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ORAL HISTORY

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Date: *7/11/91*

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Interviewee

Address:

Date: *7/11/91*

Date of Accession: _____

SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summers, 1990-91

Dale F. Blount Interview, August 1, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

Filename: BLOUNT.801

Q: Dale F. Blount, School of Business, Management, thanks for coming by. Why did you come here in 1960?

A: I started here on June 16, 1960, which was the first work day after the first commencement ever held at the Edwardsville site. That commencement caused sort of an uproar with Edwardsvillians because they couldn't get home from where they were working that day because of the traffic jam on Highway 157 by campus entrance road.

Q: The traffic jam.

A: That's exactly what Dr. Harold See, who was the Vice President in charge of the campus, wanted to happen to transmit that there was something going on out here on the campus. He was sure that it would irritate a lot of people because it held them up five minutes longer than normal from getting from the valley to the hill at home.

I was hired by E. R. Casstevens who headed Industrial and Technical Programs. It later became a division called Technical and Adult Education. My hiring was approved by William T. Going who was the dean of the campus at that time and his boss who was the vice president Harold See. We were all housed in one building which was

the Gerling home, which now is the office of University Security. This home served as the campus top administration headquarters until 1965.

Q: On the now Edwardsville campus.

A: On the now Edwardsville campus. We had plenty of room, the entire administration was there. Dr. Going and Dr. See and my boss E.R. Casstevens or Cass as he was called, Bruce Brubaker, and some secretarial people, Virgil Seymore, Warren Spawn [Ray Spahn?]. He was our communications Public Relations person at that time.

We all worked in the basement or upstairs of that building and had plenty of room in which to do so. What I want to mention is that Myron Bishop was located there to and Myron Bishop who was the one who was instrumental in buying all the property for the campus and putting it all together. "Go home Bishop" signs were put up by different farmers at that time.

Q: Yes.

A: I came here from Ford Motor Company. I was invited for an interview by Casstevens in that they needed a person to perform a liaison function between what the university is, what it will become, hopefully, and what business and industry educational needs were. By that I mean what were their training and develop needs. What did the first line foreman need, what did the middle management, or

division men need. Did he need to complete his degree here or what kinds of degrees ought we have, or what type of certification programs should we have?

This was administered from 1960 to 1972 Cass and myself and Francine Marti and Robert Semple and Wayne Gilks developed certificate programs based on the needs of business and industry. One was called the Industrial Management Program. It had courses running in Alton, East St. Louis, and Granite City at night. Using the high schools and first line supervisor people from petroleum, chemicals, steel and other wise came there and worked on the certificate programs, had courses until they completed eight and then they were awarded a certificate in Industrial Management which, incidentally, Dr. Morris insisted be in with the regular commencement exercises where people were getting their undergraduate degrees.

So that these people would be recognized even though the certificate was not degree. We did that for years and then developed a Traffic Management Program for rail, barge, airlines, and truck lines in such courses as rates and tariffs and interstate commerce laws and physical distribution courses and so on and so forth and then that was certificated and then we developed a two year Associate Degree program in which Wayne Gilks who is now president of the Hidden Valley Junior College system in Kansas City and within the year maybe changed the whole campus system in Kansas City was the director of the Associate Degree program. We had associate degree programs in accounting, marketing, and secretarial science.

Those courses in accounting and marketing for example were the same courses that were taught by the school of business to whoever were taking them. They simply directed those people in there and

they would get a two year Associate Degree in which they could apply or transfer all of that to an undergraduate degree in that specialization which many of them did.

One case in point is our famed alumni Ralph Korte in the construction industry who went here eleven years at night finishing his associate degree program first and then on to his undergraduate degree program. Had it not been for the Associate Degree program he wouldn't have had the stepping stone to enter undergraduate school.

We went on then and developed other programs based on needs of business and industry. One was the need to develop general foreman superintendents more so, so we designed and developed a program called Development Program for Middle Management. Later on that led to program called Executive Development Program. That's where we had vice presidents and directors of manufacturing and then we had seminars, conferences, in-plant instruction courses, short courses in addition to that and by 1960 to 1972 we had right at five thousand enrollments a year whether they were associate degree or certificate program or conference or short course or whatever it might be.

