

**Eric Sturley, with Additional Comments by Jeanne Sturley**  
**Interviewed for 50th Anniversary History of SIUE**  
**Interviewed by Ellen Nore Nordhauser**  
**March 16,2006**

Ellen Nore-Norhauser [EN]: [Begins mid-sentence] Faculty, um.

Eric Sturley [ES]: Well, I think I was a chairman. I would say that ah, [ES clears throat] Larry McAneny was as much a leader as I was.

EN: Yes, I had. I had a wonderful interview with him.

ES: Well, that's good.

EN: I did. I did interview him, and it was really. Ah, he told about going down to Alabama and ah, and about the early [to work on the *Explorer I* project] and about the early physics lab and what it looked like [in Alton].

ES: Oh.

EN: And that's the kind of, you know, what I want, kinda wanted.

Jeanne Sturley [JS]: You're going to have to deal with his being very self-effacing.

EN: I know [EN laughing]. That's alright.

Jeanne Sturley [JS]: Also, I want to say how much I loved John and Francis Abbott, and how much John Abbott meant to this community.

EN: Mhm-hmm.

JS: Because he brought alive history. Well, I'm gonna butt out.

EN: Okay.

JS: But anyway, ah, history of Edwardsville that Edwardsvillians didn't know!

EN: Yes.

JS: I lived my first six years in LeClaire. And I didn't know that history my parents knew, ah, Lawnin, Nelson Lawnin, who is the son-in-law of um, oh, you know.

EN: N.O. Nelson.

JS: N.O. Nelson. And ah, I didn't know any of that until John Abbott came. And I think that's what, and he was so smart, Ellen. Because, well, it's the way he was. He endeared himself

immediately to this community by not only being a part of the University, but also having such an interest in everything.

EN: Mhm-hmm.

JS: And um, you know. Just. Just great. So that's, that's my donation.

EN: Okay [EN laughs].

JS: I wish he were here.

EN: I do too. So, I I just ah, I just made a list of these people to see if you had any comments on your work with any of these people or, um?

ES: Well, I think Bill Going, William Going. Have you talked to him?

EN: Yes, I have.

ES: Well, he is one of the real one of the movers. He ah, for a while, it looked as though we were going to be in Alton as sort of an extra high school. And me and Bill Going had a good deal to do in making it into a real university.

EN: How did you happen to come to SIU?

ES: Well, I was teaching at Allegheny College in ah, Meadville, Pennsylvania, and I was really quite happy there, but to start anew, starting a new place and ah.

EN: I I just wondered how did you feel as as a young mathematician in the '50s?

ES: I don't know I.

EN: Did you feel that you were going to change the world?

ES: [ES and EN laugh] No. I didn't. But ah. As I said, I was quite happy at Allegheny College. And ah, I was there for about 10 years before coming here.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: Now we. I was involved, of course, in the Bond Issue election [in fall 1960]. Several of us went around talking, telling why we needed the Bond Issue.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And I talked to groups of farmers up in ah, north of Alton, but ah, and to other people, and in most cases, people were receptive to the idea of having a new campus here.

EN: Mhm-hmm.

ES: But some people thought it was just a waste.

EN: Really?

ES: Waste of State money. And ah, one of the interesting things was in the [ES clears throat] the President, Delyte Morris. He got me enlisted. He had great ideas for SIU. In fact, it was ah, said, that ah, the sun never sets on SIU [EN laughs]. And at that time, I was heading up a project in Mali, in West Africa.

EN: That's right. That's what I wanted...

ES: He had two two people working on appropriate housing for people in ah, tropical countries, in Nigeria. He had a team in Afghanistan.

EN: Mhm-hmm.

ES: Training people for the, training people to teach shop work and that sort of thing in India and Afghanistan, the schools were all modeled on the English, typical English preparatory school to England from Afghanistan. And then, in Nepal, we were giving them all the more practical, working with electricity, mechanical things. And then we had two teams in Vietnam. With ah, one was training elementary school teachers, and the other one was teaching people how to repair broken down vehicles. [ES laughs]

EN: Okay [EN laughs].

ES: They had a lot of old trucks and things in Vietnam. And then how to fix them up so they would be going.

EN: Good.

ES: And I think that. I don't think we had anything further East than that. But ah.

EN: In Mali, you were involved with secondary education in Mathematics?

ES: No. No.

EN: No.

ES: I was out. I was just involved in the general education system, training teachers.

EN: In general, training them.

ES: Yes.

EN: Okay. And you were there two years. Weren't you or?

ES: Let's see. I guess two and half years, and ah, then, I was a year and a half in Nepal, roughly the same sort of thing.

EN: Training teachers?

ES: Yes. So, ah.

EN: Did you? I had a very brief experience as a Fulbright lecturer in Colombia in 1983. And I think it really. I think traveling in other countries really changes your view of the world dramatically.

ES: [ES laughs] yeah.

EN: Ah, so I wondered how your view was. When you, did you have a lot of?

ES: I don't know if there were a lot of changes. I [ES clears throat] I'd been involved back ah, before the war [World War II] for the ah, what was that [ES clears throat]. I'm trying to think of the name of the organization I worked for. It was a [ES clears throat] ah, we took youngsters in the summertime to spend the summer in France living with French families and doing everything in French.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: Or in German. We had other countries in which we did it in too. And so, that was part of my background.

EN: Doing that.

ES: Five, five summers of taking groups of mostly high school youngsters, and ah. We had to have, Donald Waters, started all of this, business living in the French families, or German families, or Norwegian families, whatever. And ah, an exchange, and the next summer, the German or French youngsters would come and live with American families for the summer.

EN: Oh, that's nice.

ES: He felt that if Hitler and Mussolini and Churchill and Daladier and so on had all had this. Had this experience, then we wouldn't have had the war. [EN and ES laugh]

EN: You know. Well, how did you find the students in this new university where you came to work?

ES: Here?

EN: Yes. Compared to other students that you had encountered.

ES: I don't know. [ES clears throat] Well at Allegheny College, it had been around for 100 years.

EN: Yes.

