

STOKES: This is Ray Stokes in the Special Collections Section of the TCOM Library on December 1, 1988. Today I'm proud to have a guest who is a long-time friend of mine, who's been a friend of mine since 1947 or 1948. I first met him as a member of the Riverside Lions Club when he and I were both active in that particular club. We both have remained Lions through the years but we're not together. We are in different clubs now. I refer to a man who has had an enviable career in osteopathy and he has been practicing for about 47 or 48 years, but we'll let him do the talking. I'd like to at this time welcome and recognize a very good friend of mine, Dr. Virgil L. Jennings. Dr. Jennings, it's good to have you here with us.

JENNINGS: Thank you, it's nice to be here.

STOKES: I want to start our little discussion by asking you a very personal question. I've known you now, as I said earlier, for better than 40 years. We used to even square dance together back in the 40s when...well it's still popular in some circles, but not as popular with us now. But nevertheless back in those days and once in a while a run across one of our mutual friends who might refer to you or when I say something about I talked to Dr. Dude today, they might know who I'm talking about, but most people probably wouldn't know who Dude is. Tell me, how did you get your nickname of Dude?

JENNINGS: Well my grandfather lived in Joplin, Missouri and he taught me to tell people when they asked me my name that I was a Joplin dude and a 10 cent sport and that "Dude" carried over with me all through my adolescent years, even childhood and adolescent years and even after I went away to universities. So most of my oldtime friends know my nickname as Dude.

STOKES: But most of your newer friends don't necessarily refer to you as Dude?

JENNINGS: No, I'm Virgil.

STOKES: Well, you have a career that has, like I say, stretched over some 47 or 48 years and I think your career started, I mean you got out of school along about 1940. You have three diplomas in medicine. I'd like for you to kind of start off by explaining your first degree, your second degree and then you have a third diploma, but kind of tie it in with the other two. What was your^N first degree and where did you get it and how'd you get it?

JENNINGS: Well, I attended the University of Tulsa first and then I graduated from the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1940. Then two years later I received a degree from the Kansas City University of Physicians and Surgeons, an M.D. degree.

STOKES: Now how did that come about?

JENNINGS: Well, I took two additional years after my osteopathic work and I was given credit for that and I was anxious to know the different philosophies of the two school, the aopathic school and the osteopathic school. And I had another degree of Doctor of Public Health that was given after I got my M.D. degree.

STOKES: I see, that's what you third diploma is, in Public Health?

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: What year was that, do you recall?

JENNINGS: Well that was, I believe, in 1943? That was just before I went to San Antonio.

STOKES: Now how did you go to San Antonio? How did you get introduced to Texas?

JENNINGS: Well, I accepted an intership at the Robert B. Green Hospital in San Antonio.

STOKES: Was that a D.O. hospital?

JENNINGS: No, the Robert B. Green was affiliated with the University of Texas. That was how I got the M.D. degree and how I happened to get the internship and residency at the Robert B. Green in San Antonio. Because it is affiliated with the University of Texas.

STOKES: I see. Then what happened to you after you left San Antonio?

JENNINGS: After I left San Antonio I moved to Fort Worth in 1946.

STOKES: What happened to the years that you were in Oklahoma practicing with a very good friend of ours? That was before 1946 wasn't it?

JENNINGS: Well, I retract that statement. My memory is kind of gone.

STOKES: Well we understand. Mine too. I wasn't trying to correct you

but I did happen to know that you had a practice in Oklahoma before you came here.

JENNINGS: That's right. I moved to Muskogee with Dr. McCullough.

STOKES: Now who is Dr. McCullough?

JENNINGS: Dr. McCullough was my partner and one of my very, very closest friends. While we were in Muskogee we worked at the Eastern Oklahoma Hospital for about two years.

STOKES: Are you talking about 1944, 1945, somewhere in there?

JENNINGS: Along in that area. And then we had the McCullough and Jennings Clinic for about a year and a half. And it was from there that he decided to go back to Tulsa and practice and I decided to take this internship at the Robert B. Green Hospital in San Antonio.

STOKES: Oh, then you went from there to San Antonio? And then you came from San Antonio to here? I understand. And you got here then in 1946?

JENNINGS: 1946, in February or March of 1946.

STOKES: Now you were alluding to a part of your life that we'll get into in a minute about your association that you had with various hospital. Before we get into that, when you first came to Fort Worth, where was your practice?

