

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW  
WITH  
CHARLES & LEONA MURPHY

27 JULY 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE  
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.042

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

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH  
CHARLES & LEONA MURPHY  
Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
INTERVIEW #QMS.042**

FORSYTHE: This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murphy. Today is Thursday July 27, 1995. The interview is being conducted at the Murphy's home at 1906 Windsor Drive in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this 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?

C. MURPHY: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Both of you?

L. MURPHY: Yes.

FORSYTHE: You have to speak up. Let me start off with the basics. What is your full name?

C. MURPHY: Charles Martin Murphy.

L. MURPHY: Junior, you were a junior.

C. MURPHY: Yes, Charles Martin Murphy, Jr.

FORSYTHE: And yours?

L. MURPHY: Leona Murphy.

FORSYTHE: Your maiden name?

L. MURPHY: O'Neil.

FORSYTHE: Is it O-n-e-a-l?

L. MURPHY: O-n-e-i-l.

FORSYTHE: What is your birth date?

C. MURPHY: December 15, 1913.

FORSYTHE: And yours?

L. MURPHY: April 20, 1918.

FORSYTHE: Your birthplace?

C. MURPHY: I was born in Nashville.

L. MURPHY: Jasper, Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: That is a beautiful place.

L. MURPHY: Is it? I lived there years and years ago.

FORSYTHE: We went there accidentally. It was a detour to Chattanooga and we ended up in Jasper. What is your father's name?

C. MURPHY: His name was Charles, I was a junior.

FORSYTHE: His occupation?

C. MURPHY: He was a steam putter. They put in heat. Back in those days they had heat in the walls, you know in radiators. He was a steam putter because he put in steam heat to heat houses and businesses and things like that. His first job in Nashville was to put in the heat at Vanderbilt Hospital. I remember that. He got his start.

FORSYTHE: Your father's name?

L. MURPHY: Walter B. O'Neil.

FORSYTHE: His occupation?

L. MURPHY: He had an insurance agency and also he was a ticket agent at NC and St. Louis railroad in Tullahoma.

FORSYTHE: Your mother's name?

C. MURPHY: Nelle, Nelle Murphy, Nelle Fry Murphy, N-e-l-l-e, I believe, F-r-y... That was her father and mother's name, Fry.

FORSYTHE: Her occupation?

C. MURPHY: She never did work, she was a house wife.

L. MURPHY: Oh yes she did work!

C. MURPHY: She had four children.

FORSYTHE: Well she worked then.

C. MURPHY: She had four children so we all kept her busy.

FORSYTHE: And your mother's name?

L. MURPHY: Kate Wimberly O'Neil.

FORSYTHE: Her maiden name?

L. MURPHY: Kate and then she was a Wimberly.

FORSYTHE: Her occupation?

L. MURPHY: Housewife, mother.

FORSYTHE: Your brother's and sister's names?

C. MURPHY: I have a sister named Margaret. A sister named Wilhal but her nickname was Sibay. Wilhal was my sister's name. My brother's name was Jackson. There was a half brother, Jack Gillespie, and I had a sister named Margaret Murphy. I had a half brother and a half sister and then a full sister. Her name was Margaret Murphy. All of them have passed away now, except me.

FORSYTHE: Your brothers and sisters?

L. MURPHY: I had two brothers, one Wimberly, and one William; and one twin sister, Leota.

FORSYTHE: How do you spell that?

L. MURPHY: L-e-o-t-a.

FORSYTHE: Your children's names?

L. MURPHY: The oldest one is Michael Neal. Do you want full names like that?

FORSYTHE: Sure.

L. MURPHY: The middle one is Robert Martin and the youngest one is William Patrick.

FORSYTHE: There is no third?

L. MURPHY: That is three.

C. MURPHY: Three boys.

FORSYTHE: No I mean Charles III?

L. MURPHY: No, huh-uh, he wouldn't allow that. I had named the first child the third but he changed his name on me.

FORSYTHE: Did anybody else in your family go to MTSU?

L. MURPHY: Well my sister went.

C. MURPHY: Her sister went.

L. MURPHY: My twin sister, Leota.

FORSYTHE: I want to know what years you went to school at MTSU.

L. MURPHY: What years did you go?

C. MURPHY: I finished 1938, started in 1935, graduated in 1938.

FORSYTHE: What was your major?

C. MURPHY: Physical education and industrial arts.

L. MURPHY: I thought you majored in biology, didn't you?

C. MURPHY: I had a minor in biology, major in physical education and a minor in history.

L. MURPHY: I didn't graduate.

FORSYTHE: What years did you go?

L. MURPHY: I came in '36.

FORSYTHE: How long did you stay?

L. MURPHY: I came and stayed one year then started teaching. Then I would come back in the summers so I didn't graduate, but I had two years.

FORSYTHE: Did you meet on campus?

L. MURPHY: Mm-huh, we sure did.

FORSYTHE: Well tell me about that.

