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## See, Harold W. - Oral History Interview

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ORAL HISTORY

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*Stan B. Russell*  
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Interviewer

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Date:

*Sept 23, 1991*  
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*Shep W. Lee*  
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REMARKS AT SIUE ON MAY 19, 1992  
by  
Harold W. See

It is with profound appreciation to President Lazerson for the kind invitation to visit the SIUE campus and to receive the President's Award of Merit. To Stanley Kimball, goes my appreciation for his part in encouraging this event.

I find it difficult to adequately express the depth of my personal emotions. It is something similar to a reunion of a parent with a child they haven't seen for 35 years.

I'm extremely pleased with what I have seen so far on my visit. This morning I was taken on a tour of the campus and was most impressed. Certainly the many persons that have contributed to this development over the last 37 years can take considerable pride in what is now a mature -quality university.

This day brings back the many very pleasant memories of the hundreds of citizens and of a highly dedicated pioneering faculty during the period I headed this operation for SIU. The only regret I have on this day it is too late for most of the citizens of this area, that were so supportive of this development, that are now in their late 80's or 90's or older, if still alive. I only wish they could have been with me on the tour of the campus this morning.

In the few minutes I have, I shall use this opportunity to address some unfinished business from 1960, and close the book on an important part of my professional life.

To set the stage for the remarks to follow, it might of interest to those present that when I was hired in 1955, I was given only one mandate - drive the University of Illinois out of the region. No guidelines or directions were provided for accomplishing this end. I was left entirely to my own devices. At that time the University of Illinois was offering about 100 courses a year in the area and SIU two graduate courses per quarter in Belleville. One year later U of I had two graduate courses per semester in East St. Louis and none thereafter.

Without question, it is those many persons, very early in the process, that dared to dream big, should share in this most gracious President's Award of Merit by President Lazerson. It would be impossible to mention every individual that made a contribution in those early years but a few deserve special mention and this occasion gives me the opportunity to publicly thank them for their support.

First and foremost, I was blessed with a wife that stuck with me at a time when, to all intents and purposes, she was a widow for five years - with our longest conversations being from my car telephone as I went from meeting to meeting. On our fiftieth wedding anniversary last January, she reminded me that it had not actually been that long since I was married to SIU for five years.

During the first year when I conducted all the basic research on the current and future needs for higher education in the region and projected enrollments, she edited these reports and prepared all the graphics used in my presentations.

The second person, was my very good friend Dr. Robert Lynn, MD (deceased), who as President of the Southwestern Council on Higher Education, attended at least 100 meetings, of the over 500 presentations I made in the first 5 years. He went so far as to change his operation schedule to be available. He was truly a doctor on call. Without his support the Southwestern Council for Higher Education would not have been effective.

The third person, some of you may be surprised at my mentioning, is Delyte Morris. After the Southwestern Council for Higher Education was full established and he found out what was happening in the region he jumped on board and fully supported me for three and one half of the next 4 years. He helped most by staying in Carbondale and delegating full responsibility to me and securing Board of Trustees support for my recommendations. For those of us who knew him well, to survive, I had to learn the fine art of debate which has continued to be a valuable lesson. Only after the passage of the bond issue did this relationship seem to rupture.

The Council was the direct outgrowth of the response to the various surveys that were conducted as part of the needs research. This

research brought an unexpected response and ultimate dividends, with numerous elements of community wanting to discuss the possibility of a university in their area . This included the Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce. It immediately became apparent that the competing forces would tear he area apart and that some sort of regional wide cohesive structure was essential. This led to the formation of the Southwestern Council for Higher which was madeup of the who's who of the region where leadership and power were concerned. In each case these business, labor, educator and political leaders were asked to serve as full partners and not for name recognition.

It seems appropriate on this occasion to mention a few of the contributions that this Council made - each of such an importance that had it not occurred the entire project would have been put on hold. I will not attempt to regale you with the intensity of political intrigue that existed both within and outside SIU - this would take hours.

1. Raising the first 25 thousand in seed money to support the Council in pursuit of higher education for the area.
2. Securing of the East St. Louis High School at a \$1.00 a year.
3. Securing a lease-purchase agreement for Shurtleff College
4. Providing the money to hire professional consultants for the selection of the site.
5. Keeping the area unified once the site was selected.
6. Payment for the further editing of my research reports that became the Myers Report.



7. Raising funds for the purchase of the site.
8. Active engagement in getting the 25million added to the Bond Issue earmarked for this campus.
9. Bankers putting up money, without interest, against pledges to purchase site.

During this period I never called a business executive, union leader, educator, manufacturing association, chamber of commerce, or newspaper for assistance, that it was not forthcoming.

On an even more personal basis, I was always grateful to the many fine faculty and staff who were willing to join a campus that lacked structure or independence. All, we had to offer at the time were dreams for the future. Each person made their contribution but a few stand out in my mind.

1. Goldie Terss, Wilma Jean Boren, David Bear, Howard David were the first to join in the venture.

2. Gene Peebles - without Gene Peebles working 16 hours -seven days a week handling finances, facilities, transportation , etc. During the first year of operation without Gene the whole place would of collapsed. We were often juggling funds at midnight.

3. Myron Bishop a friend of mine for many years, was without doubt the only person I know could have dealt with all the farmers in getting them to sign purchase and lease-purchase agreements. Frankly Myron drove me absolutely wild - I wanted immediate action and he keep saying take it easy it will be done and it was. At best the atmosphere in was highly explosive. If he had followed my advice and pushed too hard, no telling what would have happened.

4. Bill Going - Bill I remember the evening in the Broadview hotel when you had reservations about joining SIU and said you would needed to speak to you wife. Before you knew it, my secretary had your wife on the phone and you agreed to join the campus as the first full professor. I think you really meant to go home and talk to Margaret. Little did he know ,I was in uncharted waters not having such authority. Bill, on assuming the role as Dean of

Instruction, about a year later, you started the critical process of getting some order out of academic chaos - too many students, too few faculty, general inexperience by us all, and an utter lack of policy approval from Carbondale. I think Bill may have also learned something of the debate necessary as he labored to gain a modicum of academic independence from Carbondale. I was pleased to receive an article from Bill about a month ago that indicates the diminished role of the Chancellors Office and greater autonomy for the individual campuses. He worked hard toward this end.

Many others made major contributions: Bruce Bruebaker in leading the drive for passage of the Bond Issue, Tom Evans for his race relations in East Louis when he helped integrate a restaurant, John Schnabel who traveled by night to Carbondale to get registration materials processed, John Abbott who joined me in the fight to use the library of congress system rather than the Dewey Decimal System, Ray Spahn and Mildred Arnold who turned out volumes of publicity materials and editing my speeches, and to the faculty that had the task of commuting between East St. Louis and Alton, for their putting up with sub marginal working conditions without complaint. Yes, for their entering into the entire spirit of the adventure in blanketing the area with speeches to pass the bond issue. Department chairman that worked with the insecurity of always being in acting status.

President Lazerson, I accept this award in the name of the many people who befriended me and I owe you much gratitude for this opportunity, after 37 years to be provided the forum to thank each and every person that made the 5 years of my tenure one of complete exhilaration.

SIUE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Summers, 1990, 91

Harold W. See Interview, June 21, 1991

Interviewed by Stanley B. Kimball

Filename: SEE. 621

Q: Dr. Harold See, thank you for sharing your memories and reflections of your early days at SIUE. For the record I will repeat that you said that regrettably for some good and bad reasons you no longer have many notes and records.

A: I have none whatsoever, period. I don't even have a scrap on SIU because, actually, Stanley, after a while I'd run across them and they'd bring up memories and I just kind of decided to put it out of my system and I got rid of all of them.

Q: There's still plenty of us around here who figure you really built this place or got it going and I'm delighted to be interviewing you. For what it's worth I consider this kind of a coup.

One reason I'm happy to do this is that I came here in June of 1959 and among the people I met and talked to was you. And a lot of us in those days caught your spirit and drive and dreams for this place and we've hung around to see them mature. And I think you should know that and then of course I think for the record we should have the real story of what did happen here, good and bad.

