

7-11-1991

## Gillig, Florence - Oral History Interview

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Follow this and additional works at: <http://spark.siu.edu/siueohi>

---

### Recommended Citation

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, "Gillig, Florence - Oral History Interview" (1991). *SIUE Oral History Interviews*. 30.  
<http://spark.siu.edu/siueohi/30>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at SPARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in SIUE Oral History Interviews by an authorized administrator of SPARK. For more information, please contact [gpark@siue.edu](mailto:gpark@siue.edu).

LOUISA H. BOWEN UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS

LOVEJOY LIBRARY

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

ORAL HISTORY

The undersigned interviewer and interviewee irrevocably consent to the recording and preservation by any means of an oral history interview and further irrevocable consent to the transcribing, typing, editing and publication of the interview by the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, hereinafter called "University", or its agents, employees, officers, or representatives.

It is further understood that the interview or a form or forms of the interview may be retained and maintained by the University in the Research Collections Department of Lovejoy Library for use by students, faculty, staff and other scholars for so long as the University believes the interview or products derived therefrom to be of educational, scholarly or historical value.

Step B. Kimball  
Interviewer

Address:

SKR  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewee

Address: 1125 W. High  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Lorence Gillig  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: July 11, 1991

Date of Accession: \_\_\_\_\_

SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summers, 1990-91

Florence Gillig Interview July 11, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

FILENAME: Gillig. 711

Q: Thanks for stopping by my office to share in this oral history of SIU and to record for posterity, some memories, ideas and things of the good old days. Flo you came here in 1963, why?

A: My children were getting to be near college age you I just decided I wanted to go back to work and also I needed to pick up some credits for my degree. I thought that would be a good opportunity to do both.

Q: So are you saying that you came here initially as a student?

A: No, I came here as an employee and then started taking courses. I had two years of college at the U of I.

Q: Where did you come from?

A: I'm from Edwardsville. Born and raised in Edwardsville.

Q: Then you just read about it in the newspaper.

A: Oh certainly and had friends who started employment here after being mothers and home makers for many years. .. I did alot of volunteer work, I was probably doing twenty-five or thirty hours of volunteer work a week and I thought why don't I get a job and get paid for it.

Q: So you went to the Personnel Office and applied.

A: Yes right

Q: Well that's what Connie Gray did, that's what a good many people I've talked with, perfectly understandable. What had you done before coming here?

A: I was a housewife/mother for seventeen years, but before I had worked in New York City and I also worked at Shell Oil Company in Records Management.

Q: Your work here was mainly in university Records Management.

A: Right

Q: So you had this skill from elsewhere and brought it here with you. Where you always in the Office of the President?

A: I started out as a temporary employee at the library for three months. Then this job opened up in the Office of the President with the vice president of the time, Clarence Stephens. All the history

from the beginning of the university were in this office. My duties were to sort and read through, then set up a file system for these records.

Q: Could we call this the beginning of our archives?

A: Yes, it was the beginning, I had all records from the early 1950s.

Q; So, you were originally doing archival work?

A: Right.

Q: I came here in '59, as I remember, I think it was somebody named Duckworth, an archivist came down from Carbondale once a week or once a month to do something or other.

A: The records were all in Stephens office from the very beginning. Including the first committee work when the idea of a university started at the Rotary Club in Edwardsville.

Q: Well, at what point were the records you were in charge of ... at what point were they turned over to the archives in the library.

A: In the 1970s Allen McCurry was the first archivist at SIUE. I really helped him set up the archives in the library. Most of these records were from the Office of the President.

Q: Well now this is a side of the Florence Gillig story I've never heard. It interests me and I'm sure it will interest the readers of this in future because everything that we are doing right now will end up in the archives. We were kind of poor cousins frankly to Carbondale and I did mention this person named Duckworth, who came down once in a while. But I don't think ever did enough to bother with.

A: Nothing was ever set up. He may have taken some of the records duplicates to Carbondale, but we have all the original ones.

Q: Now Allen McCurry became archivist, ten years ago about?

A: Maybe a little longer.

Q: Ten, twelve. He was of course from the History department.

A: Right.

