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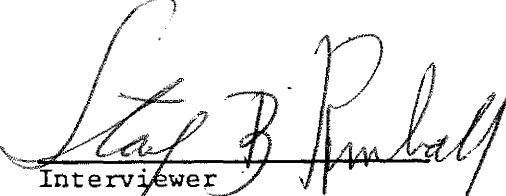
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ORAL HISTORY

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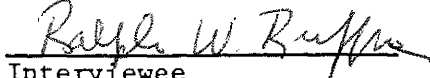
  
Interviewer

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Interviewee

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SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summer 1991

Ralph Ruffner Interview July 31, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

FILENAME; Ruffner. 731

Q: Dr. Ruffner, as I sit in your home here this July 31st, I certainly want to thank you for being willing to participate in this oral history of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and to share your memories and reflections about the many years you've spent here.

You came in 1964 and retired in '78. So that's a good 14 or 15 years of your career at the formative state of this university. Let me start out with a very blunt, rather simple question, why did you come to SIUE in the first place?

A: In the summer of 1964 my tour in Paris with the State Department was about at an end and my next assignment would have been in Nigeria. I had a daughter who had cystic fibrosis and was very ill most of the time and neither my wife nor I had any thought of taking her on foreign service again.

So consequently I knew that I had to locate back home. One of the men who worked with me in the State Department was Robert Jacobs, a professor at Carbondale who was with me in Washington D. C. in the state department and he persuaded me to look into SIU.

Accordingly in the Summer of 1964, two visiting faculty members from Carbondale and Dr. Delyte Morris representing him; one of whom was Bill McKeefry, a dean of faculty down there and the other one was

John Anderson, professor in Carbondale. Met me in Copenhagen and we talked about coming to SIU. And so I signed a handwritten contract on the back of a menu in the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen and thus arrived here in 1964 in September.

Q: When you say come home, where was home?

A: I was born in Washington D. C. I got my, well I don't know if you want details, but very briefly undergraduate work at the University of Maryland. Graduate work at George Washington University. I was a Professor of Education at George Washington University until 1956 when I entered the foreign aid program.

Q: With the State Department.

A: Yes. And went to India, then D.C., then Paris until 1964--a total of about eight years with the State Department.

Q: You had two or three careers before you started this at least third or fourth one here.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: Dr. Morris was very persuasive. He was a head hunter looking for the best he could get. I presume that he or his minions were very persuasive in bringing you here.

A: Well primarily because I knew nothing about the place and coming to the midwest and all of my experience had been on the east coast.

Q: If you had known about the place would you have come?

A: Oh of course. Of course.

Q: All right.

A: And Bob Jacobs had told me a great deal about Dr. Morris and about the people he had succeeded in bringing here. I obviously knew something because Bob Jacobs had done his selling job too.

Q: You mentioned John Anderson. I remember him quite well from the good 'ol days. Why did you stay so long after you once got here?

A: Obviously I was well pleased with what I had found here and delighted. In other words, it was an excellent job as far as I was concerned. At the same time there was the continuing problem with my daughter. Then she died in 1968 and is buried here in Edwardsville.

Q: I'm very sorry to hear that. I'm glad that in the long run that she brought you here and you stayed here. I'm sorry that she could not have survived.

A: Well there was no reason to leave and many reasons to stay.

Q: Did you come initially as Dean of Student and Area Services?

A: The first position that we talked about was I think called Dean of International Students at Carbondale because Dean Schwartz, I think that was the gentleman's name, was retiring. And I had never met Dr. Morris. He had never met me. So when I arrived at Carbondale it was supposed to be Dean of International Students at Carbondale.

Q: Did you initially start out at Carbondale?

A: With the title I did. I never worked in that job.

Q: You had a Carbondale title, but your locus was here in Edwardsville.

A: No. No. I had a Carbondale title, but I never went to work because Morris changed the title to vice president.

Q: Oh.