At that time it was ruled by the Illinois Higher Board of Education that all certificate courses, programs, associate degrees would no longer be administered by senior institutions of higher learning such as SIUE. But would be done by, planned for, conducted by junior colleges. That was a, in my opinion an error, because it cut off the university from doing it, who wanted to do it, who were equipped to do it, who we like to think did it well. This was given to the junior colleges who didn't understand it, didn't want it, and didn't do it. So the need went unsatisfied from 1972 to this day. There are no longer any Industrial Management Programs, Traffic

Management Programs, associate degree programs that can readily be transferred within the university to an undergraduate degrees, conferences and seminars. They did not have the wide brush to paint with as the university had. Or the wide resources to call that we had. That was a big area need, and a major disappointment at that time.

Casstevens and myself, who had academic housing in the School of Business, went to full time teaching. So from 1960 to 1988, 28 years of service at SIUE, I spent twelve in administrations of the Adult Technical Educational Program and the balance of it, sixteen years, in the full time teaching and received promotions from lecturer, instructor, assistant, up to associate professor.

Q: Well that's a terrific opening statement Dale, very comprehensive, very clear. It seems as though the entire administration was in that one house and if something had happened if there had been an accident, or if the house had blown up, there would have gone the guts of the administration of the whole university.

A: Just the remains of an idea.

Q: That is nicely put. Now all of these industrial programs and traffic management programs and adult technical programs. I would think was one of your greatest contributions to the area was developing, running, managing, these things. It struck me as very sad and unwise that it was terminated by politicians in Springfield I presume.

A: It was the Higher Board's decision. So that doesn't go without a touch of politics. But it was a bad decision then and it proved out to be very bad.

Q: Now that it's proven to be bad, why don't they give it back to SIUE?

A: I don't know the answer to that Stan, but it could be that we haven't asked for that back. It could be that we may have to suffer on lower enrollments before we look for programs like that such as the associate level. In the mean time, junior colleges, Belleville Junior College has a campus in Granite City and of course in Belleville and of course the junior college in Alton exists now. But they still are not attracted to those types of programs.

We felt we had the rapport and respect of business and industry that we could talk their language. We could not only give them what we wanted, we could cause them and inspire them to reach up a level. Not just go certificate, but what about the foreman who finishes his certificate, what do we have for him now? Well we have an associate degree, what do we have for the associate degree graduate, well we have the undergraduate degree and over the years now we have the masters.

We had what we thought outstanding rapport with business and industry and they with us and they were very supportive of the bond issue that came about. They were behind us. They were for us. And I plan to talk to a person today to say to them there isn't a university around that knows more about how to train and develop industrial people, supervisor people. Why don't we register that

strong at McDonnell aircraft? My point is an educational institution. There are not many who know how to do that. And we still have the remains of the how. We still have a Labor Management Program with Ed Harick as director. We still have a Center for Management Studies around. We could be good consultants to McDonnell that they may not get anywhere else their bidding on a plant. I mean they will get other institutions but will they have the know how? SIU E has unique experience in Industrial Training.

Q: Well, it seems to me that the governor is moving heaven and earth to get them to come over here to Scott AFB. Does Springfield know?

A: I think they do not know about what did happen that worked so effectively that could be reincarnated or retreaded, updated and service a major industry like that. I don't know where you could get that asset anymore. For example you could not go to Washington University and have them come in on that. That is not their forte. It is our forte having worked with business and industry all these years and having had programs that have been decommissioned that could be recommissioned and McDonnell could only have an interest in that. I hope to share that today with others.

Q: It may be the deciding factor for McDonnell deciding to come here on the east side to build a plant.

A: I think your thinking correctly Stan. I think you can see two and two might make five. In this case, where else could they get it? I don't know. That would keep it within the area and everybody would win.

The university bond issue day of the earlyh 60s. I had an exciting experience there and it's called the famed helicopter shooting.

Q: You may be the only person still alive that was in that famous helicopter, so let's get the Dale Blount version of that.

A: Dr. Harold See again wanted to let people in the area know there was something going on here so he had a helicopter hired for the day to supply free rides to anybody who wanted to see the proposed campus site. And what they did was just make a loop and they took off for the old personnel track ten, south of the Gerling home, the building still remains, over the field and made a circle around there and went over what is our campus center here now and then came back and land.

In those days there was a farm here called the Freund farm. Mr. Freund had some race horses stored in the barn and this helicopter disturbing his race horses and he alleged they were injuring themselves. So he called the county sheriffs office in Edwardsville and requests that the flights be stopped and warns that next time it comes over he would shoot at it. That's how serious he was about this matter.

