

Narrator's name: C.Ray Stokes
Tape Number: 0425
Date of interview: June 21, 1988
Place of interview: Office of Special Collections
Interviewer's name: T. Cay Rowe
For: TCOM Library, Oral History Section

C. RAY STOKES

CURATOR OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Ray Stokes is quite an institution at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He was the young college's first employee and he went to work even before the doors were open in 1969. He has worn several titles over the last nineteen years, but right now he is Curator of Special Collections in the Health Sciences Library and is Secretary/Treasurer of the Alumni Association.

Ms. Rowe: You've had a very interesting life up until now, right?

Mr. Stokes: Who have you been talking to?

Ms. Rowe: I've done this before. Tell us a little bit about your career before you got to TCOM.

Mr. Stokes: There's more than a little bit, I'll try to narrow it down. I was with the Fort Worth Star Telegram, grew up there in Circulation, then went into World War II. A misdirected classification officer made me a correspondent because I was a newspaperman, so I went into Public Relations and later got a combat correspondent warrant in the Marine Corps. Since I had liked what I was doing, when I came back to work in Circulation, I tried to get transferred into the Editorial department, of course they laughed at me. I don't blame them. I didn't have any background except the little

Journalism I had in high school and that was about it. So, I made up my mind that I would give up the job at the Star Telegram and start to TCU. I opened up a little advertising agency, mainly selling specialty advertising. At TCU I got my degree in Journalism but never actually used it to any great extent other than eventaully publishing newsletters for people that couldn't do it themselves. That was the extent of my journalism career. I later got into the oil business and stayed into that about sixteen years. Then my church needed someone to fulfill a job that was vacant down in Georgetown so I went down there. Without any background in health welfare work, for six years, I was the Administrator of the home for the aging known as the Wesleyan. In the early sixties, I returned to Fort Worth to be an apartment owner. Thank goodness I wasn't. A friend of mine happened to mention something about the osteopaths. I knew a little about that; I knew how to spell it.

Ms. Rowe: You ran for the legislature once didn't you?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, in 1950, when I was a senior at TCU, I got the idea that I wanted to be a great statesman. So I ran for state representative in place four.

In those days you only had five representatives in Tarrant County. There were four places and four tutorial that served both Denton and Tarrant County. I had a little slogan that said "Whether your name be ^{Astor} aster or plain Joe Dokes, the man for your representative is C. Ray Stokes."

Ms. Rowe: No wonder you lost.

Mr. Stokes: That's right, I lost. Back in those days, when you had an initial in front of your name, that was a no-no. Somebody ran for President, I guess it was Dewey, and people said because he had a mustache, he lost. During that particular campaign, I was called by an osteopathic physician, Danny Byer, who officed on Vaughn. He wanted to pick my brain to see what my opinion was regarding osteopaths because they were getting ready to vote on the Basic Science bill in the legislature. We had a nice visit. When he got ready to leave, he said, "there are no strings attached, you do as you please, but if you win I hope you will understand our profession and give our side a reasonable consideration. He handed me a fifty dollar bill. That was the only contribution I received other than a little gift from my dentist friend. I ran a pretty good third race, but I never ran again.

Ms. Rowe: Who was second in the race?

Mr. Stokes: It was a man by the name of Wills. He was an elderly gentlemen, about eighty four years old. He had never run for public office before in his life. He got second, and he got killed two days before the election.

Ms. Rowe: And you still lost?

Mr. Stokes; I still lost. Right. That was my short experience in politics.

Ms. Rowe: You got introduced to Danny Byers?

Mr. Stokes: Right. Nineteen years later, I was in his office again doing an interview. He was one in three doctors who founded TCOM, and got their charter in June 15, 1966. Abe Herman, the attorney, used TCU's charter as an outline. He got a very broad based perpetual charter. I don't think the M.D.'s were aware that he was there because nobody gave him any problem whatsoever. Of course, they didn't do anything with their charter.

Ms. Rowe: I was going to ask, what happend from 1966 to 1967?

Mr. Stokes: In 1968 a meeting at State convention, what is now called Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, met in Houston for their annual meeting and started a campaign drive and received \$100,000 in pledges

from the D.O.'s in state. So they had \$100,000 pledged and \$10,000 in the bank. What they should have done at that time was hire a P.R. expert rather than waiting two years when they employed me. I did a sort of feasibility study to see if there was any possibility of raising a million. We never quite raised a million dollars but we got pretty close to it.

Ms. Rowe: Tell us about you getting hired.

Mr. Stokes: I first had an interview with Dr. George Luibel who was the Chairman of the Board and, basically, the founder, although there were three founders.

Ms. Rowe: Were they the board?

