons and daughters had already established elsewhere when the house became available. So the university bought the house and renovated it since space was short, especially office space for faculty, seminar rooms, and so forth. They converted it into the building which is used to house

that department. All of those houses along there, [the Vaughn House] being one of them, are being used for that purpose. The Earthman property is now being renovated. They're in the process of constructing a parking lot now, and they want to start renovating the building and put the MTSU Foundation Offices in it.

FORSYTHE: Haynes House

VOORHIES: Haynes House is right next to St. Mark's Church. Haynes is a prominent family. There is still a Haynes' Hardware in town. Mr. Haynes, who lived in that house, was the original owner of Haynes Hardware on the public square in Murfreesboro. His son-in-law still operates Haynes Hardware, but he moved it off the square and out on Memorial. Anyway, Mr. Haynes, that lived in that house, married a lady who was the chairman of our Home Economics Department, and they moved to a different house over by Hobgood School. That house became available, so we bought it. The first use of that house was when we developed the department of Mass Communications and in that major, Recording Industry Management. The Recording Studios were in the Haynes house for a number of years until we built [the Mass Communications Building]. First, we moved them over into the James Union Building, and later, into the new Mass Communications Building. Now it's being used by the Environmental Division of the Biology Department.

FORSYTHE: The Wassom House, where the Budget Office is.

VOORHIES: That's down on Barrett Lane. It was purchased a long time ago. Back in about 1957, I think, President Smith had the idea that we could go for purchasing all the property down to Main Street, and between Baird Lane and North Tennessee Boulevard. I took student help, and we went over there and surveyed it. We went downtown to the trustees office, and found out who owned every piece of property in it. Then, we contacted everybody we could contact to let them know we were interested in purchasing it if it ever came available. That way, we bought one of those at a time. [The Wassom House] we bought early. We've had several different things going on over there. Then these others became available. This gets to be an interesting story. President Smith had done that and Dr. Cope was committed to it when he became president. [buying all the property between the campus and East Main Street on Baird Ave.] He tried aggressively to buy the property when it came available. The Earthman House, that is right across the drainage ditch from Cope Administration Building, was just recently acquired by MTSU. Dr. Earthman owned that house, and the whole strip of land from our main entrance off Main Street to Baird Lane. Dr. Earthman owned several acres. Doctor they called him, but he wasn't one. He was a politician. In fact, he had been in the U.S. Legislature as a Representative of this area. Then he had retired. He and Dr. Cope were talking to each other regularly. Dr. Cope was trying to acquire the land. He went into Dr. Cope's office. I never shall forget. John Hood

was the president's assistant at that time. John Hood now works at Third National Bank, and is well known around town. Dr. Earthman went in to talk to Dr. Cope that day, and he had a proposition for him. He knew that Dr. Cope wanted to purchase his land, and he had some things in mind that he wanted to achieve in the process. So he worked out an arrangement where he traded land with Dr. Cope. The parking lot just on the edge of that drainage ditch, it runs down to Baird Lane. It had been a parking lot for years. That was one of the reasons Dr. Cope wanted some land - to build a parking lot there. He traded the area where the parking lot is for the land where the apartment unit is, that is still privately owned. It's on Baird Lane, south of that parking lot. I had been involved in that discussion. Walking out [of the office], Dr. Earthman remarked to John Hood and me, "After all, this is a deal between two gentlemen who are probably not gentlemen after all." Meaning that if he saw a way that he could manage to manipulate the state government to his benefit, he was going to do it. Dr. Cope was a pretty good dealer himself. He didn't pull any wool over his eyes, either. But that was one of the funniest remarks I've heard over the years. Anyway, that apartment is still there. It is still privately owned. Someday, I guess the state will acquire it, but so far, it still belongs to the Earthman family. Dr. Earthman is dead, and his wife is dead. His wife lived in the old house for a number of years, but after she died, the family sold it to the state. I guess the state will eventually acquire [the apartment lot], but I guess they don't want it too badly because it's a very small unit. Other than that piece of property, where that apartment house is now, MTSU has acquired all the rest of the land that's available. There may be a lot or two owned by somebody out-of-town. At one time there were a couple of stray lots over there, very small lots. At the time we surveyed that, we found that development had been approved by the Planning Commission in Murfreesboro. There were 60' lots and a dedicated street over in the middle of all that, but it didn't drain very well and never was developed. So, we bought up each piece of property that became available over the years. The Vaughn House, the Haynes House, and other houses on Main Street were part of that. As that was purchased, it was decided at the time which department needed the space, and that was how the decision was made for using those houses.