C. MURPHY: We met in the old college cafeteria. What is the name of that place?

L. MURPHY: Well we met in Old Main.

C. MURPHY: Old Main?

L. MURPHY: Mm-huh, out in the lobby there. That was the building on campus for most of our activities, classrooms, post-office, president's office, the Dean and so forth. We just met out there in the lobby.

FORSYTHE: How did you meet?

L. MURPHY: As well as I remember, it was just in the lobby there.

C. MURPHY: I thought you were sitting on the steps of Old Main.

L. MURPHY: Well, maybe so.

C. MURPHY: I think that is where I first saw you.

L. MURPHY: They didn't have those rails up on Old Main at that time . Everybody just sat around outside on the steps. That was just the place to come and kind of congregate, talk, and get acquainted.

C. MURPHY: You had to have the girls in the dormitory , what time was it?

L. MURPHY: Maybe she doesn't want all that .

FORSYTHE: Yes I do.

C. MURPHY: Of course I would see her again at supper time at the cafeteria and I would walk her home to the dormitory. I had to have her over there by 6:30. You had to check in. They could come out to eat but they had to check into the dormitory that was your date that night.

FORSYTHE: That wasn't very long

L. MURPHY: That was in the wintertime. In the summertime, I've forgotten whether it was seven, seems like it was seven, in the spring they would change the times to seven o'clock 'cause it was a little lighter. They had very strict rules.

FORSYTHE: I've got a list of faculty here from when you were students. Anything you can remember about them, whether it was how they taught or whatever, Dean Beasley.

L. MURPHY: He was a fine man.

C. MURPHY: He sure was a fine man. He just about ran the school. P.A. Lyon was the president. Mr. Beasley was the one that told you what to do, checked on how you were doing in your classes, if you were skipping classes. He was the one who would call you and talk to you. He just about ran the school. Both of them were real good people, P.A. Lyon and Mr. Beasley. I thought a lot of Mr. Beasley. Even after I came back here to work he was a real good friend of mine. I thought a lot of him. Mr. P.A. Lyon was a good man too. I didn't know him quite as well. I never was called in his office for anything I did wrong, so he never did catch up with me, but he was a good person. Both of them were.

FORSYTHE: Robert Abernathy.

C. MURPHY: Bob was in school a little before I was here, but he was a teacher here. He taught English and also he called on alumni in different towns to get students. He meant a lot to the school and he made speeches all over the country. You would hear him making speeches at one graduation, the next night another graduation, then the banquets. He made all kind of speeches. I went with him to several banquets and he was a good speaker. I thought a lot of Bob. He had a nice family too. What was his wife's name. Do you remember?

L. MURPHY: Gem.

C. MURPHY: Gem Abernathy. He had a son that has just retired as a lawyer here in town.

L. MURPHY: No, he is a doctor.

C. MURPHY: His son just retired from work this last week.

L. MURPHY: Oh he did?

C. MURPHY: Mm-huh, it was in the paper. He is still fairly young but he has retired from his work. Bob meant a lot to the school. He was just about one of the main leaders over there. He was the one that was responsible for the growth of MTSU because he would call on different high schools. That was his main job, right at the last, to call on different high schools, or go to Nashville and call on seven or eight schools a day, or go to Lebanon, or different places. We got just about half of the high school kids coming from Tennessee coming to school here. He was real good at filling up attendance. He was a real good person.

FORSYTHE: Ernest Alley.

L. MURPHY: Was that Herk Alley?

C. MURPHY: No.

L. MURPHY: He was a football coach.

C. MURPHY: He wasn't here when I was here.

L. MURPHY: That is right.

C. MURPHY: He coached football, I think, one or two years and left.

L. MURPHY: He wasn't here very long.

C. MURPHY: I didn't know much about Herk.

FORSYTHE: Ann Ashley.

L. MURPHY: Ann Ashley was teaching over at the Campus School. I remember my sister, I will go back and tell about this incident. We were coming to college and my daddy brought my sister and me down to see Dean Beasley to see if we could get some sort of aid. He had four kids in college and that was going to be four kids in college at one time. We did get what they called an NYA job at that time which was fifteen dollars a month to be divided between the two of us. My sister's job, she was very talented in music, and her job was to play the piano and do what Miss Anne Ashley wanted her to do in music in her class over at Campus School. My job was to go over and help Miss Manley who was a teacher there at the Campus School and assist her in any way I could with the children and remedial work and things like that. That is all I really knew about Miss Ashley other than she was an excellent teacher and our children had her for their teacher.

FORSYTHE: Frank Bass, he was director of the training school.

L. MURPHY: I wonder what year that was? That was before our time, or was it?

FORSYTHE: This was from '36, '37, '38.

C. MURPHY: Yes, he was principal over there.

L. MURPHY: OK.

C. MURPHY: I didn't know him too well, except I did my practice teaching. See you had to do practice teaching then if you got a degree, and I did my practice teaching. That is when I would meet him and see him, when I would go to the Campus School and practice teaching. I did practice teaching in industrial arts or woodwork and things like that. He was a real popular man on campus.

