

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
JIMMY JACKSON

15 SEPTEMBER 1995
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.098

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

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
JIMMY JACKSON**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.098

FORSYTHE: This tape is part of the Q.M. Smith Collection designated as QMS.1995.98. This is Regina Forsythe, I am interviewing Mr. Jimmy Jackson. Today is Friday, September 15, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the home of Mr. Jackson, located at 416 Second Avenue, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview along with a transcription of the interview will become part of the Quintin Miller Smith Collection and will be available to the public. Future researchers may include portions of this interview in their publications. Is that alright with you Mr. Jackson?

JACKSON: That's fine with me.

FORSYTHE: Ok, what's your full name?

JACKSON: James William Jackson.

FORSYTHE: And your birthrate?

JACKSON: April the 19th, 1920

FORSYTHE: And your birthplace?

JACKSON: Nashville, Tennessee.

FORSYTHE: And your father's name?

JACKSON: Charles Libert XXX Jackson.

FORSYTHE: And his occupation?

JACKSON: In retirement with the Railway Express Agency.

FORSYTHE: And your mother's name?

JACKSON: Louella Calbel XXX but everyone called her Lulu

FORSYTHE: What was her occupation?

JACKSON: She was a housewife.

FORSYTHE: And your wife's name?

JACKSON: Sarah, XXX but she's known better as Babe Jackson, but she was a Young before we got married, Sarah XXX Young.

FORSYTHE: But I forget to ask you, your brothers and sisters names?

JACKSON: Charles, I have a brother named Charles Raymond Jackson, and my sisters name is Margaret Denson XXX.

FORSYTHE: And your wife's occupation?

JACKSON: She was a clerk in the Alumni office, she was a clerk in the MTSU Alumni office for about 11 years.

FORSYTHE: Ok, and your children names?

JACKSON: James William Jr., and Judy Ann Goforth.

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

JACKSON: Yes, both of my children graduated, Jimmy and Judy and I have a granddaughter there now Cassy XXX Goforth and of course both there husbands and spouses both graduated too , so we have a long line of MTSU graduates hopefully.

FORSYTHE: And your wife went out there too?

JACKSON: Yes, she didn't graduate, but she finished her Sophomore year and then she went to work at Stewart Air Base during the war.

FORSYTHE: Anyone else in your family besides you and your wife work at MTSU?

JACKSON: No, no one else.

FORSYTHE: Why did you go to school at MTSU?

JACKSON: Well, mainly because they offered me a scholarship, I played ball I went to Isaac XXX Litton XXX High School in Nashville, and I was pretty successful in sports and so they offered me a scholarship, in those days a scholarship was comparable to a job where you could work for your meals and they offered me a scholarship I was glad to come, because it was one of my favorite schools anyway and while here I participated in Basketball and Football and Baseball I was injured in Football in my Freshman year and in those days we had separate teams for the Freshman. Freshman had their own team and they played other Freshmen teams and then the rest of them were varsity, and I do remember hurting my knee the

first year I played Football, but I did manage to come back and play Basketball and Baseball. I had two years of Basketball and Two years of Baseball at MTSU.

FORSYTHE: Was it two years together or two and then two afterwards.

JACKSON: Well I participated in Football one year and Basketball two years and Baseball two years at MTSU.

FORSYTHE: So all four years you were in a sport?

JACKSON: Right

FORSYTHE: Then what years did you go to school at MTSU?

JACKSON: I came to school in the fall of 1939 and finished in 1943

FORSYTHE: What was your Major?

JACKSON: Physical Education and Accounting, it was known then as Business, but basically it was accounting.

FORSYTHE: You told me earlier about playing a Baseball game against Vanderbilt.

JACKSON: Yes i was a pitcher on our Baseball team here at MTSU, and I was fortunate enough to be pitching the two years be beat Vanderbilt, so I was real proud of that.

FORSYTHE: So it was the first time you had beaten Vanderbilt?

JACKSON: First time MTSU had ever beaten Vanderbilt and that was in 1941. And then we played them again in 1942 and I happened to be pitching again, and we won again.

FORSYTHE: Did you live on campus?

