

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
WITH
JOE JACKSON

16 OCTOBER 1995
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE

INTERVIEWED BY REGINA FORSYTHE
FOR THE Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW #QMS.128

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
JOE JACKSON**

Q. M. SMITH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW #QMS.128

FORSYTHE: This is Regina Forsythe, I am interviewing Mayor Joe Jackson. Today is Monday, October 16, 1995. The interview is being conducted in the office of Mayor Jackson, located in city hall, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The tape of this interview along with a transcription of the interview will become a part of the Q. M. 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 Mayor Jackson?

JACKSON: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Okay great. What is your full name?

JACKSON: Joe B. Jackson. You wanna know what the Bell, B stands for?

FORSYTHE: What?

JACKSON: Bell.

FORSYTHE: Bell?

JACKSON: Joe B. Jackson is what I go by.

FORSYTHE: And your birthday?

JACKSON: April 17, 1921.

FORSYTHE: And Your birthplace?

JACKSON: Dekalb County Tennessee. The rural area of Dekalb county.

FORSYTHE: Okay.

JACKSON: On the Caney Fork River.

FORSYTHE: Caney Fork? I've heard of that. And your father's name?

JACKSON: Elbert Lee Jackson.

FORSYTHE: And his occupation. His occupation.

JACKSON: Oh he well, he worked uh, he's still living, he's retired now but you, past occupation?

FORSYTHE: Yes.

JACKSON: He worked with the Milan chair company. That was a manufacturer of furniture of all types and he was working them as a foreman at the time. He resigned from, when he retired.

FORSYTHE: Okay, and your mother's name?

JACKSON: Bertha, B-E-R-T-H-A, Bertha Mae Jackson.

FORSYTHE: Okay and her occupation.

JACKSON: Just a housewife.

FORSYTHE: Okay, do you have any brothers and sisters?

JACKSON: Yes I have five, uh four brothers and sisters, five of us. Four, three brothers and one sister.

FORSYTHE: And what are their names?

JACKSON: The names my uh, in order of their birth, J.T. Jackson, Is the next in line a boy. And he still uses the initials J.T. Uh, Elbert Lee Jackson Junior, Betty Jackson Buffington, girl and the youngest one was Ernest Lee Jackson.

FORSYTHE: Okay. Did any of them come to MTSU?

JACKSON: My second, Elbert Lee attended MTSU for I believe one year.

FORSYTHE: Okay, What is your wife's name?

JACKSON: Francis. Francis Hickerson Jackson.

FORSYTHE: And her occupation.

JACKSON: Housewife.

FORSYTHE: Do you have any children?

JACKSON: Three girls. Janice, Jody, and Jennifer.

FORSYTHE: You like J's don't ya?

JACKSON: Oh yeah, (chuckles)

FORSYTHE: (Laughs)

JACKSON: We got hung on the J's and having a J for the last name too.

FORSYTHE: Did any of your daughters come to MTSU?

JACKSON: Trying to think how, one, the youngest daughter attended the, I believe MTSU one year.

FORSYTHE: Okay.

JACKSON: Uh then she went to Vanderbilt from there, stayed just one semester. Didn't like the set up and then graduated from World College West in Petaluma, California. It was then a national school and she wanted to be involved.

FORSYTHE: What memories do you have of being a student at MTSU?

JACKSON: What memories? Great memories. I was in the 3rd marine division during World War II throughout the Pacific. And when the war was over, of course when the war came about, was just as I finished high school. Uh and I was too young to go into the service at the time because they started off at the age of 21 the drafting young fellows and worked backward. So I did not have an opportunity to start my advanced education uh because the war breaking out. I worked in a shipyard for while uh until I became of age and then I went into and volunteered for the marine core and worked throughout the Pacific with the 3rd Marine Division. I say worked, I was in the 3rd marine division during the campaigns of the Pacific Ocean. Uh and uh then came back to school after getting out of the service. And uh A fellow Marine of mine, friend grew up in Murfreesboro, graduated from here had the promise of coming back and coaching at MTSU, something that he wanted to do. I went to High School at Chattanooga Central, in Chattanooga I played all three sports there, and since he was going to coach at MTSU and he remembered when I played ball uh for Chattanooga central and playing all the sports, he started working on me as we came across the states from Los Angeles to Camp Lajune,

