

**Patrick Riddleberger, Professor Emeritus of Historical Studies**  
**Transcript of Interview for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SIUE Oral History Project**  
**Interviewed by Ellen Nore-Nordhouser**  
**November 1, 2005**

Ellen Nore [EN]: Patrick Riddleberger, It's Tuesday, November 1st, 2005. [Paper Rustling] And um, I'd like you to start by just talking about how you happened to come to SIU? And what is your first memory of SIU? Of, and which part of the, uh, extension branch campuses did you teach at?

Patrick Riddleberger [PR]: Okay.

EN: Anything you want to share about it.

PR: Shall I start?

EN: Sure.

PR: Well, I came because I needed a job. I was at the University of Maryland, and I didn't get tenure, along with a lot of other people. Including Earl Beard, who later came here and became a Vice-Chancellor or Vice-President, I think he was called then. And I was looking for a job and somebody, um, ran across uh, an advertisement for a little Alton campus. And ah, I thought that sounded pretty good. It was a job, that was the main thing. It was a job.

EN: A job, okay.

PR: And ah, so I, I guess I talked to some people on the phone. I think it was [Herbert] Rosenthal probably that I talked to on the phone, and then, they had me in for an interview, and I came out by the - do you know trains [EN Laughs] were still running frequently then from Washington, and I got off in East St. Louis. And Bob Ericson met me there. And then I think we came up to Alton first and I met other people. And looked to me like an interesting place, but I would have taken the job anyway. It was the only job I had [EN and PR Laugh]. Um, ah, the little Shurtleff Campus is where it was being established, and I thought that was a pretty place, and sort of bucolic, and it appealed to me very much. And then, ah I guess by phone they interview...a lot of people, I talked to a lot of people, including Rosenthal [Herbert], mainly Rosenthal and [Robert] Ericson and [William] Going, and uh, it seems to me that they didn't guarantee me a job yet, but uh, I went back home, and I think they called me. Was that at...Anyway, I guess I found out that I did have the job, and it seems to me at that visit, of course, I think, I think I did, I was uh, I think it was guaranteed me - the job was guaranteed me, and uh, at 7,500 dollars a year...

EN: Oh.

PR: ...which was just great for me because I'd been at the University of Maryland, and not only were the salaries abysmally low but getting promoted and getting tenure was like almost an act

of God. So [PR Laughs] anyway, that looked pretty good to me! And so, I didn't, I'm not much of a barterer anyway. Probably would've not done anything good if I'd tried to barter, so I said, "Fine! That sounds great." And I agreed to come.

EN: And you were on the Alton Campus?

PR: I was on the Alton Campus. I think all of us moved back and forth a little bit, not much. I think I taught maybe one course at the East St. Louis Campus.

EN: Do you remember your first class at SIU?

PR: Ah, it seems to me it was in that uh, sort of classroom building up there, of Shurtleff College, and it was a sort of auditorium there. Ah, I think the seats went up - like that. And uh, um, it was kind of nice, I thought. I'd never taught in any place like that before, it was. I guess [it was] the major classroom on the Shurtleff College campus. And that's that's where I taught, that's where I went, and that's what I remember the most vividly - was teaching there. I'm sure I taught some other courses or other classes elsewhere but, that's the one I remember particularly. Uh, I, I got to like the place a lot! And ah, I thought it was fun, and I thought it was something new, and it looked like it might develop. We didn't know what what was going to happen, but I thought it was very challenging, and I became very interested in it. And ah, uh...

EN: Do you remember the faculty as having uh, any, any common feeling about the place or?

PR: I think we did. I think we did. I think there's a kind of camaraderie and some very good people here. Ah, Jules Zanger was here, for example. And ah, Susan, somebody else in English was here...and uh, ah, a real scholar...

EN: Nicholas Joost?

PR: Ya-yes, right. I think somebody had the notion of, of uh, trying to make this into not only an undergraduate place but a graduate place. And on that basis, they got people like Zanger and Joost, particularly Joost was a published scholar. And uh um, Eric Sturley I remember, is one of the...Eric Sturley is somebody you might interview. Ah...

EN: Yes, he goes to your church, doesn't he?

PR: He go, ya know, he goes to the Unitarian church in Alton.

EN: Oh, okay.

PR: His wife goes to our church.

EN: Oh, Okay.

PR: Ah, he's an interesting fella, he's quite old now, but I think he thinks straight and that kind of thing, and uh, I think you'd find him to be interesting. He was a, he was a great fellow I think,

he was friendly and nice and I liked him a lot, I think everybody did. He had a, lived in a nice house, and they entertained, and, and I remember him quite warmly, him and his wife ah. They later separated, and he married an an Edwardsville woman, and he's still, he's still there. And he, I don't mean he's in the same house, but he lives in Grandview not far from me.

