

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
JOHN BRAGG

31 AUGUST 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.082

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

EDITORIAL NOTICE

This is a transcript of a tape-recorded interview conducted by the Albert Gore Research Center at Middle Tennessee State University. The original recording and associated materials are archived at the center, whose collections may be accessed in person or via the web site gorecenter.mtsu.edu. After a draft of this transcript was made, the interviewer, or in some cases another qualified staff member, reviewed the draft and compared it to the tape recordings. In a few cases, the interviewee also contributed editorial corrections. This final transcript incorporates the corrections and other changes suggested by the interviewee and interviewer. The transcript follows as closely as possible the recorded interview, including the usual starts, stops, and other rough spots in typical conversation. The reader should remember that this is essentially a transcript of the spoken, rather than the written, word. Stylistic matters, such as punctuation and capitalization, follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition. The transcript includes bracketed notices at the end of one tape and the beginning of the next so that, if desired, the reader can find a section of tape more easily by using this transcript.

RESTRICTION

The interviewee has donated her or his copyright in this interview to the state of Tennessee through Middle Tennessee State University and has agreed that use of the recorded interview and transcript shall be governed by the director of the Albert Gore Research Center.

Researchers may read, quote from, cite, photocopy, and download this transcript without permission for purposes of research only. Publication is prohibited, however, without permission from the director of the Albert Gore Research Center.

ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
JOHN BRAGG**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.082

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith Collection designated as QMS. 1995. 82. This is Regina Forsythe. I am interviewing Mr. John Bragg, Sr. Today is Thursday, August 31, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the Gore Research Center, Room 111 in the Ned McWherter Learning Resource Center. The tape of this interview along with a transcription of the interview will become part of the Quintin Miller Smith collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is that alright with you?

BRAGG: That's fine.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

BRAGG: John Thomas Bragg.

FORSYTHE: And your birthday?

BRAGG: May 19, 1918.

FORSYTHE: Birthplace?

BRAGG: Woodbury, Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: And your father's name?

BRAGG: Minor Elam Bragg.

FORSYTHE: And his occupation?

BRAGG: He was a printer, newspaper publisher. He had several jobs during his lifetime. Early on, when I was a kid, he had a garage in Woodbury, the newspaper, and the funeral home.

FORSYTHE: What was your mother's name?

BRAGG: My mother's name was Callie Lulee Bragg. My mother was a Bragg and my father was a Bragg, but they didn't claim any relation.

FORSYTHE: What was her occupation?

BRAGG: She was housewife and also secretary for the corporation.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

BRAGG: I have one sister, Wordna Elizabeth Black.

FORSYTHE: You wife's name?

BRAGG: Susan Lytle Bragg.

FORSYTHE: And her occupation?

BRAGG: Housewife.

FORSYTHE: And your children's names?

BRAGG: I have two...Tommy and David, and she has three.

FORSYTHE: Did anyone else in your family come here to MTSU?

BRAGG: My sister took work here.

FORSYTHE: Did she graduate?

BRAGG: She'd already graduated from Tennessee College, but she took some work here. My granddaughter, Beth is in school here now.

FORSYTHE: Why did you choose to come to MTSU?

BRAGG: We were in the newspaper business since I was six years old. I was eight years old when I got my aunt caught in a printing press and cut off three fingers. I grew up in the newspaper business. When I was here in school, I edited the "Sidelines" and worked on the Midlander while I played basketball, baseball, and later golf. My early intention was to go here two years and go to Columbia, who had a very good Journalism Department at that time. After I got settled here, I didn't want to leave, so I wound up editing the "Sidelines" my junior and senior years and was president of the student body my senior year. I was playing ball, so I decided to stay here and get my degree. Dr. Q.M. Smith was here as president when I was.

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

BRAGG: I remember how brilliant he was. I remember he was smart, but he had a speech impediment. I felt that was really the only reason he landed here. I felt that if he didn't have that speech impediment he would have went at such a higher level.

