

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
CHARLES AND LEONA MURPHY

27 JULY 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.043

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
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Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

INTERVIEW #QMS.043

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith collection designated as QMS.1995.43. I want to ask you about the presidents. Let's start with P. A. Lyon. What do you remember about him?

C. MURPHY: He was the president when I was in school.

L. MURPHY: He was the president when I was there too.

Cr. MURPHY: He was a good president. You didn't know him like you do the president now. They don't get around as much, they didn't then. Of course, the school was so small there was only one cafeteria. I know that there was one cafeteria and about three girls dormitories and one boy's dormitory.

L. MURPHY: Two girls' dormitories.

C. MURPHY: Two girls' dormitories, Rutledge and Lyon; and one boys' dormitory, Jones Hall. The school was real small then, no cars like I said a while ago. Three or four students had cars and a very few faculty had cars. You didn't see them parked all over the campus. In fact, you didn't have the roads like you do now.

L. MURPHY: That was not a problem.

C. MURPHY: It wasn't a problem parking at all. The school was so much smaller. Everybody knew everybody. If you were on the campus, somebody knew your name because the school was so small. Everybody ate at the same place, the cafeteria, and that is where you got to know people when you would eat your meals in the cafeteria. The faculty was real small and you knew all the faculty members pretty well. It was a nice place to go to school. I'd say the majority of our students, well all of them, were from middle Tennessee, just about. We didn't have many out-of-state students. We got a lot from Rutherford County and Davidson County, a lot from Lebanon, and a lot of students from Shelbyville, and Tullahoma. It was mostly middle Tennessee students when I was in school. Very few out-of-state students when I was coaching there. You didn't get out-of-state athletes very much because you had to pay so much more. If you gave a boy from Shelbyville a scholarship you didn't have to pay out-of-state tuition. If you gave a boy from Kentucky, or somewhere out-of-state, you had to pay quite a bit more money. You didn't have the money in your budget, so you did not go outside the state to try and recruit athletes back in those days. We had some out-of-state students at school but they were very few. Most of them were from middle Tennessee. A lot

of them hitchhiked to school, you know, and lived in the dormitory; but it was a good school, nice faculty members.

L. MURPHY: But you didn't see much of P.A. Lyon. Really I don't remember seeing him except maybe at chapel.

C. MURPHY: You would see him at chapel. They would have chapel about once a...

L. MURPHY: Didn't they have chapel everyday?

C. MURPHY: No, I think it was twice a week. That is the only time you would see him.

L. MURPHY: Then the whole enrollment of school would get in one auditorium at one time. It isn't still there in the business administration building.

C. MURPHY: He would call a chapel meeting, when did they meet? Was it once a week?

L. MURPHY: I don't know, seems to me it was three times a week.

C. MURPHY: Might have two or three times a week and P.A. Lyon would be in charge of that. He had some sort of a program.

L. MURPHY: And you had to go!

C. MURPHY: You had to be there. You had a certain seat to sit in, didn't you, and if you weren't there you got called on the carpet.

FORSYTHE: What did he say to you?

C. MURPHY: I don't remember.

L. MURPHY: I don't think I ever got in trouble.

C. MURPHY: Our coach told us we had to go to chapel when C. Lyon called a meeting. He said, "You ought to be over there."

FORSYTHE: I just remembered something. I talked to a man who said in 1939 he came there and they brought a trailer, do you remember that? He brought a trailer from Monteagle up here and parked it behind Jones Hall.

L. MURPHY: Behind Jones Hall and he lived in that.

FORSYTHE: Him and two of his buddies.

L. MURPHY: And that was a student?

FORSYTHE: Um-huh.

C. MURPHY: I don't remember that

L. MURPHY: I wasn't here in '35.

C. MURPHY: I am sure that happened.

L. MURPHY: Well that was pretty much wilderness back in there, or was it a farm at that time?

C. MURPHY: It was a farm.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Q.M. Smith?

C. MURPHY: Well, I thought a lot of Q.M. I played golf with him some and we got along pretty good playing golf. He was quiet. He didn't talk a whole lot.

L. MURPHY: He had a speech impediment.

C. MURPHY: His wife was.....

L. MURPHY: Laura Smith.

C. MURPHY: She was real nice.

L. MURPHY: They were good sports. He was interested in all the sports.

C. MURPHY: Yes, he was interested in all the sports.

L. MURPHY: And then when we went down and played in the Tangerine Bowl, I know the first year they were down there.

C. MURPHY: Yeah.

L. MURPHY: Then he went up to Louisville when we were in a tournament in basketball.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, he followed athletics real well. His wife was real sweet too. They had two children. They were nice people, really were.