Well, the Madison county sheriff's office called Dr. Harold See's office and relayed that message and requested that they stop the helicopter ride. He got a hold of me and said go get on the

helicopter tell the helicopter pilot to stop the flights or go another way. Do not go the same route because it's disturbing the horses.

I proceeded to get on to the other side of the pilot. There were three seats, the pilot in the middle, a passenger on the left and a passenger on the right. The passenger on the right was Dr. Will Shaw out of Science and Technology. When I got on I started to communicate the message and he started up the props and the noise prohibited him from hearing what I was saying until I told him, "Do not go that way, Man will shoot at us." When I looked down right into literally a two barrel shot gun, in which he shot and hit the props of the helicopter. The helicopter sat down in the same spot it had taken off from after making the loop and didn't fly anymore that day.

So Dr. Will Shaw and I pressed assault and battery charges on Mr. Freund who owed the farm here and the one who had the race horses. *The next day after doing such, Dr. Delyte Morris asked me in privacy whether or not I could consider dropping the charges because if we did consider dropping the charge we would have something to negotiate with Mr. Freund because he had the key land to the whole campus sight. He was at the center of where they wanted to build the first building. He was the key to the puzzle.*

So after long in depth thinking which took about two seconds, I agreed to do so. We did drop the charge and a young lawyer for the university, James Strueth who is still practicing in Alton, handled the situation and he and Dr. Morris carried that message to Mr. Freund. He indeed did agree to sell property. We did purchase it as

you know and it did become the center of the campus and I like to think that shooting issue which was a big negative in my life at that moment turned out to be a real positive thing--especially for SIUE.

Q: Yes. I'm pretty sure that where the University Center is, is where the Freund home was and the stable were where the library is.

A: Technically the home is right in the mounded tree area there north of the UC. Which Dr. Morris insisted that when they did dismantle the house that they not disturb one tree. So that was a two story frame home which incidentally served as a first and second commencement hospitality area. Actually there was the punch and cookies type of thing and the old plantation type of atmosphere following commencement that was where Building II and II now stand.

Q: Yes. I remember that. The Freund home is now on Bluff road.

A: That home is now on Bluff road on 157 immediately south east of the Interstate 270. The home is now brick instead of frame.

Q: The stables were near the library weren't they?

A: No, the stables were this side of the pond down here. This pond did exist out here on the campus and the stables sat right where we are. Right where Peck is.

Q: Well, that's a fascinating story. Bill Shaw is no longer with us. I think your the only one who could tell it.

A: I did not put in for combat pay. I was so excited about being here, I didn't ask for any additional compensation. Really, I was pleased to be able to provide Dr. Morris with a drop charge attitude so that the campus could move forward.

Q: Why did you stay so long? 28 years.

A: Well, sort of for the same reason I came here. I came here interviewed for the job. I mentioned Mr. Casstevens as he described where they were and that the bond issue wouldn't be for six months after I started if I accepted the job and that it could be, might be and should be a campus some day.

There was so much insecurity about this job offer that I went for it. Now I was happily employed at Ford Motor Co. and prior to that Granite City Steel and prior to that Armour Meat Co., I had plenty of industrial experience to bring to this job to be able to communicate with the industrialist and manufacturing people I knew the language and I knew I could bridge it.

But the picture that Mr. Casstevens painted meant that you could depend on nothing. It had political dependency on it. It had voting dependencies on it. It had whether or not we had put a team together that could develop a university or not. I was excited about everything at that time. I was 29 years of age, married, had 2 children and I was excited about it and remained that way ever since. There was never any two years alike in the 28 years I was here

including the pioneer days of course but then even after joining the School of Business and teaching the courses the courses that changed and teaching and what courses I taught.

I taught a half dozen different courses in a given academic year - night classes, day classes, and so on so forth. So I continued on until I thought my 28 years here and the balance of 10 at industrial experience gave about 37 years of experience that I ought to get out of people's way and my pencil work told me that I could afford to do that and my ideas told me that I ought to be doing something else more challenging like golf and then golf and then more golf.

But there were other things in life, antique cars and own business affairs and a whole variety of other things. I still today have lunches with and follow up with different students that I had that I knew as an instructor, but then knew as a private business practitioner and became acquainted with them in a different way and also with faculty of other universities and business people that we serviced then who may be with other industries. I do a variety of things now, but it was exciting here and I've often said I've worked hard in the meat industry at Armour company, hard in the steel industry at Granite City Steel, hard at the Ford Motor Company, but I've never worked as hard as I was here, but in a different way.

