

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
JOHN HOOD

31 JULY 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

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

INTERVIEW #QMS.048

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

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
JOHN HOOD**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.048

FORSYTHE: This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mr. John Hood. Today is Monday, July 31, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the office of Mr. Hood located in Third National Bank, 201 East Main, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview, along with a transcript 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 Mr. Hood?

HOOD: Sounds fine.

FORSYTHE: Okay, good, what is your full name?

HOOD: John Douglas Hood.

FORSYTHE: And your birth date?

HOOD: 3/24/31.

FORSYTHE: Your birth place?

HOOD: Murfreesboro.

FORSYTHE: Your father's name?

HOOD: Emil, E-M-I-L, Emil Warren Hood.

FORSYTHE: His occupation?

HOOD: Insurance. He had a small insurance agency.

FORSYTHE: Your mother's name?

HOOD: Christine Dement Hood.

FORSYTHE: How do you spell "Dement Hood."

HOOD: D-E-M-E-N-T, Dement was her maiden name.

FORSYTHE: Oh, Okay. And her occupation?

HOOD: Housewife.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

HOOD: None.

FORSYTHE: Spouse's name, your wife's name?

HOOD: Her name is Marilyn.

FORSYTHE: And her maiden name?

HOOD: She was a Stockard, Marilyn Stockard Hood, S-T-O-K-A-R-D.

FORSYTHE: And her occupation?

HOOD: Well, she is retired now. She worked as a retail jewelry clerk, sales person.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any children?

HOOD: Had three.

FORSYTHE: Their names?

Hood Garry, G-a-r-r-y; Rebecca, her name is Hagan now, Rebecca Hagan, H-a-g-a-n; and Mark Hood.

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

HOOD: All three children did, two of them graduated, Gary and Rebecca graduated and Mark did not.

HOOD: Did anybody else work at MTSU?

HOOD: My wife used to work during registration sometimes but not regular, not a full time employee

FORSYTHE: What degrees do you have?

HOOD: I have a B.S., 1954, in Social Sciences. I had a double major in Social Sciences and a Master of Education in 1974 in Administration and Supervision.

FORSYTHE: Both from MTSU?

HOOD: Uh-huh.

FORSYTHE: You went to school and worked at the same time?

HOOD: I did. I got my masters while I was working there.

FORSYTHE: Did you work full time and go to school full time or just one class at a time. how long did it take?

HOOD: When I got my master's, I was working full time, not at the university, and got my degree and was working full time. I guess I went to school part time while I was working on my masters, but I worked full time.

FORSYTHE: What job did you have when you where working on your bachelor's?

HOOD: I was an administrative assistant. Oh, for my bachelor's, excuse me, I worked for a radio station, WGNS.

FORSYTHE: What did you do?

HOOD: I was an announcer.

FORSYTHE: That is why you've got such a great voice.

HOOD: I don't know about that.

FORSYTHE: Why did you pick MTSU?

HOOD: I didn't have much choice. When I went to college I was living here and I guess it was the easiest to attend. It fit the needs I had. I thought it was important to get a degree, and so I went to school here in my home town.

FORSYTHE: Why did you work at MTSU?

HOOD: I had an opportunity to go there when what is now MTSU Foundation was organized. They decided to employ a full time staff person to work in fund raising. Dean N.C. Beasley, who was Dean of Admissions for many years, was serving at what they called "secretary" at the time. I think he was semi-retired and then they decided to start a full time position. I had the opportunity to go there and that is the reason I went to fill that job.

FORSYTHE: What year was that?

HOOD: 19-, well wait a minute let's see, all of a sudden I've lost track, 1966. February 1, 1966.

FORSYTHE: You started as an assistant? What was your job title?

HOOD: It was...eventually it was Director of Development. I think it was called something else to start out with but that is what it amounted to, Director of Development.

FORSYTHE: What did Director of Development do?

Hood Raise private funds for the University, seek private funds for the university.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember your job interview?

HOOD: Well yes, Bob Abernathy who was a long time friend of mine and was the person I reported to. I remember the interview. I remember talking to him about it. He was my Sunday School teacher, friend, and he is the one who came to me and asked if I would be interested in it. Dr. Homer Pittard was then director, was then director of Alumni Relations. I didn't work for Dr. Pittard, but worked with him, and they were influential in my coming there.

FORSYTHE: Did you live on campus?

HOOD: No.

FORSYTHE: Lived at home. What did student's do for fun while you were getting your bachelors?

HOOD: Well, I really couldn't tell you much about it. When I was working on my bachelor's, I was working full time and married. I really only went to class and left to go to work or to go home. I remember fun night was a big event at that time. That used to be sponsored by the Biology Club. Sometimes the students would get into some pretty risqué acts as I recall, risqué as far as the faculty was concerned and the Dean of Students. By today's standards they would be very ,very pale.