FORSYTHE: Let me think, you stopped too early. What about Dr. Cope?

C. MURPHY: I remember him. He was a pretty tough one, but he was a good one. His wife lived right back of us.

L. MURPHY: Right next door.

C. MURPHY: He liked athletics. He was a little bit like Q.M. Smith. He was a staunch believer in doing what's right. You had to do right. I don't care if you were an athlete or a musician, you had to act right and he was real strict about that. He was tight. You couldn't overspend your budget. I did that a couple of times and I got called in about it, like I do here at the house sometimes. He was tight on his money. Of course he didn't have very much money. They didn't have all the students that they have now.

L. MURPHY: He had to work so hard to get it. Go out and talk to the legislators.

C. MURPHY: He was a good politician too. He really liked athletics and he liked the school and everything about it.

L. MURPHY: He was an excellent president.

C. MURPHY: His wife is real nice too. She goes to bed every night at what time?

L. MURPHY: Well, now... . early.

C. MURPHY: She goes to bed early and she is up early. She comes around and takes a little walk in the morning. I don't think she walks very far.

L. MURPHY: Well she walks about a mile every morning.

C. MURPHY: But she puts our paper up on the porch out front. She said, "I was out walking so I just put your paper up on the porch." I think she puts somebody's paper up too. At night she goes to bed early before her paper gets here and I put her paper on the porch for her. But she goes to bed so early. She goes to bed right at dark, doesn't she?

L. MURPHY: I imagine she is asleep by 8 o'clock. The early bird gets the worm.

C. MURPHY: She is a good neighbor though.

FORSYTHE: What about Dr. Scarlett?

C. MURPHY: Well he was all right. I didn't get along with him quite as well as I did the other presidents. Well we got along, but our thoughts were a little bit different on the athletics. He liked athletics but he didn't want to give me any money, enough money to run the program that I would have liked to have had. Other than that, we got along pretty well. He was a smart man. Had a nice family. His wife was real nice. Other than that, I had a few arguments with him on the budget and things like that; but I do that at the house too, with my wife, over the budget, used to, didn't I?

L. MURPHY: I don't remember any arguments about it.

FORSYTHE: I have some more names to ask you about when you were a faculty member. Joe Little.

C. MURPHY: Well Joe, he wasn't actually on the faculty. Joe ran the farm., they had a farm here on the campus. His house had been torn down. He lived in a home right there, he and his wife and his children.

L. MURPHY: A boy and a girl.

C. MURPHY: He was in charge of the farm. He did the milking, and he had some of the students help him milk and stuff like that. He was in charge of the whole farm. I heard that he had played football at UT, and I remembered the name. My first year here I saw him looking over the fence. His fence separated the football practice field from his farm. He would come down and look over the fence and I knew he liked athletics. I went over and talked to him one day and introduced myself. I said, "Why don't you come over and help me coach football?" He said, "Well go talk to the president and see if he will let me do that." I talked to the president and he O.K.'d him helping me. He wouldn't help me in the morning. He would get off of his farm about three o'clock and practice football, but he coached for me I guess about three or four years. He was an excellent coach, but he got a job. He is from Sparta, so he got a job and he went back to Sparta and worked there.

L. MURPHY: Went into business.

C. MURPHY: But he was a good coach and a good person.

FORSYTHE: Durwood Stowe.

C. MURPHY: He was on the faculty when I came here, teaching health. He was in the health department. He helped me in football and he was also the head baseball coach. He was a good coach. He didn't stay here but about three or four years. Then he left and got a job at Clarksville, I think in high school, coaching in high school, but he was only here three or four years.

FORSYTHE: Elbert Patty.

C. MURPHY: He came here to coach before I did. He came here as a golf coach.

L. MURPHY: Right at first?

C. MURPHY: Yeah. He came here under Wink Midgett. Wink Midgett was the head football coach, and he brought Elbert Petty in to help him coach football.

L. MURPHY: That is what I thought. He was assistant football coach.

C. MURPHY: He was assistant football coach and he coached golf. Yeah, we had golf.

L. MURPHY: I know when you came they had it, but did they have golf when we were in college?

C. MURPHY: Yeah they had golf.

L. MURPHY: Well no, Patty wouldn't have been there when we were in college.

C. MURPHY: Patty, I think, was the first golf coach we had.

L. MURPHY: Yeah.

C. MURPHY: He helped me several years.

L. MURPHY: He was the end coach in football.

C. MURPHY: And he left here and.., where did he go?

L. MURPHY: He went to Indiana.

C. MURPHY: He left here and went off to school to get his doctorate degree in physical education, then he came back here but he didn't get back into coaching.