A: Well first, and I want to make a sort of a preamble apology is I've thought about, a little bit about it. Most of the first two years is going to sound like a lot of 'I' and the reason being that 'I' was the only person there, involved in the whole operation and we'll go into that as you get into it in terms of why there was nobody involved even from Carbondale.

Q: According to some records I looked up it says you came aboard April of '59.

A: No. That is not correct. I came aboard on September one of 1955.

Q: Well let's correct the record on that. I think a good way to start the formalities of this would be to have you walk through...

A: My coming aboard?

Q: Yes. I was on leave of absence from the University of Cincinnati and had just returned from a senior Fulbright Lecture at the University of Rangoon, Burma I served between and September 1955 and whatever that infamous date that Morris and I had our final clash, I think it was in November of 1960. I was there just slightly over five years - five years and a couple of months. And then I went to Carbondale for about six months and then I went on leave with the State Department and never came back.

Q: In a little homework I did, I checked the 1961 Muse, our yearbook.

A: Yes.

Q: There's a photograph with a cut line two and a half lines long. I'll read it to you. And this is the beginning, the middle, and the end. "Harold W. See served as first Executive Dean of the Southwestern Illinois campus and was Vice President from April 1959

to December 1960."

A: Okay. In that five year period I'm going to give you a series of titles I had.

Q: Yes.

A: I came up there in 1955 as an Associate Professor and as director of what they called the Belleville Residence Center. The Belleville Residence Center really didn't exist. There were no facilities. They were offering courses in Belleville, one of the elementary schools there. And they were offering about two courses a quarter at that time.

Two years later, or within not even two years, I was made Executive Dean of the, and this I'm a little unclear about, Southwestern Illinois Campus or something or residence center.

Q: The yearbook says Dean of Southwest Illinois Campus.

A: Okay. That's probably the right title. As my wife said, I changed titles so fast the letterheads didn't get dry.

And then I was made Vice President of the campus. And then at some point, now I don't know when this was, a fellow by the name of John Grinnell on the other campus and myself were made Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officers of the campuses. He was operating officer in Carbondale and I was the operating officer at Edwardsville not very long before my demise.

Q: You actually were geographically in Edwardsville at that time?

A: Oh, yes. For almost the last year my offices were in a house in Edwardsville which we re-renovated and Bill Going and Ray Spahn and Bruce Brubaker and all these people, Mildred Arnold. We were all in that one big house out on the Edwardsville campus for almost a year before I left.

Q: In a tract house. I came to that tract house.

A: I'm sure you had to.

Q: I think it was your policy to at least look at, if not thoroughly interview the staff, that was coming in and here I was with a bunch of others June of 1959.

A: That's correct. We had just probably barely moved out there about that time. I did that, moving out there was my decision to move out of the Broadview Hotel in East St. Louis, for symbolic reasons, we had established a new campus in that area for SIU. And that was my reason for making that move. I could have stayed down in East St. Louis and operated what we were doing, but it seemed to me in the long pull I needed to get out there.

Q: You had been prior to '55 in Rangoon as a visiting Fulbright Professor at the University of Rangoon?

A: I was a Senior Fulbright Lecturer.

Q: In what discipline?

A: I was lecturing in research and statistics and advanced statistics. That's my, Mathematical Statistics, that's my field.

Q: Were you with Carbondale?

A: No. I never was based on the Carbondale campus. When I was in Burma I was on leave of absence from the University of Cincinnati.

Q: Now you mentioned Mildred Arnold among some of the old timers. I have interviewed Mildred and she is certainly one of your admirers and defenders. I thought you might like to know that Mildred is retired, but works as hard as ever out here and remembers things very well, going back 31-32 years.

A: I can assure you they're all indelibly imprinted in my memory.

Q: Now I want to further strengthen the importance I feel that this interview has. I mentioned that in the 1961 yearbook there was this little two and a half line cut and subsequent to that you are missing from the other yearbooks. I don't know that you ever saw an otherwise pretty good book - David Butler's Retrospect of a Tenth Anniversary.



A: I saw one which infuriated me to be quite candid with you because the one I saw appeared to be written in the tradition of the Russian government of writing out, re-writing history. In other words we had a campus which had an immaculate conception in Edwardsville.

Q: I think you are referring to Butler's book I have in my hand right now. It's the only study I know, only serious study of this University and it was for the tenth anniversary of the Edwardsville campus but for those of us that came long before 1965 I think your expression immaculate conception is very apt .

A: And to top it off I was sent a copy of it and they sent me a bill for it, I was so mad I sent it back with regrets. So I don't even have a copy of that. I think that's about the time that I decided that life was too short to consider SIU anymore.

Q: Well I can understand and also for the record for people who will pick up this conversation in cold print 10-20 who knows how many years from now, I think I should address posterity and say that in our opinion Morris feared you. Morris was afraid you were going to outshine him and really do something here. And he did not like it obviously and took steps to be sure that nobody did outshine him.

A: Well I want to be fair to Morris in this regard. And we'll get into this as we go along. I have to tell you for the first year that I was up there I had no guidelines. When I arrived at SIU they were just opening this so put somebody up there. I was really sent up

there as an extension director. My specific charge was to run the University of Illinois out of that territory in extension because that regions of Illinois should belong to SIU.

Now this was given to me by the Dean of Extension Raymond Dey. Actually Delight Morris didn't even know who I was or had never even seen me. I was sent up there with a car, money to get an office and to hire a secretary, and to run the University of Illinois which at that time was, as I remember, was running about 50 to 60 courses in industry and education throughout the area.

So my mandate was nothing more than to organize extension courses for people in Carbondale. I had so much time on my hands up there with only two courses running a quarter in Belleville, I started out to find out what the situation was in the area and began making a survey of industry, business , and education to find out what was really needed and fortunately ran into some people particularly at Granite City Steel who were friends that I played high school basketball with.

And they said to me, what we need is a university in this area. We don't like this business of not being able to have on tap all these industrial and management courses we need and so forth. And I asked for suggestions on how to go about it. So with that I decided to get some leaders together in the area, and I had no money, to see what they thought about it. I got ahold of Bob Lynn. I ran into him in Alton, a physician. And we decided that what we needed was to have an area wide group of people and we went to various people and got recommendations and came up I think with 200 names of who's who of the whole regions, Madison and St. Clair County, education, labor, business, industry and the whole kit and caboodle.

Well again I didn't have any money. All I had was money to operate some extension classes, I've forgotten now, but about 25 companies gave the Southwestern Council 1,000 dollars a piece...

Q: Um-hmm.

A: ...to operate, to survey and find out what's going on in the area. Well through all this nobody in Carbondale knew what in the devil I was doing and nobody seemed to care as long as I would organize and run the University of Illinois out of the place. That was my mandate.

Q: Yes.

A: Well about this time, about the following spring, by that time we, if my time sequence is correct, I had this operation going strong with this money in the bank and this 200 people group ready to go to work to organize to get a university for the area. And I'm talking about, at all times, a branch of Southern Illinois University. Well I called down to Carbondale, Morris had never even met me by this time, called down and asked if the president of the University would come up to an affair to speak to this group on the possibility of a future campus in that area.

Now there had been a lot of meetings with the Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce and with the Manufacturing Association and Alton and Granite City and East St. Louis. All that went on in the background getting this ready. They raised the money to put this wing ding on out at the Edwardsville Country Club. It had to be

catered because they didn't have food service out there. Of course this was all hitting the press about this time - wham. Well they were picking it all up in Carbondale in clippings and Morris agreed to come up. He would come up and meet with the citizens of the area, not knowing what he was getting into.

All this hits the papers about the fact that Morris is going to speak to this group up there concerning a branch. I didn't know that Morris already had a deal with Henry at the University of Illinois in the background that they were going to wait for the Commission for Higher Education to decide the resolution of that area. They had an agreement between them that they would not move in that area until the Commission of Higher Education decided and here I am up there moving down the line to set up a branch. Now don't get me wrong. Morris didn't like Henry. And Morris, as far as he was concerned, I mean these are things I determined later, as far as he was concerned, he was glad to have Henry's nose rubbed in it as President of the University of Illinois but in the process Morris got all excited because it was hitting all the papers. It hit the Chicago papers, the St. Louis papers that this group was there working to get a university.

