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## Rohrkaste, Dolores - Oral History Interview

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ORAL HISTORY

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Clay B. Smith  
Interviewer

Address:

SAGE

Date:

7/25/91

Interviewee

Address:

RR 4, Box 24  
Edwardsville, Ill. 62025

Robert H. Roberts

Date:

07/25/91

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

SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summers 1990-91

Dolores Rohrkaste, July 25, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

Filname: ROHRKASTE, 725

Q: Thank you Dolores Rohrkaste of Edwardsville for coming in to my office this July 25, 1991 and being willing to go on tape and share your memories and reflections on how this university came into being. I know you were connected with it from the very beginning with the Chamber of Commerce in '53 and a member of that famous Southwestern Illinois Council. For the record go way back and please comment on your role as president of the Chamber of Commerce that's 48 years ago.

A: That's correct.

Q: Tell us the very, very beginning of this noble institution.

A: I was on the Chamber of Commerce Board for about 10 years because my husband and I owned Rohrkaste Dairy. Edwardsville, had about 10,000 population and we had about 158 members in the Chamber of Commerce. The chamber was going down hill. I was the only woman on the board and I was young, very much interested in Edwardsville and had a lot of ideas. The election was held in 1953, nobody really wanted to be president. They had never had a woman Chamber of Commerce president and when they asked me I was thrilled and I said

I'll take it if you'll all help me. If you won't help me, I will quit in the middle of my term. By the way, at the end of the year we had 300 members--the most we had ever had in the Chamber of Commerce.

Well Edwardsville at that time was a small community and they didn't want anything to do with manufacturing or industry. Every time we would try to bring something into Edwardsville to make it grow as fast as Collinsville they'd turn it down. So we would sit around in Musso's a famous restaurant in the square. At noon all the lawyers and business people would come over and they had a lawyer's table in the middle and they would meet and talk over their law cases and sometimes settle them before they went back to court.

We met one day, some of the Chamber of Commerce people, at noon Dick Mudge was at the lawyer's table and Dallas Harrell, sheriff of Madison Co. There were about twelve plus some lawyers and they said, well Dolores if you really want to bring something in lets bring in a University. Chicago has everythin. By the way, I went to school at University of Illinois and most of us did at that time. They said, why can't we have a university down here? Chicago gets everything and southern Illinois gets nothing. So why don't you bring a university here. During the conversation Dick Mudge said, well let's work on that. And we decided at that meeting that I would write to President Henry who was president of the U of Ill., to President Morris of SIU. Harold See from SIUC came later on.

We waited and nothing happened. Finally we got a letter from President Morris and he said I would like to send John Rendleman down to talk to us. Well we were thrilled to death and I was just heart broken because my school did not even answer. My thoughts and

feelings were with the University of Illinois. My husband had gone there and in fact practically everyone that we knew in Edwardsville at that time went to the University of Illinois.

So John Rendleman came down and we sat and met with him and a group of people and talked to him. And of course John Rendleman was very strong in the state so was Morris with politics because they knew that the only way they could get anything was to operate out of Springfield. So we decided to form the southwestern group and that's when Olin Wetzel, president of Florist Mutual came in. Olin Wetzel was chairman of the board of Florist Mutual, but at that time it was just a little tiny insurance company and Olin and I had gone to high school together. I think Olin represented Rotary Club.

We made up a list and invited 235 people from Granite City, from labor, from manufacturing, the top men in all these corporations like Granite City Steel. There were a whole other group of companies. All of them were invited. We met out at Sunset Hills Country Club and we talked. Harold See came in to help out. I can't remember what time he came in, but John Rendleman was also there. We decided since all of the legislators were stacked in the northern part, the only way we could get a university was to give them something, give them a gift.

Someone else said, well let's give them the land and they can't turn it down. So at this meeting it was agreed to do that and then the committees started forming. The chairman of the First National Bank in Alton, Bob, that will come to me too. We had a chairman in Alton and Chuck Schmidt and myself were chairmen in Edwardsville and Granite City had another one. I can't remember all of them. But in

the mean time before this happened, John Rendleman and I and Art Baker and Chuck Schmidt met down in the basement of National Bank and we talked about how to acquire this land.

