

Luther Statler
Transcript of Interview for the History SIUE Oral History Project
Interviewed by Ellen Nore-Nordhauser
May 20th, 2006

Ellen Nore (EN): Sit down. Go ahead. Okay, it's Monday, April 3rd, 2006. This is Ellen Nore. I'm interviewing Professor Luther Statler for the SIUE history. [Recording stops] I usually start by asking [LS coughs] how you happen to come to SIUE. And...

Luther Statler (LS): It was simple. For one I was working in this area. And I got tired of traveling back and forth to St. Louis and I live right outside of the University on the north, northwest side. So my wife's been in appointment. So, I'd come over interview the personnel officer Morris Carr. And I did interviewing, I talked to a guy named McCall Walker [phonetic]. And I talked to another gentleman named Gene Peebles. And Sunday afternoon, this is all Saturday, Sunday afternoon, I got a call saying that, "Can you come to work Monday?" Course I had to give the people in St. Louis a couple of weeks' notice.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: But I was pleased to gather Don Ward, he was the purchasing. And let's see, I was a so-called supervisor of Self-Supporting Services, which at the time was University bookstores textbook rental. And was supposed to have been University Housing.

EN: Mm-hmm. And this was about 1960...

LS: 1963.

EN: '63! Okay.

LS: I think '63. Yeah, my wife told me right here.

EN: Okay.

LS: January, February, March or something like that.

EN: Okay.

LS: But that's what the basically the first job was.

EN: Okay. And so, how did it work? How did that was there a bookstore on each campus that you supervised?

LS: There was a Bookstore on the Alton campus on the East St. Louis campus and the main distribution point was the old qwonset hut. You know where it's?

EN: I mean, I know where it is it you that was turned into a theater later.

LS: Mm-hmm.

EN: Okay

LS: Theatre storage area.

EN: Okay.

LS: And that was a textbook rental, same deal on Alton and East St. Louis and their main storage area was the library, matter of fact.

EN: Okay. So, you can you you came in to run textbook rental in the bookstore.

LS: ...and supposedly housing.

EN: Supposedly housing. Was there anyone? Any, were there any kind of University Housing for students at that time?

LS: No. No. No.

EN: Okay. I didn't think so. But.

LS: Well, that didn't happen until quite a bit later. But I forget how long it was, but it was a few years. Of course, it was married student housing. We were supposed to be a commuter campus. And any indication in those days, I guess of on campus housing was a forbidden subject.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Do you remember anything about the C-Purge? Or anybody talking about that?

EN: Well, not recently, because... um. Tell me about the C-Purge.

LS: Well, I wasn't here when the C-Purge occurred. Anyway, he crossed paths with Morris. He wanted to name this place I think think Southwestern Illinois Campus.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And not only did that work about maybe a month and a half, but I ordered our graduation announcements.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And I sent the requisition into purchasing, and they ordered them. We got the right date. But we got the wrong campus. It was not Southwestern Illinois Campus.

EN: Oh.

LS: And we got them in I think it was a Friday or Thursday. Got em' in Alton or East St. Louis. And I get a call from a guy named Laurie Young [phonetic] who ran the general offices of East St. Louis. He says, "I don't, I've never met you." He hadn't been on campus long. "But I think we have a problem." And he told me what it was I had no idea. [EN laughs] But anyway I called Gene Peebles. He says, get [intelligible name] fast [EN laughs]. So, I called purchasing, got ahold of Jack Dougherty. He had been around long enough that he was aware of what the implications were. They said this was Thursday or Friday. By the next morning, we had brand new announcements.

EN: Oh my.

LS: I guess not too many people heard about it.

EN: No.

LS: But that was kind of an interesting offshoot.

EN: Yes. So, the new announcements had to say...

LS: Southern Illinois University.

EN: Okay.

LS: And I guess we kind of messed up, we should have kept a bunch of the old ones [EN laughs] I think they were disposed of very rapidly.

EN: Okay.

LS: And that's how I remember part of this C-Purge. So all this happened before I came, I wasn't aware of what was happening. And I was just getting new graduation announcements. [EN laughs]

EN: So.

LS: But yeah, Jack Dougherty the guy and purchasing knew just exactly what we're going... to happen. And I guess that's where he and I first met each other.

EN: And then you worked together?

LS: Oh, directly, indirectly, for several years. That ah, but when I got through with this particular job, I was transferred to East St. Louis. I was the coordinator general office, replaced Morris Carr who went to Alton. And of course, Loren [Laurie] Young was in charge of the general office time came up here to get well, the furniture and arrange for the new buildings.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: So we had some switchover. So I moved to East St. Louis.

EN: Okay, so this is about 1965.

LS: I don't know.

EN: Oh. This was... was this before the new campus opened?

LS: I moved to East St. Louis the year that the main campus opened.

EN:

Okay, that's so that would be '65. 1965.

LS: Whatever year it was. Because when I moved down, I was under the impression that I was going down there to help close the place.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Because of the time we were getting a new campus, we're getting out of Alton, we're getting out of East St. Louis. And of course we've filled in both places.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Anyway. I replaced Morris Carr.

EN: Okay.

LS: And that what I guess I maintain that ran the complaint department [EN laughs].

EN: Now.

LS: If anything went wrong, they came and contacted me and I was supposed to take care of basically, you will see, I recorded the business business affairs gathering with Jim Metcalf.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And nut I really reported to that academic affairs by the name of Bruce Thomas.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Who was at the time I think the Vice President Provost. That was interesting few years.

EN: How long were you in East St. Louis? About.

LS: About four years.

EN: Four years? Till '69.

LS: Maybe?

EN: Okay, and then you came up? It was, was John Rendleman the President when you came up here?

LS: John Rendleman was the Vice President when I went to East St. Louis, and yes, he was President when I came back.

EN: Okay. And when you came back up here, did you continue to run textbook rental or...

LS: No. No.

EN: Oh.

LS: When I went to St. Louis, I turned textbook rental over to Jack Dougherty.

EN: Okay.

LS: And the university bookstore, the university bookstore, University Center and also developed and that went to a guy by the name of Bob Handy.

EN: Mm-hmm. Okay.

LS: So that was when I got moved we got more people in the different things. But when I went to East St. Louis I was just basically responsible for East St. Louis campus for what did not occur down there, said I ran the complaint department.

EN: There were many complaints?

LS: Oh yeah.

EN: About the building.