ES: So, it was a, ah so more an established thing than it was here. SIU here was brand new.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: I don't think there was any difference in the ability of the students. We had students in Alton who had jobs during the ah, daytime and came in the evening for classes, and ah, that was a little different, but they were much more serious about what they were doing than some of the younger people were.

EN: Did you, did you like working on the campus in Alton?

ES: Yes, I enjoyed it. It was ah. There were some problems. Shurtleff College had not had any, it was broke. [EN laughs] Ah, the black. None of the blackboards worked very well, with nicked holes in them.

EN: [EN laughs] Oh dear.

ES: And ah, [ES clears throat repeatedly] In fact, when I had a big class, I didn't use the blackboard because they couldn't read what I had written on it anyway. And ah, I had these light projector things, which the students didn't like at all, but at least I was using the

projector to give them some pictures of things I would have put on a blackboard. But ah, you know I enjoyed teaching there.

EN: Do you remember moving to the new central campus?

ES: No. I was overseas when they did it.

EN: That's right. You were in Mali. [ES laughs] Right. So, did you come back and have an office?

ES: Yes. Yes, I did. I came back and fitted in; I hope.

EN: Was it in the Peck building? Your original office.

ES: No, it was in, [ES clears throat] it was in the Math-Science Building.

EN: Okay. Yes, it was completed in; the first part was completed in '66. Open in the winter of 1966.

ES: Yes, well I guess it was. I don't remember that, but I do remember coming back and it was completed.

EN: Uh-huh. I don't know there were other interesting things happening at the campus [ES clears throat].

EN: No one, no one else has mentioned this international. I have it in my notes, but no one has mentioned this international emphasis of Delyte Morris.

ES: Yes.

EN: As thoroughly as you have. It's very useful.

ES: Yes, well, he was just delighted when he could go around the world and have an SIU team to stop with. [EN and ES laugh]

EN: Okay.

ES: But ah, the ah.

EN: I've asked other people. Did you, did you think he was a person who was listening?

ES: Morris?

EN: Yes.

ES: I think so. He ah, when he made that round the world trip, visiting SIU along the way, when he came to Mali, he had been invited by the Malian Government. To come to the. They were opening a new airport at Timbuktu an ah, and I think also a new school. They were opening several new things out at Timbuktu. And he was the *only one* invited to this inauguration who wasn't a head of State. Then what happened, of course, was that they invited the President of France to come. They'd send a, they'd have the French Ambassador to Mali do it.

EN: Yes.

ES: And ah, [Delyte Morris] he was invited as the head of SIU.

EN: That's impressive. That's interesting.

ES: And ah, he didn't speak any French.

EN: That's what I was gonna say.

ES: So, I introduced him to the Israeli Ambassador to Mali. And ah Israeli Ambassadors. And ah, I wasn't allowed to go to this big several, several-day meeting.

EN: Oh.

ES: Celebrating the opening of the airport and the war memorial. There wasn't any war, but they had a war memorial. [EN and ES laugh] And ah, so, and ah, the Israeli Ambassador sort of took over and translated for him.

EN: Oh, well that's good.

ES: He liked to; he liked to visit and get around and see what was going on.

EN: Did you see much of him when he was on campus here?

ES: No.

EN: Or did. You did go down to Carbondale.

ES: Oh, yes, we had faculty meetings, and a group of faculty from here would go down to Carbondale, and he'd talk to us and so forth down there. Sometimes we had a meeting halfway between. I think it was Mascoutah.

EN: Oh, yes. I know Mascoutah. I've been through legal work there.

ES: Yes, there was a restaurant there where we met. and the people from Carbondale came up. And we went to our meetings. Monthly meetings.

EN: It wasn't the Derrick [phonetic] was it? No, the Derrick?

ES: No. I don't remember that.

EN: That's later, I guess. But anyway. Um, well, what is your view of what happened to Harold See?

ES: Well, you had these two very strong people, Morris and See.

EN: Yes.

ES: And See came here, originally you know too, a group of people, some from Granite City and some from Alton, thought we should have a branch here. Of some sort.

EN: Yes.

ES: Shurtleff College was closing down, and Shurtleff College ah, was running out of money. A group of businesspeople from Alton offered to raise the money to keep Shurtleff going *if* a bunch of them could be on the Board.

EN: Oh.

ES: And this was a Baptist college, and so [ES laughs] they couldn't have any businessmen on the Board. Shurtleff turned this offer down, and at that point, Shurtleff faded away into the distance, and ah, we took it over. But ah, well, of course, Morris was the one I guess. I don't know whether it was Morris or See who had the idea of getting into.

EN: Into Shurtleff.

ES: If See had done it, there would have been a separate university. And Morris wanted to keep it under his wing.

EN: Well, what sort of?

ES: I liked both of them! They were both great people, but when you get two great people.

EN: Yes. So.

EN: Did you keep in touch with Harold See after he left?

ES: Not really very much. Occasionally. I don't know where he went now.

EN: He went to South Carolina.

ES: Oh, is that right?

EN: Yes. First, he went again overseas, to Burma. I think. He had a position at Carbondale, so. Um, did you did know John Rendleman?

ES: Not very well.

EN: Not very well, no.

ES: He was a, I think things continued just as they had been, as far as I knew.

EN: I know, well, ah, Earl Lazerson was in your Department.

ES: Yes, he was in Math, and then, he became Dean of Science and then on to be President. I'm looking at some of your questions here. [pause]

EN: It seemed to me in the papers [In the Presidential Archives], you emerge. I hadn't meet you and I was reading through the papers. And in the papers you emerge as you are someone who seemed to be always at the meetings and always a voice, um, definitely with Larry McAneny. The two of you were really leaders. You went to the retreats. And you had ideas about honors.

ES: Yes.

EN: ...And different.



ES: Some of that is so far back I've forgotten it. But.

EN: Do you remember [Robert] MacVicar?

ES: Yes.

EN: Yes. I.

ES: Yes, he went on to become the President of the College out in ah.

EN: Yeah, Oregon State.

ES: Oh, yes. But ah. He was alright, but ah [ES clears throat], we we had a very intelligent woman in the Math Department who had a lot of administrative ability, I felt, and ah, we wanted her to become Dean of I don't know what it was, of Science and MacVicker turned it down, we wanted her to be a Full Professor.