It was developmental for me to be here. I even plugged in and got a masters degree in six years at night school because it was part of the environment to continue your education. I bought off of what I was selling--education. So it was an exciting experience and the people like yourself, Stan, and all the others who came here and all the others who were here for a while and went on and some famed

people like R. Buckminster Fuller I got to know as a personal friend and Dr. Morris and a lot of administrators such as Howard Davis and too many others to mention...

Q: Um-hmm.

A: Aalso my faculty colleagues that I taught along side with. It was exciting from the day I came to the day I left.

Q: Wwhat would you consider your most significant contributions over those 28 years, Dale?

A: Well I think maybe contributing from the ground floor up to programs that amounted to almost five thousand enrollments per year - by creating those programs, by implementing those, by adjusting those, by staffing adult educccation, by working with the people from business and industry and the administration here, that was terribly important.

Another was obtaining papers of the coal miners down in Collinsville and then the Harold Gibbons collection which is probably the largest collection of labor papers know of in the USA, more so than Wayne State which has the Walter Ruether papers. I continue to collect.

I've got another big one coming in. It was promised to me at Anheiser-Busch. The person who headed up the teamsters there Bob Lewis is a friend of mine. Those brewery were CIO workers and they switched over to the teamsters years back and Bob Lewis went through both of those and he has papers on those. I asked him if he would

consider contributing to the Harold Gibbons teamster papers to expand that as well as the coal miners and he said that he wouldn't consider it but he'd give them to me. I could have them and now since he says he's been asked by others for those papers. I assume the authors of that book and he said no, I've already given those to Professor Blount. So I'm hoping to secure those in hand shortly and it's rich with history.

Our labor papers collection has attracted other AFL-CIO local, district, and regional union papers. Hopefully, this collection will continue to grow in deposits important to the labor movement.

Q: Well as a historian of course that interests me greatly to have these huge archives come in for faculty but also future students...

A: Oh yeah.

Q: ...to do masters thesis' out of them.

A: A foreign undergraduate student is now planning and has approval of his master's committee to do his thesis on those teamster papers. And learned people from all over-- a research faculty man from the University of Houston states that the Harold Gibbon's papers are very important, more so than any other university collection.

Q: Yes. That's excellent.

A: People who want to do the research. I myself have been encouraged to write a book on Harold Gibbons.

Q: Excellent. If you could give up golf long enough.

A: Well I mean, but he was a golfer. Maybe I can think about Harold when I am out on the course.

Q: Oh very good. Now...

A: You know what Arnold Palmer says, yes the earth will be inherited by the meak but they'll never make the green in two.

Q: Thank you for that bit of witicism.

A: Okay. So much for golf.

Q: All right. So much for golf. Now, other than the termination of so many of these university programs which you have made quite evident, you have made that point eloquently. The other side of the story, some frustrations over 28 years around here. Any other frustrations you care to record?

A: Well, I think there were developmental frustrations, there were the onward and upward, spirit in corp was awful strong during the early days. We knew we were going to get there it was a matter of picking the feet up and laying them down. We had the support of the administration in our programs. In our programs we had good relations with other faculty, School of Education, School of Business

and so on. We often called on some of these people to work on our programs and they got acquainted with business and industry and visa versa.

So those, weren't frustrations, were more a challenge. We had challenge after challenge to do. And even though it was hard work, I mean you worked hard, you had approval of your peers, you had approval of the administration, you had approval of the clientele you were working with. I didn't think we fought hard enough to save those programs from the administration's side. I don't think John Rendleman fought hard enough to keep that section, that division of technical and adult education and also Brubaker's area of education extension. We should have fought harder for that and didn't in my opinion.

Now there may have been many big reasons not to and maybe we came out better because we didn't. That would have to be from somebody who knows the whole picture, but that was frustrating not being able to continue that type of program stride. The disappointment that I experienced was that we didn't get the Kellogg Continuing Education Center, which I researched on a sabbatical leave. Brought information back after a visit with the Kellogg Center in Battlecreek, Michigan. Kellogg Center said we've all ready done our thing in continuing education, we built seven of them. I said I know I've visited all of them. We need one down our way. They said, well, we'll think about it. We are willing to think about it. So I came back and registered that encouraging word to Dr. Morris and Dr. Morris said, maybe if we went to them and gave them a choice of whether they would like to have it at Carbondale or

Edwardsville, maybe we could get one of the sites approved versus none, but we'll kind of stress Edwardsville because of the metropolitan make up.