Q: And I remember him working over there and then of course we have Louisa Bowen now. And for a few years now we've been acting like a real university with real archives like our early history mattered. Of course, that's why you and I are talking right now because Dave Werner obviously is sensitive to this and wanted an oral version of this story.

A: In the archives there is a history book this big which I put together, of facts, every fact relating to every board action pertaining to this campus, this university. From the beginning when the Rotary Club said we need higher education in this area. From the committee, all the committee records, you know the big committee, the uh...

Q: The advisory committee, the Southwestern Illinois Council of Higher Education

A: All the minutes are in there, the report to the governor of this committee. SIUE evolved from a statement at the Edwardsville Rotary Club by George W. Wilkens (then State Super. of Schools) of a need for an institutions of higher education in the area to a committee of the from the Rotary Club to the area Chamber of Commerce and they went to the University of Illinois and University of Illinois was not interested in having a university here. So they went to SIU in Carbondale and that's when this SWICHE committee was formed and they did a complete study of the need for higher education in this area. And the report to the governor is in there. And then every board action pertaining to this university. Clear up through ... I'm not sure it's in the seventies sometime when I got so busy I wasn't able to do that.

Q: Well, I'm glad to hear that. I think there are probably in spite of your work and others, some significant gaps in our history over there but I must say that Louisa is a live wire.



A: She's great. I spent time with her when she first came helping her understand the organization of the archives.

Q: John Abbott, bless his heart. I think he's working about as hard as ever. He was always dedicated to regional history.

A: Yes.

Q: And we were very fortunate to have someone here that realized the importance of local and regional history. .

A: There is one fact that is erroneous. I don't know where it came from, but every so often in the master plan that went to the .. with the budget ever year this was produced in Carbondale. They said this campus was derived from a class extension course in Belleville. That is not true.

Q: I interviewed Harold See on the phone for a couple of hours and he came here in fifty-five and he talked a lot about the early days and I'm sure he did not tell me that it began there.

A: Somehow the story came out of the Board Office in Carbondale.

Q; Well, I'm one of those that never had great affection for Carbondale. They could have either been wrong or stretching the point.

I want you to finish walking us through your various titles, positions and responsibilities. As I recall it, you worked temporarily in the library three months, were transferred to the Presidents Office ...

A: I applied for the job.

Q: You applied for university Records Management

A: It was called Documentary Classifier at that time.

Q: In the presidents office.

A: In the vice president office

Q: Stephens. O.K. Pick it up. Then where did you go with what title and all?

A: I guess I had that title for years.

Q: This was the McCurry days when you started transferring them there.

A: Yes. In those records are all the committee reports. Remember all the academic committee reports from Carbondale? It's been a while I can't tell you the names of those committees anymore--planning, academic, environmental, architectural, ect.

Q: Myron Bishop, as you know, was our real estate man and he and Mrs. Bishop have turned over some of their original records of land acquisitions, which will be very valuable. Now I have a feeling our official history is probably very well documented, what you and I are getting engaged in is unoffical personal history of this university, what people felt and thought and aspired and their frustrations and their successes and hopefully you'll share some humor with us to supplement the board and the records and the committees and all of that which is absolutely essential but by no means the full story.

Well what did you do then after McCurry pretty much took over on records.

A: Well, of course, I had to continue with current records in the office of the president.

Q: You kept them prior to deposit.

A: Yes. And I continued to keep them. Of course I've done alot of research in all the records.

Q: And did you do that pretty much up until you retired in 1986.

A: Yes. I did alot of research for board members clear on down to deans or people who were interested in finding certain programs, when they were approved. I had records of every program that was approved in this university.

In 1976 I became University Records Manager. I wrote a manual as the official guideline for all university records. I trained university personnel in Records Management.

Q: Would it be fair to say that you probably had as good a command of the official history of this place until your retirement as anyone.

A: Right. I would say that.

Q: I don't know how anyone could have had a better....

A: Everything that came across the president's desk ended up in my office.

Q: ...of the official and much of the unofficial too I would suppose.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: So that we know who you are and why and what we can expect and how much weight to assign to it. All of those things. Which is pretty clear we can assign a lot of weight to your views, but before we do that let's try a question that I ask everybody. What do you consider over the 23 years you were with us as your most significant contributions above and beyond what you have already told us?