EN: I see.

PR: Ah, he's one of the people I, I remember. Ah, John Taylor's mother was teaching there.

EN: Marian Taylor!

PR: Teaching English, Marian Taylor! She was a delightful old lady and ah, I think, a very fine teacher. She was a very sweet person, I think devoted to teaching and devoted to the study of the English, ah study of the English uh, of the study of literature I should say. And ah people, people liked her a lot, the faculty and the students liked her. Then there's another guy who stood out, but I can't remember his name. I can't remember his name.

EN: Was it Larry [Laurence] McAneny?

PR: No, you know, that is somebody else, why, Larry McAneny was here and I... he might have come the same time I did. He may have come a year or so before me. Ah, he was in physics and also was one of the outstanding teachers. And ah, another one was a Botanist for whom the uh, it's the uh, I can't think of its name...

EN: The Arboretum, Myer. Donal Myer.

PR: Yeah, right. Right. Right. Don-Don Myer, he was a very great tall fella, and very friendly, and he was and um, ah he was outstanding, and everybody sorta looked up to him. He was a leader for as long as he was here. He died, I'm sorry to say. Ah, not too long after that, but he was an outstanding teacher, and an outstanding person. Ah, he was a, he was a very important person here. But there were others whose name I wish I, names I wish I could remember. Ah, well, these are some of the outstanding people.

EN: Do you remember moving into the Peck Building? I mean, did you, did you have an office right away when the building opened?

PR Yeah, this is it!

EN: This is it!

PR: Right.

EN: This was your original office? [EN Laughs]

PR: Yeah, when we moved, when we moved here.

EN: Oh!

PR: When we...This was in '65. I went to India on a Fulbright in '64 and five, and I came back and the first buildings on the campus, namely the Peck building and the uh, and the uh, library opened. And we ah, we ate in the basement of the library. Uh, it wasn't a cafeteria or anything like that but ah. They had machines out of which we got food. And we managed to do all right. And I remember that the, there were some birds flying around in there [PR and EN Laugh].

EN: In the library!

PR: Yeah, well, in, in, in the place downstairs...

EN: In the cafeteria.

PR: ...Where we had our restaurant, and I used to laugh at students because I had just come back from India and birds were always flying around in restaurants and places to eat there [EN and PR Laugh]. So, I would comment on that, "Don't worry about that." You know, something like that, anyway, ah that's something I remember. And then, the library, as I recall, was pretty good. I think Shurtleff College had a pretty good librarian, so it seems to me we had more books than one could expect normally here...

EN: Did you know Dr. [John] Abbott?

PR: Oh, sure, sure.

EN: John Abbott.

PR: I think he came the same year I did.

EN: 1960.

PR: 6... '60. And he was the librarian, yeah, oh, of course, I knew him. Not only was he a librarian and he came from New England, and he was a tennis player. He loved to play tennis. And played it pretty well. Another tennis player was [John] Jack Ades. And that's somebody you might interview.

EN: Yes.

PR: Jack and Connie Ades. And Jack brought some character and, I think, some quality to the, to the place. And um, I don't know, these are among the outstanding people.

EN: Did you, did your trip to India, do you think it make a difference in your, in your political views? Or your views as a teacher or...?

PR: Uh, as a teacher...I don't know, I taught. I, I had two jobs in India, I uh, I was...I taught in a sort of up-country, ah, University that had just been founded, Marathwada University, which was

in a place called Aurangabad, which was, ah, I used to call it an Indian village of 100,000 people [EN and PR Laugh]. And then, I got pushed into another job which I never dreamed of. Well, in fact, they told me in Washington I might, but anyway, ah they were just founding the, the American Studies Research Center there in Hyderabad, and uh, it was just beginning. And ah, the person in charge of the Fulbright Program...and it was a woman, and she didn't get along with the ah man who had been running that. And so, I, I thought I was, from what they told me in Washington, I was supposed to go down there to work part-time, very soon after I got there. But she didn't want me to meet him [EN and PR Laugh].

EN: Oh dear.

PR: Anyway, so I didn't go down there for quite some time. And then, I went back, back and forth. And that was kind of interesting. I went back and forth by a little narrow gaged railroad. I had to go back and forth twice a week. I would teach at Marathwada, and then I'd leave about Tuesday. And go down to Hyderabad, which was 300 miles away. And uh, try to get that place going. And then I'd come back, and I'd go back and forth. And I remember that I had never read all of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* before [EN Laughs]. So, I had three little volumes I could carry easily, and uh, and on this, on this night train, I saw a lot of Indians, a lot of people crowding on to those, the train. Sometimes I'd find a little booth, a little place where I could lie down and sleep and had a light over me, and I read ah, ah there and back, back and back in Aurangabad I finished reading Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. And I thought it was a very good environment in which to read that.