LS: Oh yeah, about the buildings and about the quote unquote, noon firealarms. We were in Junior High. What was Rock Junior High.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Every other day at least some student over at Rock Junior would pull the fire alarm, at twelve noon.

EN: Oh.

LS: So everybody was aware with what's happening, you gotta check. But you basically know, well knew that the fire alarm had been pulled. And then one day Mr. Garner, who is now working for Jim Metcalf in a different capacity. He was in charge of safety. I think he was in charge of safety. Anyway he and Jim Metcalf came down and the fire alarm was going off. I sat there talking to them, and Jim Metcalf said, "Well, you've got a fire. Aren't you gonna evacuate the building?" I said, "Well, that happened, at least every other day." Took him out and showed him... this is my boss, where they pull the fire alarm. And it got a re-set so it kind of upset him that I hadn't evacuated the building but ah, another story. And we were in. We were communal shelter center. Well, at least we had sheltered areas, we had food sub tables for the Second World War, [EN laughs] canned goods and all that kind of stuff. And we had a Mr. Dougherty came down, he had the safety signs made. Place these in safe areas, and they had these signs all put up. And I said, "Dougherty, They'll have those signs down in less than 24 hours, [EN laughs]. And he said, "No they won't Luther I've used these screws that they can't get out." Well they were down in less than twenty-four hours. The students had taken them down.

EN: Oh my.

LS: And another little odd list about East St. Louis. One thing, is I was sitting in the office. This is the second time I met President Morris.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: He came in he said, "I know I'm parking in the university parking place, but I've got some business." Can you make sure I don't get a ticket." So, I made sure he didn't get a ticket [EN laughs]. And whatever his business was, he took care of it and left.

EN: But that was the what other time did you meet him?

LS: Oh, the first time I met him was when I was the, in the bookstore at Alton. He was up there going to some type of a meeting in a church right across street from campus. And we started talking and he wanted to meet the lady who was running the bookstore in Alton. And as we left he said, "You know everybody working for the university is a part of it." So that was when we set the first time, and both of them were very informal meetings so... [EN laughs]

EN: How... what did he look like?

LS: Dr. Morris?

EN: Yeah.

LS: Well he wasn't quite a tall as I was.

EN: That's what I wondered.

LS: I think a lighter build than I am.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Oh jeez. I'd have to look at a picture to remember what he looked like. I can't remember what John Rendleman looked like.

EN: You can't?

LS: No. You know, it's been a few years.

EN: Yes. I know [EN laughs].

LS: But ah, I retired in ah....

EN: '88. Yeah.

LS: '88. Yeah mm-hmm. And Morris had been gone a whole bunch of years and so had John.

EN: Mm-hmm. Did you know John Rendleman?

LS: I knew John probably as well as any employee did. In that when we started getting the classroom buildings two and three [Alumni and Founders Hall]. First, I have moved up from East St. Louis.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I was moved in the office of the Vice President Provost, as assistant too. At the time that was Bruce Thomas.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And I replaced the guy named Paul Couple [phonetic].

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: He was in charge of university space and institutional research.

EN: Okay.

LS: Well, a guy by the name of John Ryder took over the institutional research responsibilities.

EN: Yes. [EN laughs]

LS: Which I'm glad. But I still had space University space for the academic year.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And so I turned out... A lot of people call me at the time the space tsar.

EN: [EN laughs] Yes.

LS: And ah, because space was really tight at the time.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And rescheduling buildings two or three, the Rendleman Building.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And let's see. And then the science building. But I basically I guess I reviewed and most all of the academic space and even half of the VP and P, approved renovations for them. I also picked up the other subsidiary duty, the salary responsibility of Academic Affairs.

EN: Whoa.

LS: Due to various quirks. So I finally wound up with all the space and financial garbage.

EN: Right? Well, um, I wonder how were, how were why didn't the School of Education take one building, of building two and three and business school take another one?

LS: I mean, I mean it wasn't what they wanted to do.

EN: Oh, they wanted too.

LS: You had to have your social sciences.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And science and tech was crowded, like the school of dental and so was fine arts. So it was basically a political thing that John finally sat down and said, said, "ah, business, you can't have more than one. Education you can't have more than two." Okay, so we're gonna divide part of this up - well as a matter of fact, in the Rendleman building, I forget who was there first, but we moved part of the School of Education into the Rendleman Building, while Dean Wildey was the Dean at the time. He and I got along real well. He was one of the true Deans at the university all the others were about title.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: We moved him in, well let's see, we moved in the third, third floor first. And we moved part of the School of Education in I think second we had Wiley on the west side where the sun would hit him every afternoon. And we couldn't get him curtains for the doggone office for some reason or another.

EN: Oh.

LS: And it was hot as the devil in there.

EN: Yes.

LS: And he'd be griping and moaning and groaning. And finally one day he came up, jumped on my desk and started to take my curtains down. And I said, "Wiley those won't fit" [EN laughs]. But now he's in Las Vegas now. He's still living.

EN: He is. Oh, gosh, yeah.

LS: He's still living.

EN: Do you ever see him - do ever visit him?

LS: Ah. There was a retirees meeting. I think it was last year that he was there.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: I think but no I never go out to Las Vegas to see him.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: But he's kind of a character.

EN: Yeah.

LS: But he was the Dean of the school at the time.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: The other Dean I remember was Hollace White. We used to call him the silver fox [EN laughs] he was always nibbling for space and additional money he's passed away though, unfortunately.

EN: Uh-huh. And he was a he was, fine arts.

LS: He was dean of School of Fine Arts

EN: Yeah, yeah, that's what I thought Fine Arts. Because there was another...

LS: They first occupied the Comm Building.

EN: Oh, yeah Comm.

LS: Which is I think now called Dunham Hall or something. We should have named that after him but that's another...

EN: Okay.

LS: Question of appointment.

EN: Okay.

LS: But when you talk about John he knew most everybody on campus. I think if you were a faculty member in or even mid-level of administration, he had pictures made and he was set there and read these pictures till he got to know you. And he'd always call you by first name. Second, well the second time he saw me he called said, "Luther." And I thought, "Jeez!" And he did everybody else like that politician.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: He was a Good politician.

EN: Yes.

LS: Good politician.

EN: Uh-huh, good politician!

LS: And ah, good, good president at the time.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And with the Paul Powell [Illinois Secretary of State, 1965-1970] incident.

EN: Yes.

LS: Well, I was sitting in my office over the east end of the Rendleman Building. Which is now the Rendleman Building. He came in and said, "Luther." And I didn't, and don't quote me exactly like this, "I didn't know that son-of-a-bitch had all that money in those boxes." [EN laughs] I never believed that it wasn't true. That just the way he said it. And that's one of the things I remember about John.