A: Keeping track of the the history. Keeping track of all records of the administration, doing much research for administrators. I had a lot of indexes when I left.

I had an index of all the minutes of the Faculty Senate or University Council, whatever it was at the time. I indexed the approval of each program-- how and where each originated, board approval of each, dates of Higher Board approval or rejection and when it started.

I feel the research that I've done was very significant for administrators to make decisions.

Q: So not only did you just collect and compile, but you did research and probably some analytical - it had to be analytical if you...

A: Um-hmm. Right.

Q: ...indexed them and put them into, if you ordered them.

A: I'll give you an example. When Shaw was here, he wanted to know the history of unions, how and when they started on the campus,, when people were interested in unions. I put together a chronological order of the activities of the different factions of the unions.

Q: How interesting. You became a historian, Flo.

A: Well I...yes.

Q: Well that's what historians do.

A: Then I did a report for Ruffner on all the international programs of both Universities which went to the Academy of Education, a national organization.

Q: When you talked about the history of unions of course I can not help but reflect that within the past two years the IEA-NEA has tried to organize the faculty on campus. I am not against unions except I don't want to join. I don't want any faculty union. So presumably all of those documents and all have gone on with your earlier studies.

B: So, until we got real archives, you actually did function as an archivist.

A: I was told I did and I tried to be.

Q: And a university historian who prepared records for various administrators on various topics.

A: Right.

Q: Well that's incredibly important. While we're on this fascinating story about record keeping, archiving it, analyzing it, ordering it and using it, in addition to this report on early unionism on campus what were some of the other topics you were asked to investigate and document?

A: It's hard to remember. I did so many.

Q: Well how many is many? Ten, twenty, a hundred?

A: Oh. I was all the time always doing this for administrators. An administrator would say Flo, give me some background on XYZ.

A: That's right. Or Flo, find me when this program became in existence I would go through all the whole thing and ....

Q: A program like Women's Studies or Black Studies or some such thing.

A: Well mostly, yes, those two, but all the academic programs, masters programs thing like that. Many programs in the early years came up here from Carbondale, but from then on we had to go through the approval steps ourselves--approval of committees , administration, Board of Trustees, and Board of Higher Education.

Q: Now were deans and chairs instructed to copy you on all pertinent documents.

A: No, my work was processed by copies to the president.

Q: And then they came to you.

A: That's right. From his desk to my desk.

Q: You mentioned you were always looking up stories on programs and background. Does anything and particular study or the results of any particular studies you do stand out in your mind as more significant than others.

A: In the late seventies the board passed a resolutions that each campus had to have a university Records Management program. There was none, for all over the campus everybody did helter skelter filing. Lots of people thought records management program was sending your stuff to be microfilmed. That's just one part of records management. I took record management courses from Wilber Maedke.

Excellent man. He was in business. And when the board passed that resolution, I was appointed University Records Manager. I wrote a records management manual for the university. A copy should be in every department office. At the time I did workshops, training the office personnel on how to manage their records, helping set up file systems and retention progrmes. In that manual is a guideline for every type of record.

Q: Now where, you had worked this elsewhere, where did you learn records management yourself?



A: At Shell Oil Company and General Cable Company in New York City.

Q: On the job training.

A: Right.

Q: You had not studied it in college.

A: No, I studied after I got here with Maedke and then I joined AURMA, which is Association of University Records Managers and Administrators. I learned from that organization, which is an international organization

Q: What gave you your greatest satisfactions here in addition to what you've already said. We discussed your significant contributions, how about your greatest satisfactions from your work, 23 years I believe.

A: Records management and research..

Q: You are a born historian.

A: I just loved to go through those records and get them all together. I considered it a story. I would get the story together. In the files over in the archives you see everything by date order, you see everything clipped together by a story then date order. If you pull out the clip the whole story of that subject is together. It may be in a folder with other similiar subjects but was all kept together, each story kept together.

Q: Well the operative word in history is story.

A: That's what I always considered.

Q: And if its simply raw data its necessary, but that's about all you can say for it. It has to be analyzed and presented and ordered, and so once again when you say this was your satisfaction. I understand it completely since that's what I do in a different manner. So you got satisfaction out of ordering these records, making the records say something besides just raw data.

A: Right.

