

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
ISA LEE FREEMAN

3 JULY 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.017

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
ISA LEE FREEMAN
Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.017

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith Collection designated as QMS.1995.17. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mrs. Isa Lee Freeman. Today is Monday, July 3, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of Mrs. Isa Lee Freeman at 1010 East Lytle Street, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview, along with the transcripts of this 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 Mrs. Freeman?

FREEMAN: Fine.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

FREEMAN: Isa Lee Sherrod. S-h-e-r-r-o-d. Lawrence and I married in 1937. I came here as Isa Lee Sherrod, a librarian.

FORSYTHE: What is your birth date?

FREEMAN: October 8, 1913.

FORSYTHE: What is your birthplace?

FREEMAN: Lake City, Kansas.

FORSYTHE: How did you pick MTSU?

FREEMAN: My father was president at East Tennessee State College. I lived there through high school and college. I came to Nashville for graduate work.

FORSYTHE: What was your father's name?

FREEMAN: C.C. Sherrod.

FORSYTHE: What was your mother's name?

FREEMAN: Carrie Lee Hood Sherrod.

FORSYTHE: What was her occupation?

FREEMAN: She was a housewife. In those days, women did not work if they did not have to. They had a full time job housekeeping.

FORSYTHE: What were the names of your siblings?

FREEMAN: Deanie Sherrod Platt, Charles Sherrod, Jr., and Howell H. Sherrod.

FORSYTHE: What is your husband's name?

FREEMAN: Lawrence Freeman. He was in the furniture business, both wholesale and resale.

FORSYTHE: What are your children's names?

FREEMAN: Jim Freeman and Sue Freeman Copeland.

FORSYTHE: Did anyone else in your family attend MTSU?

FREEMAN: Jim and Sue both did. Lawrence went two years, and then he went to Vanderbilt University to graduate.

FORSYTHE: When were your children attending MTSU?

FREEMAN: Jim went a little while before he went into the military, but then he went into the Vietnam War for four years. He was in the Navy. He returned to MTSU, finished his first degree, and then got his Master's degree. He was employed as sports information director at MTSU.

Sue married first and then came back and finished her degree. She received her Master's degree in Library Science from Peabody College.

FORSYTHE: What schools did you attend?

FREEMAN: East Tennessee State University and Peabody College in Nashville. I have a graduate library degree and a Master's degree in history from Peabody.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose to attend those schools?

FREEMAN: I went to East Tennessee State University because my dad was president. Since those were the depression days, we did not have the money to go to other schools. I went to Peabody because my dad had earned his doctorate from there.

FORSYTHE: What years did you work at MTSU?

FREEMAN: January 1935 to July 1940. It was five and one-half years.

FORSYTHE: What were your job titles?

FREEMAN: Librarian and teacher of Library Science.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose to work at MTSU?

FREEMAN: They offered me a job after I finished my studies at Peabody College.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember your job interview?

FREEMAN: I was interviewed by President P.A. Lyon and Dean Beasley. They asked about my qualifications. I had worked as a library assistant for several years when I was a student.

FORSYTHE: What are your memories of being an MTSU librarian?

FREEMAN: I loved it. The library was a little building in the center of the campus. It is not there now. I think Peck Hall is there. Miss Murfree and I were the only librarians. We had student assistants. Sometimes football players were given a job at the library. They hated it, but they had to have some kind of work for their scholarship.

FORSYTHE: What did you make the football players do?

FREEMAN: We made them do anything we could. I remember Miss Murfree told me to ask one of them to please tuck his shirttail in. She would not ask him, and she was a lot older than I was. I asked him, and he did it.

FORSYTHE: I heard there was a problem with flooding in that building.

FREEMAN: Everything in the basement got damp. We had government documents in the basement, and they mildewed. I suppose they were not very valuable. The library was a government depository, so we had a lot of government documents in the basement. There was also an apartment in the basement, where one of the football players lived. He was the only married football player. It was a small apartment, only three rooms. They did have a window. I remember one funny thing that happened while I was there. Miss Murfree would come in early and leave early, while I came later and left at the close of the library day. The fuses would blow and I did not know enough to know that you did not put a penny in there. I put a penny behind the fuse plug. It is a wonder that the building did not burn down.