He asked me whether I thought I ought to go back to them or whether he ought to go back to them. I took 2 seconds of in depth thinking and said Dr. Morris I think you ought to go. So he did go. This is a story you may not find in the file. He did go. They did say we are interested we'll do it one more time and we're interested more in Edwardsville than we are Carbondale because Carbondale is traditional campus that we've granted at the other campuses. This Edwardsville is a new and inovating and growing campus and maybe we can do some new type programs. You go back and submit us a proposal and we'll look at it very , extremely favorably.

Dr. Morris hurried back and formed a committee of which he said would not meet until Blount is on it. So we did meet. Larry Taliana was the chair of it as I remember, and he said he need a committee, we need a proposal and we need it now. He gave his normal lead time, which is yesterday. So the meeting dispersed, almost the next day or very soon there after as I recall, the million dollar house issue raised it's ugly head from Carbondale and what happened was the committee fell apart. The committee didn't want to touch anything that Delyte Morris had to do with. They didn't want to be identified with him in any form or shape and that's what killed it, because the proposal didn't get off, we wrote the proposal but the proposal wasn't documented by a committee. We were very close to a continuing education center.

Q: For the record Dale, what is this Kellogg Program?

A: Oh, the Kellogg foundation. Kellogg corn flake people in of Battlecreek Mich.

Q: Yes.

A: They have a foundation separate and distinct from the company that have been for years interested in adult education.

Q: So they sponsor adult education.

A: Conferences and seminars, that type of thing. Certificate programs for adult education. They contribute the funds to build the central building and start up operation money.

Q: Now we have on this campus now the Office of Continuing Education has that picked up much if any or none of the things that we've been talking about?

A: Stan, I don't know exactly what they are into now, but this I speak of can have multi-thousands of people running through it a year. This is a big building structure of conference rooms and seminars, amphitheaters, assembly halls and things like this. Oklahoma State, University of Oklahoma and nine other universities have these centers.

Q: And we, this is really sad I never knew this story.

A: We had the campus site picked out, right as you come in on the south entrance of campus and before our sign that says Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville on the north hill was the sight that was picked.

Q: Well this is peculiarly...

A: Gene Graves, then assistant to President Rendleman, can attest to that.

Q: Sad to me because as you know the Illinois Hotel/Motel Association killed even a little modest conference center. We would have had on the third floor of the University Center, so we are very poorly equipped to hold conference on this campus.

A: Oh yes. And that was one of our major recommendations in the Kellogg proposal.

Q: Yes.

A: Ill-equipped, but heavy demands and then we could sight our adult education conference and seminars and stuff. We had experience in this, but what we needed was the physical facilities.

Q: Yes. Yes. That's held us back.

A: They gave you multi-hundred of thousands dollars in operation money the first year. Well, again we were this close. A major disappointment.

Q: That is a major frustration.

A: That comes under frustrations category.

Q: Let's move onto some memories, good, bad, humorous. You've all ready shared a lot, but perhaps you would care to add to the good, bad and humorous memories.

A: Well, a humorous one was one I sited on last time we were together when Kurt Glauser at the Alton camp on some kind of commemorative day, student day or something. Anyway, Kurt was the speaker for that day and it was an outside performance and in giving the address Kurt noticed something that he thought was behind him and he kept turning from left to right slowly around trying to find out what was distracting him and a complete circle and in the mean time he switched from English to German in his talk. And then when he got back over here he switched from German back to English. I'm sure he wasn't aware of it at all. Maybe some of the audience weren't but a lot of us were. That was a humorous one.

Q: Regrettably I do not remember that. I knew Kurt well. I worked with him at Alton, but I can not recall this.

A: I don't know what it was. A student day or something. It was on the Alton campus as I mentioned. It was one of Howard Davis' student affair programs I think. I remember one time when my boss E.R. Casstevens came up to Davis, head of Student Affairs, and said, Howard we have known each other for years and you haven't arranged an affair for me yet. I thought that was comical at the time. I thought many things that Bucky Fuller would say in his address and then answers to questions were funny. I don't know if I can remember any. Some I can remember. They would say to him, well Professor Fuller were is it you live? He said a space ship. The spaceship earth is my backyard where do you live.