EN: Yeah.

LS: He just, he was a very likable person.

EN: Yeah.

LS: But ah, then he said Gustavus [phonetic] was the VP and P at the time. Jim Corbin was in the VP office. Jim Brown was in the VP office. Course Jim Brown has now passed away.

EN: Yes.

LS: But he was our President [intelligible], and so on so forth. I and Jack Dougherty always bug him to go find a Presidency someplace else so we could change universities, but he stayed, so, I guess we had to stay [EN laughs]. But who else was up there? Bruce Thomas and Jim Corr, Jim Brown. I think those were the only three. Four? Three? Well, anyway, I think John and Bruce Thomas kind of clashed a little bit. Didn't see eye to eye.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Which happened quite often in this place. It's not really quiet tranquil place everybody makes believe it is. Or it wasn't.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And Bruce left. They made Jim Corr became Vice President and Provost. Jim Brown during this period of time, left that office and went down working, work for the President at Carbondale.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And he basically stayed at Carbondale and sometime in that period of time, that's when the ole' ratpack took over the "money review for Academic Affairs."

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: At, I basically decided I guess all personnel for fiscal management for the VP and P.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: At one time.

EN: Now you worked closely with Metcalf?

LS: When I was down in East St. Louis.

EN: Okay, you didn't work closely with him up here when you were doing.

LS: Not too awfully closely... we...

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Metcalf and Jack Dougherty occupied the same office over in the Rendleman Building.

EN: Okay.

LS: And Jim was the budget director at the time, or comptroller, or budget director because Arnold Meyer was comptroller. And course the Academic Affairs had the biggest budget.

EN: Mm-hmm, yes.

LS: Of the institution. So, Jim, and I work very closely on that.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And ah, we basically work also worked together on all of the capital budget reviews, [recording feedback] money requests.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And it was kind of a combination thing.

EN: Did you go up to Springfield to visit with the legislature? Or...No.

LS: Didn't want a thing to do with them.

EN: Okay.

LS: Fact at that at the time, as far as I know, there was I don't even think Jim was messing with them too much.

EN: Okay.

LS: Ria, of course she's passed away now too.

EN: Yeah.

LS: And remember he shot himself.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And we had a period of time. But no, I don't really think. But no, I'm not... about the only contact they had with Springfield mmm-mmm-mmm-mmm-mmm was about this place. The library. They get sent through down something and wanting to know if there was a need for any additional money for various reasons. And exactly why they sent that request, we could always use money.

EN: Yeah.

LS: Well, anyway, why I responded back in a direct letter to somebody up there in behalf of John Adams of the library that we needed about \$250,000 for this type of books and Dougherty he read the letter, he said, "Luther, you don't even know what you're talking about do you?" And I said, "Not really but neither will they." [EN laughs] And we got the money! So John got his Money. That just goes to show just how much money they had to waste up in Springfield.

EN: Now, that was probably in '72 or '73.

LS: Oh, I don't know.

EN: It was before the money started to dry up, which was in kind of in the middle '70s.

LS: Yeah, but when we say money "dried up" I would post that word with caution.

EN: Okay.

LS: Later on.

EN: Okay.

LS: It all depends on the interpretation of it. That ah, the ah...

EN: [EN laughs] Oh, okay.

LS: I want to tell you another couple things about East St. Louis...

EN: Do!

LS: When I was down there.

EN: Okay.

LS: Is one day I was sitting down and happy and free mindin' my own business and I get this letter. It was signed by Rendleman, Ralph Ruffner and McVicar.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Who was in charge of Academic Affairs at the time, that they were moving Katherine Dunham down from Alton.

EN: Okay.

LS: And I knew who Katherine Dunham was [recording feedback] and I said, "Well, anyway I'm making space available." And you were gonna have the building named for her from where she was gonna be moved.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And she was down there about about a week. And she came over to my office. She said, "Well, I'm ready to go to the market." I said, "I beg your pardon?" "I'm ready to go the market and sell this." I said, "Well, I guess you can go and get your university car." Well Morris Carr always drove me." Well I said, I'm not Morris Carr and I have no intention of driving you." Well anyway, she says, "I'm going to call president Morris." And I says, "Okay, here's my telephone and here's his phone number." And we didn't get along too awfully well.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And I getting back to Dunham, Bruce Thomas, you know, Butterfly McQueen?

EN: No.

LS: She's the gal who played in *Gone with the Wind*.

EN: Oh, okay. Uh-huh.

LS: I forget what her real name was.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Well, anyway, one Thursday afternoon, Bruce came down. He said, "Luther, what are you doing tomorrow, early Friday." I said, "Well, not too awfly much." When she says, "Can you take somebody to the airport for me?"

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I said, Sure. Well, it turned out to be Butterfly. She was slipping away from Katherine. Oh, so I got her at the St. Louis airport made sure she got alright [Recording stops].

LS: And review the first academic first budget.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Well, we gave him everything.

EN: Yeah.

LS: Everything added up. [EN laughs] That's all he could tell him. But he we just didn't tell Nick everything about the budget. [EN laughs] But we did what we always did. [EN chuckles] And Earl [Lazerson] and Earl knew only I was aware of all these quote, "Internal last minute maneuvers." And I could do it almost as well as he could make numbers fast. He's a hell of a mathematician.

EN: Yes.

LS: But and they're developed a few personnel problems too. I think he was very Machiavellian. I guess you're gonna interview him so he can defend himself?

EN: No, I'm not gonna. I I hadn't planned to interview him. I planned to write what I was going to say about him and then send it to him and then see if I could get an interview.

LS: Oh.

EN: No. I'm interviewing I'm trying to interview people who did the work.

LS: Well, at one time he did a lot of the work when he was VP and P. You know it's was kind of amazing. We went through somebody was giving us a history lesson in university. Continuing education class one day, and whoever the guy was, he didn't know anything about it. He didn't even mention [John] Morris. He didn't mention John [Rendleman]. He didn't mention, he didn't refer anybody.

EN: Uh-huh. Hmm.

LS: But anyway, all I can get my mouth shut might cause a problem. [EN laughs] But his leader, his ideal leader was Earl [Lazerson].

EN: Oh.

LS: And, anyways, but I guess thought that was probably the hardest period of my time and last couple of years putting up with him.

EN: Mm-hmm. Now did you were you still the Director of Supporting Services when you retired in '88?