FORSYTHE: Was it common to have older students like yourself, were you older or married or?

HOOD: No, I was at the regular college age at that time as an undergraduate.

FORSYTHE: But married and going to school at the same time, that was common?

HOOD: Not as much as today of course but there were a fair amount, as I recall.

FORSYTHE: Let me check this tape before I forget. May I start asking you about the faculty?

HOOD: Um-huh.

FORSYTHE: Mr. Furman Cunningham? What do you remember about him?

HOOD: Furman Cunningham, I remember him more when I was back there working on the staff. At that time he was the Dean of the College of Business, but Furman Cunningham came on the faculty when I was a student. I didn't really know him that well. I really got to know him in later years better than when I was a student.

FORSYTHE: What about Ollie Green?

HOOD: Miss Ollie Green, taught geography, right? I had Miss Ollie for a course my final semester, I guess it was. Of course we were on quarters then. I had been enrolled in an education class with Miss Mary Hall and the class didn't make. The only way I could get three hours was a geography class open at that time. Simply because of my work schedule I had that class. I remember she was pretty tough instructor but a good teacher. I remember at that time a very basic test of identifying all the states, and at that time I could never remember which one was Vermont and which one was New Hampshire. I know now New Hampshire is the one on the coast because I missed it on a test with Miss Ollie as a senior.

FORSYTHE: Mr. Jess Crow?

HOOD: Say that name again.

FORSYTHE: Jess Crow

HOOD: I am sorry, I don't have a recollection of that teacher.

FORSYTHE: Norman Parks.

HOOD: Yes, I know Dr. Parks, over the years very well. Political science was his field, rather controversial fellow. He was a member of the Church of Christ and was always real controversial in the Church of Christ, but he was an excellent teacher.

FORSYTHE: Why was he controversial?

HOOD: Well some of his ideas and the way he promoted them were not always the mainstream, I guess you might call it, so controversial would be the best way to describe him. I don't mean that necessarily as a criticism, just as an observation.

FORSYTHE: Betty Held, she was the secretary in the Social Science department.

HOOD: Betty Harold?

FORSYTHE: Held.

HOOD: Betty Held, I am sorry.

FORSYTHE: That is okay, Dr. R.L. Martin.

HOOD: Yes, Robert L. Martin, I had him in social science, I guess it was. A very fine teacher and a very fine person, I knew him in several respects as well as his wife. I remember one member of our class had gone to Father Ryan High School in Nashville and they always had to stand when they asked a question. This young man would always stand, and I remember Dr. Martin reminding him he didn't need to stand when he responded. That always got everybody's attention in the class.

FORSYTHE: Dean Beasley.

HOOD: One of the real great institutions of the institution...I think long time Dean of Admissions and a staunch Methodist...just a real solid person. His sons Bill Beasley was on the faculty and Nat were real good friends of mine. I remember Dean Beasley's wife was a teacher of mine in high school. Just one of the real pillars of the institution. Dean Beasley, when he'd retired, went with us on some alumni trips back when I was working. I remember something he said to the alumni group in Chattanooga. He said, "I can't get used to three things, all these children, with the population growing all this money, and all these Republicans."

FORSYTHE: Dean James

HOOD: Dean Clayton James was one of my favorites. He was Dean of Students when I was there and also taught social science or sociology. He taught sociology. I remember when I was in school chapel was mandatory. If you didn't go to chapel you had your name on the bulletin board and you had to go see Dean Beasley, I mean Dean James, to explain why you were absent. I remember doing that one time and dreading it. Because I was working, I missed chapel one day and I used to go explain to him. We used to have chapel every week, as I recall, and it was mandatory attendance. Sometimes they had some interesting programs, sometimes they weren't nearly as interesting as they might be. But Dean Beasley was one of the great members of the faculty at that time.

FORSYTHE: W.B. Judd.

HOOD: Mr. Judd was business manager, I guess it was, and I recall his being a very solid person and running a real tight ship. I never knew Mr. Judd personally, but I always admired him.

FORSYTHE: Mr. T.B. Woodmore.

HOOD: Well, Mr. Woodmore was business manager, and Mr. Judd was bursar. Mr. Woodmore I knew over the years, and I knew his son Woody. All these people that you are naming to me were just the bedrock of the institution.

FORSYTHE: That is why I want to know more. Mr. J.S. Holmes.

HOOD: Mr. Holmes was the first student to ever enroll at MTSU, student number one as I recall. His son J.S. is a good friend. I remember seeing Mr. Holmes going into the business office. The business office used to be under the steps at Old Main. I can remember seeing him coming although I didn't know him personally. I remember him very fondly.