JACKSON: Yes, I lived in Old Jones Hall.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about living their?

JACKSON: Well, of course now I think its an office building now isn't it now? Jones Hall.

FORSYTHE: Right

JACKSON: Well the first time I was here we lived in what is not the home economics building it used to be called the Monfin XXX house. As Freshman athletics we lived in the Monfin XXX House it was a three story building over there, and in

the Sophomore year I moved to Jones Hall and stayed there the other three years, and dormitory life is pretty nice, in fact in Jones Hall we had a barber shop, and a little store where we could buy small things. In fact Randolph XXX Woods who is now a big contributor to MTSU and headed up a record company for a long time, he ran the grocery store, I forgot who the barber was we needed someone who could cut hair, I think his name was Ross, so we had things going pretty well there. Dormitory life was pretty good, it wasn't too rowdy or too bad.

FORSYTHE: Where was the barber shop?

JACKSON: It was just in one of the rooms, it wasn't really a barber shop, we just had somebody to cut hair. I think he used to charge a quarter to cut hair, I'm not sure.

FORSYTHE: Where was the store that Randolph XXX Woods ran?

JACKSON: Well he had more like snacks, candy bars, best I could remember, he might have even sold paper and pencils, but mostly it was food. just eating snacks, candy, we had vending machines, mostly cold drinks, razor blades, he did real well.

FORSYTHE: Was this in his room?

JACKSON: Yes, this was in his room. He had a little shelf, a counter you would call it, I don't know if he had a separate room or not that was quite a long time ago, but I believe it was in his room, there were two to a room most of the time, but I think he had a room designed for two, but part of it was part his room and part store, as best I could remember.

FORSYTHE: Did you have a roommate?

JACKSON: Yes I did I had several Gene XXX McIntire who was from Central High School in Nashville, in fact in High School, we were bitter enemies, as far as athletics were concerned, and he was my roommates for two years, and is now one of my best friends, since he lives in Atlanta, and then I had another roommate William Owens, he was from Nashville, he was a Litton boy too and lets see Burkett, XXX he's now deceased. So I had four, a different one each year, while I was here. It just so happens, I don't know how it did.

FORSYTHE: How would you do your laundry?

JACKSON: I lived in Nashville, we would catch a ride to Nashville, it wasn't a problem then, in fact on Saturday mornings you could see them lined up on what is now West Lytle Street, that was the main street going to Nashville then at least highway 41 and we would be lined up down there then and I would catch a ride every Saturday home and Sunday evening I would catch a ride on Murfreesboro Road and catch a ride back. Most of the time now, occasional I'd miss a ride and have to catch a bus, but the bus was fifty cents, I think, Nashville to Murfreesboro, I'd

take my laundry home on Saturday and bring in home Sunday, mother would do it bless her heart. We just didn't have much money in those days, things were cheap naturally, but I do remember this Princess Theater was the theater here and you could buy a show ticket at the theater, and get six punches on it for a dollar, I don't know if you've got that in your recordings or not, but my wife could verify that, and you would buy that ticket and it would have six point little XXX number things on it and they would punch it every time you went in, so you got to see six pictures for a dollar.

FORSYTHE: That's pretty good, I've never heard that before.

JACKSON: You've never heard that one? Princess Theater.

FORSYTHE: What else would you do for fun?

JACKSON: Well we had dances, quite a few dances, we danced in the old gym often, my wife and I loved to dance, she was one of the better dancers, not because she was my wife, but she was everybody will tell you that. And some times out on west end, Woodbury Pike, we used to go to, we played nickelodeon and danced, it was a Brown Jug, have you heard of that?

FORSYTHE: Tell me more about the Brown Jug.

JACKSON: Well it was just a place that had a nickelodeon and dance floor that was twice or three bigger than this living room and we would go out there, no beer, just Coke Colas, that's all you could get. You could play the juke box as long as you wanted too and dance, we used to go out there quite often, and we would gather up a few nickles for Coke Cola, and to put it in the juke box. But that was just sorta on the side, we had scheduled dances at the university, college then. Pretty often, we were on the quarter system then by the way, I'll tell you then something I remember very distinctly, my fees were for going to school, my room and my board and any other fees and any other fees I might have had was \$33.00 per quarter, registration was \$17.00 and of course the room rent was \$12.00 and I took typing and there was a \$1.00 typing fee, that's per quarter, basically, besides the food, I could go to school here for three quarters for under \$100.00, not counting the food. That's how cheap it was, I'll never forget that, I'd have to bring \$33.00 every quarter from home, when I was taking typing, otherwise it was \$32.00

FORSYTHE: Did you have a job, while you were a student?