And of course the people at the meeting were people like Spencer Olin of Olin Matheson , John Olin, Marvin Swain Alton Boxboard, Nick Veedar the President of Granite City Steel, Bill Akin the President of Laclede Steel, Bob Levis who used to be with the glass works there, all these people came. We had this big group like the who's who of the region. All the educators from the area schools were there.

And I got a call a week before this was to take place to come to Carbondale. They had a meeting in Morris' office. Now this is incidentally the first, essentially the first time, I had ever met him. Maybe I met him in a reception line. I don't know. I never really met him. Never sat down with him. He sat at one end of the table. I sat at the other. He had all of his top henchman in there, at that time his legal council, John Rendleman and Ray Dey and Tenney of Academic Affairs, and Geroge Hand VP for Finance. Tenney was Academic Vice President. And Hand was Vice President of Business Affairs at that time. They were all sitting around the table and I proceeded to get told by Morris in no uncertain terms that if I didn't get the purpose fo his speech changed to such an extent that the meeting was just an exploratory meeting and that I was not actively pushing for this and so forth I was going to be relieved from the university. I was threatened to be fired right there and then.

Well he came up. I don't remember what date that was. It's got to be in the file someplace. It was in late Spring. It was a beautiful day out there. You couldn't have had a better day and as he went around....

Q: Excuse me. Spring of what?

A: Spring of '56. I tried to tell him before he came the kind of people he was meeting, but his eyes got bigger and bigger and bigger as he was introduced to Spencer Olin and all these people. There was nobody in Southern Illinois of the stature of the kind of people that

he was meeting. And so we went into the meeting and of course I'll be honest with you. I had the meeting completely all set to take action.

Now I don't remember all the motions, but I had it all set who was going to put the motion on the floor, who was going to second it. I had the whole thing all fixed and then I presented a whole series of research that I had done on the area on demographic work and the data on growth and projected student needs and projected needs of the area. Basically a lot of the material that went into the so called Alonso Myers study. And I'll get to that later. My wife, who is a commercial artist, prepared all the charts that I used to depict the needs of the area.

Q: All right.

A: ... which I had been compiling during that whole year. I surveyed that whole area. I sent survey forms to all the industries and the schools. I probably did three or four hundred interviews in the area during that period, that Fall. And I compiled this and I presented all this data on the needs of the area and to my utter amazement when Morris got up to talk, oh of course they went ahead and then they had their business meeting. And they took motions to the affect that they wanted SIU and it was specifically stated a branch of SIU. I never, as long as I was up there, and this is another thing that always irritated me, ever suggested separation. I did suggest a great degree of autonomy, but never separation. At

that point they took the action to say that in affect we don't want the University of Illinois. We want you to come in here and set up this university.

When Morris got up to speak, he committed to everything, but the kitchen sink. He jumped on the bandwagon like you can't believe. At the end of the meeting he came over to me and he said I've got to get to know you. When can you be down to the campus. I said you call it. He said I'd like to see you, I'm gonna call down and cancel all my appointments tomorrow. I want to spend the day with you. I said fine. I'll be down there tomorrow morning.

Well then for the next year to two years Morris never came to the area very often. Maybe once or twice a year at the most. In the next two years I had absolutely nothing, but complete support from Morris. I mean I had no problem. He didn't question me. As long as you can raise the money you can do this. Be my guest. And he was at that meeting in Edwardsville. As my wife always said, he immediately saw the grand design for an expanded SIU with another major campus.

Q: Yes.

A: And I didn't object to him seeing it because with his support I had funding to back the development, but then things came to a head on the bond issue. There was a new state bond issue for institutions in Illinois for higher education. I think it was something like a 200 million dollar bond issue. I had Spencer Olin and my people from the Southwestern Council. Now you've got to understand Spencer Olin at one point was the chairman of the fund raising for the National Republican Committee.

Q: All right.

A: Bill Stratton was Governor of the state of Illinois and let me tell you when Spencer Olin spoke, Bill Stratton jumped. Well Spencer Olin took a group of my leaders up to see the Governor. I didn't tell Morris this. This was done by the Southwestern Council blessing and of course I was using the Southwestern Council as my vehicle to do all these things.

They went up to see the Governor and the Governor in affect said I'll see to it that, I can't say it publicly, but we'll add an amount of money onto the bond issue marked for a new campus there if you people can give me some indication,- some idea of your support in the area. My sequence gets a little bit hazy here, but we proceeded to go about selecting the site and started raising the money. Everything was going along swimmingly with Morris. I had no problems up to this point. The point where we really got into it is when the bond issue went through the first reading and it didn't have the local Representatives. I'm thinking of Paul Simon, now a Senator in Dixon, and Smith in Alton. These Representatives were supposed to carry, and Gray, were supposed to carry the ball on getting this amendment and nothing happened.

Well I got ahold of all the labor people in the area and they began calling these fellows night and day all weekend. Why isn't it 25 million dollars. They didn't let them rest. They finally began calling me and saying hey Harold our family can't get any rest. We're getting telegrams. We're being besieged. What are you doing



to us? I said you people were supposed to get a 25 million dollar deal on there , a million on that bond issue for us ear marked and I said what are you going to do about it?

I said where is the deal cooking that we have with Mayor Daley in Chicago for the 50 million. They were going to get 50 million in Chicago added on to the bond issue to be voted on and we'll get 25 million. They were get 50 for what is now Chicago Circle Campus moved from Navy Pier. And I said where's that 50 million? They must be mad too.

Well anyway on Monday they called the bill back from the second reading and they didn't go through with the second reading on some kind of a technicality. I don't know how they worked it. The bill became re-written with 25 million ear marked for SIU Edwardsville and 50 million for the University of Illinois in Chicago.

I also at the same time had a deal with the Ford Foundation. We had already had some money from the Ford Foundation for television, - a cooperative television program with a fellow by the name of Jim Armsey at the Ford Foundation. I had gone to the Ford Foundation and worked with Al Urich with the fund from the Advancement of Higher Education and a fellow by the name of Harold Gores who was developing new concepts of buildings for universities and they had come up with the idea of giving SIU a half million dollars for planning the university if we got the bond issue passed.

Q: I remember that bond issue. I worked on it.

A: You worked on the bond issue. That's right. All the faculty did.

Q: With Bruce Brubaker.

A: He headed it for me out of my office. The bond issue. The passage.

Q: Yes.

A: Well what the problem was, when this thing hit the fan that we got the 25 million dollars ear marked for the main campus and there was no money in that bond issue ear marked for SIU the Carbondale campus at all. Not one iota. And the Carbondale campus became incensed and that is the point where the disinformation campaign started that there was so much power in the Southwest Council of Higher Education with Harold See sitting up there that I was trying to separate from SIU and they were going to get what the little bird shot at in Southern Illinois. Up until that point I had absolutely no problem with Morris at all.

Q: Um-hmm.

A: And from that time on it was, then of course the issue of such things as making regular appointments to chairs. He wanted to make them all acting appointments and reporting to Carbondale and I kept arguing with Morris. He wanted us to be like one big university and I said at 120 miles apart with entirely different environments and

priorities as far as what you need to do in higher education we didn't want to be a carbon copy of Carbondale and we had to have some right for self determination on that campus and Morris refused.

And I guess one of the last big knock down and drag outs I had with him was over that particular issue of how much autonomy academically and program wise that that campus was going to have. And he never was ready to release it because he was really, at this point he had become fearful it was getting out from underneath him.

Q: Well now that confirms the rumors and the feelings that people like myself had. I believe I expressed those a few minutes ago when I said that the common feeling around here among many of us, there's a surprising number of us still in the area from those days and the consensus is that you were moving too far too fast for Morris. He wanted to control everything, centralize.

A: We had a big meeting in East. St. Louis. And we were selecting architects or at least looking and getting ready to select architects. And we had a group of ten of our people there and he hauled up about 25 people from Carbondale. And I made the point that it was absolutely essential if he was going to have any kind of support and morale on that campus that faculty on the Edwardsville campus had to have a strong voice. I made that in the meeting.