EN: Yes.

ES: He didn't think women should become full Professors.

EN: Oh dear [EN and ES laugh]

ES: Then, he went out to Oregon State.

EN: Yes, I remember her. I have her name in my notes. She left the woman did. Wasn't she from Washington University with a Ph.D. in math or something like that.

ES: Ah, yes. She had a Ph.D. from Harvard.

EN: Yes.

ES: And ah, her husband was teaching at Washington University.

EN: Okay. That's what I remembered then.

ES: And ah, she then went on to teach at the what do you call it UMSL [the University of Missouri at St. Louis]

EN: Yes.

ES: And she became. She was Chairman of their Department. Yes, we messed up on that. We should have kept her.

EN: Yes. There was a woman in Geography too in those early years who left. I can't.

ES: No...

EN: You don't remember her? Okay. Maryann Taylor was on the faculty. I'm trying to think of some of the women. She was in English.

ES: Mhm.

EN: There weren't too many women. Ah, Carol Keene.

ES: Yes.

EN: Came in 1968.

ES: Yes. Gosh. [Paus] Here, you ask, "The influence of experiences like World War II participation." I [ES clears throat] In World War II, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, of course, got us into it.

EN: Yes.

ES: And ah, Congress decided that we needed more anti-aircraft development. [EN and ES laugh] And so the next thing, they feared, would have been the bombing of Capital of Washington, and some of us felt that would have been a good thing. [EN and ES laugh] So, the ah. So [ES clears throat] I was drafted into the anti-aircraft. And then they obviously didn't need much anti-aircraft work, so I ended up in the infantry. Which ah, well, I had a job for a while in Morocco, reading other people's mail, that is German prisoner of war mail.

EN: A censor.

ES: I was a censor. A mail censor. But ah, then, I found myself in the infantry, and ah, when the 7th Army landed in southern France. I had; my job was liaison with the French Underground.

EN: Oh, really.

ES: That was fun.

EN: Yes.

ES: I met a lot of interesting people that way. So, that's pretty much my World War II participation. And then, for about six months, I participated in the occupation of Germany. We tried to get Germany back on its feet, at least locally, to get the them moving again.

EN: Do you speak German also?

ES: Yeah. I went to school there for one year.

EN: Okay.

ES: And, I spent was it, three or four summers? In France before the War.

EN: Did you plan to be a Professor after the War?

ES: Well.

EN: Did you use the G.I. Bill?

ES: Well, I was interested in teaching. My first teaching jobs were in ah, secondary schools. How do you perceive of a new university, in the larger community of the Southwestern Illinois just how to read? Well, one thing I noticed here was after, that I had, right from the beginning, evening classes.

EN: Yes.

ES: These were people who had full-time jobs. So, this was [ES clears throat] not the usual university.

EN: No.

ES: And, they were some of my best students. People who. And they got a degree or some certain number of courses from the university they'd get a promotion at Granite City Steel or wherever they were working. [ES laughs]

EN: Right.

ES: So, ah. [Pause] I can't remember anything else here.

EN: Did you ever teach in East St. Louis?

ES: Yes. We took over the high school building there.

EN: Yes.

ES: The ah [ES clears throat], Delyte Morris had arranged it. So, we, ah, It was a high school that had been considered unsafe, and that should have been demolished or something. He rented it for a dollar that first year, and ah, we had classes there. And they fixed it up, the plumbing and things that didn't work [EN laughs], and so, it was a really nice building. And, the second year, he said he'd like to have it again, and the people in East St. Louis saw that the High School, saw that the school was now in beautiful shape. It had been very run-down building before. And ah, they tried to, they wanted to charge thousands of dollars for the rental, and Morris said well, he couldn't see that, but he'd double it and pay two dollars to rent the building. [EN and ES both laugh] I don't know how long we had that building for two dollars a year. But what had happened, was the people who ran the high school, the board or whatever it was, found a, well decided to build a new one. They thought the old one was pretty decrepit. And so instead of fixing up the old one. That made it available for us. And ah, they built a ah, I don't know where

they built the new high school, but it ah, gave us a nice place to teach. [ES clears throat] And ah, they were very disappointed when they didn't get more money.

EN: Did you live in Alton.

ES: I lived in Alton first, and then, when they finished the new campus.

EN: Yes, after you came back from Mali. That was about 1966? I think that's what I noted about your time.

ES: We built this house in 1963. And ah, we built it, or *had* it built. [EN and ES laugh]

EN: That's nice. Well um.

ES: On the relationship between the University and the larger community, I think the ah, as I said before, having the University here, people working full-time and taking courses here, did make a difference to the community, I guess.

EN: When you came back, from Mali, there were a lot of social movements going on at that time. Were you, were you on the campus when African American students began protesting against local racism and having sit-ins?

ES: I don't remember that.

EN: Oh. Okay [Both EN and ES laugh]. When the students were killed at Kansas State in 1970.

ES: Yes, I remember that.

EN: Uh-huh. Were you at any of those convocations?

ES: No. I don't think so. I ah, I was in Mali and working with Black people. [EN and ES laugh]

EN: Yes!

ES: Well, for us, it was an experience being the only white person in a group of Black people.

EN: Yes.

ES: Developing that school system and so forth. I got some feeling for a Black person who, was in the same situation as.

EN: Yes, it's easier to understand. My sister was in the Peace Corps in Ghana, about the same time you were in Mali.

ES: Oh, is that right.

EN: She used to write me and ask me about Malcolm X [EN and ES laugh]. You know.

ES: Was she teaching or?

EN: Yes, she was a teacher. She ah, studied Twi. Which was the dialect in Yasikan where she was. But but she taught English, which is the bureaucratic language.

ES: Yes.

EN: So, she taught.

ES: The official language in those countries was either French or English. And ah, we were teaching people to speak English, and it wasn't so they could talk to Americans or to English people. They could talk to Nigerians or Ghanaians.

EN: Yes, lingua franca.

ES: Who spoke English as their official language.

EN: When did you retire from the University? Was it in the 80's? Larry McAneny I believe retired in 1986.

