

**Mr. John Twombly, Former SIUE Student Communications and Journalism Major**  
**Transcript of interview for the History of SIUE Oral History Project**  
**Interviewed by Ellen Nore-Nordhauser**  
**June 22, 2006**

Ellen Nore [EN]: This is June 22nd, 2006. This is Ellen Nore-Nordhauser. I'm interviewing Mr. John Twombly, who was a student at SIUE, for the history of SIUE [recording stops]

John Twombly [JT]: [Recording starts] Okay.

EN: I think so. Um, I asked how you happened to attend SIUE.

JT: Okay.

EN: Okay.

JT: Well, Ellen, I basically, um, was interested in broadcasting as a career. And [EN laughs] the ah, television radio program, as well as the journalism program at SIUE, were well respected in the industry. Especially locally in St. Louis and so, even, you know, if you opted, for example, not to go to Missouri, which obviously had a nationally renowned journalism school. Um, if you were looking in this area, you would definitely consider SIUE. And in in checking with other colleges like Maryville or Lindenwood, or UMSL [University of Missouri St. Louis]. SIUE definitely had a a much, much stronger program. Much more depth of curriculum. And more equipment, that sort of thing. Now, this was back in ah, 1984 that I first started. And then I attended through 1987. And frankly, you know, if you talked about Edwardsville at that time, I lived in Florissant, and the only thing that I knew about SIU Edwardsville, was you know, they had a great Soccer team, and they always had the bronze boot with St. Louis University.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And I had heard about the Mississippi River Festival. But other than that, I knew I had never been at the campus, had never been in Edwardsville.

EN: Hymn.

JT: If you asked me if I'd identify where Edwardsville was, you know, I, I'd have no clue. Just as I wouldn't have any clue where Belleville was, I was typical of someone living on the other side of the river.

EN: The other side of the river!

JT: Who, you know, the only reason we'd go into Illinois would probably be too, ah, take I-55 to go to Wisconsin for vacation [EN laughs]. You know, it really wasn't a place where I normally was. I was pretty ignorant of that.

EN: Oh, that's interesting. So, did you, um, did you commute then?

JT: Uh, actually...

EN: ...For during those years?

JT: Actually, I started living at Tower Lake.

EN: Um-Hymn.

JT: Um, and then rented apartments elsewhere in town. And then met my wife at SIU Edwardsville, and we eventually stayed in Edwardsville since we graduated in '87.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: So...

EN: Well, that's interes...So did you major in broadcasting?

JT: I was a double major, ah, in in, ah, what they titled Television Radio, which was broadcasting. And then I was about to graduate, and then my advisor said that, ah, I would be a little more marketable if I took a few more journalism classes instead of just the basic one. And I just felt more competent instead of stumbling on the air [JT Laughs]

EN: Yes, yes.

JT: You know, I'm not a, not a great talker, so ah, in writing, you can edit...

EN: Yes, right.

JT: [JT laughs] and so. Um, that that was something. Plus, there was a professor at that time who was, who was *the* journalism program. And he was kinda an institution there.

EN: Yeah, what was his name now...?

JT: His name was Bill Ward.

EN: Yeah, yeah, Bill Ward.

JT: And I still...

EN: I just didn't think of it right away.

JT: ...keep in touch with him to this day, and...

EN: Does he live in Edwardsville?

JT: No, he, his wife, works for *USA Today*. And they live in, ah, near. Oh, what's that... It's in Virginia. It's near Washington D.C.

EN: Okay. Okay. Well, that's interesting.

JT: But he lived in...

EN: Cuz' I've seen a lot of things that he did. Like those big photo-journal essays.

JT: Yeah.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: He read a lot of textbooks. He was, I think, the *Associated Press* or or maybe, *Rolling Stone*, one of those, had him listed as one of the top ten journalism teachers in the nation. I don't how you quantify that or anything.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: But, he was definitely...he, one year he did get the SIU annual teaching award.

EN: Yeah.

JT: I think it was like '74 or something like that. They had; I think they still have those all hanging.

EN: Yes! Yeah.

JT: In the Vadalabene or something.

EN: Yes, right. So, are you a journalist now?

JT: I'm in public relations for a, uh, you could say I'm a journalist, but I'm I'm not with a newspaper. I'm with public relations with St. Louis Children's Hospital.

EN: Okay.

JT: And I've been there for about ten years. And I would definitely say that the experience at SIU Edwardsville was fantastic, uh, for my career because one of the benefits of the University is that it's right smack dab in next to a major market. And we have a lot of graduates who are in the St. Louis area, and I I do have to say, ah ah, the job that I had before this one. The person who hired me was an SIU graduate in the same program that I was in. A person on that team was an SIU graduate, and then, and then there was another SIU graduate who basically greased the skids to get, to get the job that I currently have.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And so, there's, there's a big advantage to going to a school like SIU. That's a nice balance between getting away, but also being near a major market where jobs are available. And that's, I think that's a sizeable advantage I think, to perhaps going to a university that's kinda out in the middle of nowhere.

EN: Yes.

JT: Ah, and so I I, I'm grateful that I went to SIU.

EN: Hymn, I think now public relations is a specialization in speech communication.

JT: That's true.

EN: Laura, ah, Laura, Laura ah...teaches it. I cant think of her last name.

JT: And I didn't really. The way Bill worked, taught. I didn't really take PR courses. He he focused on, um, three things: Layout and design, photography, and number one - writing. And he really was a staunch advocate for having a lot of required writing courses.

EN: Yes.

JT: And not just your basic who, what, when, where, how, and why. But, you know, looking at style like John McPhee, and [intelligible] and all of them. And, and the new journalism, and, so it was good preparation. Although he's a little eccentric and...

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: You know, like was not always the easiest to get along with for some people. But I think most graduates are are like I am and are forever grateful to him for what he taught.

EN: Okay, oh, that's neat.

JT: It was funny because...

EN: That's interesting.

JT: ...I was, I was interning at a, uh, well I was only, well I think I was only a - I had transferred to SIU.

EN: Yes.

JT: And and I was at a, like a cable station learning TV production. And there was another person there who had just completed ah, her classes at SIU in the major that I was going to go into. So, I was seeking advice [EN laughs], you know.

EN: Yes.

JT: I said, "I'm gonna be signing up so, you know, who should I avoid, and who should I take" and all that. And I still remember to this day, she grabbed this business card that was lying on a desk. And she wrote on the back of it, "These are the people you don't want to take classes with."

EN: [EN laughs] Right!

JT: One was Bill Ward, who...

EN: Oh, really?

JT: Who... I took as many classes as I could from the guy...

EN: Oh, dear.

JT: ...when I was there. The other was Kamil Winter who was there.

