

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
HAROLD JEWELL

4 OCTOBER 1995

MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.116

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
HAROLD JEWELL**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.116

FORSYTHE: This is Regina Forsythe, I am interviewing Harold Jewell. Today is Wednesday October 4th, 1995. The interview is being conducted in Gore Research Center, room 111 of the Ned McWherter Learning Resources Center, the tape of this interview along with a transcription of the interview will become a 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 you Mr. Jewell?

JEWELL: That is fine.

FORSYTHE: What is your full name?

JEWELL: Harold Clinton Jewell

FORSYTHE: Your birth date?

JEWELL: March 11, 1921.

FORSYTHE: When did you come to MTSU as a student?

JEWELL: In the fall of 1940 and I was in and out of here until 1953. I went one year and then I dropped out and came back in '46 after the war, and was in school until '48 when I got my BS degree that I was out until 1950 when I came back and got my master's degree.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about being a student?

JEWELL: Well I remember that I thought I had come to a great big school and it was difficult job and I lived in town, I rented a room south on the campus, and I went to school during the week and I drove home on the weekends. I worked some on the weekends. By the second semester I discovered that I didn't have enough money to go full time for the rest of the year, so I registered half time and commuted three days, and I worked the other three days.

FORSYTHE: What was school like when you came back from the service?

JEWELL: It had grown quite a bit, most of the students were GI's and I married immediately after I came out of the service, and so I rode the bus back from Lebanon to Murfreesboro every day, and then hitchhiked from the bus station to school. The

school had grown quite a bit, there were new buildings and more faculty. It had changed quite a bit.

FORSYTHE: Where was the bus station?

JEWELL: About where first American bank is now, on North Walnut street.

FORSYTHE: Where did you work?

JEWELL: I had a job with what used to be the agricultural administration, managing cotton, tobacco, estimating the amount of dirt that could be removed from ponds, things like this.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about chapel?

JEWELL: We were all assigned a seat in the old auditorium in the Old Main building, and once a week we had chapel, and your seat was checked, and if you weren't there you had a date with Dean Beasley. During the chapel period, Mr. Smith would make announcements we didn't have "Sidelines" anything that we needed to know was announced then. The second semester when I was going three days a week, I missed chapel, and I got called to the Dean's office to find out why I wasn't going. I told him I was only going three days a week and I got an excuse.

FORSYTHE: What did you do for fun?

JEWELL: The first semester when I stayed here in town, I spent most of my afternoons here in town, I played basketball. With a lack of entertainment any speakers that came to town I tried to listen to them. But when I was commuting, I didn't have any time for entertainment.

FORSYTHE: Was the atmosphere in the classrooms different when you came back after the war?

JEWELL: Well no, I couldn't say that it really was. There were probably more students in the classes.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about some of the people who were on campus when you were a student. What do you remember about Mr. Smith?

JEWELL: The first time I met him was in the summer of 1940 when I came over here to see if I could get a job in order to go to school. I went in to meet him and the interview was very short because he said there wasn't any jobs. I really didn't have much contact with Mr. Smith during the period of time when I was a student. You didn't go in to see Mr. Smith unless you had business and commuting like I was I didn't get to see him very much. After I came back, Mr. Voorhies left and went to Redstone arsenal and I was left as the head of the

department with a full time teaching load, I got to know Mr. Smith pretty good then. If I got a phone call I would put on my tie and for see him, it usually had to do with maintenance on campus. Then that was the beginning of expansion, the library was going up and the Suanders building was going up, I wasn't directly connected with that but being part of the maintenance department I had various duties that I had to perform while construction was going on. I communicated with Mr. Smith frequently on things like that.

FORSYTHE: What kind of man was he?

JEWELL: He was a good educator, I saw him as one who could handle financial problems on campus very well, Mr. Smith was one who tried to keep his finger on everything that was going on, on the campus, and he was very good to work with, but he was the person that wanted things done the way he wanted them done. I know that on several occasions that when we were doing some renovations or some repair work, or something like that, the men would have instructions on how to do it and if he came along and felt it should be done another way he would tell them to do it. That made it a little confusing when they had instructions from me to one thing and he gave them instructions to do it another. But we never did argue with him. We just did what Mr. Smith asked us to do and went on about our business. It wouldn't have done any good.

FORSYTHE: How did the maintenance department change from 1995 to 1991.