ES: '86.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: Gosh, I can't remember when I retired. I was 69, I think. Which makes about '83.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: About I guess '83. When did Larry McAneny?

EN: I think it was '86 or '87. Maybe '86.

ES: He's a bit younger than I am.

EN: Uh-huh. He had; he had a heart problem. So, he thought he should retire early, but then he's still going.

ES: I didn't know that. Yes. I shared an office with him for a couple of years, over on the Alton campus.

EN: Did you know Sam Pearson or any of the other early, or Stanley Kimball?

ES: Oh, Stan Kimball. He's a great guy. We had a. In Alton, in those early years, I was put in charge of a, what do they call it. Ah, people, I had about \$50,000 per year for people who were

doing research. And ah, doled it out to people, like Stan Kimball, for instance. To do all the stuff about Mormons. He used up most of my money with his various research projects.

EN: He's sort of famous for that. Yes. Because he, he was in my department. I also noted that he took a lot of students to Europe in those early days.

ES: Oh, he did? I didn't know.

EN: He would take them to Germany, and Czechoslovakia even though it was ah, "Behind the Iron Curtain." Still, still did that. So, you were a kind of founder of the Graduate School, then? If you were.

ES: Yes. I was. I was Assistant Dean. The Dean was at Carbondale you see.

EN: Yes.

ES: We were borrowing everything from Carbondale, and so, I was the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School [EN laughs]. But ah. I'm trying to think if there was anything else going on then.

EN: Well, did you know everyone on the Faculty in those days? Pretty much.

ES: Oh, I guess so. I don't know how well I knew them. But the Faculty wasn't that big.

EN: Right. That's what I. [pause]

ES: In those early days, we were occupying that one street. I can't remember what its name was though. It ran east from the ah, col, from Shurtleff Campus.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: A lot of the houses along that street were offices.

EN: Oh, were, that's on College Avenue? Was it College Avenue? No.

ES: No, it was next.

EN: Next door. Leverett Lane. I'm trying to think of streets in that neighborhood.

ES: And ah, the Graduate Office was just one of those houses. [EN laughs] And ah, we had another house, which was the Mathematics House, and another house for English. I don't know. There just ah, houses that people had been living in. [EN laughs]

EN: I was up there a few weeks ago to, to interview someone at the dental school. We used to live on College Avenue in Alton when we first came. It's really changed. The Dental School has expanded.

ES: Oh, yes. Yeah. Well we lived on College Avenue in the first year we lived there.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: I think that it was the house, ah, going west on college avenue It's the second house from the corner of the Campus. [EN laughs]

EN: Yes.

ES: Just across the street from the church.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: Which was great because I would...

EN: Just walk to work.

ES: I could walk to work in two minutes. But ah.

EN: Yep.

ES: And then, we had a house the other direction. And ah, when we ran into some things. The first house was not too good. The roof leaked.

EN: Oh dear.

ES: And we *bought* a house in the other direction, about a block away from the Campus. And it was wonderful, being able to walk to your classes and your office in three or four minutes. And not having the long drive we have now.

EN: Sure. Right.

ES: But ah, back then, here, I used to ride my bicycle. It was about four miles.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And the trail was the old railway right of way, and I got to the campus that way.

EN: I walk. But sometimes I take the bus now, though.

ES: Oh.

EN: It's a few blocks from my house to the bus station. So I just walk to the bus and get dropped off right there.

ES: Where is the bus station?

EN: I get it downtown at that, building right by Jamie Henderson. Right next to the new county building. My husband calls it the Mussolini station, but [EN laughs] it's downtown. It's, I think it's quite nice. But it's a new, kinda new looking bus station. It's not. It's not enclosed.

ES: Yes. It's where there used to be an automobile dealer there.

EN: Yes. Cassen's used to be there. Right. And it's across from the city hall where Montgomery Ward used to be.

ES: Yes.

EN: Right. Uh-huh. But I walk. It's about four miles to walk. It takes me about an hour and ten minutes if I'm really hopping along [EN laughs]. I go up St. Louis Street, and I have to walk along the road for a bit. And then I get onto the bike trail.

ES: I see.

EN: But ah, well, well, since you retired, you might have had some thoughts about the University, or did you just turn your attention to other projects and not think about it?

ES: Well, we've followed the University. We go to their concerts and their plays there. For a while, I used to go back to Departmental meetings, but ah, I've become involved in other things now. [Pause] So. I don't know what else.

EN: Well if you think of anything else, I could come back and record it. [EN laughs]

ES: No, I don't ah. When the new campus opened... memories of the buildings. I'll say it was fascinating, watching the new buildings go up on campus. In wintertime, those poor carpenters were up there, in the cold. [EN and ES laugh]

EN: Yeah. Did you. Did you like the architecture? Did you like Gyo Obata's?

ES: Yes. I thought it was. There were some things in the Science Building. There was a room set aside for big machinery for copying and so forth. And they built the room and the doorway and so on and they couldn't get the machine, the equipment, the machine had to stay out in the hallway. A very special room for it. [EN and ES laugh] But ah. And, some of the roofs leaked in those buildings, and they were still pretty new.

EN: Yes. That's right.

ES: I remember going. Having some business with the President, and ah, he had to move up on the third floor on the Administration Building. And he had a big metal wastebasket right next to his desk, and a drip was coming down!



EN: Oh, dear. It really was going down.

ES: I thought, "If we can't afford a good roof for the President's office." And oh, and the library.

EN: Oh, yes, the library.

ES: They were covering all the books with cloth, some sort of waterproof stuff.

EN: Yes.

ES: Because water was dripping in on the books.

EN: Yeah.

ES: Well, they didn't, I don't know what they call them now, but they called them Buildings I and II when I was there.

EN: They're called Alumni and Founders.

ES: Those glass roofs all leaked. [Recording stops]

EN: Obata's design. A lot of changes were made.

ES: Yes.

EN: And some of that involved the construction of the roofs. And and the engineering company that he wanted to use was not hired by us. [EN laughs] because John Randle didn't trust him. Did you know John Randle at all?

ES: Very slightly.

EN: Uh-huh. He was our university architect at first.