Well Delyte Morris brought in my good friend Paul Justice, Morris' teacher at a little tiny country college somewhere and he was chairman of General American Life in St. Louis and he was retired. So he said I'd love to do it. So he came over to the east side and somehow or other they hired a real estate company in St. Louis. This was done without our knowing who it was. The real estate company was sent out to go to the farmers and get options under the pretense of something else so that the price wouldn't go up so high. It was 2600 acres and strangely enough I had married Bill Rohrkaste who was a dairy farmer's son and there was a big dairy farm called Rohrkaste Dairy right in the middle of SIU. Well I had never lived on a farm, but while I was first married I lived on the adjoining farm. So we lived on another site in SIU.

We had an eight party telephone line and our biggest opponent was Mrs. Gertrude Lewis who even went up to Springfield and spoke against it at the state legislature. Mrs. Lewis would record all of our conversations on this eight party line. The farmers started complaining that there was somebody that was going to buy up the land and they heard there was a big penitentiary going to be built. The sales people were misrepresenting, the salesmen were coming over misrepresenting themselves and the farmers were very irritated so one night, somehow or other, it became known that they were acquiring it for the university. So a group of farmers got together at about 5 o'clock and they drove down Old Poag Road. Just before they went down the hill they stopped the salesmen from St. Louis in their car

and they literally kidnaped them. They took them out and they tarred and feathered them and put them back in the car and sent them to St. Louis.

Q: That's incredible.

A: Well in the meantime, they found out that these salesman did not have a license to operate in the state of Illinois. They were operating illegally. So at that time Harold See called Schmidt, Art Baker, and myself in. I'm pretty sure it was Harold See or John Rendleman. We worked with them closely all the time, down in the basement of Edwardsville National Bank and they told of the crisis. Chuck Schmidt and Art Baker said, let's take it in hand ourselves.

The farmers were furious that they were going to take their farm and Morris would come up and Dorothy and we would meet and talk about. John Rendleman was very much involved. Everyone was so enthused. So Morris was going to bring in the top Professors from all around and he did. Everyone really wanted to come to SIU because it was going to be the great opportunity to teach the way they wanted to teach. It was a new university and the people that really wanted to tell how they felt and teach the way they wanted to wouldn't be restricted. And Morris pulled many people in from all over the country that were very, very good. You'll probably agree to this. You probably know more of this than I do but this was part of the charm of bringing some people in to the university.

Well in the meantime I still lived out at SIU and the first person to sell was my father in law who sold the next two farms. He sold both of his farms and he was glad to get rid of his dairy farm and besides we had built a dairy which is now the Edwardsville Retirement Center on Main Street - 1003 North Main.

Q: Is that the Senior Citizens place?

A: That was our dairy.

Q: Yes. I've spoken there. I remember it very well.

A: Okay. So the farmers were all furious and Mrs. Lewis was the one that led the group. There's quite a story. Mrs. Harry Lewis. She got into everything. But she was the one that started it and so I started getting threatening notes. Well the committees were formed and we started trying to raise money and we actually set aside what each person would owe to buy the land. Granite City Steel owed so much and Laclede Steel in Alton owed so much. We went through that whole list and it came to thirty thousand.

Q: What year is this now, Dolores?

A: This would have been about 1954. Let's see '53 is when we formed it and wrote the letters. So I would say it would have probably been by the next year. I've lost track of time.

We finally raised the money. Of course John Rendleman handled all of this. I don't know who took it up and presented it to the legislature because Delyte Morris and John Rendleman handled this. The legislature had to vote on it.

In the meantime we were working on everyone that voted up there to push for this, plus get all the votes we could get from Chicago and we had to agree at that time if we would get the land, that the University of Illinois would get a medical school in Springfield, and Peoria and there would be a Chicago campus. That was the agreement for us to be able to get a university down here. Chicago said, okay if we give you a campus down here than what are you going to give us and they got the Chicago campus. That was the first thing that they asked for. And so there was some trading done.