EN: Oh, yes. He was, yes; he was in the Czech Republic. They had a long.

JT: Yes, so you know all about that.

EN: And he, I have, I have to say that of all the Television Radio teachers that I had, Kamil Winter was definitely, you know, the best. He, he was....and and as an example, um, you know, he was kinda an unconventional, because he. I still remember the thing he always said was, "Be your own man." For example, if I was writing, ah, radio script...

EN: Yes.

JT: And I said, "Edwardsville Rolled Over Collinsville." He marks that and say, "Reminds me of a dog." You know! [EN laughs] And so he wanted you to get, get away from the cliché. Think for yourself. And he also advocated that you be very... when you listen and watch the news, be critical, identify shortcomings, watch things like MacNeil Lehrer, read Times, Newsweek, and always be very well versed. And his his thing that he preached was that he was always employed because he could write, and he knew what news was all about. And so whether it was radio, TV, newspapers, he was always employed. And I think in a way I carry, or I try to carry that.

EN: Well, that's really... no one else has talked about him, so I'm really glad.

JT: Oh, really. He would; I wish I could share more. It's been so long, you know, and I was just taking classes from him. So, I wasn't like a close personal friend or something.

EN: Sure.

JT: But, I would, from from some of the grads that I've talked with - Ward and Winter. And they Ward and Winter themselves had very good mutual respect, um, Paul Shankman who's on

Chanel 2, you know, if you were to interview him. He would definitely go on and on, and on about both of those individuals. Because they were...

EN: Important.

JT: Yeah, and I I think that it's great that the university early on was getting powerhouse professors like that. Because that's what it's all about.

EN: Right, right. Well, I asked, um, have you're, have your thoughts about the university changed over the years?

JT: Now that's a good question.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: Yes, it has. Um, well, some things have, and some things haven't. Well, my initial impression which you asked about was just, how beautiful that campus is. And to this day, thankfully, it's it's largely greenspace, you know, and and I liked the way [Gyo] Obata designed the campus. Where you're in the middle of campus and you don't hear all the traffic. You know, it's got a nice campus feel to it, even though it was largely a commuter school at the time. Um, and and so that serene setting was nice. I liked walked from Tower Lake to, you know, the gym or what-have-you. You know, and it was so tranquil, and I I still feel like that to this day, you know. A lot of time's Ill purposefully park by the Tower Lake Pool even though I'm walking over to the VC [Vadalabene Center] to work out or something, just to get on the path.

EN: Uh-huh. Get on the path.

JT: Yeah.

EN: Interesting.

JT: Is that Norman [Nordhauser] back there?

EN: Yeah, he lays out. He probably went out on the back porch and is watching the rain.

JT: Oh, okay. But in that regard, um, my impression really hasn't changed. And the other thing is. I think I heard especially Ward a lot of times... did it stop?

EN: Yes...

JT: Talk about how this campus has so much potential. And he was kinda frustrated at the time because there were things going on that he didn't like. Leadership-wise I guess.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: You know, the the campus always has had a lot of potential. And I know the building that I was in, the communications building, was equipped to be a television station, like channel 9 or

something. They used to have “on the air” signs over different doors and stuff [EN laughs]. There was a lot of capability there, um, so, you know, it was loaded with potential. Well, I think back then when I was going. I had, I had the impression that the university was kinda hungover from MRF [Mississippi River Festival], I mean, the mid-80s were not the best time for the university in a lot of people's minds. And a lot of that had to do with the state budget cuts that were happening. And then, you know, the the Earl Lazerson, Barbara Teters constant strife in the eyes of a lot of people there were not popular, you know, they felt they were autocratic or what have you. I I did not, I wasn't even in student government, so I wasn't exposed to that first hand. So it's hard for me to sit here and prove anything, um, but it was definitely a rough time for the university at that point. Because of the problems, it was encountering. And I kinda looked up stuff in in different articles and things, just because I had some feelings about, um, how things were going based on what my professors were telling me and things like that.

EN: Yes.

JT: And there was a lot of it was second hand.

EN: Yes.

JT: But it it's kinda interesting because there was so much faculty dissension it seemed at that time.

EN: Yes, there was.

JT: Ah, with the, with the management style and all that. You know, a lot of people that Barbara Teters at the time was, you know, she had a job in the Metro-East and a lot of people thought her head was in the far East, you know.... She was an expert on China and so [JT laughs]. But, you, I... now, I think my perception has changed because as you get older, you realize running a university is a [JT laughs] pretty complicated job.

EN: Yes.

JT: And I'm sure Earl Lazerson, what, he he...I almost never saw him on campus. Now I'm not saying that I was on campus 24 hours a day watching out for him necessarily.

EN: Right.

JT: But just as a student, I I didn't really notice him milling about. He was probably holed up in his office trying to get things done. Um, at the time your perception is, “Boy they're not doing anything right.” And I'm sure since it was early on in his president... I don't know if he was president at the time or the Chancellor....the he was....

EN: Ah, he was the President.

JT: At that time.

EN: Uh-huh. Nancy Belck became Chancellor again.

JT: Again. I'm sure just by anyone who takes any job; there are some challenges where where you look back in hindsight and say, "Well I wish I would have done this." And maybe there were some of those. But I think if you, big picture, if you, I think history helps to clarify how effective people were. And and if you look at it, and I kinda looked these things up just because these were my perceptions, but first of all, I believe there was a revolving door of Presidents before Lazerson, and I believe he served 14 years from '80 to '94. And at the time he took over, enrollment was down 40% from a peak in 1970 of 13,000. So that's one big problem. The other big problem was there was less state funding over the time that he was the head. The percent of the general fund from the state declined from 13.6 in 1980 to 11.3 in subsequent years. And I just brought this...

EN: But if you look at it now! You know, he served for 14 years, but tuition to this day, still for most people affordable. Enrollment is, was definitely stabilized at the time he was done to about 11,800, and there were more buildings like the Vadalabene Center, the Student Fitness Center.

EN: Yeah.

JT: Ah, the Art and Design Building. So, I think early on it really looked bleak, I mean he was having to cut budgets.

EN: Yes, he was.

JT: And I'm sure people were up in arms about the way that it was cut, and maybe just because his personality, varying from say, John Rendleman, you know, it it made it even more difficult. But I think times change.

EN: That's right.

JT: And you're able to look back in hindsight. And plus I'm a little older. And I can now see, God, I I would never have that job! [JT and EN laugh] Even if I was smart enough to have it. And and if you look at the bottom line, I think he set the stage for the university.

EN: Yes.