FORSYTHE: What were your duties as librarian?

FREEMAN: I processed and cataloged books. I also taught Library Science. I started a small course, so that students could attain a minor in Library Science. That was 18 credit hours.

FORSYTHE: What classes did you teach in Library Science?

FREEMAN: A variety of everything--reference work, cataloging, purchasing work.

FORSYTHE: What did you require your students to do?

FREEMAN: They said I made them do a lot of work, but I do not think it was that difficult. There was just a lot involved. That is still true of library work. We went to the McFadden School here in Murfreesboro and cataloged their library. It was done by hand because they did not have a typewriter. Then we came over to the training school and cataloged there. That library had never been processed or in a system. That was good practical work.

FORSYTHE: I saw in the annual that you were also a hostess.

FREEMAN: No, I do not remember that. I was president of the Dames Club for two years. That was the college faculty women's club. The Dames Club was started before I came, but it was composed of the wives of the faculty members, and later all lady employees. We did social activities. We had programs each month. It was a small friendly group. Everybody knew everybody. The school did not have more than 800 students at that time.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about MTSU President P.A. Lyon?

FREEMAN: He was friends with my father because they were both presidents of Tennessee state colleges at the same time. I was invited to their home to have dinner several times. I liked them. I had known them before I ever came to MTSU.

FORSYTHE: How did the faculty relate to President Lyon?

FREEMAN: I think fine. His policies did not implement very good salaries, but people liked him. He was popular in town.

FORSYTHE: How did students relate to him?

FREEMAN: Fairly well. His office was in the old administration building, on the left as you entered. It was on the main level.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Mrs. Lyon?

FREEMAN: She was a very charming person and a nice hostess. We always had a faculty social in their home at the beginning of every school year. She entertained nicely.

FORSYTHE: What are your memories of MTSU President Q.M. Smith?

FREEMAN: He had been a military man, and he had discipline and dignity. He required a good bit from his faculty. He was not demanding, but more so than Preston Lyon was. The faculty related to him rather well. I can remember one faculty meeting in which he told those who did not have doctorate degrees that he encouraged them to go on and to get Ph.D's; otherwise, there would be no promotions. Those who did not have Ph.D's and who wanted to stay on were kept on the faculty.

FORSYTHE: How did the students relate to President Q.M. Smith?

FREEMAN: Not quite as warmly as you might wish. He had a speech impediment, and it was hard to understand him. Close friends could understand him without any problem, but sometimes his speech was unclear to others. I think students did not warm up to him because they could not understand him. It was not that they disliked him. They just could not ever understand what he was saying.

FORSYTHE: How did the staff feel about President Smith?

FREEMAN: I think they related fine. I remember one faculty member... I will not use his name. ...who presented a classroom lesson on atheism and encouraged students that if they wanted to be an atheist to do so. Q. M. Smith fired him. Some of the students told me about what had gone on in class. I remember Mr. Smith asking me what I knew about it. Only second-hand information of course.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Mrs. Smith?

FREEMAN: I liked Laura Smith. We played bridge together sometimes. We went to their home for dinner a lot, and they came to ours also. Our relationship was warm because I knew them before I came to MTSU. They were friends of the family.

FORSYTHE: I will say some of the faculty names I found in the annual, and I would like for you to tell me what you remember about them. Robert Abernathy?

FREEMAN: Bob Abernathy just told jokes all the time. They were not always the kind that were acceptable, or at least some people did not think so. He was a fine person, very popular with students.

FORSYTHE: Bettie Murfree?

FREEMAN: She was the dearest little woman you ever saw. She was my fellow librarian. She did not have a graduate degree. Therefore, on paper, I dealt with accrediting agencies. She was a wonderful person. She knew that library inside and out. She had started it in one room. She had previous library experience at the University of New York, in New York City.

FORSYTHE: Where was this library located?

FREEMAN: It was upstairs in the administration building.

FORSYTHE: Margaret Mitchell?

