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FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith Collection designated as QMS.1995.44. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Charles and Leona Murphy. Today is Thursday, July 27, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of the Murphy's located at 1906 Windsor Dr., in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We got some old scrapbooks from the public relations office and there was an article about the AAUP blacklist of MTSU. It says that "Q.M. Smith was criticized for denying tenure to nine faculty members."

L. MURPHY: When was that?

FORSYTHE: This article doesn't have a year on it. It could have been in the sixties, mid-sixties or so.

L. MURPHY: No, Dr. Cope came here in '58.

FORSYTHE: You're right.

L. MURPHY: Until '68.

FORSYTHE: So it would have to be before '58.

C. MURPHY: What was he denying?

FORSYTHE: It was an AAUP blacklist of MTSU after Q.M. Smith was criticized for denying tenure to nine faculty members.

L. MURPHY: It doesn't say the year?

FORSYTHE: Hun-uh.

L. MURPHY: I don't know anything about that.

C. MURPHY: Haven't heard that.

FORSYTHE: It was worth a try.

L. MURPHY: Maybe you will run across somebody that knows something.

FORSYTHE: Let me go back to my names. Jim Simpson.
C. MURPHY: Jim was sort of a publicity boy, man, he was a young boy then. He would give our sports information to the papers, the News Journal, the Banner, and the Tennessean. He would write up sports. He had a little office over in the gym, he and a boy named Jim Freeman. Do you have Jim Freeman listed somewhere there?

FORSYTHE: No I don't.

C. MURPHY: He worked for Jim Freeman there in sports information. They were called the "Sports Information Directors." These two boys worked together. They were young, just out of college. In fact, Jim Simpson worked for me over there while he was still going to college, Freeman too. When they got the degree we just kept them on over there. They got out the sports information and helped fill out eligibility, things that I had to get out and things like that. When we would have a ballgame, you would see both of them there. If we had two games going on at the same time you would see one at one time and one at the other taking care of the sports for the papers, you know to put in the papers. They helped in getting up eligibility on players and things like that. They have a fellow named Ed Givens over there now. Have you ever heard of Ed Givens?

FORSYTHE: No.

C. MURPHY: He handles all that these two boys used to do. But Ed has got three or four helpers, you know in the office, two or three girls, that help him keep up the sports information and stuff like that. But Jimmy Freeman and Jim Simpson they worked in the same little office keeping up with all the sports, both men and women's sports, for years and years. I don't know where they are now.

L. MURPHY: Jim is in Talladagha. Jim Simpson works at the bookstore over there.

C. MURPHY: He has been at the bookstore a long time. I forget these things. I forget what year I got married.

FORSYTHE: John Stanford.

C. MURPHY: I hired him as a baseball coach when he came over there in the Athletic department. After he retired from baseball, well after I had retired from athletic director, they finally made him athletic director over there.

L. MURPHY: He followed Jimmy Earle, didn't he?

C. MURPHY: That is right. Jimmy Earle was athletic director for several years then he retired and John Stanford followed him. John stayed on for several years. He is over there now with what title I don't know. He it still working in the Athletic department. I don't know what title it is, but I think it is something to do with
raising money for athletic programs. He is not the athletic director any more, but his office is still in the gym.

FORSYTHE: Monte Hale.

C. MURPHY: Monte Hale was the radio athletic announcer for WGNS, the local radio station. Cecil Elrod was the one that started this station, WGNS the radio station. It is not just for athletics. It's for everything, that is the station here. Monte Hale was in charge of athletics. When we had an athletic event in high schools or colleges, well Monte, if he was going to broadcast a game, whatever it would be, he would be in charge of the broadcast. He would announce most of them. He did that for Rutherford County at station WGNS. He passed away several years ago, but he did that for a long time, just handled athletics for WGNS radio station.

FORSYTHE: James Donnelly.