L. MURPHY: Yes he did, he came back and coached the golf team.

C. MURPHY: But he didn't coach football when he came back down here.

L. MURPHY: He was there a number of years. You would have to ask his wife. His wife lives here.

FORSYTHE: Betty Littlefield.

L. MURPHY: Betty was the swimming coach.

C. MURPHY: She was the swimming coach and taught swimming.

FORSYTHE: Buleah Davis

C. MURPHY: She put physical education all together, no coaching, ladies physical education. She taught classes with me in it, dance classes, folk dances and things like that, but Buleah retired several years ago.

L. MURPHY: She retired after you did, ten or twelve years ago.

C. MURPHY: She still lives in Murfreesboro.

FORSYTHE: Joe Black Hayes.

C. MURPHY: Joe lives in town here. He is retired, he got into politics after teaching.

L. MURPHY: He was at Cumberland University as an assistant football coach.

C. MURPHY: He helped me, I guess, ten or twelve years.

L. MURPHY: Oh it was longer than that. Then he retired and started just teaching.

C. MURPHY: Now he is retired all together. He got in politics. What was he, a magistrate? I know he was in politics for a while as a magistrate or something like that. He is still pretty active in community affairs. His wife died about three or four years ago didn't she? Now he is remarried, but he is still pretty active in politics.

L. MURPHY: What did he coach, the line?

C. MURPHY: He coached the line in football and he coached the wrestling team. He also coached track one year or two.

FORSYTHE: Charles Greer

C. MURPHY: He played football here when I did and a little after I did. I finished before he did and I brought him back here as a basketball coach and assistant coach in football. He coached several years when I got there.

L. MURPHY: He coached until he left to be a book salesman. What all did he do here?

C. MURPHY: He coached football, basketball.

FORSYTHE: What about Bill Jones.

C. MURPHY: I hired him here. He taught history. He was in the History Department and he coached football. He didn't coach any other sport. He stayed on here, then he left and got another job at a university in Oklahoma.

L. MURPHY: He had been a college president since then.

C. MURPHY: He was the president at Memphis State for a while. He got to writing books and things like that and making speeches. He was real smart. I think he has moved back to Oklahoma.

L. MURPHY: Texas I believe.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Francis Riel

C. MURPHY: Fran coached just one year in football and he was put in charge of the Physical Education Department. He coached baseball one or two years, but he gave up coaching football and any other sport, just works with the physical education department. Of course he is retired now. He lives out of Cookville. His wife died and he lives out in Cookville. I believe he remarried, didn't he?

FORSYTHE: L. Ethel Preston Trice

L. MURPHY: She was a teacher in physical education.

C. MURPHY: I didn't know her too well.

L. MURPHY: I had a class under her, a real good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Kenneth Ship.

C. MURPHY: He was a student over here and played a little football when I was coaching. Then he went off somewhere and worked and came back and helped me coach football as assistant coach one year. He left here and went into pro football and stayed in for years and years. He didn't come back here to school. He lives in town now. His mother ran Ship's cafe, do you remember Ship's Cafe up on the square?

L. MURPHY: That was probably before her time.

FORSYTHE: Yeah, I have only been in this town three years.

C. MURPHY: His mother ran Ship's Cafe which was a real popular eating place on the square down there. He still lives here. He owns a couple of buildings here in town. One of them has a liquor store and one that has a rental place down here on the corner.

L. MURPHY: Ryder.

C. MURPHY: A Ryder storage place, but he is still in town.

FORSYTHE: Jimmy Jackson

C. MURPHY: He played ball over at the school, not when I did. He played basketball, football and baseball. He ended up working in the business office. C. Woodmore hired him and after C. Woodmore Jimmy Jackson ran the business office for years and years and years. He still lives in Murfreesboro, but he has retired.

L. MURPHY: A real fine person.

FORSYTHE: Lou Aaron.

C. MURPHY: Where did you get that name from?

FORSYTHE: I got them out of the catalog and yearbooks. I worked hard to find all their names.

L. MURPHY: I bet you did.

FORSYTHE: A lot of the coaches I had to get out of the back of the annuals. They weren't listed in the catalogs at all.