FREEMAN: Margie, I loved her dearly. She was hostess in the dormitory that I lived in for three years. She was a fine person, Dean of Women, and also hostess of the dormitory. I lived in Lyon Hall. One time, they had open house. I was not there. I had gone to Nashville to a concert that night. When I came back Miss Mitchell was waiting for me and informed me that they had stacked my room and draped toilet paper all over. She made them clean it up.

FORSYTHE: What do you mean by "stacked?"

FREEMAN: They took things out of drawers and dumped them. Maybe they did that to the closet, too. I can't remember. I did not really see it when it was in a mess because she had made them clean it up before I got home. Anyway, I liked Miss Mitchell. She was a nice person. We ate together in the cafeteria a lot of times. Long after she retired, we continued to exchange Christmas gifts.

FORSYTHE: So, as a faculty member, you lived in the student dormitories?

FREEMAN: I lived in Lyon Hall for two or three years. After that, I moved into an apartment on Lytle Street.

FORSYTHE: Was it normal for faculty members to live in the dormitories?

FREEMAN: I do not think so. Yet I believe that was part of my benefits, salary. To have a room in the dorm.

FORSYTHE: Did you have a roommate?

FREEMAN: No.

FORSYTHE: Bonnie McHenry?

FREEMAN: She was secretary to three MTSU presidents and was just a wonderful person. She was a very efficient person. She was charming and welcomed people. Everyone knew Miss Bonnie and liked her.

FORSYTHE: Ernest Alley?

Freeman Ernie was one of the coaches. After he left and went to Vanderbilt University as athletic director, we continued to keep in touch. He gave us tickets to all the Vanderbilt football games.

FORSYTHE: Frank Bass?

FREEMAN: They lived next door to us here in Murfreesboro. We sold the other part of our lot to the Basses, and they built their home there. Frank was very popular and worked in the state education field, as well as MTSU.

FORSYTHE: Dean Beasley?

FREEMAN: He was a long time friend. I remember one time he wanted to know what the jug was. I replied that I did not know what he meant. He said, "Yes, you do. You have been there a few times." I said, "I do not remember any jug." He said, "The brown jug." I said, "Oh, the Little Brown Jug. That is kind of a honky-tonk club." There was a nickelodeon there, and people would have cokes or maybe beer. Dean Beasley was a fine person and was popular with the students. He always knew what was going on in the school.

FORSYTHE: Marie Engles?

Freeman I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Andreana Briney?

Freeman She was Andreana Crockett, and then married Briney. She taught at the Campus Training School. She was a good teacher. She taught my children. She has just now decided to sell her home here in Rutherford County and move into a Nashville retirement home.

FORSYTHE: Eva May Burkett?

Freeman I went to school with her at Peabody College. I remember when she came to teach at MTSU. She was a good teacher, and I think we ate together in the dinning hall, sometimes.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Philip Macon Cheek?

Freeman I am not sure whether I can say anything about him or not. He was a marvelous teacher, a Ph.D. He taught languages. I audited a German class he taught. As a librarian, I felt I needed to know more than just French and Latin. I audited his class for a year. He was a good teacher, but kind of a loner. He did not have a lot of fellowship with either students or faculty.

FORSYTHE: Mary Currier?

Freeman I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Vera Covington?

Freeman She was the librarian at the Campus Training School. I substituted for her a few months when she wanted to go see her husband during World War II. She was a fine person, a good librarian. Students related to her well.

FORSYTHE: Dr. George Davis?

Freeman He was in the science department. I did not know him very well.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Marion Edney?

Freeman He was just a casual acquaintance. All the faculty knew each other. There were not too many of us. We knew all the students, just about.

FORSYTHE: Bernice Dilworth?

Freeman I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Dr. May Frank?

Freeman She lived in the dormitory, Lyon Hall, also. She was in the Home Economics department. She was a rather dignified person, unmarried. She was a good teacher and well liked by the students.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Neal Frazier?

FREEMAN: I lived next door to him, after Lawrence and I married. We lived on Tennessee Boulevard. He was a good teacher, and Mrs. Fraizier, too. They both taught English, part time.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Otis Freeman?

