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ORAL HISTORY

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Stan Z. Rembell
Interviewer

Address: _____

SLUE

Date: _____

5/15/91

Josephine M. Bentley
Interviewee

Address: _____

Date: _____

Date of Accession: _____

SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summer, 1990-91

Josephine Beatty Interview, May 15, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

Filename: BEATTY.525

Q: Josephine Beatty, secretary extraordinare here at SIU, thanks so much for coming out and in my office today, May 15, 1991. When did you come, Josephine?

A: I started in the Fall of 1959.

Q: That's when I started.

A: Just when you started right, but you were in Alton ..

Q: Yes.

A: ... and I was at East St. Louis Center.

Q: Why did you come here in the first place?

A: I was taking classes at Summers Business College and looking for a job.

Q: Summers?

A: Which was right across from the old 909 Ohio where SIU was located and ...

Q: Where? In East St. Louis?

A: In East St. Louis. And she told me about the job being open and I was very delighted to get a job in East St. Louis because at that time I was working in St. Louis and I didn't have any long range goals then, but then once I got in and I realized that it would be something that would be neat to be in on the ground floor and from that that was it.

Q: Well when you say the job was open, what job?

A: That was the job in the Business Office. So it was working for Lloyd Hubert, manager of the Business Office.

Q: Where had you worked before?

A: Immediately prior to that I was working in an insurance company in St. Louis, but I had worked a lot of other places too.

Q: When did you retire?

A: May 1, 1990.

Q: You were here 31 years.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: Now that's a good track record, a good, long track record. Why did you stay so long?

A: Oh. Well now let's see. There were a lot of things about the job that I liked. I liked all the interaction with many people, dealing with a lot of different people on campus and the students and everyone. That was a big, big drawing card. It was also, by the time I got here the campus was beautiful.

Q: Okay. Let's carry on as to why you stayed here, Josephine.

A: The University was very nice when you had problems with your children. I had two kids that I was raising and if they were sick, I could use my sick leave to take care of them and so the benefits were a big drawing card as well.

When we were younger, there were very few jobs open to women. You wanted to either be a teacher or you could be a nurse or a secretary and that seemed to be the limitations of it, or working in a store. So I didn't want to be a teacher. I didn't want to be a nurse. So being a secretary was a nice thing to be. So...

Q: I remember you mainly as the chief secretary in the Dean's office. You have, whatever the titles were that what we now look retrospectively as the deans of the Social Science School, you have been secretary to all of them.

A: Right.

Q: Well let me give you a little perspective on this from the faculty point of view. From the faculty point of view, there are certain, there have been and there are certain key secretaries on campus that when we want something or need something or want some information, we know that they're the best people to go to because they know everything and everybody and if we need some, what I might call a big sister in the best sense of the word.

When we came to Edwardsville you were always considered the Executive Secretary. You were the person to go to if we had a problem or needed a big sister or whatever and I don't know how this is sounding to you, but it's supposed to sound very positive.

A: Oh it does. It sounds nice.

Q: It's supposed to...

A: That particular feeling there and the rewards of that were certainly good for my ego and it certainly was a big incentive to me wanting to stay too. No doubt about it. Now I'll tell you what in talking about this big sister idea. Delores Killingsworth, who I worked with in East St. Louis and who worked for Kermit Clemmons, the head of the School of Science and Technology was such a honey for immediately being able to organize and be an office manager. That is where I started to learn how to manage an office. I came from a family of strong women, bossy women, organizers, and that kind of thing so it was really a perfect type of job for me. So... Dr.

Erickson, the Division head of Social Sciences was the type that if would just let you go ahead and do whatever the heck needed to be done; he didn't sit on top of you and you know if something needed to be done I would just go ahead and do it. Figure out how to do it and that's what we did

Q: Please comment on having worked for a half a dozen deans, different styles, managerial styles, different ways of doing things, different experiences. Can you give us some perspective on having worked for so many deans?

A: In coming in to the job if they had not done that before, it was always a big period of adjustment for both of us and probably harder on the boss than it was on me because I knew what I was doing and he may or may not have.