Then I picked up and flew to California to interview the architectural firm that I really wanted was Wilton-Beckett, Incorporated because I thought that they were more creative and had a lot more experience, and had done a lot of work for the California system which looked good to me.

Now at that point he was still going along, but then all of the sudden out of the clear blue Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, architects in St. Louis, became the architects. Now Obata is quite a creative architect. There is no question about that. I couldn't understand why everything we had been doing on interviewing and reviewing architects including Sarazon (Saranon, sp unclear) had gone right out the window. Well I learned soon after I left there why, because his nephew, the son of Lawse Morris in Collinsville who was an architect all of the sudden became a partner of Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum.

Q: I've never heard that story. That's a perfect example or what we, I believe the proper word is nepotism.

A: Well I could tell you more about that...

Q: Well please do.

A: ...where his brother is concerned in the selection of the site. This site that you people are now located on was not the one that Morris wanted and I forced the issue on that. This all began causing a problem. We selected three sites and the reason for the selection of three sites, we didn't want anybody to know we did it on the Q.T., and we wanted to defuse anybody rezoning and land values going up. The interesting thing is that he wanted another site which would have been closer to Collinsville. Now you know you've got to understand Lawse Morris, his brother, was in real estate in Collinsville and owned considerable land.

Q: I've heard stories about that.

A: All right. Now let's go one step further. This one I can not substantiate because I was gone, but Myron Bishop can do it for you. It is my understanding from talking to Myron that even while this was confidential, before we released the information on the site in Edwardsville... In fact the people in Edwardsville were so excited about it in the newspaper. They didn't know what was going on and they thought there was going to be an atomic energy plant out there. I understand from Myron that Lawse Morris bought a lot of land adjacent to Southern Illinois University's Edwardsville campus.

Q: He did. Yes.

A: And he had access to that information before it was supposed to be made public. He just bought that land before that.

Q: Part of it is know as Esic. E S I C, which we all jokingly call Instant City.

A: Whenever he tried to push that kind of thing I kept going back. What's right for the area? Where should we be? We had a knock down and drag down out on the location of the Edwardsville campus. I forced the issue by pressuring through the Southwestern Council. When it looked as if we would get some support for a campus up there, East St. Louis wanted, Belleville didn't because they had their junior college, Alton wanted, Edwardsville wanted it, and all of a

sudden Collinsville wants it. I had to go out and convince these people we had to stick together or we would all fall, and we would get nothing.

I probably had to see 40 or 50 key people in 1 week to keep the lid on. Because and we also had a problem with labor in that regard. Because trade, the building trade people, were split by county there, and they were concerned about getting fair share of the spoils of in any kind of construction program. So I had to meet in back rooms with a the labor organizations to keep them together saying, Hell, this is your problem, you people can work that out, there's going to be plenty of work for everybody and let's don't spoil it by getting into a labor battle between the two counties, between your trade groups, before we even have the money.

Q: All right.

A: This I was doing while you people were trying to teach classes and so we forced Edwardsville on Morris and ..

Q: He preferred you say the Collinsville area.

A: There was one out in the country, a little out beyond Collinsville. I've forgotten the exact location, but it's right beyond Collinsville and it was really the location by the man I hired to come in and select locations. I found it completely unsatisfactory, it was not centrally located, and it was not good from the stand point of transportation for other people in the area, and I objected to it strenuously.

In the meantime, of course, Morris is talking to his brother. So, of course I didn't know that and I guess I'm so naive I wouldn't tell, I didn't tell anybody. I didn't even tell anybody in my office what was going on. Bill Going none of these people, when this selection, I don't even think Bill Going there, uh, but the people were in the office Chelse Bailey, and Spahn, they didn't know what place that I was recommending. Beause I thought it had to be held confidential.

Q: Yes

A: And then we had a land outfit in St. Louis, I don't know the name of it, that went out and took the first options on the land in Edwardsville. At a dollar an option, and that's when the newspaper got uptight because it wasn't SIU doing it, we had a dummy organization doing it, in our name, taking the options. And so again we were taking options on three sites, not just one. That money, incidentally, was not state money that was all done with Southwestern Illinois Council money.

Q: And then somehow Morris was persuaded to accepted the Edwardsville site.

A: He got nervous because of the pressure from Southwestern Illinois campus and that may be the real beginning of our trouble when he became a little bit nervous of me, because I'm sure that he

thought, probably felt that I had sicked the council on him. They went down as a group of leaders and went down and indicated that that's where they wanted to go.

Q: Did Morris think that the Collinsville was a closer to St. Louis, is that why he wanted it?

A: I don't know what he thought, I just thought it wasn't centrally located in terms of the demographics of the area and where the future growth was going to take place. The studies I had made just didn't support Collinsville. I really don't know if he ever expressed to me why he wanted that site.

Q: Were you responsible for bringing in Myron Bishop?

A: Myron Bishop was a colleague of mine, years before and had been in real estate, he was a professor at one time, went into real estate. I knew that Myron Bishop was a very very detailed painstaking low key sort of a person. He also had a farm background and so I hired him.

In fact, it's a friendship there's no question about that. I was looking for someone that could deal with those farmers out there and keep things settled down and so when he came to visit us we made a vacation trip to Mexico together, he and his wife, his first wife, Kay. He lived in Columbus, Ohio at this time and on the way back I told him about what we were doing and I said Myron, why don't you leave the real estate business and get back in higher education and



come over here and do the purchasing of this land for me and manage the farms because we were in the farm bank and ever other aspect of farmin.ything else.

Q: Um-Hmm

A: And he agreed to come. I'm not sure what year that was now, it must have been '57 in the fall of '57 may have been '58, I think it was '57 though.

Q: All right.

A: He did one whale of a job in persuading those farmers to sell their land. Now, we had a few hold outs and we had a few problems, but the problems were minimal.

Q: Yes, there was the firing on the helicopter there was ...

A: The signs put up, Bishop go home!

Q: I've joked with Myron about that for many many years. Parenthetic ally, let me say, that he and his current wife Elizabeth

have been in my office twice and they are delighted that somebody cares what they know and they have turned over to me for the university these detailed land records that you mentioned a few minutes ago.

A: Right.

Q: Well all of his meticulous maps and recordings are sitting here in my office right now for eventual deposit in the archives.

A: It had to be a friendship arrangement or he wouldn't be speaking to me today, because I'm not a patient person by nature. And he had to do it his way and I'd say Myron let's get that deal closed up. We can't let this thing drag on. And I would just literally eat him out and raise hell and tell him Myron get off the duff. Get the job done.

And he'd very calmly say Harold give me the time it's going to work out. Just give me another week or two. And it always did. But I needed somebody like that. I couldn't, that kind of a job would have been something I would, been absolutely impossible to do.

Q: From what you said you were originally sent here to just create a...

A: A residence center in Belleville.

Q: Right. An extension of Carbondale and run the U of I out of here.

A: That's right.

Q: You said that wasn't enough to keep you busy. So your own personal dynamism led to this story that you have told us about organizing this and organizing that and setting up this and that's in the long run why we are here and why we're doing as well as we are.

A: Well this will sound egotistical but I think that is exactly right.

Let me tell you that when I was called down to Carbondale by Morris at the time I was asking him to come to the Southern Illinois Council meeting.

Q: Yes.

A: Ray Dey, Dean of Extension, completely divorced himself from the whole thing. He didn't support me. He ran for cover like he was afraid he would lose his job too. And everybody, including Charles Tenney, VP of Instruction, Morris was so angry he got up and walked out of the room and Charles Tenney said to me, if you don't settle down, he said, young man I've got to tell you that you're about to lose your job, and they were all upset and scared to death of Morris. Then they didn't know what to do with Morris when he came back from the meeting in Edwardsville and switched tracts over night.

Q: Yes.

A: And you see I knew the area. I grew up in St. Louis. My dad was a superintendent - he, at that point, was still the superintendent. I think the other things that really brought this thing to a head though were two other major events.