North Carolina for purpose of being discharged as soon as they could get us out of the service with the war being over. And he talked about MTSU all across the states. And us he talked me into coming here and looking at the place and meeting some people, uh with a promise of getting me a scholarship, athletic scholarship if I would come up here. So I did come up to MTSU in Murfreesboro, didn't know a thing about Murfreesboro but uh met some wonderful people here that I really liked just on a short acquaintance. And their offer of a scholarship and being a small school, quiet and peaceful setting. It was exactly what I was looking for after having served, I'd been in the marine Core for about 3 and a half years, so I was ready to go back to school. I wanted to continue my education. I had made up my mind while sleeping in the foxholes over there that as soon as I got out of this war, if I could get out alive, I was not going to waste anytime getting back into school and continue with my college degree working for it and so I did choose to come to Murfreesboro on the basis of recommendation by that fellow marine of mine and the other people I met her while visiting Murfreesboro and never regretted it because I enjoy my stay here, enjoyed living in Murfreesboro. I enjoyed going to school at uh Middle Tennessee State University.

FORSYTHE: Who was your friend? The marine that uh, told...

JACKSON: Coach Elbert Patty, he coached football and basketball here at MTSU when he first came back and I played both sports under him. I played all three major sports out here.

FORSYTHE: What years did you go to school here?

JACKSON: I came to Murfreesboro in the fall of '46 and by going through summers and all and trying to pick up a little time because of time wasted in service, I graduated in the end of summer in '49.

FORSYTHE: Did you live on campus?

JACKSON: Yes I did. Jones Hall.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about Jones Hall.

JACKSON: Oh, it was a great place. You see uh, during this period there was a lot of servicemen coming back and going to school as I was doing. So we had a lot of students that were from the different services. Navy, Marine Core, Army, Air force, all of them were represented of course but the majority of students in the first year were veterans. Of course we were joining the young high school students that were just graduating and

did not have to go into the service because of age. So it was a mixed group in so far as age was concerned. And I guess we had a tendency for the older students, the veterans to hang out together, and the younger students hung out together more than we mixed. Not for any reason other than just more in common because we who had been in the service had just lost out for two or three years, whatever time we had been in there in so far as regular social life is concerned of the communities. So we had to kinda adjust ourselves a little bit to get back in the swing of things, that's just the way it developed. But, uh, It made it enjoyable to have other servicemen in school with you, because we had a lot in common there. And most of us as I had decided wanted to continue our education and were very serious about our education, more so than probably if we had come right out of high school into college because you have to mature a little bit and uh make up your mind at what you want to do and as you grow up. And I think most of us that spent that time in the service had defiantly made up our minds what we wanted to do. Realizing the importance of an education and realizing that we wasted a lot of time and realizing that we needed to go on with education to get out into the cruel world, if you will as soon as possible try to establish ourselves in whatever field we might choose to make a living.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember going to chapel?

JACKSON: Going to Chapel? Uh Yes I remember going to Chapel but more so in my senior year than any other year because I was elected president of the student body. President of the associated student body, my senior years and of course I led the chapel meetings. That's the way it was handled then, I don't know how they handle it now with so many students but anyhow, we, in our chapel sessions most of the time, I was taking the lead as my senior year as president of the association of student body. So I remember that well because it was a good experience for me.

FORSYTHE: Uh huh, by leading did you, do the whole program or you just started it out or what did you do?

JACKSON: Normally I would take the agenda, whatever it might be and go through the agenda by bringing on whoever was on the program at that particular day. If there was a speaker to introduce the speaker, if it's just some business section and the speaker or some of the teachers or professors of the university on the program to speak with us. Whatever was on the agenda.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember the bible that was used during Chapel?

JACKSON: Uh, I do not remember having a bible session as a part of the Chapel program. Maybe we did, but I don't remember that it doesn't, it didn't impress me that much and I don't know that it would've been an issue at that time had we had some type of spiritual program a long with the regular agenda.

FORSYTHE: Wh-um What do you remember about Quill Smith?