We had a lot of fund drives and then we decided to have a bond rally and all of the farmers rallied around this area; some were agreeing to sell some weren't. There was a lot of turmoil. We decided to have it on Freund's property. S. E. Freund bought the Stubbs now the site of the SIU mall. Stubbs farm had the most beautiful house with the columns which are now facing 157 near I-270.

Q: And it used to be right over here where our University Center is.

A: That's it. That was their farm and they had a race horse farm. Chub Stubbs still lives on St. Louis Street. That's the son. Mrs. Stubbs was a retired school teacher and I think they sold their

farm to S. E. Freund who owned a bakery company in St. Louis. S. E. Freund had some race horses out here and we were having a bond rally and I was partly in charge of this.

Q: Now if I recall that was 1959.

A: We had the buses come in. Remember?

Q: Yes.

A: And Mr. Freund shot at them. His horses were still there, that was at that bond rally.

Q: There was a helicopter going over.

A: That's right.

Q: The helicopter had been told do not spook the horses.

A: Right.

Q: The pilot did not...

A: So Freund still had his horses there then.

Q: Yes. The pilot was not given the message. He spooked the horses and was fired on by a shot gun.

A: That's right, but I don't know why we were on the Freund farm unless they...

Q: Well they were, the helicopter was showing people the general area.

A: So Freund wasn't opposed to it then was he?

Q: Well whoever owned those horses was upset.

A: Well that was S. E. Freund. So we had the bond rally. I've got pictures of that, but I guess really our old photographer would have. He's retired now but I'm sure Charlie's got pictures that are hard to believe.

Q: Do you mean Charlie Cox?

A: Cox.

Q: Oh yes.

A: Oh he just took pictures right and left. Well we raised the money. I'm trying to think what happened after that. We raised the money and then we had our first ground breaking which was the Peck Building wasn't it, the corner of Peck Building? Wasn't that the first building?

Q: I think so.

A: That was May the 3rd of 1963. In the meantime, going backwards again since I'm trying to remember some of these things. Governor Kerner was governor and John Rendleman said now we're going to have to have a party and have him get acquainted with some of our people. So I had the biggest house which was on St. Louis Street where John Fruit lives - 814 St. Louis Street.

I loved giving parties anyhow so I said all right let's give the party at my house. This was the funny part. Now Mildred Arnold tells me that Mrs. Kerner was ill, but this is not what they told us at the time. They said Mrs. Kerner was an alcoholic. So we were told the day before they came in, all the FBI or the state police came in and they scoured my house and the yard and they told me that there would be a certain distance where when Governor Kerner came in with his limousine that evening we weren't allowed to have anybody else come in (words unclear) security.

We were so excited. We thought this was the craziest thing that ever happened. We were told that when Governor Kerner came in he wanted the professors or some of the men to pay attention to his wife and entertain her for the evening and the story was that Mrs. Kerner was an alcoholic and Governor Kerner wanted to socialize and move around and he left word. So the professors all took turns. We had Warren Stookie who didn't drink, but we had, oh let's see who was my English professor over in East St. Louis at the time. He came from, who was an English professor who was just (word unclear). He was gone. Now he went to Columbia. He taught at Columbia for a while - University of Missouri.

Well we had all the men and here comes Governor Kerner and so we socialized. Delyte Morris was there and John Rendleman, Harold See. Everybody that we could think of was there and we had a great big party. That was to get him acquainted and then go out and see the site. Then Delyte and Dorothy Morris took a house down Lewis Road and it was an old farm.

I had lived out there since 1944 in this farm area and then went into town to work for Ed Kane, an architect during the day. Mrs. Pellchhof (sp unclear) came from, I think it was Poland and they lived in an old house and she was my neighbor. This was during the war and there were no young people so I got acquainted with all these older people by walking around during - this is before all this happened.