Q: And presumable, I would assume knowing they would be preserved for as long as the university is around and long after we're all gone the story is there. Other people can use it for infinity.

Any other long this line of greatest satisfactions your bosses, companions, co-workers, any thing else that's given you pleasure here on campus.

A: There were few people I didn't enjoy working with. My bosses were great. Some I enjoyed working for better than others.

Q: Yes don't we all.

A: I had a great deal of respect for them and they seem to have a great deal of respect for the work I did.

Q: Lets flip the coin over and discuss some of your frustrations around here.

A: Some of the frustrations were with some co-workers. Not too many but once in a while years ago.

Q: Well without naming names amplify that a little bit.

A: Oh I'm not sure, probably petty things, you know, office petty things. How can you name anything like that.

Q: Well did many people ever show a lack of appreciation for you and your records, for example.

A: No. Maybe some of the lower secretaries might not have respected the work I did but, I've never had any complaints.

Q: Well that doesn't leave much to talk about there. It's a pleasant fact. It's one I'm glad to hear.

A: There's only one administrator that I ever had any problem with. But I am only one of many that had problems.

Q: Without prying, is this person still around?

A: No.

Q: Let's talk about a similiar topic but from a different point of view. Your best memories not just professional but social. Just your best memories in general about this place.

A: The comradery with employees in different areas of the university. Great times. I have made many friends throughout the years, including student, and have contact with many of them.

Q: I have heard others say that socially the early days were far more satisfying because we were smaller and closer together.

A: That's true. I feel that way too. You knew everyone.

Q: The bigger we got the less there was of that.

A: You almost knew everyone on campus.

Q: I was at Alton. You came first to the, you've always been connected with the Edwardsville.

A: I came the day before they turned the first shovel of dirt for the library.

Q; Well I was in Alton from 59 to 65 and there was much more socializing and camaraderie.

A: Your right.

Q: Well in addition to that what are some of your other best memories.

A: Too numerous to mention, but I think the benefits of the university is fantastic for employees.

Q: Economic, social, cultural?

A: All of them.

Q: You took courses and you attended cultural affairs.

A: Right. I'm still working with the Friends of Music, I'm on the board.

Q: My wife was recently put on that board. My wife Violet.

A: That's right she is new to board this year.

Q: She was delighted.

A: We do very hard work.

Q: I think they want her to bring her camera and notepad, she's pretty good in PR. She was delighted Ann Lazerson phoned her. Friends of Music is something both of us support. It is great, Friends of Library, Friends of Dance....

A: I was part of the University Womens Club group, I was involved secretary for many years.

Q: Does that still exist?

A: No. It was a wonderful group and a way to get acquainted. They did alot of things until I guess about 7 or 8 years ago. We couldn't get people to come, everyone had been president and no one wanted take the presidency so just kind of folded.

Q: I suspect Violet would have joined it, if it were still around and that would have helped both of us a great deal.

A: Then there was a Faculty Club which is still very strong I was treasurer for years and years and years.

Q: Donal Meyer, I know was big in that.

A: Yes. He was president when I was treasurer. I had a lot of presidents, but when I started out as treasurer we were in the red and when we ended up we got a lot of money, but we did a lot of activities.

Q: Treasurer of the faculty club for what period?

A: Probably 10 years or so.

Q: In the 60s ? 70s?

A: 70's. Clear up to when I retired.

Q: Tell us about the Faculty Club. Big, important, when, why, where, something for the record. From your point of view.

A: In the older days they lunched over there. I don't know if you ever had lunch. When the club was very active in the 70s we had a housekeeper . She fixed lunch, great hamburgers.

Q: Yes, a time or two we would have a history meeting.

A: It was an excellent place for faculty to come and get together and have meetings and lunch. One of our big events, where everybody came, was the Christmas party, Christmas open house. That was very successful. Many of the programs were not too successful. We had a lot of picnics and we would have Vegas Nights and things like that.

We could not get people out to do those things. But we kept the house going, had some problems for a while we finally talked to the Physical Plant and vice president of administration to help support it more. They were going to just cut everything out and I think its in pretty good condition. We remodeled one time.

Q: Is the club growing or diminishing today in significance in numbers?