JENNINGS: Well, I started practice on East Belnap in Fort Worth.

STOKES: East Belnap, that's what we call Six Points out in Riverside. Now that's where you were actually practicing when I first met you in 1947 or 1948.

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: You are a family practitioner or a general practitioner. Tell me a little bit about some of the organizations that you belong to. Some of your societies.

JENNINGS: I hardly know where to start.

STOKES: Well let's start by asking what does the F.A.C.G.P. mean?

JENNINGS: That's the Fellow American College of General Practitioners.

STOKES: Would that be the first honor that you received?

JENNINGS: Well, yes. I was president of the State Association of General Practitioners.

STOKES: What year was that?

JENNINGS: Well that was about 1952 or '53.

STOKES: I see. That's about the time, wasn't Dr. George Luibel, wasn't he president of the Texas Association along about that time?

JENNINGS: Well, I forgot what year but it wasn't far from then.

STOKES: What other distinctions have you received?

JENNINGS: Well, I was president of the Alumni Association of the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine.

STOKES: I can relate to that because I've worked for some of these presidents of alumni associations on the side now.

JENNINGS: I was president for a year and that's when I first really got interesting in preventive medicine. I mean it was only a start, but that's when I got the primary interest.

STOKES: Okay, we'll have a lot more to say about preventive medicine. In the meantime, let's take you from after you've been here in practice and got acquainted with some of the D.O.s. There weren't too many D.O.s here in Fort Worth in 1946, but of course, some of the pioneers that I know you are well familiar with because you're one of them. But you had a little difficulty I'm sure when you had a patient to get into a hospital. You could get the patient in the hospital but you couldn't get in the hospital yourself. Tell me something about the few of you that started the first osteopathic hospital here in Fort Worth.

JENNINGS: Well, Dr Roy Fisher and Dr. Luibel.

STOKES: Yeah, and they're still active, both of them.

JENNINGS: And myself and Dr. Danny Beyers and Dr. McAnally. There were five or six that were really active when the hospital was first...

STOKES: And was Phil Russell involved in that?

JENNINGS: Yeah, Phil Russell was involved, not at the very beginning but a few months after we got started.

STOKES: Okay, and then just follow through your procedure. In other words, you got a great institution across the street from here now. Kind of lead us up into what made that possible.

JENNINGS: Well, gradually we got more interest in other D.O.s and Roy Fisher was kind enough to offer his home as a place to start the hospital. We both moved to Fort Worth the same month. I was doing surgery then and he was doing surgery.

STOKES: Didn't you teach surgery some time in the past?

JENNINGS: I taught surgery and I had some classes in the nursing school in San Antonio when I was at the Robert B. Green. I taught obstetrics and gynecology at that time. But it was surprising the interest that the few D.O.s had and Phil Russell was responsible for the cooperation of Amon Carter, Sr. and Sid Richardson who both contributed to the building of the hospital on Camp Bowie.

STOKES: In other words they had a pretty good sized hand in the operation.

JENNINGS: Yes, and Phil Russell was responsible for this primarily.

STOKES: I see.

JENNINGS: And I was the first president of the organization. In fact I remember Sidney Samuels was the attorney that was responsible for incorporating the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital, Inc.

STOKES: And that was in 1946?

JENNINGS: That was in 1946, that's right.

STOKES: And where did you go after you left the converted home that you had there on Summit as the first hospital.

JENNINGS: We moved over on Camp Bowie and of course that was the Boulevard Hospital.

STOKES: That just west of where Montgomery and Camp Bowie intersect now?

JENNINGS: That's right. Then of course we outgrew that in a few years.

STOKES: How many beds did you have there?

JENNINGS: Well I'm thinking it was 25 or so if I remember correctly. And then, of course, we got real ambitious and wanted to expand and Amon Carter again came to Dr. Phil Russell's aid.

STOKES: He was more involved, Dr. Russell, I guess.

JENNINGS: Oh yes, he became involved and I was on the real estate committee. As a matter of fact I bought several pieces of property

where the medical school here is and where the hospital is.

STOKES: You mean you used to be an owner. You used to own some of the property that we are on now?

JENNINGS: Well, I didn't own them personally. I bought them for the foundation and I would communicate with Amon Carter, Sr., on the telephone primarily in buying property. It was a secret as to who was buying the property. They couldn't understand why I was trying to block off some land.