LS: No.

EN: Okay.

LS: I moved back to School of Business.

EN: Yes.

LS: I was quote, "Paid off."

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I took a year sabbatical, then taught a year.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: To be gotten rid of.

EN: And this is because you knew as much about the budget?

LS: Not necessarily.

EN: Or maybe.

LS: That wasn't the only thing.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Earl and I just started having too many conflicts.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And you don't have conflicts with the King unless you can kill him. [EN laughs] Well, as an example I never will forgive him, I I think Jim Brown two or three times, course he's passed away now.

EN: Yeah.

LS: Olin Meyer [phonetic] had been working for the university and an accounting department his entire career and also the university comptroller.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Ben [Benjamin F.] Quillian who was one of the guys who replaced me.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Already already had about 30 or 40 days until he had enough time to retire

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I think something like that. And Bill, Ben Quillian fired him.

EN: Oh.

LS: And no one under this in this campus or anyplace else can tell me that Earl was not aware of it the way, he looked at, "I live in the micromanage."

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Well, if it hadn't been for Don Wilson at Carbondale and Jim Brown in Carbondale, they got Arnold a part time job up at the Dental School, ah... Medical School.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: It would have been. So he had enough time to retire. That was when Earl...

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And why he allowed them to do this. I have no idea.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: You know, 30-40 days. They coulda put him on sabbatical or something.

EN: Right?

LS: Leave with pay.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Give him the year, six months, no one would ever know the difference.

EN: Right.

LS: Course Mr. Quillian I think I understand got his comeuppance too. Soon as Earl left.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: [Pause] One of your better gains at the time was he's now retired president is Dave Werner.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Dave and I always got along very well with each other.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: We had a few arguments occasionally. But not much.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: They [LS laughs] get back to the director of supporting service in my last job. I was down on the first floor of ah, Rendleman building.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And he and I, he just came from a VP and P meeting. And he said, "Luther I had all the other Deans have just being told by Barbara Teeters and we're not to talk to you. Period." [EN laughs]

Which is why I said, "Why." And he said, "Well, I don't know but we have been informed that we are not to contact you for any reason what-so-ever."

EN: Oh, really?

LS: I didn't, ah.

EN: Obviously, he was staying in contact with you.

LS: Mm-hmm.

LS: Uh-huh.

LS: But now, I don't know what I got. I have no idea why Teeters' problem was. But she was not one of my favorite VP and P's. I just basically thought she was incompetent.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: She probably wasn't, but I thought she was.

EN: I never knew her. I I've heard that. That she was extremely disorganized.

LS: Well maybe this is why I'm saying incompetent.

EN: It's hard for her to move on things.

LS: She had...depending I think on her mood. She had a fairly nice personality. Other times she can be difficult.

EN: Uh huh.

LS: But from...Well, my view Vice Premier Provost, she just did not fulfill the role.

EN: Did she, did she ever seek any any advice from you on the academic budget?

LS: No.

EN: No.

LS: What do you mean?

EN: Any briefing or? No?

LS: Well, one of the reasons she didn't in her defense on that one. Is that she probably didn't have the time anyway. And Hollace White who was the Dean of the School of Fine Art was fairly well

aware of most, of quite a bit of the academic budget. And he to some extent, moved up and took part of my responsibility.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And another gentleman by the name of Vance Wilson worked as a fiscal officer.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: All of the research. He came on and worked in the office on the budget.

EN: I see. Okay

LS: So in reality there really wasn't too much of a need for her to confer with me on that.

EN: So, so what did you have interaction with her about the buildings or about space?

LS: Very little.

EN: No.

LS: Very little.

EN: No.

LS: Nope.

EN: No.

LS: I was always under the impression that she and Earl did not get along.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: After a period of time I could have been wrong.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And I think his inability to get along with her kind of worked over into my side of the institution. I don't know.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: The other gentleman, have, you probably heard the name of Earl Beard?

EN: Yes, I was gonna.

LS: A gentleman.

EN: You read my mind. I was gonna ask ...

LS: A gentleman and a scholar.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: That he came up worked in the office of and VP and P. He started reviewing ah, mhm faculty hires for personnel management so forth. Like when I was still responsible for the fiscal rating. But ah, he left Academic Affairs and Director of Personnel. [Pause]

EN: I think he retired. Uh-huh.

LS: Retired. Retired.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And Earl convinced him to come back, which was a great move. And ah, and Earl, the two Earls got along very well with each other. They got along very well with each other.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: I'd call them the Mopsy Twins.

EN: [EN laughs] Okay.

LS: In the hallway.

EN: Well, what did Earl Beard do after he came back?

LS: Huh?

EN: He retired.

LS: He came back in personnel again.

EN: Okay.

LS: And then when I quote, "Got removed," or, "Left."

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: He took over my position.

EN: Okay.

LS: And then when Earl left, Earl Beard left. That was what I think Ben Quillian came in.

EN: Uh-huh. Right. Ben Quillian came in.

LS: I gotta go back. I thought of Mr. Jack Dougherty.

EN: Yes.

LS: John Rendleman. Jack loved to hunt.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And this was the days before we had gun laws and all that happy mishy-mush [banging noise].

EN: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

LS: Well, anyway, Jack had gotten permission to take off a half a day vacation to go hunting that afternoon.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Well instead of keeping his dumb shotgun, in his car. He brings it to Rendleman's office. And he and John get on the elevator at the same time and Jack's got this shotgun. And John just looks at him says, "Jack, are we expecting trouble?" [EN laughs] "I was coming for you don't you know." Yeah, but that's the kind of kidding, you know, if that's the kind of tidbit that you're looking for?

EN: Uh-huh. Yeah.

LS: Yeah. [EN continues to laugh] The ah, but Rendleman would react like that. Earl would have been up to the ceiling.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Then of course, you know, times change.

EN: Yes.

LS: You wouldn't make a shout out on campus now.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Not least carried out in the open. Earl Beard was a gentleman and a scholar.

EN: Mm-hmm. Well, never seems to have challenged...

LS: He never did challenge.

EN: ...Lazerson at...

LS: No ma'am he didn't.

EN: ...all he did, he wrote, he did a lot of research for him.

LS: I I called Earl Beard, and did this to his face. I said, "You're Earl's puppy-dog."

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And whether or not he liked it or not. He didn't say anything. But he was a very nice person.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: So maybe opposites attract.

EN: Yeah. [EN laughs]

LS: But ah, then of course, Earl Beard very smart too! Smart person.