So Mrs. Pellchhof didn't believe in putting money in the bank, she didn't trust the banks. So they were going to build a new house. Over a period of time, her husband worked at Granite City Steel and he saved money and saved money, just pennies, until they thought they had enough money to build. She went to the lumber company and lost her purse with all of her money in it. Word got around around the lumber company and they did find part of the money ,but anyhow over a period of time then Mr. and Mrs. Pelchhof built a beautiful brick house all on their own did their own work and everything this is way prior to the university. When Delyte and Dorthey Morris kept coming back and forth they decided that was to far to go so they needed a residence so they didn't always have to go to a hotel or motel, so they moved into Mr. and Mrs. Pellchhof's house.

Q: Well now is that what we call the president's house sitting over by the lake?.

A: Yes, that's it. It kind of goes down hill in the back. Is it still the president's house?

Q: Well, it's called the president's house but actually..

A: Harold See was there too. He had an office in the front.

Q: Now it is another organization, but the house is still there and the lake.

A: He had an office in the front and their apartment was in the back.

Q: Yes.

A: Well when they bought it then they went in and changed everything John Randell was the architect at the time and they really modernized. But the funny thing was that little brick house, Mrs. Pelchof had always lived with chickens in her house, so she would bring the chickens and the ducks in the house. So when they bought it the house had a terrible odor. These are all funny little things that we use to laugh that President Morris moved into the chicken house.

Q: The chicken coop.

A: Those were just little things and then just down the road was Mrs. Lewis, the opponent. It was terrible. Where do I go from here? These are some of the stories.

Q: All right fine. That is one hell of an opening statement Dolores. That is the best opening statement I've ever had. I did interview Harold See on the phone and that took me back to '55 prior to that I couldn't go beyond '57. Now you have gone back to '53 which is almost enchanting to go that far back. Now that we have that opening statement and we're now up to the early '60s.

In these early days what do you feel were your greatest accomplishments in getting us from 1953 to 1963?

A: I was very much involved in everything that went on with all the professors and all the people that came in, we were all very close to each other and we went to parties, we socialized, and we had a marvelous time but I think the frustrations. The biggest disappointment, not frustrations, I didn't have frustrations, my biggest disappointment was that the state legislatures said this had to be a commuting campus.

Q: Yes.

A: And they very definitely limited us. They would not let us bring apartments in. The only way they agreed that we could have a campus was if it was a commuting campus. I think the greatest thing was to listen to some of these steel workers say that for the first

time in their lives, I get emotional on this, that they could send their kids to school. People that lived in two room houses that couldn't speak English came from foreign countries that were steel workers years ago and they dreamt that they could. They couldn't afford to send their kids to the U of I.

And I worked at University of Illinois typing manuscripts to work because at that time I wanted to I graduated in. Just right after the war started, World War II, but at that time there were two girls in my family and my dad sent us to U of I because tuition was cheaper. You couldn't go to Washington U because it was too expensive.

Some of the other schools were very small and they didn't have good teachers. The people right around here, especially the factory workers always wanted their children to have a better education than they did. And those kids would get old cars and drive up here and study and they were so proud to say that they had sent their children to college. That was the greatest thing.

Q: It must have been. Now, was expenses one reason the legislature insisted on a commuter campus?

A: No, they wanted to control Delyte Morris. He was very ambitious. And he knew how to operate with politics.

Q: Yes, but how do you control Morris by insisting that a campus is a commuter campus?

A: Well, if it's commuting and you're only limited to the people around here because where are the students going to live. You see? the U. of I. was afraid he would become too ambitious.

Q: Yes, I see now.

A: And University of Illinois' Dr. Henry did not want a another there were only two universities, University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University. Those were the two great ones and they were scared to death of Morris. He was so ambitious and they were scared for him to get started. In the first place who would walk in and offer 26 hundred acres of ground for a university free? Here are factories and here is a pocket of metro St. Louis. These people don't have any campus. They can't drive the old roads down to Carbondale, it's too far for their kids to go and they can't afford it.

Q: We were the second most populous area in the state of Illinois.