JACKSON: Well yes, you see that was my scholarship I was telling you about, two years I was manager of the varsity football and basketball teams, that was my job then the last two years my job was in what we call the bookstore which was the business office and bookstore combined, while we sold books, it was nothing like what we got out there now, no way, in fact we had our books and test in a room

not much bigger than this, we sold meal tickets, pencils, paper and books, but it was part of the business office so I had some experience in the business office before I went back to work their, a little bit and Mr. Woodmore was in charge of the business operation then and so I worked for him two years, but that was my job, and the other two years I was manager of the varsity football and basketball teams. So that was my scholarship.

FORSYTHE: The business office was just like a desk in the bookstore?

JACKSON: The bookstore was more like a desk in the business office, we were in the old administration building, in the basement floor, and it was just two big rooms, with a room in between the two that were joined and Mr. Woodnote was the purchasing agent, he did all the purchasing the whole time he was the business manager, he had a small office between the two, and on one side you had payroll and accounting department and on the other side you had the bookstore, where you sold the meal tickets and the books, and so forth, so that was the extent of it at that point, of course I don't know what the enrollment was, but after the war started it dropped way down, but we handled the books in there and supplies, paper and pencil, and we sold meal tickets in there, and the other side was payroll and accounting areas, and Mr. Woodmore's office was primarily purchasing department at that time, it was small, their were only four full time employees, at that time, but there were other students working in their too, a couple of them.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember the names of the people who were working their?

JACKSON: Let's see, Neal XXX Beckett, XXX she was a Alburn haired girl, Gearldean XXX Pharris, was a student worker, I was just in there two years, Mildred XXX Batton, XXX Gerry XXX Pharris we called her.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Mr. Woodmore?

JACKSON: He was a fine gentlemen, he was originally from Hartsville, and came to school here way back, he did most of the purchasing and handled the business office operation, he was the head man, he had an assistant who I replaced when I went out there to work for them, Mr. J.S. Holmes, he was the assistant bursar and Mr. Woodmore was the bursar, the title has changed three times since then, the title, Mr. Woodmore was a wonderful man, and any one you would interview would say the same thing, he was just a real fine person, particularly to work for, of course I worked for him as a student and then I went back to work at the university in 1951, I replaced Mr. Holmes, but Mr. Woodmore was still there, so I worked for him as a student and I worked for him as an employee. I came back here in 1951 as an assistant bursar, assistant to Mr. Woodmore, of course most people don't know what bursar means, that was the reason it was changed to business manager later, I've forgotten when exactly, but I think it was 1961, well I was designated business manager in 1961.

FORSYTHE: What years did you work their?

JACKSON: From 1951 till 1979, a little over 28 years plus my service time, I had over 30 years credit when I retired, I retired in 1979.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about your job interview?

JACKSON: Well I'll tell you, I found out Mr. Holmes was going to retire, he was a crippled man, he used a crutch, he had a bad leg, I found out he was going to retire, and then I went to Mr. Woodmore, I knew him from working for him as a student, and to see if I could apply for the job, and he said he would be glad to have me, so it wasn't a formal kind of thing like it is now, and he sent me to see Mr. Smith XXX Smith, I had an Interview with him, and I was employed, it was about that simple.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about the interview with Mr. Smith?