A: He was evidently trying to round out his staff. He had MacVickar as the Vice-president for Academic Affairs. John Rendleman was Vice-president for Business Affairs. Charles Tenny was Vice-president for Planning. And evidently he wanted a fourth one. And evidently I suited him because I never officially went to work as Dean of International Students. I was Vice President of Student and Area Services.

And because the organization at that time was to cover both campuses, I was responsible for the students and the area services on both the Edwardsville and the Carbondale campuses.

Q: Now you just went through a list of names that strikes me as impressive and a pattern of sorts. MacVickar, Tenny, Rendleman, and yourself.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: Now they all ended up in administration on this campus. Apparently all from Carbondale.

A: Only Rendleman did.

Q: Well you did. Tenny...

A: Well it's because of the organization at that time in '64 was centralized to cover both campuses with one administrative super staff, the five of us, and one Board of Trustees. Now each campus had senior officers at the next level below vice president. For example you had your Dean of Faculty up here. You had your Dean of Students up here. You had your Director of Business Services up here and the same thing in Carbondale. So instead of these campus people reporting to someone on the campus at the next level, they reported to the five of us.



Now that went on, I don't know, I've forgotten now exactly how long, until the big break up. I think it was three or four years that we went that way until the reorganization of the University.

Q: Yes.

A: Back to reporting to the top administrator and the one Board of Trustees and during that period between the dissolution of the university wide staff and the campus staff, there was a period of what we called, I think, decampusing, anyway breaking down certain units in two. There are separate, independent campus units, but still reporting to Morris' central administration.

Q: Thank you for that. I lived through all of that, but I didn't understand it then.

A: And you don't now.

Q: I'm not sure I understand it now. But what I do understand and perhaps I will ask you to correct me or comment, what I do understand is that the faculty here, we of course were almost paranoid over controls from Carbondale and we always put a negative interpretation on almost anything we could. We felt See had been kicked up and out for wanting to go too fast too far. We were, we felt like poor cousins.

Now I'm willing to admit that 50 plus percent of that was paranoia. And let me see if I can frame a proper question for you. I think the proper question might be something along these lines. During this transition period, decampusization and all that.

A: Or whatever.

Q: Or whatever. To what extent do you feel that Carbondale treated us fairly and equitably?

A: Well you see I never did look upon the university as being Carbondale or Edwardsville. It was Morris for the central staff. And so therefore I don't admit to any role of Carbondale in Edwardsville because I didn't consider myself either Carbondale or Edwardsville but University - SIU. So I don't know if that's just a difference in perspective. The mere fact that Morris resided in Carbondale I suppose was why you tacked Carbondale on to the central staff. But I resided up here the whole time.

When I came to Carbondale in '64, I was looking for a house, but I never bought one because Morris changed his mind. And so I came up here immediately and they put me up out on Bluff Road while I looked for a house in Edwardsville. So the first home I had in Illinois was here in Edwardsville.

Now MacVickar resided in Carbondale and so did Rendleman at that time and so did Tenny. But Morris I think was sensitive to the fact that at least one of the central staff should reside up here. And so

we had a central vice president's building up here. It was where the Faculty Club is now and then security and before that it was the vice president's building.

Q: You mentioned the magic word--perspective. That's what I'm after is yours and all kinds of people's perspectives on what happened here. You may know that there is a sort of official history of the University by Dave Butler, now Dean of Humanities.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: I'm not faulting it at all except that it treats the period '65 to '75 and really has very little to say about the formative years. This business of one university, two universities, a branch university, a poor cousin university, all were and among some people still important questions.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: In what you wanted to do, in your aspirations, Dr. Ruffner, did you feel that you could do pretty much as you pleased and were not held back by Carbondale or Morris?

A: Well now the two aren't the same. Obviously I was held back by Morris because I worked for him. But really part of your difficulty up here is that all of the early history of SIU was at Carbondale. That's where it started, the university. But I don't know why I

would feel any sense of being unduly influenced by Carbondale, whatever that is, because as I say I worked for one university for the president of both campuses who dearly loved both of his children.

Q: Well than were you Vice-president for Students and Area Services for both campuses.