A: I think it stayed about the same. I think the activities have slowed down because they just can't get people interested in the activities. The lunch program was discontinued in the late 70s.

Q: Regretfully, for all kinds of good and bad reasons, mainly bad I'm sure, I never did join the Faculty Club. I probably didn't understand it very well. And not playing bridge, that aspect of it meant nothing to me.

A: Well, that was just one little aspect of it. Anyone could rent the club for ten dollars, which is a wonderful place to rent for a gathering. I don't know what it is now, but when I left it was ten dollars. And then we had student functions, we had a liquor license there for a while. That's where we really increased our treasure.

Q: Yes this liquor thing has come up so often on campus.

A: Before the center had their own liquor license the faculty club had a liquor license.

Q: Did you have anything to do with what we call the Satellite?

A: I was on the board. We worked with the University Center to get the Satellite set up.



Q: Now that was just a dimension of the Faculty Club housed inside the university center.

A: Yes, and it was so the University Center could use the liquor license before they were able to get their own.

Q: The problem was always if the students can't use it then how can the faculty or the adults can use it and it caused alot of awkwardness and difficulty and of course Flo, since I don't drink I never gave a fig whether you had a license or not.

A: I didn't either, but it was certainly a way of making money for a while. It got to a point where the liability the university had would not cover the liability of the club anymore.

Q: Are you saying we no longer have a liquor license?

A: No, the University Center does, but not the Faculty Club.

Q: I see. How would you, if someone were to ask you, what was the role what was the importance of the Faculty Club? How might you answer that.

A: It was a place for faculty to come and relax, socialize, or have their own activities. The club was rented to members--there were from 5 to 6 rental activities a week at the peak of the Club's existence.

Q: How would you assess the overall response of the university community to the Faculty Club?

A: We never had many more than 125-150 members.

Q: Was it limited to faculty?

A: Faculty or administrative.

Q: How about Civil Service?

A: No, unless you were administrative Civil Service.

Q: I see. Professional Staff?

A: Yes.

Q: Alright. Well we're talking at least a thousand people so your membership covered around 10 percent the potential?

A: Right.

Q: I bored in on that a bit because no one else has mentioned it. This has never come up in the interviews and I think it's a very important and interesting dimension, especially to hear the stories from someone who was treasurer of it and involved in it.

Do you, where is it going in the future? Is it going to plateau off or just stay around?

A: I don't know see I haven't been involved in it since I retired. I'm an honorary member but I'm not involved in the board activities or what's going on.

Q: Well at the time in 86 did it give every appearance of being healthy?

A: Yes, there for a while it floundered because we had no money to keep it up. The university said it was not going to keep up that building. But then we finally talked the administration into continuing its support.

Q: Oh so, it was not self-supportive then.

A: No, never self-supporting. Even the lunch program was not self-supportive. The money earned for activities as liquor sales,, parties was put aside for future building needs--renovation of the building, or building up of the club. Now since then I don't what has taken place.

Q: So at budget crunch time you folks were hurt.

A: That's right we could have been out of the building. And it came really close to that.

Q: What are your worst memories around here?

A: I had some very sad memories.

Q: Alright.

A: I guess the first sad memory was the death of Virgil Seymour, who I worked very close with. He was an assistant to the vice-president, Clarence Stephens. And then Joe Small was in our office which was a tragedy, sudden death, and those hit you pretty hard. Then when, I'll never forget the time President Kennedy was shot, we had a T.V. probably the only T.V. on campus in our conference room. It was a very sad time for all of us. We all sat down watched T.V. and cried at everything. And then of course, I was closely associated with John Rendleman, his death was a very sad time.

The loss of construction workers were very sad times for the university., I believe there were 5 lives lost in construction here.

Q: I knew most of those people myself and share your feelings. On the worst memories, did you ever lose any records, any big flops there, somebody mixed them all up and dropped them on the floor or something?

A: Almost lost a big batch of historical records, but because this person didn't pick the records up. The president heard about it and said, records to that person you have to be copies. The administrator asking for these records had the authority to see the originals, but was known for losing records.

Q: Well I don't need to ask more.

A: No you don't.

Q: I believe this person operated frequently out of the trunk of her car.