Q: Let me ask you to take that and the other two points and bring us to the famous change of the locks on the door story.

A: Well that isn't the most incredible and, as I look back on it, the most humorous thing that ever happened.

Okay and so I have all these things on my plate. One I was contending to raise money to buy the land. I was giving support to brand new people in the area. Essentially opening two universities in East St. Louis and Alton at the same time. I was in the process of purchasing land. I was in the process of seeing the bond issue passed. Now you know I'm not saying I did all these, but all these things were on my plate. I was a neophyte. Let me tell you all these things were new to me. I had never done them before and these people in my office, when they'd run across something they didn't feel confident I had them in my office to try to settle them down and say just do the best you can. Go down the line and do the job. Don't worry about it. We're going to make mistakes and don't worry about it because everybody that came in there was relatively new at the job. They hadn't done this type of thing before which was a major development.

And I hadn't been through it and so during that period I failed in my estimation up until that time I used to either fly down or drive down and try to get to Carbondale about once a week. And I tried to see Morris and go over what was going on and keep him up to date and make him happy and feed his ego, and he had a big ego to feed. And so during this period I got so involved with so many demands on my time that I realized when the thing was coming to a head. I was getting to Carbondale about once a month. Those meetings ended up as being knock down and drag out battles over control, over autonomy for the campus, how much autonomy we'd have, my concern that

he did not want to give anybody a regular title as a chairman. He wanted them to all be acting chairman because he felt he could get rid of them in a hurry.

Now Going argued that point vehemently with Morris too. And I found that I was constantly in a battle with him to recognize the fact that this campus, that he had to face up to it; that whether he liked it or not that this campus, at some point, had to be given its own head. And it could not be directed from 120 miles away. Well so there was a whole series of meetings that became confrontational to the point I knew that things were in bad state. When he took over one of the old houses on the Edwardsville campus, which was nothing, and he refused to come to my office and insisted that every meeting be held in that ramshackled house.

Q: Was that what's known sometimes as the president's house by the lake.

A: Well no. It wasn't. It was the one next door to it actually.

Q: All right.

A: Not the one he re-did. That's another story in itself too.

Q: All right.

A: Well anyway I thought I could outride it. I thought that he was a man that would eventually come around and see this.

Well out of the clear, now what brought it to the, the night before he came up to ask me to resign, day before. In the morning I got a call from a guy by the name of Charlie Ferrick (sp unclear). Charlie a local newspaper man in southern Illinois of some kind who Morris kept on the payroll, I don't know what the relationship was, who was running an affair in Chicago to publicize the two campus'. We had prepared our exhibits and they were all ready to go the following week.

Ferrick called me that morning and said Morris had decided that he did not want our materials up there because it looked like we had two different universities and not one. And he didn't want the Southwestern Campus. He wanted it to be a unified picture of one university. Ferrick said to me on the phone, your campus, that campus up there is nothing more than like a department down here at Carbondale. I blew my top. And I said you people are out of your cotton pickin' mind. You've never been on this campus. I said we're up here with 5,000 - 6,000 students in two locations or whatever number it was. And I said it could be as big or bigger than Carbondale and I said to suggest that we're nothing more than a department is ridiculous.

I think that Morris ought to call me. I want to talk to him. Well then I tried to call Morris and he wouldn't take my telephone calls. Well the next morning on the fateful day that this all happened, Morris went to John Wham in Centralia who was the chairman of the board at that time and said that he had to remove me because I was going to split the University. Wham got in the University plane

with Morris and they flew to see Gov. Stratton. They were worried about what Stratton would do because of my connections with Spencer Olin.

They went to Stratton and made a case to Stratton - the Governor that there was going to be real problems in that area which was Democratic (Stratton was Republican) and that it would be better to get rid of me and that I was a loose canon. He then flew down from Springfield to Alton.

In the meantime they brought up the security chief with Mrs. Morris from Carbondale. He went in my office. His wife sat outside of my office door and monitored all telephone calls while we're in there together. I told him my conditions to stay on. And he said that they were unsatisfactory. I said that I can't operate under the way you're operating and I didn't have any choice really when it comes down to it. I left. I went home to tell my wife, well I had warned here that it was coming up. I went in and I took the car home. I had no sooner arrived home at my house and he had already called Gene Peebles and told somebody to drive over and pick up the University vehicle. He picked the car up within five minutes after I got to my house in Edwardsville. He took the car back.

I was going to go back that evening to take some personal things out of the office. I don't know what in the world he thought I was going to take just between you and me. However, new locks had already been installed on the doors.

Q: Um-hmm.

A: Well I got over there and they had already changed all the locks on the damn place and it was locked up tighter than a drum. So I went back the next morning and the only thing I wanted to get was my appointment books for the past five years and they somehow or another disappeared. I've never, I never got them. All my appointment books for the five years disappeared out of the office.

Q: Well that's criminal.

A: Well okay. They disappeared. A I asked Isla Steel (sp unclear) who was then a secretary, what happened. She said that they came in here and they put a guard on the place and said that they wanted my appointment books. So she gave it to them. So the appointment books went by the board. The next two days he directed Gene Peebles to inventory equipment, check my travel and telephone, and he brought a person in from Carbondale. Gene Peebles could tell you about this. Gene protected me every step. They went through every telephone call I had made in the previous two years to find out who I had called, if I had made any illegal calls on my phone. They went through all my expense accounts to see if I had misspent travel money. From a fox like Morris this was the last straw.

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

Q: Okay I just had to turn the tape over. So Gene Peebles was protecting you.



A: They inventoried everything in the office to the extent that... I had had a dictating machine which had been transferred up to the secretarial science program in Alton at that time. The dictating machine had been transferred over. They couldn't locate this dictating machine to and they were going to charge me with taking off with a dictating machine.

Q: Well what in the hell was Morris trying to prove?

A: At this point, I guess was trying to, see all hell broke loose in the newspapers when this happened. They were all editorializing and questioning why it happened. Do you know the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* wrote a two page spread which in affect said that Morris came up to steal it.

Q: Well it sounds just like the KGB.

A: Well I can tell you more than that. Then I moved to Carbondale in January which was part of the agreement. They rented a house for me. I paid them rent for it. They had the Carbondale security people check my house every hour on the hour to the extent that I had to tell friends of mine that would come down from Edwardsville campus to visit me, for goodness sakes if you come down, come in the back. I'll leave my car out of the garage. Put your car in the garage because they were checking everybody that came to my place all the time I was at Carbondale.

Q: Well this is a perfect case of, I think, paranoia.

A: Oh, it was absolutely incredible. And if you think that it makes you feel comfortable having that kind of checking, Cam Meredith will tell you that he came down to visit me.

Q: I know Cam.

A: Bob Duncan.

Q: Yes. He's in Florida now.

A: Is he in Florida? And he came down to visit me. Who else. Oh. Gene Peebles.

At this point I was even concerned that my telephone line was being tapped. I was becoming paranoid. I mean when I had this kind of business going on I began to wonder where they were looking.

Q: Well I guess Morris suspected some kind of super plot for you to just...

A: I don't know where he thought I had that kind of power. You know, he was known to have that kind of paranoia on the campus at Carbondale about everybody being after him. So that was nothing new. I had heard this in Carbondale.

Then the State Department, this is a long story, but the State Department came to me and asked me to go over to Afghanistan for three years to head the U.S.A. program for the State Department For three years. They had a whole batch of university contracts over there that were out of hand. They wanted me to work with those.

And we decided to go over there for three years and take a leave. He gave me a leave. And then to top it off, he agreed when I left to extend my leave in such a way that I could pay into the retirement program.

Q: Yes.

A: When I came back, and he had agreed to do it, he didn't extend it. So I lost my whole Illinois retirement program besides.

Q: Well now that was significant.

A: So I lost that out of the whole proposition because I didn't have enough invested time. At that time it was ten years.

Q: Well did you ever fight back? Did you ever sue to get your appointment books?

A: No. I didn't. And my wife tells me I made a major mistake. And she was angry at me. She said by resigning and agreeing to resign that I threw in the towel. She said that I should have made him fire me.

Q: I see.