A: Yes.

Q: Over your 14 years here, what do you figure were your greatest contributions?

A: How do you answer a question like that? I don't mean to be obstreperous but I never thought about them. So all of the sudden after those 14 years and 13 years in retirement you ask me a question like that.

Q: I personally am very interested in International Affairs. And since '59 we have tried with varying degrees of success to get international programs going.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: In my opinion they have been rather modest. I know you were involved in International Affairs long before you came here that is to this university and after you came here. To what extent were you able to realize the development of International Affairs on these campuses?

A: Well that of course would have a lead into some kind of an answer to your earlier question. Because obviously that is one of the strengths supposedly that I brought here. And again my contact with SIU before coming here was because SIU Carbondale had a considerable international program of university contracts with the foreign aid system. I'd have to check the places now, but some were in Vietnam. I think they were in other places in the Near East and Southeast Asia. But I believe it was Carbondale. I was not even cognizant of there being two pieces to SIU.

What I'm getting at is I don't know how many professors were from the Carbondale campus or how many professors were from the Edwardsville campus. You did have several from up here in Vietnam I think. There were some professors from Edwardsville campus, as well as professors from Carbondale, involved in the foreign aid program. And so obviously I like to think that it flourished. At least, if what your after - difficult enough it is for me to think of SIU, you want both an Edwardsville and a Carbondale piece, I'm afraid it's going to be blurred. I don't know which piece is which.

Q: All right.

A: Because I didn't deal that way. I dealt with SIU.

Q: Now I am now clarifying my own thinking.

A: Maybe we'll do each other some good.

Q: I'm having a little problem here and I just solved it. I have interviewed about 35 people, Dr. Ruffner, and you're the first one who has felt more of an SIU person than say and SIUE or SIUC. And my frame of reference, I've got to fine tune it a little.

Since April the 4th I've been talking to people who specifically felt one way or the other.

A: The point I'm making is that at the time Rendleman became president up here, I became one of his vice presidents and consequently became Edwardsville

A: We can take when he assumed the presidency, as the end of the university wide stance.

Q: So therefore you have a dual perspective. Your initial years were one university oriented.

A: Right.

Q: Subsequently Edwardsville oriented.

A: Right.

Q: Well that gives us even better, more unusual perspective. On this internationalism, let me come back to that for a moment. Did you ever know Dean Dye in Carbondale?

A: Yes. The name anyhow.

Q: He was involved in international programs. And to make a very long story short, the two campuses in '62 sponsored SIU Abroad. And I personally took 24 students from this campus to Vienna for six weeks and taught a course in Vienna. And we were all ecstatic and, hey, this is the beginning of internationalism and playing with the big boys. Well somehow it didn't mature very well or at least on this campus it did not. And then you came aboard in '64, two years after that.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: During these early years, it would seem to me that maintaining balance and equity and rhyme and reason between two campuses that were going to eventually spin away must have taken some expertise on your part.

A: Now that you mention it, I suppose that it did. I never thought of it but... Because the situations obviously were quite different on the two campuses and dealing - remember again, not to bore you with the levels of administration, but on each campus I dealt 99 percent of the time only with the officers in the next level of administration.

In other words, I wouldn't as a faculty member get down to individual cases. As far as all the students of Edwardsville were concerned, I had one contact. That was Howard Davis. He reported to me and of course he led me where he wanted to lead me in terms of going around.

There was one man in Carbondale and one man up here. I've forgotten who it was up here in Community Development, which had a big program in East St. Louis in those days. Sometimes, again it's this business of Edwardsville versus Carbondale. To me they were programs and individuals, not campuses.

Q: What were some of your aspirations and successes and how did you feel the way Area Services developed here?

A: You make me feel almost stupid because I haven't thought about this for many, many years. And I don't remember all of the units.

Q: Was it a rewarding experience for you?

A: Yes. The whole business was rewarding.

Q: All right.

A: But that was 13 years ago or 20, 27 years ago. I mean - and it's quite natural to ask questions like this. But again of course Area Services represents the, what's the three legged stool in your academic stool when you milk, education, research, and service.