STOKES: Some people wouldn't want those osteopaths around, would they?

JENNINGS: Well, that's right. Or they would want to increase the price if they thought there was a project going that would be worthwhile.

STOKES: That's it exactly. Okay, then where did you go? How long did it take you to get it pretty well established? Do you remember when you took in the first patient there.

JENNINGS: No, I don't recall the exact year but it was in the early 50s.

STOKES: Was the Jack Tavener Bowling Alley that we are now a part of, was it down the street from you at that time?

JENNINGS: Yes, it was.

STOKES: I guess it was operating pretty well at that time.

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: Alright, how long were you identified with the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital? Or you still may be identified, maybe that's the wrong phrasing, but what I mean is you were very active.

JENNINGS: Well, I'm kind of an honorary staff member. I'm not active because I'm not doing any hospital work. I might say this. Right across the street from the hospital, where the medical school is now, I built a professional building.

STOKES: Oh yeah, it was red brick.

JENNINGS: That's right, red brick. In fact, that's just about where we are right now.

STOKES: Well, Dr. Roy Fisher had an office there.

JENNINGS: Yes he did. Roy Fisher and Noel Ellis, Dr. Mel Johnson and Dr. Olson, Bill Ranelle. So it was very convenient and helped to advance the profession.

STOKES: I didn't know. You're telling me something I didn't know; that you were responsible for building that building.

JENNINGS: Yeah. John Knox Rhode was the contractor and it was a very pleasant venture and a progressive step for the profession.

STOKES: Right. Then when did you become interested in moving east from

the hill on Arlington Heights? Of course, you were already east. You were officing out in Riverside.

JENNINGS: One thing that I have omitted. When I moved to Fort Worth I was interested in surgery primarily, but my father used to be a building contractor so I had an interest in building.

STOKES: As an extracurricular activity?

JENNINGS: That's right. So the first 18 years that I was in Fort Worth I had something under construction besides all these other things that I was trying to take care of.

STOKES: Well, I'm leading you up to the Hurst General Hospital. Will you give us a little information about that?

JENNINGS: Well, in about 1959, I think that's accurate, I bought 30 acres of land out in Hurst and I built a hospital out there. In fact I had five other fellows that were interested. They were interested only in a small way financially, but I needed some commitments. So we built the Hurst General Hospital.

STOKES: That's on Brown Trail, isn't it?

JENNINGS: On Brown Trail in Hurst, yes.

STOKES: What is that building now? We're getting a little ahead of ourselves, but what is it being used for now.

JENNINGS: Well, the Allied Lab, the Hospital Corporation of America,

owns that now.

STOKES: I see.

JENNINGS: And they outgrew the size of the building, so they have built a new Northeast Community Hospital on the Airport Freeway?

STOKES: Northeast Community, that's the outgrowth of the Hurst General.

JENNINGS: Now I dedicated the Hurst General Hospital to Dr. McCullough.

STOKES: Dr. McCullough, what's he given name?

JENNINGS: Robert Dale McCullough

STOKES: He was president of Lions International at one time.

JENNINGS: At one time. In fact, getting back to Muskogee again, we joined the Lions Club the same day.

STOKES: So you've been a Lion since what year then? 40, 41?

JENNINGS: Yes, and I'm still an active member at the downtown Lion's club here in Fort Worth. But I dedicated the Hurst General Hospital to Bob because he was such a deserving individual and 40 years before that in 1957 he was president of the American Osteopathic Association.

STOKES: Yes he was, that's right.

JENNINGS: So I felt that because of his hard work and endeavors to improve the profession that he was deserving, so I had a large picture.

STOKES: What ever happened to that picture?

JENNINGS: I have it in my office. When the Hospital Corporation of America bought Hurst General and they were moving, I asked for the picture back because they didn't have any particular personal interest.

STOKES: He has a son that's still practicing there in Tulsa, doesn't he?

JENNINGS: Yes, Robert McCullough, II. He is certified in internal medicine with a group and he has been very, very successful and he is now presently Speaker of the House of the American Osteopathic Association. He has been very successful.

STOKES: Well tell me, in Hurst General, before we leave Hurst General, how many beds was in that hospital?

JENNINGS: Well, it was 30 beds to begin with. Then the addition was put on with about 35 more beds. So it was between 65 and 70 beds.

STOKES: When you sold out and they built Northeast Community?