FORSYTHE: What grade did you two teach?

C. MURPHY: Just practice teaching, I believe it went through the eighth grade.

L. MURPHY: I believe it did at that time.

C. MURPHY: Campus School went through the eighth grade. I was in the grade in mechanical drawing and industrial arts.

FORSYTHE: Who did you practice teach under?

C. MURPHY: Mr. Romine.

FORSYTHE: Well lets go to him next. Tell me about Mr. Romine.

C. MURPHY: Well he was, they had about three or four men teachers, and he was one of them. I considered him just about assistant principal. He was just one of the runners of the school. He handled discipline over at the school. I know I would get to talk to him quite a bit about some of the students, you know in my class that I was practice teaching. He was a real nice person, real talented.

FORSYTHE: Eva Mae Burkett.

L. MURPHY: I remember her name.

C. MURPHY: Who?

L. MURPHY: Miss Burkett, Eva Mae Burkett, she taught English I believe.

C. MURPHY: She taught English but I never had a class with her.

FORSYTHE: Marshall Burns.

L. MURPHY: I don't know what he taught. You know Miss Burns? They lived in the dormitory, Rutledge Hall.

C. MURPHY: Did they run the dormitory?

L. MURPHY: Yeah, that is what I said, he and his wife.

FORSYTHE: Did you live in Rutledge Hall?

L. MURPHY: No, I was over in Lyon Hall.

FORSYTHE: Philip Cheek.

L. MURPHY: Dr. Cheek.

C. MURPHY: I remember him, but I don't remember a whole lot about him. That has been so long ago.

L. MURPHY: I never did have any classes with him.

FORSYTHE: George Davis.

C. MURPHY: Did you know his nickname?

FORSYTHE: No.

C. MURPHY: Humpy.

FORSYTHE: Humpy? How did he get that?

C. MURPHY: I don't know, that is just what the students called him, not to his face. They would say, "Who you got a class under?" and if it was Mr. Davis you would say "Humpy, I've got class under Humpy Davis."

L. MURPHY: Biology wasn't it?

FORSYTHE: Hum-uh.

C. MURPHY: He was a good teacher I remember that. I remember as you would go into your class, you had class Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and you would go in on Monday he would lecture on a certain subject. You would go in on Wednesday and the first thing you would do is you would take out your pencil and a piece of paper he would ask you a question on what he lectured on Monday. One question and you would have to answer that question, and get a grade on that. When you would come back to school on Friday, in his class, he would give you the answer and what you made on your test. That would go on your grade at the end of the semester or whatever we were on, quarters. Then that was your grade. He never did give you a full test, but every time you met at class he would ask you one question on the lecture he had given you the previous day in class. That was how you were graded.

FORSYTHE: It made you pay attention.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, yes sir, I enjoyed that. You didn't have to study for your exam, Humpy Davis.

L. MURPHY: You have a robe. The robe you wore for graduation, when you came here. Mr. Davis had retired hadn't he and we bought his robe. We still have that robe.

C. MURPHY: We would use it in graduation, I don't know if they still do that or not. Do they wear robes?

L. MURPHY: Oh yeah, but not the whole faculty marches like they used to. The whole faculty used to have to march. They would check the roll.

FORSYTHE: They would? What would happen if you didn't show up?

C. MURPHY: Well, you would get called in by the president. Everybody showed up, they managed to show up. Of course he was there too, the president.

FORSYTHE: J.M. Edny.

C. MURPHY: Who?

L. MURPHY: Mr. Edny, he taught biology. I had him.

C. MURPHY: I never did have him.

L. MURPHY: He was an excellent teacher. I enjoyed it. I liked biology.

C. MURPHY: He was a big tall fellow wasn't he?

L. MURPHY: Yes , a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Neal Frazier.

C. MURPHY: Yes, was he an English teacher?

FORSYTHE: Yes.

C. MURPHY: He was a good teacher. I liked him.

L. MURPHY: And a fine, fine man.

C. MURPHY: Yes he was. I think he did a little preaching on the side.

L. MURPHY: Oh yes, he spoke a lot and he may have preached some.

C. MURPHY: He taught some classes or Sunday school or something, I really like him and respected him. He was a good person.

FORSYTHE: Isalee Freeman.

C. MURPHY: She is still living.

L. MURPHY: She was at the library. She was a librarian and she was a very helpful person.

C. MURPHY: Yes, a real nice person.

L. MURPHY: A real nice person and young. She fit right in with students.

C. MURPHY: She was real pretty, I remember that.

L. MURPHY: She was a very nice person and very outgoing.

C. MURPHY: She still lives here.

L. MURPHY: Yeah, their home is right up there on Lytle .

C. MURPHY: She married a fellow that owned a furniture store, the Freeman furniture store. I used to play golf with her husband a lot, but Miss Freeman, IdaLee.....