Q: Yes. Yes.

A: . So I had the piece that Morris called "area services." And as we all know Delyte Morris was a top notch service man. In fact there were some people who would characterize him as being much more



service, community, state, nation, international service oriented than he was academic or research. So that service was a very important and a very rewarding part of the university.

There was community development, both in Southern Illinois generally and in East St. Louis, quite a program in East St. Louis in those early days. And the radio and television programs on both campuses are very strong.

Q: When I came here, I found out that if I expected to amount to anything I better be good in just what you said, teaching, research, and public service or community service or area service.

A: Um-hmm.

Q: And so I played the game and I enjoyed it. And in my opinion, the faculty and our campus here, I think, made a splendid contribution in area, public and community service.

A: I think so too.

Q: Now here I am sitting next to a vice president who oversaw that program and I've never been able to ask before what the vice president who was over all of us felt. But for what it's worth, I am convinced the morale of the Edwardsville campus was great.

A: Well of course I didn't come here to start Area Services in the university. They were already in existence when I got here. They were thriving programs. They had the strong support of the head

of the institution. In many institutions, I understand, you almost have to fight for existence. They had the strong support of the faculty which I always felt in terms of area services.

Again I'm told in some places they were the second country cousins to the faculty because of the stress on the academic. But at SIU the faculty had the same point of view of service as you have expressed as a faculty member. In other words, they didn't seek to say we are here to teach. We are academic. We are here also to serve the nation, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. So the programs were already in existence.

Now they were older obviously as everything was older at Carbondale. Because some of them went back a long, long time. And again, Stanley, I think too many people, not you, conducting interviews think that as an administrator, particularly as a vice president, you had great thoughts all the time and you went around thinking great thoughts. Well all you did was do the day to day job and you had a president who knew where he was going. He knew where he'd been and knew where he wanted to be. And very strong leadership.

Q: Well I'm going to answer my own question and that is I don't think our SIUE faculty would have done as splendid as we did in those days and now in public service and area and community services if we hadn't had a little leadership along the way. And so if you won't take credit for any of it, I'm going to say that I think you should because the top administration has something to do with it. And we feel good about it. And I hope you feel good about it.

A: Well of course I do, but again you had your leadership, Delyte Morris.

Q: Well now wait a minute. Most of us, I never felt he was; I felt he was my Nemesis. I'll share this with you and I don't think I'm speaking alone. We used to make jokes, Dr. Ruffner, when we would... Do you remember the days when this faculty went to Carbondale for supposedly faculty meetings? Well anyway we did but we always joked that it was Morris' *audience*. We didn't feel that we had anything to say about anything and we dutifully went there and sat and the great man spoke to us.

That was not the leadership this campus was looking to. We were looking to our people and anybody physically around here was our friend at court. You see. Now that's the nine month school teacher version of what went on. You were our friend at court and we did a hell of a good job.

A: Yeah.

Q: During 14 years, what were your greatest frustrations?

A: I don't think I had any.

Q: How about budget? personnel? health?

A: No. My years as an administrator, Stanley, and that might be one difference when I came here in '64, I was 50 years old.

Q: That's a young man.

A: Well yeah. But what I'm trying to point out, I had been an administrator in many, many different situations. Six years Lieutenant Colonel in the army and Assistant Dean at George Washington University in the School of Education - a full professor at 32 or whatever. I learned to live with things as they were and to do what had to be done with what you had to do it with.

So I am not a frustrated type of person. Maybe I was earlier, but I had learned if I had a job to do, I did it. And maybe that's in terms of what did I contribute to Area Service and International Studies on this campus. I showed up every day. I was here. I administered. I did the job.

What I had to do it with, I did. I didn't spend my time getting my bowels in an uproar about needing more money or more people or more of this or more of that or more of the other. I'm trying to give you an administrative philosophy that I have lived by.

I don't worry about what are my greatest triumphs or what are my greatest frustrations. I worry about doing the best job that I can do with what I've got 24 hours a day while I'm on the job.