EN: [EN Laughs] Yes, yes.

PR: You'd have thought that maybe I got something out of it. But I enjoyed it very much under those circumstances. And it was quite vivid to me. And that's one of the little things I remember. But uh, then ah, after a year there, I came back here and uh, and uh what, uh just began teaching again. That was, that was '65.

EN: Did the buildings seem...very modern and strange to you? When it was...

PR: Oh, yes, they did. Yes, they did. But I think one could see immediately the, uh, Japanese influence in them [paper rustling] and uh, especially in the first buildings. Who was the Japanese architect, who was in...?

EN: Gyo Obata.

PR: Right, right. So, I thought they were interesting buildings. They weren't traditional buildings; they weren't the kind of buildings I had seen at Maryland or even in Virginia or anything like that. Uh, I found them kind of interesting, and uh, I got to like the place very, very much. And uh, more, the more, longer I stayed, the luckier I felt that I was. Then people began to come in like you and Norm [Norman Nordhauser]. And uh, I just felt we had a real place here, you know. I felt that pretty early.

EN: Well you, you appear a lot in the records, as a leader of the faculty.

PR: Well, it, it wasn't much. We had an AAUP then.

EN: Yes.

PR: And I'm not very good at those jobs. I never seek them. But [PR pauses] somehow, I was elected President of the AAUP. And uh, I don't remember what we, what we did there too much. Anyway, I think for a year, I was chair of that thing, and I got by all right. Oh yes, another fellow who was here was Murphy. Ah, what was his first na...?

EN: Garry - Garry Murphy.

PR: Garry Murphy, yeah. And he taught Shakespeare, and my impression was he was a Shakespearian. And um, he was a very interesting, bright fellow. Should I, can I say, he was a, he was, he had a real problem as a, as an al-alcoholic. And uh, I don't think he would mind if I say that. That was uh something that marked him. But he was a very sweet guy and married to a woman who had the same problem. But they were very sweet people. And had two sons, as I recall. And I didn't see that their alcoholism affected these sons at all. It seems to me that they loved them very much, and this didn't affect them and, seems to me the sons were in good shape at that time, I don't remember what happened to them. But anyway, they were very nice people, I thought. And Garry was a very thoughtful man. We did organize teach-ins!

EN: Yes, I was going to ask about that.

PR: Yeah, I think that was here [Edwardsville]. I think, having to do with the Vietnam War. And I was elected the President of an Edwardsville Anti-Vietnam thing. And I don't remember it much except that we had meetings, and we did have some teach-ins. And we got television coverage from St. Louis television stations. And uh, um, that was that. Different people spoke. And that was kind of interesting, something going on in colleges, at the universities at that time.

EN: You had a letter published in the Congressional Record.

PR: Yeah. I did. I did. I wrote a letter. Uh I don't do that as a rule. I don't like to particularly. But um, I thought that um, John - President Johnson was abusing his privileges as President. Doing things he was...for example, he was using people who had gained the Congressional Medal of Honor to advertise the Vietnam War, that kind of thing. Johnson struck me as a, as a very interesting President. He was so right on one thing, and so wrong on the other. And uh I just thought he was terrible, and the things he would do to try to stir up support for himself, uh, on the Vietnam War. And that was why I wrote that letter. And I just said that uh, part of it was that uh he had misquoted Lincoln and misused Lincoln, Lincoln never meant anything like what he was claiming. And uh, so I did make that point. And then I said that, I think I said that, that I didn't enjoy writing these letters, I don't like to do that, that I, that I would prefer not to, but that I thought that, I thought professors oughta stay quiet and take care of their work with students and their scholarship. Ah, but that in this case, that if you have some special knowledge uh, and somebody is taking that kind of knowledge and, and misusing it. That I thought a professor then should come out. I didn't feel bad about that. But that's why I did this. And um, so that, that was

the essence of that letter, yeah. And, of course, then Johnson then was really driven from the Presidency by the Vietnam War. And, uh, I never will forget it.

EN: Did you have some, did you have graduate students we... I think that History got their Master's program in 1967?

PR: I don't, I don't remember any graduate students on the, on the Alton campus. I don't remember exactly when they came here. '67 sounds about right, yeah. It does.

EN: I've talked to you, or I've asked you before about John Rendleman.

PR: Oh yeah, I knew John Rendleman very well.