Q: He wasn't always the clearest person to follow.

A: No, but he got better because he had a concept do more with less, so he finally convinced himself to say less and have it understood more. He shortened his version of telling you an answer. If you asked him a question he'd give you a 100% answer or it and you might think he's completely forgot about it, but if you hung with him it would be answered completely and you wouldn't have any more questions. But it took a long time and so it finally got to where he went shorter.

Q: I heard him speak once.

A: Yes. Well I knew him well since 1964 and one of the reasons I knew him is because I would volunteer to go pick him up when ever he came to the campus from the airport. Administrators weren't to

attracted to that lowly duty, so I had a one on one and then when he would come in town for university or non-university business he would always call me. We were good friends, so much so that when he kissed me on the mouth in front of the Chase hotel I thought, well we don't have to be this friendly. But I enjoyed meeting people like that a comprehensive thinker and Morris. He could relate.

Q: Stay on memory lane with either more humorous or some bad or good.

A: A bad thing was when Dr. Rendleman got ill and stayed ill for so long. And nobody wanted to remove him from president or set him aside because that wasn't thought to be the right thing to do. But in the meantime we lost a lot of progress. I don't know if you remember those days but nothing was decided, nothing was done, no progress was made, during his entire illness.

Q: I lived through that, I remember much of it was emphysema was the final cause of his death. I don't remember how long. Was that more than a year?

A: I don't remember how long it was. During that entire time there were not any decisions made of any consequences and the pressure was on us as a growing institution to make those decisions to take a right turn, a left turn, or demand that you continue straight on or whatever. That was costly. I think maybe they could have put an acting person in there and called him executive vice president or something.

I do remember when he first came here he was made chancellor. Then later on he became president, then the title chancellor rose to the top to be over both presidents. So we've switched around a lot with titles. So we've had a chancellor here before in early days.

Q: Speaking of Rendleman and illness and all do you remember our tenth anniversary in 1975 and it was a very bitter sweet experience. Morris addressed us and part way through his address because of alzheimers he couldn't continue and here was this dynamic professor of speech stumbling around and we all knew why and then Rendleman addressed us and we all knew he was dying of emphysema.

A: That was sad I was there.

Q: Yes.

A: Morris started I think at least two times tried to pick up the talk, maybe it was three. It was more than once and he couldn't do it. But I did hear him answer the question up in Litchfield, Illinois when the foundation board was meeting up there and he was asked by foundation board member what about the million dollar house. How did that come about? Why did it come about and so on and so forth? And the director, Mr. Miller, of the university foundation down in Carbondale directed that question straight to Morris as to whether or not he would like to address those questions. And he said I think I will. I think I would like to answer that. He said, for years the Board of Trustees have asked me to stay on campus so that they could show the presidents' house to the legislatures. Also as

they walked them to lunch they walked them by the old barracks and by the fact that he was still living on campus in support means of getting more money. Those barracks were invaluable.

That means that you did need the money and then they said we want you to live off campus. You pick the place in town. We want you to live off campus. He said I want to live on campus. They said we want you to build a structure, so he finally said O.K. we'll build a structure and I'll submit it to you for approval. He did build a structure. He did submit it for their approval. Every requisition he said. It was developed to be a community building for students and for faculty and for out of town guests and people who come to see what there doing and see if they would like to contribute to help them do it better so on and so forth. And he did do it and he would have hoped that anyone else would have done it as well. That was an interesting story.

Q: Did you ever work with the educationally deprived students ?

A: Not as a category of students.

Q: All right.

A: I've had some poor students. I've had a student come up to me in the hall during a break and says, Professor Blount what is my major. I said I beg your pardon. He said what is my major. I said well I don't know tell me a little more about what courses you've been taking. He said well I have 225 hours of degree credit and I don't know what my major is.

This student has been taking courses that Joe or Mary or Bill told him was a good course to take or that was an easier course to take than this one and he didn't have any major. As we looked into it he did not have a major. He had been taking courses all around that didn't lead to any end. So I have had those students.

Q: That is educationally deprived in an unusual sense of the word. You've mentioned some of your former students that succeeded in this world out there that we've prepared them for.

A: Yeah, they have done well - many of them.