L. MURPHY: IsaLee.

C. MURPHY: She played golf until maybe four or five years ago.

L. MURPHY: Why she still plays .

C. MURPHY: She still plays. She is real active in golf and so is her husband. I saw them not long ago. They are real nice people.

FORSYTHE: I interviewed both of them. I like them.

L. MURPHY: Oh have you, I bet you've got some nice interviews.

FORSYTHE: Oh yeah, she talks so fast I can hardly keep up.

C. MURPHY: She could talk fast. She was a cute person. I guess she was younger than I was, wouldn't you think?

L. MURPHY: I don't know but she was through college you know.

C. MURPHY: Yeah I know.

FORSYTHE: Nooby Freeman.

C. MURPHY: Oh Nooby. He was one of my major teachers. I was in industrial arts. He taught woodwork, industrial arts, mechanical drawing, and stuff like that. He had to sign my card when I would register cause that is what I was majoring in, physical education and industrial arts. He was something. We called him "Nooby." His name is Roy Ellis Freeman, I believe it is, we would call him "Nooby," coach Nooby Freeman.

L. MURPHY: Well he did coach didn't he?

C. MURPHY: He coached freshman teams and he coached the varsity. When freshman came in there they couldn't play with the varsity. They had to play freshman one year. He coached the freshman. He was a good teacher though.

FORSYTHE: How did he get that nick name?

C. MURPHY: I don't know. He had that, they said, when he came here to teach. He played ball over here too and they called him Nooby when he was a player, back a long time before I was there.

FORSYTHE: Mary Fizzell.

L. MURPHY: She was in education, early childhood, I guess all types of education. I never did have a class with her. Didn't know her .

C. MURPHY: I never did have one but I have heard of people talking about her. They thought she was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Golightly.

C. MURPHY: Golightly, taught education.

L. MURPHY: There is another one that was a character. He was a good teacher. He could be gotten off of the subject very easily of teaching and get him to talk about his life at other places. He had been in Nebraska or some place like that where it was very, very cold, Montana maybe. He would tell us stories like that. Students would get him off track and just miss the class. Of course we paid for it dearly when exams came.

FORSYTHE: So you had to cover the material whether he did or not.

L. MURPHY: Right, we paid for it dearly.

FORSYTHE: B.B. Gracy.

C. MURPHY: He lived across from our gymnasium, in fact, I, well that was after we got married wasn't it. Didn't I rent an apartment from him? We lived in back of his house for a while. Mr. Gracy taught physical education and agriculture, I believe. He was a good teacher. He didn't do any coaching or maybe he coached tennis.

L. MURPHY: I was wondering if he coached tennis.

C. MURPHY: He might have coached tennis one year but he was interested in athletics. He had a son that played on the basketball team .

L. MURPHY: And the tennis team too.

C. MURPHY: And on the tennis team. They called him B.B. the third, his son was B.B. Gracy III. He had a real nice daughter. In fact, I tried to date her two or three times but my wife, my girlfriend, wouldn't let me.

L. MURPHY: Oh, I didn't even know her then, I wasn't here.

C. MURPHY: She was a cheerleader.

L. MURPHY: She was?

C. MURPHY: First she was ahead of me in school but she probably had already left when you came here. She was a cheerleader and a real popular girl, Martha Moore.

FORSYTHE Ollie Green.

L. MURPHY: Let's see ,did she teach? . . .

FORSYTHE: Chemistry.

C. MURPHY: Who?

L. MURPHY: Ollie Green.

C. MURPHY: I never had her in class.

L. MURPHY: I don't know much about her really.

FORSYTHE: Mary Hall.

L. MURPHY: She was a character too. I never had her in class, did you?

C. MURPHY: No I knew her, but I knew she used to eat at the cafeteria a lot. I knew her from eating over there but I never did have her for class.

L. MURPHY: A very, very smart lady, very well versed in all educational fields.

FORSYTHE: Carrie Hodges, she was in home ec.

C. MURPHY: I heard of the name but I don't remember her.

FORSYTHE: Knox Hutchinson.

C. MURPHY: Knox Hutchinson. I had him for one class in agriculture and he was a good teacher, but I didn't have much to do with him because I just had that one class under him. He was real interested in athletics. I know that he would come to all the athletic events and knew all the athletes by name and stuff like that. It made a good impression to the athletes because very few of them had classes under him. Did they name a building after him over at the school?

FORSYTHE: Yes they did. Oh I don't know. I'll have to think about that a sec. I don't know for sure.

C. MURPHY: I don't know, I was thinking about that.

L. MURPHY: It could be a dorm.

C. MURPHY: No, I don't know.

FORSYTHE: I don't remember now. There is a Gracy building, that is who I was thinking of. Clayton James.

L. MURPHY: He was a nice man.

C. MURPHY: I had history under him and he was a good teacher. I thought a lot of him. He was pretty strict. You had to behave in his class but he was a good teacher. Seemed to me that he was Dean of Students at one time. A real nice person to deal with.