FORSYTHE: Talk about the Earthman House some more.

VOORHIES: The Earthman house is an old white wood frame house. You can see it very well now, because they're beginning to take a lot of trees down, in order to make a parking lot by the St. Mark's Church property. [The goal is to] have parking around the new Foundation Office, when it's renovated. When you drive in the entrance off of Main Street where the monument is, off to your right you'll see the Earthman house. On the north side of the Earthman house is a ditch, and north of the ditch is the Cope Administration Building. The Earthman family lived in [the house] for many years. When Mrs. Earthman died, the family agreed to sell it to the state. It's taken them a while to decide what to do with it, and get the money together to make the renovations. I think it's on its way now.

FORSYTHE: Nisbitt House

VOORHIES: The Nisbitt House is a stucco house that's just east of the Vaughn house. Mrs. Nisbett lived alone quite a while in that house. The state, after dealing with the Nisbett family for quite a while, finally acquired the property and then renovated it for what it's being used for now.

FORSYTHE: The Wansley House

VOORHIES: That might be the one I got confused with a while ago.

FORSYTHE: The budget office and internal audit are on Baird Lane.

VOORHIES: Two different houses. Those houses were acquired as part of the deal to own everything in the square between Cope Administration Building, Main Street, Baird Lane, and the President's home. Those offices have been in there for quite a while.

FORSYTHE: The Black House

VOORHIES: The Black House is between the Vaughn House and the Haynes House on Main Street. It's been used for a lot of different purposes over the years. I'm not sure what it's used for today, but it was acquired way back, at roughly the same time as the Haynes House, and a little bit after the Vaughn House. A number of different offices have gone in there over the years.

FORSYTHE: The President's Home

VOORHIES: The President's Home was one of the original buildings built in 1910. According to information we have from Mr. Bill Smotherman, the Old Main building and the President's Home were built in 1910, and the heating plant and Rutledge Hall were added in 1911. They were the original buildings on this campus. The present Alumni Center, which was the cafeteria, the heating plant, Rutledge Hall, and the girls' dormitories, those were the original buildings when the school opened in 1911

FORSYTHE: Do you know what renovations have been done to the President's Home?

VOORHIES: The first major renovation was done between President Smith and President Cope. We hired a local contractor, went in and changed the basement and the kitchen, and renovated the whole house and changed the heating system some. When [Quintin] Smith was President, there was a coal fire furnace [in the house]. One of the people that worked in maintenance at that time, Floyd Travis, took care of the grounds. He lived in an old frame house which has since been torn down, but was over by the baseball field close to the chilling plant. He lived right in the middle of the campus. His wife worked in the grill. Floyd Travis fired the

President's furnace, and kept coal in it for him. He'd get up and go there every morning, to see that the house was warm. Then, he'd spend the rest of the day on the grounds. He did a lot of work later on, and [eventually] became supervisor of grounds. When Dr. Cope came in 1958, he didn't move in right away. He had the place renovated, and had a considerable amount of work done. It's been renovated several times. The next major renovation was when Dr. Walker came in. Dr. Ingram didn't want to spend the money, so he didn't do much renovating. It needed it badly when Dr. Walker came, and so it was done again. Those two, I remember, were major renovations. The first was about 1958, and the second about thirty years later.

FORSYTHE: The Greenhouse

VOORHIES: The Greenhouse was a very small building which served a good purpose. It was built in 1975. President Smith had always taken a great interest in having the grounds developed, so they had a good appearance. He spent quite a bit of energy and some of his money [on the appearance of the grounds]. He was always planting trees and shrubbery to make the place look better. Floyd Travis worked in agriculture, and he set out to have at least one of every [kind of] tree that would grow in this climate. There are a number of trees, especially around Cope Administration and Peck Hall, that are still there, like Ginko trees. That was a first in a series of efforts to improve the campus. Since then, all the Presidents have tried to improve on that.

FORSYTHE: Can we talk about the Greenhouse?