ES: Well, I know when they were planning the Library, John Abbot, and ah, there were three of us, the Assistant Deans, and me, who took a trip. [Loud noises and banging in the background]. [intelligible]

JS: [intelligible]

EN: Okay.

ES: We did some interesting fan traveling. We went up to. We drove in a University car. [EN and ES laughs] John Abbot, and ah, who am I thinking of, another Assistant Dean. And I was Chairman of the Faculty Library Board, and we were planning the new library. And we went to Michigan, Michigan State, and I don't remember how many other places on the way, and then, we took a trip to the East. Harvard had built a new undergraduate library, and Princeton had

another fairly new library and so on. We visited all these other places to get ideas on what we needed.

EN: And were they implemented. Were some of them implemented at SIU?

ES: I I don't know really don't know how they were or not. We made a report on it.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: At Cornell, in the library, you could hear a pin drop. I mean, it was. People would be talking, and they had their ceilings at different levels. So, it broke up the sound.

EN: Oh.

ES: And so, ah, you could have people could be talking here, and it wouldn't disturb the people over there.

EN: Oh, that's wonderful.

ES: At Princeton, in the main reading room of the library, when we opened the front door with a click, and everybody looked up. [EN laughs] Because the sound was all over the place in reverberations. And ah, the contrast between some well-built libraries and some not so well-built ones. I would have thought Princeton would have had better acoustics. [ES laughs]

EN: Yes. You would have thought with their funding.

ES: But we had fun traveling around. [EN and ES laugh]

EN: That's probably useful for people to travel together. I know the opening of Lovejoy Library and with the art, it looks like it must have been a wonderful moment. Dr. Abbott was really great at building the collections.

ES: Yes.

EN: I mean, really did amazing things.

ES: Well, before Abbott came, we had two librarians, one in Alton and one in East St. Louis, and they were fighting each other all the time.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And the one in Alton was leftover from Shurtleff, and he knew a lot about libraries, but he had never, hadn't had any money to do anything, so he was a frustrated librarian, [EN and ES laugh] and the fellow at East St. Louis didn't know anything about libraries but thought he did. And ah, he spent a lot of money on books that nobody wanted. But ah, some of it was sort of sad, and some of it was funny, depending on your point of view.

EN: Did you know Dr. Abbott before he came here?

ES: No.

EN: No. Okay. He was a New Englander.

ES: Yes, but he also came from, from.

EN: From Texas.

ES: Texas.

EN: San Antonio.

ES: Yes. And he made a tremendous difference.

EN: Are there any other, I I just threw together this list. Are there any other people that you think of that, that? Ignore this list. Did you know David Steinberg when he came?

ES: Yes. Slightly. I didn't know very well.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: Let's see. Kenneth Shaw. Was he the physicist?

EN: No. He was the basketball player from Edwardsville. He came and turned out to be an administrator on his way up.

ES: Yes.

EN: I was really shocked to find out. That, here I have an ant. I think it's a Carpenter Ant - I'm not afraid of ants.

ES: We have some in the lawn.

EN: I know [EN laughs]. It's a sign of spring.

ES: Yes.

EN: They're coming in. What was I saying? Just ah, what was my train of thought there when I saw the ant. [EN and ES laugh] Oh, Kenneth Shaw. We were talking about. I was shocked to see that so many of the Presidents didn't write any of their speeches. That even at this level of university. That people have speechwriters. That kind of amazed me. But.

ES: They do??

EN: Yes.

ES: Oh, I didn't know that.

EN: Well, John Rendleman wrote some of his.

ES: Yes.

EN: And Kenneth Shaw wrote none of his.

ES: What about Earl Lazerson.

EN: He wrote some of his yes. He wrote his major addresses on the budget.

ES: Yes. Well, you know a lot more about this than I do.

EN: I just wondered if that was known in the faculty or not. And that I was just a bobo, that I was the only faculty member who didn't know anything. Which isn't true but.

ES: I don't know much about the university in the larger community.

EN: Do you feel that the Faculty had a very significant influence on the shaping the University?

ES: I think they had quite a bit of influence. And ah.

EN: Do you remember when John Rendleman became President. Were you out of the country then?

ES: I don't remember.

EN: He became the first president in 1968. But it really was. The idea of having the one university was over.

ES: Yes.

EN: And so, we split off from Carbondale. Yes, in many ways. But I just wondered. Because then the Faculty Senate here on campus emerged. And became significant. But. I guess I'm interested in John Rendleman because there's a sleaze factor that a lot of people bring up with him. But I think he's a very, he established a lot of democratic traditions. On the campus. And he was very participatory, he expected to approve what the faculty did. And he expected to deal with the unions. And these other things he was involved in about Delyte Morris's house. And ah, Paul Powell estate were too bad for him. For his momentum.

ES: I know there was a lot of criticism over that house. That Morris.

EN: Yeah.

ES: I stayed the night there a couple of times. I'm not sure. I think it was the house he had before that too. Which was sort of questionable.

EN: Yeah, it's called Stone House. Or something like that.

ES: But, ah. I had. [ES clears throat] That was when I was over in Mali, and I come, I came back to check on some things, and of course, they were sending us books and equipment and so forth.

EN: Yes. Uh-huh.

ES: From Carbondale. I had to check with them to see that they sent things I thought we needed. But ah.

EN: And that's when you stayed in Delyte Morris's home?

ES: Yes I I stayed. Actually Delyte and ah, his wife were off somewhere else.

EN: Oh [EN and ES laugh]. The staff took care of you.

ES: The staff took care of us. We were very well taken care of.

EN: Well I'm going to be looking more closely over my. I started you know, last year taking notes on all the Presidential Archives. So, if I look over those things I might return to you with some questions.

ES: Well anytime. You seem to know more about it than I do.

EN: Oh [EN and ES laugh].

ES: Well, it's sort of an amusing thing. The ah, one of the things we taught, was, ah [ES clears throat], one of these things where you, ah, have. I don't know, hear from the teacher talking into a machine.

EN: Okay.