L. MURPHY: Well they certainly should have been.

FORSYTHE: Yeah, I think so too. It would have helped me out anyway.

C. MURPHY: Lou Aaron, the way I met him, I lived in Nashville and right across the street two doors from me was Lou Aaron's mother and daddy. I met Lou Aaron when I was just growing up as a kid. He was about eight or ten years younger than I was, maybe younger than that. So, I knew him all during high school and we would go in the parks and play together when I was a kid. I was older then he was and when I got a job up here he wanted me to make him some sort of manager or something; so he was my manager of football a couple of years. He lived in the dormitory and did a lot of work like the managers do in football and baseball. We got to be real good buddies but I really knew him from being in Nashville, living next door to him. That is where I met him. After I came up here he just followed me around and I gave him two or three different jobs. I don't know where he is now, do you?

L. MURPHY: Oh, he is dead.

C. MURPHY: He died?

L. MURPHY: He died with a malignancy.

FORSYTHE: Ed Diddle.

C. MURPHY: I met him when his daddy coached at Western Kentucky. His daddy was named Ed too and Ed, Sr. was a good coach there. Ed, Jr., we hired him as our basketball coach, the president did, I didn't have anything to do with it. He was our basketball coach over here. I don't know what year, you don't have the year do you?

FORSYTHE: No I don't have the year.

C. MURPHY: He was the basketball coach about five years. He was hired by the president and he did a good job; but he left here and took some other job. I don't know where he is now. I don't see him very much anymore. He was the head basketball coach here for at least five years.

FORSYTHE: William Malcolm Stokes.

C. MURPHY: Well he was assistant basketball coach under...

L. MURPHY: Ed Diddle wasn't it?

C. MURPHY: Under Ed Diddle I believe. I think he was under Ed Diddle and then he ended up as head coach. Didn't he end up as head coach over here? When Eddy left he was head coach. He stayed a little while, then he left and I don't know where he is now.

FORSYTHE: Harry Wagner.

C. MURPHY: Well Harry didn't have anything to do with athletics. He liked athletics and went to school here as a student. He graduated and they hired him in the Education Department. He stayed on in the Education Department for years and years but he was mainly interested in athletics. I would see him at all the athletic events, basketball and football. Finally he was made Dean of Students; but now he is not over here anymore. He left here. He is not old enough to have retired; I don't believe he left here and took another job.

FORSYTHE: Eugene Sloan.

C. MURPHY: Back in the old days before they had athletic directors a lot of schools had what they called athletic chairmen. When I came here we didn't have an athletic director. I was made the athletic director, but C. Sloan was what they called athletic chairman. It was a go-between a coach of a sport and the president of the university. He was in charge of our budgets as athletic chairman. He also was in charge of the office that put out "Sidelines", that came through his office. He was also in charge of the "Midlander", the annual that came out, that came through his office. He did that for years and years. Then when I got in they made me athletic director and football coach; so Gene stayed on as athletic chairmen. But he passed away, too.

FORSYTHE: No he is still living. I interviewed him yesterday.

L. MURPHY: I bet you that was a good one.

C. MURPHY: Did he have his leg amputated?

FORSYTHE: Both legs.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, that is what I was thinking.

FORSYTHE: Yes, he is in a wheelchair.

C. MURPHY: You interviewed him yesterday?

FORSYTHE: Yes I did, he is very alert. He was a very good interview.

C. MURPHY: He is a nice person. I ought to go see him. Where is he, in the nursing home?

FORSYTHE: No, he is at home on Richard Rd. 402 Richard, yeah you ought to go see him.

C. MURPHY: I haven't seen him in ages. Is his wife...

FORSYTHE: Lillian, yes, she uses a walker.

L. MURPHY: Oh does she? They live next door to their son.

FORSYTHE: I didn't know that.

L. MURPHY: That was his purpose in moving there, so he could help them out.

FORSYTHE: You ought to go visit him. I know he would like the company. He was eager to talk to me. I called to reschedule him for next week and he wanted to do it today.

L. MURPHY: He is a very smart man.

FORSYTHE: Joe Nunley

L. MURPHY: Joe Nunley was another good one. He loved this school.

C. MURPHY: [coughs] Excuse me, I have got a little cough. I believe we got a book about him.

FORSYTHE: I forget what it is called, but I know what you are talking about.