VOORHIES: In the 1960's, we wanted to keep the campus appearance up, and we decided to do our own landscaping. We hired a person to take care of that with a good background. Before that, we had had some people that had taken a strong interest. Then Dr. Griever, who was a professor of education, took some of the [responsibility], and had a strong interest and good background in landscaping and plants. He furnished some of the overall supervision We hired a young man, who had a landscaping background and education, to keep the campus appearance up, plant shrubs and so forth. We decided to do our own landscaping rather than contract out, because it would cost a whole lot more, and they wouldn't have a lasting interest in it. A person who planted the shrubs knew he had to maintain them. It made for a lot better situation. We built our own greenhouse, and had a plot over near where the infirmary is, across from Cummings Hall in an area which is now mostly parking lot. We built the greenhouse right by the vocational agricultural building, which is across the street from the livestock pavilion. We had a large area around that greenhouse that would have been pastureland, except that we started buying shrubs wholesale, putting them out there, and transplanting them by the buildings where we needed them. So that greenhouse was part of the total operation, which allowed us to continue at minimum cost and maximum benefit to the appearance of the campus.

FORSYTHE: The married student housing

VOORHIES: The married student housing was needed. We had to tear down those temporary buildings [Vet Village], over near where the new science building is, around the library. There were a number of pre-fabricated units [that were torn down], and we needed additional housing for married students. In 1966, we opened a number of units, which are east of Smith Hall but farther back than the men's dormitories. We built some original units in 1966, and in 1968, some more units were added. We talked about that briefly a while ago when we talked about childcare. We built some more in 1971. So, there were three phases of those married student apartments that are there today.

FORSYTHE: Okay, Stark Hall

VOORHIES: President Smith had a dairy barn operation, and all of the farm operations were on campus. He acquired the Womack farm, and bought additional land east of campus, that now crosses Rutherford Boulevard. At one time we talked about having some airplane hangars and a landing strip over there for small airplanes. The area we're talking about was east of the present dairy barn, where the art department is housed now. In a grove of trees, where the present Stark Building is, was an old stucco house. The farm manager lived in that old stucco house, and supervised the whole operation. There was a dairy barn right behind it where they milked cows. They sold and bottled the milk right there. They had one of the men who worked on farm operations delivering it to some of the faculty that lived close by. We used to get the milk from it - it was about two-thirds cream. Interestingly, when I told President Smith that I wasn't making a living after our third child was born, and left, I came back in 1956 and lived in that old stucco house, which is the site of the present Stark Building. Before that, right near there, were some of those old barracks-type buildings where the agricultural department was. We completed the Stark Building in 1968, and the agricultural department had a fine place to go. We had some additional space there, and by then we had our two year nursing program going, so we turned over the third floor of that building to the nursing department. They occupied it until they built the new nursing building. Now, the agricultural department has the use of that floor. As I recall, it was one of the more satisfactory building projects. We had a good experience building the Stark Agriculture Building, and it has served the purpose for which it was intended very well since.

FORSYTHE: Okay, what about the Art Lab?

VOORHIES: The Art Lab is the old dairy barn we were talking about awhile ago. It has two silos as I recall, and when we moved the dairy operation out to Stark Farm on I-24, the art department was on the top floor of the old music building, the Saunders Building. It was moved over to the dairy barn. We let them renovate it pretty much how they wanted to. That was an attractive proposition to the art people,

and they've been there ever since. I think they probably need more space today, but they're still using that as an art center.

FORSYTHE: Okay, the Art Barn annex.

VOORHIES: As I recall, one reason for the addition was for ceramics. They added kilns and what ever else they needed. [The annex was simply] an addition of a concrete block building adjoining the barn for a number of art operations.

FORSYTHE: Aerospace Science

VOORHIES: That is at the airport. The aerospace department has a long and interesting history, going back to the days when President Smith [introduced] a flight training program here. The government financed and built the hangar by Forrest Hall. That's why they had the airport out there in operation, to flight train prospective air force pilots. The government financed it for them, so they could get some flying experience. When he lost that, President Smith was far-sighted enough to understand the need for some kind of aerospace program on the college campus. So, he started a flight training program for college credit, and hired Miller Lanier to operate it. He taught those courses for a number of years. When President Scarlett came in 1978, he began to get some pressure, and began to cooperate toward starting a department of aerospace. They did start the department of aerospace, and they did attract a number of students. In fact, as I said the other day, it's probably aerospace and mass communication that attract more out-of-state students than any other programs on campus. It established a national reputation, got a lot of help from the federal government, and a lot of encouragement from the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration]. Eventually, they added programs to certify aircraft mechanics, as well as provide administrative and technical degrees in aerospace. The pilot training program has expanded over the years, and eventually [got so big], that we closed down our operation [on-campus], and made a deal with the city government to carry on that part of flight instructional program [off-campus]. Now, the aircraft maintenance program at the Murfreesboro Airport. This building was 100% financed by the federal government to help with that aircraft maintenance program at the airport. But, the students who take that training receive college credit for it. Flight experience and maintenance goes on at the airport, and classroom instruction [takes place] on campus. We're about ready to build a new business and aerospace building that will house the on-campus part of the aerospace program. Flight instruction and maintenance will [still] go on at the Murfreesboro Airport.