One of the things that was a big adjustment for me was after having worked for Lloyd Hubert, in the Business Office, then Erickson, then Rosenthal, and then Dr. Campbell who were the types of people that were, just go to it, you take care of it. That's fine with me. Don't bother me with that, to Dr. Beard who came here from another place where he was a dean over a different organization. That was a tremendous adjustment for me. In other words to go from having a lot of autonomy on the job - to feeling I had to ask before I'd do something because this other person had much stricter perimeters in how he wanted me to work. So that was a big adjustment there.

Then when Allan McCurry came in as dean, Dr. McCurry had known me for years and he was more like Erickson and Campbell were, and just let me go ahead and do things the way I wanted to so we worked fine.

Q: Your service with these deans was pleasant and satisfactory?

A: Um-hmm.

Q: Well I'm not surprised. I think our school over the years has been well served by the various deans we have had.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: I presume you agree with that.

A: I certainly would. One of the persons that probably was the weakest, as you were trying to put it very nicely, was probably Dr. Rosenthal because he doesn't have that real go get it organizational skills. Pearson is probably top for that, getting things done, getting things organized, getting them off his desk, not sitting on it, not worrying about it. He's really great at that.

McCurry was sort of sitting there on top of, sort of more of a custodial type position rather than some of the others. I don't know if you saw that down here, but that's the way I looked upon it. It was sort of a boring time in a sense. Then Suzanne Jacobitti, the

next dean, had a lot of trouble because of the budget. We had so few dollars to spend and there were a lot of other things going on. She was a very hard worker too.

That is the way I saw about Dean McCurry's role and the way he was the dean because there wasn't much happening when he was in that office. It was at least seven or eight years of almost stagnation. The enrollment didn't increase. We didn't hire or fire anyone and no changes in faculty. No new programs. Nothing like that was going on. I'm sure Mr. Beard was the one that got hit hardest with a difficult job because that's when they had the Vietnam stuff.

Q: Yes.

A: That's when we were having these riots and we had to stop the school year early that one year. Was that 1968? And then we had also some faculty members that were causing difficulties, embarrassments to the University because they were so heavy into the anti-war movement. Mr. Beard tried to deal with that and keep the dignity of the office. And on looking back on what he did, I have to really give him a lot of credit because he had a hard time in that job.

Social Sciences had more trouble I think than any other department on campus for that.

Q: The...

A: Problems for that particular thing, the Vietnam war and the demonstration and that type of thing.

Q: Yes.

A: Not that there were... Not that I didn't approve of it in a way I did.

Q: You're giving us a perspective on the School of Social Sciences that nobody else could. The various deans could only give us their several years perspective. A faculty member could not do it and only an executive secretary of your standing and service could possibly give us an overview which you have just done. Would you care to add any other broad perspectives on your many years with these many deans?

A: I think Suzanne Jacobitti was a fantastic person. She is undoubtedly one of the most brilliant people here and she can analyze and she can deal with some of the most difficult situations because she had some when the program in City and Regional Planning was discontinued. I admired the way she handled all the trouble makers that were over there in another building.

She had the skills that were incredible for that. The thing that made me upset was when she was not reappointed. I really think Barbara Teters was jealous of Suzanne Jacobitti in the sense that she didn't have the personal qualities that Suzanne had. I guess too that Suzanne looked at the job more from the viewpoint of the faculty and not as much as a representative of the administration and what they wanted her to be, and this may have caused difficulties with the Central Administration.

Q: You mentioned difficult faculty and some of the problems that they gave the various deans. With or without names, would you amplify that a bit? You mentioned for example in the '60's the anti-war activists on campus. What other problems did certain faculty members create for the deans around here?

A: Well just little things, Stan. If there was any gossip, back biting, or cutting people down, I didn't know about it because I was not privy to that. I think a department secretary would no more than I would on that, but there probably aren't any of those girls around here any more. Sociology department itself always had people that were troublesome in that respect, but there weren't any problems that they couldn't deal with and handle.

Q: Over these 31 years that you were here in harness, Josephine, what do you consider your contributions to have been to the whole University?