C. MURPHY: He was real active in school. Joe loved the school. He was an old McMinnville boy. He played baseball. He didn't play football, I don't think. He really kept up with what was going on at the school and he just about ran the athletic department, the publicity thing. He wrote a book.

L. MURPHY: Wasn't he in charge of the alumni program?

C. MURPHY: He was the one that kept the alumni going. He would meet with them every so often, I would go with him on several trips. He was real active in that.

L. MURPHY: He talked at banquets.

C. MURPHY: He went a lot with the president on trips and things like that. He helped organize alumni groups outside of Murfreesboro in Nashville, and Lebanon, and different places. I used to go on some of his trips. I think he wrote two books, but I am not sure. I thought this is one, but this is Homer Pittard's.

FORSYTHE: That is the "First Fifty Years" but it is a very interesting book.

C. MURPHY: Did you read that?

FORSYTHE: Yes I did, and I read Joe Nunley's book too. You were only mentioned on one page, I was really disappointed. I read it to get ready for you and I read the whole thing for one page; but it was an interesting book. I am glad I read it. I wasn't expecting that good of a book actually, maybe I shouldn't say that on tape.

C. MURPHY: We have got that thing around here somewhere.

FORSYTHE: Dean Hayes.

C. MURPHY: He was from Illinois somewhere. He was hired by the president as a track coach and he taught in the Health Department. I believe he is still over there. He handles track and he teaches classes. He has been real outstanding in track.

L. MURPHY: He teaches in the Physical Education Department.

C. MURPHY: He had been well known around the south in track, coaching track. He is well known for that, making speeches on track and field.

L. MURPHY: Didn't he have a team that was in the Olympics?

C. MURPHY: Some of the members of his teams made the Olympics. He is pretty active still over there in field and track and teaching track and teaching health. He is still over there at the university.

FORSYTHE: Donald Joseph Lear.

C. MURPHY: He came for just a short while. He was the assistant coach in football and he taught in the Physical Education Department. He left here after being here three or four years. He went to Memphis, South Western College, but I don't think he is there anymore. He might be retired now, I don't know.

FORSYTHE: Kenneth Trickey.

C. MURPHY: Kenneth was a basketball coach. He played here then he was a basketball coach for years in Oklahoma.

L. MURPHY: Yeah, after he left here.

C. MURPHY: He left there and he is in athletics somewhere in Oklahoma handling kids athletics or something like that, like a city athletic program -playgrounds and things like that.

FORSYTHE: Roxie McHenry.

C. MURPHY: She passed away about two or three weeks ago. She was athletic secretary over there, my secretary, I hired her. She must have been my secretary for twelve or fourteen years. She died about six or seven weeks ago. She had to retire about two or three months ago. She just got so sick she couldn't come to the office. She was such a lovely person. She cared so much about the program and the coaches. She just knew every one of the coaches and their wives and children. She kept up with all of that, she and her husband too. She lived at home with her husband. You would see them at all athletic events, football, basketball and baseball. She knew all the players, girls and boys.

L. MURPHY: Well if there was anything you needed to find out about athletics and ballplayers, she knew how to put her finger on everything.

C. MURPHY: She kept a record of that you know, eligibility of a player, how long he played, when he started to school, and where he was from. She had all that material.

L. MURPHY: She never hesitated to help everybody.

FORSYTHE: Who else was your secretary?

L. MURPHY: Let's see you had Dotty McFinney for a few years before Roxie, then also Blond Sweeny, Terry Sweeny's wife.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Dotty McFinney.

C. MURPHY: Dotty was secretary over there for our department for about four or five years or maybe longer. Then she got another job somewhere, Dean Keathley, Dean of Students, she got to be his secretary. She got sick and had to retire from that; but let's see who all did I have. Blonde Sweeny, she was way back a long time ago when my office was in the Alumni gym.

L. MURPHY: Was Francis Jackson a secretary?

C. MURPHY: Francis Jackson was my first secretary.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Ed Voorhies

C. MURPHY: He was in charge of building and grounds, all around the campus.

L. MURPHY: He came in the Industrial Arts Department.

C. MURPHY: He left and then came back.

L. MURPHY: Went to Huntsville and then came back. What was his title after that?

FORSYTHE: Chairman of the Basic Arts and Sciences - Industrial Studies.

C. MURPHY: They got a building over there named for him. I know that.

FORSYTHE: I have interviewed him a couple of times and he told me he was the first person to film the games.

L. MURPHY: Was he? Did you know that?

C. MURPHY: Yeah, he filmed our football games.

FORSYTHE: He told a story about during a Chattanooga game where he had the wrong lens on the camera so we weren't able to use that film.