EN: And, I'm, I'm wondering about his leadership.

PR: About what?

EN: About his leadership.

PR: Well, I think he, I think he was here at a very difficult time. He was here during the Vietnam War and the rumpus about the Vietnam War. And a, and there were, ah, very ah, students who treated him very, very roughly, and insisted that he must do...that he must come out against the Vietnam War, and uh, I think without realizing what his job involved. And um, ah there was a big meeting over in the, over in the ah, over in the Rendleman building. Well no, I'm sorry, in the ah, in the student building, you know, where the public cafeteria and restaurant are now. A big meeting over there in that central little place on the first floor.

EN: Yes, in the Goshen Lounge.

PR: Yeah, and these students were so terribly rude to him. And he tried to tell 'em that he really couldn't, in his position, he couldn't take a stand on the Vietnam War. Ah, I think he indicated that he was sympathetic to them, but he simply couldn't do this. I felt for him, because they were, they were cursing him and very nasty to him. And I, he, I, you know, he was up against this, and I think it went on for a couple of days. And he called me and asked me if I would be with him. And I said, "Yes." So, I went over on one of those days. I just, I was simply there. I may have said something to individual students. I didn't make a speech or anything like that.

Um, but ah, John Rendleman was a charming man, just a charming man! Ah, he was a politician himself, a lawyer, and involved in politics. But ah, he was just a charming person. And uh, he had a son here who is now a lawyer in Carbondale, a very bright son. Ah, I liked him very much.

And also, uh the world-renowned, ah you know, the man who did, did the the, the dome and the Religious...

EN: Oh, Buckminster Fuller.

PR: That's right, Buckminster Fuller was here! And Buckminster Fuller took a great liking to John Rendleman. And John Rendleman died at 48. And had cancer, and suffered terribly, but tried to run the place. And uh, he couldn't sit up. So, he would kneel, hands and knees, on, on the back seat of a car when a driver would drive him around. It was very, very pathetic. And I saw him just a few days before he died in in a hospital. Where was it, I think out in... anyway? He was a very appealing man, I thought. I'm sure, as we all do, he had his faults, but I think he was a very appealing man, very popular. And uh, I don't know, I had the feeling one would sympathize with him. He had to meet some tough problems here. And he had to work with [Delyte] Morris, even though he came up from Carbondale himself. And uh, he somehow felt inferior or beneath faculty people with a Ph.D. I tried to tell him, "John, you're a lawyer. You have a degree that's just as important as ours! Don't feel that way." [PR and EN Laugh] You know. And I tried to ease his pain about that. He really felt sort of "under," you know, as far as education was concerned. Well, he wasn't educated the same way we were, but uh, and he had another kind of education, certainly not a bad one, and he knew a lot. But he was a politician and uh, and uh that was his nature. But uh, I just liked him, and I just thought he was a very sympathetic person. I think he, he might not have been the greatest uh, administrator-that kind of thing. He had gotten into some trouble and owing to his politics, but I thought he brought something here at a time when it was needed. And his death was so tragic. I had his, I had his son in a couple of my classes. And his son was trying to find himself, and, you know, he was a young man, he was trying to find himself, what he was going to do. And, he uh, had his lumps, but he eventually came through. Went to the SIU Law School, and my impression is, is uh, um, is uh a very successful lawyer in Carbondale. Finally married, he has four daughters [EN Laughs]. And uh, I haven't seen him for a long time. But uh, anyway, he's come through and done well. But he was a student. Very-very bright and very, very articulate. It was nice to have him in my... Very active in student government. I think he was President of the Student Government and Body. And those kinds of things.

EN: Do you remember Andrew Kochman?

PR: Oh sure, sure. I remember him well. He was in the ah, in ah, he was in Theatre, what do you, was that the joined department ah, Theatre an...

EN: Theatre, Art, and Design Communications...

PR: Oh yeah, sure, I knew him quite well. And he was President for a while.

EN: Yes.

PR: He was a smooth and good-looking fella and quite smooth. And he loved to travel on rivers, that's one of his hobbies, was, was getting a boat and going up and down all kinds of rivers, which sounds, sounds to me like [EN Laughs] a kind of interesting thing to do. Ah, ah, I remember him as being, as being a, a, an effective President. Now, I wouldn't say outstanding, but uh ah, I think he was sort of a keeper of the peace er, during a period of time when there wasn't one available like that, and I think he served. It seems to me he served in that purpose, as a kind of interim President. I may be mistaken about that...?



EN: No, he was, he was an acting President. And he applied for the...to be President.

PR: I believe he did.

EN: But I think he wasn't one of the finalists.