FORSYTHE: Where's the new building going to be?

VOORHIES: It's going to be between Corlew Hall and the new Mass Communication building, near where the old tennis courts were.

FORSYTHE: How about the Mass Communication Building?

VOORHIES: The Wright Music Building was the only building built in the 1980's, and it was a continuation of the process started in the 1970's. The decade of the 1980's was a quiet time as far as buildings were concerned. It was 1990 before the next building was built -- that was the Mass Communications Building. We touched on the history of the Mass Communication program last time. It had grown from Dr. Kimbrell - who was hired in 1971 - one faculty member to teach four courses in journalism, to a full-fledged school/college now with four departments and about 125 [courses]. Our mass communication program is one of the largest and best mass communication programs in the country. When I retired in 1985, that department was housed in six different buildings, scattered all over campus. Because it was a fast growing department and was added on, and we weren't able to get the money to build any buildings. They had their offices in the top floor of the James Union Building. At one time, they had the recording studio in the old Haynes house on Main Street. They had classrooms in Peck Hall, and wherever else we could find them. They offered courses in six different buildings at one time. There was a great need for more classroom, office, and laboratory space on campus in general, and a great need for some specialized facilities for that department. Dr. Kimbrell became chairman of the mass communication department, and later on he was Dean of the School of Mass Communication. John Bragg, who was a student here, was the ASB [Associated Student Body] president, and has been a member of the state legislature for the last twenty-nine years or so. One reason he's in the state legislature is to help MTSU. He's been good for state government. He's recognized and understood the budget better than any other legislator, and he has a lot of influence in state government. He and Dr. Kimbrell, who is good at fund raising and public relations himself, were working for the best interest of the department. Those two, John Bragg and Dr. Kimbrell, started raising all the funds they could get from private people, and getting help from everybody who had influence in state government. They finally got approval for a new mass communications building, which cost about \$12 million. Most of the equipment was financed with private funds, donations from manufacturers, and so forth. There is about \$2 million worth of equipment in that building. It was finally completed about 1990. [The mass communications building is] a significant contribution to space needs on the campus. It is the only building, besides the nursing building, which was built in the 1990's.

FORSYTHE: The nursing building:

VOORHIES: The nursing program has an interesting history, too. In the beginning, there was a two-year nursing program, which was not enough to be a registered nurse. But they developed great needs in the nursing field for a bachelor's degree program in nursing, and it was decided several years ago to work toward a four-year program. After it became a four-year program, the need for more building space and more specialized space became greater. The local Christy-Houston Foundation financed it completely. The nursing building cost about \$3 million. The foundation was created when the old Rutherford hospital, which was owned by,

set up and financed largely by the federal government, but controlled by the county and city governments, was purchased by St. Thomas and Baptist Hospitals in Nashville. In the process, in order to pay the community back for its building the hospital in the first place, the Christy-Houston Foundation was set up in order to make funds available for community projects, from which the community would benefit. That's where the funds came from to build that building.

FORSYTHE: Stonework for the monument on East Main?

VOORHIES: Therein lies another story. The early 1960's was about the time that was built. In the first master plan I saw, President Smith wanted to maintain the quadrangle, with the Old Main building at the north end of it, and men's dormitories, the science building, and the library on the east side of the quadrangle. On the west side of the quadrangle were Rutledge Hall, the James Union Building, Monohan Hall, and the girls' dormitory units. I guess I mentioned, too, last time, the fact that at one time the whole campus down around Monohan Hall, and the field across in front of campus school, would flood every time we had a heavy rain, and we spent state money to cut drainage ditches all the way through streets and all the way to the cemetery in order to drain it. Well, at that time, the man who was in charge of that region for the state highway department, was living on Bell Street just a few blocks from campus. He was very much interested in helping. Dr. Cope continued to carry out the plan which President Smith had developed, and he would try to improve on it and implement the notion of the loop inside the quadrangle. Before that, an extension of Bell Street was the main entrance to the campus, and that was all. Now, at the Bell Street entrance, there are still two big stone columns by that traffic light that marked the [only] entrance of campus before.