Q: Now we understand the Ralph Ruffner philosophy of administration.

Now let's lighten this up just a little bit and how about best, worst, and humorous memories - starting with best?

A: I just got through speaking for about five minutes indicating to you that I think I am a very even tempered guy.

Q: Can we call you a company man? Is that fair?

A: Who doesn't have many humps up or many humps down.

Q: All right.

A: I have my own personal interests and hobbies. I get my satisfaction, always have, from things other than being on the job. In other words, I'm not all tied up with the job. Never have been. One hundred percent, every bit of me, every inch of me so that I constantly jump up and jump down in terms of body or mental temperature because I save part of myself for myself and my family.

About the only unpleasant memories I have are some of the student riots during the '60's which I don't want to go into because they were unpleasant. And they were unpleasant I guess because they upset this stupid kind of equilibrium I attempt to maintain all the time.

Q: But when I talk about pleasant memories, the people you worked with, the social life, the successes, the way the university took hold and grew and your role in it. Do those evoke any vivid...

A: Well of course there are pleasant memories in terms of the people I worked with. Perhaps of the five, that is Morris, MacVicker, Tenny, Rendleman and myself, over the years and especially during the last part I was closest and felt most personal friendship with John

Rendleman even though we were very different and our backgrounds were very different. And I think he had some of that same feeling. But I have no unpleasant feelings about Morris or MacVicker or Tenny.

And of course some time during that horrible messed up period between the pure, whole university and the broken off two parts, the transition period that we're talking about, Morris' downfall or whatever you want to call it and all of that. I got to know Clarence Stevens very well and I always called him a great personal friend. So my social relationships probably with Clarence and John Rendleman and with their families are very pleasant memories to me.

But remember I came here again not only from my earlier years but from eight years with the State Department in which perhaps 50 percent of your work is social work.

You talk about social work or the social context you have all of the years in the diplomatic service in India in Paris and so on.

Again it's pointing out the equilibrium thing.

Now if you ask me some frustrating and rough years of some of these earlier periods, I could tell you, but by the time I got here I had leveled out. But I have very, on the whole, very pleasant memories of SIU. I will always be eternally grateful to SIU for giving me a place in the family here and for the eight years that I was here. And certainly Mrs. Morris took Mrs. Ruffner in. A very nice lady.

There are so many things that have happened in my life and especially now. As I told you of my wife of 46 years dying last year. If you asked me to dredge up anything, I'm dredging up memories of her. They're not memories of SIU or any particular piece of SIU or to answer this question or that question. I am in affect and have been for the last year reliving my whole life with her for 46 years. So what am I leaving here in Edwardsville? I'm leaving a wife and a daughter buried here. That's what I'm leaving.

Q: This interview with you gets increasingly unique because just look here at some perspective, the names you have mentioned a dozen times. MacVicker is retired where? Minnesota someplace. Morris is dead. I have no idea where Tenny is.

A: He's dead.

Q: Rendleman's dead.

A: Is dead.

Q: And Ralph Ruffner...

A: Is left.

Q: ...is here in Edwardsville, a ten minute drive from my office and I have a rare opportunity to see if I can't ask some halfway bright questions. I wrote MacVicker and requested permission to interview him on the phone. I don't know that he's going to call me and for what it's worth I talked with Harold See for two hours on the phone to get his story. There's just not many people at this level of that period I can talk to. So I'm doing my best to get what I can right now.

A: Have you talked to Bill Going?

Q: Yes and no. Bill won't talk to me. Well I'll put it this way. Bill will talk up a storm on the phone and tell me I can't use any of it. Well maybe you can run a little interference for me.

A: Well I don't know about that because I don't...in the ... how long has it been since I've been here 75 .. 15 years that I've been here I think we probably talked three or four times. Whatever. In other words we're neighbors and we're friends but we don't get together but, but Bill you see, was right at the heart of all this.

He was MacVicker's man in the days of the one university concept and then he was right at the heart of so much.

Q: He was my dean in '59.