A: That's right. That's right.

Q: Madison-St. Clair county

A: So Delyte Morris used votes. There are a lot of votes in St. Clair and Madison County. He got a hold of the legislators and all the presidents of the banks and all the heads of the industry and put the pressure on. So the only way they could control the campus was

to say O.K. we'll go along and vote to give you some money to build a campus, but it's got to be a commuter campus. I think that was the biggest disappointment.

Q: Yes, a big one. Let's continue to go back and forth let's get another one of the Dolores's greatest satisfactions with what she's done with those ten years plus. You certainly may go beyond but those are ten critical years. What are some other pleasant memories that you would like to record for posterity.

A: I was born in Edwardsville in a house in LeClare. I went to a pre-kindergarten in N.O. Nelson and we had a glass factory where they made marble toilets, marble lavatories which is where the art department is. I used to go through there as a little child and run my feet through the white sand and pick up buckets of it and bring it home and put chalk through it. I loved it. There were tree lined streets and people were well educated, I didn't know at the time as a little girl, but we had a street car down Troy Road and we had a lake to ride in a boat on LaClair lake. And we had bands on Thursday's. And the biggest thing for me on a Saturday night was to go downtown when my folks got their groceries and sit in the car in Edwardsville. We were the county seat and it was a lovely town. I thought there wasn't anything in the world like Edwardsville.

Until I went to University of Illinois and got thrown into about 23 thousand and found out there were other places, but I've always been proud of Edwardsville. I came back from the U of I and opened

an art class above the Madison Store and taught art to students. But I always wanted to do something for Edwardsville because I thought it was unique.

People were smart and we were close to St. Louis, Forest Park, and the opera free. Everything was free over there. We would go over the old Chain of Rocks bridge and go to the opera. I went to every opera free, we sat in the free seats. When we opened our business Rohrkaste Dairy. We started the first drive in. We served the black people the first time. They were educated SIU-C educated. They were teachers, they were smart people and nice. And we started the first drive in and at that time that's why I wanted to be with the Chamber of Commerce. I wanted to help out and the first thing I did was open up that whole parking lot in back of Main Street for downtown parking. We asked all the merchants to sign releases and we bought a couple lots for 8 thousand dollars and we opened up all the back of Main Street as an open parking lot and it was just a beginning. It was just being enthused and getting people started.

Q: So one of your great joys was helping Edwardsville get this university.

A: Yes. I loved it.

Q: All right.

A: I never wanted to move out of the town.

Q: Well, that's boosterism raised to a fine art.

A: I've traveled a lot. I have been all over and I've lived in New York, but I always think there's nothing like the mid-west. You can go anywhere in the country from the mid-west. And it has a southern flavor. You speak to people and you smile to them. Even in my office, I worked six days a week and for 22 years over in Clayton and one of the nicest things they say about me is you always smile and talk to people. Well, that's from my small town.

Q: Let's say on this happy memories and then I want some bad memories. Some things that didn't work out quite right.

A: One of the big pluses in my life is that I became friends with many of the professors that came in and they opened up a whole new world. I had it at the university and I had it at New York when I went there. Then I went to the Art Institute in Chicago and I always wanted people who could talk about something besides just their small town sports even though they loved it. The greatest thing to me was that when all these people came in from Kamil Winter who talked about Czechoslovakia and who's the man that came from Iran - lives out on Old Alton Road - not Old Alton Road - out on Springfield Road? His wife was a social worker. Rasoul Hashimi.

Well a funny little story about Rasoul. I had no idea about the culture. At the time that I did all this I was with the dairy, but then I went into real estate and John Rendleman would call me and he would say I want you to take them around and let them pick out three houses and then their wives are coming in and you turn the men loose so they don't have to bother anymore and I did that.

Well Rasoul picked out a home that he wanted and his wife came in and so I took her all around everywhere and we negotiated in my house. We negotiated and the kids were fussing and carrying on and he wouldn't buy the house but he wanted it. We were 200 dollars apart. Finally his wife said, I need to use the restroom, so I took her upstairs and when I was at the restroom she said, don't you know in our country you have to pull the drawer open and put some money in that drawer to show good faith. That's all you need to do. So I went downstairs and put twenty dollars in the drawer and he signed it.