The state liked him because he could account for every penny he got in tax dollars. He would watch construction here, and he was just a very good administrator. I thought he was very fair but he was also strong. During the time I was president of the student body after he got here, I went in and told him that I thought the student body should have a little more say so in what was going on, including discipline. He told me that he would be willing to sit in on the discipline hearings that afternoon. But, it turned out that all three of the discipline hearings were friends of mine. I didn't want to do it, so I didn't go in. I remember John R. Parker from Shelbyville. When he was a senior with me, he went in and told him that he thought there should be a sidewalk from Jones Hall to the library. Dr. Smith took him out on the front steps of Old Main and told him that as soon as the boys from Jones Hall wore a path to the library, he'd pave it. Dr. Smith was really a fine person. I remember Neil Wright belonged to the Rotary Club. I was president of the Rotary Club before Q.M. was. All the presidents liked to sing a song as the meeting started. Each one of the presidents had tried to get Neil Wright, who was head of the Music Department, to lead the song at Rotary. He refused to do that because he had music all day and when he came to the rotary club, he didn't think we should have to have music. I remember the first day Q.M. was president, we did the prayer and the pledge, and then he wiggled his finger at Neil Wright and told him to lead us in a song and Neil did. He led us in singing the entire time Q.M. was president. I remember one time when we went to Memphis, I got to know Q.M. pretty well. To most people he was a rigid disciplinarian, but he had a good human side to him. I guess the most surprised I ever was happened when Witcher Phillips was at Phillips Bookstore. We were both Rotarians, and we were pushing Q.M. to be district governor of Rotary. We were going to Memphis to an annual Rotary meeting. Q.M. had Witcher and I ride down with he and Mrs. Smith. At that time, we may had rather went by ourselves, but Q.M. had asked us and there wasn't much we could do about it. So, we got down there and Richard and I had decided I'd have a high ball or two before we went out to dinner. But Q.M. had reserved these rooms in a row next to each other. Witcher and I registered together in the next room. As we registered, the clerk asked if we wanted a key to get to Q.M. so that we could open the door between the two rooms. Richard and I were going to take a drink, and we didn't want Q.M. to know. We got up to the room, and Richard and I were sharing. I asked him if he had brought something and he answered, "No, I thought you did." I said, "Well, we don't have a thing to drink." About that time, there was a knock on the door out in the hall. I went to the door and Q.M. was there in his undershirt and pants. He gave me a twenty dollar bill, and told me to get us something to drink and some ice and chase. I called downstairs and told them to bring us a bottle, chase, and a bucket of ice and bring us the key to that room so that I can open it up between us and Dr. Smith. So, we opened that door and had a party. Then we went out to eat. I'll always remember that evening. I learned how human he was. Back in those days, people were sort of scared of the presidents of universities. They're not scared of presidents anymore, but they used to be. Dr. Smith was a strong disciplinarian, and he didn't allow any fooling around. He and Dean Beasley were a good pair. So, that's about how I remember

him. He was a good fellow. He helped us when we wrote the associated student body. Charlie Miller and myself and several others worked together to construct the constitution for the student body. We redrafted it and put in a new one. We got it done about the middle of the year between semesters. Charlie served that year, and I served the next year. I had a great deal of respect for Mr. Q.M. He was in France during World War I, and he said they were warned when they went into a new town the water supply may not be pure, and if they had any doubts, they should drink white wine. He said that he doubted the water was pure in any town he went into. I think what caused his speech impediment was that he was gassed. I heard that but I don't know for sure. We had deep misgivings when he came here. I remember we didn't like him coming from Tennessee Tech. That was a hindrance until we got over it. The first thing he did was hire Wink Midgett to come and coach. At that time, Sam Smith and I were writing the sports page for the "Rutherford Courier." We had a lot to say in that sports page about getting a coach from Tennessee Tech. We didn't like that at all. We wrote some rough editorials about that in our sports page. We had a column we wrote. Sam was manager of the football team and later he played fullback. He died this past year. He's a retired colonel in the Marines. We didn't like it because he brought Wink down here. I heard Wink say once that he didn't win but one game his first year. He had planned on adding a win every year. He didn't want to come in and win them all at one time because we wouldn't have anywhere to go then. Wink was coach of the basketball team, and then he got four of us together to be the first golf team - Dr. Patty, Aaron Jackson, and Jimmy Jackson. Jimmy Jackson was in the business office here for many years. He still lives here in town. We played a couple of years. When I was a junior, we had started the golf team. So, that was the first team we had. Coach Midgett was always a fine person. We came to like him very much. He did all right. He started the Business Department that we now have. We're getting a business aerospace building. When we got the Alumni Memorial gymnasium over there, they remodeled the old auditorium into the Business Department. I believe that was done under Dr. Q.M. I graduated in 1940. I went to UT on a fellowship and was named executive director of the Tennessee Press Association. I stayed there from August 1940 until August 1942 until I went into service. I stayed in the service until January 1946. So, I missed out on what happened here from about 1940 to 1946. The forty years Joe Nunley writes about... I know a lot of the guys he wrote about were freshmen when I was here.