A: uh huh

Q: Well, I'll tell you my game plan such as it is Bill turned me down once, and I let it drop flat. I didn't say please or anything else. I said O.K. but now 40 or 30 some odd interviews later I'm going back and I'm going to say I talked to so and so and so and so, I need the Bill Going story.

A: Tell him the people who have said that you need the story.

Q: Yes

A: Tell him I said it.

Q: That's good, that's very good.

A: Because he was right here and at the next administrative level down, not to make a big point about these, I mentioned this level stuff only in terms of indicating more clearly with whom your daily dealings are, you see.

Q: Yes

A: In terms any great contributions I suppose towards the end and again, in the three periods that I'm talking about the clear sailing strong man at the helm, Morris Period, which I recall and again I don't know how many years there was opnly one university. Then the big break up period, the transition from the one to the other.

Working on the University Council was pleasant. I don't know if you've ever heard of the University Council. The University Council ran the total university, both campus', during the period that there was no Dr. Morris, until the campus presidents came in and it consisted of 5 of us: Rendleman, Stevens, Ike Brackett, I was on it and James Brown a little bit later, you know, Jim.

Q: I know Jim, I interviewed him last week.

A: Well anyway, I'm mentioning this as an answer to one of your questions some of the pleasant things I remember. Because the five of us worked so well together, we would meet one time up here and then one time down in, uh, Carbondale or we would meet half way between the two places in this magical place at...

Q: Marissa.

A: Yes, Marissa, Yes

Q: Do you remember the jokes about where we often met in Marissa?

A: Uh

Q: The Ore House.

A: Oh yes, yes, I remember.

Q: That ancient joke.

A: Yes

Q: Well that comes up every now and then.

A: O.K. So during first part of when your helping me make up some of the answers of the three phases that I have divided this into. The first part: my big role and satisfaction was carrying on what was already very strongly established in both places under Morris' leadership. During the transition period it was working with the University Council to break the university apart as the faculty and others seem to want it into the two campuses.

Now in the John Rendleman period when I was his vice president up here and had nothing whatsoever to do with a decampusized Carbondale set up. I suppose my contribution at least the Board of Trustees would indicate, would be helping to break in Dr. Kenneth Shaw as president and serving as the acting president of Edwardsville for three months.

I think I was in there until he actually came on board. In other words, orienting him and preparing him and holding the university administration together. Probably the faculty weren't even aware of any changes during a very rough period.

Q: Your comments on the University Council are extremely important. I doubt that it was well known and just how many people are left that could tell me much about it. How many could record what you just recorded about this and that will be valuable for whoever reads this stuff fifty years from now.

A: Well, Clarence is dead and Jonhn is dead, but Brackett is still around down in Carbondale and Jim Brown is still around and I'm still around. That's three out of five.

Q: As I mentioned I did interview Jim Brown and we got off on all kinds of things but not the University Council. That was inadvertent, I don't think he dodged it for any reason.

A: Well, I think it would be useful for you to do some reading about that. It's a little known aspect of all this and yet especially in terms of what your trying to do I would think it would a fairly important period because it held things together while Edwardsville was birthing administratively.

Q: All of this birthing your talking about is not really properly written up anywhere except it's buried in mountains of minutes. But nobody is going to get those.

A: Nobody will read that stuff.

Q: That's very apt the birthing of this place.

A: Yes. I'm talking birthing administratively and into a SIUE.

Q: Yes, by all means.

A: Because all the other was formative and was part of the big daddy picture now ... Could we take a break?

Q: Certainly

Q: We just took a little break and I had the privilege of seeing Dr. Ruffner's twelve thousand book collection and a marvelous shell collection. Now without intruding too much into your day and going down lanes that it's obvious at times you would just as soon not go down, let me give an apology on my part, Dr. Ruffner. I have deliberately probed, I know that, but I do it because this is going into the university archives. I think these things are important and they'll stay there until the end of time and help people who want to understand what happened here and what we did here. My whole career shas been here, I want the story there and if I appear to probe it is for what I assume is, shall we say, for a higher good . . .