JACKSON: Quill Smith was one of my favorites of all time, a friend. Uh a very respected educator, a very respected leader for the position he held at the university. I think Dr. Smith came from Tennessee Tech here to MTSU as I recall. But uh, even as a freshman, sophomore, and so forth I learned to appreciate him because of his feeling that he showed toward the students. And as President of the association of the student body, I really learned to respect him and was very acquainted with him because he kept me involved in all of the programs going on, not just for me to be involved but for my caring the message, what it might be in finding out what he needed to know from the student body. Dr. Smith was the type of person that wanted input from the students. He wanted to listen to what to what they had said, had to say about whatever the subject matter was at the time. If it was a new building coming up he wanted the input in it. He would give me a set of plans and tell me to take em to the auditorium, I mean to your uh dormitory and have sessions with the students, let them look at these plans and ask for suggestions. If a new program was to be initiated, he would call me in his office and say here's what I'm proposing. First evaluate it from your stand point, then I want you to carry over to Jones Hall and other halls if you would through friends of yours. Whether it was girlfriend or whatever and other dormitories, but to get a good feel from the students as to how they feel about this particular program that I hope to initiate or this particular building. Do you see something we may have over looked? Do you have a thought or an idea that you would like to project into it that might be of assistance to us? And uh, you know it was something I appreciated because what he was saying that you the students are the ones that are gonna be most affected by whatever decisions are made here. Uh and we feel, I do as president of this university feel its very important to have your input and give you an opportunity to see if this will fulfill the needs of the students from the stand point of what we're trying to accomplish with this building. So this is something that I always appreciated from him and I felt very close to him because I always tried to be honest with him and tried to get a good answer for him because anyone that showed that respect to us as students as well qualified as he was himself, uh it made me more interested in trying to get a good feel and search for thoughts and ideas

that might be a contribution or something that he was looking for. And through that experience with him, I found out that hey, you might think you have all the answers but really you do not on most any subject matter. If you can listen to your fellow man, to others, that you have respect for get their thoughts and ideas, let them have input. You'll come up with ideas and thoughts that you had not thought of yourself. Uh, and I think from that stand point it was very good training for me. And serving as President of the student body was a great experience for me and I had no idea that I would be involved in politics after getting out of school. But the experience that I had there in going through the process of the election, uh and having people come to me to see if I would be a candidate and then taking on responsibility of organizing my campaign, which I knew nothing about. But that was a good experience for me as well. Because some of these people being veterans had been involved and their hometown election before they went into the service. So they knew more about it than I did because I had never tried to get involved before. Uh maybe I should have but I hadn't reached that age where it was important to me. And so I listened to them and watched them organize the campaign and it became a good experience for me and of course serving as president of student body was a wonderful experience. Uh it was an education to me. Uh I think it brought out some things in me that maybe I didn't realize I had, that would not have been brought out had I not had that opportunity to serve in that capacity.

JACKSON: What reputation did Q.M. Smith have with the students? What kind of reputation did he have with the students?

FORSYTHE: Well respected. I've heard said many a times that, I guess you know and have been told that Dr. Q.M. Smith had a speech impediment. I have always felt that as sharp as that fella was, uh the abilities that he had. Natural abilities as a leader that he, had he not had that speech impediment he would not of been allowed to stay at Middle Tennessee State University, a small university like it was and a small college at the same time because his type of leadership is so in demand, but I think it was a disadvantage to him, but it didn't bother him. It didn't bother the students that got acquainted with him. You had to learn to carry on a conversation with him to fully understand and get the most out of his conversations. Uh but he was very patient and understanding and it never seemed to bother him that he had that speech impediment. And I think most of us learned to appreciate him even more because of his carrying on and doing the job that he did with that handicap. Uh and a lot of us are handicapped in different ways, but he just happened to have that handicap and he worked through it without having any affect on his ability to be a great leader for that university. And I think he was

responsible for getting that university headed in the right direction. Then with the right people following him picking up from where he left off, carrying it on as you can see has developed this university into one that is well respected. And a good size university now.

FORSYTHE: I'm going to ask you about other people that were there, staff members and faculty members. Let's start with Dean Beasley. What do you remember about him?

JACKSON: Dean Beasley was another very favorite of mine and always was my friend for some reason or another. Uh, I don't know why but , he seemed to want to be friendly with me. I think he wanted to be helpful to me. I think he found out that I was serious about my education and I had some classes under him of course that gave him a chance to find out. But he was a very sincere person and another type like Dr. Q.M. Smith that was very much interested in the students. Their personal life. Their problems if they had them. Their well being, uh seeing and wanting them to be successful coming out of this small university or small college at the time. And so he was another person that was just like Q.M. Smith, uh was like a father to me. And I considered Q.M. Smith as fatherly type to me that filled a place that I had been away from during the service. I had leadership over me of course, but it's a different type. But they were more the fatherly type to me that took an interest to me in my well fair and my life, both of them and had a lot of influence on it. So my being away from home, during 3 and a half years or more in the service and not being around my own father. And then coming right out of the service and going right into college to continue my education. I still was away from my own father, so I guess they had a lot of influence taking the place of the regular father. And they showed an interest in me that I really appreciated.