EN: He he was our neighbor in Alton.

LS: Oh, was he?

EN: We lived in Alton for a while and, and he, um, he was really handy. And he would help Norman [Nordhauser] do stuff. We lived in this old house.

LS: Mm-hmm.

EN: Yeah. And our daughter, little girl was like two or three. And she was always saying, "Now, Earl, you got to stop smoking." [EN laughs]

LS: He never did.

EN: No! He never did. [EN laughs]

LS: Never did.

EN: Once he was putting in a toilet. Helping Norm to put in a toilet, and they went out to do something, and she pee'd in it before it was finished. So, and they used to drive to school together. And he told a lot of good stories.

LS: Oh, really?

EN: And yeah, he was a wonderful person.

LS: Ah, he was. He was a wonderful person.

EN: Yeah, you know.

LS: He was a wonderful person to work with too.

EN: Yeah. Yeah, he probably left you to your own. When he thought you were competent. He probably just let you do your own work.

LS: Well, sure he did. Yeah.

EN: Yeah.

LS: I never reported to Earl

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Beard. But I basically had a, you know in a VP office when he moved over. He replaced ah, Warren Joseph I think.

EN: Yeah, he did. Right.

LS: But ah.

EN: Did you know him?

LS: Yeah I knew Warren. Warren was in the VP and P office.

EN: He was.

LS: Couchman was Vice President and Provost at the time. And Warren Joseph was, ah, let's see. He had....

EN: Mm-hmm. He was Dean of Fine Arts wasn't he?

LS: No.

EN: Or head of the division.

LS: No. Well I don't know where he came, But he came from ah...

EN: Music.

LS: ...music and but he was ah, supposed to be reviewing the Academic Affairs Budget for Academic Salaries and Personnel Matters.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Well, I wound up one day, with Andy Couchman, saying, "Well would you take over the responsibility of the Academic Affairs and Salary responsibility?"

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And Warren continued to be responsible then for review of the paperwork, for qualifications.

EN: Okay.

LS: So, he and I occasionally did not see eye to eye on a few things that....

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: ...regardless of whether he approved it, he was liable to, Lazerson or whoever else at the time ah, had to deal with had to deal with [intelligible].

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Had a lot of informal power, I guess.

EN: Yes. [EN laughs]

LS: In that job. And then that job, I probably did assistant to the VP and P.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I had direct access to [John] Metcalf, particularly in yearend of budgets. And we haven't even. I and Jack Dougherty and other people dealt with a lot of money quite often.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: With a lot of money. I'd call up the various Deans, say send me requisitions...

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: ...for X number of dollars, and they go through that and they get more and we can spend state money very appropriately and be happier university for the students benefit.

EN: Uh-huh. Mm-hmm.

LS: We did a good job [LS clears throat] course you couldn't fool in, turn'n it back in.

EN: No.

LS: We made sure it was returned back in.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Everything was for the institution so.

EN: Right.

LS: And Dougherty and I did that for three or four years together. With Metcalf's guidance.

EN: Uh huh.

LS: Hmm.

EN: Well, what happened? What happened to to Mr. Metcalf? Is it?

LS: Well.

EN: At first, I didn't even know he committed suicide.

LS: Yeah, he did.

EN: Because there's nothing of, like that in the records.

LS: Mm-hmm. There's noting like that.

EN: It just says he died. And his obituary says he just died.

LS: Well.

EN: Ah.

LS: I don't know about Jim. I think Earl was getting to him.

EN: Uh-huh. Mm-hmm.

LS: And... I could be wrong. But I think Jim [Metcalf] was drinking a little bit too much.

EN: Uh-huh.

[Audio static]

LS: I'd known him for a whole bunch of years and I think we were very close to each other. But he just...

EN: He seems like he was a wonderful person.

LS: He was. And ah. We all kind of liked Jack Dougherty, Jack Dougherty and Libby [phonetic] called him. Jack and Jack went over and cleaned up the bedroom where Jim shot himself.

EN: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Oh, nice. Mm-hmm.

LS: Unfortunately. But I don't really, see Jim had all kinds of time in the University he could have retired.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I think it well. Well, that you had to be 55 I think. I think he had about a month or two, but he had 30 or 35 years. And ah. Exactly why I don't know. No one will ever know, I guess.

EN: Uh-huh. Yeah, well, I'm surprised to hear that he had an alcohol problem because it seemed to me that during the Rendleman period, he was the one who didn't, Rendleman wanted to always help parties with a lot of alcohol around on the campus and Metcalf wasn't in favor of that.

LS: I think, I think Jim had that problem when Earl came on board.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: As top dog. Oh, now Jim and I we went to parties with each other way before that. Yeah [EN laughs] We'd play AAA and we ah, we'd go bowling, and we'd meet, basically go bowling so we could go to the pizza place and eat and drink.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And the, yeah we basically the triple A parties we get ah, unfortunately sauced. Larry Taliana...

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: ...and me.

EN: I wish he were alive.

LS: Oh, yeah.

EN: I think he probably knows a lot.

LS: Oh, oh Jim. Jim would know a lot.

EN: Yeah.

LS: He particularly [LS laughs] he worked is rear-end off when John [Rendlemen], the Mississippi River Festival.

EN: Yes.

LS: When that big blub occurred. Trying to make sure he knew all the facts and figures.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Money figures. When had to help him when he came to testify too, but he was doing whatever he could to protect the honor of the University.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: He was very dedicated and loved this place. Maybe too much.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I think he came from Carbondale I think. But ah.

EN: Uh-huh. Did you have anything to do? I'm not doing too much on the MRF because our the guy down in the archives is making this big CD...

LS: Oh, is he?

EN: ...about it. Yeah, I'm emphasizing more. The other stuff. I want people to know other things about our university. [EN laughs] Did you have stuff to do with MRF though?

LS: No.

EN: No. You weren't.

LS: With one exception. That was one, we we the academic affairs ah, budget, purchased a big sound system one year. We purchase it for "academic affairs" but it wound up at the MRF site.

EN: Okay.

LS: And I kind of griped about that. But I think it was Andy, said, "Ah, don't worry about it. No will ever found out." So.

EN: Okay. Okay.

LS: [Recording feedback] Course that was the early '80s. He's passed away now too.

EN: Yes.

LS: He came up from Carbondale. Me and [intelligible] became friends with him.

EN: Uh-huh. [Recording feedback] Now he was the political guy wasn't he?

LS: Bill?

EN: No. No.

