

INTERVIEW OF MILTON SCHULTZ, 1994

BLAKE HAILEY: Good afternoon today's date is February the 21st, 1994. I'm Blake Hailey, and we are pleased to have Mr. Milton Schultz with us today. We are going to do these videos in the Biomedical Communication Center at the University of North Texas Health Science Center here in Fort Worth, in the Gibson D. Lewis Library. After saying that big mouthful Mr. Schultz we are glad you could take some time out of your busy schedule to meet with us today. I'd like, if you would, first give for the tape your title. You could probably do a far better job with your title than I could ever do, as far as what your position here is at the school

MILTON SCHULTZ: I'm the director of the construction and renovation office.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh. I'd like, if we could, go back to some prior background before you ever thought about coming to TCOM, if you could, and kind of reminisce about some things.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Okay. Well, I graduated from high school 1935 in Columbus, Texas. At that time, I went to work for a highway contractor down in Arlington, Texas. I worked for them on the international coastal levy. I worked three years and got tired of working and driving a V 8. It was awful hard work, so I decided I better look for a better job. So I had saved a little money and started Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas. Main reason for going there, I was a Lutheran and I figured I could make the football team.

BLAKE HAILEY: And did you?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yes, I did. So I went there two years. And the third year, I went to University of Texas in Austin. And just before the end of the third year, I ran out of money so I had to borrow \$80 to finish.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh my.

MILTON SCHULTZ: So then I went back to work with this contractor at Mission Texas. At that time -- that was in '41. And at that time, it looked like we were going to get into a war. So I was working seven days a week, ten hours a day. And -- and I was watching my draft number, and it was just about to come up, so I went to my foreman says, "Next week is my last week." So he said, "Oh, you can't leave me." I said, "Yes, I can. The Army wants me."

BLAKE HAILEY: Don't have much choice.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yeah. So I stayed there another week and then I would come up to San Antone and volunteered. That was four days before Christmas in '41.

BLAKE HAILEY: '41.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And it was about three -- five of us went through taking our physicals. And we all passed nicely because they wanted us to go. So I got to think about it. Here is three days before Christmas.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh my.

MILTON SCHULTZ: There was a captain, I said "Captain, how about waiting to come back after Christmas?" He said "Fine." So he said, "Come back December 29th". So I went back December 29th, they sent me out to Lackland for my basic training. And I was in the Air Force and I wanted to be a pilot.

So after my basic training he sent me to Ennith -- Cimarron Field, right out of Oklahoma City. And I got 13 hours and 42 minutes before I washed out. And I was kind of glad I washed out. I seen too many pilots deteriorate. So then, they recommended me to go to Communication Armor School to get my commission. So I said, "Why don't I take armor?" And the other class was coming in and the armor school hadn't opened up so they gave me a months vacation to go home. And then they called me and I went to Lauryfield in Denver, Colorado and got my commission in the Air Force.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And I got the commission in July of '42. Yeah, that's right. And then we layed around there a month. They shipped us out to San Francisco. And we were supposed to arrive there on August the 23rd.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: It was the day the boat was going out but we didn't get to make it. So we stayed in San Francisco through September 1st, and we had a great time.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh, I bet.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And then I shipped out on September 1st, and went down to Australia. And that was a 14-day trip on one of these big ships. And arrived there, and they put us out in a racehorse -- boarded up racehorse track.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And they told us not -- not to leave. You know that, us, on a boat 14 days. We wasn't going to stand there. So we found a plank in the fence that was broken. We all wanted a Brisbane -- Brisbane, Australia is where we landed.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Okay. And then they send us up from there, we rode a train to Townsville, Australia. That's where the 80th fighter group, which I was a member of.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And riding that train up there was slow. I don't know how many days it took us two or three days. And nothing to eat. So they had these meat pot pies along the road.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And looked around and we'd see it or whatever so we'd run off, we could run faster than the train and get this meat pot pie and get back on the train. So we are riding, I was assigned to the 80th fighter squadron, 8th fighter group as an armored officer. And from there we just hopped all of the islands in the Pacific.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And I got back to the States in 1945. Spent three years, 11 months, and two days overseas.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And we land in Seattle, Washington. And I headed out to Columbus, Texas. And they gave me six months off, and I was signed to Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. To count who was in all of the four tile buildings, building that was on Kelly. That was a job.