C. MURPHY: He is the coach over at MTSU now. He played for me back in one of my first years I coached over here. I believe he played in '49 and 1950, along in there. He played football and he left here after graduating and coached at Father Ryan High School in Nashville. That is a Catholic School. He left there and went to Austin Peay. That is a state university. He coached there for two or three years. Then I hired him and brought him over here to take my place. So he took my place. . . no somebody else took my place and stayed one year. They let him go so I hired Boots Donnelly to take my place as football coach.

FORSYTHE: How did he get the nickname "Boots?"

C. MURPHY: He got that in high school. I don't know why. His name is "James Donnelly." He coached at Father Ryan High School and that is where he played football. He is Catholic. That was his nickname I believe because his name is James Donnelly, I know that. He has been going under that name "Boots" ever since I knew him.

FORSYTHE: Ben Hurt.

C. MURPHY: He is the one. I hired him as football coach before Donnelly came. Let's see, he played football here for me and was a good person but I hired him to come here as football coach and he didn't have a very good season. Finally, he just resigned. He decided he didn't want to coach any longer. That is when we hired Boots Donnelly to come in here. Ben was a good person and a good coach. He was from Pulaski, Tennessee, but he lives in Texas now. He comes back. He still has some people living in Pulaski. He comes by to see us every once and a while. He coached after he left here. He went to Texas and coached in high school for several years. Now he is retired.

FORSYTHE: Phil Watts.
C. MURPHY: He was a football player from East Nashville High School. I gave him a scholarship. He played football here for three years. Anyway, he is a real good player. After finishing here he was a high school coach somewhere for two or three years. Then he came to Murfreesboro and I believe he coached out at one of these high schools around here for a couple of years. I don't know where Phil is now. He is in some sort of business here in Murfreesboro, but I don't know what kind of business it is.

FORSYTHE: Calvin Short.

C. MURPHY: Calvin was another football player that I signed up from Gallatin. No, he was from Joelton. He ended up, after he played football here, going over and coaching at Gallatin High School at Gallatin. He stayed over there coaching quite a while and was a real successful coach. I believe he has gone now to Portland High School where he is the principal. I believe that is right. He was an outstanding coach at Gallatin High School for many years. Calvin Short I am talking about. But I believe he is at Portland High School now as a principal.

FORSYTHE: Charlie Butler.

C. MURPHY: Played football here. He was from Clarksville, Tennessee. He didn't play any other sports, but he got interested in coaching after he finished here. He stayed on as a student assistant to help me a little bit. Then he changed jobs and went to several places in Texas, coaching at different places. I don't know where he is now.

L. MURPHY: He came back here.

C. MURPHY: He came back here under one of the other coaches. He might still be over there. I don't know. I have forgotten whether he is still over there or not. He might be over there as an assistant coach. I believe he is. Do you want me to check on that and see if he is still over there?

FORSYTHE: No, I can look that up in the directory at MTSU.

C. MURPHY: He might be still over there. He left a couple of times and came back. I hardly ever see him.

FORSYTHE: I will look it up when I get back. Gary Whaley.

C. MURPHY: He is from Sevierville, Tennessee. He had a twin brother named Larry. Gary and Larry came here the same time, they played ends in football. You couldn't tell one of them from the other. Real tough little boys. Both of them ended up after playing football as coaches or teachers at different schools. I think Gary or one of them was out at Riverdale for a while.
L. MURPHY: Gary was.

C. MURPHY: Gary was, I believe he might still be out there.

L. MURPHY: I don't think so.

C. MURPHY: I don't know where the other one is. They are twins, Larry and Gary.

L. MURPHY: I think he is back in Sevierville where they came from. Wasn't that where they came from?

C. MURPHY: Yeah.

FORSYTHE: J.B. Proctor.