JEWELL: When I took over the department, we had forty employees, and then in 1982 I quit the department and went back to full time teaching. And by that time we had 237 permanent employees and were working 15 or 20 students. So it had grown quite a bit. The biggest change was that we moved from the middle of campus to its present location. When I came here we were sitting about where this building is now. President Cope told us that we were in the way and were going to have to move. I don't remember what year that was that we moved but it was in the late sixties. I would guess about '67. I guess our duties grew in proportion to the number of people that we had. We did a lot of renovations and construction. The renovation of the art barn was done entirely by the maintenance department. Jones Hall was renovated, we tore all the interior walls out of the building, and put back cinder block and rewired it. Jones Hall was one of the biggest renovations that we did. At that same time we did some renovation in Rutledge Hall, the basement of Monohan Hall was left unfinished when it was built, and I don't remember what year it was but it was finished to be used as an infirmary. That was quite a chore to do that. Many of the roads, parking lots, sidewalks, that we put in. When we would get a new building we would put in a sidewalk or a parking lot, and we were usually low bidders on that. Another big job that we did was build a tunnel from the heating plant across that parking lot to a large man hole in front of the music building. They had asked the engineers what they could do it for and I made an estimate and told them that we could do it cheaper, so we got that job.

FORSYTHE: So the maintenance department had to bid against outsiders?

JEWELL: No we didn't bid, if the president thought we could do it cheaper, we got the job. In addition to mopping the floors and keeping the grass mowed, the normal duties. I think that is one of the reasons we had more people at the time I retired because we had to have more people. That is just a few. The Art Barn was a huge job. It started out that we were just going to do the shed, and move the keels from an old barracks building, and before we got that finished, a man in the art department persuaded Dr. Cope that he needed the center part of the barn, so we did that. Before we got through with that it was the north wing, and we did that, and then we did the south wing, then we had to fill in between the south wing. So it just grew.

FORSYTHE: What did you teach?

JEWELL: I taught mechanical drawing and fire safety.

FORSYTHE: What do you remember about Dr. Cope?

JEWELL: He was a fine person to work with. He was a person that if he gave you a job to do, he gave you what you needed to do it with. Then he left you alone. He would check to see what the problems were but he expected you to do your job. But that was one contrast between Mr. Smith and Dr. Cope, Mr. Smith would change things as he went along. But Dr. Cope was just the opposite of that. He gave you a job and he expected you to do it, on time, but he left you alone. He was real easy to work with.

FORSYTHE: What about Dr. Scarlett?

JEWELL: He was a man that was real easy for me to work with. He told me one time when he first came here, that if I had any changes he wanted me to make to let me know. I remember him telling me "I don't remember anything about maintenance, that is your job. If you need anything, you come to me." He gave us the funds we needed, and left us to do our job. He didn't assign us jobs that were unreasonable. He supported us in whatever problem that we had. I might mention, I never stopped teaching classes all this time. It varied, I came here as a full time machine shop teacher, and as time went along I taught different classes.

FORSYTHE: What about Dr. Ingram?

JEWELL: I didn't have a great deal of Dr. Ingram during that period, he didn't seem to have a great deal of interest in what we were doing over there.

FORSYTHE: How has the industrial arts department changed while you were here?

JEWELL: There has been a big change. When I first started teaching here, we had lots of students, and it was mainly wood and metal work and mechanical drawing. There was a beginning of electrical work. As time went along, the wood working department decreased and the electronics department, increased with the technology that we have now, I would say that all of the classes changed. There was not as much drawing required as when I came here. The whole way of doing it with the drawing board and T square. The metal shop was shifting towards automation. There was a shift towards engineering technology, instead of what we call unit shop. The students got a broader curriculum to choose from. When I was in school you could major in wood or metal work. But the majors have even changed.

FORSYTHE: Where was your office?

JEWELL: The first was in the industrial arts building, and the second was here where this building is in the old maintenance building. Then I had an office in the maintenance complex, and when I went back to full time teaching my office was in the alumni building. Then I moved from there to the old gym.

FORSYTHE: Can you tell me what the alumni building was like when it was the drawing room?

JEWELL: When you walked in there was a big long corridor, at the back there were four or five offices off to the sides, on each side there were two big drawing rooms. Then another bog room that was occupied by the aerospace department. So it was pretty well cut up into small offices.

FORSYTHE: I want to ask you about some more people. Dean Beasley

JEWELL: The one thing I remember about Dean Beasley, and I have always wondered how he did it, I guess I was in his office one or two times, in the forties, and I dropped out of school and came back in 1946, and when I walked into his office he looked up and called my name. So he had a real good memory for names of students.