PR: Yeah, yeah. I'm just not sure how he got into it.

EN: Search committee. I wonder if this is stopped, here [checking the recorder], no not yet, okay. Just have to keep checking. It doesn't make a noise when it stops.

PR: I don't hear a thing, Ellen, it's fine.

EN: Well, I've been asking you about...is, are there any moments in the history of the University that stand out in your mind?

PR: [PR and EN Laugh] Well, I got elected somehow. I, I, I was a, I fooled people as to what my abilities were, and something about me, uh got me elected [PR Laughs]. I got elected to the University Council. And uh University Council is a group of people from this campus and Carbondale. We would meet rather frequently, and uh, usually we'd meet in Carbondale, it seems to me, but sometimes we'd meet halfway, and we'd drive and uh. We had a little airplane. I think there was one airplane, we'd fly back and forth. [PR and EN Laugh] I hate to fly, but anyway. Sometimes they'd fly us back and forth, that wasn't any great favor to me. But anyway [PR and EN Laugh], anyway, and uh, I remember [Delyte] Morris, and what an amazing man Morris was.

EN: He presided over that.

PR: Oh yes, indeed. He presided over everything. And there was a great deal of enmity toward Morris on this campus and, and also, of course, the Alton campus at that time. Because a good many people who were here, uh liked a fella named See. I don't know how you spell his name.

EN: Harold See. S-E-E.

PR: Yeah, I didn't, I didn't meet him until later, but uh, according to these people who served under See, and liked him so much, they thought that Morris had gotten him fired, because Morris was, had fired him, I guess, is the best - better way to put it. 'Cause, he didn't, he thought he was taking... Morris thought he was taking some of the, some of the power or something here away from him. I'm not sure how it happened.

But um, Howard Davis was also another of the leaders here. Howard Davis was in counseling. And a very, very nice fellow. And able fellow. Howard Davis is one of those who couldn't stand Morris, and there were a number of them. But I think Morris was just a, a remarkable promoter, you know [PR and EN Laugh]. And uh, I mean, he came down there in Southern Illinois, and he picked up that little teachers' college down there and made it into a University and then, uh, I think, his promotional talents were very much felt here. And um, I

think they must have had a great deal to do with, with the founding of this place. And uh, I don't feel bad about a Morris Hall over there [PR Laughs], you know, but, but some of the people would just be angry all the time at Morris [PR and EN Laugh]. Um, Morris was a very clever man. He could always manipulate. He really knew how to manipulate things. He could, he could direct the conversation or the discussion in such a way, and if things ever went the way he didn't want it to go, he would abruptly stop it [PR Laughs], you know. So, I remem...I remember both the uh University Council meetings. And there was an outstanding member down there, from Carbondale, uh an economist, my goodness, why can't I remember these names. He and I were friends, oh, Hick...Hickman. [Riddleberger is likely referring to Charles Addison Hickman]

EN: Let's see, Hickman.

PR: Ah, ah, what's his first name? Anyway, he was on that Council as well. And he saw Morris' weaknesses, but I think he saw his strengths. But Hickman was just an outstanding man, he'd been a debater in college. And he knew all the techniques and he knew when to keep quiet and when not to for one thing. And that's a very good thing to know. And I remember him very vividly. And he and I got to be friends. And in fact, he died too, prematurely. And I went down once or twice to see his wife. She has a vivid memory of him and holds on to everything he had at home. And he, he was a, he, he was a scholar, and he's the cousin, or maybe the uncle, of the very famous economist who went to, who was at MIT and has written books, oh you know who I'm talking about...ah.

EN: Oh. The one who wrote the books about, that were the foundation of liberal economics.

PR: No, not that, he wrote a, he's written textbooks and other things too. But he was MIT, and he was chair. He was a Dean there. And in that post. I mean I've got his books at home, why can't I remember these things. I'm too old to remember these things. Anyway, he was outstanding, and I never met him, but Hickman was his uncle, I think, it was a pretty close relationship.

EN: Did you know Charles Tenney?

PR: Huh?

EN: Did you know a man from Carbondale name Charles Tenney?

PR: Tenney?

EN: Yes, Charles Tenney.

PR: That name rings a bell; I can't place him.

EN: Okay, you might not have known him. I just wondered.

PR: Yeah, we had a very eccentric man here, uh, who had been a Marine. And had been in fact, he'd been in the uh, in World War II out in the Pacific. And been in one of the outfits, at the very, very top outfits, ranger outfits, I think. And uh, he didn't talk about that at all [EN Laughs], but

he, he objected to all kinds of things. And he was a strange, strange fella. And he would go public on all these things [PR Laughs]. He became a terrible nuisance to the, to the town. He lived in Alton, I believe. And there were many complaints about him. I think they saw him as the kind of guy who would come in with the university, and disrupt things. But uh, oh yeah, he would object on Sunday morning to the church bells [PR and EN Laugh]. Which he said woke him up too early, things like that. I think Hinzley [phonetic] was his name.