FORSYTHE: Catherine Clark.

HOOD: Miss Clark was the librarian. I had her sister Rebecca Clark in high school, she taught math. Miss Catherine Clark was just a very solid person, a very fine lady.

FORSYTHE: Charles Phillips.

HOOD: Witcher Phillips was manager of the bookstore. He was a good friend over the years. He was one of several who came from Watertown that were in responsible positions at the university. Witcher established the bookstore to what it is today and made it a real strong institution. I knew his first wife and his children real well and of course a good friend of mine was his second wife, who was married to him when Witcher died. Witcher was a great supporter of athletics. Back in those days, he probably never missed a home or an away game of football or basketball. A great supporter of athletics, and a great part of the institution.

FORSYTHE: How did he get called Witcher, where did that come from?

HOOD: You know I have heard, but I do not recall. You might want to talk to Audine who was his first wife. Audine Phillips could tell you more about that or even his son Mike who is with the ambulance service here. That may be an even better bet.

FORSYTHE: W.C. Hastings.

HOOD: Mr. Will Hastings. He operated the maintenance department, maybe the college farm. I used to go to church with Mr. Hastings and I can hear him leading in prayer now, very solid, strong tones. I have nothing but admiration for the folks you are telling me about, didn't have a lot of direct contact with them, but knew them.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Voorhies.

HOOD: Ed Voorhies. Well he has been one of my great friends down through the years. He was on the faculty at that time, later was department chair of Industrial Arts and then was Dean of the School of Basic and Applied Sciences. He's still active as a member of the Water and Sewer Board. I worked with him at Samsonite when I was there. Ed served as our director of training, just a great fellow.

FORSYTHE: Bonnie McHenry.

HOOD: Miss Bonnie was secretary to the president, I guess Q.M. Smith. I don't know if she was secretary to Dr. Cope when he first came there. I believe she was and then Audine, who married Witcher Phillips, succeeded her. A very fine lady. I just knew Miss Bonnie from a distance, but I knew who she was and we knew each other in that regard.

FORSYTHE: Eveyln Turney

HOOD: Oh Evelyn, I still go to Sunday School with her. I see her every Sunday. She was secretary to Dean Beasley, I believe. She came from Murfreesboro. Eveyln Jones, she was married to Jim Turney from Auburntown, class of '42. That was her class as I recall, one of the good solid workers as I recall. I'm probably not giving you any new information about these people but. . .

FORSYTHE: I didn't know she was a student here so I'll have to look her up.

HOOD: Yes, class of '42.

FORSYTHE: Charlotte Hines.

HOOD: Charlotte Hines worked in Dean Beasley's office. She married Moody Baines, Elmer Moody Baines, who was one of great football players. She lives in Maury county, probably in Mt. Pleasant or Columbia.

FORSYTHE: Cowen Lyell. Lyell, he is assistant engineer.

HOOD: I am sorry, I wouldn't have known him.

FORSYTHE: It was a long shot. Robert Abernathy.

HOOD: He was the one I worked for when I came there. Bob Abernathy was director of field services at that time which is what would be called student recruiting. He was a great after dinner, during dinner, before dinner speaker, whenever you wanted him to speak. A great speaker. He's always been my idol, in many regards, if I could ever develop the speaking style and the entertaining speaking style that he had. Bob spoke all over the country. Very systematic in all of his speeches, he kept voluminous notes of all his talks. If he were going to Chattanooga and speak tonight to the Brainerd PTA and was going back next

week to speak to the Eastside Men's Club or whatever, he would make real certain that he didn't tell any of the same stories at that second place. He kept a file on the stories he told and always had some good stories to tell. Wasn't paid for that, of course he was paid for his job of field services, but sometimes they would give him a gift or something like that. Later on after he retired, he started speaking through an agent who'd book him and get paid for it. He was one that could have traveled the country and made money as a professional speaker. He was my Sunday School teacher too, as I think I mentioned earlier.

FORSYTHE: Edward Baldwin

HOOD: Dr. Baldwin taught geography and was a very talented musician as well as a speaker. He spoke up in the very top part of Old Main, which was at that time not air-conditioned and in the summertime could be very hot. I had a geography class with him in the summer, very ,very hot up there before they air conditioned Old Main. Dr. Baldwin was in a production we had for the 150th anniversary of Murfreesboro which would have be in 1968. Eighteen seventeen and one hundred fifty, is that right, yeah. I remember he had one of the parts in what we called "See Here Black Fox." I remember going to Dr. Baldwin's funeral. His wife is retired from the city schools here and still lives here in Murfreesboro.

FORSYTHE: James Baxter. physics.

HOOD: I remember that name, but I don't know him at all.