JENNINGS: Yeah.

STOKES: One of the administrators out at Hurst is now the administrators over at FWOH, John Hawkins.

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: Did you hire him?

JENNINGS: No. He was hired by the administrator out there.

STOKES: That right, he was an assistant when he was out there, wasn't he?

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: Then he went from here to Corpus and then came up here from Corpus.

JENNINGS: That's right. Well, I had forgotten that he had gone to Corpus, but I guess he did.

STOKES: I think he was down there about a year.

JENNINGS: But he has been very successful. I understand that he has been elected as chairman of the Hospital...

STOKES: Chairman or President?

JENNINGS: Well, Chairman or President of the Hospital Association of Dallas and Fort Worth. 80 hospital involved and he has been elected and is heading that.

STOKES: Yes, I read something about that recently.

JENNINGS: Just this past week I read that in the paper.

STOKES: Well now, we've gotten through FWOH, Hurst General which is now Northeast Community. Are you on the staff at Northeast Community now?

JENNINGS: Well, only in an honorary way. I don't practice any hospital work because really I'm approaching my 49th year of practice now.

STOKES: Oh, I was wrong when I said 48.

JENNINGS: Well, I was in my 48th, I'm starting my 49th.

STOKES: You know, something else we have in common. You know we used to square dance together and we ate the same bread at the Lion's Club and our paths have crossed quite often down through the last 40 years, but another thing that we have in common is that we both belong to the "zipper" club. You know what the "zipper" club is, don't you?

JENNINGS: Yeah.

STOKES: Heart bypass.

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: Did you have a triple?

JENNINGS: No, I had an angioplasty in the morning and a double bypass in the afternoon.

STOKES: Double, well I'm ahead of you. I had a triple. But we had it about the same time.

JENNINGS: That was in 1985.

STOKES: Well mine was in 1985.

JENNINGS: How old are you now, Ray?

STOKES: Well I was 75 last Thanksgiving.

JENNINGS: 75

STOKES: You're about 77.

JENNINGS: That's correct.

STOKES: I did my homework. Okay, well I'll tell you now Dr. Dude (I'm going to call you Dude). Like I said, you've had a very enviable career now for some 49 years and I'm sure you'll reach the half century mark and no question as far as your practice is concerned. You have limited your practice more to a particular specialty and you were one of the pioneers in preventive medicine.

JENNINGS: That's right.

STOKES: Just start from scratch, shall we say, and bring us up to date on what your initial interest was in that type of prevention and what you've been involved in. You've headed the International Association. Kind of bring us up to date on your involvement and where you stand

currently and what your current practice is in preventive medicine.

JENNINGS: Well, to begin with I was interested in preventive medicine probably in the early 60s and I progressively attained more interest as I started treating patients and started getting results from teaching them how to eat, how to exercise, and mental health. Now if you incorporate these three things together it's surprising how much...

STOKES: What are they again now?

JENNINGS: Nutrition, exercise, and mental health. So your attitude has a lot to do with it. You know there's a saying, "You are what you eat." Well, you aren't only what you eat, but you're what you absorb, and what you think. Your mental attitude has a lot to do with this and I think if you don't incorporate these things you're not progressing very much. One of the basic factors that I'm interested in is finding out about the genetic background of patients. If they have a genetic profile that's of one type or another, you need to treat the family problems as well as you do the current health problems. But then, getting back to the interest, in 1968 Dr. McCullough and I and Dr. Brennan. Now Dr. R. O. Brennan was a professor in Kansas City and a very close friend of Dr. Bob's and mine. And we started the Osteopathic Preventive Medicine Group. In fact that was the name of it. And it was really Dr. Brennan's idea to have an organization of this kind. But after the first two years there was so much interest in other professional people that we changed the name to the International Academy of Preventive Medicine because we had many dentists, many M.D., many D.O.s and other professional people that were interested in this. And after we changed the name it ended up that we had five different foreign countries involved. In fact, it was surprising the interest

that was generated when we changed the name and we started having postgraduate lectures and so forth. Like Dr. Linus Pauling, Roger Williams, and several other outstanding educators became interested in it and so at one time we had about 1,000 doctors that were involved in this organization.

STOKES: What period did that cover?

JENNINGS: Well, this started really in about 1970 because it was about '68 when

STOKES: So you were getting involved in that about the time we were building TCOM.