A: And make charges. That was my wife's position.

Q: Well I'm concerned over the appointment books. Did you ever try to get those back?

A: I wrote letters asking for them back and I got no responses. Period.

Q: I suppose theoretically they still exist in the archives somewhere. I don't know that you would want them but...

A: No. I don't really care about them anymore but at that time what I really wanted them for was, particularly I wanted them when they started delving into my travel - where I had been and so forth. And I can guarantee you that I was working about 16 hours a day and I was not making any unnecessary trips.

Q: It's obvious Morris was looking for dirt, something he could use to get rid of your presence and for possibly putting him in the shadows.

A: That's...you know this is my point of view, where I saw it coming from, but what I've told you is factual. I can't go into his mind of course.

Q: He was never very popular here. And for what it's worth, those of us that remember that period you have just described fully for us, I suspect

that when this is transcribed this will be the best and fullest story of those early days and problems. I would like to say this much that we have, after you left, most of us here have never wanted any closer relationship to Carbondale than we've had. A lot of us pride ourselves on being as autonomous as we can and doing quite well. I'm happy to say that what you fought for eventually pretty much came to pass.

A: Well I just knew it was, I knew it was going to happen anyhow and I probably could have some way if I had been wiser and shrewder and I could have not taken it on quite head on the way I did and managed to get the job done without alienating him, but I'm not sure because see he had all kinds of pressure in Carbondale. He was being fed a lot of misinformation by everybody a lot of the old Carbondale people.

Charles Tenney, the vice president was particularly anti the new campus and he was sitting in the office saying that we should be reined in. Tenney was liked by faculty and leaders on the Carbondale campus. Morris was not. Tenney was the old line person down there, the old guard.

Q: Um-hmm.

A: And they were anti this new development completely and they were feeding Morris all kinds of stuff on a constant basis. So even if he wasn't paranoid, he was getting so much of it that it would probably make you paranoid.

Q: Well you remember the old prognostications that we would have 20,000 students by 1970?

A: Yeah.

Q: That was Myers, Alonso Myers. We have mentioned him.

A: Well that's another story. I'll talk to that one.

Q: O.K.

A: Alonso Myers. I hired Alonso . He was paid with Southwestern Illinois Council money. We were having difficulty because the Commission for Higher Education at that time was saying you people are moving down there without any kind of authority from the Higher Education Commission of Illinois. I had done all this research during the first year and was continuing to do research on the projections of needs and areas of needs, et cetera, in health area and then manufacturing and industrial and so forth.

I had been doing all these research studies, but we came to the conclusion that if I put this all together and put it over my name that it was not going to have any real relevance. In other words it was going to be something that was going to be suspect to begin with and I was beating my own drum.

So we decided to try to find someone. Through a mutual friend, a fellow by the name of Franis Horn , who had been the president of the American Association of Higher Education and later the executive director. I asked him for someone and he referred me to Alonso Myers

and incidentally he's a person you might want to talk to because he does know a lot of the background too. He's retired, but he lives in Kingston, Rhode Island. He gave me Alonso Myers name at New York University. I called Alonso and I hired him to come in. He probably spent and I think in my letter I said 14 days. I've re-thought it. He might have been there over a period of two years. He might have spent 20 days in the area.

Q: All right.

A: I compiled the data. I wrote the data and he edited the data and put his name on it. And that was on purpose. We had a very difficult time with Alonso Myers because he went to Bob Lynn and said, hey I'm a professional. I have never put my name on something that's been ghost written. So all those findings that are in that Alonso Myers report are many of the things that I presented at that first meeting at the Edwardsville Country Club.

Q: That's important.

A: Those were the same - that is the basic documents that I gave the Edwardsville Country Club for projections of the need for the area.

Q: Well I'm not sure that's known very well if at all. We always hear about the "Myers report."

A: Well Morris used that when I left. He immediately hired Alonso Myers and took him down to the main campus when he retired from New York University and used Alonso to, as a means, to have the data and the information to support his needs without having to use me. That's what he did.

Q: I see.

A: I talked to Alonso about it in great length. I said Alonso you're selling your soul.

Q: And what did he say?

A: He said, oh no I'm not. He said I've never backed off the fact that I told everybody that talks to me that you did that and I just put my name on it. I said,,,,,, but Morris is not telling that to everybody.

Q: No. And it's not generally understood at all.

A: Well Alonso Myers didn't do any of it. He didn't write the questionnaires. He didn't compile the data. He didn't set up the tables. He did do some editing. He edited I think and it is probably is better for his editing because it's not quite as verbose as I was.



Q: Well he appears prominently in this book I was telling you about. I'm sorry to say that I can't find your name anywhere in this retrospect of the tenth anniversary. All the more reason I wanted to arrange this phone interview to try to. And then what?

A: Well I started off some time ago to tell you the two major things that I think that really actually other than the Southwestern Illinois Council, which became the vehicle through which this was all done and, incidentally, Morris tried to ignore Bob Lynn after that too...

Q: Um-hmm.

A: Because Bob Lynn never... He remained my friend and kept telling Morris that he was making a mistake.

Q: So now you're going to tell us these two other things.

A: One was the getting of the East St. Louis high school. There was a junior college in Belleville. I was never allowed at that point to have anything at the undergraduate level in Belleville because of the Junior College. They had some kind of an agreement there which I didn't know about.

But anyway East St. Louis and Alton both wanted junior colleges or colleges, but they didn't want to pay the tax for it. They wanted it from some other source. They didn't feel they had the support to get a tax levy passed. So East St. Louis was in the process of building a new high school. One of the men by the name of Ed Barnam

(sp unclear) and in the history of East St. Louis he is a very unsavory character. Coincidentally, he was on the school board at East St. Louis. He took invited me to go to the Missouri Athletic Club one day when he proposed that Southern Illinois University run an extension center or center for undergraduates in the old East St. Louis High School. I said well what are we going to have to pay. He said we'll arrange for a dollar a year. I said it sounds great to me.

I went to Carbondale. At that time I was in good standing with Morris and oh that sounded great, dollar a year. Well the interesting thing of this one happened and then I'll go to the second one, which I think makes colorful reading, is that the week before we were to sign this agreement at a board meeting with the East St. Louis School System, the people that were in the old Rock Junior High School next door to the old East St. Louis building, decided that they would like to get out of the old Rock High School. The principal, which sounds incredible, released all the kids for a half day from the school and sent them out on petitions all over East St. Louis to get signatures demanding that the old East St. Louis high school not be given to us, but be turned over to them for their junior high school - when they moved to the new high school under construction.

Q: Um-hmm.

A: I don't know how many thousands of names they had on those petitions. I went over to the school board meeting that they held to sign the agreement. The SIU board had authorized me to sign the

agreement. I went over that morning to the board meeting and these people all showed up at the board meeting with their petitions and saying what should be done and the board dutifully listened to what they had to say and said we think you have a very good point. We'll establish a special meeting on next Friday at ten o'clock to consider this issue of your petitions. These people all dutifully left saying okay we're going to get our hearing next Friday.

Well I went up to the board members. At that time a fellow by the name of Jackson, a black doctor on the board who was behind my program, and Ed Barnam... I said hey where does this leave us. I've got faculty members being hired. We're getting ready to use that place. Where do we go from here. Ed Barnam said we're going to lunch. Come back to the afternoon session. Everything will be all right. I said fine.

So I show up for the afternoon session. The first order of business of the East St. Louis school board was to pass an agreement to sign the lease agreement. And we all dutifully signed the lease agreement. I said to myself here we've signed the lease agreement. They're gonna discuss the petition next week at a special meeting. Then to my amazement the next order of business at the East St. Louis School Board was to say since we've signed a lease there's no point in us worrying about that next meeting, that petition meeting. Let's cancel it. So then they voted to cancel the meeting they had voted to have in the morning. Of course the people weren't there to hear it. They had all gone home by this time.

Q: Um-hmm.

A: I thought that's kind of an interesting side line.

Q: Yes.