Q: That's an interesting cultural difference.

A: And they've all been friends you know all these people that I've known. Those are things that I benefit from, the opening up of my life.

Q: So obviously you've never regretted all that you did to get us here.

A: Oh gosh no. Gosh no. I'd still be doing it except I think it's someone else's turn. In fact I went back to Washington University after that. But I have a son who graduated and he teaches in Santa Fe now.

Q: How nice Santa Fe. I'll be there in two weeks with students. Let's come back to any funny, weird, strange stories you care to share with us.

A: I'll probably think of them as we go along. There were so many of the things that happened. My disappointments let's talk about that. I feel up to this point that not enough Edwardsville people make use of the professors' knowledge. They have not opened up their lives to learn from these people. Somewhere there hasn't been a blending of Edwardsville people and SIUE. Now whether it's because their out here separate from the others I think they lack that. There is a certain group of people who have blended in with and I understand that's a common thing in all university towns, but it's such a small town I don't see why it hasn't become more so.

Q: This interest me greatly. First of all, the formula, there's an ancient formula that might amuse you it's called the separation of town and gown and it goes back to the middle ages.

Now I would like to ask you, you are a lifetime, or at least your girlhood and everything is here, your a booster, you've pushed the university, your loyal to your city, your the ideal person to give us posterity some reflections on to what extent the good people of Edwardsville really supported us and what portion did not and why they didn't.

A: Well it's true.

Q: Yes, well, why? Can you break it down a rough percentage, how big was the opposition?

A: All right I'm going to tell you and this of course is very dangerous to talk about because it's very sensitive only to certain people. The biggest problem and I appraise investment property all over the country, and I do feasibilities. The biggest problem the reason I opened an office in Clayton is because in Edwardsville, the bankers wanted to control the town. You find that in most small towns, there are a few, I call them small town bankers, but they are the presidents of the bank and they are allowed to make the loans and not make the loans. They are the social structure. What has happened in all these small towns in southern Illinois is the only thing they have are the banks all the way down to Carbondale. The bankers the only thing that there important about, they are not intelligent, they don't have any college degrees, they used to make 15,000 a year. Te only thing they had goingo control the town,so I think they had a fear of educated people coming in. These people knew things and they were afraid the were going to lose control of the town.

The Rotary club, my father-in-law was a Rotarian. The Rotary Club is prestigious it was very difficult to get into , you had to be an important person, but this is not just here, this is Lincoln Illinois it Peoria, Creve Coer Club in Peoria. Every little town had it's social structure and here was somebody coming in with money from the university and people were coming in and they were going to lose control of their town. If you couldn't get a loan from the bank to start a business, you couldn't get a loan at the Savings and Loan to buy a house. All the board of directors were local people.

I think it was a fear and then they had no way to really meet the faculty so they had this barrier of being fearful. SIUE had something out here they didn't know where to go or how to get acquainted. They were so important they didn't dare ask anybody.

Q: . Would you say that it was a small portion of the town that resented us or resisted us?

A: Yes, but it was a small portion that controlled it.

Q: I lived in Alton for four years. Alton is a labor town, a very strong labor town. And while I'm not against labor, I don't respond to it very well, we moved after four years to Florissant and 18 months ago we moved back and now live in Glen Carbon and we're very happy in Glen Carbon and we enjoy the area and have nothing but good feelings and have had nothing but good experiences.

A: I just love Glen Carbon.

Q: That's right we both live almost back to back down there in the Lakewood area. Anyway personally my experiences have all been very pleasant but I have over the years heard all kinds and heard of and could document where there has been this fear and resistance; for example, the retail merchants put great constraints on what we can sell in the book store as if we were going to be much competition. The Illinois Hotel/Motel Association forbid us from making the third floor, the second floor of the University Center into an overnight conference center because they wanted to sell their own motel rooms.