FORSYTHE: Robert Bayrden, he was in biology.

HOOD: I remember the name and remember him vaguely, but I am sorry I can't tell you much on him.

FORSYTHE: Emily Calcott.

HOOD: Dr. Calcott, taught English isn't that right?

FORSYTHE: Yes.

HOOD: Dr. Calcott taught English. I had one class with her. She was very tough. I started out to be an English major because of working in radio. The further I got into that, the further away I got from what I was really looking for. I remember having one class with her, but she was very, very tough.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Robert Corlew

HOOD: Dr. Bob Corlew taught history. He probably came there about the time I was a student, I think. I don't think I ever had a class with him but I have since had a lot of association with him because he was later Vice President for Academic Affairs

and retired from that job. We have been involved in some things in the community, wrote the history of Dickson county. I believe that is his home county.

FORSYTHE: Phillip Dalton.

HOOD: Mr. Dalton was over industrial arts. I didn't ever know Mr. Dalton very well. I didn't take shop or anything like that. He was a very skilled person. I know he made a lot of things for the church. I remember he attended North Boulevard Church of Christ and I think he made the lectern that goes on the pulpit. I think he made that for the church, and was a very devoted church member and very active in the church He turned out a lot of very skilled people from the Industrial Arts Department, but I didn't ever have classes with him.

FORSYTHE: Buleah Davis.

HOOD: Buleah Davis, HPER, physical education teacher. I just saw her about a week or so ago and she's retired. I remember Miss Buleah. I didn't have classes with her but one of the fine solid members of the faculty.

FORSYTHE: Frank Elderkin, he was in agriculture.

HOOD: Frank who?

FORSYTHE: Elderkin.

HOOD: No, I don't think I ever knew him.

FORSYTHE: Dilbert Dyke

HOOD: Was he industrial arts also? Yes, I remember Mr. Dykes, but didn't know him all that well. I am sorry I know who he was.

FORSYTHE: S. Carrol Evans

HOOD: Yes he taught English. He wife works for Murfreesboro Ready Mix Concrete Company. I didn't know Mr. Evans very well. He was a pretty tough teacher and I don't mean that as a criticism. I just never did know him very well.

FORSYTHE: Nooby Freeman

HOOD: Mr. Freeman was industrial arts and had been a coach in the past. I knew Mr. Nooby from afar. He and Bob Abernathy, and you haven't mentioned Wink Midgett yet, but they were all a group that used to eat lunch together. They would bring their lunch and eat lunch together at school, were tellers always of tall tales

FORSYTHE: Let's go ahead and do Wink Midgett.

HOOD: Wink Midgett would fit right in there. He is now deceased and has written several books in his time, both text books as well as humor books; and taught business administration, taught accounting, I guess it really was. I had one class with him my senior year and if I had done that my first year, I would have become an accounting major rather than what I was in. Before then I had not dealt with anything that concrete as accounting, where you put down a number and can see an actual result. I remember enjoying the class very much.

FORSYTHE: B.B. Gracy

HOOD: Mr. Gracy was agriculture and I think he was involved in the athletic department, was involved in a lot of things in the community. He was instrumental in the local grange, which was a local organization of agricultural people. I don't hear about the grange as a national organization. His son was clerk and master of the Circuit Court here for many years, Now passed away. his son was a paraplegic from World War II.

FORSYTHE: Charles Greer.

HOOD: Charlie Greer, was the basketball coach and I had Charlie as a physical education teacher when I was in school. If you had tennis shoes you got an "A", if you didn't have tennis shoes you got a "B." It wasn't very difficult to pass his course in physical education, but of course that wasn't his main thrust. His main thrust was coaching basketball. A good guy, but he never did have the great teams that they wanted him to have, but he was certainly a great fellow.

FORSYTHE: Miss Mary Hall.

HOOD: Miss Mary was a lady that I had really known more after being in school. As I mentioned, I would have had one course with her and didn't get it. Of course the dormitory is named for Miss Mary. She used to have problems getting phone calls at home. They were trying to call Miss Mary Hall- Hall, the dormitory, when they would get the real Miss Mary Hall. We went to church together and I missed seeing her very much at church. She was a very quality lady. I remember one incident about Miss Mary. She was a very straight-laced lady. Her father was a doctor and she used to live between here and Woodbury. I can't think of the name of her home now. We had a celebration at the Stones River National Military Cemetery. The band from the high school was there and the governor, Frank Clement, who was a great orator, was to be the speaker. He was about an hour and a half late getting there. We waited and waited and finally he got there. Turned out that when he got there he was drunker than a bicycle, which everybody sort of suspected because he had a problem that sort of developed. I remember him coming up on the platform and the first thing he did was grab Miss Mary and kiss her. I have never seen anybody so embarrassed in my life. I know

how put out she was because she had no use for anything such as that anyway, never mind the kissing. That is not fair to remember Miss Mary in that light, but I remember how embarrassed she was with his coming up and giving her a big kiss.