A: Oh I really can't say I contributed that much. I was just a secretary up there.

Q: Well now... We've already established that just a secretary perhaps, but definitely you were always considered...

A: I was easily replaced wasn't I?

Q: Well...

A: You got a good girl up there now.

Q: What I'm trying to say is that from a nine month school teacher's point of view you were at the top of the pecking order in all of the secretaries in our whole school. If we had to go to the top, eventually it was always to Josephine that we went to and we figured that you knew what was going on and could like I say in a big sisterly way suggest what we might do.

So then I might say that one of your greatest contributions for 31 years or at least for the years you were at Edwardsville where I knew you, you were an excellent hand holder at times. You were a great person to go to when I had problems.

A: My husband calls me a busy body all right because if I see something that I think is wrong, I will try to change it. I never have held back if there was something that needed to be done, was screwed up or if that was this thing was messed up, I would see it ahead of time and go do it.

Q: From my point of view as a faculty member, I was always sure you would tell me exactly what you thought and if I were wrong or right. If I had come to you, I knew I would get a direct answer and there were times when I needed a direct answer and I'm sure that there are many other faculty members that would say the same thing.

What have been some of your greatest joys or satisfactions around here these 31 years?

A: Well that's a hard thing to say. I mean every day was fine. I mean every day was a new day. I really didn't feel constricted, except toward the end when I was getting ready to retire. I really got to feeling like, oh I can't stand to be here very much longer. Because one of the things that was nice about being a secretary here, and I think most of the departments on campus are somewhat the same way, is that you really didn't have to account for every second of your time. You didn't have to ask permission to go to the bathroom. So there was a lot of freedom in this job that many pencil pushers don't have.

I think one of the things that was very, very nice when I was sick was the outpouring of sympathy. You felt like you were part of a family in a sense. I do miss that part about being here, but I really don't miss the work at all because I did it for too long.

Q: What were some of your greatest frustrations around here?

A: Well it seemed like we always lacked space and so there was constant searching over that. One of the best stories would be on you when you were in that room, Peck 1219. Donna Armstrong thought you wanted another filing cabinet. Where in the world you would have put it I don't know, but somehow she put it in your office. That was hilarious.

It didn't stay there long, and I still remember the look on your face upon seeing it.

A time or two I might have had someone working for me and we didn't get along too well; but you know what I've learned, I believe over the long haul it's just almost impossible for two people to be

working together all the time and not suffer a little bit of frustration and aggravation with each other. That would be more from co-workers rather than my bosses or the people that we were serving as far as faculty and students are concerned.

Not too many of them really gave me a hard time. There are only a few faculty members that would give you a hard time.

Q: Did you work closely with many student workers?

A: Oh sure. We had numerous student workers and there was something that popped into my head that I was going to mention about that. I really liked doing that too. That was a lot of fun.

Q: You liked working with student workers?

A: Yes, I did. One of the things I did feel a strong sense of accomplishment for was when we had those learners in our office. First we had a girl that Dr. Glosser found somewhere. I forgot what her name was now. We worked with her a little bit. Then later on Pearl Crowder came in there. She came in as a learner from a very poor high school background. She was a very poor speller. She tried so hard and she respected me so much and admired me so much that every bit of help that I gave her on that job was worth it. We had this good relationship going, that was one of the most rewarding things I had here, working with her.

Q: You know Connie Gray?

A: Um-hmm.

Q: She told me exactly the same thing - that one of her joys around here was working with and helping student workers.

A: But now I'm talking specifically not only student workers, but in that case a learner program that they had.

Q: Well explain. What is a learner program?

A: Okay. Several years ago and I think this is when we were working for Dr. Beard. So it was quite a while ago. The University was getting pressure because they weren't hiring very many black people. They couldn't seem to pass the tests.

So they set up a program called the Learner Program in which they took people who didn't have a background that would really prepare them for being a secretary. In this respect, I think this was a mistake. I think they underestimated what secretaries did, therefore putting a lot of stress and pressure on someone who was actually taken in and dumped in a secretary's job without the background, without the typing skills, without the shorthand, the spelling and all the stuff you need to know to be a good secretary. But nonetheless they were trying to get this new program started.