JACKSON: He knew me as a student, I was president of the student body in 1943 while he was still their, of course there weren't many males on campus, but I was in reserve, but I was elected president of the student body, and I had pretty close relationship with him then as ASP president or student body president, as it was called then, student government and he was a fine person too, I always believed that working for them, that if he had not had that speech impediment, he would have stayed here, he was a smart man, I think he was one of the smarter ones, but I think it kept him from going to a higher level, it wasn't that bad we got used to it, but it was a little speech impediment, but I've heard other people say the same thing about it, that he was a smart man and easy to work with, I never had any problems with him at all the times that I was serving under him, he was just a fine person, an a smart person a good administrator, if he told you something that was just the way it was going to be, you could appreciate that, could back in those days for sure, so he was tops as president in my opinion, and of course I worked under Quill Cope too, who was another good one he was, I'm not sure how I should say this, but he was a good president and he also told it like it was. We began to get bigger and bigger during those periods of time and more problems came up of course just like they have now, so big out there now over 17,000 students, theres a lot of problems that come up, but we were in a really good group with Dr. Cope when he was president, he did an excellent job I thought and he was easy to work for too, so I've been very fortunate to work under those two presidents out there, in my time out there.

FORSYTHE: What about Dr. Scarlet XXX?

JACKSON: Dr. Scarlet, XXX he was the same way, he not only was a good president he was a pretty close friend of mine, we played golf together on occasion and I wasn't a good golfer anyway, but we played about the same so we enjoyed playing golf together, another good president, he was well something, I mean to be talking against him, other than some times it was kind of hard for him to make a decision

on critical things, but he got a lot of help from his administrative people, I think in that case, he did a good job, a fine job, he just wasn't, I'm trying to compare him to Dr. Cope, because there wasn't that much difference, the main thing was it was harder for him to make a decision in some cases, but he usually made the right decision Dr. Scarlet did, Dr. Cope it didn't take him long to decide what he wanted to do and that was it, I don't know what term you use for that but I'm very please to have worked under all three of them, but they were all a little different naturally, but I had no problems personally with any of them I like them all.

FORSYTHE: Lets go back to when you were a student. Tell me about Nell Beckett, tell me what you remember about her?

JACKSON: As I said she was almost redheaded, but not quite, she was a fine person, I can't remember where she was from, but we got along well, I can't remember if we worked the same shifts at the bookstore or not, but she was a nice person, and I enjoyed working with her, good student too, as far as I know.

FORSYTHE: Geredine XXX Pharris?

JACKSON: Gerry XXX Pharris, Yes she was a little short girl, pretty girl did the same thing, she was a good worker I remember in my annual, I've got my four annals out their she wrote in short hand, we were in short hand class together, she wrote a little note, a little thing in their, in short hand, "you are sweet" Gerry XXX or something like that but anyway I had a class with her she was a nice person too. Mildred Beth XXX was the last one and she was a fine person, she was a year ahead of me I believe, and Nell XXX was in the same class as I was but Mildred was a year ahead of me, she was a senior when I was a junior, but the other two were in my class I believe

FORSYTHE: What about Mr. Holmes?

JACKSON: Oh a fine person, I knew him when I was a student of course and I replaced him when he retired, but he was a quite sort of a person just did his work, as I said he had a bad leg and he walked with a crutch under his arm and he did all the bookkeeping then, it was done on an old Burroughs booking machine, if fact that was what I used when I first started working out there. You inserted a page in it, like a typewriter, and come up to the last line and make your entries on that sort of thing, you wouldn't believe it, compared with todays computers and accounting procedures but, he did the accounting, bookkeeping because then I believe he did payroll at that time, and of course the two of them worked on budgets and I was also involved in budgets when I went to work out there, to some degree, and before all that I was almost involved with all the budget, I was Assistant Vice President for Business Finance, that was my title when I retired in 1979 and one of my main functions was budget, particularly the salary part of the budget, we had computers then and that made it a lot easier. But Mr. March Bass XXX was the Vice President of Business and Finance, when I retired.

FORSYTHE: Can you tell me more about the differences in the Business Office from when you started till when you left?

JACKSON: Well computers period you could almost say. We put in accounting and payroll computer system on IBM, we had IBM at first, then we went to Honeywell computers during my tenure out there, and I just couldn't believe we could do accounting on computers, but it worked out beautifully, and we did payrolls on it, we did budgets on it and did all the accounting on it, and everyone didn't have one of those you have now, the little things, the personal computers.

FORSYTHE: Did you have key punch machines?