EN: Hinzley.

PR: Hinzley.

EN: Yes, I've seen his name.

PR: Yeah.

EN: Well, there were lots of people. That was one thing I noticed. There were so many veterans of World War II in these...

PR: Oh yeah, a great many.

EN: Bob [Robert] Dunkin and...

PR: Yeah, and Bob Hawkins, I remember very, very vividly. Bob Hawkins was um, in Speech. I think Bob Hawkins is one of the most perfect human beings I have ever known. Really a gentleman. Wonderful manners. But, a truly gentle person. Uh, if Bob Hawkins ever had any ill feelings about anybody, I never detected it, and I got to know him well. And I, I eventually told him I thought he was a superior human being. He was embarrassed by that. And he died too. Uh, and uh, oh Hinzley was married to a very nice woman, who stayed with him and tried to help him. And then um, Bob Hawkins married her, and they had a very, very nice successful marriage.

EN: Who...

PR: But Hawkins, now Hawkins, went to Germany and grew up and taught on the Maryland [University of Maryland] overseas program for a while. Hawkins was a bicyclist, loved to ride bicycles. And then he would ride all, he and his wife would ride many, many places in the world. And they had a good life together. And then, um, Holtman, Homan or Holtman... Zeke, Zeke er...

EN: Lyman Holden, "Zeke" Holden.

PR: Yeah, sure. Yeah, Zeke, Zeke, was his name. He toured. He was in math. And I think he didn't have more than a master's degree, so they had him go back and get another degree. It was primarily a teaching thing somewhere. But that sufficed. And he stayed until just a couple of years ago.

EN: Yes, I, I'm going to interview him. We haven't set up a date yet, but I'm going to.

PR: Okay, okay, good, oh, he'd be a very good one to interview. Well, we lived in Alton, and we used to ride bikes, we used to ride it up the uh, up the river road, up to uh, to uh...

EN: Grafton?

PR: Huh, Graf-Grafton...but not so far to Grafton.

EN: To Elsay.

PR: Huh?

EN: Elsay.

PR: Elsay. Elsay, now we used to take a lunch. And there's a little park there—Elsah, of course where the ah, ah, where the uh, where the uh, college of the uh.

EN: Yes, Principia.

PR: Yeah, right. Uh, and anyway, we used to do that. We used to ride bikes a lot. That was a great thing to do, good exercise, and going up there by the river. And when I first came here, I lived in an apartment up there, looking down the river at the mill here in Alton.

EN: Oh!

PR: And um, then I got married, and my wife, young wife came out here, and she didn't like it, I'm sorry to say [paper rustling]. So, that ended. And uh, anyway, I'm not going to go into that deeply.

EN: Okay.

PR: But uh, anyway uh. You know, many of us had our ups and downs here. There was another fellow, I think, in Geography. He went up to the University of uh, Nebraska at ah...

EN: Lincoln?

PR: Huh? No, not Lincoln.

EN: In Omaha?

[Redacted at the Interviewee's Request]

PR: Huh?

EN: I won't type it in.

PR: Oh, no, I'm sure you won't. I don't know. That's just the sorta flipside I'm talking. Anyway...

EN: Right, it's part of how you know people.

PR: Huh?

EN: It's part of how you know people.

PR: Sure, sure.

EN: Goodness, you're certainly talking to someone with a huge past [EN Laughs].

PR: What?

EN: I said you're certainly talking to someone whose had ups and downs [EN Laughs] so...

PR: Well, I have had too many. I'm just a fool [PR and EN Laugh]. Don't worry, anyway, at 90, I think that's over now. I hope so [PR and EN Laugh]. Anyway, forget that stuff.

EN: I wanted to ask you, now Earl Beard came as Dean of Social Science.

PR: That's right, he did.

EN: And what happened in 1972? Norman [Nordhouser] and I always wondered because we, we went to Southern California for that year. And then when we came back, he wasn't Dean anymore. And he never said anything about it.

PR: Oh.

EN: Do you know what happened? I have a...

PR: Oh, he was upgraded to, to, to a Vice-President.

EN: Oh, okay.

PR: He became Vice-President for uh, for management. I think the same job that uh, that uh, oh, was it Meyer - not Meyer.

EN: Ken [Kenneth] Neher.

PR: Huh?

EN: Ken Neher.