C. MURPHY: Oh you interviewed Eddy?

FORSYTHE: Yes and I am going to interview him some more. What happened to those old films, where are they?

C. MURPHY: I had them stored over at the university down in the basement, they used to have a storage room. When I left they just put them back over there. I do not know if they are still there or not - the football films and some of the basketball films. Mostly I kept up with football films. We had them there and we got a label on each roll, what year and who we was playing, all of that.

L. MURPHY: Is that in the new gym in Murphy Center?

C. MURPHY: Yeah. Down in the basement there.

L. MURPHY: Those way back before then, where are they?

C. MURPHY: We brought those on over when we moved from the alumni gym over to Murphy Center. I just moved all the films over there. They should be over in the basement over in Murphy center.

FORSYTHE: Jack Deere.

C. MURPHY: He played football. The first year I coached here he was one of the players. Then he graduated and came back here as a coach and helped me coach two or three years. He passed away several years ago. He was a good football coach, never was a head coach here, but he was an assistant coach to me. He coached baseball a couple of years. He was a good coach and a good person, good player.

FORSYTHE: Francis Reynolds.

C. MURPHY: He was a player, we called him "Hots." He was a player from Gallatin High School, made quarterback here and was a good player. I can't remember what years he played.

L. MURPHY: It would have been in the fifties.

C. MURPHY: 50, '51, '52, along in there. He was from Gallatin High School.

FORSYTHE: Ed. Baldwin.

L. MURPHY: We lived next door to them at the old Moffett house.

FORSYTHE: I am glad you said that. I want to talk to you about the Moffett house too.

C. MURPHY: Who was he now?

L. MURPHY: Irene and Ed, he taught geography.

C. MURPHY: He lived at the old Moffett house when we first met him. We lived there too. Had a son named Ed, Jr. His wife is still living around here. Ed died didn't he? She plays bridge with my wife some, doesn't she?

L. MURPHY: Not any more, she has an eye problem.

C. MURPHY: Ed he was interested in. . . C. Baldwin, Dr. Baldwin, as we called him, he was interested in athletics. Our athletic chairman, chairman of the athletic committee, had helped us with money and stuff like that. He would call a meeting and he had seven or eight faculty members on the athletic committee. He was a big help to in the Athletic Department for us when he was living.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about living in the Moffett house

L. MURPHY: We had two children and we decided to sell the first house we had down on Bell street. We moved up to the Moffett house, after we sold that one.

C. MURPHY: The school owned that.

L. MURPHY: It is an old building. It has been down now but it wasn't then, it was pretty. The walls and the floors and the heating system needed a whole lot done to it. We survived it for several years. We were only there three years.

C. MURPHY: Were we there that long?

L. MURPHY: We had our third child living there. It would be nice and warm in the wintertime if you were in the apartment on the south side of the building if the wind was blowing from the north. It would blow all that over on that side because there was no insulation or anything like that. Then in the winter it would be warm on the north side of the house, if the wind was coming from the south or southwest. We had about eight or ten children there, little children, in the families that lived there. There were three floors, and we were on the bottom floor. Dr. Baldwin would fire the furnace, remember that?

C. MURPHY: Yeah

L. MURPHY: He would keep the fire going in the furnace, but we enjoyed it. We enjoyed the people. You could always smell what everybody was going to have for dinner depending on which way the wind was blowing in the wintertime. If you had already started yours, you were getting might hungry, smelling cornbread and turnip greens. I could remember the Baldwins and some friends would go and get a great big chunk of frozen shrimp that you could buy for five dollars. It was about five pounds at least. They would boil that and they would sit around their old table and put newspapers on it and peel the shrimp and eat it like that. You could smell the shrimp and I thought oh that must be heaven just to go down there and buy those and sit there and eat them like that. It was an experience, it really was. No air conditioning, we had a big old fan in the window and it was hot. But it was much hotter upstairs then it was downstairs.

FORSYTHE: So you were on the first floor?

L. MURPHY: Yeah, we were on the first floor.

FORSYTHE: Which floor were the Baldwins on?

L. MURPHY: On the first floor on the other side.

FORSYTHE: Was it all faculty members?

L. MURPHY: Oh yeah, a lot of faculty members.

FORSYTHE: Married faculty?