FREEMAN: Nooby! We were not related to Nooby. He was in the athletic department and also taught industrial arts. I was in the Baptist Church with him. Once they asked for church pledges. He commented, "You should not let your left hand know what your right hand doeth." I guess he gave, but he did not make it known, anyway.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Louise Frey?

Freeman I do not remember very much about her.

FORSYTHE: Mary Frizzell?

Freeman I believe she was from Shelbyville, Tennessee. We were together a good bit. The unmarried female teachers usually ate together in the cafeteria. You did not go out to eat because very few people even had a car. There were very few faculty cars.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Thomas Golightly?

Freeman He got his Ph.D. at Peabody College at the same time my dad did. He was slightly scatter-brained. His wife was active in the Dame's Club and had started the one here at MTSU. She had been at the one at Peabody and when she came here she started the wives of faculty club. One time at a meeting, she hid somebody's car keys. Mrs. Golightly had already left, when the other woman tried to find her keys. The woman finally had to call someone to come get her because she could not find her car keys. Later, when Mrs. Golightly was asked about it, she giggled and said, "Oh, did you look under the cushions in any of the chairs?" Another time she saw me and commented, "Isa Lee, every time I see that dress on you I like it better." I am sure I wore it a long time because those were depression years.

FORSYTHE: Mr. B.B. Gracy?

Freeman He was very loved. He lived across the street from the college gate. He had been here many years and was well liked by students and faculty.

FORSYTHE: Philip Mankin?

FREEMAN: I did not know him very well. English was his field. I suppose he was fairly well liked. He was a little dusty around the collar.

FORSYTHE: Chalk?

FREEMAN: No, dandruff. They are going to kill me if anyone ever hears all of this.

FORSYTHE: Miss Ollie Green?

FREEMAN: She had been at East Tennessee State University when I was up there as a student. She later came here to teach. She was rather precise. She liked to teach boy students. I guess because they were better at science. She taught chemistry and maybe physics. She had a good educational background and was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Marguerite Harrison?

FREEMAN: She taught at the training school. I knew her fairly well.

FORSYTHE: Carrie Hodges?

FREEMAN: I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Knox Hutchinson?

FREEMAN: I remember him very well. I must not tell all the things that I remember. He ate lunch in the cafeteria almost everyday. They lived off the campus. He would put

his head down and eat that meal just as fast as he could and get up and leave. He was Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for the United States government while here at MTSU. He was outstanding in the agriculture field. He had a good big farm here, which his two sons may still operate.

FORSYTHE: Clayton James?

FREEMAN: I knew him in East Tennessee, too. He had been East Tennessee high school supervisor and then came here to teach. I suppose he was Middle Tennessee high school supervisor. Clayton and Lilly May were good friends and were well liked. They participated in community affairs, as well as school.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Horace Jones?

FREEMAN: He was a bird. Everyone liked him. One time we went to a conference in the fall. He knocked on our hotel door at 2:00 A.M. When we asked if it was Mr. Jones he replied, "Horatio, just call me Horatio." He was popular with students and well liked by faculty. He spent as little time in his office, as he could. He was the son-in-law of MTSU President Lyon.

FORSYTHE: William Benton Judd?

FREEMAN: I lived next door to them. . . lovely, lovely, couple. He was ill for several years before he died. They kept their yard pretty and had lots of flowers. He was well liked by everybody.

FORSYTHE: Charles Lewis?

FREEMAN: I do not remember him very well. His wife was a nurse and taught classes in nurse's aid work. I took several of her classes during World War II. She was a good teacher, very thorough. We liked both of them, very much.

FORSYTHE: Agnes Little?

FREEMAN: She had a tearoom on Bell Street for a while, maybe after she retired from the school. I'm not sure. She was in the Home Economics department.

FORSYTHE: Dr. William Mebane?

FREEMAN: He was in the science department. Isabelle, his wife, had been born in Scotland and still had a very Scottish accent. Her mother came to visit once and said, "Now, Isabelle did not talk like that when she came here." She was active in the Dame's Club. She cultivated her accent here. She was a good cook. She would have some of the best food when we were responsible for bringing dishes [at potluck dinners].

FORSYTHE: Katherine Monohan?