PR: Huh, yeah, that's it. Oh yeah, another person who's outstanding. I think I mentioned him. Oh yeah, the guy that the Arboretum is named for that I mentioned.

EN: Donal Marv... Myer.

PR: Yeah, right. But there were lesser people around and good people. And uh, I made friends with a lot of students. I made friends with a lot of people down in Granite City. And these, some of these, some of these, these were from um South-East...they were not far back from South-Eastern Europe. Sometimes their parents were, and I got to know a lot of those people. I enjoyed that. And sometimes the the, they continued the the festive dances from that area, you know. And uh there was a, there was a bar down there in Granite City. And these people would do those dances that were common to Yugoslavia and that whole area, you know. And one was named Dale Gushlaff, and I got to know him quite well...

EN: How...

PR: ...And his father had a grocery store in Granite City. And I used to go down there. And there were a lot of them. And they were sort of radicals, you know, sorta the radicals coming out of that neighboring people, and uh people like that, and I thought they were very, very-very interesting indeed. I, I enjoyed them a lot.

EN: How did you meet them?

PR: Oh, I met them as students, and some of them were up, up here as students who didn't, you know, want to be here on a regular basis. But Gushlaff--is the one that I think ah...

EN: How do you spell his name?

PR: G-U-S-H-L-A-F-F, I think. Maybe it's only one "F." I, I've sort of lost touch with him. But uh, I was back in touch with him not too long ago. He's sort of in education and politics. I think he was ah, on the staff of ah, the President we had a few years ago who didn't work out very well, that big tall fella.

EN: Oh, Buzz Shaw [Kenneth 'Buzz' Shaw]. No.

PR: Oh, no, no, not Shaw. No, not Shaw. Quite the contrary. You know the big guy who came out of the education department in Washington. I think he'd been an uh, in, in, in the education department of one of the uh Region [phonetic] or somebody...

EN: Oh, the one who was the President of the system!

PR: Yeah, right. Sure.

EN: Oh, okay. The system President, yes, I can't remember. I haven't come to him in the boxes yet. I'm still...Shaw is still President where I am, too.

PR: Oh, Shaw. Yeah, Shaw. Shaw was something, and uh, you know, Shaw is now President of Syracuse University.

EN: Yes.

PR: And then Shaw, left here and became head of the whole system in Wisconsin. And he had some trouble there, but he has, um, he has uh, been at Syracuse, and apparently, he's very successful there. I've got a kind of connection with him there because, uh, my daughter's husband is a Syracuse alumnus. And they go up there. And my daughter and Matt Shaw dated once. And he's a great, great success there. Shaw, of course, as a local boy, and uh was a basketball star at Edwardsville High School.

EN: Yes.

PR: Anyway, uh he, he did very well as an administrator. He used to have some, some knack of making it work. And uh, also, who am I trying. Somebody else I'm trying to think about. It'll come to my mind in a few minutes.

EN: Earl Lazerson.

PR: Earl Lazerson, yeah, of course. He's more recent. I had my innings with Lazerson, but ah.

EN: I know! You made a famous speech.

PR: Huh?

EN He gave this State of the University Address. Where, and, and, and you stood up and said, you felt...

PR: Oh yeah, that's true. I disagreed with him, I disagreed with him in the Address...

EN: He was out of contact...

PR: ...but I thought that I was too hard on him. And I had the opportunity to try to correct that, because when he left, they had a dinner for him.

EN: Yes.

PR: And, and, and a public meeting. And I thought I was too hard on him, and uh, I thought this was my own problem, not his problem. And uh, I wanted to participate in that. But I thought I had to, I couldn't go there and do that without straightening out some things. So, I told them that I thought I was uh, I had gone too far and gone over the line there and that I thought he'd done some good things. I said, "I thought he had brought us through a, through a financial crisis," and [audio cuts out for several seconds] Uh, I think that was a. I don't know what, why I did that. I mean, I may even have been right. I thought that our, I was afraid that our academic standards were slip... [rumbling noise]. I'm sorry.

EN: Oh, it's okay.

PR: I was afraid our academic standards were slipping, and maybe I was too, too concerned about that. I mean I think faculty should do their own jobs to the best they can, not worry too much about what other people do. I do think I had gone over the line there, that's all. I just. So, I hope I corrected it. I think he appreciated it. And uh, but ah, I got into that mode for a while. It's not, not, not very pretty. Anyway - somebody else I'm trying to think of. Oh sure, Brown, the ah, sure, ah President for awhile. Jim [James] Brown.

EN: Oh, Jim Brown.

PR: Sure.

EN: He's another person I, I never knew.