JT: Um, being a little more stable and then also going onto bigger and better things in the future. So that's just my perception and again I've got to clarify the context. I don't have an intimate knowledge. I may have spoken to him once, and very briefly and and so it's not something where I'm some kind of insider, I was just a student. But at this point of time, if you look at how things were done, in the long run, I think it panned out, fortunately.

EN: Yes. [JT laughs] Right. [Pause] Well, do you have any, um, you've already talked about Bill Ward, and do you have any other special memories of fellow students. Or anything about your experiences



JT: Well, I do remember, um, you know, I was, I was talking about the, how people, how how Earl Lazerson, you know, at the time I was going at least, he may have become more popular later. But at the time, you know, he wasn't the most popular leader I guess. But maybe that wasn't necessarily his aim. He was more worrying about the cost's so um, anyhow. We had, we had Edwin Newman [American Newscaster] and, um, the Lazersons and the university very graciously invited several students from my program. I was in since Edwin Newman was in the business to to go over to, ah, the Lazerson house, which I think was on Charles, St. Charles, by St. Louis.

EN: Yes. That was the old President's house.

JT: Oh, okay. And I heard second hand that the Lazerson's, later on I hear second hand that the Lazerson's weren't allowed to paint the house for certain reasons [JT laughs].

EN: No.

JT: But the funny thing. First of all, what I remember is that, ah, all the students were really impressed by the fact that he had a heated driveway. [EN laughs] That's what somebody told us. I don't know if that's true but, and then, um, we were, we were sitting there and and they had, you know, a spread out for us. And I had gone, I had a really big appetite at the time. And I had gone over like my fifth time, and by the fifth time, Edwin Newman turns and goes, "You really like to eat don't you." And I was so shocked [EN laughs] to hear something from, you know, a television God or something, that I didn't know what to say [EN and JT laughing] and I just laughed. But anyway, um, the ah ah...I I, when going back to what you were saying though about perceptions, you know. I I think that, ah, and I'm trying to stay big picture because there are certain memories I have but, but are not real, of interest to the audience.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: But ah, I think the leadership subsequently, and and history will be the ultimate judge obviously, you know, I think David Werner was a good transition. You know, someone who had been a professor there for a long time, who knew, knew the ropes, knew how to get things done. And I was really impressed as an Alderman when he came and spoke to the City Council. I know that, especially around the time that he he became, ah ah, the Chancellor.

EN: Yes, he was.

JT: That there was a good collaboration between the city of Edwardsville and SIU Edwardsville. I know, I know in certain respects there was good collaboration in the past, I just don't think it was really publicized as much. For example, Ben Dickman the city administrator, a few weeks back, was talking about a time when a tornado hit Edwardsville, and we had a lot of damage done. And I think he got it, and that's something you may think about.

EN: That was in the early '80s, wasn't it?

JT: Yeah, and and this may be something to validate with Ben. But I think, I think Mr. Dickman was recalling everything that was going on and what a crisis it was and he said that one of the things that helped the city a great deal was that Earl Lazerson offered whatever assistance, you know. And and I don't think that's something that he would necess...and again I don't know him well, that's the context. But I'm not sure that necessarily that would wind up in the papers or anything and make him look good, but it's just a quiet form of leadership where he's he's helping the city in a crisis. So I'm not saying that collaboration necessarily wasn't there in the past. But from perception, you know, typically, if you went to SIU you'd go home on the weekends. It just, the campus itself on the weekends, there wasn't much to do. Or at least the perception was there wasn't much to do. Or else you'd go to the bars in Edwardsville. [EN laughs] And you'd, you know, the talk amongst students was they had a lot of townies at this bar. You'd call [intelligible] of Edwardsville "townies." Which I think is kinda condescending, but, um, it was just kinda interesting because that that was just the way it was back then. And I think it's changed quite a bit. Because I still go onto campus pretty regularly, and I think it's much more residential. I think they're with the next residence hall will be up to 3,500 on campus.

EN: That's right, that's what I heard the Chancellor talk today and that's what he said.

JT: Oh, okay.

EN: He said there will be 3,500 living on campus.

JT: Yeah, and and when I look at...I pick up the Alestle from time to time.

EN: Me too.

JT: I look at the back page where they have listings of events and stuff and I'm really impressed. And I think it really, I don't know about Nancy Belck as much, but I know with David Werner there. I I really started noticing more momentum where the university would have a welcome day in town. Like a festival for the students, and the signs would be posted all around town. I'm sure the chamber of commerce is involved in that. It's just, It's just nice to see a close bond. And I know that that from observation Mayor Neibur is really very collaborative as well. You know, it takes two. And so that's a good situation. I can definitely say from an Alderman's perspective, although I'm not sitting there wheeling and dealing like the mayor [EN laughs] it directly with the Chancellor, but it's just nice to see people first of all coming here to get an education. And then, and then so many people who are employed here through SIU. So many people who if they're not employed do business with SIU. The amount of diversity in this population. The amount of education in this population that SIU provides. Other good things happening for example, Louis and Clark.

EN: Yes.

JT: I know that mu... a lot of that, ah, Louis and Clark deserves credit, but it terminated from SIUE. At least their building, and it's supported by SIU as well so, there's so many, so many great things that have enhanced Edwardsville through the years, that the university provides. And I think it's really consistent with with what Thomas Jefferson envisioned when he set up the

public university with Virginia, you know. And I I read something somewhere where he considered that one of his three greatest accomplishments in life, you know.

EN: Yes. Wasn't it one he had put on his tombstone?

JT: Yes, exactly. And, and, and if you think about it, you know, what a, what a, I don't know if people at that time considered it a utopian goal. But we have it, we have the same thing in a certain respect right here in Edwardsville. And we have people coming to Edwardsville, and I guess, in in kinda the same way I did, who wouldn't have known anything about Edwardsville to begin with, you know [EN laughs]. And I know there are some people who probably, well I know the guy who shot at the helicopter didn't want the university [JT Laughs].

EN: Yes.

JT: ...to be there. But I think, it really, it really makes a nice compliment to the town and enhances it. And I think it will be, it will keep the property values and the education level, and the education, and a level of diversity, ah, at a great level in the future. And that's a big reason why we live here we love living in a town where there's a university.

EN: Yeah, okay. What field is your wife in?

JT: She's, ah, she is in ah, well I guess you'd call it special edu...well, ah.... I'll just tell you what she does and you can label.

EN: [EN laughs] Oh, okay.

JT: You're the writer! Um, she she ah, works in downtown St. Louis and she's a manager at a, at a non-profit firm which helps people with disabilities to get jobs.

EN: Oh, that's great.

JT: And they contract with the state of Missouri. I'd give you their name but they're out of Springfield [Missouri]. Nobody knows the alternative opportunities name. But they, um, help people with both physical and mental disabilities. They provide job training, and job placement, and job coaching, and that sort of thing.