JENNINGS: That right, so in 1968 and then we changed the name and from then on it really grew, snowballed. In fact, it was surprising how many other satellite organizations that were formed in preventive medicine around the country; in various hospitals. We had several members that started preventive medicine interest in institutions and hospitals around the United States. And foreign countries too; we had as I said five foreign countries that were involved.

STOKES: I noticed, Dr. Dude, in your background that you also are a member of the American College of Clinical Hypnosis. Does that tie in in any way with this?

JENNINGS: Well, as I said before. Your mental attitude and your mental health is very important. In fact there are more hospital beds filled with mentally ill people than any other thing. So, it's something that I was interested in. In fact, I had two psychologists

that worked for me for several years and we used this biofeedback, we used hypnosis, and we had six television units and we used these as biofeedback instruments and it was very, very...

STOKES: Well are you still engaging in that procedure?

JENNINGS: No, I'm not now because I limit my practice to about four hours a day and I don't have time for that. I wish I did.

STOKES: You are staying very active?

JENNINGS: Oh yes, yes. In fact I have patients to ask me "Doc, when are you going to retire?" and I say "Well, I've been in this now 48 years and I'm going to practice another 20 and then take another look at it."

STOKES: Well, I knew you were bound to just be acting on a limited basis because I called your office here a while back and your nurse or your receptionist said (this was about 10:30 in the morning), she said "He's already completed his day and gone home."

JENNINGS: I don't leave that early every day but I do sometimes.

STOKES: Also, I understand that we have a number of doctors that, in their association with you, you've given them a boost in their practice. I can think of one particularly who is now president of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association in Bowie, Texas. What's the young man's name?

JENNINGS: Schriner

STOKES: Yeah, Lee Schriener.

JENNINGS: Well, I have had 14 doctors come into my office and spend, most of them spent a year, and then they went out on their own and five of them have already retired and a couple of them have expired, and the rest are scattered around over the country. Besides that, I am responsible for nine different individuals studying osteopathic medicine.

STOKES: Have any of them come through TCOM?

JENNINGS: No this was before. Mickey Holcomb that used to be on the staff. Well now, he was a cousin of mine and I was responsible for him studying osteopathic medicine.

STOKES: He was on the State Examiner's Board.

JENNINGS: That's right. And his brother and then he had two nephews or three nephews that studied osteopathic medicine that are practicing now.

STOKES: I regret it, I was out of pocket, I don't remember where I was. He's been dead less than a year and I didn't know it until after the services had already by held.

JENNINGS: I was out of the city too, and I didn't know it either until it was over.

STOKES: His practice, all of his professional practice, was in El

Paso.

JENNINGS: Yes, he owned the hospital there in El Paso. I was talking a few minutes ago about exercise and I don't think I mentioned the fact that I was the one that put these little trampolines on the market.

STOKES: Oh yes, I'm glad you brought that up. You almost sold me one one time and I wished you had now. Give us a little more information about that. It looked like a waffle.

JENNINGS: Well, this was square. The original ones. In fact, the demand was real great. In fact, I even shipped some of them air freight to the Virgin Islands. In fact, I had a manager that took care of that exercise division and it was very successful, but in about eight or ten months why other manufacturers got in the business it became so competitive I quit.

STOKES: Give us a little more of a graphic, physical picture of how they looked.

JENNINGS: Well, I think that most individuals have seen these rebounders as they refer to them now instead of little trampolines. Most health clubs and individuals all over the United States have those, but I was the one that really started this business and that was about 1972 or 1973.

STOKES: I remember you had part on a Lions Club program one time and you brought one of them along and we had it down at the old Texas Hotel I believe and you demonstrated it at that time.

JENNINGS: Well this fellow that was managing the manufacturing of these, he was quite interested. In fact, he wanted to really get into the business some on a huge scale, but he was busy getting representation from various conventions and so forth.

STOKES: You have something in your hand there that we kind of alluded to a moment ago. Let's discuss it a little bit. I realize that your dream hasn't come completely true but it's not completely dead, so there's a possibility it might be revived sometime. Share that information about your drawing that you've got there on preventive medicine park.

JENNINGS: This was a preventive medicine park that I had planned on building. It's been a few years now but a group of us got together and I bought 80 acres of land on Precinct Line Road in Hurst. In fact, it was really in Colleyville. This is a rendering of the preventive medicine park that we had the plans drawn for and the land bought and we finally got a loan commitment for 10-1/2 million dollarsy, but the interest at that time was 10-3/4% interest and we just felt like it was too much of a gamble or too much of a responsibility and so as a result it never was completed.