FORSYTHE: Was there anything else there besides those markers?

VOORHIES: No. Then we decided to build the James Union Building, so we [blocked Bell Street from going any farther into campus]. It did come in where the James Union Building is now, and came around in front of Old Main. Then it went around Old Main and around the heating plant, and connected to what is now Faulkinberry Drive, between the heating plant and the football field. Well, Dr. Cope could see the idea of running that loop drive inside the quadrangle, and the only thing inside it at the time, according to his master plan, was the old library. Later on, what became the Cope Administration building was built on the south side, but nothing else was ever allowed to be built inside the loop. He got the state highway department to agree to the same kind of deal, and it was a real sweet deal for the campus. They did all the work, poured the curbs, paved it, and laid it out, and he paid for the marker at the entrance. I guess we got that for about twenty-five percent of the price it would cost us if we'd gone out for public bids. But, anyway, that was when that was started. It's become a part of the plan, and of all the master plans since.

FORSYTHE: The Vocational Educational Building.

VOORHIES: President Smith had made, and I did mention this the other day, several runs at trying to get a vocational educational approval for this campus. The University of Tennessee pretty much had it sewed up. They were the only institution in the state that could provide federally approved vocational education programs. Vocational home economics, vocational agriculture, industrial vocational education, and those types of programs. President Smith hired two people in vocational agriculture, and later on tried to get approval to train vocational agriculture teachers. We were training industrial arts teachers, and they were getting certified to teach industrial arts. We were training math teachers, science teachers, English teachers, history teachers, and all the rest of them, but we were locked out by the UT system from being allowed to get federal funds. UT had received federal funds, since they had vocational education programs. As much of an effort as President Smith made, he wasn't successful. Later on, with Dr. Kirksey's help, and President Scarlett's help, we hired a fellow named Charlie Dunn, who had been the supervisor for vocational education for the state of Tennessee, and who had been one of our students for his undergraduate work. We got approval for all the vocational programs. The vocational building is for vocational agriculture. It is the center of instruction for vocational agriculture. We got approval to train vocational agriculture teachers. We hired a young man named Cliff Ricketts, who is still here, who was a vocational agriculture teacher. He went to Ohio State and got his doctorate degree, and he's the father of that building over there, and is still teaching in it. You've heard about an alcohol-fueled truck they've developed? He and some master's degree students have developed a truck, and have taken it and raced it all over the country. It's gotten quite a bit of publicity [because of its] alcohol-fueled engines. He's working on a hydrogen-fueled engine now. That's what goes on in that building. There's some shop facilities and classrooms and offices. It's a very small building, but this facility was not provided before, because we didn't have vocational agriculture. When we did, we built a small building.

FORSYTHE: What about the farm the college owns?

VOORHIES: When President Smith became president in 1938, [MTSU had] roughly 200 acres, plus the campus school. Then, in the 1940's I guess, we bought the Womack farm. There was an old farmhouse over there, where some of the faculty lived when they were first hired, until they found a place. Bob Womack lived in it, and several other faculty members lived in it until they got better situated. It [consisted of] about 150 acres, and that gave [us some additional] farmland. There were about 150 acres or so in the original deed, and about 150 more in that Womack purchase. That was probably in the late 1930's or around 1940. I think the land, where the runway was for flight training, was part of the Womack farm. In any case, when I came back in 1957, President Smith was negotiating for 200 more acres east of the Womack farm and east of the campus now. That's the part that runs across Rutherford Boulevard, it seems that the farm out there was being

sold. He negotiated for half of it, and the other half is where Park Manor is today. That's where I live. On the other side of my back fence is the MTSU farm. Mr. Charlie Haynes, who is a builder, bought about half of that, and developed the Park Manor. That's the part between Greenland Drive and the MTSU farm. It goes all the way back down to Rutherford Boulevard, and all the way from about Scotland Drive to just east of Reeves Rogers school.