FORSYTHE: Okay, what about Dean James.

JACKSON: Uh, Dean James was a very smart person, very intelligent, but a person that never understood me nor did I ever understand him. Uh as a result I never had a class under him. I tried to sign up for one of his classes one time and he told me, said "Joe, I usually have trouble with boys playing sports. They don't spend enough time on their education and I'm not sure that you can handle this course." And it was very devastating to me to have a professor tell me that because I was very much interested in my education. I wasn't there just to play sports. Sports took the place, it was an outlet for me when I come out of the service. I felt at that time I needed something to do beside study. And it was an outlet for me that I really enjoyed. So it disappointed me so when he said that and I said "Well Dean James I'm taking 18 hours, a full

load, every quarter because I want to get my education and get out of here. But if you feel that way about me then I don't want to be in your class because uh I can see now that we're not going to gel together properly and so I'll just voluntarily go elsewhere into another class." So I did and I say that merely because I don't think that I was given the right opportunity by this person that I did consider a very intelligent person. Uh, but anyhow that's a part of life and I think he had had some bad experiences, I'm sure with athletes not spending enough time on the lessons. And he felt I was just looking for a course that may be I wouldn't have to spend a lot of time on just to get myself through. But that wasn't it at all.

FORSYTHE: What was your major?

JACKSON: Business administration.

FORSYTHE: What about Wink Midget?

JACKSON: Wink Midget, uh I played my first year pf football under Wink Midgets. He was the football coach in 19 Fall of 1946. I took accounting under him, Wink Midget. And Wink Midget was a very well qualified person for the subject matter, but he was the type of person that had a tendency to feel that most of the athletes did not spend as much time as they should on the subject matter and therefore I got along with him fine. But he was the only I think at that time, was the only teacher that taught accounting and I wanted accounting cause that was a major part of business administration. He was a very nice person, good person. There again I think he misunderstood the athletes, a lot of them all though he was one himself, but I respected him and respected his ability. And he did a good job coaching but Bubber Murphy came in to take his place, and I think that Coach Midget was willing to help the University out to offer to coach until he had an opportunity to look the field over and let the area settle down so that they could find the type of coach that they wanted and I think that he did not neseearly want it full time. I gathered that but he did a good job with us while he was there coaching.

FORSYTHE: You mentioned Coach Murphy, what do you remember about him?

JACKSON: Coach Murphy was another outstanding individual as far as I was concerned. He had such a great personality uh good PR person, he wasn't the toughest coach there was but he had people under him like Coach Joe Little, Coach Joe Black Hayes, that had played under a real tough coach General Naland at the University of Tennessee and he was the type of person that took advantage of his personnel, he allowed

them to do the rough work that needed to be done. Especially with a bunch of veterans coming back and you had to, you know that what Dean James uh faced and uh Mr. Midget both. With a group of veterans it was a little bit different classroom structure and that had some effect on their thinking I believe toward veterans and toward uh athletes, when you had the combination, you know that was something that caused a little bit of a problem in their classes. But we missed a lot of time also and that entered both of their minds, Dean James and Mr. Midget, although he coached the first year and he was going with us his year. Uh but when your playing athletics year round, you miss a lot of class time and it makes it a little rougher on me and you have to make up time when you come back off of the trip to, for classes that you've missed. And of course having to work out every afternoon playing year round all three sports, you'd wear yourself out and be bruised up and tired and come in trying to study and it made it a little rougher on those who were veterans who had been out of school for awhile. Especially those veterans that played ball and missed so much study time and class time with athletics.

FORSYTHE: Joe Black Hayes, you mentioned him.

JACKSON: Joe Black Hayes outstanding individual and still is. And of course he's still, he served on the county commission for several years and I worked very closely with him city, me with the city and then with the county. But he serves on committees now, different committees and works with us very well with the Chamber of commerce and he's just a good personality, good PR person. And everyone likes him, so yes I never had a class under him but uh he was a good coach here at the University, working under Bubba Murphy. Just what he needed along with Joe Little, both assistant coaches and they made a good team. And because of that teamwork, uh they were very successful with the football team.