FORSYTHE: Did it matter that Q.M. was in the first class at this school?

BRAGG: It didn't matter. He was in the first class here. He was the big man on campus. My father was here in 1911. Then, it was called Middle Tennessee Normal, but I never heard him talk about Dr. Smith.

FORSYTHE: When did you come to MTSU?

BRAGG: First, when we moved here from Woodbury. I had finished the seventh grade in Woodbury. Daddy had started the "Rutherford Courier" here. There was a semi-weekly and a daily here in Murfreesboro. They merged. My daddy always said that a town should have two newspapers because he was highly political. He said it should have two sides. Back then we had two big sides of the factions of the Democratic party. There were about four Republicans in Rutherford County back then. Of course, when the Republicans had a president, they handed out all of the jobs. I went to training school at my eighth grade, and then I came over here and graduated in 1940. It took me four years plus the summer to get everything finished. Out of 1,200 students, there were about two cars parked on campus near Jones Hall. I lived on campus my last two years because they gave the editor of "Sidelines" his room on campus in the dormitory, so, I stayed on campus even though my family lived on East Main just a block from Davis Grocery. I stayed in Jones Hall. That was the boys dormitory then.

FORSYTHE: What was it like living there?

BRAGG: It was great. Coach Freeman was the house daddy. He had an apartment downstairs as you entered the left side. Nooby Freeman was the assistant coach for varsity as well as the freshman coach. A guy named Randy Wood came from Morrison, and he was the most innovative entrepreneur I ever knew. He had an ice-box in his room with drinks and moon pies. He also had razor blades and things like that. He was a little store right in his room. He went away one weekend and forgot to empty the ice box before he left. The water leaked out and ran into Mr. Freeman's room. Dr. Smith said that he almost kicked Randy out of school for that. Randy is the one who started the Foundation here. Charlie Miller had the laundry route. Several of them worked in the cafeteria. Everett McEntire was one of those who helped write the constitution. I had a real good friend, we double-dated all the time, and later became Dr. Madison Dill, an optometrist. I was president of the Freshmen class, and he was president of the Sophomore class. He and I both ran for president of the Student Body, and came out with a tie vote. Then we had a run-off and I won the run off. He always said that the reason I won the run-off was because I had a cousin here who came in for spring to take more work and he got all of the old teachers that came in from the spring quarter to vote for me instead of him. He said that's how I beat him. We got along fine then. I don't recall that we had a great deal of problems under Dr. Q.M. I think the fact that he came from TPI sort of set people apart for awhile. Everything worked out all right. The University did well, he did well. Back during the depression, Mr. Jim Cummings told me that the total budget for MTSU was \$50,000. Today, the budget is around \$110,000. I guess Dr. Lyon was here during most of the depression. Dr. Q.M. came about the same time as I did. We had a field behind the science building. That's where we played football. We didn't have any stands. Everyone just walked up and down the side and just watched the ballgame. The baseball field was in front of the science building. While I was here, they moved the football field to where it is now. People would bring chairs if they wanted to sit down. Dr. Q.M. did the stadium out of auxiliary

enterprise monies. He got that done. He also got the Alumni Memorial gym built, but they ran out of money before they could get armed seats. So, he had to put in bleachers. We had the biggest crowd I have ever seen when we had the Globe-Trotters played here, the first time they had played below the Mason-Dixon Line. I think Q.M. may have had something to do with that. We had such a crowd that Roy Acuff showed up and had to sit on the floor. People were hanging on the rafters out there.

FORSYTHE: You mentioned a laundry route. You didn't do your own laundry?