FORSYTHE: Horace Jones.

C. MURPHY: He was the first man I met on campus, when I came here to school. He was athletic chairman. He'd check on your grades and if your grades weren't what they should be after you had been here a certain while, you'd lose your scholarship. You had to keep your grades up. He was athletic chairman and at that time they didn't have an athletic director. They had the coach of each sport and the athletic chairman was Horace Jones. He ran the whole athletic program for several years.

L. MURPHY: He also taught math.

C. MURPHY: He taught math. He was a good math teacher. He didn't teach anything else but math.

L. MURPHY: I had a class with him.

C. MURPHY: He had two sons didn't he?

L. MURPHY: Yeah.

C. MURPHY: H.G. and Bob. But he was a real good teacher and he was related some how to P.A. Lyon, the president.

L. MURPHY: Well he married P.A. Lyon's daughter.

C. MURPHY: Is that what it was? He married P.A. Lyon's daughter.

FORSYTHE: Mr. William Judd.

C. MURPHY: I had Mr. Judd.

L. MURPHY: Was that history? Yeah, I had him. He was a sweet dear man. He was always so concerned with the students and wanted to know how they were and how they were doing, and if he could help them in any way. He was a fine, fine teacher.

C. MURPHY: He was a fine person, a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Charles Lewis.

C. MURPHY: I never had a class under him but I heard people that had and they liked him.

L. MURPHY: He was one that they would get him off on a tangent talking about his grandson.

FORSYTHE: That wouldn't be Billy would it?

L. MURPHY: Yeah that is Billy, grandson Billy. There again students would do that and miss out on what they should be learning.

C. MURPHY: I remember that.

L. MURPHY: That sticks out in my mind more than anything else about his teaching.

C. MURPHY: You have interviewed someone else about him?

FORSYTHE: Yes, a couple of people have mentioned "grandson Billy". First time I heard it, I just laughed silly.

L. MURPHY: He just never changed. He was always talking about grandson Billy.

FORSYTHE: Philip Mankin.

L. MURPHY: Another character.

C. MURPHY: What did he teach, English? I never had him.

L. MURPHY: He was a very, very, very smart man and I had him in English . I can remember him chewing gum when he was lecturing or teaching and then he would put it in his hand and roll it around a little bit then put it back in his mouth and go right ahead. He had several characteristics like that and you remember those things more than what he taught. He was a very, very smart, and I mean a brilliant man. Maybe he was so far ahead of us that it was hard to get things over to us .

FORSYTHE: Wink Midgett.

C. MURPHY: When we were in school, Wink wasn't here. He was about my age, maybe a year or two older, but he went to school at Tennessee Tech, TPI. After he finished school, he was a good friend of Q.M. Smith, and Q.M. hired him to coach down here. See, that was after I had been in school.

L. MURPHY: After you had graduated.

C. MURPHY: After I had graduated, but after I came here, Wink coached for a while. After he gave up his coaching, he hired me to take his place. We got to be good friends and played golf and did quite a bit together.

FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview with Mr. and Mrs. Murphy. Today is Thursday July 27th, 1995. O.K. you were talking about Wink Midgett.

C. MURPHY: Wink Midgett. I didn't know him until I had heard of him. He played football at Tennessee Tech. When I came to MTSU he had already graduated from Tech. When I was a student I had heard about him. When I got out of college and went to high school coaching he later on was made head coach here at MTSU in football and basketball. Then he wanted to get out of coaching and started just teaching, commercial work, typing.

L. MURPHY: Business .

C. MURPHY: Business. So they hired me as a football coach and I came on and I got to know him.

L. MURPHY: That was after the war, after he had been in service.

C. MURPHY: That was after the war. Both of us had been in service. I got to know him and played a lot of golf with him. I tried to get him to come out and coach while I was here but he wouldn't do it. He just got tired of coaching and wanted to just teach, but he was a good coach and a good teacher and a fine person. He passed away, I guess about a year ago, didn't he?

L. MURPHY: Mm-huh.

C. MURPHY: We used to tease him a lot because when I was in school we couldn't stand TPI. We had to beat them in all the sports and we would tease him about being at TPI and then coming over here and coaching, but he was a good person and had a nice family.

L. MURPHY: He was a very witty person.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, he was.

L. MURPHY: He had a lot of wit about him.

FORSYTHE: How did the rivalry with TPI begin .

C. MURPHY: Well it was just one of those things. When this school first started having football and basketball, there were just a few schools , (like Austin Peay was just a junior college then and you didn't play them) you could play Western Kentucky and Tech or TPI, Murry Kentucky. There wasn't many schools in Tennessee. The University of Tennessee wouldn't play a small school like us but that is where we got to know them, playing football and basketball against them. Wink came over here, but he was a real good football player over at Tennessee Tech. How they hired him over here I never did understand 'cause these two schools didn't get along good at all back in those days, Tech and MTSU.