JACKSON: We use key punches then, and I had a what you call a green screen in my office, monitor well I could make entries on it and so forth, with payroll and tax budget time I use it for updating budgets on the salaries and that was one of my main jobs when I was Assistant Vice President. But the big change was going from Burroughs posting machine which is a lot like a typewriter to the computer where you have printouts and I remember we had a printer a number 401 printer that we did our payroll and checks on, and it was something like this "click, click, click, click" that's printing one line at a time, you wouldn't believe that, but that's how slow it was, you could almost see the keys come up and print, and maybe just a little faster than this but not much, that was the first printer we had and I've seen some of those printers out there now, WHEW.

FORSYTHE: When you worked in the bookstore, was it like it is now where the students get there own books or did you have to get a list from them?

JACKSON: They came in and got there own books, we would, I don't believe we bought books back. I'm not sure, I would say we had 800 or 900 students at that time or maybe less than that in 1943, I don't really know how many we had but I don't believe we bought books back, but we sold meal tickets, that was pretty busy, it seems to me you got a coupon book, it had so many nickel, dime, quarter coupons in it seem to me you got \$5.50 worth for five dollars, I don't remember the exact denomination, but a lot of students bought meal tickets because they got a pretty good bargain on them, but we just sold books, meal tickets, pencils and paper mostly there

FORSYTHE: This is the continuation of the interview with Mr. Jackson by Regina Forsythe on Friday September 15th 1995.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about the assembly, did you have an assembly every week?

JACKSON: We had I believe an assembly every week I not sure if it was all four years or not but we had an auditorium which was in Old Main, where Old Main is now, Kirksey Old Main, and you were assigned a seat number, they had seat monitors

to check absentees during assemblies, I believe it was twice a week, it seemed like it was Tuesdays and Thursdays, but I'm not sure about that, but if you were not in your seat during assembly monitors checked you out and you had to see your Dean or somebody like that, I don't remember, but I believe it was twice a week we had assembly.

FORSYTHE: Was it faculty members who were monitors?

JACKSON: No I think it was some students probably, best I can remember, but I remember them checking the roll.

FORSYTHE: Were faculty required to go too?

JACKSON: I don't think so, I'm not sure about that, see we had a balcony in the assembly room and a chapel or whatever you want to call it, and I believe the faculty sat up there but I don't believe the faculty were required to come, I'm not sure, but I'm almost sure it was twice a week we had to go, and they had programs, information programs mostly they had pep rallies for ball games and that stuff, best I can remember, were talking about way back then.

FORSYTHE: How long were the assemblies?

JACKSON: Seems to me they were class period, back in those days maybe 40 or 50 minutes, and the reason I think it was Tuesdays and Thursdays is because you had a odd schedule of classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays just like a 10:40 morning class or a 9:20 class, I don't remember but it was something different about Tuesday and Thursday because you only met twice a week like they are now, but I believe it might have been one day a week, I don't remember, somebody else will probably remember of course this was in the forties but it seemed like it was one day a week maybe, I can't remember, I can't be sure. My memories not that good.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember what time of day it was, first thing in the morning or in the afternoon?

JACKSON: It seems to me around 10:00 o'clock in the morning, maybe between second and third class or something like that, it seems like it was mid morning.

FORSYTHE: Did you ever miss one?

JACKSON: I don't recall, I imagine I did. I remember attending a lot of them when I was elected president of the student body in my senior year I had to make a speech in there, I remember that I'm not a speech maker, but I remember pep rallies and that sort of thing they had, I don't remember other kinds of programs, but I remember those kind.

FORSYTHE: What was your speech about?

JACKSON: I don't remember, I do remember the last year, we put out a little hand book, which is now printed for the student government association we started one, we mimeographed it and we had 4 officers in ASB then we called it ASB Associated Student Body, we put out a little booklet and handed it out to students that particular year, it was pretty rough, pretty raw, cause we mimeographed it, cut it and stapled it together, but for a new student a freshmen coming in it told them a little about student government that was the main thing and that was the first year we printed one and handed them out.

FORSYTHE: What kind of programs were you involved in when you were president of the student body?