A: These were very historical records of Catherine Dunham program from the very early times. And of course who was I to say that the vice president can't have these records when she asked me for them. I am certainly glad she didn't pick them up when I first researched them. She was very mad because she said I was holding out on her.

Q: I want to come back to this bad memories, but you mentioned Catherine Dunham and the records of her performing arts and her contributions here. Perhaps you have some insights or memories or something that should be shared with us in that respect. You went through all the records, obviously know the story pretty well. What would you care to share with us relative to the whole Catherine Dunham story?

A: I think it was a marvelous thing for the university having her come and also having her... helping her start her museum and all her programs for the young people in East St. Louis. There were many trials and tribulations she was an artist and she demanded a lot, but I think it is one of the highlights of the University history.

Q: And you acquired those records and they are now...

A: They are all over in the archives.

Q: ...archived in the appropriate place.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: Did you ever meet her?

A: Yes. I've met her. Delightful person. She was in our office a lot and very friendly

Q: Did you ever meet Butterfly McQueen.

A: Yes I met her but I don't recall much about her. And another highlight one day was when Ruth Slenczinska, spent her first day on campus in our office.

Q: Oh. Tell us about it.

A: She came in with... I don't remember if it was her father or her agent, for an interview with President Morris and with Dean Going. The Dean introduced us all to her and gave us the background on her. He told us how to pronounce her name correctly.

Q: A good Polish name.

A: Yes, she was just as cute as she is now. She's a delightful person.

A: We used to meet a lot of state officials who would come in our office. Senators, representatives, and uh O.K. give me a name. The shoebox...

Q: Paul Powell?

A: He came to our office frequently.

Q: Oh really. That show box thing.

A: That was something to remember that.

Q: John Rendleman finding that in a Springfield motel room. The big story at one time. Any other personalities you care to mention in passing.

A: Of course, the politics in the university is interesting.

Q: Without getting yourself sued tell us a little bit.

A: I'm not sure I can go into that. There was a lot of politics when John Rendleman was president.

Q: Yes he was a most political president. He was certainly liked on this campus.

A: He certainly was. He knew how to get things done.

Q: His ability with names was... I envy him because I don't have that.

A: His ability to get money from the state was extraordinary. Outstanding.

Q: You mentioned in your sad memories the passing of John Rendleman. Did you attend the tenth year celebration we had on campus. '75 I guess it would have been. You may remember Rendleman spoke and we all knew he was dying of emphysema and lung cancer and Delyte Morris spoke and we all knew that he was headed into alzheimers and he forgot what he was doing there. It was bitter sweet experience to be celebrating our tenth anniversary and yet to of our great leaders were both dying. Right in front of us.

A: Yes, they were leaders.

Q: A very sad thing to share. Let's back up now to the worst memories if there are any others, if not we'll move on.

A: Those I've mentioned were the worst.



Q: Flo, I'm beginning to think you've enjoyed yourself around her about as much as I have. And you simply don't have a lot of frustrations and a lot of bad memories. Alright let's lighten it up a little bit. Let's talk some funny humorous the dum-dum things. We all have a lot of those.

A: We had a man with a gun out in the parking lot, we were a scared to death one day.

Q: Let's hear about it.

A: It was an East St. Louis problem and he came up. I can't pull a name out. But we were told in our office, to stay low and stay clear because this man had a gun.

Q: Now where were you at the time.

A: In the vice presidents office over on the hill.

Q: At Edwardsville?

A: Right.

Q: You were not in East St. Louis...

A: No

Q: But the man was?

A: It originated in East St. Louis but of course they were coming to the top office to try to get satisfaction of their grievance or what but... It was a scary time. But there were a lot of good times.

Q: Well let's stay with, let's try and find some funny things. Humorous. Unusual. That you care to share with us that happened over the years in addition to somebody with a gun. Which is not terribly humorous.

A: No, it's not terribly humorous. I'll probably think of some later, but there's been a lot of them.

Q: Just let me say that when you get the manuscript and you go over it anything you wish to add, just please just add. Well let's see, well we'll just have to..

A: There were some discrepancies in that the anniversary book.