A: You've been very gentle.

Q: posterity. Now just two or three final questions here. One is a Pat question and of course, well I'll just ask it without comment. To what extent we're you involved in relating the university to the community and would you mind commenting on that? Southwestern Illinois being the community.

A: Well my title was obvious ...

Q: Yes

A: Student and Area Services

Q: Well I, I'm trying to find out just a little bit more about programs you may have initiated or wish you had initiated or some of things that gave you the greatest satisfaction in building the community in helping the community.

A: Well, again you have your question and I have my reaction. I have to fit it in to what you have developed in me now is a pattern that is my personal three periods. I worked with the community most during the first period under Dr. Morris. And there I tried to indicate that I really have no peaks or valleys because I was, as you put it, the company man. Dr. Morris had everything all laid out, the place was already booming it was organized. Area services was organized. It was a strong community development program here, a strong international program here, budding radio and television

programs, the newspaper service, all of this was going when I got here and it was a priority area of the university as far as Dr. Morris was concerned. So I carried on what was going on.

Q: Certainly there were some things that were your innovations.

Q: May I put that down under the column of excessive modesty.

A: I don't care what you put it down under, but again, it was a very, very satisfying period a very fruitful period of a blooming university. A dynamic very unique man, you see with Dr. Morris, I want to make one comment, I suppose quite a few people including some faculty members picture administration as being people sitting around a table discussing everything and laying out big plans and picking each others brains.

One unique characteristic of Dr. Morris administration was that he had very very few staff meetings of the five of us. Now you would think here are these five guys, the president and four vice presidents they must every week sit down and chew up everything, answer some of these big questions like the ones your asking me. What do we want to innovate? What's our greatest satisfaction? What are our frustrations?

Morris' style was to deal one on one with his vice presidents and the unification, the blending, the coordination, the integration, the building of the whole institution was in his hands.dd

Q: Would you care to comment on your role in Student Services?

A: I had two very excellent, strong deans of students. One on each campus, the two Davis boys. Clark Davis at Carbondale.

Q: I. Clark?

A: Yeah. I. Clark Davis at Carbondale was Dean of Students. And Howard Davis of course up here. So I had two very good, excellent administrators. Strong men with a long background. I think Howard had been up here since the beginning. And they had the organization all set up and they had things going and again, not to dodge anything you're asking me, my role was to back them up as much as I could, as well as they needed help with Dr. Morris. And Dr. Morris was a strong student man too. So again I can recall no peaks or valleys except the joy of working with the Davis Deans.

Q: You gave them their head.

A: Yes.

Q: Were they related?

A: No. No. I don't think they'd ever met until they came to the University. They may have met at a staff meeting. No, Howard and Clark weren't related.

A: Now as I told you before in this particular area the one thing that did give me some concern was the student unrest of the Vietnam days.



Q: Oh yes, yes of course. I'm sure it would. I remember it well. I remember a fire in the library. I remember dismissed classes. I remember big meetings where Rendleman spoke, I remember trouble makers coming from Carbondale down here. They wanted us to get all excited.

A. Yes, Yes

Q: A possible final question, we've touched on it but let's do it again, the contributions of the university to this area: economic, educational, social, cultural.

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A: Not to dodge anything, but the answer is so obvious every day everybody knows the answer to that. Everything that John Rendleman did, everything that Lazerson is doing now, why do you need me to detail the fact that it added this much money to that and this much money to that. I mean the contributions to the university to this area are unquestioned.

Q: O.K. maybe I wanted you to slip in something about your contributions to the area. I'm not getting very far on that am I. Well, alright then this really is perhaps the last question, if I could interview two other people who would you recommend.

A: Well, in terms of what your doing and from what I understand and we're each having a little difficulty understanding what the others doing precisely here this afternoon. I mentioned Bill Going because

I think part of the first four year period that I call my period with Morris, Bill Going could add something to it and then perhaps Jim Brown or if you can recommend something else, the University Council.