Q: Would you either care to elaborate on anything or would you care to address some topic that we have not gotten off onto just yet?

A: One is that in teaching full time to undergraduate and graduate students both day and night classes I had an opportunity to depart what was going on in the steel, chemical, petroleum people in the live case studies. We have done some live case studies from straight in the classroom. Shared them with the undergraduate students. Had the undergraduate students go out and tour breweries, steel, chemical and petroleum plants and had them study a case.

We've had this arena, as I recall, made up of all the manufacturing, small or large as it might be, in all the different types right around here which enriches your ability to teach or it did mine, given them live examples or having the past alumni come up and speak or having a leader come up and speak to them.

Another one was a thing I wanted to share is that Loyd McBride who was a southeast Missouri boy came up here years ago in his career and worked for Granite City Steel and Laclede Steel and later became president of the Steel Workers USA and while he was here, the head of the union at Laclede Steel, convinced the rank and file that they had an investment at SIUE and that they ought to contribute X number of dollars per month in addition to the union dues to contribute to the purchase of land for this campus.

So organized labor has long since been interested in us up here. They have contributed not only in the skills in building the buildings but also in support of the idea of it here - also in support that Morris could tap when he went to the legislature. We had AFL, CIO, and industry behind it.

Q: Now some of those laborers also died in building this campus.

A: Oh yeah. Yes.

Q: I think about five if I'm not mistaken.

A: Well as I recall, there were four on the second floor of Peck who perished when the floor was poured fresh with concrete and it gave in. Then one person fell on the inside of the water tower. There's five. Then one person was on an earth moving piece of equipment that had a boom on it and it hit electrical overhead wiring and got electrocuted. So there's six.

Q: As you probably know, by the two flag poles out here on what we call the hairpin there's a memorial marker to the workers killed here.

A: I didn't know that.

Q: We have, to that extent anyway, honored the memory of the men who...

A: Yeah.

Q: I was told that in the '60's the rule of thumb was construction expected to lose about one man per million dollars.

A: I don't that but...

Q: That's a sad statistic but that's what I was told.

A: ...but Bucky Fuller told me that at the Empire State Building they lost a life for every floor.

Q: One hundred and two.

Q: What else would you like to add on any subject, Dale?

A: I think that we need to encourage, tap onto, attach to a task committee or a person who has vision. Our campus I think has gotten into the woes of the day of low budget, maximum chore, minimum budget

to get it done and we've concentrated on regression. We've concentrated on retreating. We've concentrated on cutting off, stream lining, but we've lose some vision, but we know longer have that Machiavelian spirit and that's what caused us to be in the first place. We didn't have any budget in the first place. We lived off the budget from Carbondale and they were generous to us. We've been in buildings here as you know since 1965. Here we are in 1991 and I don't see any new buildings going up or any major expansion and we're long overdue and I think close to getting a museum now. But I think we need some onward and upward you know?

Q: In a word, more dynamic leadership?

A: Thrust! More dynamic message to the rank and the file and the people in the trench. See the people in the trench they've got to here the bugle or they don't come out.

Q: Well I'm one of those people, Dale, and as you say we're so happy they don't take anything away from us that we can't think much about what we need.

A: We're on the defensive not the offensive.

Q: Yeah. We just don't want to lose what we've got.

A: That's understandable.

Q: Our raises this year are very likely to be that they don't take money from us.

A: And there isn't any way that that can be exciting and there isn't any way that the person at Schnucks will understand that in the check-out lane, but I mean we need to expand. Now maybe, for example, this new McDonnell Aircraft site thing would be a challenge. We could show our wares. We've got a lot of wares.

Q: Yes.

A: You know tomorrow has come already. Reach out. Send me your ideas. You know that things, a few years back when you had your ideas and maybe no money would be allotted to it. That would cause a lot of ideas to come about. Well I don't want to add that on. I don't mean that to be a negative. I lived through 28 years of ups and downs of course, but the flag was still there. The guy was still there with the bugle. Charge over the hill.

Q: Well, Dale, thanks. I can't think of a better spot to formally close this so we will and thanks.

A: I've loved the University. I grew to love the University and I love it now and I'm pleased to have the chance to tell the little bit of part that I had to play in it and...

Q: Well it's going in the archives and the Dale Blount story will be there I guess as long as the library is.

A: Well that will be good.

Q: And that ought to be, that's the best reward I can give you.

A: Thank you.

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