EN: Great.

JT: She's been in that kind of business for most of her career, although she was a speech communication major at SIU Edwardsville. Well, actually, I think she got a master's in speech com there. And we met at the SIU foundation at that Totsofski [phonetic] house.

EN: Yes.

JT: And it was funny because the head at the time, her name was Kate [Kathleen] Chapel, this was back in '85, um, Sarah my wife was working there for the summer and I was the new guy.

And Kate led me down the stairs and everybody was introduced to me, and Sarah and I kinda clicked, and that's how we met. We would call alumni, ask for money, and, um, it was interesting, though because a lot of alumni just had a great attitude towards SIU it was nice talking to them.

EN: That's good. That's interesting too. Um, well I asked, I asked what you see as turning points in the history of the university. And you did, you spoke to the changes in the relationship between the city and university. I suppose that's one major...

JT: The changes that I know of, and I mean it's so long ago and I wasn't even here and so I don't know. I have heard second-hand through through city leaders that the relationship wasn't always really good as it was now. Um, you know, my impression and and a lot of this was based on what people like Bill Ward told me. When the university started up, and then they got John Rendleman, he was good at marketing the university, got that Mississippi River Festival going and all that, and then he was a bubbly glad-handing, charismatic president. And and then he unfortunately died, and then they kinda went through a transition there, and then Earl Lazerson took over, and and Earl Lazerson is in terms of personality may have been exactly the opposite. And certain people who loved John Rendleman...

EN: Yes.

JT: You know, and and I know in our, in our particular program of journalism. That when John Rendleman was the head, our journalism budget was phenomenal. I mean they [EN laughs], we were producing glossy, colored, student publications, which is an extreme rarity in the field at that time. There was a color photography course. And that's very expensive, when you think about it, color photography in the 1970s.

EN: Wow.

JT: Extremely rare for, I I, for a, for a student program. And even when I graduated, I was told by some people, even people who went to Mizzou; it was rare to have so many student lab publications. So, we'd have clips to take into jobs to show what we were doing.

EN: Sure!

JT: But but the journalism was really, the budget was just slashed...

EN: Yes!

JT: ...in the '80s and I'm sure there was a lot of resentment because of that. Was that the right thing to do? Well, it wasn't the right thing to do in the journalism professor's eyes. But in the long run...

EN: Yes.

JT: You know, history will be the judges to whether that helped the university to survive in the long run, so it's it's two sides to the coin as always so. But we, and so, when I was going there, because I would see these cutbacks and I would hear about. I thought, "Boy, I'm really coming here at the wrong time." [JT laughs].

EN: Yes.

JT: And that really wasn't the case, because it was good good training. I was the Alestle paper and the WSIE radio station.

EN: Did you work at the Alestle?

JT: Yes.

EN: Well, what was your, what kind of jobs did you...?

JT: I mainly worked in sports, now...

EN: But you were the sports editor or sportswriter?

JT: I was like Assistant Sports Editor, I I can't even...I think I may have even been the editor for the summer, or the sports editor. I cant, I can't recall. But most of my stories were on the minor sports, like cross country and stuff. I did do some soccer and basketball. Lynn Lashbrook was the Athletic Director at the time. And the sports program went through some interesting changes in the late '70s they, there was a big push to go, Division I, and then that got squelched.

EN: Yes.

JT: I think a big reason that got squelched was this Ken Flack and Robet Seguso situation. And my, Bill Ward always moaned and groaned about how Flack and Seguso could have brought more publicity to this university! And anybody, if we had a good relationship with them, and when they left, because they eventually went to Wimbledon. But, ah, that got squelched. And when I was there, this this was some direct. Because I would interview Lynn Latchbrook. In his office he would have a seating chart, and season tickets and things. You could go to the basketball games, and you'd see John Edwards or James Jack [phonetic] were giving autographs to the kids. They were starting to get some decent attendance for a Division II school. And I know that when we played SIU Carbondale in basketball, the Vadalabene Center was so loud, which is a rarity. And that just added to my perception that this place was, "Wow, this place must be going down the hill." Because when Latchbrook left after that, and he just kinda thought, "Boy, if you have some success you wanna get outta here or something." And that, that was probably not entirely not fair. But I'm just giving you my honest perception when I was 21 years old.

EN: I think the perception of him now was that he was a guy on his way out, that this was a steppingstone for him. He didn't ever intend to stay here. So he was here, and he got his four years in, and then he moved up to another level.

JT: But as a student.

EN: I'm sure as a student.

JT: I thought, "Boy, I'm still here." [EN and JT laugh]

EN: And then the guy who followed him got the ax because Seguso saw him...

JT: Yeah. Yeah. And so the sports program went through some interesting changes. Bob Guelker was the long-time successful soccer coach they brought in. Ed Huneke, and and that I think that program faced some challenges because I think there was quite a track record before that. And it was a Division I program. But then I think because of the the, the budget cuts they faced, maybe some scholarship restrictions, always meant St. Louis would kill them in the Bronze Boot, you know. I mean the Bronze Boot was not an even contest in the 1980s.

EN: No.

JT: Um, so that kinda added to the student perception of...uh. It wasn't like it was back in the '70s. When you would walk around campus, and you'd see the the ah, furniture from when obviously when the campus started up and it stayed there forever. And then you'd go to the library and it seemed like all the books were from 1970, you know. And you just got the perception that the glory, the glory days were when this university, you know, was in the early '70s or something. But I'm sure it was, the funding level was better then.

EN: Yes, that was a key.

JT: But as a student, but as a student, you weren't cognizant of that. And I I will fully admit as a student as naive, I'm still naive to this day. But at least I recognize that it was a lot more complicated than one thought back then.

EN: Yeah, did you ever cover women's athletics?

JT: Oh yeah. I mean they started the volleyball team, that was there. I covered that a little bit. I definitely covered the women side of cross country. I like covering the minor sports because the athletes appreciated the coverage. Whereas the athletes in the major sports kinda acted like they deserved it, and they were hot.

EN: Yeah [EN and JT laugh].

JT: Plus, I was involved in minor sports.

EN: Now who was, do you remember who was the Editor of the Alestle when you were...?

JT: Yes, in fact, I'm glad you brought that up because she is now an investigative reporter with the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Her name is Carrie Tuft. She was on 60 minutes when she broke a

story in Belleville when she was with the Belleville News-Democrat. And I think it was when the blacks were being harassed in the Signal Hill area by the cops.

EN: Yes.

JT: And Carrie, out of everyone in our class. I have a lot of respect for her. Because she was just doggedly determined to to, you know, ah ah, speak up for the little guy, you know. She, she's now with the Post-Dispatch. I don't...Is this book funded by the university or...