FORSYTHE: What about Joe Little?

JACKSON: Joe Little was, he was a person that had a great background for coaching, working under General Naylor at the University of Tennessee. General Naylor is always considered a very tough coach, uh no piddling around with him. He was all serious business and the boys that played under him I think at time, may have hated him, but they respected him. And when they went away from there, they respected the way he handled himself and they way he handled the players and that uh, he taught them a lesson. He taught them a good lesson for life later on. And I think a lot of those traits were inherited by Joe Little and Joe Black Hayes, as a result they were excellent assistant

coaches under Bubba Murphy and they had a more mild mannered type of personality. When he'd lose his temper at us, being veterans, sometimes we didn't respond to the way that young boys just coming out of high school would respond and we deserved being worked on a little bit. But he could get tough with us when he needed too. Most of the time he was just a very calm, smooth PR person for his program and he'd leave the rough work up to his assistant coaches. Which was a good way of doing it and uh, if I were coaching, you know I would love to follow that type of pattern I think rather than General Naylor, who was one of the greatest coaches in the country. But I just like that style, have someone else to do your rough work for you then you can pat them on the back if someone gets hurt or if something happens and you want to give a little encouragement or something, you can do that and let your coaches like Joe Little and Joe Black Hayes go over and tell you while your down, if your knocked down on the ground suffering say, "While your down there, do a few push ups. You'd get in a little better shape, maybe this wouldn't have hurt you as easily" That type of thing, that's the way Joe Black and Joe Little worked, especially Joe Little. But they were respected too, well respected, both of them. It's just that they played the role that need to be played.

FORSYTHE: I'm getting the idea that GI's and the high school students, coming out of high school were treated differently?

JACKSON: Uh, you almost had to treat them differently. Veterans, a lot of them had spent some rough times over seas and had been through a lot. Had been badgered by drill instructors when they went through boot camp, they'd be badgered by their officers/

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FORSYTHE: This is a continuation of the interview with Mayor Joe Jackson by Regina Forsythe on Monday October 16th 1995, and you were telling me about the uh...

JACKSON: To answer your question about the veterans and the way they operated and were handled normally by teachers and or coaches I guess versus the young students just out of high school. I think that the young students just out of high school were uh they were I guess more receptive and uh a little bit, had a little fear. Especially when they first came into college here they were jumping from one level to another and not knowing exactly what to expect or how to handle/ that you have to learn, you have to mature and going through the education process. And I think they were much easier to handle discipline wise than the veterans. Cause the veterans had had this discipline see for all of these

years. And uh Now they were out again in civilian life and they resisted disciplinary measures some what. Uh, the disciplinary measures had to come more on the volunteer basis I think out of respect for the coaches and or the teachers that were trying to instill that discipline. Of course I think by our being more mature, the veterans, uh we understood what they were doing more and cooperated with the teachers and we still cooperated with the coaches, but uh had a tendency to resist the disciplinary procedures, some of them because of the different lifestyles that we had lived in the last 2 or 3 years prior to that.

FORSYTHE: Do you remember Mr. Judd?

JACKSON: Who?

FORSYTHE: Mr. Judd?

JACKSON: Yes, Mr. Judd. Mr. Judd to me was always a very quiet person that was very sharp, carried on his duties, uh, he was different personality than most of the other teachers to me. Uh, he was, you could talk to him. He was a little harder to get acquainted with. Which is no reflection on him, but was a little harder to get acquainted with than some of the other teachers that we have talked about. Uh but he was an outstanding teacher and one that I enjoyed having classes under because he was all business. And I didn't go in the class rooms to play. I was trying to learn what I could. And I think most of the veterans felt that way. Because most of them came back with that understanding that they wanted to complete their education. They had wasted, lost some time if you will, and that lost time meant a lot to all of us because it was delaying us in getting out there into the field that we were trying to prepare ourselves for, whatever that might be.

FORSYTHE: Okay, but uh, Ed Baldwin?

JACKSON: Ed Baldwin was a good geography teacher. Uh, different students would say that he was a tough, tough teacher to get decent grades under. And he wasn't free with his grading. He made you work for what you received from him. He made you earn your grades. But he was a good professor, a very good professor and I listened to him because I enjoyed geography. I enjoyed learning a lot of things and it was involved in that geography class because I was interested in flying as well. And uh, it fit in with my interest in flying. So I, for different reasons, always being interested in geography world wide since I had a chance to travel over part of it during the service. But it made it more interesting to me, therefore I guess I worked a little harder then some

did that were not as interested as I was in geography. But he was a good teacher.