C. MURPHY: J.B. was a real outstanding athlete from Cohen High School in Nashville. When he finished high school, he signed with UT and was a regular on the freshman team and a regular on the varsity his sophomore and his junior year. After his junior year, he and his girlfriend got married. He married a Nashville girl that he went to high school with. The coach at UT had a rule then that a boy couldn't be married and play football at UT. So he dropped him and J.B. Proctor came over here. I knew him and he called me about playing his last year over here. He played over here at MTSU his last year and made all-conference. We were undefeated and I got his wife a job in the bookstore. In fact, she was in the bookstore working last year. I don't know if she is still there.

L. MURPHY: I didn't know she was working in the bookstore way back then. I knew she was there in the last few years.

C. MURPHY: Yeah, I helped her get a job working in the bookstore. I don't know if she is still working there or not but J.B. passed away several years ago. He is dead, but he was an outstanding person. His wife Nancy was a real good person too.

FORSYTHE: Dean Kirksey.

C. MURPHY: He sort of just about ran the school over here in the academic part of the school. You know, all the teachers that taught different classes under him had to report to him rather than the president. He would report to the president so he was assistant to the president. He was a fine person. If you were a teacher over there you had to report to him. You know he is not over there anymore.

L. MURPHY: He is dead.

C. MURPHY: That is right, he is dead. He retired and he died.
FORSYTHE: I went through that 1938 year book and got the football squad down there, but before that, what bowl games did you participate in while you were there.

L. MURPHY: You mean when he was coaching. I thought you meant when he was coaching.

C. MURPHY: The first one was the Tangerine Bowl.

L. MURPHY: The first one was the Refrigerator Bowl.

C. MURPHY: Who was that, Evansville?

L. MURPHY: Evansville, Indiana. I know Laura and Q.M. Smith came by and I rode up with them. You were always with the team. We went to the Refrigerator Bowl one year, but I don't know what year that was. It was in the fifties, no, hum; let me see if it is written on this bowl in here.

C. MURPHY: I don't remember what year that was but it was Evansville, Indiana. I am pretty sure.

L. MURPHY: 1956.

FORSYTHE: OK. When you were a student, how did you all travel to the schools? Did you travel together or in separate cars?

C. MURPHY: The team went on a school bus. Well it wasn't a school bus, it was a Greyhound bus. We'd just charter a Greyhound bus to go with us, to take the team. It would seat around eighty people. We would do that for football, basketball, baseball; but right now I think they have got for all sports, except football, I think they have got a private bus. With football there are too many players. They have to charter a bus.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have of playing football, baseball, basketball, and tennis? It wears me out saying all that.

C. MURPHY: I just remember I was tired all the time. It seems like today they don't try to play as many sports, maybe two sports; but back in those days, there wasn't as many going to college. Most of the boys that would go to college had played probably in high school, maybe three and four sports. They tried to do that in college too, which I did. Three really, tennis is just short time in the summer.

FORSYTHE: The football field, is it still in the same location?

C. MURPHY: Yeah, it has been moved over a little bit, but it is in the same location. It has been moved a little bit out towards the gym on account of the baseball field. The baseball team was hitting baseballs onto the field. It has just been moved maybe twenty or thirty yards like that. They moved the stands, but it is the same location.
FORSYTHE: The baseball field, is it in the same place?

C. MURPHY: Yes. Well the baseball field when I was in school here was over in front of the science building. But the baseball field has been moved a long time. It used to be in '38, '37, when I was in school, it was in front of the science building.

FORSYTHE: So where the loop is now, is where it was.

C. MURPHY: Yes.

FORSYTHE: I didn't know that.

C. MURPHY: The library was in centerfield of the baseball diamond. Sometimes the baseball would be hit over in the Faculty Library.

FORSYTHE: Did you ever break any windows?

C. MURPHY: Yes, we broke a few windows. Wasn't anybody that couldn't hit one that far.

FORSYTHE: Where were the tennis courts?

L. MURPHY: They were over there in the area between the Fine Arts building and the Business building now, that area there, back behind Old Main, toward the football field.