STOKES: Well, the interest is back up to about that now so I guess you're going to postpone it a little while.

JENNINGS: That's right, but it is something that's needed and something that I'm sure will be fulfilled.

STOKES: You still have it in mind to complete it if you possibly can.

JENNINGS: Right.

STOKES: Do you want to mention any of the people who were involved with you.

JENNINGS: Yes. Here's a picture of Dr. Cordis and myself, Dr. Lang, Dr. Carbough, John McNary, and Wayne English.

STOKES: Now they're all D.O.s aren't they.

JENNINGS: Yes, all of those are D.O.s And we have three other individuals that were lay people.

STOKES: Do you want to turn that around and maybe we can kind of focus in on that group.

JENNINGS: This is a picture of the group that originally showed interest of promoting this project.

STOKES; Well, do you keep in touch with them on what your pursuit might be?

JENNINGS: I haven't here of late because I had heart surgery and what not and it's kind of limited my activities.

STOKES: I understand.

JENNINGS: Of course, there's many things that's happened in the preventive medicine field. For instance, here is a picture of me shaking hand with Alexander Haig and talking about preventive medicine.

I was very pleased to talk to him about preventive medicine and he agreed that that was the best way to go in our health problems. I might also again repeat this little story about Bob McCullough. When he was elected president of Lions International, this was a magazine, the cover of the magazine and there was over a million copies of this sent out all over the world in 147 countries. You being a good Lion you know all about this.

STOKES: A little more than 147 counties now, about 168.

JENNINGS: I think you're right. Also, getting back to preventive medicine, in 1986, just a couple of years ago, this was one of the publications of the Star Telegram that came out: Doctor Pioneers Preventive Medicine. This was an excellent article and was a great boost to me because so many patients that have done well called and was happy with what they've done and wished me well.

STOKES: Do you recall who wrote that?

JENNINGS: Yes, Lynn Lunford of the Star Telegram.

STOKES: What other extracurricular activities are you engaged in at this time or have been down through the years that have been paramount in your life?

JENNINGS: Well, I have done developing more than any other one thing. I think I mentioned before that for the first 18 years I was in Fort Worth I had something under construction and I would like to do more of that now but I just don't have the time and the energy to do that.

STOKES: Now I was in your offices here not terribly long ago and you have a nice suite of offices. You're on Brown Trail?

JENNINGS: Right.

STOKES: Tell me something about that location and didn't you once own that building and now you're renting.

JENNINGS: I built the building. In fact, there were three other doctors that were involved and it ended up that Dr. Cordis and I had the professional building and then we sold it to an investment group. Now I'm a tenant there and pay rent. Of course, I don't think I mentioned about the nursing home, did I?

STOKES: No, you haven't mentioned that.

JENNINGS: Well, back of the Hurst General Hospital I built a 100 bed nursing home, too.

STOKES: Yes, what's the story of that now.

JENNINGS: Well, it's in operation but I divested myself.

STOKES: I see. What's the name of that nursing home.

JENNINGS: It was the Hurst Mansion, that was the original name. They changed it in the last two years. In fact, it's been sold twice since then.

STOKES: Wasn't it called Autumn Leaves at one time.

JENNINGS: Yes it was.

STOKES: But they're still in operation. I haven't heard much about it lately. I didn't know. You opened that up in the beginning?

JENNINGS: Yes, I did.

STOKES: What year was that? That was how many years after you had the hospital going?

JENNINGS: Well I would say it was probably in about '65 of '66. Of course, I was active in the civic affairs in the HEB area. In fact, I was president of the Chamber of Commerce of HEB.

STOKES: What year, do you remember?

JENNINGS: That was '64 and '65. I think we had about 500 to 600 members at that time, but now they have a huge membership. I'm still a member but I don't attend all the chamber meetings. I go to some of the functions. I was also one of the organizing directors of the First State Bank out there which is on 121. I was one of the organizing directors. Herman Smith has been a very active real estate person and a bank owner you might say because he really controls about 3 or 4 banks now himself. But he has been very active in civic work and he's been very philanthropic to many, many organizations and is really an outstanding citizen in our area.