JACKSON: I don't recall too much about that, I believe, that was one thing I was telling you about the little book we put out what ever it was we didn't actually make it we made recommendations to the proper person, something about the library or questions would come up about student government or have a problem but I don't recall any of them. Then you were told to do this, and do this and do this and you were expected to do it.

FORSYTHE: Did the student body have much power with the board XXX?

JACKSON: Not really, as I said we were there to help the students, particularly the freshman year for students and as I said we had officers I think we had four officers and we had a supreme court and that sort of thing which wasn't to active we had doctoral councils then, student doctoral councils we sort of directed them, we were small and we just didn't have a whole lot of student problems that is other than academic I sure there were academics which we didn't involve ourselves in at all, but just to try and solve student problems was what our function was.

FORSYTHE: What kind of problems?

JACKSON: Well let's say they didn't like the food we had complaints about the food well we would go over to the food director and they were employees of the university then or maybe they thought the books were too high, just complaints like that or we had doctoral rules, I can't recall any particular instance but I do remember having some food problems, students getting tired of the same food and so forth. In the cafeteria it was another thing, in the cafeteria you talking about what went on around campus, it's where the alumni building is now, was the cafeteria, in there we had a jukebox and most every night there would be some dancing going on after the supper meal, as I call it and we had a lot of fun dancing over there after the supper meal, and then when we had a big dance we would go to the gym, semi dress or informal dress or maybe a spring formal dance or something we would go to the gym, but other than that we were a dancing bunch then, that was back in the Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller days.

FORSYTHE: You were vice president of the freshman class, can you tell me about that?

JACKSON: By the way one of my roommates, Gene McIntire XXX was president of the freshman class. I don't recall doing anything as vice president too tell you the truth, but each class had to have there officers, freshman, sophomore, juniors, and seniors, but I don't recall, I was looking at the annual in there, but just remembered that I was but it was a popularity sort of thing, my roommate and I was participating athletes, I wouldn't say we were good athletes, but we participated and a lot of people knew us, so I guess that's the way we got elected.

FORSYTHE: You talked about football and baseball, what about basketball?

JACKSON: Basketball, I played two years in basketball, I played my freshman year and my sophomore year, as I told you I got hurt playing football, my knee, but I recovered enough to play my sophomore year in basketball, but then my junior and senior year I worked in the book store for my scholarship and the business office bookstore, but when I got my knee hurt I was also manager of the basketball team of that year and was the next year not the freshman year, and managed the football team the same year.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about being manager of the basketball team, what did you do?

JACKSON: Well best I recall, we had to be sure we had clean uniforms on, best I can remember we had a washing machine, I'm not sure, this goes a long way back. Whatever the coach wanted, do this, do that, in football a lot of times we had to hold the dummies, I remember some of that when they were practicing football, they would line you up with a dummy all most as big as you are to hold and if they would need a football over there for the manager to bring a football or whatever, same thing sorta in basketball just whatever the coach needed you were there, if you needed towels or whatever, it was fun, we got to go on the trips and so forth with the team, but you had to make sure everybody had uniforms and shoes and all that sort of thing.

FORSYTHE: And you were on the Tee Club, what was that?

JACKSON: Well the Tee Club was for all letterman people who earn letters in any sport, I fact, it's still operating as an alumni club, were in that right now, we've got to change the name of it because, nobody knows what it is or what it's for, it's been in operation since way back the 1930's, it's for any athlete who earned a letter at MTSU in any sport, that was long before any girls was sanctioned in sports, so we thought about renaming it the letterman's club, but that won't do, you got to get the man out of there, you know in fact right as a committee of three, I'm one of the committee members, were trying to decide what name to give it, its still the alumni Tee Club as of right now, the alumni Tee Club is the one that honors the Hall of Fame athletes, three each year, I was telling you I was inducted last year, and we just nominated and elected three for this coming year, we have our

banquet every year at home coming and induct the three new Hall of Fame inductees, but that's sponsored by the Tee Club. But you ask a student today about the Tee Club and I would say 99% of them don't know, because it started out as the letterman's club, but we had most women who began organizing for the athletics and began earning letters and so forth, in fact they don't give letters anymore, where we got the Tee from is they gave a sweater with a bit T on it for Tennessee, well it was Tennessee Teachers school them. That's what the T was for. That's what it was. When you were a freshman, and you lettered in a freshman sport, you got your numerals, I graduated in 1943, so you could always tell who was a freshman and who was a classman and the upper classman had a pull over sweater with a big T on it, across there, but the freshman had there graduation letters across there, that distinguished them from the varsity squad

FORSYTHE: What did you have to do to earn a letter?