C. MURPHY: Yes, we didn't have but three or four courts. No, we had five.

L. MURPHY: We had several courts.

C. MURPHY: That is right because they taught classes in tennis.

L. MURPHY: See that was close to the old gym and the gym was the Business building.

C. MURPHY: That is right. I had forgotten that.

FORSYTHE: All right, let's try the names Emmett Kennon.

C. MURPHY: How did you get his name?

FORSYTHE: It is out of the 1938 yearbook.

C. MURPHY: He was brought up in Nashville, raised within three or four blocks of me. We were good friends in high school and grammar school, then we came up here. He played football and baseball. He didn't play the other sports, but he is still real active with the school over here, Emmett is. We got what we call an Old "T" Club, an Alumni "T" Club, that meets.... we used to meet about once a month, I don't know how
often they meet now. Kennon was the president of that the year before that I believe. He was the president of that organization. We met in Nashville. He still comes up to see us every once in a while. He lives in Nashville and he is still working in construction work, built a lot of buildings out there. He is real active in the school.

FORSYTHE: Everett McIntire.

C. MURPHY: Everett was just an old Nashville boy. We had so many Nashville boys in school over here when I was school and he was one of the Nashville boys. We lived in Jones Hall. Just about all of us lived in the third floor of Jones Hall. Everett McIntire and Jay Bird Hamblen, you got his name down there?

FORSYTHE: No I don't. Tell me about him.

C. MURPHY: He was from Nashville too. They both ended up coaching in Nashville. Both of them have passed away, no McIntire hasn't, but Jay Bird Hamblen died.

FORSYTHE: How did he get the Jay Bird nickname?

C. MURPHY: It was a nickname. His name was James. I don't know why they called him Jay Bird, but that was his nickname.

FORSYTHE: H.

L. MURPHY: Wasson.

C. MURPHY: I met him when we first started to school up here at MTSU. He was on the football team. Then after leaving here, we were friends. We would see him pretty often. Then he moved to Florida and his wife died.

L. MURPHY: He came back to Lawrenceburg, he died.

C. MURPHY: He was a big supporter of the university and pretty active in the school.

FORSYTHE: Joe Troop.

C. MURPHY: Joe Troop was a freshman the same time I was. We both graduated in '38. We all came to school at the same time, Jay Bird, Joe Troop, and myself, a bunch of boys. We all played football. Joe played a little baseball too, but he was mainly a football player. He ended up teaching around Murfreesboro. Didn't he, teaching down at Walter Hill, or something like that; but he passed away several years ago.

FORSYTHE: Nat Puckett.
C. MURPHY: He was in school the same time I was. He was a freshman. He was a Pulaski boy, I am pretty sure. I never see him any more. I don't know if he is still living or not, do you? I haven't seen him in ages. He was in school back in the thirties, somewhere along in there. He ended up a school teacher, but I don't know if he ever coached or not.

FORSYTHE: Then there was a Robertson, I didn't have the first name.

L. MURPHY: Brownie?

C. MURPHY: That was Brownie. He played a little sports and was a big talker, pretty good poker player and stuff like that. He got around, but I don't know what he ended up doing.

L. MURPHY: I think he coached, didn't he?

C. MURPHY: I don't remember.

L. MURPHY: Seems like he was up around Carthage, or some place like that.

C. MURPHY: He might have. He wasn't a real outstanding player.

FORSYTHE: Mac Rutherford.

C. MURPHY: Mac was from Lawrenceburg. Did some coaching and was at school here the same time I was. I don't know what he finally ended up doing.

L. MURPHY: Wasn't he with the Veteran's Administration or something? They have been back to several homecomings.

C. MURPHY: I guess he has been retired for awhile.

L. MURPHY: I guess so.

FORSYTHE: Bill Threlkeld.

C. MURPHY: He was an old Nashville boy, went to school here, played football, and comes back here once in a while, lives in Atlanta now. Seems to me, was he with the Veteran's Administration?