L. MURPHY: Well there was just a big rivalry there.

C. MURPHY: It was a big rivalry that our school and Tech had, but Wink was a good one.

FORSYTHE: William Mebane, he taught chemistry.

C. MURPHY: I remember the name, but I can't remember much about him.

L. MURPHY: I never did have a class with him.

FORSYTHE: Katherine Monohan.

C. MURPHY: Had social science and some other course. She was a good teacher, a real hard teacher, and you had to behave yourself in class. You couldn't talk. She would call you down and send you out of the room and make you stand in the corner, one of those kind of teachers. If you got caught the second time she would make you go stand in the corner. She was one of those kind of teachers, but everybody just loved her. She didn't want to hurt anybody at all. She was such a nice person. They teased her a lot and she teased us a lot.

FORSYTHE: Myrtle Agnes Nelson, she was in home ec.

C. MURPHY: I heard the name but I never did know her.

FORSYTHE: Anne Ordway.

L. MURPHY: She was a good teacher. I had her in class. An excellent teacher and a pretty lady, just a very, very attractive woman. A good teacher.

C. MURPHY: I just heard she was a real good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Tommie Reynolds.

L. MURPHY: She probably taught math, didn't she?

C. MURPHY: No, she might have taught math but she taught physical education too. She was a good physical education teacher. Mostly she had classes with girls. Back in those days you didn't have many classes in the gym, girls and boys. She was handling the girls part of physical education. She was a good teacher I understand.

FORSYTHE: Hester Rodgers, she taught art.

L. MURPHY: I had her for class. She was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: What kinds of things did you have to do in her class?

L. MURPHY: Well, it has been so long I have probably forgotten. I remember the first thing we had to do. We were given a sheet of paper and we just had to draw a scene. It was the first time I learned to make a horizon and learned how to draw a line to make a horizon. It was pretty juvenile, what you come up with. You are told to draw a picture and you just don't know where to begin. A scene is what she wanted, but she was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Ruby Taylor Sanders.

L. MURPHY: She was in music, I never had any music under her.

FORSYTHE: How about E. Mae Saunders?

L. MURPHY: She was music too, fine arts. I never had any of her teaching .

C. MURPHY: What was her nickname? She had a nic name. I can't remember what it was when she went to college.

L. MURPHY: E. Mae? I think they called her that, is that what you have down?

FORSYTHE: Yes.

L. MURPHY: She was very talented.

FORSYTHE: Elizabeth Stark, foreign languages .

L. MURPHY: I never had a class under her.

FORSYTHE: Roy Simpson.

L. MURPHY: He was over the Campus School. He was over there a long time.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Sims.

C. MURPHY: He was a pretty tough history teacher. I'll tell you that. You would behave in his class, I know that.

L. MURPHY: He was a very good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Laura Oldham.

C. MURPHY: She was the hostess of Jones Hall.

FORSYTHE: Did you live in Jones Hall?

C. MURPHY: Mm-huh, she was the hostess one year when I lived in Jones Hall.

L. MURPHY: She also assisted in the cafeteria. She would come over and she would stand out in the middle of the cafeteria and tell the boys to go over here and eat and tell the girls to go over to this side and eat. I don't remember the boys and girls sitting together at all, do you?

C. MURPHY: No.

L. MURPHY: We didn't question it. We just did what she said. She pointed for the girls to go over on the left and the boys over on the right. That is all I remember about her, a very nice looking lady. She had a son in school and she was over Jones Hall. Greenfield was her son's name.

FORSYTHE: Any classes where the girls and boys had to sit apart?

L. MURPHY: Oh, no. That is just one thing that I remember about her. That may not have happened all the time.

FORSYTHE: T.B. Woodmore, Business Manager.

C. MURPHY: Yes, he was in charge of all the money put into the school for scholarships , you know, athletes and non-athletes. He ran the bookstore too so that is sort of the way I knew him. He was in charge of the bookstore.

L. MURPHY: We paid our registration fees there.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, we paid our registration fees at the bookstore.

L. MURPHY: And wasn't the post office.....

C. MURPHY: Yeah, the post office was in with the bookstore, Mrs. Murphy, down there in the basement of Old Main.

FORSYTHE: So they were all in one room ,the post office and bookstore?

L. MURPHY: As well as I remember.

C. MURPHY: One part of Old Main, down on the lower floor, they had the post office and bookstore all together. I guess like they do now, every student had a post office.

FORSYTHE: Bonnie McHenry.

C. MURPHY: She was the secretary to the president.

L. MURPHY: She liked all the boys who played sports. I remember she was interested in them.

C. MURPHY: Was she related to Roxie?

L. MURPHY: No, she was related to Jack.

FORSYTHE: C.W. Daniels, the night watchman.

C. MURPHY: Do you know what his nickname was?

FORSYTHE: No.