FREEMAN: The students would sneak out of her class after the roll or attendance call, and she never missed them. They would crawl out on all fours. I suppose she just did not see well.

End of Side A, QMS.1995.17 Isa Lee Freeman.

This is a continuation of the interview with Mrs. Isa Lee Freeman by Regina Forsythe on Monday, July 3, 1995.

FREEMAN: Once in the administration building President Smith came out of his office and a little boy about four years of age was up on a high ladder. They were in the process of painting the lobby to the administration building and left a huge ladder there. Mr. Smith immediately told the little boy to get down, and the boy did not pay any attention to him. The president emphasized it a little bit more. And the boy said, "You act like you are boss around here." Mr. Smith replied, "I am." The boy finally crawled down.

FORSYTHE: Agnes Nelson?

FREEMAN: I do not remember much about her.

FORSYTHE: Mary Sue Johnson?

FREEMAN: I do not remember much about her either.

FORSYTHE: Margaret Lowe?

FREEMAN: She taught over at the training school. These were just casual acquaintances.

FORSYTHE: Mr. A.A. O'Kelly?

FREEMAN: I believe it was in the science department. I did not know him very well.

FORSYTHE: Anne Ordway?

FREEMAN: She was a lovely person, just charming. Her sister taught at Ward-Belmont College in Nashville. They were both lovely women and good teachers. She taught children's literature, and we compared notes over what I was included as children's book choices and what she had in her class.

FORSYTHE: Tommie Reynolds?

FREEMAN: She was a Physical Education teacher and lived up on the boulevard, opposite the campus gate. She was a good teacher, well liked by students.

FORSYTHE: Ester Rogers?

FREEMAN: She taught art. I remember when I went to Europe one summer with my father, and she gave me a little camera to take. She had been to Europe a lot of times and encouraged me to see certain art things in Europe. I liked her and saw her often.

FORSYTHE: E. May Saunders?

FREEMAN: She was in the music department. I guess everyone knew Miss E. May because she directed band and taught music.

FORSYTHE: Ruby Taylor Sanders?

FREEMAN: Mrs. Altman Sanders, I knew her well. We were in the Murfreesboro Garden Club together. We were in the same social circle.

FORSYTHE: Elizabeth Schardt?

FREEMAN: I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Dr. C.C. Sims?

FREEMAN: I knew the Sims's quite well. Later, when Lawrence and I married, they lived a few doors down from us on South Boulevard.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Thomas Straw?

FREEMAN: I never knew him very well.

FORSYTHE: Edward Tarpley?

FREEMAN: I knew Ed, he was in the health department. I knew his family, too.

FORSYTHE: Mr. E.M. Waller?

FREEMAN: He went by "Nig" because he was really dark complexioned. I suppose that was why he was called that. Everyone called him that. He was a good coach. He had winning teams, which made him popular.

FORSYTHE: Mr. J.C. Waller?

FREEMAN: He was head of the director of the training school.

FORSYTHE: Clark Woodmore?

FREEMAN: He lived next door or across the street from the Midgetts. So if you see Nell Midgett, she could tell you more about him than I could. I do not remember too much.

FORSYTHE: Gabriel Valdez?

FREEMAN: That person is not familiar to me.

FORSYTHE: Anne Ashley?

FREEMAN: She was at the training school and taught one of my children. She was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Kate Ashley?

FREEMAN: She was also at the training school.

FORSYTHE: Mary Hall?

FREEMAN: She was loved by everyone all over Tennessee. I think the Rutherford County Historical Society will present her with some sort of honor soon. She traveled a lot and supervised a lot of elementary schools in Middle Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: Mrs. Mary Manley?

FREEMAN: I knew her as a teacher of one of my children.

FORSYTHE: Mrs. Madge Manson?

FREEMAN: She taught at the training school, but art was her love. She gave an appreciation to her fourth grade students that they kept all their lives. She was outstanding in that area, but could not discipline very well. I went to the classroom once and she had written on the chalkboard, "If you do not get quiet, you cannot have recess." The children were so rowdy she could not speak over them.

FORSYTHE: Ruth Pate?