EN: Well, I don't really have a contract, they said they were going to give me \$5,000 when it was finished. But I'm giving it back, I'm, I'm going to start some scholarships in history. Well Carrie was there during the rough, probably the roughest time which was around '84, '85, '86 for, as far as, you know [intelligible]

EN: I should interview her. I interview her. I did interview Pat Gauen.

JT: That was...

EN: Who's another interesting story, because he doesn't have a degree. And he's one of the last successful.

JT: Did he graduate in like '70 or something.

EN: He never graduated!

JT: Oh, that's right. You were saying.

EN: He just, he worked, and worked, and worked. And he got a job from from, from a paper in Collinsville. And he worked there for several years. And he told the Editor he wanted to try the big times, so then he went over to the Globe, and then when the Globe folded, he was one of the ones picked up by the Post.

JT: I think there was a story I loved in here, that I think was done by Pat Gauen.

EN: Uh-huh. Where did you get all that?

JT: I was just getting on Lexus Nexus today.

EN: Oh.

JT: Where is it here.

EN: And you, and you he worded SIUE or...

JT: Here it is. This was a really nice feature that Gauen did on Earl Lazerson, as he was retiring.

EN: Okay.

JT: And the funny, the great thing about this article that I loved, was it just captured Lazerson's personality. And I can definitely say from a distance that it did, because he was not an extravert, and you know.

EN: Yes.

JT: And it was funny because it opened up by saying, talking about how Earl Lazerson didn't have any books in his office, and Lazerson is quoted as saying, "I didn't come to work to read." Or something like that.

EN: [EN and JT laugh] Yes.

JT: I, I'll give you all this.

EN: Oh, sure! Great.

JT: And then there was a, I do want to point out, I I also looked up David Werner's speech that he made during Convocation in 1997. And I at the very end, I was just reading through it and I was just like, "Right on!" Because it reflected my feelings too, where, you know, you're young and you think, "Oh, I'll go here, and I'll go onto a better place." And you go there and you, and by circumstance and also by the fact that it appeals to you, it turns out 20, 30, 40 years later - This is the better place. And and it was just a really nice anecdote and I thought, I don't know how much personally that I can give you that's useful because a lot of the thing's I'm interested in are of no interest to the wide audience. But some of these things, I think, reflect the big picture things of the leadership.

EN: Yes.

JT: A little bit. And I I know that you already have a lot of this. But I just figured, "Well, I'm looking it up anyway, so I'll bring it."

EN: No. That's nice I'm glad you brought it.

JT: I just thought it's...

EN: I've seen some of these in the some of these things in the archives. Pat Gauen mentioned that interview with Earl Lazerson, and he gave me the date of the post where it was, and you know so I could.

JT: Yeah, so it's right here, and ah...

EN: Yeah, great!

JT: Lemme, I'll look through my notes here because, um, Carrie Tuft ah...



EN: How do you spell it? K-E-R-R-Y.

JT: Oh, I'm sorry that's the informal. She goes by Carolyn Tuft now.

EN: C-A-R-O-L-I-N-E.

JT: Well, C-A-R-O-L-Y-N I think.

EN: Right, yeah, Carolyn.

JT: And then T-U-F-T.

EN: Yes, that's what I wrote T-U-F-T.

JT: And you you can.

EN: I haven't noticed her byline. But I don't always notice. Pat Gauen told me he's in charge of all all the, he has six people working for him, the crime...

JT: Tell you what, Pat Pat will put you in touch with her.

EN: Okay.

JT: I can if you want it done like that, but, ah - Carrie, I call her Carrie. Carolyn, but, um, if you get the Post Dispatch, I take it?

EN: Oh, yes. Faithfully.

JT: She just did this...

EN: I read every word.

JT: Well, she's an investigative reporter so you don't always see her byline, but she and a person over there just wrote this story about the Missouri State Department of Mental Health.

EN: Yes, I just didn't notice the byline on that.

JT: She wrote that. Yeah, she's she's just a phenomenal investigative reporter. And um, she would really give, because she would definitely, she'd talk to the Union the ASME Union Representative and then she'd go interview Barbara Teters and stuff, so she was really in the thick of a lot of that stuff. And that was her beat. And I think she was the News Editor of the Alestle at that time. So I think that would be, definitely be a good person to interview.

EN: Yes, be a good person to interview.

JT: Gotta be careful, though, because that's why I asked is this book funded by the university [JT laughs]. And I realize history has to be...

EN: Well, it's I only have a contract. So, I never know what's gonna happen next.

JT: Yeah, it'll probably be [intelligible] [JT laughs].

EN: It doesn't matter to me anymore.

JT: But she's so nice, and it, ah...

EN: The book is gonna be about memories, is what it's gonna be organized... I'm not promising to be...

JT: Vignettes?

EN: Yes, bureaucratic history, it's going to be vignettes, and it's going to be you know, box quotations from people from their interviews.

JT: Oh, okay. Well, that's powerful.

EN: Yes.

JT: Okay, I didn't know that. I'm sorry.

EN: Yes, because because I'll send you this, I'll transcribe it and send it to you sometime in the next couple of months. And then you'll go, it's your intellectual property. You'll go over it. And you can change anything you want in it. And then, I ask you to donate it to the library for use by researchers. And then I can take a chunk out of it, and you know.

JT: It's kinda a neat oral history.

EN: Yes, and if people wanna read through and see, look what so and so said about such and such. They don't have to.... That's kinda what I'm gonna do with it. Because I'm not very interested in bureaucratic reorganization, except it if it really shifted the university. But... a lot of it really seemed to.

JT: Yeah, but a lot of, you know, like I'm getting on a - back to a subject that I dealt with earlier. The whole Earl Lazerson thing. How I talk about how he's introverted or whatever. I just remember when we had that [Edwin] Newman gathering at the house.

EN: Yes! [EN laughs]

JT: You know, it just seemed like well, first of all, you're you're outlook on him is colored by what you're hearing from Professors.

EN: From the Professors.

JT: So, you're you're almost thinking it's Emperor Emperor Nero [intelligible] or something.

EN: Yes, uh-huh.

JT: You know, and so first of all you're you're a little nervous. But you're also like, "Ugh, is that him." And he's not, you know, doesn't always have a big smile on his face, and so when I think when I was standing there and watching, I was thinking, "Oh, it must be really painful for him to even say a word to anybody." You know, but if you think about it. You know, all these, all these kids are like...

EN: Yes. Yes.

JT: Less than half his age.

EN: Really, right.

JT: It must have really been awkward too.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And so so, I think I empathize a lot more now with what someone goes through who I guess, he was originally was a math teacher.

EN: Yes.