BLAKE HAILEY: I bet.

MILTON SCHULTZ: So I didn't get to finish that. They sent me to Little Rock, Arkansas, Air Force Base, to close out the base. And the eighth or ninth specialized depot was there. So I closed that out. And they alerted me -- sent me back to Kelly to give me my discharge. And I asked them, let me stay in. And they would have to tie some permanent first Lieutenants. So I went before these five colonels. I didn't get it. I went down to Columbus, I build three homes in a year and a half, and the wife helped and my sister helped me, and I rented them out, got enough money to go back to school.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh. Back to UT?

MILTON SCHULTZ: UT. And I started there in -- let's see. I graduated in '50 and I spent three years -- '47. And I got my degree in mechanical engineering in 1950. And at that time, engineering jobs were still hard to get.

BLAKE HAILEY: Even then, huh?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yeah, in '50. So I went back to work for this same contractor and I worked for him maybe a year and a half, until the Corps of Engineers had jobs in Galveston. So I went down there and got a job with them. And with the corps, I went to Austin to Bergstrom Air Force Field, then up to Fort Worth and spent the rest of my years here with the corps here in Fort Worth, traveling five states, troubleshooting in mechanical and electrical. And so I got my 32 years in with them and decided I need to look for another job. To enjoy -- that retirement.

BLAKE HAILEY: Right.

MILTON SCHULTZ: So Mr. Denny, which worked for the Corps of Engineers, he was working here for TCOM. And he was my super -- supervisor for two or three years.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh. Okay.

MILTON SCHULTZ: So I called him. He says, "Yeah, I can use you." so I retired on October -- Friday, October 21st and come to work Monday the 23rd. October, 1977. Been working here ever since.

BLAKE HAILEY: That's an impressive career. What were your first assignment -- or -- or what was your first assignment when you came to TCOM back in '77.

MILTON SCHULTZ: During the -- well, more or less, seeing that the contractor performed his contract and building Med Ed 1, 3, and 3. That was working under Mr. Denny in 1 and 2. Mr. Denny went to North Texas, but he would come up every Friday and I would have the rest of the week here. And then Med Ed 3, I had one all by myself.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh. So you kind of worked your way up, then. From 1, 2, 3.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Right.

BLAKE HAILEY: What were some of the problems that you encountered in the construction of -- for example, starting with Med Ed 1. Did you have any major problems you had to work with at that time, or was it pretty smooth sailing for you?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Well, see, I had been in construction with the corps. I knew about -- we had a pretty good contractor Med Ed 1 and 2 both. And things went pretty smooth. Sure, you always got problems, you know.

BLAKE HAILEY: Right.

MILTON SCHULTZ: But nothing we couldn't solve very easily.

BLAKE HAILEY: Now, I see Fisher and Spillman, was that the --

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yeah, Fish and Spillman at that time. They are now called Heff & Ness Partners.

BLAKE HAILEY: And that's who helped design all -- or helped with all three buildings.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Right.

BLAKE HAILEY: So you kind of worked with them all along.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Right.

BLAKE HAILEY: What types of plans do you -- do you have for the TCOM as far -- which is now the Health Science Center in the future? Do you plan to add onto what you have existing or new buildings planned?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yes. We have new buildings planned. We hope to put 2 new floors on Med Ed 2 and maybe extend the barbering, maybe buy some more land.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yeah, we got plans.

BLAKE HAILEY: Yeah. Adding two floors to Med Ed 2, that seems like it would be kind of difficult at points, wouldn't it?

MILTON SCHULTZ: No.

BLAKE HAILEY: It's not?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Oh, see, we designed it to take them floors.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh. How much did each building cost, roughly to do -- to build. I've always been kind of curious about that.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Well, let's see. Med Ed 1 was about 12 million, and Med Ed 2 about 11, and Med Ed 3 about 10.