They picked a few offices on campus to try to get somebody to work with someone. Instead of having a student worker on the job, you would get this person. And I think Pearl was here two or three years.

She had all the benefits that we had - vacation, sick leave, and whatever. I am not sure how many offices had people like this and I'm sure there were a lot of jobs on campus that might have been easier for someone without all the skills, but our office wasn't one of them. Pearl was an extremely bright person anyway so she did okay even though she was very limited in her spelling and typing skills. She was very good at handling people as a receptionist.

So that was one of the things that I feel that was very rewarding as well as working with the other students. I loved having the chance to talk to them and help them if they had problems on campus, which they invariably did. They needed to have some help getting schedule changes or something like that and we had enough of a network of old time secretaries here that we could call and help get things done in that respect.

Q: So roughly how many learners did you...

A: Well I only had two and after that.

Q: Over the years as you think back, what are some of your best memories?

A: I guess getting that office upstairs was one of them. You know before we had the...

Q: That suite.

A: Our suite. That was done in an underhanded, sneaky way.

We were having such a problem in that same room there with Humanities. There wasn't any identification to our office. It was a bad arrangement so we moved into the faculty lounge. The faculty weren't too happy about that because we did take their lounge away, but we really were in trouble. There was no space. So that was one of my most rewarding things was getting that office because I picked out the carpeting. I picked out the drapes and you know the wallpaper - I mean the paint on the walls and that was neat.

Q: Any other best memories along those lines?

A: Oh, well certainly, certainly, certainly. The social interaction was really satisfying.

Q: We jokingly refer to ourselves as the Sociable Scientists. In your office over the years there were many parties, retirement parties, birthday parties, leaving parties. I know, I went to every one. I presume those were an awful lot of work on your part.

A: No they weren't.

Q: Well I'm glad at that.

A: Not at all. No one complained when we had this as part of the office decoration, all the plants that we brought in. Then as people would come in and compliment you and feel that this was something, a special place, which it was. I had numerous students come in and say, well isn't this lovely. It's just somewhere special for the

students to go and see. And so I liked that really well. I had a feeling of accomplishment when I set up all those manuals for my successor so that she wouldn't have any trouble learning the job when she showed up.

I don't know if that's helped her or not. Dean Pearson was so much on top of that job that there wouldn't be any problem for a new secretary to come in.

Q: Have you ever thought of coming back?

A: When I left, I thought I'd want to but now I'm retired I'm not feeling boredom. There's so many other things to do that I'm enjoying having the freedom of being retired.

Q: How about worst memories?

A: Well, one of the great talents I have is as soon as something is unpleasant I forget about it. So I'm having trouble coming up with an answer. I would say in going back to all the turmoil that was going on in the 60's.

A: Here's another little story. You're in this one.

I bet you'll remember this. I had a student worker who was very, very quiet and she was over there, in tract 20, off campus. I had two student workers, one that was in the morning and one that was in the afternoon. Well the one that was in the, I don't know, I'll say morning because I don't remember now, was so quiet I would explain everything to her and I thought she knew what I was talking about.

Maybe she didn't want me to know that she didn't understand; so she was carrying the mail over here to the Peck Bldg. all the time. Well we had these research proposals and the Dean would sign off on them. We'd have to make copies and take them to the Graduate School which was then in 3402 or 3420 I mean. It was in 3420.

Q: In Peck.

A: In the Peck Building room 3420. Well these things, Betty Fedor was up there in that office, the Graduate School and she worked for the graduate research dean. Well half of the stuff that we would send over would get lost and this went on and on for the longest time and I was getting so upset. I thought Betty was losing it, and you - something happened to one of yours. Well come to find out, I just thought I've got to find out what's happening to this stuff. Betty was really angry because I was making it appear that she was losing it in her office.

So I asked my student worker, when you take those things over to the Graduate School who do you give them to and I kept prying to try and get this information from her. Well finally she said well I never see anybody there and I said you know in the Graduate School you don't see anybody there? I said well that doesn't make any sense. She said yes I just go into that room and put the stuff on the top of the piano and leave. I said the top of the piano? I said what are you talking about?