JT: Uh, and and so being President is not probably originally was was looking to do. And so I think it's just history really clarifies. You know, sure there were maybe some problems, but I think all and all it turned out well.

EN: Yes. Right, well I I asked, ah, have you been active in alumni affairs and...?

JT: I usually just send my donation. There was a time in the early '90s where I was involved with a, um, mass communications alumni group. That group still continues.

EN: Do you know Patrick Murphy?

JT: I know him.

EN: Yeah.

JT: I've, and I think I may have talked to him briefly, but I don't know him personally.

EN: Well, you, you might like him. He lives here in Edwardsville.

JT: Oh, okay.

EN: Yeah, he lives on the, he lives in the house right next to the old, to the very old city park that has a few old gravestones in it and that's all.

JT: Oh, okay. Yeah, on Randle or one of...

EN: Yeah, Randle one of those.

JT: Well, okay.

EN: Yeah, uh-huh.

JT: Well, the problem at that time was that the journalism - well, it may have been, I think it was the whole mass comm program.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: Lost it's accreditation.

EN: Yes.

JT: And one of the reasons it lost it was that the...

EN: Journalism...

JT: Yeah. The the accreditors felt that there was more; there needed to be more liberal arts requirements, I think. And, um, I I think, you know, and and again I'm I'm basing this on...

EN: It's accredited again now.

JT: Yeah, yeah. Ah, there was a different, there was defiantly a difference in philosophy between Bill Ward and those accredited, those accreditors. I mean he truly believed journalism in a way, was the liberal arts.

EN: Sure.

JT: Because you're interviewing people from different disciplines and you're learning. So, and he truly felt that to be professionally competent, you need to learn the skills of photography, the skill of the layout and design, how to write as a journalist, rather than your simple formal English composition. And in a way, I would say he's definitely correct. I have found that to be the case, you know, there are certain marks of a pro that you have to pick up before you graduate. Or else you're gonna learn the hard way later on. So, there was a division there that eventually got healed. But I think he he was also concerned about, um, journalism, the budget going downhill, the emphasis being more on television and radio and all these things. So eventually, I stepped down from from doing that. There was some board or something in the early '90s. It was a pretty informal group.

EN: Yes.

JT: But I, really my family and I we like to go to the outdoor pool.

EN: Yes! [EN laughs]

JT: We like to use the fitness center; we go to Arts and Issues from time to time. I hope that when I retire, I can take classes from SIU for fun [EN laughs]. You know, I I, as a student, I thought I would never have said that [EN and JT laugh]. I was sick of school. But...

EN: Yeah.

JT: It has a lot to offer.

EN: Well, are there any other topics that you wanna talk about?

JT: Yes, there's actually someone.

EN: Let me just check the...

JT: Ther's actually someone whose somewhat famous that we went to school with, named Kathleen Madigan.

EN: Oh.

JT: Whose a comedian. Um, she has been on Jay Leno a bunch of times. She she was on, I think it's called *Last Comic Standing*, or something like that. And she entertains from city to city in clubs. She'll be in St. Louis, I think July 13th. She was a journalism major and she came from the same area I did in Florissant. She lived, she lived, I didn't know here in high school, but she lived it turns out, um, just a couple blocks away. And I went to her house one time to watch a prize fight or something with a group [EN laughs] after she had graduated. I had lost touch with her I hadn't been in touch with her, but I know I believe her cousin. And if you want I can put you in touch with her as far as how to get ahold of her.

EN: Sure, and she graduated here in Journalism here also?

JT: Yes, at the same time I graduated. You know, she was was kinda funny at the time. We all thought she had a good sense of humor, and she was nice. And I liked her, but nobody would have ever thought Kathleen Madigan would be this famous comedian. She's on you know when I turn on the radio and there's a syndicated show outta Minneapolis, [EN laughs] I've heard her a few times on that. And, ah, I had not since seen her perform. I'd like to eventually, we just, there were a couple times where we've tried and it turned out the day wasn't good. But, um, the the thing about it is it'd be nice just to see Kat plain, not because she's famous, but just because it's nice to see an old face. You like to hear about your fellow graduates doing well.

EN: Sure.

JT: And talk about old times, so, the celebrity thing, it's nice that she's a celebrity. But to me it's really not that important. The important thing is she was a nice friend when I went to school.

EN: Yes, right.

JT: And I I kinda, she, I think she used to wait tables at Casa Gallardo or something, she smoked like a chimney, and she uses her smoking in her routine a lot. I don't know if she ever really adds much as far as her journalism in her jokes. I do remember she used to, she got a job with Missouri Athletic Club, ah, on their PR staff or maybe it was an internship. But she has jokes about the naked men who'd be swimming there. So she'd be, it'd be entertaining, an entertaining part of the book, and she, I can, I can through my contact that's like her cousin, I can get you a number.

EN: Yes, I'd like to interview her when she comes here. I wonder how many, if she's gonna be here.

JT: She goes back to, I think she has a house in like Dupair [phonetic] or something.

EN: Okay.

JT: And but I think her relatives might still be in North County unless they're like everyone else and [recording stops and starts again].

A story, probably in the last, if you were in administration, she'd be the last person you'd want on that campus. [EN laughs] But ah, I'm trying to think what else. I just, I was on vacation. I looked at your questions and, um, tried to scribble some notes that would be, ah, reminders. You know, I do have to say the recent development where we have what was it, 6,000 applications and...

EN: Yes.

JT: And only so much accepted is kinda out of this world when you think about it.

EN: Yes.

JT: Um, especially during those trying times of the '80s. So it it, I think it just underscores further that history, it it, you know. You cannot, it's hard to judge how well that administration did over those years that Earl Lazerson was there until you have time to to kinda clear the focus.

EN: Yes.

JT: The, ah, as far as the new leadership, ah, I've been really impressed with it at this point. Very aggressive, the marketing, and I'm in kinda the communications marketing business, the marketing of the university has really been better than I have ever remembered.

EN: Good.

JT: I've been impressed with the AD campaign as far as the SIU Excellence, the 'E' always stands for something. And here's a little anecdote. Again, I I am not tight with the Chancellor or anything like that. I'm just an Alderman and I I but, I was at the, ah, It's that run walk that the university has downtown. I think it was about a month ago.

EN: Oh, it's for, um, it's for a student with disabilities.

JT: Yes, thank you, and Ellen, he was there that morning. And first of all, I felt really guilty because he had on his SIU Edwardsville hat and his run walk shirt on. And I had, I had received my run walk shirt, and I'd wear it, but that day I I didn't I just put it back in the car. And I had on a Tennessee hat [EN laughs].

EN: Oh, dear.