FORSYTHE: Joe Black Hayes.

HOOD: Joe Black Hayes, teacher of physical education and teacher of driver education. We used to kid Joe Black about his teaching a driver education class. One recollection I remember, he had the driver ed. car. You've been in Murphy Center, going in the back from Raider drive you know how you go down the steps and go in. Joe Black was there with the driver education car and he was trying to get it stopped and went all the way down the steps. I kid him now that there are still chunks out of the steps where that car knocked the chunks. Joe Black finally got it stopped at the bottom. He is a great fellow. We served on the county commission together, very active in the community and just a good solid citizen.

FORSYTHE: Walter Herndon, biology

HOOD: I don't think I know him, spell the last name.

FORSYTHE: H-e-r-n-d-o-n.

HOOD: No, I am sorry.

FORSYTHE: Charles Hall, in chemistry.

HOOD: Don't think I knew him either.

FORSYTHE: James Jaggert, agriculture.

HOOD: Yes Mr. Jaggert, I just remember him. I don't have any specific recollections I could tell you about. He taught agriculture in the high schools here I believe. I guess it was later or before.

FORSYTHE: Horace Jones.

HOOD: I had a mathematics class with him. Of course the Horace Jones field was named for him. He was head of the Athletic Committee, as I recall, and that is how Horace Jones field happened to be named for him. Mr. Jones had taught the course for so long that he knew the book. He would go to the board and say now at the bottom of page 32 you will find so and so. He would write it right on the board just like it was on the book. Just an excellent math teacher.

FORSYTHE: Howard Kirksey.

HOOD: Howard Kirskey, I worked with him. He was, I guess, they called him Vice President of Academic Affairs at the time. Of course he taught in education when I was in school. He was a great fellow, particularly his faculty meetings. He was always legend for his sayings and his comments. I am talking about the later days rather than the earlier days. He printed a weekly newsletter that went out to the faculty, and it always had "The Dean Sez" and then a little saying. Later on somebody put all those together and published them as one publication, but they were always real good. I remember at the first faculty meeting of the year he would always come up with some sage comments. He would always say when we had a break, "There is a sand box at either end of the hall, one for men and one for ladies."

FORSYTHE: Joe Little.

HOOD: Joe Little was a coach and ran the college farm. When he came there, they used to have a house that would have been about where the agriculture building is now. Beyond that was the airport. The airport used to be on campus and that was about the end of the buildings. I remember he lived there, in that house, and he was the assistant coach of football and ran the college farm. His wife was my freshman English teacher at Central High School and is still one of my favorite teachers of all time. Joe tried to get into the feed business in Murfreesboro when the feed store was up for sell, he wanted to buy into it. It didn't work out so they went back to Sparta, their home town, and went into the feed business up there. He was in that business when he passed away. Mary is still living and she has come to every high school reunion we have had except the one we had last year. They remained friends down through the years, people you generally enjoyed seeing when you ran into them.

FORSYTHE: Charles Murphy.

HOOD: Well of course Bubber Murphy is a legend on the campus and was an awful good friend. I enjoyed knowing Coach Murphy when I was a student, and later when I worked there, and also when I worked in the community at the radio station. He was always a good fellow to take care of anything you needed, a loyal alumnus, a loyal faculty and staff member, and just a great coach. He turned out so many athletes that later went into coaching it was no great problem to get good players because all of his former students would send them to him, so they could play for him. Great fellow.

FORSYTHE: Dr. J. Gerald Parchment.

HOOD: Gerald, to this day I remember him at Exchange Club. Gerald came to the campus to teach biology, the same year I came as a student, 1949. No, yeah that's right, 1949, we both came the same year. Gerald at the time he retired, after forty years, had the longest career here. He was just one of the good fellows, very good wit, interesting teacher.

FORSYTHE: Elbert Patty

HOOD: EK was in physical education and a coach. He coached the golf team and as several different assistants. He was business manager of athletics at one time. No specific recollections of EK, but I remember him as a member of the staff.

FORSYTHE: Richard Peck

HOOD: Richard Peck, he was head of the English department but I never had any classes with him. I had every class I could get with his wife, Virginia Peck. You have her on your list too? I'll talk about them both together. A favorite couple of mine, they never had children of their own. Dr. Peck was, well they were both enjoyable people to be around. She was a swimming champion at Vanderbilt when she was a student. They both went on to grow day lilies and were renowned experts in the growing of day lilies. They lived out on Woodbury road and had a farm out there where they grew the day lilies. I was working at the radio station at the time I was in school. We used to have a commentator on the air called Fulton Lewis, Junior who was on the Mutual Broadcasting Network

FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview of Mr. John Hood by Regina Forsythe on Monday July 31st 1995.