JACKSON: Well you had to participate in a sport, I'm not sure if the coaches in each individual had to determine who was the most deserving, but most of the basketball players probably earned one, but in football it was kind of limited as to how played, but that was always left up to the coaches in fact I think its still the same way as far as I know. They don't give letters anymore, but they do recognized them is what I wanted to say, the people who participated, but they don't use the sweaters anymore. For awhile they went to blankets, a long time ago, and then of course if they go to the OVC in any sport, they get rings or watches, rings I believe, they did it for awhile, but that's what the Tee Club is and as I said were trying to come up with a new name.

FORSYTHE: Who's the other members of the renaming committee?

JACKSON: The election committee, let me explain it to you if we have time. We have constitution by-laws about the whole thing, the president of the Tee Club each year selects the nominee committee, appoints them, we have one person who represents, who is a letterman, from the 20's and 30's combined, and one from the 40's and one from the 50's , one from the 60's, one from the 70's and one from the 80's, we don't have one from the 90's, the by-laws indicate you have to have been out of school for at least 10 years and have been a letterman, before your eligible for the Hall of Fame, so that's the way the committee for that works. Then there's an alternate committee selected for each of those years, the appointment is for two years on the committee, the first year your a committee member, and the next year your an alternate, in other words if the committee member is not there on selection night then the alternate will do the selection and then the person has to be nominated to be selected into the Hall of Fame somebody has to nominate a letterman once your nominated you stay on the list, unless your elected, for five years, if your not elected within that five year period your name is taken off, you can be renominated by someone and its been working pretty well, I think there are probably 40 some odd people in the Hall of Fame now, so that's three a year so its been going on for 15 or 16 years now.

FORSYTHE: Now let's go back to the 40's, you were homecoming king, tell me about that.

JACKSON: Oh me, how did you find that out?

FORSYTHE: I did my homework.

JACKSON: I guess you did, I was trying to think how that was done, I guess it was a voting thing, but to be truthful I can't remember, if I can remember, Mary XXX was homecoming Queen the same year, do you remember?

FORSYTHE: I don't know I was concentrating on you.

JACKSON: I'm not sure, but I don't know how it was done.

FORSYTHE: How about bachelor of ugliness?

JACKSON: I believe that was done by the senior class each year, most popular boy and girl, bachelor of ugliness, and Miss STC then, and personality or something, you been looking through annuals, is that where you got your information?

FORSYTHE: Annuals or catalogs. I've been working hard.

NOTE -- looking in annuals

JACKSON: I believe we were elected by the student body, according to my wife anyway

FORSYTHE: What about the boys dormitory council, you were on that two years.

JACKSON: Yes, as I said before, I believe residences from each class was on that council, and there wasn't many problems in the dorms, but I remember someone was caught throwing a Coca Cola bottle down the hall, things like that, they were brought before the council, I don't remember what happened, they weren't suspended or anything, but any dormitory problems. If they were serious they would bring them before the dormitory council, and each dormitory would have its own council.

FORSYTHE: Can you tell me about the faculty? And what was the class like, and about staff members too. Dean Beasley? XXX

JACKSON: Dean Beasley XXX is the dean of all deans, he has the most remarkable memory of any man I've ever known, cause to register, you had to go by the Deans office to get his signature and I'd say the second or third time he call your name the next time you came, I don't know how he did it, but he had to sign your card, he was left handed, he had to sign your schedule card for class, he had a remarkable

memory, but he was a grand old person, a good Christian man, smart, but he just had a way with students, he was fine, a fine person.

FORSYTHE: Ed Baldwin XXX?