L. MURPHY: No, he was a salesman of some sort. He wife is in the import jewelry business.

C. MURPHY: But he just played football and was interested in the school over here. I never see him hardly at all.

L. MURPHY: He was here last year.
C. MURPHY: Yeah, he comes maybe once a year.

FORSYTHE: William Hoover.

C. MURPHY: Buddy Hoover. He was a Smyrna boy. After he finished school here he went into Alabama and coached some school in Alabama. I think he lives in Birmingham. He worked for the light company for a while here. I don't know what he did, but he was a teacher too; but I understand he got into working for the light company somewhere in Montgomery, Alabama, or somewhere. I don't know. You haven't heard of him in a long time. He has a brother named John Hoover.

FORSYTHE: Doyle Smith.

L. MURPHY: Didn't he play football for you?

FORSYTHE: No, this is the 1938 football team.

L. MURPHY: He played with you.

C. MURPHY: I believe he was from Old Hickory. I can't think of his . . . Doyle was his name, wasn't it? We called him Shorty too. He ended up teaching in Nashville and where he is now I don't know.

FORSYTHE: This one I only have a last name for, Hoffman.

L. MURPHY: Sandy.

C. MURPHY: William Sandy Hoffman. Sandy lives in Nashville. Where is my cane, show her my cane. He made my cane for me.

L. MURPHY: He has a hobby of doing some woodworking. Here it is.

C. MURPHY: He has a hobby and he saw me crippling around a couple of years ago. He made that for me.

FORSYTHE: Leon Bibb.

C. MURPHY: What did he end up doing?

L. MURPHY: I think he is in administration over there.

C. MURPHY: Where is this?

L. MURPHY: Austin Peay.
C. MURPHY: Clarksville. He played a little football over here. He never was very active in it, but he taught school. Then he ended up over at Austin Peay. I don't know what he does, except if he is teaching at Austin Peay. He is probably retired now. He is nearly as old as my wife.

FORSYTHE: J.B. Thompson.

C. MURPHY: He was a freshman in school when I was about a senior.

L. MURPHY: No, he was here when I came in '36.

C. MURPHY: But he wasn't as far along as I was.

L. MURPHY: He played football with you.

C. MURPHY: But not but about one year then….. I was before him. He ended up teaching school in Nashville. He was the principal of a grammar school, I am sure he has retired now.

L. MURPHY: He got with the teacher's credit union in Nashville and he was very active in that. He is quite ill now.

C. MURPHY: He was a real nice person. He played football here.

L. MURPHY: He has always come back for ballgames and homecoming.

C. MURPHY: His wife was real nice.

FORSYTHE: This one has only a last name, Hambrick.

C. MURPHY: John Hambrick, he was from Lewisburg. He started to school the same year I did over here as a freshman at MTSU. He played football and baseball. He was a real good student and a real fine person. He ended up coaching one year, then he went to something else. I don't know what he did after that. He didn't coach but about one year. He married an old girlfriend of mine, Ellis Starling. Do you remember her.

L. MURPHY: Yes.

C. MURPHY: A girl I had one date with. I was just kidding. I had two dates with her, or was it three?

L. MURPHY: We were in the same dormitory, on the same floor.

C. MURPHY: Is that right? You could check on her, anyway he married her, and I don't know where they could be now.
L. MURPHY: They are in Atlanta.

C. MURPHY: He was a good person, he and his wife.

FORSYTHE: William Patterson.

C. MURPHY: He is a Murfreesboro boy and has been real active. Of course he doesn't get out very much now. He ran, what business were they in?

FORSYTHE: That cedar place.

L. MURPHY: That was his family.

FORSYTHE: I interviewed him, he had some great stories.

C. MURPHY: Bib Patterson, he is a character. He was around when we were. He was real active too.

L. MURPHY: He was in my class. We were in the same class.

FORSYTHE: Norman Hasty.

C. MURPHY: Norman played football over at the school and I don't know whether he played any other sports or not. He was a little fellow. Where is he from?