JT: So here I am wearing a hat and my relatives, my wife's side of the family lives in Knoxville. So here I am talking to the head to the university and I don't have on any SIU Edwardsville stuff [EN laughs]. So, and I didn't realize that until afterwards. And here he is talking to me wondering, and he did say something like, "where's your shirt." And I said, "I left it in the car." But anyhow the point I'm getting to is, I complimented him and said, "That's a really nice AD campaign that's being done."

EN: Good.

JT: "And I just wanted to let you know that it, it's refreshing to see that because the university in the past, I was never really that impressed with what little advertising there was." And it was interesting because he said, and I'm paraphrasing because it's been awhile. But he said, that, "First they were gonna go with this quirky looking 'e.'" And he looked at it, and he looked at, and I guess over the weekend or something, he thought, "No, we're going to go with a big bold 'e.'" You know, and I think maybe that reflects his personality because I distinctly remember going to one of these, ah ah, Edwardsville and university welcome events...

EN: Yes, welcome events.

JT: In town, when he first started. And the thing that amazed me was he was out there chatting up a storm with the students. And I was so used to, from my time, of the president getting the job done in the office, not that there's anything wrong with that.

EN: Even David Werner, I think did it pretty much in the office.

JT: Yeah, I mean they had different styles.

EN: Yes, very different.

JT: It doesn't mean one style is wrong, and one style is right, but I was, it was just nice to see how he was getting along with the students. And I have, I have been impressed with how aggressive he's been to this point. Again we wont know until years from now how effective he is. But I've been impressed so far with what I've seen. And the advertising I think, and hey, if I was

the one who hatched that AD campaign. You look at the amount of demand that universities have now. I don't know if there's a way maybe through web biz or something prove the correlation between the AD campaign and subsequent extreme interest in SIU. But even if you can't prove it, it's a great development for the university. The only thing that I hope in the future, there's so many kids who went there from from the, parents who were the steel mills, or parents who were farmers.

EN: Yes.

JT: Who were the first kids in college. You know, we have speakers come back who were graduates and address some tough, about their experiences with the university in the early '70s. I just hope the university doesn't lose that component where, you know, it's accessible, it's affordable, I'm just hoping that it remains. That it doesn't become, I don't want it to become Wash U [Washington University]. I like the role that SIU has. It it's really helped the the area.

EN: Well, I'll turn it [recording stops].

JT: [Recording starts] I'm trying to see through my notes if there was anything that I forgot as far as, you know, looking at your questions.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And and, um, you know, I I think ah...

EN: I always wondered, I guess I cant put this on the tape either [Recording stops].

JT: You know, in in any field, you have people who you wanna emulate, like at the time I was going. All all the people who were interested in sports broadcasting wanted to be just like Zip Rzeppa, you know [EN laughs]. And and you need to, like, Kamil [Winter] said, "Be your own man." And through time, you know, it's nice to to pick up certain things. But you have to make sure they're journalistically solid, and that was how I benefitted from him. How, I've, How I hope I benefitted from him. Or think I did. [JT laughs]

EN: Yeah, well it's been really interesting to talk with you, you know.

JT: Oh, same here.

EN: Active citizen and...

JT: Yeah, I'm glad that this is some, a vignette. Because I was a little worried that boy I don't have much here that's.

EN: Oh no! That's what I want is how you remember it. Just you're whole general thinking about it. And I really haven't heard very much about the Mass Comm program. I heard about it from Frank Akers. He was a student earlier, and that was a great interview with him.



JT: Yeah, he's, I've meet him a few times, he's definitely...yeah.

EN: He was a speech writer for people so.

JT: Now the radio, the WSIU radio station underwent a pretty dramatic change when I was there. Um Fred Criminger was the longtime general manager, and [JT sighs] the station had no format, in a way that was good because the students got a lot of hands on experience. There wasn't a whole lot, a whole lot of guidance at the time I was there. It's kinda like the Alestle. The Alestle was a journalism lab publication at one time, but by the time I was there you had a faculty advisor.

EN: Yes.

JT: But that faculty advisor at the time was kinda hands off. So it wasn't like you were being critiqued that much. So it it, on one hand you were getting out there and doing things on your own, and and, through repetition hopefully picking things up. On the other there wasn't a whole lot of supervision, professionally. Um, so that was a little bit of a liability. WSIE I think in '86, 1986 it might have been. Then the general manager changed from Fred Criminger to Roy Gerritson. And that's when the station format changed from just a mish-mash of...they they called it the station with variety [EN laughs]. Whatever that means. And then it changed to a jazz, jazz format. And it sounded much more professional. It's hard for me to say that that necessarily meant less hands on experience for the students because I wasn't there after it changed. That's around the time I graduated.

EN: Right.

JT: But what I wou...I do remember when Roy Gerritson was first introduced. He was, you know, he, he, he knew, he definitely knew his music, he knew our generation you know. He talked about, pardon the language, the "Buthole Surfers." [EN laughs] You know and, and that really warmed everybody up because that was a popular group at the time. And he knew, if you listened to the station after he took over, it was defiantly sounded much more professional.

EN: Um-Hymn.

JT: Um, than our mish-mash [JT laughs].

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: You know, he clearly said, "You dont say doub-ya, you say double-u." So, there was probably a more, more professional guidance at the time. And I think eventually they even brought in, you know a man in the red vest.

EN: Yes.

JT: Ah, some some people who were in the business to to work at the station, um, there was a little bit of controversy then because there was less "play-by-play." I mean, we used to broadcast

cougar baseball, and spend six hours doing a double-header [JT laughs]. And we kind of I think we lost that, um, and whether that was a good thing or a bad thing, its hard for me to say.

EN: Well, I think they're going to start broadcasting the basketball games again. And Frank [Akers] was saying they do the St. Louis Blues Hockey now.

JT: Yeah...And I did some. But I did some, the basketball, I did some play-by-play covering the baseball. And I was awful [JT laughs], just terrible at it.

EN: But you tried!

JT: There were people that could, Dewayne Staats.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: Who was a broad, who I believe did broadcasts for WSIE. He went on to broadcast for the Yankees and the Cubs.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And, ah, I think there were some other people who went onto bigger and better things. But it's been so long I just remember Dewayne Staats is the one biggie, um, who did play-by-play for WSIE - and he wound up in the big times. Oh, and I think, oh, in our journalism program, probably the biggest name is Bill Plaschke. He, he, he won like a national sportswriter of the year award.

EN: Is it P-L-E-S...

JT: P-L-A-S-A-K-E I believe.

EN: Okay.

JT: I have talked to him a few times. We we had kinda reunions for Bill Ward once or twice.

EN: Uh-huh. Thats nice.