LS: Not too much. Na.

EN: Okay.

LS: Maybe quazi.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: But he was more of an internal university man too. And political I wouldn't believe, that was John that was.

EN: Oh, okay.

LS: And I'm trying to think. When John was getting sick. [Recording feedback] He wanted to be put in charge of the Vice President of Administration.

EN: Yes, he that was his idea to have a VP of Administration.

LS: Mm-hmm.

EN: I remember that '75 when he was getting ill... he started on that.

LS: Mm-hmm. And he. Who who was it? [Recording feedback] Well, anyway, I think John D is the Vice President for Administration and it was in the political job and the running of the institutional problem would be left to one of his underlings.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: [Recording feedback] And he had somebody else picked out for that.

EN: Oh, he did? A politician.

LS: No, the guy worked for university.

EN: Oh.

LS: But I can't.

EN: I'm trying to think who.

LS: But I can't think who it was.

EN: Hmm.

LS: But anyway, he didn't. John wasn't successful in getting him appointed.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: All the faculty and everybody else turned the guy down. So [Recording feedback]

EN: Oh.

LS: Are you going to interview any of the Civil Service people?

EN: Well, I've interviewed. Let's see. I interviewed Jo [Josephene] Beatty.

LS: Jo "vocal."

EN: Yeah [EN laughs]. Because I want to hear about her at East St. Louis...

LS: Oh, okay.

EN: ...and the machinery used and things like that. Who would you suggest?

LS: Did you ever talk to Wilma Jean Bond?

EN: No, I haven't called her, I've got to call her.

LS: Whether or not she would? You know what she was the [Recording feedback] secretary for bunch of years for the big guy on campus. [Recording feedback]

EN: Yes. Yeah.

LS: And then John.

EN: Right.

LS: I've got a list of them.

EN: Through Nancy Belck.

LS: Well, I thought about it... [Crosstalk]

EN: No, Good. I'm glad you've got a list.

LS: Lemme look....

EN: Great.

LS: While were thinking about that. Cuz I just thought of it the other day.

EN: And I'm interviewing Mary Rast I'm not sure...

LS: Who?

EN: Mary Rast she she manages the labs now.

LS: I don't know here.

EN: She might have come in later, but...

LS: Well okay, I got Jim Peebles. Jim Metcalf. Jack Dougherty.

EN: Peebles. I have his address.

LS: These people.

EN: He lives.

LS: He lives somewhere around Carbondale.

EN: Yeah, I have his address.

LS: Metcalf is passed away. Jack Dougherty. He would, he would be an interesting person to talk to.

EN: Oh, good.

LS: He's livin' in Florida, however.

EN: Oh, in Florida.

LS: Mm-hmm.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Otto Meyer [phonetic], he was a comptroller. Jim Johnson was my Director of Physical Plant.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: [Recording feedback] Charles McDonald was the...

EN: Yeah, I got I've been playing phone tag with him. He gave me his card one day and in Sacred Grounds [Cafe], and then I call them and then I emailed him and then he called me back.

LS: Mm-hmm.

EN: And I called him back and he wasn't home and then he called me back. So I haven't got an appointment with him yet.

LS: Okay. Then you got Rich, Rich Madison, the Universe-University Center.

EN: I'm interviewing Grace Madison. I guess I have to ask about...

LS: Grace...? Grace Madison. Grace...where was she at?

EN: Yeah.

LS: Where is she at?

EN: She's in Edwardsville. She was a student.

LS: Well, okay. Okay. I'll have to interview Rich Madison. Yeah. Helen Phillabomb [phonetic] [recording feedback].

EN: Yeah, some, [recording feedback] several have mentioned her.

LS: Okay. Helen Morrow.

EN: No. Helen Morrow.

LS: Mm-hmm.

EN: Okay.

LS: You got a guy that used to run transportation services and Harvey Bushrow. I doubt if he'd talk to you.

EN: Oh, really?

LS: He might.

EN: Oh, okay. Well, maybe I'll try to get him. I think his daughter, or somebody is on the faculty in the School of Ed now. Julia Bushrow.

LS: It might be. I don't know.

EN: Okay.

LS: And the only other one I had was Stan [Stanley] Kimball, which you already knew about him. He passed away.

EN: Yes. Right.

LS: Course Jim [Montgomery] Brown's passed away, and you've already mentioned Whiley [phonetic].

EN: Yeah.

LS: Clarence Stevens is dead. Yeah. [Andy] Couchman's in Florida someplace. Bruce Thomas has passed away.

EN: [Recording feedback] Yeah.

LS: [Intelligible name] passed away.

EN: Yeah.

LS: Anyway.

EN: Yeah.

LS: That was just some names I was thinking about.

EN: Yeah. I'm gonna call Helen Phillabomb [phonetic]. Darda you've really mentioned him. Jack Darda [phonetic]. Darda.

LS: He's ah, oh, he and I [LS laughs].

EN: I might...

LS: Well, he called me as a millstone [EN laughs].

EN: Oh. Okay [EN laughing]

LS: When I was director of supporting services.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: He had, what he was working for Metcalf. And when ah, Earl appointed me as Director of Supporting Services, Darda came to work for me. And Meyer came.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And Earl and Jack had a relationship. Lazerson.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And I couldn't fathom it out, but they got along with each other.

EN: Okay.

LS: Every time Earl got mad at me, he'd go and chew Jack out.

EN: Okay. Oh dear [EN laughs].

LS: And every so often, Jack would do a few things. They come and he'd say, "Well, Luther. You just like a cat in a mill pond. I've had my millstone around your neck and you were splashing water and I threw another millstone around your neck so you're gonna sink again." [EN laughs] And he was Safety Director when I was so-called Director of Supporting Services. I have to remind him of this every year. Tornado warnings and he wrote a memo to all faculty and the university personnel.

EN: Oh, Yes,

LS: And it basically says, "This is tornado season, do not expose yourself in front of the windows." Do not expose yourself in front of the windows [EN laughs]. Carol Keene was the Dean of the humanities she calls, and says, "Luther, do you know what Jack wrote?" She just started chuckling. I said, "Now what did he do?" "Do not expose yourself in front of the windows!" [EN laughing] And I still remember that to this day.

EN: That's a good story.

LS: Oh, yeah.

EN: Well, now what about Chief McDonald [Phonetic]? Chuck? Am I going to get a good story from him? You think?

LS: You probably will if he talks to you.

EN: Okay, everything's just, if he talks. He's been elusive.