JACKSON: Dr. Baldwin, XXX I had Dr. Baldwin, XXX I had him for Geography, he was a good teacher, a very good teacher, I don't know what I was doing taking Geography, but I was and I remember I guess I was a Sophomore or Junior, but he was a very good teacher, strict in lots of ways, in the final test, I only had one year of Geography, he had a blank map of the United States, he had the states drawn in but none of them named, he would point them out with a pointer and you would have to name them, if you hesitated too long you would have to come back and do them again, I remember them very well.

FORSYTHE: So it was like an oral test?

JACKSON: Yes it was, you had to memorize the states by looking at them, not by naming them, but he would take you in one at a time and take his pointer and point them out and you would have to name them before he hit them, and I had to go back a second time, that's one reason I remember it, I got some of the Northeastern states mixed up, but he was a good teacher, very **conscioues**, a very good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Eva Mae Burchett XXX?

JACKSON: English, Dr. Burchett, XXX she was one of the first group of teachers to come here from Normal School I think, she was very good, she was strict, and if she gave you work to do, you needed to do it, before you came back to class, she was a good teacher, a good instructor.

FORSYTHE: Philips XXX Cheek XXX, foreign language?

JACKSON: Cheek, XXX I didn't have him, I remember him, I didn't have foreign languages.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about him?

JACKSON: I remember what he looked like, he was a tall, black headed man, with sort of a crew cut, I don't remember much about him to tell you the truth.

FORSYTHE: George Davis?

JACKSON: George Davis taught me Biology, and he was from the old school, Dr. Davis would give you a quiz everyday, every class period, he would grade them before the next class, he wouldn't call them a test, he would call them a quiz, but just very fundamental in his teaching almost like he was teaching high school, but thorough, very thorough, good teacher I thought, I didn't have too many bad teachers.

FORSYTHE: Neal Frashier XXX?

JACKSON: Neal Frashier, XXX I had him in English, he was a good teacher, the one thing I remember about Dr. Frashier, was his voice didn't carry very good, if you sat in the back of the room you could hardly understand him, but that was one thing, most teachers have a good voice, and you can hear them, but I remember his being very weak, I'm sure he was a good teacher I had him for one year in English

FORSYTHE: Did you have desks or benches?

JACKSON: We had these slide in table top desks, chair desks, a table thing most of them were, in fact all of them were chair desk.

FORSYTHE: Marrum XXX Edney XXX in Biology?

JACKSON: Dr. Edney XXX he was a Biology teacher I think I had him for Biology one class in Biology I believe, Dr. J. M Edney XXX. I remember having him for one class, another good teacher, I felt like when I was in school, way back in the 40's teachers may have been dedicated, than maybe they are today, even when I retired, I think that's due to the volume of students you have, in other words teachers new you by name, they didn't have to look at a list after a while, you know, the classes were small and I think you got better instruction, but today I think you can't to that, when you have 30 or 40 people in one class you cannot do it and teach too, but they call you by first name a lot of times in class, I know I was in one math class, with Horace Jones, and they probably had only about 15 students in it and that was a pretty big class then, most of them had 20 or 25, but some of the classes, Social Science class or something I remember Miss. Monahan, XXX I had Social Science under her and there might have been 40 in that class, depended of what type of course you might have been taking, but it seemed to me they were more conscious about teaching students, but I think one reason was the class load, the class size, Typing class was a little different than the others, but I think we only had about 20 typewriters, you know in the typing class, which was pretty easy to teach, but then the classes were small.

FORSYTHE: Didn't you have to pay a \$1.00 extra dollar for typing classes?

JACKSON: That was for the typing paper you used, see they furnished typing paper, but if you went into another class with a notebook you had better have shown up with a with a packet of paper, but in typing class they furnished the paper for a \$1.00 dollar per semester, per quarter for typing, because you used a lot of paper.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Horace Jones, you just mentioned him?

JACKSON: Mr. Jones was a good Math teacher, he knew that Math book, Freshman Math book, he knew that book from cover to cover, he taught it for years, but he could

almost tell you what a problem was and what page a problem was on in Math, and I think that was because he taught the same book so long, he knew Math I telling you, he knew Math and I got almost had Calculus in my Math, but he was a good teacher.