Now that we talked this afternoon it has occurred to me as perhaps an overlooked period in the history of this campus that your trying to get. Because that was a very crucial time in the university, again, I don't have my dates straight. Dr. Morris, you know the difficulty he got into with the house story.

Q: Very well, very well

A: And the university as a total institution, was shaky ground at that time. The Board of Trustees was upset with Dr. Morris, Dr. Morris was upset with the board of trustees. I believe his health was beginning to fail and so what was going to happen to the university and of course there was strong pressure up here to be separate, even to the extent I'm sure there were a number of faculty that wanted a separate Board of Trustees. A separate name.

Q: A lot of us wanted nothing to do with Carbondale.

A: Well, that's a break up of the whole institution. Everything that Morris had tried to do for so many years. In other words, the two campuses together, a total institution, a much more powerful instrument than either part, either piece.

Well, anyway. So what I'm trying to say is it was a very crucial time and then when the decision had been made to campusize the university that to me is a very important part of the story up here, because how did it come about? How did your various pieces which make up the whole gain there independence. Overnight, there was a separate radio station a separate television station, so then what was to happen in terms of a head of the totality assuming the totality was going to survive and stay together. So to get into the days of the break up.

That period I think was very important and I remember we met weekly for it must of been a couple years there. Reorganizing, this is the quiet behind the scenes story, reorganizing the whole university into two separate universities. Out of that came SIU-Edwardsville.

Q: Yes.

A: And not only that but it , as to how it birthed, but still part of a totality. In other words, why didn't it birth completely independent. Instead it birthed, within a system. I would think Stan before throwing any burden on you if you inclined after thinking all of this over to follow up on this that you need to do at least some somebody needs to do some reading at least to the extent of getting a calendar of dates of what we're talking about. Because the dating is very important in here as to when Morris was actually relieved? When did we get a system head? That period in there and I think we kept, we must have kept minutes, but I wouldn't go through

all that stuff but what I'm pointing out is there is an important period here that I don't believe you've covered with any of your people, the University Council period,

Q: No that's why I picked up on it.

A: Because Edwardsville was under Morris for a period and then everyone knows it was under Rendleman. Now what happened between the two for it must have been a couple years there.

Q: You mentioned Bill Going and Jim Brown, I've talked to both of them. Would you care to mention two others I should talk to?

A: Well as far as the University Council piece is concerned the person you should talk to is Clarence Stevens who was chairman, but he's dead and I assume you don't want to go down to Carbondale but..

Q: I can always phone.

nA: Ike Brackett, I don't know what his complete first name is but he was, see under the council we had two campus honchos. John Rendleman represented Edwardsville. I've forgotten the guy who represented Carbondale, they were called campus heads. Ike Brackett was the Carbondale system vice-president and I was the Edwardsville system vice president. See these are weird terms that I'm sure very few people anybody, not that they're not important, they're important to indicate what we were trying to do.

Brackett and I had the remaining pieces of the whole university that were system wide at each meeting the job of the meeting was for Rendleman representing the Edwardsville and X representing Carbondale. To chisel some more out of the hides of Ruffner and Brackett to campusize to take away to make stand on its own. It would be kind of interesting to see what units were first, which got their independence last. But you see this was the actual birthing of the two organizations. When Rendleman came in fully as officially as the president all the work had been done.

Q: Alright. So...

A: That's all administrative glop so your probably not particularly interested in that. I just think that if you do know more than to ask some one the question, what influence if any did the "university council" have on the full-fledged birth of SIUE?

Q: Yes I think this is essential to the whole thing. Your the first person in 43 to mention it. Jim Brown didn't and I'm not faulting Jim Brown, but he didn't, Going didn't. Of course, it didn't exist when See was here. Well, anyway, the suggestions you have made are excellent and I can do it but, it will in no way, I can work in the archives for the next year and not get what Werner wants me to get which is in effect the Ralph Ruffner story and so after a fashion I have the Ralph Ruffner story. Let me thank you Dr. Ruffner for a very pleasant afternoon and an enlightening interview.

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