ES: And you know each person. Each student, has it on his desk. A copy of this thing. And ah, I can't remember what the, what it uses. And ah, we had this, what is it, outfit from Chicago who set up one of these things in one of the schools in Bamako [Capital city of Mali]. And, we were using it and it didn't work, [EN and ES laugh] and we had a group of Israelis there who were working on Mali's, ah, we had a little a technical high school.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And teaching. And they were able to put in, and make the thing work perfectly. The guys from Chicago couldn't make their own machine work, [EN and ES laugh] but the Israelis did a wonderful job. That was one of the interesting things was to see. The U.S. Government wanted

people to work in these technical high schools and ah, who could speak French. French was the official language. They couldn't find anybody. The guy who teaches the ah, shop courses in high school in this country.

EN: Can't speak French.

ES: Doesn't speak French. [EN and ES laugh] But they went out to the ORT, Organization for Rehabilitation Training, which is a, it was founded by the Jewish people in Russia.

EN: Oh.

ES: So, ah. Because they had difficulty getting along with the Czarist government, and they had, ah, they thought if they had this practical training for their people, they could, they could get jobs, and very often they could because in Russia, there weren't many people with practical training. [EN and ES laugh] And the, and the U.S. Government went to them, to this ORT, which I think had its headquarters in Greece at that time. And ah, we had quite a group of Israelis in Bamako we were there, who were` working in this technical high school, and they were able to put all this material together and have it working beautifully. [EN and ES laugh] The guys from Chicago who were supposed to. Didn't know how to fix it. But ah.

EN: Who was the American Ambassador at Mali at that time? Do you remember? Did you see much?

ES: Gosh, I. I honestly. I'm not very good at names. I do remember this. That, when they'd have a meeting of the ambassadors, some some celebration going on, the ah, President of the country would come ride up in a very fancy limousine. [EN and ES laugh] The American Ambassador had a beat-up old Dodge. [EN and ES laugh] And, you know, the Ambassador from Ghana, or from other neighboring states, they all had Peugeot or Mercedes or something like that. [EN laughs] There was the American Ambassador with his.

EN: Beat up.

ES: This.

EN: Maybe that was a symbol of his power. You know, politics there.

ES: Yes.

EN: Well, what. Just to conclude, what would you say was your most significant experience connected with SIUE? Being on the faculty. Um.

ES: Teaching here or?

EN: Anywhere. It sounds like the time in Mali was really for you a great moment.

ES: Well, yes.

EN: Really significant feature.

ES: Well I, sometimes, I was helping to train teachers. I don't know. I mean, I went around visiting schools.

EN: Uh-huh. You haven't said much about Nepal either but.

ES: Nepal, of course, was quite different. English was the official language there.

EN: Yes.

ES: And ah, it ah, I guess it was a what do you call it, technical school to train people to teach in the regular high school, to teach shopwork.

EN: Okay.

ES: Electrical.

EN: Yes. Correct.

ES: Practical things in the high schools there. We did some, some teaching like that. In ah, in Nepal, most of the teachers are Brahmins.

EN: Okay.

ES: And Brahmins cannot touch a metal instrument.

EN: Okay. Oh, good to know that.

ES: And ah it was amusing. This one fellow was a Brahmin who was teaching a course in how to use a shovel and [EN laughs] how to plant things and so forth, but he had someone else do it for him.

EN: [EN laughs] Oh, dear.

ES: He explained what the guy was doing, but he himself couldn't touch a shovel.

EN: That's really interesting.

ES: While I was there, we had some celebration opening up a new branch of this school, and at the meeting, I had to hand a plaque to the headmaster of the school. And there were several people between us, sitting in rows, and I handed it this way, with one hand. This is insulting.

EN: Oh.

ES: You should have both hands.

EN: Oh. You have to hand things with both hands. Oh. Oh, dear.

ES: This means, "You're inferior to me." You have to use both hands.

EN: Oh, that's wonderful. Oh, dear.

ES: So, I insulted the headmaster of the school.

EN: That's a wonderful example of cultural difference.

ES: Yeah. Well, Nepal was pretty well anglicized, and so it was somewhat different from Mali, in that sense, much more sophisticated. And it had a lovely countryside.

EN: Yes.

ES: It was right there in the mountains.

EN: We have a little connection to Nepal now with our Department of Geography.

EN: Oh.

EN: Yes. It does, I can't remember what the project is there. Maybe some kind of a water survey or something there.

ES: That's interesting because, when we were out there, my daughter, who was interested in overseas things, had come out, came out to stay with us, and she and some of the Peace Corps youngsters were doing just that, a water survey in some places in Nepal fairly remote from any other center and ah, the problem of the nearest spring or well and then the problem of getting it to the village. [EN and ES laugh] Getting the water to the village. So, she was busy on that with several of the Peace Corps youngsters.

EN: Well, is there, is there anything that I haven't asked that you expected to be asked?

ES: No, I don't think so. It was pretty straightforward.

EN: Okay.

ES: [intelligible]

EN: It's... [Recording stops]

ES: Faculty member.

EN: Mhm-hmm.

JS: Excuse me. Did you talk about the Dean's College?



EN: No.

JS: Well that's an extra [intelligible].

EN: Yes. I'd like to hear about the Dean's College if you...?

ES: Well when we came back from Mali. They ah, let's see, who was it that had the idea of, they were going to get the Deans from the various Departments - or the various Divisions and had them supervising some students, so they could have programs that other students didn't have. And the Deans. I think it was. No. It wasn't Rendleman. I don't know which of these people had the idea. And I had just come back from Africa.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And ah, so they asked me to try it out, and so I got people who had extremely high grades in high school and whose teachers recommended them highly.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And ah, let them, we worked out special programs for them. They skipped freshman English.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And other freshman classes, and they could take a little more complicated program. I came back just in time to be in charge of that, and that was, I found, quite interesting. There were very bright students in the program

EN: Yes. How many years did you do that?

ES: I can't. [ES laughs]

EN: I'm trying to remember it was in the 1970s. I guess.

ES: Well, let's see.

EN: Or the late '60s.

ES: In the '70s.

EN: Uh-huh. That's right. And I don't know who's taking charge of it now.

EN: Now, it's part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

ES: Oh, I see.

EN: It doesn't have a separate Dean.