L. MURPHY: Oh yeah. A lot of faculty members.

L. MURPHY: Um-huh, yeah we were married. Dr. Corlew was there and his wife; Ambrose Easterly, he was the librarian; and the Baldwins. Who else was there, the Corlews, I said that before, a couple that I can't remember their name.

Forsythe McCurin?

L. MURPHY: No.

FORSYTHE: Joe Windham.

L. MURPHY: He played football for you.

C. MURPHY: Yes, I was trying to think where he was from.

L. MURPHY: He was from Sparta wasn't he, up in that area of Cookville.

C. MURPHY: I believe it was Sparta.

L. MURPHY: We went to their wedding.

C. MURPHY: I am not for sure. I believe it was Sparta but I am not for sure. He played football here. He had a brother here too, Gene Windham.

L. MURPHY: Gene and Joe, which one did you ask?

FORSYTHE: Joe. You can tell me about Gene too.

C. MURPHY: I believe Gene was the oldest one.

L. MURPHY: Gene was the one that I was thinking about.

C. MURPHY: He was really the best athlete; but both of them were pretty good athletes. They played football, but I don't know what else they did. They were both good students, good boys. They ended up coaching at different places. They coached. One of them did a real good job coaching at Gallatin, Gallatin High School.

L. MURPHY: That was Gene.

C. MURPHY: Joe coached somewhere but I can't remember where he coached.

L. MURPHY: Gene was an assistant coach at Vanderbilt for a while. I don't know where Joe is now and I don't know where Gene is now. I believe that Gene is still coaching somewhere in high school, or the principal at a school somewhere.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Kenneth Ezell

C. MURPHY: He was a student out here when I was in school and he went off to school at Tennessee. He was a dentist in town here for years and years, our dentist. He served as a dentist you know for football injuries out here and if any of the basketball boys would get hurt we would sent them to Dr. Ezell. He was a dentist, a good one. He was real active in forming what we call a "Blue Raider Club." He was active in supporting athletics at MTSU. He was the first president. He is not active in that any more but he will come to the meetings when they have a meeting. He has a hard time driving now, he can't see. He is in very poor health and he can't get out much like he used to, but he was real active in athletics when I first started coaching here.

L. MURPHY: Isn't he the one that was instrumental in starting the first Blue Raider banquet?

C. MURPHY: I think he was active in having the first all sports banquet. He is still around town. He is in very bad health.

FORSYTHE: Harold Smith.

C. MURPHY: He worked over at the college.

L. MURPHY: He is still over there.

C. MURPHY: Harold is? Yeah, I don't know what he is doing.

L. MURPHY: Didn't he have something to do with where Dallas Biggers was?

C. MURPHY: Yeah.

L. MURPHY: Well did he have anything to do with Regina? Some of the concerts?

C. MURPHY: He was pretty active in that along with Dallas Biggers.

FORSYTHE: OK, let me get off people for a while. What were the Rail Birds?

L. MURPHY: That was Joe Nunley's group.

FORSYTHE: Joe Nunley started it?

L. MURPHY: I don't know, I just associate that with him.

C. MURPHY: Rail Birds, those interested in baseball, the old baseball players; they were interested in baseball. They would meet so often and talk baseball and stuff like that.

L. MURPHY: Didn't they always have a meeting every year and go up to Joe's cabin up there.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, go up to Joe's Cabin up around McMinnville somewhere. Really old baseball players that like to get together and like to fish, like to tell stories and things like that. Joe Nunley was one of the main backers of that.

FORSYTHE: The "T" Club.

C. MURPHY: That was organized when I first started coaching, I think along in there. They had what they called a Letterman's Club but they didn't have meetings anymore. Everybody that had a letter, they had a "T" on their sweater, they could belong to the Letterman's Club. Then we called a meeting, all the ex-letterman and all the athletes, and elected officers, we formed a club. We met about once or twice a year. They had a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary, and they had a sponsor. One of the coaches would be the sponsor. I don't know if they still have it or not. They don't give the "T's" anymore. Used to if a boy played a sport, at the end of the year if he made the team, he would get a letter. It was a navy blue sweater and a white "T." But they don't give the "T's" out any more, so I don't know whether they still have the "T" club or not. You don't see anybody wearing a "T" over there anymore.

FORSYTHE: No, you don't.

C. MURPHY: Now freshman used to wear a numeral sweater, like when I played my first year in sports there. At the end of the year I got a 1938 on the sweater. That meant I was supposed to graduate in 1938. Freshman got those, I don't think any of the schools do.... You used to see Vanderbilt players walking around with a big "V." You don't see that anymore. You don't see the University of Tennessee walking around with a big orange "T." I don't think they are giving out the letters anymore. I haven't seen any have you? Maybe it got too expensive, I don't know.