BRAGG: We didn't have a place to do a laundry. Charlie Miller picked up laundry and dry-cleaning and had it done downtown. He got paid to do that. We had a cafeteria and a lunchroom, and Dr. Smith said he never did make any money on it. When he finally privatized it, he got a break off the top, that was the first time he'd ever made any money running a cafeteria. We had meal tickets. Some of the guys had girlfriends that worked over there. When they'd hand them their meal ticket, they'd end up with more money on the ticket than when they went in. Under Dr. Smith, we had the first dance on campus. We had a jukebox in the cafeteria which is now the alumni center. We'd play the jukebox and everyone would dance. It was a very small group of people here, but the first dance we had was neat. Later, we had a dance with an orchestra in the old gymnasium under Q.M. That started the dances here on campus. We used to dance every Wednesday evening in the cafeteria after dinner. Back then, dancing was sort of big. The Nashville Cotillion Club was big and held several dances. A lot of people here were members. Old Jefferson was a place where a lot of people would go. It had a bowling alley. It's under water now, Percy Priest Lake. There was more on-campus life then, because there weren't as many commuters. They were all here.

FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview with Mr. John Bragg, Sr. by Regina Forsythe on Thursday, August 31, 1995. What about the weekends? Did students stay on campus then?

BRAGG: Many stayed on campus then. Some who would be carpooling would get a ride home or ride the bus. We had good bus service then, you could go anywhere around Middle Tennessee by bus. You can't do that now. Most everyone lived close or at least in the area. There was usually a ball game on Saturday night, football during the year. We managed to get transportation one way or the other. There was usually something going on here on the weekends. A better percentage of the student body was here on the weekends than now.

FORSYTHE: What was your major?

BRAGG: Probably nobody knows. I took social sciences. I liked history and things of that nature. My greatest scholarly achievement was to make three straight "D's" in chemistry. I just could not cut it. Miss Ollie Green, bless her heart, she tried. You had to have nine credit hours in chemistry. I got my three straight "D's".

That was my crowning achievement, to get that chemistry behind me. I took mostly social courses and history. When I went to the University of Tennessee, one of the perks I had was free registration. I had enough history to require for a master's degree in history. I never did finish it. The war came along and I went into service. When I came back, my father had a heart attack, so I stayed here and ran the newspaper and stayed with him. I came back because we had a business here.

FORSYTHE: Did you have to student teach?

BRAGG: No, I never did student teach. I didn't take education. I was over there in eighth grade.

FORSYTHE: Who were your teachers?

BRAGG: My practice teachers were Sonia Hendrix and another young man whose name I don't remember. My teacher's over there were Dr. Simpson and Dr. Waller. I had Miss Mary Hall as my first grade teacher in Woodbury. She gave me my first whipping during school. I didn't do anything except to set the schoolhouse on fire. We started a fire right in the corner of the schoolhouse. I loved her all my life. She was just wonderful, and she later came here. She retired back when retirement didn't pay anything to anybody. As she lived longer, her retirement base was so small. All of my legislative career, I've raised those bases where I could, and now we have everybody retired roughly on 1980 salaries. Of course, she retired way back years before that. I always worried about Miss. Mary that she didn't have enough base. But, we've got a good system now, and I'm proud of it. She later came here to training school and then came over here as a roving person. She was sort of like a traveling supervisor like Robert Abernathy was.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Roy Simpson?

BRAGG: He was a very fine person. He taught math, and he was principal. I don't think I ever really saw him excited or stressful. He was able to move very easily. He was very soft-spoken and cordial. He was a fine fellow. I always liked Mr. Simpson. Dr. Waller was a little more upbeat, a little more forceful and a little bit demanding.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about the faculty members that were here while you were a college student. Do you remember Dr. Simms?

BRAGG: Oh yes, Dr. Simms was unbelievable. There's a lot of tales about Dr. Simms that people can tell you and laugh about him. He lived on the Boulevard. I have a couple of his histories that he wrote on Murfreesboro. He was demanding. He was a good teacher, and he kept people together and interested. I enjoyed his classes very much. I took Miss. Monohan's courses. She always outlined the week. She read the outline and we'd listen and take it down. She would read the

entire outline and we'd outline right with her in her history classes. Miss. Tommy Reynolds taught PT and also taught algebra. Mrs. Buleah Davis was here then. She still lives near where I live. Dr. Waller and Mr. Simpson were here as well as Eva Burkett, Mr. Frasier, Dr. Golightly.