ES: Yes.

EN: People have advisors within that.

ES: Well, I, let's see. The students I was working with were considered bright enough to...

EN: Fly on their own.

ES: Do something, not to have to do all the things that we have a student do. And ah.

EN: How many were there do you remember? When you started.

ES: I'm trying to remember [ES clears throat] I had it running, maybe for a year, and then, I went to to Nepal for a year and a half. [EN laughs] So, then ah, then I came back I can't remember if I took it over again or not. But ah, [pause] it was a chance to have slightly different programs for a student who was good in a certain area or maybe good overall. [ES clears throat] It was such a terrific deal. Is that still going on?

EN: Yes. I believe it is. They're changing general studies again. They have a freshman seminar for all freshmen.

ES: Yeah, but this doesn't fit all freshmen. Does it?

EN: No. [EN laughs] And they, they still have. Now, they have Dean's College courses.

ES: Oh, Yes.

EN: Within the College of Arts and Sciences. Where Honors Students take small classes together.

ES: I see. Yeah.

EN: That's how it had evolved.

ES: That's good, yes. That's a good idea.

EN: I think it's still going on. I I sort of dropped out of all Academic Programming and things about two years ago. I I'm semi-retired. I teach a couple classes in the fall. And then, then I'm working on this [EN and ES laugh], this history. I had some students who were, who were in that Dean's College. And they had special seminars for them.

ES: Yes. Are the Deans doing anything about it? They don't have. They had nothing to do with it when I was doing it.

EN: Oh, yes. I, well, in the College of Arts and Sciences, um, the there's a Dean and two Associate Deans.

ES: Yes.

EN: One of the, ah, Carl Springer. Have you met him?

ES: No.

EN: Well he's a Classic, Classicist. Really a very witty and wonderful and he's taught some special classes in it. So yes. The Deans are involved.

ES: Oh well that's good.

EN: And the other Associate Dean the one who handles the money is a woman, Wendy Shaw, she's British.

ES: Yes.

EN: And she has done some, a special class too. So, the Deans, yes, they are involved.

ES: Well, I see.

EN: But I don't know about the Dean of, I can't speak for the Deans of Business, or the Dean of Nursing, or the Dean of the School of Education. I don't know how how that is. And we have the new College of Pharmacy.

ES: Yes, of course. That's a.

EN: With its own Dean. [EN laughs] And no Science Building practically left. Now it's in very bad shape. You probably heard about that.

ES: No.

EN: I can turn this off [Recording stops] You know.

ES: Yeah. Administration building, with all the leaks and all that.

EN: It's fixed too. Yes.

ES: Oh. That's interesting.

EN: And the University Center has been re - renovated.

ES: Yes.

EN: But the Science Building was deferred probably at a time when it might better have been, not deferred.

EN: But the dormitories are all built with student fees and bonds.

ES: Oh, yeah. Yes.

EN: But the, but the Science Building has to be a state appropriation.

ES: Yes.

EN: So. [Pause]

ES: Well, they had the. The basement used to be Engineering and now it's. They have their own building.

EN: Yes. A new building.

ES: What's happening now in the basement.

EN: Well, I was just interviewing Richard Burgham, do you? He's in Biology. He's an Ecologist. Who, who has made the campus kinda into his research lab. So, I wanted to interview him. He has an office down in the basement now. Because he was Chair. And then he [EN laughs], he fell to the basement.

ES: Yes.

EN: But, so there are offices down there. And the Center for Teachers of Science is down there. I don't know. And that's what I know. I don't know what else is down there anymore. They have computer labs in all the buildings.

ES: Oh, yes.

EN: So science has has several of those. But did you have computers, did you have a computer in 1983, before you retired?

ES: Yes, well no I didn't have. Well, let's see we did have the first. Well, we had a computer room in the Math Department, but before that, the first appearance of computers was ah, the chemists on the second floor of the building had a room, which was just a computer room. And ah, we, we other people who weren't chemists were allowed to use them, and I used it in one of my statistics classes. I ah, had the class next door to the computer room.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: And I'd give half the class something to keep them busy [EN and ES laugh] and take the other half to the computer room, and we'd be connecting up. First, you had to connect up, by telephone, to a computer in ah, Kansas City.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: That was the nearest one, apparently. [EN laughs] And ah, we did simple problems through this thing in Kansas City.

EN: Uh-huh.

ES: When they knew what they were doing, I'd leave them there and go back and teach the class. And ah, that was when, I guess that was in the '70s. I remember when we first started having computers.

EN: I think that was the '70s.

ES: Of course.

EN: Early '70s. Did you know. Oh, I just thought of his name. I'm like you. I can't remember the names. But, but the man from Carbondale. Harvey Fischer. Did you know him? He was a kind of liaison between the faculty and ah, the engineers and so forth.

ES: Yes.

EN: You were probably gone by then. He was a Biologist.

ES: Ah, what was his name?

EN: Harvey Fischer.

ES: Was he at Carbondale?

EN: Yes, at Carbondale.

ES: Yeah, I think I was on some Committee or something.

EN: And he wrote wonderful memos about things. There was a whole series of them about the buildings and what the faculty wanted for the different buildings.

ES: And I can remember. We had one room set aside for computers. Where was it. In the Communications Building. This was the very beginning of computers.

EN: Yes.

ES: You had a card, and you punched holes in it, and then you'd put it in the machine, and it would come back saying you'd made a mistake. [EN and ES Laugh] It was quite a long tedious thing to do any sort of computing.

EN: Well as I. [Recording stops]

JS: Ah, what's his name Delyte [Morris] was a terrific visionary in buying the amount of land that he did.

EN: Yes.

JS: It was a wonderful thing to do, and I think there were eyebrows raised about you know, buying all that land, but it was certainly a great thing to do. And ah, was a good idea.

ES: Did I talk about that.

EN: No, you didn't mention it.

ES: Well I should have. Because ah, what had happened is that back in the '30s. During the depression SIU at Carbondale, it was just SIU then.

EN: Yes.

ES: Had sold off a lot of the land it owned.

EN: Oh dear. I didn't know that.