FORSYTHE: Did you take flying lessons on the campus?

JACKSON: Yes.

FORSYTHE: Tell me about that.

JACKSON: When I first came to school out here the airport was back across the field about where the second high rise is located now, along in that area. The aviation building was back toward the agricultural center. We took off over Main street out over trees out there, and we didn't have a lot of extra space to get your airplane up. In fact my wife took flying and she lived right in the flight patten on east Main street where the/ and when you landed, most of the time you would land going northward, which was coming over main street, right over her house and there some large oak trees in the back of her yard. And when she was soloed, she went around and she was scared being up there by herself. And when she came around to land, she thought she was going to hit in those trees. And it frightened her so, she did get over it so forth and land. Of course you didn't have a lot of extra space. You need to come over fairly close to them to able to hit the runway without running out of space. When she stepped out of the plane, after soloing and completing that, her legs just folded up under her, and she just went down to the ground. She was so frightened still, frightened from having to land that airplane by herself and she realized all of a sudden that she came around the pattern for landing, that here I'm by myself and I've got to land this thing. And she thought she was going to hit those trees. So that did it. And I kidded her and I don't think she has flown again since she got her license after of course passing the test. But I don't think she's flown anymore. I've tried to get her to fly, but she has not been interested. I think that was enough for her. But I admired her for going ahead and getting her, passing her test and getting her license.

FORSYTHE: Yes, especially if you're frightened of something.

JACKSON: But uh, it was enjoyable to me. Of course during that time we came out here to, let's see I was trying to think / (something about moving the airport???) It was on the campus at that time.

FORSYTHE: That's great. Do you remember Emily Calcutt?

JACKSON: Yes, a great lady. English teacher. And I had a class under her and enjoyed being around her very, very much. Emily Calcutt was always

interested when the veterans came back, talking to the veterans about their experiences. I don't know whether she had the idea of writing a book or what she wanted to/ but I remember several times going in for a book report for the reading that she would assign us and never talking about the book because she would get me started on experiences with the 3rd Marine division throughout the Pacific, and different campaigns. And she wanted to talk about them. And uh, you know I just give her the name of the book and a few things about it then she get me off on that subject because she wanted to utilize that time just to talk about those things. And she encouraged me to do some writing. She wanted me to write about some of the experiences I had over there. I may have exaggerated some of them, I don't know. But anyhow I enjoyed talking with her because she was so interested in that, giving your stories about funny things that would happen as well as the serious things. Funny things will happen when you have a bunch of men together and you've got time on your hands between campaigns and things that will happen. She was always interested in all of that, not just the fierce part of it, the fighting but you're daily life and what you ran into, what experiences you had along with your life in the service. But she was a, just a great personality to me and I guess I've talked about several great personalities and uh, a lot of those I've had a choice. I chose on my own because learning more about them and getting more aquatinted with them before I took the classes. But uh, being in class, in her class in English made it so much more enjoyable to me. And I enjoyed it tremendously because of her personality. And the interest that she showed to veterans, realizing that we had a little bit, to a little bit disadvantage. When you're out of school for a period of time as I was, about 4 years because of the war. And then come back here and try to get yourself back into it, into the studying habits and trying to remember the background or the basis of a lot of these subjects. Uh, you were lost out a little bit. You had a different lifestyle and all of that was not that much involved in your daily life, what you were learning and training for. So it made it a little bit tougher on and I think she was the type that realized that. As a result, she probably catered more to veterans that she did to the younger students coming in. Because she felt that we were coming back in to a little bit of a disadvantage because these sharp young students just out of high school were still in a pattern and were ready to go on the different subject matters that we had we had. And we were in a class from four to five years, six years difference in our ages at that level in life, stage in our life, made a difference. And it made us, some of us study harder. Especially in some the studies that we had to go through. And she was the type that I think showed an appreciation for that and a feeling for the veterans having to come back and get themselves adjusted again.

FORSYTHE: Dr. Robert Abernathy.