She said well there's that room 3402 that you told me to take the mail to and there's a piano in there and there's never anybody in there and I just put it on top of the piano.

I came over to the campus. I saw all that stuff sitting on top. This is a double weird thing because the faculty member whose piano that was 3402 did not observe all of this mail piling up on top of his piano. I really felt terrible because what had happened when she asked me what room is the Graduate School. I thought anybody that was a student would know that and I said, oh it's 3402. So that is how all that stuff got in 3402 instead of 3420.

Q: Was it still there?

A: I went over there and it was all there, including your research proposal.

Q: It was still there?

A: Yes. That put a red flag up for me. Any time I had a real quiet person working for me after that I really gave them the third degree, do you know what I'm saying? Go over and over and over and over and over to make sure that didn't happen again.

There must have been about three or four months of mail sitting on that piano.

Q: Well that's a great story. Any other humorous things like that that comes to mind?

A: Do you remember Sidney Cohen?

Q: Yes.

A: He was down there in the East St. Louis. He worked in the same building where Julia Barton, Secretary of the History Dept. worked and Seymour Z. Mann of Public Administration was in there and the little secretary for them. They were all in the same building. Well Sidney Cohen, in the History Dept., was an eccentric, very much of an eccentric and there were a lot of mice over there in that building. They were all over the place. I don't know how Julie put up with it because if it would have been me I would have been screeching all the time.

Anyway Seymour Mann says he was sitting there at his desk. and he saw a mouse sitting over there in the corner and Sidney was sitting also over there. Anyway the mouse starts creeping over in his direction and starts to run up Mann's leg.

He shakes the mouse, gets rid of it. Meanwhile Sidney who was terrified of mice, about like me, gets on top of the table and calls Physical Plant to come over and do something about the mouse. Meanwhile the little girl that was working in the office and I guess Seymour were laughing so hard they couldn't do anything about it. She went and got a broom and she cornered the mouse and killed it, but meanwhile this guy was standing on top of the desk screaming for help. It was hilarious. That was one of the funniest things I think ever happened and I don't think he ever lived that down.

Now Elliot Rudwick of Sociology is another one that was well...was strange, because he would do things like sleep in that bathtub over there. You know that old house where Julia was. It was on ...

Q: In East St. Louis.

A: It was behind Sears. It was on Tenth Street or Eleventh Street I think and he would just fall asleep or he would be tired and rather than bother to go home he would just get a pillow and sit in the bathtub and go to sleep. Julie would have a few good stories to tell about those guys. They were really characters.

Q: Well this is the time and the place.

A: Now when we worked in the Business Office that was interesting because one of the things that was so unique about that particular place, Dr. Kimball, our office, here was Tenth Street and you would come right in there just as easy as you would please and over here was a library and to the immediate right was the Business Office and we collected all the money for all the tuition and everything. A lot of it was cash.

It would have been so easy for somebody to bounce right in that door, make a sharp right and just take every bit of the money we had because we didn't have any security police when we were collecting this money and there wasn't really anybody around that would challenge a potential thief or a robber. It was just dumb luck that none of that ever happened.

One night, and I mentioned that when I had that little speech, Mr. Hubert and I stayed until about midnight counting money and we took a \$50,000 bank deposit down to Union National Bank in downtown East St. Louis. It was about one o'clock when we got home. My husband was really mad I stayed that late. He said that's too dangerous with all that money and people, but they must not have been aware of it.

But you know when you have hundreds of students going through that line registering, they would certainly be able to see that you had a lot of money. And now people pay by check I'm sure, but a lot of times they would just stand there and count out one, two, three, four, five and hand us that money.

Q: In cash.

A: Yeah. I don't know if you remember Dr. Joe Small in Accounting.

Q: A little bit, yes.

A: He was the one that was sort of in on the beginning of the Credit Union. I collected money for the Credit Union there. Dr. Joe Small could take a count of figures like this, never used an adding machine, just go zoop, zoop, zoop and add them. I was just so impressed by anybody that could have that kind of talent. Dory Wilton, the registrar used to save all of his money that he got for traveling between campuses and put it in the Credit Union and every month I guess when his travel voucher money came he would come in there and deposit two dollars, a dollar fifty or whatever and that was an on going joke with us.