JT: And uh, yeah. And Bill Plaschke, he's been with the L.A, I think he's with the *L.A Times*. Um, and he's been there a long time. He's, I have seen his stuff before published in the [intelligible] *Post Dispatch* before, although they don't carry any syndication or anything. But he, he is, he's on TV, and he's, ah, definitely a national name in sports writing. So he probably might be a good...of all the people in journalism other than our investigative reporter and our comedian, he would be the only other one that comes to mind that would be good.

EN: Oh, good.

JT: The TV, TV-Radio side I just can't think of as much because I kinda lost touch with that once I went over to journalism, I guess. And the journalism program, is, was much smaller. We had total over the entire time Bill Ward was there, since like 1971 - we had maybe a couple hundred. And so the neat thing about that intimacy was that by the time you graduated you had already heard all these stories from Bill Ward about you know Bill Morrow [William J.] with Anheuser-Bush, and, and, and, and ah, what was his name...you know so-and-so with Ralston-Purina.

EN: Right.

JT: And and you'd hear all these names, and you'd go out to the field, and you'd run into them, and you'd be able to say, "Hey, I know, I had Bill Ward, and I know all your stories." And all that, you can relate to them.

EN: Yes.

JT: Very easily. I know Bill Plaschke, he went, he was a student he did features on "Minnesota Facts," he was one of the first to do a feature on Jackie Joyner Kersee when she was at, ah, the high school.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And I remember seeing those clips when I went. So he would definitely be...

EN: So, that's, this is so interesting to me, that you really were entering into a strong professional program.

JT: But it was very small.

EN: With lots of the ones, who had lot's of connections.

JT: Yeah... that was the...

EN: With lots of success, full graduates.

JT: And Bill Ward even, even in the later stages of his time there, we didn't have the quantity and quality of of, you know, if you looked at the entire journalism class...We didn't; we didn't have the level that he had earlier on. But he always said, "If you look at your top ten, he had just as strong a top ten as he ever had in the early days."

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: And they had a lot, I mean, it was a powerhouse program. He always entered this William Randolph Hearst competition.

EN: Yes.

JT: And you'd see Indiana, Missouri, SIU Edwardsville - and so he was very, he had a lot of pride in that.

EN: Right, we won a lot of awards.

JT: But he, like I say, he was a little eccentric, and he definitely, ah, with administration...not only administration of mass comm, but the administration of the, of the school.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: I know that he he, ah, he'd call it as he'd see it, and that probably wasn't appreciated a whole lot.

EN: No. Yeah, well, that's faculty. Sometimes there are just great faculty, you know, too.

JT: But it probably, you know, a more legislative leadership style versus a corporate leadership style is probably more appropriate in a university environment.

EN: Yes.

JT: Professors wanna give input, they're experts in their field, and maybe they don't know how to *run* a university, but they can definitely give their two cents worth from their end. But I don't know, you know, I'm in a hospital, I don't know the setup with the Deans and all that, all that bureaucracy and stuff so.

EN: Well, I'm really interested in leadership, and the mystery of leadership.

JT: Same here, and there's so many books on it.

EN: Yeah.

JT: And it's so highly visible that that's what we all talk about. Ah, I'm just grateful that SIU is turned out to be a good place still.

EN: Yes!

JT: You know, we've got fond memories of it, and there's that kinda bitter side where you think, "Boy, I'm here at the wrong time."

EN: But you weren't.

JT: Things happen for a reason [EN Laughs]. Yeah.

EN: Because you were you, you know. [Recording ends]

JT: [Recording starts] [intelligible] friend is Armond which is President of the diversity, you know, it's great.

EN: Good.

JT: You see, you see people who are, you know, Asian, Indian.

EN: Uh-huh.

JT: It, it, it's something that wouldn't be here if it weren't for the university. As far as I'm concerned.

EN: Right, yeah.

JT: And I just think, you know, if you look at us, us nationwide is one of the reasons why the economy is doing so well is because we keep having immigrants coming in who want to learn the skills and everyone knows the immigrants have great work ethic, I mean for the most part. [EN laughs]

EN: You bet.

JT: And and I think it aids Edwardsville as well to have people coming in, learning those skills, and and getting their masters and bachelor's degrees, and then true a lot of the them go elsewhere but we have a lot of brainpower in Edwardsville thanks thanks to that. And I'm sure our population boom is due, due in part to the university. Ah, so many people moving here who went to the university. Um, so it it's had quite a big impact on us, on Edwardsville. Ah, I know in '84 when I came here, I think the population was probably around 11 or 13 thousand in Edwardsville.

EN: Yes. It was under 11,000 I think it was 11,000 in the census in 1990.

JT: Yes. And we know now that we're looking at another census, and it's probably gonna be around 25,000. Glenn Carbon's the same way. Their population has roughly doubled, I'm sure.

EN: Um-hmn.

JT: And if if you look at you know the housing values that have been going up. I think that has a lot to do with it. And now we see in advertisement and the newspaper about housing for students, you know, SIU Edwardsville put out this big AD.

EN: Yes, he mentioned that today.

JT: Yeah.

EN: He mentioned that he went, he needed, needed resident housing.

JT: A housing crisis [JT laughs]

EN: Yes!

JT: I've gotta niece right now who's going, who wants to go to SIU Edwardsville for nursing and she's gonna room with two of her friends. And she called me saying, I've been looking on the internet for rent, renting a place and it, it's very hard right now to find find a, ah, good place to rent. And she said the prices are getting pretty high.

EN: Yeah, they built all those apartments south of the campus. And are those in Edwardsville or are those in Glenn Carbon?

JT: Those are in Glenn Carbon.

EN: Okay. Because I'm, about the Cherry Hills Apartments, I've seen big si....

JT: Oh, on [Highway] 157 you're talking about.

EN: Yeah.

JT: Those are in Edwardsville.

EN: Those are in Edwardsville.

JT: I thought you were talking about the ones that are south of [Interstate] 270.

EN: No. I was talking about the ones just south of the campus, on 157.

JT: Yeah, those are Edwardsville.

EN: Because I've seen some big signs about Cherry Hills, "Don't live in Cherry Hills." "They won't fix anything." And...

JT: Oh, really.

EN: Yes. And I don't know, I think there's some issues.

JT: Is Cherry Hills on the, on the Mc... on the, ah...

EN: It's behind Shenanigans, I think.

JT: Yeah, that's Edwardsville.

EN: Okay.

JT: Hymn.

EN: Yeah.

JT: I'll have to look into that.

EN: Yeah, oh well, maybe it's been looked into. It probably has, because I think when I saw those was in the early summer.

JT: Oh, okay.

EN: I saw a poster.

JT: Well, you've got quite an interesting project Ellen.

EN: Yeah, I'm excited about it. I have [Recording ends]