A: And the other was the getting of the Shurtleff College. A man that lives in Alton by the name of Bob Maucker, he's an attorney in Alton I believe now, I don't know. He may be retired. I think he was older than I am. He was assistant to Marvin Swain, the president of the Alton Box Board. Marvin Swain was chairman of the board at Shurtleff College which had been on it's uppers financially for a number of years and was really academically bankrupt. And Swain had been trying every year using his own personal reputation, had gone out and raised enough money to balance the budget. He was tired of this going out in what he called panhandling, (I think that is the word he used,) to keep Shurtleff alive.

Maucker came to me and he said Harold, could SIU take this place over. And then of course I said, gee I don't know. And so we got to talking and we agreed to take it over on a lease purchase basis and I went down and even then I was still in good standing with Morris. Morris was absolutely ecstatic. Here we had a lease purchase agreement to take over Shurtleff College. Of course all of the rumors were that we were going from a god fearing to a godless institution all over the place.

Q: Yes.

A: And I was being preached about in the church pulpits of the Baptist church. They were praying for me which I'm sure I needed. Anyhow that solidified our having two on going locations to operate and establish the fact that we were there. I think those two things plus the purchase of the land in Edwardsville and moving out that land, really created the atmosphere on which this university could grow.

Q: Well yes.

A: Now the condition under which Shurtleff was taken over, I refused to take it if we had to automatically accept their faculty. Every faculty member had to be interviewed and meet our standards. I think we took only four or five.

Q: One was in history, Clair Girard .

A: We had a English person. We had a librarian which we had to later release.

Q: There was Ed Warren in music who stayed with us.

A: I think we took five including the head librarian. You weren't there when Eric Baber was director up there, were you?

Q: Well let me think. I came in August of '59.

A: Baber was gone. Probably Glenn was president.

Q: John Glenn signed my contract or Glenn issued my contract. I remember John Glenn quite well. Let me tell you a little story. When I came in, I brought my family from New York from Columbia University. And after I had been there a while I learned that there had been a two hundred dollar relocation grant and I went to John Glenn and said how can I apply for that two hundred. And he said oh you should have negotiated that up front. It's too late now.

A: Oh my gosh.

Q: And he wouldn't give me that crummy little two hundred because I hadn't been smart enough to ask for it.

A: Oh boy.

Q: Not a big deal but it bothered.

A: Well if you want to ask me later, it's just an interesting side line to the problem of Baber.

Q: Yes.

A: That was an interesting one too.

Q: Well let's, while we're getting all of this, let's get it.

A: This is a funny one really.

Q: We need some humor.

A: You've heard the case of the potted plant. All right this is the case of the potted plant.

Q: All right.

A: I got a call from the local paper. Paul Cowsley of the *Alton Telegraph* called me and said, I hear Eric Baber your director of the center up there is having an affair with a student. And I said, oh I can't believe that. I don't think that he has time for that but I... So okay. He's not having trouble.

So anyway then pretty soon the Presbyterian minister, the leader of the Presbyterian group met in the area and evidently the ministers in Alton reported and I got a call from the Minister's Association telling me Baber was having an affair in Alton. And I still didn't believe it. So I called up Howard Davis, who, incidentally Howard Davis and Dave Bear were the first two people hired. I'll tell you. We ought to go back to that.

Q: All right.

A: And he was then director of Student Affairs. I said Howard, I didn't mention names, I said have you heard any problems of any faculty members or administrators on that ex-Baptist school up there having an affair. And of course the ministers were saying here we got a man having an affair sitting in the same chair as Baptist ministers sat in. And he said no, no, no. I said nobody? - Howard I

said level with me. He said well the only one I've heard about, I shouldn't say it, is Baber. Well this was on a Saturday morning and I called Baber up and I said to him, I didn't tell him what I wanted, would you come down to East St. Louis to see me. I was still in the Broadview Hotel then. Will you come down to East St. Louis to see me and he come down.

And I hit him straight off with it. I said, I've got a problem. I said you're up there in Alton. I said the press wants to release a story. The ministers are after you about you having an affair. And I said they really... I said it's getting bigger all the time. And he said , Oh, no! I said, did you go to her house with an SIU car with SIU written all over, Southern Illinois University on the side. Yes I did. I said what were you doing over at her house. He said I was counseling her. I said counseling her. He said well she had a problem with her marriage and I was over counseling her. And I said do you do this for all the students in Alton off campus. He said well besides that I picked up a potted plant to take by to drop off to her to make her feel better. So that's my case of the potted plant.

Q: I see.

A: But anyway he gave me an un-dated signed resignation which I held in case it blew up. In those days,ndle it differently. But he eventually left at the end of the year. He was so uncomfortable because I guess everybody on the campus knew it. But I did get the *Telegraph* not to print it or do anything with it. We had such



tremendous coverage from the newspapers in that area. It was so positive all the time. They wouldn't print anything that I didn't want them to print. That includes the St. Louis papers.

Q: What are some humorous experiences?

A: Well I'll tell you two really interesting ones.

Q: All right.

A: We took over East St. Louis High School on July first - whichever year it was we took it over. My dates are not good.

Q: Well it was at least '59, probably '58.

A: And so we took it over and Gene Peebles went over there on the 30th with the people of the East St. Louis school place and he was let in. He took his staff down and we inventoried all the equipment in the East St. Louis High School building because we were to get everything including air conditioners and on down the line.

I always got to work about seven o'clock in the morning. About half past seven Gene Peebles comes in. His face is red. He could hardly talk. He had just been to the East St. Louis High School. There wasn't a piece of furniture left in the building. It had all been removed overnight. Everything.

Q: Wow.

A: Boy. We had just signed a contract which included the furniture. We were responsible for it. So I proceeded to call the superintendent of schools. And he said, oh my gosh. He was upset, a fellow by the name of Osborn ,but he was just a figurehead. The board ran the schools.

Q: Yes.

A: And Osborne said to me let me get back, give me a half hour. I'll get back to you. He called back and I said do you know I'm going to have to report this to the police. He said, don't report it to the police. I'll guarantee you if you'll give me 24 hours until tomorrow morning that it will all be back in place. I really felt kind of worried about that kind of an arrangement with my state responsibility.

I called down and I talked to John Rendleman, the legal council. I said, John my neck's out a mile long. I said should we report it to the police. They want to wait one day. He said okay. He said we'll wait one day. And so Gene came down and took his people and observed the building day and night. Gene saw and found them pick up, take trucks and got all the furniture had been put in a warehouse on the Swift Packing House grounds where Ed Barnam was mgr.. All of it was moved back that night.

Q: Well that's a great story.

A: And at the time it wasn't funny. Now I think it's funny. I guarantee you the next day we put new locks on every door.

Q: Had they taken equipment as well as furniture?

A: Oh they took everything that was in the place. It was just like it was vacant. They just cleaned it out but everything was brought back and put back exactly where it had come from. How they got it back in the same place is beyond me.

The other one which was really funny at the time was when we were collecting money for the buying the land out at the site and I had a meeting of the trade unions who had put an obligation of three dollars on each member. They had to come up - cough up three dollars a piece. There was about 500,000 in the area.

Q: Yeah.

A: And we were having a meeting in the basement in one of these conference rooms in a bank in Granite City. And they came that night. Most of them that came would give me a check. That night this guy came in with the plumbers union, the business manager of a plumbers union out of East St. Louis. He was feeling no pain. He came in with four big paper bags full of money. Shopping bags full of money. Well I wasn't about to take cash from a guy that was half loaded and then be accused of not showing up the right amount.

Q: Yes.

A: Well I immediately got on the phone and called Gene and asked him to get another staff member and came down to count the money which was 11,000 dollars and something in paper bags. Well that isn't the end of the story. The guy was really in his cups. He decided after he had turned the money over he wanted to go out and get another drink. I don't know how he got - how he got out of the place, but he picked up another man's coat. The other man had left his car keys in his coat. So he disappears and we found out later his car, he had parked in the back parking lot.

The other fellow had parked his car out on the street where he had gone and taken the keys. The poor guy had to get a ride home. So I had to take him home. The next morning I was on the phone calling the police in Granite City telling them not to remove the car and to please not give the man a ticket and tell him what had happened that he'd get over as soon as he could with another set of keys to get the car. And the guy that was loaded that night didn't show up for three days. He didn't get to his business office in three days. He'd gone on a real binge.