FORSYTHE: What can you tell me about Neal Frasier?

BRAGG: Well, he taught English. I wasn't very interested, but of course, I wasn't very interested in a lot of things. I was more interested in extracurricular activities. I also did stringing for the "Tennessean" at the time in sports. I got paid a dime an inch for everything they ran that I sent. Neal Frasier was one of the stalwarts here. If I'm not mistaken, he taught Bible Literature and Shakespeare. Dr. Golightly taught the social things. He gave everyone a number and when he'd take the class roll, he'd ask everyone to start with one, two, three, four. Sometimes all the numbers would be there, but it wouldn't be that many people. He gave me a D in a class. I went in and told him that I thought I made better grades than that on his tests. Well, he'd always put the keys on the completion tests on the board, if you could ever just figure out the keys. We went in one day and he wrote it up in the exact same order as the blanks in the completion tests, and everybody made 100. Some guy told him what had happened, and he made us all start over and take it again. I told him that I had made good grades on all my tests. And he said, "Yes, but you were absent about twelve times." He was very good. He had a daughter named Bonnie Golightly, and she later wrote "Breakfast at Tiffany's." She was quite a writer. She went to New York.

Dean Beasley taught classes also. He was a very caring person. He would go and help recruit students. He would even recruit football players. He worked out problem after problem for students. He was the one that took care of all your problems. His son taught here for awhile. Q.M.'s office was on one side of Old Main, and Dean Beasley's was on the other side. The entire school was run out of those two offices.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Mr. Woodmore.

BRAGG: Mr Woodmore came here from around Hartsville, and he was very, very efficient. He ran the business office and took care of all of the money. When Johnny Red Floyd or one of the coaches couldn't go with the team, he'd go with the team. He went with us to Austin Peay once when we went over there for a baseball game. That was the game where Bubber Murphy, Jaybird Hamlin, and Emmitt Kennan were playing back then. I was a sophomore. We were leading about 10 to 4 and I was pitching. That's when I struck out the fellow with everyone on the team sitting down. Mr. Woodmore was with us that day. Johnny Red would have never allowed that if he had been with us. This catcher at Austin Peay had a lot to say to some of our people, and we thought that he tried to spike Jaybird Hamlin on first base. We got two strikes on this fellow, and then I threw one that went by shoulder high and he swung at it. Anyway, the Austin Peay coach came and gave

me that ball after the game was over. I've lost it, but I wish I had it. Mr. Woodmore went with us, and he paid for our meals. He'd go along and see that we didn't get into trouble and take care of us, but he didn't manage us like Johnny Red did. Coach Floyd was here at that time. Coach Floyd, then Coach Freeman, then Coach Herk Alley then Midgett came. I guess Midgett stayed until Bubber Murphy came back. That was back when they won the SIAA championship. The school ran real well, but we only had a thousand students. We had a small campus then.

FORSYTHE: Horace Jones?

BRAGG: Yes, bless his heart, he gave me a grade in trigonometry. It was a five- hour course, and about half way through the course, I could see that I was going to fail. I told him that I wanted to drop the course. He encouraged me not to drop it. He went through and gave me a few questions, and I got to guessing answers, and he said, "That's a passing grade." He later bought the Ford Agency. One of his boys, H.G., was in my class and the other one was Bob, they went to school here at the time we were here. Dr. Jones recruited the good ball team that we had - Murphy, Smitherman, Ambrick, Baskin, Bass, Todd Jackson. He was deeply involved in athletics. He liked athletics, and he taught math, but that was the only class I ever had under him.

FORSYTHE: What about Phillip Mankin?

BRAGG: I never had a class under Dr. Mankin. He was a strange one.

FORSYTHE: How about B.B. Gracy?