L. MURPHY: Shelbyville.

FORSYTHE: I have no idea, this is from the caption in the photograph.

C. MURPHY: He played football and I think he got into teaching after he left school. I haven't seen him in a long time.

FORSYTHE: Clarence Campbell.

C. MURPHY: That's Shorty. He is from Shelbyville and actually he played football out here. He played basketball at some little school.

L. MURPHY: Isn't he a Murfreesboro boy?

C. MURPHY: Where was it, right out there you know, Eagleville or something like that. He had a brother name Humpy Campbell. It was one of those little schools. It wasn't big like Murfreesboro Central or Shelbyville. I don't know what they called it.

FORSYTHE: Carl Yates.
C. MURPHY: He is a Nashville boy. He played for Central. He ended up coaching in Nashville.

L. MURPHY: He was killed in the service, I believe.

C. MURPHY: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Carter Smith

C. MURPHY: I can't remember where Carter was from. He is from a town close by Murfreesboro.

L. MURPHY: Was he from Georgia?

C. MURPHY: No he was a Tennessee boy, but I can't remember where he is from. I haven't seen him in ages.

FORSYTHE: There is a S. Smith.

C. MURPHY: Sam Smith? He passed away about a year ago. He left school here and went into the marines. He was real active in the marines. He came back and retired as a colonel. He passed away less than a year ago.

FORSYTHE: Bob Warded.

C. MURPHY: He was from Huntsville. He was a student over at the college.

L. MURPHY: He and his wife were in charge of Jones Hall.

C. MURPHY: He came back here to work. He wasn't coaching though, was he? They were in charge of Jones Hall where most of the athletes stayed. I don't know what happened to him. He played some sports.

L. MURPHY: He played basketball.

C. MURPHY: And football.

FORSYTHE: Is there anybody else you want to talk about?

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

L. MURPHY: I can't think of anybody, I think you have them covered pretty well.

FORSYTHE: What about Homer Pittard?

C. MURPHY: He was a senior when I was a junior. I think we played about two years together. Homer was a real good football fan, a good person, real smart. I thought a lot of
Homer. People in Murfreesboro thought a lot of Homer. He's got a brother that is still pretty active in politics here in Murfreesboro.

L. MURPHY: It is his son.

C. MURPHY: He is a lawyer.

FORSYTHE: Since you have retired, what have you done?

L. MURPHY: Nothing.

FORSYTHE: That is not nice, I am going to stick up for you.

C. MURPHY: I don't do a whole lot. I was real active over in the school, going over to see them play, going to meetings over there, athletic committee meetings like that; but in the last seven or eight years I don't do hardly anything. I belong to a coffee club. We meet about three days a week and drink coffee and talk about pretty girls and things, talk about old times and things.

FORSYTHE: Are you talking about the Old Men's Coffee Club?

C. MURPHY: Yes, where did you see that?

FORSYTHE: It was in a newspaper article.

L. MURPHY: Well, there are several of them.

C. MURPHY: We meet at Shoney's. There are about sixteen of us in it. Two of us, a man that lives across the street here, Charley Hawkins, are the oldest ones in it. We have got a bunch of them that have passed out on us.

FORSYTHE: Marie Kirk told me about the project you helped her with, identifying athletes.

C. MURPHY: Oh yes. Did you talk to Marie?

FORSYTHE: I see her several times a week, I am always over there doing research.

C. MURPHY: She is a nice person isn't she.

FORSYTHE: She sure is. I finally talked her into doing an interview, getting her on one day. Is there anything else you want to talk about?

C. MURPHY: Not that I know of. I can't talk about all my old girlfriends here.

FORSYTHE: Well if you want to leave the room.
L. MURPHY: I don't mind.

C. MURPHY: No, I had some material here if you want to look at it. You don't need any write-up like that do you?

FORSYTHE: Well if you have got them I would like to copy them.