BLAKE HAILEY: Were you involved in any way with helping with getting the funds together for any of that?

MILTON SCHULTZ: No, really not.

BLAKE HAILEY: What type of -- you say there's some projects coming up as far as adding on -- other schools that the Health Science Center wants to add as far as housing for faculty and so forth or --

MILTON SCHULTZ: Well, we want to build two floors of Med Ed two for more research space.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And then maybe -- maybe add onto Seminary South, the new clinic that we just required.

BLAKE HAILEY: Oh. Okay. And then do some more renovation here on -- on campus.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Oh yeah. Every day.

BLAKE HAILEY: I take it, then, your job never stops, it sounds like. You always have something that you're working on.

MILTON SCHULTZ: That's right.

BLAKE HAILEY: What do you think -- is the immediate plan to add in the two floors to Med Ed 2? Is that your immediate plan, or do you have some other --

MILTON SCHULTZ: No. That's an immediate plan. And we ought to be able to find out in the next three months if we're going to go.

BLAKE HAILEY: That's coming up pretty quick, then.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Right.

BLAKE HAILEY: That will probably keep you busy.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Right.

BLAKE HAILEY: You do a lot of work, I've noticed, too, with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I kind of noticed in some things I've read on you. How does that affect the building and the contracting and so forth?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Well --

BLAKE HAILEY: What types of things do you have that you didn't have two years ago.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Well, see, back in 78 they didn't have all this extraneous ADA regulations. Now we are changing our thresholds, toilet paper holders, new threshold doors and closures, closures just can be 8 pounds.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: Making these automatic doors we put in Med Ed 1 over there, in the north end, you know, so, handicapped just go in that and that door opens itself.

BLAKE HAILEY: Uh-huh.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And ramps. We did a ramp out here, you see this concrete. Bringing the ramps up to levels of the threshold. And we just got in some handicapped tables for each one of the classrooms.

BLAKE HAILEY: Interesting.

MILTON SCHULTZ: And -- let's see --

BLAKE HAILEY: Did you have to do a lot of work with -- as far as contractors go and that type of thing? As far as any rules or laws that apply to that part of it? Did you have to watch now that you didn't have two years ago?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Oh, yeah. Yeah. You got to watch them -- ever since I went to work construction. You got to watch the --

BLAKE HAILEY: So you have to kind of keep an eye on all that kind of thing, it sounds like. What other things would you like to see down here for the Health Science Center as far as building and maintaining and so forth? Do you have any --

MILTON SCHULTZ: Well, yes. But -- I'd rather not -- I'd rather not state them. We need to borrow some more land and, you know, do some more construction.

BLAKE HAILEY: Is there a -- so there is a -- is there a current plan, then, that you have? I mean, as far as you're filing, are you using the plan that you developed years ago as far as developing?

MILTON SCHULTZ: No. We are not following that plan. We need to bring that thing up to date. We need a new -- what do you call it? Master plan. We need to bring a master plan up. Right now, we are way behind on our master plan.

BLAKE HAILEY: Do you think that will happen in the -- in the near future?

MILTON SCHULTZ: Yeah.

BLAKE HAILEY: Are there some things you'd like to bring up, Mr. Schultz, that we -- we kind of touched on a few things here. Is there some things you'd like to bring up as far as what's going on in the -- in your business?

MILTON SCHULTZ: No. Just plenty of work...

BLAKE HAILEY: Well, we do appreciate you taking time to meet with us and -- I know you have a very busy schedule. You've done a lot for the Health Science Center. And I know you'll continue to do that for as long as you can. You don't have plans of retiring -- I don't think -- any time soon, right?

MILTON SCHULTZ: No. I'm just waiting for someone to run me off.

BLAKE HAILEY: Well, I have a feeling you may be here a long time, if that's the case. Mr. Schultz, we do appreciate it. Thank you very much for your time today.

MILTON SCHULTZ: I enjoyed it.