I think the other interesting thing is that in the Broadview Hotel the next floor up, my offices were all on the second floor, Buster Workman (sp unclear), the notorious racketeer of the area, had his offices above me.

Q: I'm just wondering if you stop and think a minute what else there might be you might want to add to this.

A: Well let's see the things that I really feel good about. I guess probably high on my list was the fact that I was able to convince what I consider the nucleus of a strong group of faculty people of young people and convince them to come and join the venture. I really felt great satisfaction in being able to sell an idea. I think that's probably my high, if I would look at something back that was my number one thing.

Q: Well that makes some of us old pioneers who you brought aboard feel pretty good.

A: And then the second thing I think is my enthusiasm, you know I always appreciated the enthusiasm of the faculty and the community working together in support of the bond issue. You know that the only two regions that passed the bond issue were the Cook County area and our area in the state of Illinois. They're the only two. We carried it by enough votes to carry the entire state. Not one other county in the whole state carried the bond issue.

Did you know that the faculty themselves contributed more money to running that campaign on the Edwardsville area with our small faculty, a very small faculty, I don't know maybe 160-65 at that time contributed more money than the total Carbondale campus.

Q: I didn't know that.

A: And I guess the manipulations in log rolling with Mayor Daley and back room agreements to get the 25 million dollars on the bond issue. I've always been happy about. And I guess the fund raising

campaign which for the first time brought labor, industry, business you know to the point that they were cooperating and even companies like Granite City Steel and so forth were saying for every dollar you donate we'll donate two and that type of thing.

Of course Spencer Olin really gave us a real kick off when he gave us \$50,000 and the fact that we could get... I've got to tell you I figured up one time, this I do remember, I went to over 200 individual back room labor meetings behind, most of them in rooms behind bars to raise money.

Q: And that would have been in all of your appointment books, I presume.

A: That would have been in my appointment books - every one of them. Yeah. I think the selection of the Edwardsville site. I feel very strongly that it's there because of the fact that I insisted on it being where it is. I probably lost my shirt in the process. The lease purchase agreement which I've said is Shurtleff and East St. Louis and of course the crowning jewel as far as I'm concerned is the Southwestern Council of Higher Education. Without that group of people during that whole period, Edwardsville campus would have never existed as it is at this point. I'm not saying eventually there wouldn't have been something there, but it would have been a lot longer getting there.

Q: Well most of us that know a little bit about that - that's about what all we do know is a little, agree with that completely.

A: It was my support group. In other words I met with the Executive Committee and I outlined what we wanted to do and they liked it so well they wanted to do it. This fellow Bob Lynn was a very hard worker and he always met his meetings with me.

Let's see if I have anything else I can think of. I don't really... I think my wife has much greater antagonism towards Morris than I do. I think she felt that I really didn't get to know my daughter during those five years. And I was never at home before 10-11 o'clock at night because I was speaking practically every night. I think she felt that I was wedded to that campus rather than to her.

Q: Well I'd like to make a suggestion and that is, the next time you and your wife are in the St. Louis area I wish you'd permit me to set up a luncheon and show you folks around.

A: Oh. We'd like to do that.

Q: Well...

A: I'm gonna do that. I'm gonna come up one of these days because I - I still have a sister that lives in Webster Groves.

Q: Well excellent. Let me know and I'll set up, as I say, a luncheon and I think we should give you the grand tour. I think both you and your wife would, well it would be interesting and you're wife

might feel a little bit better about it and you might. And besides you just should do it anyway. And so please accept this invitation and let me know.

A: I will let you know. I guess if I were just being honest with you, I talked to Rendleman when he was president a number of times. He called me to ask me about individuals at times.

Q: Yes.

A: And Rendleman kept saying that he was going to invite me there and they were going to have some kind of a function for me and so forth, etcetera. But he just, I know that he couldn't, he could not do it with his allegiance to Morris.

Q: Well they're both gone for better or for worse.

A: Is Morris dead too?

Q: Oh goodness yes. He had Alzheimers at the last.

A: Somebody told me he did.

Q: I'll just share this with you. I think it was the tenth anniversary and Morris spoke and something clicked and he couldn't remember where he was or what was going on and just had to sit down. It was excruciatingly embarrassing. And Rendleman who was dying of



emphysema took over. And that was, it was our tenth anniversary, but to those of us that knew what was going on it was a very sobering experience.

A: Well I had hoped at some point that they would have the courtesy at one of their celebrations that someone along the line would be big enough to say hey this guy gave five years you know he gave five years of his life to it and bring him back and see the, let him have a part in the celebration.

Q: Well of course. It's inexcusable. Hence my little gesture which I do hope you will accept.

A: Well is there anything else I can tell you?

I've enjoyed talking about it again. I was amazed I can remember all those names.

Q: Well I'm amazed too, kind of winging it that way, but it is candid. It is fresh. It is good. And I don't know that you know David Werner. You probably don't but he's the Vice President and Provost who put me on the summer budget to do this. I was reporting to him yesterday and he was most interested that you had agreed to do this as will a lot of people. So I feel good. I hope you do.

And I hope we can meet again since you did bring me aboard or one of the reasons I came aboard anyway and I've loved it. I've never been tempted to leave. The university has treated me very well. I've been very happy here since '59.

A: I'm still doing considerable consulting about one trip or two trips a year out of the country. I go, I do consulting in Brazil and in Peru and a lot in Thailand. I've spent about, in the last ten years since I left the University of Bridgeport, I've spent about five years overseas doing various consulting jobs.

Q: Well you're still in harness than.

A: No. I'm still consulting on university development. In fact I'm on a continuing contract in Thailand.

Q: Um-hmm.

A: I tell you, what I did, anything I did at Edwardsville and that everything else I've ever done pales by comparison with the exhilaration it gave me.

Q: Well I'll run down some of the old timers. We'll have an old timers luncheon here or something and it could be extremely pleasant.

A: Incidentally I have seen Cam Meredith. He's come by. He came by to see me here in South Carolina one day. I've talked to Myron Bishop, but I haven't seen him. I guess he's not in good shape.

Q: He's had a stroke or two and is, regretfully, in very bad shape.

A: Yeah. And I've talked to Going because Going is going to move to, a year from September, is moving to one of these total retirement places connected with Duke University.

Q: Yes.

A: He's taking an apartment and we're moving there and taking a cottage.

Q: Oh. I wish you could get him to go on tape. He'll talk to me off the record but he won't put anything on tape.

A: Why not?

Q: I don't know. He's very cautious and...

A: I don't understand it because he certainly sat...

Q: Yes.

A: ...he practically knows nothing about because he stays - Bill was focused on academics only. He had no interest even in the financial aspects of it.

Q: Yes.

A: But this was good because he became sort of Mr. Inside for me. Now he certainly should be able to give you his views of Morris.

Q: Well I'll keep trying. He wrote me a few things but...

A: He really had... He had his rounds with Morris too.

Q: Well I'll try again. I'll tell him that you and I chatted for a long time and...

A: Tell him that I said he ought to give his version of the story.

Q: All right that might...

A: Just tell him I said so.

Q: That might make it work.

A: Because I think it's good to get it from more than one person because he's probably sitting in the office seeing it going swirling around him. Have you talked to Raymond Spahn?

Q: No. I may yet. I'm only a third of my way into this and...

A: The reason I say that, during a lot of this time he was handling all the news releases and he had to have the information to write the news releases.

Q: Well he would be a good one. I have talked with Mildred. I told you that.

A: Well Ray will be probably again a very cautious soul.

Q: I suspect.

A: Very, I'm just giving you my own personal, he'd be much more cautious than Mildred.

Q: Well...

A: Okay.

Q: Thanks for this and we'll keep in touch.

A: What is your address there, Stanley.

Q: I prefer to use my business. So it's SIUE. Well thanks again for correcting and amending the record and adding to it.

I hope we meet in the fall sometime.

A: I hope so.

Q: All right.

A: Thank-you. Bye-bye.

Q: Bye.

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