LS: He had ah, I don't think his relationship with Earl was too good.

EN: No.

LS: Due to the fact that Ria [phonetic], he was one of Ria Friders [phonetic] men.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And Earl and Ria didn't get along. And she hired him. And that's what we, I don't think. And, of course, head of security at the time which was unionized.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And he had a combination of things like that occurring. And...

EN: It he had he also, he and Joe Vanzo didn't get along.

LS: Who?

EN: Joe Vanzo.

LS: Joe Vanzo [whispering]...

EN: Oh, is it? No, what's his name.

LS: It is John?

EN: I think it's Vanzo and he still works here. But anyway, I guess that's neither here nor there.

LS: I don't know.

EN: He was. I can't remember what, what was his job? I think they had an argument.

LS: Bob.

EN: Bob Vanzo. Yeah. Bob Vanzo, and they had an argument over who, who was supposed to report to who?

LS: Oh, okay.

EN: Something like that. And, and MacDonald was reporting to Earl Lazerson. And Bob thought he should be reporting to him.

LS: Oh, okay.

EN: That's in the files that wouldn't go in the book or anything.

LS: Oh, okay.

EN: Uh-huh. [Recording feedback]

LS: Yeah, check with the ah, he could tell ya some interesting stories.

EN: Good. Well, I got to get a hold of him then.

LS: But ah. But I'll let him tell.

EN: Okay.

LS: Because he could speak with much more authority.

EN: Uh-huh. Okay.

LS: We were involved in a few things together. When I was director, he came up and tell me something, and then say, "Now don't tell anybody anything."

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: "Till it happens." so it happens, a few things happen. So we worked it out. But I would prefer....

EN: Uh-huh. They're not ever gonna. No historian is ever going to be able to find out about this.

LS: Probably not.

EN: Okay.

LS: Probably not worthwhile to even remember.

EN: Well, so you're someone, this, you're creating a source. And a historian 100 years from now, probably will listen to it and so.

LS: Hmn, maybe.

EN: [EN laughs] Maybe.

LS: Oh, basically, most of it revolved around the news, we had the *Alestle* and everything that suddenly happened on campus. [Recording feedback] They were down and determined it. So they could tell everybody up all the time, "We need to tell the students." and, "No, they don't need to tell the students some young lady got raped."

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: It's none of their business.

EN: Uh-huh. And he got picked up for speeding it's no not necessarily your business. Now the *Alestle* is listing...

EN: Their listing all the traffic's.

LS: ...minor infractions.

EN: Every time there's a big list.

LS: Mm-hmm. But uh, he got involved with few things like that.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: Well, and I said, Earl didn't like the police. He was a smart, he's a hard-working intelligent man. The machine, you submit to take the hill up [?].

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: That's another question.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: I think from what I know about it he was finally removed from President by the Board.

EN: Oh.

LS: Well, he didn't want to be President so long. Well, me and my job. I think that my when I was their Director of Supportive Services, I think the average tenure is about two and a half to three years. And I survived for about four.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: So, whether that's good or bad or being stupid, [intelligible - recording feedback].

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: It's an interesting period of time.

EN: Yes.

LS: But I think the first part of the institution. The first years was much more fun and more favorable. You had your arguments with people. We got a heck of a lot ah done, apparently.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And as we got older, we became more formalized. We had more rules. He had this he had unionization and more and more people griping and moaning so you had to formalize more things and he lost a lot of the what I'd call the maybe a family sense from way back when.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: Well, they probably couldn't have existed unless we lost it. Things were very informal way back when we had the [intelligible] and of course me, myself, and I, and Jack Darda [phonetic]

we would have both been, had the university sued for sexual harassment many times I will feel a mom I'd go up and give her hug. Ah, Betty Craft [phonetic] Have you heard her name?

EN: Uh-huh. Yes. Betty Craft.

LS: She could probably tell you a few stories. Now she would...I won't to tell you this and he talk to her, you can ask her.

EN: Okay.

LS: She was at one time a very shy young lady, [EN laughs] then she was married and had two kids.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And Jack and I knew and we worked in the same office with her.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: [Recording feedback] And whenever we got tired of doing what we were doing. And she was a receptionist.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: We'd go out in our doorway and start leering at her. Her back was towards us, but you could tell she was starting to get fidgety and she knew someone was looking at her. And she'd finally turned around and knew that we were buggin' her.

EN: Huh.

LS: It was just because we knew we could.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And she. she, she, she finally got over shyness. She was a very nice young lady, well, not a young lady she was middle age by now, but. [Recording feedback]

EN: She retired too. Just very recently.

LS: That she had. Did you every talk to her on the telephone.

EN: Uh-huh. No.

LS: She was the telephone receptionist of the personnel office.

EN: Oh, okay.

LS: And we kind of enjoyed calling the personnel office just to hear her answer the phone [EN laughs] [LS clears throat] Ah, but yeah.

EN: So, what's your, what's your um, your... what were, what do you think was your biggest contribution to building the university?

LS: I don't know.

EN: Sounds like you did a lot of things...

LS: Well, I don't think I.

EN: ...manage...

LS: I think I ah...

EN: ...the money and got it distributed?

LS: Well, probably or helped do it. You didn't really do anything by yourself at that point. We had a lot of help doing this and doing that.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: [Recording feedback] So I don't really know what my biggest contribution was, I think I was a better administrator than I was an instructor.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: But I didn't think about teaching. Well, probably because when I was teaching it was always a class of 120 or 130.

EN: Okay.

LS: And your then not really teaching. When I was teaching at East St. Louis we had a class of about 45 or 30 people.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And they were older people who were working, who were a little more interested in hearing about a few things when I got up here teaching regular incoming freshmen and [LS sighs] [recording feedback] some of em' want to pay attention, but this was a beginning class and they all had to take they knew it, and all they wanted was to take and get out of it. And you can't really do much with 155 students.

EN: Mm-hmm.

LS: And I was kind of amazed, that, it's kind of amazing when you give 100, on your syllabus, you see your gonna give a 100-point test.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: And you had to have 70% to get a C... how many people ask you how many questions they have to get right.

EN: Out of a hundred questions.

LS: And, I just, just amazing, just amazes me and they, I try to make it as simple as possible. And to get a C... you've gotta have 70. it's just ridiculous. On one more little incident when I was Directors for Supporting Services I was also the snow tsar, snow tsar are why they were we got that move down to that level. Ya know, why protect the President? Because Buzz Shaw shouted that he brought in Andrea Friders [phonetic]. He turned over that responsibility to close the campus. So obviously you can be protected. John Rendleman himself made that decision. Say that this is our respect optimal?

