

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.099

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

ALBERT GORE RESEARCH CENTER

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# ABSTRACT



**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH  
JIMMY JACKSON**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.099

FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview with Jimmy Jackson. You were speaking of Mr. Horace Jones.

JACKSON: I am not sure where it cut off, he taught algebra, and I haven't already said it on the tape, he could tell you what page a certain problem he was on in the text book, he used the blackboard all the time, and if you didn't understand what he was doing he would stop and explain it to you. Just a real concentration, he kept the concentration of the class that way, because if you didn't understand it you had better tell him, but he was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Golightly

JACKSON: I had one course under him. He was a tall thin gentleman. Seems like that was one of the largest classes we had. Psychology and social science were not as limited as some of the number of students, but he again was a pretty good teacher. He was sort of like Mr. Frazier, his voice didn't carry real good, and if you happened to be in one of his classes, you just couldn't hear him to well if you were in the back of the room. He just didn't talk very loud. Again, he was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Miss Ollie Green

JACKSON: I understand she was a good teacher but a hard teacher, she expected you to do your work and do it right. But a good teacher and a good lab teacher, she taught chemistry too. I think she was well thought of by the chemistry teachers. I had no courses under her.

FORSYTHE: Philip Mankin

JACKSON: I had no courses under him. They tell me he was a brilliant man. From what I heard, he had an outstanding memory. He was very intellectual, knew a lot about everything.

FORSYTHE: Newbie Freeman.

JACKSON: He was the man that offered me a scholarship, he was freshman basketball and football coach when I came to school here, he is the one that came to visit me. He

offered me the job and taught industrial studies. As I said while ago, I have one F on my transcript at MTSU, guess who gave it to me. It was my fault not his, I took shop under him, my roommate Gene McIntire was in the same class, and we both got F's. It is sort of a funny story. In woodworking you had to make something, and in addition to that you had to write a theme about it, why you did it and how you did it. We made a project, I think I made a bookcase, but I never turned in my write up of it, Gene McIntire was the same way and he called us in and said "If you don't get this in I will give you an F." Well we worked and worked but we were too late turning it in, he gave us an F. Since he was the coach, he told his athletes "if you don't believe that I won't flunk you in my courses, just ask Jackson and McIntire." So I think he used us as guinea pigs. That was sort of interesting.

FORSYTHE: Miss Mary Hall

JACKSON: She is well remembered by everyone in Rutherford County and MTSU. Even though I never had any classes under her she had to be a great teacher she was just Mary Hall, and everybody loved her. She was that kind of a person.

FORSYTHE: Dean James

JACKSON: He was the dean of students in the forties, he handled all the student problems of a serious nature, and I think did a great job, he was likable and fair, nearly all the students liked him.

FORSYTHE: Nance Jordan

JACKSON: He was the baseball coach, he was a good coach.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Sims

JACKSON: He was kind of a jolly fellow, he didn't have much hair. He was nice, and outgoing. I can't remember much other than that. Students liked him.

FORSYTHE: Wink Midgett

JACKSON: He was a football and basketball coach here, I had typing and short hand under Mr. Midgett. I had typing and short hand under Mr. Midgett, he was a very good teacher, very strict, as he was in coaching, but he was a good coach to. He expected you to do your work. He was the kind of person, that if you didn't have your homework done, you didn't want to go to class, he would let you know that you had better get it done, in fact he would call attention to that fact some time. That is just part of teaching. You miss two days in accounting and you are lost, you were back in those days. You had to stay up to date in accounting. It was a good thing that he was that way, because if you missed a day or two of accounting, you were way behind, but he was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Tommie Reynolds

JACKSON: She lived right across campus on North Tennessee Boulevard, from what I understand she was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Anne Ordway

JACKSON: She was a well dressed lady, she knew how to dress and she typified a lady in her actions and dress, she was pretty, not much contact with her but I remember her. In those days you knew all of the teachers.

FORSYTHE: Charles Lewis

JACKSON: I had an education course under him. He was a good teacher. I had a problem not with him but the course, it was hard for me to define a course in education, I only took what I had to in that field, but I felt like when I got through with the course I didn't know what I was supposed to know. I am sure it wasn't him, it was me.

FORSYTHE: Katherine Monohan

JACKSON: Bless her heart. She was pretty old when I was there, it showed, I am not saying that against her, it was just that she was pretty old and could not see to well, most of her classes were big, but I have seen students sit in the back of the room and as soon as she would call the role, get up and walk out and she wouldn't know it. She was a good teacher. But students would take advantage of her.

FORSYTHE: What happened when students got sick?

JACKSON: Seems like we had a school doctor.

FORSYTHE: Would that be Tarpley?

JACKSON: Dr. Tarpley was a physician and he taught health, and he handled emergencies.

FORSYTHE: J. P. Black?

JACKSON: He was also there. Dr. Rawlings was the athletic doctor then, I remember when I hurt my knee in football I went to him, and he drained fluid off of my knee, I remember him very well sticking that needle in me. But Dr. Tarpley taught health courses and I suppose he was an M. D.

FORSYTHE: Let's talk about you as an employee. What memories do you have being a staff member?

JACKSON: All good, I loved my job. Prior to coming to MTSU I worked a year and a half at the post office, I carried the mail, and also worked at the window, then I worked at the VA hospital, and I worked three and a half years out there, doing therapy work. One reason I didn't stay, my roommate Gene McIntire and I went to work out there together, the problem I had out there was working with mental patients, and it got to me a little bit, it wasn't the hard work at all, it was just not being able to see the results of your work in a lot of cases, we helped some of them but most were too far gone, and our job was to physically keep them active, but it was depressing, and when I found out about the job at the university I was glad to get away. When I came to MTSU I loved to go to work everyday. I enjoyed being around students, particularly coming from the hospital, it was just such a difference.

FORSYTHE: Let me ask you about some of the people that worked here when you worked here. Joe Nunley?

JACKSON: He lived right up the street from me. I saw him the day before he died. I was walking down toward Main street and I stopped and talked to him for two or three minutes. He was one of the finest people that I have ever known. Talking about the T club a while ago, we have just this