C. MURPHY: No, "Dashing Dan." We had one night watchman back when we went to school. If you wanted to see your girlfriend you had to see her at the cafeteria when you was eating your meal. Then you would walk her home to her dormitory. You had to get her in by before dark so you would always see him if you were a little late getting her in. He'd be looking for you.

L. MURPHY: You all got even with him. The boys did with the whistles.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, we all got referee whistles and got on different parts of the campus and blow the whistle. He would dash over there. Somebody on the other side would blow the whistle and he would dash over to the other side. He got the name of "Dashing Dan."

L. MURPHY: He had a little flashlight that he carried around. He would come around and light the entrance to the library where maybe you would be standing around talking. He would come around there with that flashlight and flash on you and say, "All right, move on."

C. MURPHY: A boy would try to get his girl in the doorway to hug on her a little bit. He would flash that light and make you move. Dashing Dan was what we called him.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about the dorms. Let's start with Jones Hall. Tell me about living in the dorms .

C. MURPHY: All right. I lived in Jones Hall. We didn't have any blacks in the school then at all. You had a roommate. You could pick your roommate and sometimes if you didn't have a roommate they would put you in with somebody. Mr. Nooby Freeman was in charge of the dormitory when I was in school and he was strict about that. He would check your room at least twice a week. If your room wasn't cleaned up properly and your bed wasn't made up, you'd get called in to see him. He would give you a little extra work to do, but he made you keep that dormitory clean. Later on, they put in a rule that you had to have the lights out at a certain time. They did that when I was in school. They set it at eleven o'clock, except during the season if you were a football player, you had to be in your room at 9 o'clock. He was one of the coaches and he would check. He would check for the basketball coach too. Nooby ran that dormitory just like you would want it if your kid was in school. You would want them to be under somebody like that. He was real strict. You had to clean up your room and you had to dress properly and you had to do everything. He was just like a second father to you. He was a real good person. We thought a lot of him. We called him Coach Nooby.

FORSYTHE: Did you have a roommate?

C. MURPHY: I had a roommate I had two years. I had a boy named Robert Seay and he got married and moved out. He was married and couldn't bring his wife in with us, so he moved out. He was my roommate for three years then James Kenner my last year. He was a sophomore in school and I knew his brother real well so I roomed with James Kenner, three years. I was Robert Seay's roommate and my last year was James Kenner. Most every boy in Jones Hall had a roommate that stayed with him three or four years.

FORSYTHE: What about Lyon Hall?

L. MURPHY: Well my sister and I were up on the third floor. That was the room that was available when my daddy brought us down here. We had a real nice time. We had to have the lights out at I believe it was 10:00. If you weren't finished with your studying ,you would go out in the hall and sit down and finish out there. But the light had to be out at 10:00. You couldn't pop popcorn, occasionally somebody would. Miss Mitchell, who was the matron, would smell it and she would come up and usually find out who it was ,and they had to go down and talk to her. We had little get together' s on people's birthdays. There was kangaroo court. You had to appear in kangaroo court if you got a notice to appear, which was kind of an initiation thing. Of course, that was O.K. It went off all right as long as you were a good sport. We would go down and someone would play the piano, we would sing around the piano. We would have dates in the dorm on Sunday nights.

C. MURPHY: Till 9:00, the boys had to leave at n9:00.

L. MURPHY: We could sit in the parlor and have dates till 9:00. What night was it we could go to the show?

C. MURPHY: Friday, you could take your girl to the show and you had to have them in at a certain time. They had a bus.

L. MURPHY: Oh, I don't remember a bus.

C. MURPHY: The city had a bus that would come right there in front on Tennessee Blvd. every hour, and you would ride that bus to town.

L. MURPHY: The only way we got to town was we would hitch-hike or walk. The people in Murfreesboro were very kind. If they were out that way and were going to town they would stop and ask a student if they wanted a ride.

C. MURPHY: There wasn't any cars on the campus back then. I bet there wasn't five students who had cars.

L. MURPHY: There weren't more than that many teachers who had cars.

C. MURPHY: A lot of the teachers. I had a car two years, me and another boy. We bought a car for fourteen or fifteen dollars, painted it blue and white and called it little Audry.

L. MURPHY: It was a T-model Ford wasn't it?

C. MURPHY: It was a T-model Ford.

L. MURPHY: Didn't have a top on it.

C. MURPHY: We would ride to town and pick people up and bring them home.

L. MURPHY: Of course, girls weren't supposed to be in the car with the boys unless it was just to go to the show and come back. Of course you could get a cab for ten cents at the time out to the dormitory. Whenever my sister and I would go home on the weekends we would ride the train to Tullahoma and then come back and catch a cab back to the dormitory for ten cents.

C. MURPHY: One day I went to the car, my old T-model, and I couldn't find it. Somebody said, "what are you looking for." I said, "I am looking for the car," and it was over on Old Main. Some of the boys had gotten together and rode it over between those big old pillars on Old Main, right in front of administration, up on the porch. We went over there and got it and the president raised Cain with us. He thought we had put it up there. We had a hard time getting that thing down.