BRAGG: Dr. Gracy taught tennis, too. When I was a freshmen, I played on the tennis team. Mr. Gracy taught health and physical education. One of the field trips for him was to take everyone down to the central state hospital where all the syphilitic patients and the people who were crazy were. He'd take us down there, and they'd bring these people out, terrible looking people. They'd be in their last stages of venereal diseases and all of that. We always hated to go because you went on that field trip and came back up here, nobody would give you a date. It was just awful. Mr. Gracy was a fine person. His son, B.B. and I were in the same class. B.B. was shot in the war and paralyzed from the waist down. The choral teachers all seemed to have extra duties other than teaching. They had to do other things. We didn't have a huge group of teachers.

FORSYTHE: What about Robert Abernathy?

BRAGG: First time I ever knew Bob he was a coach at Woodbury. He was a good after dinner speaker. He did a lot of after-dinner speaking. He catalogued his jokes on three by five cards. He even had an agent that made engagements for him to speak after-dinner speeches. He was a disciplinarian. He won the district

basketball tournament for Woodbury five straight years. He was an excellent basketball coach, but he never coached at any higher level. Everyone in Cannon County thought Bob Abernathy hung the moon. I'll have to tell you the story Bob told on himself. He said that after he retired here, he got a call from his agent and said that he had a speaking engagement for him at the Reed House in Chattanooga at a convention. Bob checked his calendar and it happened to be the date of his 40th wedding anniversary. He and his wife had spent the first night on their honeymoon at the Reed House, room 510. Bob said that they went up there and they were all excited about going back to the Reed House and getting room 510 as on their honeymoon. They got there and they couldn't get the same room number, but they got 410. On the way home, his wife said to him, "I didn't realize one floor could make that much difference."

FORSYTHE: How about Phillip Cheek?

BRAGG: I never took a foreign language.

FORSYTHE: Edward Baldwin?

BRAGG: Dr. Baldwin was a very consistent man here. I believe he was in geography. Sometime later I got a big geology map of Tennessee that had all the geology. It was the length of this room. I gave it to the Geology Department. I don't know if they still have it or not. Dr. Baldwin came here a little after I graduated. Maybe he was here when I was here, but I never did take anything under him.

FORSYTHE: How about H. Thompson Strong, also in geography?

BRAGG: No.

FORSYTHE: Gabriel Valdez in music?

BRAGG: No. The first music people I knew were the Wright's. Dr. Valdez was Spanish. He was here, but I wasn't a music person. He was very popular with the students. Dr. Dill played trumpet and still does even at his age now. He was with the American Legion band in Nashville.

FORSYTHE: What about Betty Murphy, the librarian?

BRAGG: I'm not too familiar with the library. I didn't wear a path to the library.

FORSYTHE: How about Mr. Baer, the farm manager?

BRAGG: He had a farm back over here off Greenland Drive. I just knew him, but I never was involved in agriculture.

FORSYTHE: How about Bonnie McHenry?

BRAGG: Miss Bonnie was such a good friend of ours. She and mother were inseparable. Miss Bonnie was Q.M.'s secretary, and she was always good to me. Miss Bonnie, my mother, Mr. Jim Cummings wife, Miss Hester, and Rollie Holden's brother's wife, ran together all the time. Miss Bonnie was one of them. My mother was the last living one of that crowd. They'd always get together on Saturday night.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember P.A. Lyon?

BRAGG: I remember him well. He was a very strong person. P.A. Lyon was kicked out. Knox Hutchinson went to the state legislature and passed a bill that you had to have an earned degree to be president. Mr. Hutchinson had taught agriculture here and there must've been something between the two of them. When he went to the legislature, he passed legislation that required that to be president, you must have an earned degree. Mr. Lyon didn't have an earned degree. Mr. Lyon was the son-in-law of Mr. Jones, our first president. Then Mr. Lyons daughter married Horace Jones. Miss Bonnie was secretary for Mr. Lyons and then secretary for Q.M. She was a good woman and a very personal friend.

FORSYTHE: Since you've graduated you've been involved in several school projects? Can you tell me what you've been involved in?

BRAGG: I was president of the Quarter-Back Club. It was the same as the Blue Raider Association now. Well, I guess legislatively the first thing I got into was the seats over in the big. . . Dr. Cope was here when I went to the legislature. They ran out of money on that, to get those opera seats that they have in there. But, we got the extra money for that. The wing to the music building. The Wrights had asked for years if we could get some more space for them. The mass comm. building, we worked out something under the interim president to get one million dollars of state money and we matched it here.