PR: Yes indeed. Jim Brown came in here as a professor or teacher in English. And, but uh, he then became, interim President of, of the whole system.

EN: Yes.

PR: Off and on. And, I don't think many of us knew what a talented man Jim Brown was. He traveled around the world. He was, he was very well-read. He was, he was a cultivated man. But he also had this knack, and he, he, he gave the impression of never taking things too seriously. Didn't take himself seriously. His wife died. And he married uh, he married Lynn...

EN: Lynn Dietrich.

PR: Yeah, right. And I think he was just a; he was another one of the people I've met who I think was just an outstanding human being. And we were lucky to have him. Uh, but uh, he was the least self-important person, considering his, his—what he did around here. But he came in here as I was saying. And he had been in business, he'd been in all kinds of thing. And it was discovered that he had these, these abilities and this training, you know. So, I think he was a very important person here, not only for us but for, for the whole University. And he died just a year or so ago.

EN: Yes.

PR: He was quite ill for a while.

EN: Okay.

PR: But I, I liked him. A lot. Ah, do you have any questions you'd like to ask me?

EN: Well, I think you've covered a lot of things I wanted to ask you. You never know about um...how many stories.



PR: I just feel lucky I got here.

EN: Do you have any stories about the University?

PR: No.

EN: That you remembered. I just wanted to see what you remembered.

PR: Yeah, well, I just felt, I have felt for the most part, very fortunate to be here. I came from, obviously, a more prestigious University, and uh, ah, although when I was there, the History Department wasn't very prestigious [EN Laughs]. But uh it, it's improved greatly. But uh, I was looking for a place to go, and uh. I had lived in Virginia, and the Eastern States all, all my life. And I loved coming out here and felt very good about it. I'd say I found a home here. And uh, that's my basic feeling, is one of veneration and love for the place.

EN: Okay.

PR: You can ask, you wanna ask me any more questions?

EN: Well, if I think of any more...

PR: Alright.

PR: ...I'll just ask you, and I'll write it down.

PR: Did I talk too much about myself?

EN: No [Recording stops and starts again]

PR: Worked together in that East St. Louis, and we'd communicate with each other. And we went back and forth a little bit. I taught, I think, one course down there. The Civil War or something like that. But we, we did go back and forth. Obviously, I lived in Alton. I'm glad I did, uh, although I think the people in East St. Louis took, they, they were very proud of that. And I think that's a very, very good thing, you know. You know East St. Louis, uh, gets a lot of criticism, they were very proud of that. And they were proud of the fact that people walked off the streets sort-of. And came into there and went to school. And I think SIUE at that time, it wasn't SIUE, must have done a lot of good in giving people an opportunity. And seeing how they worked out, you know. Those things appealed to me very, very much.

EN: Me too.

PR: In Maryland, I had a colleague by the name of Crosman [Riddleberger is likely referring to Herbert Crosman - University of Maryland], Just one minute, and I'll tell you about Crosman. Crosman was a Taxi driver in Boston. And somehow, he got into Harvard to do graduate work. And he got a Doctorate there. And he didn't pretend to be a scholar or anything like that, but at

Maryland, he was lame, he had to walk with a cane. And very, very nice guy, kind of radical. But uh.

EN: You always knew these radicals!

PR: Well, I don't know.

EN: It seems like...

PR: I uh, and uh. And uh [Wayne] Santoni was a student at Maryland when I was teaching there.

EN: Oh, he was!

PR: I didn't have him in a class. Crosman is very important in his [Santoni's] life.

EN: Oh, oh, really.

PR: Santoni was apparently a major in Sociology, and he came across Crosman, and Crosman persuaded him to come into history. I didn't know Santoni at that time. But ah anyway, um, but that's just a little story.

EN: Yes, that's really.

PR: But ah, yeah, I think you find all kinds of interesting people in the academic world. And maybe I'm too familiar with students, I don't know, but I've just enjoyed, enjoyed them. Probably on some occasions I've had. But anyway, you can leave that out.

EN: Did you ever meet Nancy Belck when she was President?

PR: Oh, sure, oh sure, sure. She's, she's been here recently. Did you know her?

EN: I was on the search committee.

PR: Oh, right, yeah. Oh sure, I talked to her occasionally. I didn't get to know her well.

EN: Neither did I, but.

PR: I like cheerfulness in people, and she seemed to me a genuinely cheerful person, and I kind of like that about people. Ah, I don't see why people shouldn't try to be cheerful. And anyway, I, I didn't get to know her really. I never talked to her in any serious way. So, so.

EN: Well, I may think of some more questions...

PR: Okay. Thanks a lot! I enjoyed it.

EN: And sometime when you...[recording ends]