FORSYTHE: What other kind of pranks did people pull?

C. MURPHY: Lots of things. Didn't anybody have a car, you walked just about every place you went. You took your girl home, if you had a girl, over to the dormitory after you got through eating. You had to march her right over there.

FORSYTHE: I forgot to ask you about Johnny Floyd.

C. MURPHY: He was a coach, a real good football coach and a fine person. He was from Shelbyville, Tennessee.

L. MURPHY: He lived in Shelbyville and just drove over here.

C. MURPHY: While he was coaching he never did live here. He drove back and forth to work. He was a good person. He went to school over here too and then he went to Vanderbilt. He was a good coach. He coached when I was here. He coached football, basketball, and baseball.

FORSYTHE: Todd Jackson.

C. MURPHY: Now he played here. He was a senior when I was a junior but he played when I was over here. Then he came back and coached a little bit later on. He was a good one. I think he was a local boy. Was he from Murfreesboro?

FORSYTHE: It doesn't say, it just says he was assistant coach.

C. MURPHY: He was assistant coach and he was a student here first, but I believe he was a Murfreesboro boy. He passed away several years ago.

FORSYTHE: What sports did you play.

C. MURPHY: Football, baseball, basketball, tennis. I played four sports.

FORSYTHE: Which was your favorite?

C. MURPHY: I think I liked baseball better than any of them. I liked football and basketball too, but I think I really liked baseball better. After I finished college I played two or three years of professional baseball.

L. MURPHY: Tell about signing up for baseball.

C. MURPHY: Back in those days a college boy, in his last year, they might sign with big league baseball and get a big bonus. Back in those days you didn't get a big bonus ,you just signed a contract. I think I got \$100.00. I thought I was going to get a big bonus because I had played pretty good over here at the school in baseball. We had a another player on the team named Hamblen who signed the same time for the New York Giants, signed in front of the old science building. The science building was right there by the baseball diamond. We had a big water plug there that they watered the field with. In the picture they had us both leaning on that old water plug there signing the baseball contract. I think we got \$100.00 a piece which was pretty good then, but it wasn't what they get now.

FORSYTHE: That is what you did after you graduated?

C. MURPHY: Well I would teach and coach until March and then I would get off in March and go play baseball. I took a leave of absence from school. I was at Goodlettsville High School. The principal didn't like it to well. I would get out of teaching, maybe a month, and go and play professional baseball in the summer. Then I would come back in time to coach football. See I coached in high school about four years before I came up here .

L. MURPHY: Four years before four years in the service.

C. MURPHY: Then I had four years in the service too.

FORSYTHE: Why did you come back to MTSU to work?

C. MURPHY: Well I was, after I got out of school here, I got a job at Goodlettsville teaching. Then I went into the service and went on in the service.

L. MURPHY: You went back and got your masters at Peabody?

C. MURPHY: No, that was after I had been in the service. I had been in the service and after I had been in the service, I didn't have my masters so I decided to go back to Peabody and get my masters. While I was in college, there was Peabody College and right beside it was Peabody Demonstration School. It was a high

school so I got a job there as a coach while I was working on my master's. I was there just one year. While I was there, they offered me a job to come to MTSU as a football coach and athletic director. What year was that?

L. MURPHY: '47.

C. MURPHY: I can't remember a lot of things.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember your job interview?

C. MURPHY: Yes, I had a pretty good year at Peabody, coaching down there. They still have a Peabody Demonstration School .

L. MURPHY: They call it "University School."

C. MURPHY: But what it was, was a school there at Peabody where a boy had finished high school, and maybe hadn't graduated, he might go to Peabody to finish out and play football. They had good athletic teams and I had a pretty good record. I was just there one year but I enjoyed it. I had a call from the president here of the university and told me to come up here and he would interview me. That was Q.M. Smith. I just took it and came on up here.

L. MURPHY: We both were thrilled to come back to Murfreesboro because we were crazy about the town and the school and people. We were very, very pleased with it.

C. MURPHY: The school wasn't as large then as it is now, I will tell you that. It wasn't large at all. We just had one cafeteria then, the old cafeteria. They still just had the same number of dormitories, didn't they?

L. MURPHY: Oh no, they have got a lot of new ones, high rise.

FORSYTHE: They all look the same to me. I can't figure out where I am if I am in there.

L. MURPHY: Yeah, High Rise East and High Rise West

FORSYTHE: And then those, looks like apartment buildings back in there .

C. MURPHY: The place had grown hasn't it?

FORSYTHE: Yes is has, it has grown since I was in there.

L. MURPHY: Are you a senior this year?

FORSYTHE: No I graduated in '93.

L. MURPHY: Oh you did? Well good.

FORSYTHE: I am going to stop this because it is close to the end and I don't want to miss a good story again.