Q: So I have been told. We were discussing some of the official work on the university maybe as being incomplete but the time will come when all of those records you have generated may result in a more complete story. Now here's a question that ... I'll just toss it at you. What would you like, since we're talking official history. What would you like to record which would probably never show up in an official history. Some off the cuff kind of things or things that....well like we've been talking about sad or unusual or

different...something that might come to mind that you'd care to share that you probably wouldn't ever read about somewhere. Can you think of anything?

A: Not off hand. I'm sure you have a record of the box buried out in the mall. It should be marked

History, I guess it was the 10th anniversary. We've had so many anniversaries, but one anniversary we decided to put historical documents and photos in a box and seal it for 100 years..

Q: Like a time capsule?

A: Yes.

Q: Well, I certainly had forgotten it.

Q: I hope it's marked on a map somewhere.

A; An account's in the archives; in fact, everything in that time capsule except photographs are over in the archives because I was given that responsibility to decide what should go in this time capsule.

Q: Could you find.. do you know where it is?

A: I think it's on the east end of the mall, near the Peck bldg.

Q: Is it in the ground or in the foundation?

A: It's in the bricks.

Q: Oh I see it's in a cornerstone somewhere.

A: Yes

Q: Well, I had forgotten that. I thought you were referring to the grave of our cougar mascot over here. That's also a box in the ground.

A: That's right.

Q: A real box in the ground.

A: This is a box in the ground. Metal box with a seal.

Q: But it's incorporated into the foundation isn't it. It's not just in the dirt.

A: It's in the bricks , in the quadrangle.

Q: Can you see it?

A: I don't know if they covered it up when they redid the brick or not.

Q: Well

A: But I'm sure in the archives it tells where it's located.

Q: I certainly hope so. We'll want to dig it up in the year 20 something.

A: 60 uh 65 wasn't it we had that first big celebration.

Q: It probably would have been 75 our 10th anniversary in 75.

A: Yes, it was when Ruffner was here.

Q: Alright did you ever in all of your work have much to do with relating the university to the community?

A: I did some volunteer work in the...in the name of the university.

Q: Alright

A: Like a group went down to Channel 9 one time to solicit funds for the Channel 9 in the name of the university.

Q: I remember that. We answered phones.

A: Right

Q: Helen Philabaun was in charge or partly in charge wasn't she.  
That was kind of fun.

A: That was fun.

Q: Let me rephrase the question. Did the community ever come to you for to use your records somehow or to have you dig something out of your records, or I don't know the mayor of Edwardsville or somebody?

A: Yes, they would not come directly to me they would come to the president.

Q: Alright, but it came to you. It ended up on your desk.

A: Right. A number of times but I can't remember any details.

Q: So you then on occasion would use your records for the benefit of somebody in the community. And they will undoubtedly be used in the future.

What contributions do you think .. what are the major contributions in your experience, in your opinion, has this university made to the area.

A: Well, certainly education available to all the young people is the biggest contribution.. Our Area Services did a awful lot for this community helping develop many things, did many studies for the area, for the city population etc. etc. And I think the employment it provided for area people in very important.

Q: Such as yourself

A: Right and many people. And the cultural events that it has brought to the area were very significant.

Q: Mississippi River Festival

A: That was one. All the cultural events out here.

Q: Now arts and issues for example. Yes.

Flo, if I could interview only 2 more, who would you just insist I had to visit.

A: I think Larry McAneny could give you a lot of insight on some early days.

Q: Now he's been mentioned time and again, but I'd like to know why you say that.

A: He has an extreme sense of humor, he can bring such things to light that are so funny.

Q: Well heaven knows we need some of that.

A: I agree

Q: O.K.

A: I'm sure you've already thought of Jack Ades.

Q: Well yes I've thought of a lot of people but it .. I am helped greatly by others reinforcing my own opinions. Well, those are good, Larry and Jack. Now

A: Do you want Civil Service people?

Q: Yes, oh yes indeed.

A: Ruth Heepke could tell you the whole history of the Admissions and Records. She worked in the Records and Admissions for years. A lot of stories in that area.

Q: Good. Nobody that's a new one for me. Another one perhaps in Civil Service.

A: Helen

Q: I've interviewed Helen.

A: O.K.



Q: So that ..

A: Lucille

Q: Your statement confirms the wisdom of that.