HOOD: Talking about Richard and Virginia Peck, there was a commentator on Mutual Network Radio named Fulton Lewis, Jr. was on every night at 6:00. Dr. Peck just could not stand him. In fact, he had opposite views from Dr. Peck and I almost had him convinced to go on the air immediately after and let him respond. He decided that might be a little bit more than he wanted to undertake. Just two great teachers -- as I say I enjoyed every class I had with Virginia Peck.

FORSYTHE: Francis Riel.

HOOD: Fran Riel was in the Physical Education department, came here from New England. I guess he chaired the Physical Education department at one time. I don't know if he did when I was a student or not. Excellent teacher and a coach. I guess he used to teach camping as a course. I guess he first got started doing that. I never had any classes with Fran Riel but knew him as a friend. I remember when I went into the service we lived in Ayre, Mass, A-y-r-e Mass. and that is where his wife was from. I have that recollection being from Massachusetts.

FORSYTHE: Tommie Reynolds.

HOOD: Miss Tommie was a mathematics professor. I don't believe I ever had a class with her. I do remember that when she died they had two scholarships set up, one would be a male or female mathematics major, who did not smoke or drink; and the other

would be for a male or female physical education major Semites who did not smoke or drink. Now I don't know whether they ever fulfilled the restrictions on that, but they were pretty strict on that.

FORSYTHE: Hester Rodgers.

HOOD: She taught art. Her name was Hester Rodgers Ray, and I really didn't know anything about her other than she taught art.

FORSYTHE: Ellis Rucker.

HOOD: Ellis Rucker was in biology, or chemistry?

FORSYTHE: Biology.

HOOD: Dr. Rucker I knew in later years. I never did know him as a faculty member. His wife is a good friend of mine, never knew him that much, I knew his brother real well, but I never knew him.

FORSYTHE: Ruby Taylor Sanders.

HOOD: Miss Ruby was in the Music Department and the original music building was named for her. No that was E. Mae Saunders, I am getting them mixed up. Ruby Taylor Sanders was in the Music department and she taught violin, as I recall. Just knew her from afar, just knew who he was, I was confusing her with Miss E. Mae Saunders.

FORSYTHE: I do too, the names are so familiar. Elizabeth Schardt, she was foreign language...

HOOD: Yes Miss Schardt, yes, Schardt Hall is named for her. She taught French as well as many other foreign languages. I had one quarter of French with her and then decided that French was not my forte. She was a very lovely lady. I remember she lived in an apartment house on East Main. She had an arm missing, or an artificial limb. I don't know what made me remember that. I don't know how she had lost that in previous times, but I had one class with her.

FORSYTHE: John Scott.

HOOD: John Scott taught speech and he later went on to Central High School. His widow Mary is a good friend of Dr. Gerald Parchment that we talked about earlier. They are social partners together. John was real good in teaching speech and drama and a good friend.

FORSYTHE: Douglas Shields, physics.

HOOD: Yes I remember Doug, vaguely. He later went to Old Miss. I don't remember a great deal. I don't think I ever had any classes with him.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Sims.

HOOD: Dr. C.C. Sims, social sciences -- to me he was one of the great master teachers when I was there. Dr. Sims, if you were later than ten minutes getting to his class, he hooked the door where you couldn't get in so it forced you to be on time. He wrote the history of Rutherford County, and he was one of the great faculty members of my day.

FORSYTHE: Eugene Sloan.

HOOD: One of my good friends, I worked with Mr. Sloan. When I went there I took some journalism classes with him, a good teacher and a good journalist. He was director of public relations when he retired. I always remember he taught me not to use "and so forth." I remember one of the tests in journalism I wrote and wrote and wrote, and finally I just said and so forth. He turned it back with a red circle around it and said, "I don't know what 'and so forth' means." He was right. I knew what I meant but he didn't. So that cured me from using Etc. and that kind of thing.

FORSYTHE: Clifford Stark.

HOOD: Dr. Stark came there to head the agriculture department. He was at Cornell University in New York. He had been here as a student and came back after many years to head the agriculture department. He was real organized and a real go-getter. He was able to get a lot of notoriety for Clifford Stark, of course there is nothing wrong with that. He worked out a situation where he left his farm out on Blackman to the university with the university providing a scholarship fund in return for that. He was a real promoter and probably helped put the agriculture department on the map when he came here.