STOKES: Let me tax you and pick your brain here just a minute, Dr.

Dude. You've been in practice now almost 50 years. Lift out one or

two...that is, you've been a life-saver and a health provider all those years and so forth. Can you think of one or two experiences that you had that stands out in your mind? I'm not asking you to pat yourself on the back, particularly, but something that you've done that does distinguish your profession a little more than just commonplace routine.

JENNINGS: Well I think one of the major points in my life was when I was a member of the Bureau of Hospitals for the AOA. And the things that happened during that time. The osteopathic profession was growing and it was just interesting to travel around to the various hospitals and meet doctors around the country and I probably enjoyed that as much as any one activity that I've had. I'd like to do some of the things now that I was doing then but I just don't have the time to do it.

STOKES: What year was that?

JENNINGS: That was in 1957. In fact, Amon Carter's first wife lived in Chicago and during the time I was on the bureau I visited her several times. Phil Russell introduced me to her the first time, then I would go back every few months and I would always call her and she would invite me over for dinner or for a meal there at the Drake.

STOKES; There are not very many people in Fort Worth that know that part of Amon Carter's life.

JENNINGS; That's right. And not only that, but she was the one that gave the money for the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital x-ray. The first x-ray we had over here. I met her at the station. She came down from Chicago for the opening of the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital and

she was not particularly anxious for it to be known that she had given the money. She wasn't seeking publicity. She was a very, very fine woman.

STOKES: Well, Dr. Dude. Can you lift up anything, any experience that you had with some patient or something that is memorable? I know that's a trite remark because I know you've had thousands of patients.

JENNINGS: Well, there are so many patients that is in the category that you're speaking that I can think about just treating patients manipulatively.

STOKES: Now you're talking.

JENNINGS: So many individuals do not know the difference between the alopathic profession and the osteopathic profession. Now I was curious enough that I wanted to find out what the alopathic group was doing. That's the reason I went ahead and got my M.D. degree, so I could find out what the other fellow was doing. Now the difference in the two professions, as I see it, is that the osteopathic profession believes in treating the musculoskeletal system, and that is the difference between the two professions. And it is surprising how many individuals that have been relieved of their problems by just manipulation of the musculoskeletal system and it is a little bit hard work to treat patients properly from a manipulative standpoint but it has a very fundamental basis and that's the reason that I have always wanted to be identified as a D.O.

STOKES: You've never really put in emphasis on the fact that you also do have an M.D. degree.

JENNINGS: No I haven't.

STOKES: I've known you for 40 years and I didn't know it until the other night that you had an M.D. degree as well.

JENNINGS: That's correct, because it's a matter of philosophy. You know, you can't be a Catholic and a Presbyterian. You have to be one or the other because they both have different philosophical beliefs and attitudes. I'm happy that I've had the experience of being in a medical hospital like the Robert B. Green and also in Santa Rosa.

STOKES: Where is the Santa Rose?

JENNINGS: Santa Rose is in San Antonio and well as the Robert B. Green.

STOKES: I'm not familiar with the Green Hospital but I am with Santa Rose.

JENNINGS: With all the years that I've been practicing we had no antibiotics, we didn't have any antihistamines, we didn't have all the things that we have today to treat patients with. When penicillin first came on the market I was in San Antonio at the Robert B. Green and I was in charge of the distribution of penicillin because it was scarce and this was during the war years and it was surprising how many doctors were willing to pay premiums to get penicillin for private patients and I was very careful that I didn't violate any rules because I've had doctors offer me as much as \$500 for enough penicillin to treat a patient for gonorrhea. And in those days \$500 was quite a bit

of money. That's an outstanding thing.

STOKES: Speaking of penicillin. I don't want to intrude on your time at all and I'm not going into any detail, but some time in the future I would like to tell you my first experience with penicillin. It all took place after the war up in the panhandle. I'll tell you about that some time. Well, Dr. Dude, it has been an extreme and supreme, both, pleasure to welcome you here today and to go over some of the highlights of your life and to reminisce over your memoirs. It's a pleasure to say that we've enjoyed very much having you here at TCOM.

JENNINGS: Well, I can say that TCOM should be proud of the things that you have done, Ray.

STOKES: I didn't ask for that pat on the back.

JENNINGS: I know you didn't but I appreciate what you've done and many, many others have nothing but good to say about you.

STOKES: Thank you sir, I appreciate it.