A: Lucille Hopkins who worked in purchasing and the business end

Q: Hopkins

A: Yes

Q: Alright, now we've been over alot of ground. Is there anything, Flo, that your would like to add to anything that we've ... now that we kind of enter the final minutes here. What questions haven't I asked? What would you like to add? Anything like that.

A; I had something a minute ago but it slipped my mind. I could probably come up with lot of things but trying to think of them all at one time is a little difficult.

A: One very enlightening aspect or enjoyable aspect was the students that worked for me. I had some wonderful students work for me and I still keep up with many of them.

Q: Connie Gray told me about this. She had the same experience. So you see them from time to time or exchange Christmas cards or whatever. Well that must be very satisfying.

A: Very satisfying.

Q: As a teacher we don't get much of that or at least I don't, but when get a little feedback it keeps me at it. I figure maybe if one person says they got something maybe ten others did.

A: But you have so many more students. See I only had one student at a time working or me throughout the years. Great people.

Q: Well, Flo, thanks and especially want to thank you for things we somehow got off on that I wasn't even thinking about. Like all this records management for one thing, or university club for another, women's club and the social ... Just the whole story is a great addition to what we're trying to do and so in conclusion, thanks.

A: O.K.

Q: You want to add something terrific please do.

A: I taught some special classes in a business section on university records management. I've come in as a guest speaker.

Q: Oh how interesting. A guest lecturer in the School of Business on Records Management from a hands on daily activity. Well that was valuable to the various professors.

A: Of course, I had workshops on records management for all of the personnel.

Q: You really were the first archivist and got us going when certainly Duckworth or whatever his name was, was doing next to nothing. So I believe that it would a fair statement to say that we owe to you most of what records we have for the first I don't know ten or so years.

A: Twenty-three years

Q: Twenty-three years, I stand corrected. That is a very very important contribution, especially since I'm a historian. I respond to it as I've already said, more than somebody else might. So it's been a pleasure getting your side of the story.

A: I'll be glad to help you in the archives if you need some early early information.

Q: If that day comes and it might I would be delighted to have you walk me through it.

A: There are some excellent minutes by one of the committees, John Richardson was secretary of one of the committees during the early years of the university.

Q: Oh yes

A: His minutes were hilarious.

Q: Well O.K. Flo thanks.

## Index

### I

10th anniversary, 29, 32

### A

Abbott, John, 6

Ades, Jack, 37

Alton, Il, 17

Archives, 3, passim

Area Services, 36

### B

Beginning of SIUE, 5

Belleville, Il, 6

Bishop, Myron, 8

Board of Trustees, 6, 12

Bowen, Louisa, 4, 5

### C

C of C., 5

Carbondale, Il, 3, passim

Chanel 9, 34

Civil Service, 37

Construction deaths, 25

### D

Dunham, Catherine, 26

### E

East St. Louis, Il, 30

Edwardsville, Il, 1, passim

### F

Faculty Club, 19, 20, 21, 22,  
23, 24

Friends of Music, 18

### G

Going, Bill, 27

Gray, Connie, 2, 39

### H

Heepke, Ruth, 37

Hopkins, Lucile, 38

### K

Kimball, Violet, 18

L

Lazerson, Ann, 18

Liquor, 21, 22

M

Maedke, Wilber, 13

McAneny, Larry, 36

McCurry, Allen, 3, 4, 7, 8

McQueen, Butterfly, 27

Meyer, Donald, 19

Morris, Delyte, 27, 29

MRF, 36

O

Office of the President, 2,  
passim

P

Personnel Office, 2

Philabaun, Helen, 35

Powell, Paul, 28

President's Office, 7, passim

R

Records Management, 2, passim

Rendleman, John, 25, 28, 29

Richardson, John, 41

Rotary Club, 5

Ruffner, VP, 11

S

Satellite, 21

School of Business, 40

See, Harold, 6

Seymour, Virgil, 25

Shaw, Pres., 10

Slenczinska, Ruth, 27

Small, Joe, 25

Southwestern Illinois Council  
of Higher Ed. 5

Stephens, Clarence, 2, 3, 7, 25

Students, 39

T

Time capsule, 32

U

Unions, 10, 11

University of Illinois, 5

University Woman's Club, 19

W

Werner, David, 4

Wilkins, Goerge W., 5