FORSYTHE: Roscoe Strickland

HOOD: Roscoe Strickland came to the History department when I left school there and he left and went to, I think, Virginia or North Carolina. He and his wife have both retired and have moved back here and are living here in Murfreesboro. I remember taking American history with him, voluminous notes. I have never taken so many notes for any other class and I remember taking a class with him that had three hundred questions on it. He pretty well covered all the material that he had covered in class.

FORSYTHE: How long was the exam?

HOOD: I don't recall, but it took a while to finish it up.

FORSYTHE: Essays?

HOOD: No, he was more, not multiple choice, but fill in the blanks. But it still was a lengthy exam.

FORSYTHE: Charlotte Williams

HOOD: Dr. Charlotte Williams, now Charlotte Williams Allen, I see her in the bank from time to time, I had her in political science and she was one of the more interesting teachers that I ever had. I enjoyed her and it was fascinating to take political science. Her father was Judge Albert Williams in Nashville. She later married a dentist here in Murfreesboro, who has since passed away. We were distant cousins. She was always one of my favorite persons.

FORSYTHE: Jay Elridge Wiser

HOOD: J. E. Wiser, chemistry, retired. Very excellent teacher although I never had him. He was very strict in all that he did. I think he has turned out some excellent students. Probably the reason that so many of our student could get out of here and go to medical school was faculty members like him.

FORSYTHE: Margaret and Neal Wright

HOOD: With the Music Department, they are good friends. Of course Neal has passed away. They really did a lot of wonderful things. Neal was the chair of the department ,and Margaret taught organ and had the "Sacred Harp Singers," and so many other things there in the Music Department. They really helped to make the Music Department largely what it is today.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about the presidents before I go on to ask you about the other people. Q.M. Smith, what do you remember about him.

HOOD: Well, Mr. Smith was president when I was in school. He had been at Tennessee Tech prior to coming here as president there. I guess he was president twenty years here '38 to '58, does that sound right?

FORSYTHE: That's right.

HOOD: He had been at Tech either ten or twenty years,

FORSYTHE: Eighteen.

HOOD: Eighteen, and was very, very excellent. Mr. Smith, I always understood, had been gassed in World War I and he had a tremendous speech impediment. It would give you great admiration for being able to go as far as he did in his career. I

know many people did not know that. I remember he would speak to groups and would start off speaking, of course many people could not understand him and did not know the situation, and that would cause a little stir. But as they listened and got their attention they would understand and appreciate him. I always understood that if Mr. Smith got upset and called you in to speak with him there was no difficulty in understanding his speech. I got to know him and dealing with him, although I couldn't understand him very well, I always admired him for the ability he had in the first place and secondly what he could do with his speech impediment that did not keep him back in his professional career. Mrs. Smith was a very lovely lady that I loved and appreciated very much.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Dr. Cope?

HOOD: Dr. Cope had hired me, or allowed me to come there. Of course I had to be approved through Mr. Abernathy. Just a great administrator for MTSU, he came here as Commissioner of Education. That was not unusual. Once somebody served as Commissioner of Education they usually went to a college presidency somewhere in the state. He was from Sparta. I remember one day he called an emergency meeting of the faculty and staff to announce that he was resigning and going to UT to hold a chair at UT. I was never so shocked in my life when the news came back that he had taken his life and died. It was so unfortunate with so many more years to go. That is something we will never fully understand. I remember his brother, who is a minister down in Florida, preached his funeral. I think ever president was the right man for his time at the university. They always had the abilities that were available at the time. He was the president there during the great expansion of the campus when so many of the buildings were built and the campus really expanded and really grew tremendously.

FORSYTHE: What about Mrs. Cope?

HOOD: I used to go to church with both of them. In fact, I used to sit in Sunday School class with her, Dr. Cope taught a class. I always remember her. She was one of my favorite ladies, just a gracious lady. She was to me just what a president's wife ought to be and just a very classy person.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Dr. Scarlett?

HOOD: Well I remember him very well. I worked with him for over five years as his administrative assistant. I remember when he came there to the campus in 1978, that's not right, 1968, he was at a college in Maine. All of a sudden I can't remember that. Of course I was in the development office when he came to work there and I think Dr. Wagner went to work as his administrative assistant. When he [Wagner] moved to another job that was open I had an opportunity to go there. I enjoyed working with Dr. Scarlett very much. We had a good working relationship. We had a crew of four people in the office, two ladies, Dr. Scarlett, and myself. We had some very difficult times. Unfortunately Dr. Scarlett and a

member of the Board of Regents didn't see eye to eye on some things, so we had a lot of things to overcome at that period of time; but still we made it. I think he had a vision for the university that I think a lot of people didn't share. I think it was really right for the time. He brought the Doctor of Arts to the campus, he was instrumental in getting that approved. Murphy Center was built during his administration, and the Learning Resources Center was built during his time there. Unfortunately that building was not used for what it really should have been used for, and it became another classroom building in many regards. I think he had foresight that a lot of other people didn't have. He was right for his time there.