ES: To raise money to keep going during the Depression. Then, in the '40s, late 40s, and in the 50s, [ES clears throat] they were very sorry they'd done that because the land, they could buy the land back at twice the price.

EN: Yes.

ES: If they wanted to put up new buildings, so [Delyte] Morris was very careful when they came here to buy enough land, so they had plenty to expand.

JS: I you know. Some of the property was ah, what do they call it. Eminent domain. Which is being abused now, of course, apparently in some places.

EN: Yes.

JS: Ah, but it was interesting because some of the people who had the biggest property and who were really all for it [the University] were the Rohrkastes. Bill and Dolores Rohrkaste.

EN: Yes.

JS: They were very generous [ES coughs] and reasonable and agreeable, while some people with smaller properties seemed to have a problem.

EN: Uh-huh. I've interviewed Dolores Rohrkaste. We had lunch one day. And then I invited them to come over to my house so I could tape-record the interview.

JS: Good. Well, I'll be glad.

EN: They're coming next Wednesday.

JS: Yeah.

EN: Afternoon.

JS: Well, I really ah, thought that was, that was excellent.

EN: [ES clears throat] And she was a kinda unusual woman, I think. With her degree in Architecture.

JS: She was.

EN: And being a businesswoman and so forth.

JS: Yes.

EN: I ah, but. You know the land is still really beautiful. It's, and probably in the future, every inch will be used I think [ES laughs]. As we...

JS: I'm a tree hugger, myself. Now I just get so thrilled. Now when you go in you know, and they have the trees planted in the ah, median between the roads, it's just, I just love it. EN: That was David Werner.

JS: Ah, uh Ed Hume.

EN: Yes. The original.

JS: There was a guy named Ed Hume.

EN: Yes, he was the original Landscape Architect.

JS: Yeah. He was great. He, well, there's a lot of trees out there from the Mudge Farm.

EN: Oh really.

JS: Which Dick [Mudge] was happy that they had taken. For them to take to thin out the trees. Well there are some plantings from there, and, ah. Oh, and the evergreens.

EN: As you drive in?

JS: Mhm-hmm yeah.

EN: Maybe I'll mention that. Where was the Mudge Farm?

JS: It's still there. Ah, I, ah, my own family my Mudge family we have sold. We have no interest. We have no financial interest in it, although we do, there is a family cemetery there that we are, have legal right to use if we wish to. Um, and um, it's a mile east of Grant Fork, Illinois.

EN: Okay. Yes. I think we.

JS: It was 530 acres.

EN: On the way out to Diamond Mineral Springs.

JS: Yeah. Yeah, it's a mile out from there. And oh, that's got a history too.

EN: Yeah. Yes.

JS: But anyway, doesn't everything.

EN: I know everything does.

JS: But anyway. Ah, no we became, no we don't have any interest in the farm. We have a small family corporation. Just a holding company basically. In ah, 2002, I think it when it was. A lot of the owners, I think Bobby Mudge sold his interest, 20, 2008 interest to Mark Ritter. And then ah, after a while, in 2002 my family pulled out. And ah, so anyway um, so it's ah, let's see. Greg, Bill and Steve Mudge, and Mark Ritter. And I don't know maybe Mark sold his interest I don't know. But then Steve, would be the auth, I mean Bill Mudge would be the authority. So I don't have any.

EN: But Mr. Hume took some trees from your farm and transplanted them?

JS: Well, Dick, Dick also loved trees, and he had, there was a State or, I think it was a state program in which they planted lots of tree evergreens out there. And then ah, um so then Ed Hume ah, Dick was delighted for him to have some of those trees and ah. So, I don't know Bill, but they were just kids growing up then. I don't know if they remember. I would imagine they do. But ah. Anyway. But I, the thing is ah, it was funny Ellen. I was hanging onto this maybe for my children who are spread out. But I was talking to my daughter Suzie. Who's the, the best money manager about handling that. Because I was getting tired of dealing with it. And I said well, Suzie, "I'm just going to turn this over to you." And she said, "Well, I don't want it." [EN and JS laugh] And I thought, "Okay." And that's it. So, they really weren't interested in carrying on.

EN: Well, I know you established a lecture series.

JS: For Dick, yes, for a while.

EN: At the University.

JS: I think it's kinda dissipated. Kinda ended. In fact, we had....

EN: Yes. I went to each of those lectures.

JS: Gerald Early, remember him?



EN: Yes.

JS: He's just writing now for the, has an article now in *The Nation*.

EN: Yeah, we subscribe to *The Nation* I'll have to ah.

JS: Yeah. A really recent one. And um, oh and the guy from the Poverty Law Center, what was his name?

EN: Morris Dee.

JS: Uh-huh. Yeah. Right, right, right. And remember they had to have um metal detectors when he came.

EN: Yes. [EN and JS laugh] Well, all these right-wing people want to kill him.

JS: Yeah. He had a lot of threats on his life. It's just really incredible.

EN: But yeah. [Pause] Well I think we're about through here for. [Recording ends] Uh-huh.

JS: Some people, some people were against it, but we just were thrilled with the whole idea, and I think it's been a boon, although I'm not happy about the community explosion.

EN: Oh, explosion is in this who re-organization of this area. Uh-huh.

JS: Yeah, it's amazing. Suzie lives, my daughter, is in the archives, music archives at Indiana U in Bloomington.

EN: Oh, is she?

JS: And she said Bloomington is growing, but she said nothing like this. She's just aghast. And I guess it's not over. It's still going.

EN: No.

JS: My son, Tony tells me Dierbergs is just wonderful. I'll just love it. So, we'll see.

EN: We try to keep Market Basket alive in town.

JS: Oh, we do. That's right. No doubt about that.

EN: We go to Market Basket.

JS: Oh, I remember that guy when he started out in, with a truck.

EN: Oh. You do?

JS: The old, no, he just had a truck and was selling things from his truck. And he's not running it now. I assume it's his son that is.

EN: Probably.

JS: But ah, anyway. Then he built a little building and then he built a bigger building. So his is quite a success story. I think it's great too.

EN: Yeah.

JS: And it's so convenient. He's got a great location there.

EN: Mhm-hmm. Yeah. Well... [Recording ends]