EN: Yes.

LS: Well, anyway, Buzz Shaw came back from Ria [Andrea] Friders, since she was in charge of physical plant, I didn't make sure the rules... and campus are all clean. So, when I inherited in the job, I got that great responsibility.

EN: From Earl Lazerson.

LS: Yeah, well, if you look back at history on this campus, this will be directed in that goes campus. And the campus was clear. All the parking lots and all the rooms on campus were clear. And all of a sudden, the director of supporting services was responsible for all the highways leading to campus policy set. The policy said that if you don't think it's safe, to come to campus Don't come. Don't ask for somebody else to make that decision for it. Anyway, I didn't close campus. We had I think we had big snow storm. I and a whole bunch of other people were here, protecting the people in physical plant. University was open. The Faculty Senate I think commended the physical plant job. They said several kind of snide... about me, but but that's neither here nor there. All they had to do was I think they changed the policy after that. But it was still the individual's response.

EN: Yes, to come to campus.

LS: And the odd funny part about that I got not too awfully many phone calls from students, mothers or parents. that the vast majority of the phone calls I got was from parents of boys. I never got a one from a female mother, it was all from the males. But you take would be just the opposite.

EN: Right?

LS: And I still remember that why in the world and I get a phone call. And tell me how dumb I was for some mother in behalf of her daughter. It was all from the ... And also got a call from Bruce Thomas. He was not one.

EN: Oh, yes.

LS: You still live by the way?

EN: Yeah, I'm gonna interview him. I have a date to interview.

LS: He could probably tell you a lot. He was one of the real old people. He was here before I was anyway, he had class at night, or whatever it was Air Force.

EN: Scott.

LS: Air Force officers up here complaining they had to go out in the snow, the class and I said, "Bruce, or anything I can tell you if they're in the damn Air Force. This buggin' 'em, I'm sure that hope they're not defending my country and my rule of law. And you can tell him that for me." He says, "You want me to tell them that?" And I said, "Yeah." Whether you get it? Well, my son was. He went to Iraq. He was home that weekend. He had to come and get a haircut. Well, little blonde friend over, in St. Charles area, well he really came to see his girlfriend. But he came home to get a haircut. He goes right off the bat girl on that weekend. But I was recommended the faculty so that means I was the gentleman that decided about closing the campus. But maybe I should have.

EN: I don't I think it's a huge it's something people really worry about. Now. They have the inclement weather policy. And they have, you're supposed to listen to the radio. Maybe you had that then listen to the radio.

LS: I think something similar.

EN: Yeah, and it it always it always says that but it's basically your decision.

LS: Has to be well anyway, the campus was clear and the road and the campus were clear. 157 159 we're kind of crappy, I don't know why. Now but anyway

EN: Yeah, well it's very expensive to close the campus so you understand why you wouldn't do it.

LS: I don't know what, well anyway you know I was here. I knew the campus was clear. Parking lots was clear, road was clear. That road from where I live about six miles from campus and that road worked with all the slush and everything so not really that bad. So anyway yeah, Bruce can be, yeah. How long do you want to take to write this book?

EN: Well, um, the, I'll turn off the.

[Recording stops].

LS: I had no idea what you should put.

EN: What would if you were writing the history? What would you put in it?

LS: I wouldn't write a history in the first place. I'm not very good writer. Oh, just made me It basically probably what you're planning on?

EN: Yeah.

LS: This is supposed to be a book about memory.

EN: Yeah

LS: Of course, a lot of the memories are based upon facts, which can be verified.

EN: That's right.

LS: There are some things that can't be verified.

EN: No, but they're just feel how people felt about it. And the perspective they can...

LS: It's a great place. probably still is going a different way. That change? We got dorms now. Yep. You got any people? I don't even know who the Dean is now.

EN: Yeah. Gary, Gary Giamartino? No, I've never met him either.

LS: And I'm sure the institution has similar problem like any other, as Jim Brown says, "we made a lot of our own problems on ourselves."

EN: I agree with that.

LS: And I don't know how long he was president

EN: While he was president, many retired or retired and then he came back back and he was always, but...

LS: He's right. We brought a lot of our own problems ourselves. We thought we had a lot of problems that we didn't think that he had seen, he was an English professor.

EN: Yes.

LS: And wound up the head of the university. Well, shall I leave you?

EN: Well, I have one more thing to ask you about. I was gonna ask you about, what do you think about the university in the community around in the region? Do you think it's got a good reputation? Or is it...

LS: I think it's better than it was. I think way back when? Well, you know, we came into college land. That was kind of a black market to start with.

EN: Yes.

LS: So, I don't really think the city fathers are better as well in this rather community. Really looked at us favorably back then. I think so. Maybe well, this is another episode. Back when, when was director of supporting services, the city of Edwardsville, was bound and determined that we would never vote... but in the near future, Edwardsville was putting in a new sewer treatment plant and they were bound and determined that we were to close ours down and put all of our charges on charges more processing. I got in trouble with them on that. That may have inflamed a few things at a later date. Also, Wagner, unfortunately,

EN: Yes.

LS: I had a few go around as with I call it the ocean Goshen society. Madison County Historical Society. We were to completely renovate and repair all of his buildings.

EN: Yeah.

LS: Which is why they're doing that to some extent now by tearing them down. They had an old lime mortar and the old salt clay brick. They were just past their life expectancy. I had a few go around them, so that was maybe not the best thing. But I really think like the institution better when they are with each other now. That may not be true. I don't really pay too much. I don't pay too much attention this place or the town of Edwardsville.

EN: So, you've got another life now.

LS: We just kind of walked away and like Don Strickland said. He used to be the chairman of the Department of Management.

EN: Uh-huh.

LS: "Luther you just left. They called me, left my books and everything else." I gave him my PhD. The robe walked off and left. So maybe somebody wanted them. I don't know. Maybe they probably... know.

EN: Someone's probably still wearing your robe.

LS: They might be wearing my robe.

EN: Yeah, but ...

LS: Yeah, robes are expensive.

EN: Yeah.

LS: Probably getting threadbare but a whole bunch of years have been repairing women. almost three years now. People are now go to family events and retiree after 10 years service retired after 15 years service. Geez. Course, my wife would kill me for a few weeks.

EN: To my daughter's a nurse.

LS: Oh, is she? Well, I'm gonna leave ya.

EN: Okay, well.

[Recording ends]