It was funny. He said he really saved quite a bit of money doing that and leaving it in there all this time you know adding interest. It really amounted to a lot. So those are some of the cute little things that happened. That was the fun place to work, the Business Office.

We had a lot of traveling back and forth between centers with the faculty needing to get university cars. I was in charge of scheduling them. This gave me a chance to get acquainted with most all the faculty and others at the center.

Q: Yes, in those days Morris had an air force and we had a whole fleet of cars.

A: Yeah. True.

Q: That's all gone.

A: Yeah there was a lot of people on the road a lot of times going back and forth there.

Q: All right.

A: Well that's a lot of yacking.

Q: Well, it is.

A: And it was fun to talk to you about it. I don't really think that I told you anything about the history of the university.

Q: Well then please do.

A: Like what?

Q: What would you...

A: What is it? What is it that's defining in university. You could talk about the different organizational programs, the new programs, the ones that go out, the new faculty members that come in and the ones that go out and all that kind of stuff. I was in on a lot of that in a peripheral way so that was nice... Meeting new faculty was a lot of fun - helping them get settled.

Q: And I was one of those that you helped routinely because I'm not... I'm not very good at procedure and I know I had to phone you, I don't know, many, many times.

A: Well you see that's the kind of thing that there really - you probably don't do it often enough that it would really make that much difference. There's always somebody else.

Q: Well you're probably right but from my point of view if I had a procedural problem, I knew you'd tell me real quick what to do and that was very much appreciated. I want you to know that. Well let's see - I've asked you a lot of questions and you've addressed them. What else would you like to record?

A: I guess the main thing I'd want to record is that I feel very lucky that I was in on the beginning of it, seeing how it grew. Even though I love this place, and even though it's a bunch of their buildings here, it has created a strong interest in me in the

nature, in gardening, in flowers and trees because they made this place so beautiful. It was already a beautiful sight but they've created so much more beauty here.

I already had leanings toward gardening, but now it really is a strong feeling. Also I learned a lot from people without doing it in a formalized way. I liked listening to people, overhearing people who will talk about politics, things that were going on in the world. I miss that a lot because there were a lot of things that happened this past year while the Gulf War was going on that I would have liked to have been here to see what people thought about what was going on. I got all my information was from the newspaper rather than listening to whom I consider experts who had opinions about the world situation. So that was a good feature of being on campus.

Q: Did you have much to do with departmental secretaries?

A: Well I think very much; we helped them to learn their jobs and we worked with them every day.

Q: Over 31 years what kind of relations did you have with departmental secretaries and were the departmental secretaries generally adequate in your opinion?

A: Oh I just thought of something else and you mentioned something being a bad idea or if I had any unpleasant memories. See how good I am at forgetting. The biggest unpleasant memory was when we had that steno pool. That was a near disaster.

Q: The steno pool.

A: The steno pool that we tried to emulate the School of Humanities steno pool by getting all of our secretaries in one place. It was a disaster.

Q: I don't know how Humanities makes it work.

A: It was a complete disaster. I've often wondered how they managed to have that work when we did such a poor job on it because we did do a terrible job. First of all, we had more departments. There were more people. Also the type of faculty members, I think, that were used to getting what they - their needs met more quickly by having their own department secretaries, resented that a lot. Also the secretaries in the departments whose jobs were being made easier by doing this resented the fact that we did it. So the whole thing was a nightmare from beginning to end.

Q: Who was this under?

A: It was under Mr. Beard.

Q: All right.

A: It was a nightmare from beginning to end because of a lack of cooperation on everybody's part. Whether it could have worked, I don't know. Number one, we hired a terrible person to be the supervisor. She couldn't do it. She didn't have the talent.

Anyway we didn't have a good supervisor then we threw in one of these people that I think was one of our learners and that was bad because there was a lack of training there. As I said, the department secretaries resented the whole thing. The faculty didn't like it and so I would say that was my worst experience at the university. I tried my best to make it work. I was really trying hard to make it work...