A: We have one shopping center on five acres, Montclair Shopping Center and it's still there. That's it.

Q: Well, unfortunately I have resented this kind of stuff. It bothered me a great deal and it is real and I guess we'll never have a real conference center here, an overnight conference center and to the extent we will not be a real university. It is something that hurt us.

A: We have a lot of young people that are coming in and living here that are young professional people and I did the same thing with Glen Carbon Downtown the other people have come in and there's just a little pocket of old Glen Carbon people, but no one cares about them. Time is taking care of it.

I think this is true of Edwardsville.

Q: Well, you mentioned something interesting and in 18 months I have noticed it and that is yuppiefication, I think we're getting them.

A: That's right.

Q: I think it's getting much more sophisticated, the restaurants, the lounges.

A: They could care less about what Edwardsville thinks and that's great. And they'll go out to SIUE and see a show or a theater if they want they know how to get around.

Q: Twice a day I pass the Sun Dazzlers Tanning Salon and it's always busy with yuppies. And that's fine.

A: I didn't know you only lived out there 18 months.

Q: That's all. I've sunk plenty in lake front property. And that's why I want to keep property value up.

A: Let me tell you about the merchants. When I tried to get those merchants to help give me money to buy a parking lot for themselves, that was the back right across from the post office.

Q: Well it's the back of Schwartz's store isn't it.

A: They were the ones that didn't want to participate. Most of them live in St. Louis. Most of the merchants live in St. Louis.

Q: That's not good.

A: So you see really your never going to get, your downtown merchants to do much. If they would only participate. I don't know of anybody that runs a place unless its just a little ma/pa place type thing.

Q: Is there anything you would like to go back and supplement or add to a little bit. Something that you didn't think of at that time.

A: No, I can't think of anything. We did so many things. I'm trying to think of some of the funny things. Just the raising money was very dramatic at that time because we had farmers that were really ready to fight. Now when we had the 25th anniversary I was on that committee and they said should we honor all the farmers and the land owners and have a plaque for them and invite them as special guests to come see what happened. I do think we have a plaque over there in the gymnasium.

Q: There used to be a series of plaques honoring the pioneering faculty, the Southwestern Illinois council, major donators and property owners. They were recently moved and I don't know where they are.

A: Myron Bishop had the original list and we worked off of that.

Q: Well, this will interest you Myron has donated this. Here's his original records and that is a real treasure.

A: Oh that's wonderful that he's done that. I have one more delightful little side dish. To tell you about Dorothy Morris. Whenever Dorothy Morris would come to town she would call me and Lola Reed, wife of James L. Reed, a local attorney. Lola Reed was a delightful person, she was quite a lady, but she lived in a wealthy

world and she didn't know how any one else lived and she was the sweetest person. She lived on 4th street. So Lola always got a Cadillac every 9 months, and Dorothy Morris and Lola Reed and I would shopping when Dorothy Morris came in. Well, Delyte Morris always drove a Lincoln.

We would go with Lola Reed over to St. Louis to shop. One day it was raining when we were shopping and Dorothy said, just pull us up in front and we'll jump out. Lola Reed, has since died, she said, I know an underground place to go, so Dorothy and I kept quiet because Lola Reed would handle everything. So we go underneath what is now the Galleria where the trucks went and we pulled up in front of a dock and here comes security and they said, lady what are you doing down here, this is underground? Lola said, but it's raining outside and he said, I don't care if it's raining, lady you can't park here and Lola sticks her head out and she said, I have Mrs. Delyte Morris and her husband is president of Southern illinois University. Oh well pardon me, and so Dorothy and I got out and looked at each other and security helped her drive her car out.

When Lola came in inside she said, now Dorothy I have something to tell you, tell Delyte to get rid of those cars and if he drives a Cadillac they'll do anything for you. Dorothy Morris and I just laughed.

Q: Well that's a precious little story.

A: We were so glad to get out of there, but there were all sorts of little funny things.

Q: Dolores thanks so much for coming by.

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