FORSYTHE: Mrs. Scarlett.

HOOD: I just saw her Saturday, as a matter of fact. She is a very lovely lady, very active in the community, very well thought of. He was very shy and retiring. but she was more outgoing. She played golf and was very active in the community. They were a very wonderful family.

FORSYTHE: Let me get back to faculty members again. When you were working here, Chester Burns, do you remember him?

HOOD: Chet Burns, a military man as I recall. He has since passed away. Everything I remember was fine. I don't have a lot of things to recall.

FORSYTHE: Martha Hampton.

HOOD: Martha was Dean of Women. She was dean up until the time it was hard for her to do, because that was a time when we were getting a little bit more liberal. Let me put it like this, and I don't know how this will be used, I remember if the girls wanted to wear shorts they had to wear a raincoat across campus to cover up wearing shorts. That was pretty hard to administer at that time and certainly I understand the idea. But Martha did a good job as Dean of Women and later went on to Campus School as principle over there, which was probably a better role for her at that time.

FORSYTHE: Dr. James Covington.

HOOD: Guidance and Counseling. Jim's parent's were good friends of mine and of course he is still there, I believe, isn't he?

FORSYTHE: I don't know. I know more about the past than I do now.

HOOD: Yes, Jim is still there, a good fellow, came up through the Cumberland Presbyterian church. His father was a Cumberland Presbyterian minister.

FORSYTHE: Dr. James Martin.

HOOD: James Aquilla Martin, known as "Skinny." He was the chairman of the Department of Guidance and Counseling and came there teaching psychology. He was a campus cut-up and a campus card, always up to some foolishness. He was a good fellow. His wife just recently died. He worked as a consultant to State Farm Insurance company, worked with our employees.

FORSYTHE: Julie Millholland.

HOOD: Her husband, Mike, played basketball. Was she in housing?

FORSYTHE: It says Dean of Women.

HOOD: I guess she was ,wasn't she? I think that she also worked in housing, maybe handled that job as a part of housing -- real fine lady. As I said, her husband played basketball and they had a son that played for Vanderbilt. I don't remember anything else.

FORSYTHE: Sam McClean.

HOOD: Sam was in housing, in the student affairs, a good fellow. Sam had been a fighter pilot in, I guess, World War II, maybe a little later than that; he had been a pilot anyway, in the service. He did a good job.

FORSYTHE: Maddie Lee Gracy

HOOD: She was married to Mr. B.B. Gracy. Later, she was a dorm mother. She is Bob Parks mother, nice lady. I see her from time to time.

FORSYTHE: Alma Bass.

HOOD: She worked at the student union building, was a hostess there; and also went to work at the Christian Student center. Her husband was a great athlete for MTSU and her son was with the FBI. He is retired from the FBI and is still teaching at the Law Enforcement academy. Alma is a gracious lady.

FORSYTHE: Dallas Biggers.

HOOD: Dallas was over at the University Center, in charge. I'm not sure what his title was at the time.

FORSYTHE: Director of the University Center.

HOOD: Yes , Director of the University Center, came here from Texas, since retired. He did a good job there, good guy to work with.

FORSYTHE: Robert Hackman.

HOOD: He was the campus physician. I don't think Bob still is, I don't know who is. He is a practicing physician in Murfreesboro and at that time was the campus physician, it was a part time position. Good fellow.

FORSYTHE: Barbara Martin.

HOOD: Barbara, where did she work, in the housing office or in the health center, yes, the health services building. Her husband Roy works there in the Physical Education Department.

FORSYTHE: Val Smith.

HOOD: Val Smith managed the food services there on campus for ARA. Later he went on to ARA corporate office in Atlanta and has since retired from ARA. He started out as a student worker in the cafeteria and worked on up and did a real good job.

HOOD: Robert Jay McClean.

HOOD: He was the Dean of Students. He and his wife Dottie were real good friends. They were both killed in a car wreck here a few years ago. He came originally as the first professor of military science when I was a student, I think, and then later left in the military and came back as Dean of Students.

FORSYTHE: Dr. John Weems.

HOOD: John was Dean of Admissions. Later he went on to Merideth College in North Carolina and is still president, just a great guy for there. He was a candidate for the presidency and didn't get selected so he later went on to another school. How much more do you think we've got?

FORSYTHE: I've got quite a bit. If you want ,we can stop.

HOOD: Yes I really need to. I didn't think we were going to talk about all these people.

FORSYTHE: Well I appreciate you letting me come.