FREEMAN: I like Ruth, and I still keep in touch with her. She was in the Physical Education department. She left MTSU to go to East Tennessee State University and teach physical education there. She played basketball here on the college team and was outstanding. She later married and moved to Pennsylvania. She is still there, and probably in her late 80s. I get a card from her every Christmas.

FORSYTHE: Mr. W.R. Romine?

FREEMAN: He was a fellow teacher, but I do not know anything personal about him.

FORSYTHE: Mr. Roy Simpson?

FREEMAN: He was the training school director for a number of years.

FORSYTHE: Frances Snell?

FREEMAN: She was an aunt of Mary Frances Snell. They both taught at the training school.

FORSYTHE: Lady Mary Williams?

FREEMAN: I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Marshall Burns?

FREEMAN: His wife was to be president of the Dame's Club when he was transferred to somewhere else. I believe he was also a Church of Christ minister. I was vice president of the Dame's Club and became president in the place of Mrs. Burns. They were in Rutledge Hall, one of the dormitories. I guess she was a hostess there.

FORSYTHE: Mr. J.F. Holmes?

FREEMAN: He was Bursar. He still has a son here in Murfreesboro. He paid our monthly checks.

FORSYTHE: Mr. W.C. Hasting?

FREEMAN: I do not remember much about him.

FORSYTHE: Mr. C.W. Daniels?

FREEMAN: I did not know him.

FORSYTHE: Lorene Neece?

FREEMAN: She was cafeteria manager. She was loved by everybody. She was very efficient in the food area. The cafeteria was small, and she was in charge of it. She used student help to work in the cafeteria. We had fun together, attending the football games in her car. She was one of the few faculty members who had a car.

FORSYTHE: Mrs. Lura P. Oldham?

FREEMAN: No, I do not remember her.

FORSYTHE: Edward Baldwin?

FREEMAN: He is not living now, but his wife, Irene Baldwin, still lives here in Murfreesboro. He and I went to school together at Peabody College. He was a good teacher.

Geography. He called himself an "old maid." The first day of classes, he would tell students to keep their chairs in a straight row, and to sit in the same seat every class period. This way he could identify students when he called on them in class. He died of an aneurysm.

FORSYTHE: Baxter Hobgood?

FREEMAN: Baxter is still living. He gave a lot to community life. He was an excellent teacher and later principal of the high school here. He was very active in the education world.

FORSYTHE: Nance Jordan?

FREEMAN: He was in physical education. He was at Peabody College and Vanderbilt University during the time I was there. He was well liked. He bought a laundry business. I remember him saying that he made a better income from the laundry than as an MTSU faculty member. Salaries were very poor.

FORSYTHE: Fount Love?

FREEMAN: I do not remember.

FORSYTHE: Leon Bibb?

FREEMAN: I do not remember him very much.

FORSYTHE: Mr. J.R. Green?

FREEMAN: No. I do not remember.

FORSYTHE: Charles Calhoun?

FREEMAN: No.

FORSYTHE: Jean Thaxton?

FREEMAN: No.

FORSYTHE: W. K. McCharen?

FREEMAN: He took my place when I left. We were in library school at Peabody College at the same time. He got his doctorate in education. When I resigned from the library, he filled my position. He was a good administrator, very successful. I told him that if I had to pick my successor, I would have been delighted to choose him.

FORSYTHE: C. P. Blankenship?

FREEMAN: I do not remember.

FORSYTHE: Albert Gore?

FREEMAN: The thing I remember about him is, after he had graduated, he came back to all the basketball games and other sports activities. He would stand at the door and shake hands with every person and called them by name when they came in or out. This was before he became a politician! He hardly saw a game. He was always interested in politics.

FORSYTHE: Why did you leave MTSU?

FREEMAN: I wanted to have a family. We had been married for three years. His parents encouraged me to stop. We did not have children, but we adopted two children.

FORSYTHE: Can you think of anything else you would like to talk about?

FREEMAN: I cannot remember much else. That was just too many years ago.

FORSYTHE: What was that you just said about Q. M. Smith?

FREEMAN: I had written a resignation letter, and when he replied to it he said, "Congratulations on your promotion to being a homemaker instead of a librarian!."