JACKSON: Bob Abernathy was a great person for that university. He served in the PR capacity out there to uh, go around and speak to students at the different high schools before graduation to tell them about MTSU. And in my opinion, you could not have found a better speaker. He's the type of person that captured your minds slowly(?) because he'd tell a few jokes, get you all laughing and all involved and so forth and he's very good at telling jokes and the he'd get into the more serious aspect of it. And talk about life and the future and what you need to prepare for it and then talk about what MTSU had to offer you and bring out the qualities of that small school. But he was an excellent PR person for the University. And was the type that could really influence students out there in different ways. Whether they already made up their mind to go to another school at all. He was the type that could bring out some very good points to get your attention at that young age. What you should expect in school and what you should do, how you should take advantage of an opportunity that was offered to you in this country, that was offered to you by your parents, that were sacrificing to send you to school, making you appreciate all of those things that you should appreciate. He was very important to that college.

FORSYTHE: Lane Boutwell?

JACKSON: Lane Boutwell, I never had a lot of, I didn't have any classes under Lane Boutwell I don't believe. But always respected him and those that had classes under him seemed to respect him. So from my stand point and I could always talk to him he was the type that would with you, even though I had no class under him. But uh he was a nice person to talk with and was interesting carrying on a conversation, leading the conversation

FORSYTHE: Horace Jones?

JACKSON: Horace Jones. Uh, algebra one of the toughest subjects that I came back to. Math is something that had slipped away from, especially geography, I mean uh/

FORSYTHE: Geometry?

JACKSON: Uh well Algebra and geometry both. And they gave me a hard time because I had been away from them too long. And uh, be honest with you, the algebra gave me a hard time because I did not study algebra hard enough as much as I should have in high school because I played all three major sports. There again I lost a lot of time out of classes

traveling to the different games, but because of when your not playing a game you're practicing and you wear yourself out and I was not as interested in the algebra as I should've been. It was my fault, I just did not create that interest. But algebra is very important and giving you the background that you need for math. And I realized that when I came back out of the service but uh I had wasted all that time and didn't have a good enough background out of high school, my fault, went to a good high school. But I just didn't take advantage of it and didn't get as much out of it as I should have, therefore I suffered out here as a result of it trying to get through those classes and trying to get myself back into to the frame work of math.

FORSYTHE: Is there anyone else or anything else you want to talk about?

JACKSON: Uh, I would say this that I've never regretted coming to Murfreesboro to go to school. I grew up in Chattanooga, born on the Canon Fork River, but I moved to Chattanooga at the age of two with my parents, moved there. For some reason or another I had it in my mind, when I got out of the service I wanted to go to a smaller school. I had scholarships offered to me to play sports in other schools. But I did want, I didn't want to get lost in a big campus. I wanted quiet and peace as much as I could get and still be in a place that I could play sports for that outlet that I spoke of earlier, it was an outlet for me just coming out of the service, you know sitting in a chair and studying all the time you needed some good outlet. And I always enjoyed sports so that was my outlet to let frustrations or to get away from sitting in the books for awhile and getting on the field and playing ball, something that I enjoyed very much. But when I came to Murfreesboro I met a lot of very nice people here that went out of their way to make me welcome. Really helping the coach sell me on Murfreesboro I guess, went out of their way to be friendly to me and as a result of that I not only enjoyed the life out at the university, being with the fellow veterans and being in a small school and having that peace and quiet as well when I wanted it. But enjoyed the fellowship of the people in the town because I could go anywhere and seemingly be welcomed by the local citizens. I was treated more like a local person than I was someone for po-dunk out here somewhere out here coming into their small town. At that time it was so much smaller that outsiders were not accepted as readily as they are now because we're such a mixture at this time it doesn't make a difference whether your local or whether your coming in from somewhere else. If you have the personality that fits in with others than you can along, get acquainted just as well as anyone. But at that time it was important to me to be accepted because I'm the type of person that enjoys being around people. Meeting people and being with them and being accepted by the local people was very important to me but it has

been a good city for me to live in. To rear a family, I have three girls scattered all over the country, no boys, but uh the girls are scattered. The oldest is in Portland Oregon, the youngest is in San Francisco, the middle is in Morgantown west Virginia at the University of west Virginia, the medical department there. So I've enjoyed living here. I miss my daughters, but that's the way in this day and time families get scattered or part much easier than they did and more readily than they did 34 years ago.

FORSYTHE: Well thank you very much.

JACKSON: Well thank you for allowing me to speak with you and especially to talk about Dr. Q. M. Smith.