FORSYTHE: Tell me how the athletic department changed from when you started in 1947 to when you retired in '67?

C. MURPHY: Well they got more rules to go by. When we first started athletics we didn't belong to different organizations. When we first started playing football we didn't belong to the NCAA. That is over. All university four-year schools, you have to go by all their rules. You have to send a representative to a meeting once a year and go over rules and regulations and you are supposed to teach those rules to your coaches. You have to go by those rules, because there are rules stating just what a player can do, and what you can give the player, how much you can give him on a scholarship, about his grades. He has got to pass his grades in order to be on a college scholarship. So that is what they call the rules and regulations of athletics and it is all through one head.

L. MURPHY: But when you first came here, do you remember the S.I.A.A.?

C. MURPHY: Yeah we were a member of the S.I.A.A.

L. MURPHY: You went to meetings in Florida I know.

C. MURPHY: It was a southern outfit, small colleges in Tennessee, in the south, and Georgia. It was the Southern Collegiate Athletic Association. Then we got into the NCAA which is larger.

L. MURPHY: That is national.

C. MURPHY: They still meet once a year. They meet more often then that now, I guess. I know they used to have one big meeting a year that you had to have a representative there.

FORSYTHE: Where was your office?

C. MURPHY: Well, when I first came here it was in the Alumni gymnasium.

L. MURPHY: No we didn't have the Alumni building then.

C. MURPHY: Didn't we. That is right. It was in the basement of Old Main. You know where Old Main is? C. Gene Sloan, you have heard of him, he had a little office down there and I had one down in the basement of Old Main. We had a little gym, I don't know what they have done with that.

L. MURPHY: That is the business...

C. MURPHY: That is where the Business Department is now. They had an old gym there and that is where they had dressing rooms for the athletes, the girl athletes and the boy athletes, down in the basement there and had the gym upstairs. Then we built the Alumni Gym and all our offices were moved over to the Alumni Gym. Now they are in Murphy Center. That is where all the offices are now.

FORSYTHE: What was the condition of Old Main when you had an office there?

C. MURPHY: I am just trying to think. It wasn't much of an office. It was four or five of us in one big room down there and we would have a desk over here and a desk over there with four or five different people in one room. There just wasn't much to it. It was real small.

L. MURPHY: The Alumni Gym was finished in, was it 1950 or '51?

C. MURPHY: I don't know for sure.

L. MURPHY: It was about that time, we were living over there at the Moffett house.

FORSYTHE: Did you teach any classes?

C. MURPHY: Teach? Yes.

FORSYTHE: What did you teach?

C. MURPHY: Depending on what year we are talking about. Some years I would teach three or four classes and other years maybe one.

L. MURPHY: But at first when you came you taught classes.

C. MURPHY: When I first came I taught classes.

L. MURPHY: Several.

C. MURPHY: In the summer too, we would teach classes.

FORSYTHE: The OVC, tell me how you got involved in that.

C. MURPHY: We got in the OVC...well first when we came in we were in the SIAA. We weren't in the NCAA then, but we finally got in the NCAA. The SIAA was the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association. That was schools in the south, most of them smaller schools. Then when we got in the NCAA, we got big enough and active enough and our conference, which was the OVC, got into the NCAA, got active in the NCAA which we are still in now. You have to go by those rules if you were in the NCAA. They check on you pretty thoroughly.

L. MURPHY: The OVC is what she is wanting to know about.

C. MURPHY: We are still in the OVC and the OVC is in the NCAA. The OVC is made up of four Kentucky schools and four Tennessee schools, I believe.

FORSYTHE: Why did you change?

C. MURPHY: Well the OVC was larger. Some of the schools that was with us in the SIAA they dropped out. Some of them didn't have football, some of them didn't have other sports, so we got in the OVC which was made up of Kentucky schools and Tennessee schools. It had eight schools in it. From Kentucky we had Western Kentucky, Morehead Kentucky, and Murry Kentucky,

L. MURPHY: And Eastern.

C. MURPHY: And Eastern, four Kentucky schools. The Tennessee schools were MTSU, Austin Peay, Tennessee Tech, who was the other one?

L. MURPHY: Johnson City.

C. MURPHY: East Tennessee, or maybe it was just seven.

FORSYTHE: The tape is about to click off.