Q: What percentage of the departmental secretaries that you worked with over 31 years would you consider at least adequate, did a good job?

A: Oh. I'd say all of them. They did an adequate job. Some were more outstanding than others, but most of them... They all seemed to do... Let me see. You asked me that question and I want to try to think of anyone that I would say would not fit that. I can't think of anyone that... There was one person that I knew had a little trouble organizing things, but other than that she was so conscientious and so devoted to her job. So other than that I can't really think of anybody.

Q: I have known many, many of the secretaries. I've never had any trouble. There was one once in Earth Science who was a little difficult. If it wasn't specifically her job, she wasn't very happy if you asked her a question, but that was not serious.

A: Well you're talking about whether or not she could do the job. She was extremely good at doing the job, but she was not very good at being cooperative.

Q: My office was exactly opposite the Earth Science people and most of them were so helpful that they did all kinds of little favors for me. They didn't have to do anything of course, but they were so nice. Sometimes they'd take messages or answer my phone or lend me an envelope.

-----end of side one-----

Now two questions, if I could interview just two more people who would you recommend?

A: Well I already said something about Peter Simpson.

Q: Yes, good. Good suggestion.

A: And...well let's see. I guess Dory. Have you interviewed Dory Wilton?

Q: Yes.

A: You already have?

Q: Yes, I have.

A: Oh, good. Well Delores would really be good.

Q: Killingsworth?

A: She goes back further than I. She would remember things about James Turner, the first director of the East St. Louis Center, what happened when he was here. For example, do you remember or did you have a knowledge of the problems Morris had with Dr. See.

Q: Yes.

A: Do you remember that?

Q: Yes. I certainly do.

A: And they hung Morris in effigy down there in the East St. Louis Center because they were mad, angry about Dr. See losing his job or something...

Q: Yes. See was very popular and we resented when Morris kicked him upstairs.

See was in charge of this campus and had big aspirations, bigger aspirations than Morris wanted him to have.

A: Oh.

Q: And Morris simply got rid of See because he didn't want any competition.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: And you've just confirmed part of this or at least given us some new information about Morris being burned in effigy in East St. Louis...

A: I remember when we first got the first xerox machine. Dr. Kimball this was really something. There was a little steno pool that Les Ferrar was in charge of at that time...

Q: Yes.

A: ...and we got this neat copier and at that time Les was told, well he asked how many copies the faculty could make because he knew that this was going to cost money and they said, oh there's no restriction. Let them make as many copies as they want. So the very next day I went in there to see Les and see the copy machine. His desk looked like your office, page after page after page after page that these guys wanted copied. I just - oh it was so funny.

I don't know if he ever got caught up but then I think very shortly afterward they changed the policy and then faculty had a certain number of copies that they could get from us and that was it because they were going to copy the whole entire library. So that was funny and it was amazing too how much work one could get done without making millions of copies of everything like we do now.

Q: It's a whole, it was a whole other world.

A: I mean if you had a huge stack of stuff instead of making copies for 50 people you sent it around and let them look at it.

Q: Any final something, Josephine, you'd like to end this interview with?

A: Well yes I will say that I cannot imagine anybody getting a nicer send off than I got when I retired from here. Dean Pearson was just a super person to work for in every way and he just wanted it to be so nice and special for me that I just never will forget that. It was great.

Q: I went to that party I'm happy to say.

A: And also I know Annette Peters, our Chief Clerk, did a lot of work on it too. So and the final thing I'm going to say is sitting here talking to you about this has been fun, but when you're away from it here you don't feel like you belong anymore you know?

I was hoping that wouldn't happen because I was hoping I would come back, take classes, and be gung ho and I also thought I'd have so much time that I would be twiddling my thumbs and being so bored but that's not true at all. I have a lot of things to do and I haven't found time to take those classes.

Q: Well please do. Don't make yourself a stranger and if this little chit chat we've had kind of breaks the ice, so much the better.

A: It would be nice.

Q: Well, Josephine, thanks so much.

A: You're welcome.

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