Mr. Stokes: Well there was one more. That was the original board, but about a year later they did add one more. They called him Chairman of the House and Grounds, although we didn't have any grounds and we certainly didn't have any house. That was Dr. John Burtnett.

Ms. Rowe: Oh really?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, who practices over in Dallas. There was actually a four man board, although Dr. John left it entirely up to the Executive Committee, who actually employed me. So I had an interview with Dr. Luibel first then he sent me to Carl Everett, who was practicing out on Camp Bowie at the time,

and Dr. Byer, who's office I hadn't been back in nineteen years but he was still there and practiced in the same location.

Ms. Rowe: Did he remember you?

Mr. Stokes; Yes, he said he did. So in spite of my weak points, I got the job.

Ms. Rowe: What was the job?

Mr. Stokes: Director of Development was the title. The first assignment he handed me was a letter of receipt by a family from Fort Worth, the Howard Walsh family, who had land. I've never been able to find out exactly how we got the letter of intent in the first place. I'm sure Dr. Luibel at some time might be able to give the answer. We had this letter of intent, but we sat on it too long.

Ms. Rowe: Do you know when they got the letter of intent?

Mr. Stokes: They received the letter of intent in 1967. They had it for two years. But, prior to my being employed, sometime in February or March, they received a letter from the Walsh family that said they had withdrawn their offer. So that was my assignment, to try and get them to reconsider and give us the sixty acres of land which is now the location of the Tarrant County Junior College Northwest campus.

Ms. Rowe: So you didn't do it.

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Mr. Stokes: That's right. I got a chance to talk with two of the Walsh's sons and I got to talk to their attorney, Rice Tilley, Sr. That was my first assignment and I failed.

Ms. Rowe: So they let you take over the books anyway, right?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, I had the job. My main job was trying to get outside funds. I made a concentrated effort to get money from people like Ross Perot. I had no luck. I spent a lot of time with eighteen to twenty foundations, most of them hadn't heard of the osteopathic profession let alone TCOM, which was no more than a paper college at the time.

Ms. Rowe: You said there was \$100,000 pledged and \$10,000 in the bank, how much of that \$100,000 did you see?

Mr. Stokes: I've got records in my files right now that show if they would honor their pledges it would bring in the institution about \$25,000 - \$30,000. Some of my good friends names were on the pledge that were never honored.

Ms. Rowe: Who did raise that money?

Mr. Stokes: There were three foundations that helped us to a great extent in the beginning. We have to take our hats off to the efforts Dr. Luibel made with ^{KATRINE} ~~Katreen~~ Dinkins, who was Amon Carter's secretary for many years.

Ms. Rowe: He had a D.O. for a doctor?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, Dr. Phil Russell, who passed away in 1975, was Amon Carter's physician for many years and also Katreen's. The Carter Foundation gave about three different grants, I don't know exactly the dollar amount. The Sid Richardson Foundation and the J.E. Elly Mabee Foundation of Tulsa gave. I had a finger in the hand, so to speak, in making that possible. There's more demands than requests. John Cox of the Mabee Foundation was instrumental in helping us get that grant. Those three foundations helped us along. We had a TCOM sustainer. We went beyond the \$100,000 pledged because we earned interest.

Ms. Rowe: What was the first piece of equipment you bought?

Mr. Stokes: It was an Underwood typewriter and I've still got it. I bought that for sixty dollars. The fellow who repaired it and cleaned it said, "that's quite an old typewriter you have. You could take that to the market and sell it for about \$1500." I was telling Doretha in Inventory that the other day and she said she better change her records. She had already written it off. But I'm still using the sixty dollar typewriter.

Ms. Rowe: You've done lots of newsletters on it, right?
You were the first employee?

Mr. Stokes: Right.

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Ms. Rowe: And Edna the second?

Mr. Stokes: Yes my wife was the second. I was hired on the 15th of April 1969 and two weeks later I put her to work as my secretary.

Ms. Rowe: Ok, so you hired her?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, I hired her. I had the blessing of the board, but they didn't have any restrictions on my hiring my wife. There was no nepotism involved at that time. Our first office was one that was never mentioned. We stayed there from May 1 to the following February, some six to eight months, was 1500 West Fifth Street, which incidentally I lived at 1500 West Fifth when I was a kid. A two story apartment house.

Ms. Rowe: Oh, is that right? This was a different building but in the same location?

Mr. Stokes: Oh, yes. The same location. It's the Summit Building now, at Fifth and Penn Street, across the street from the First Baptist Church. So, that's where we stayed at 1500 when we moved out to a little house at Maddison and Montgomery, 3600 Maddison. We called it the little white house.

Ms. Rowe: Your office moved, or you and Edna moved?

Mr. Stokes: Well, everything moved. At that time we had hired Dr. Henry ^{HARDT} Hart, who was our first dean. So the three of us moved out to 3600. The three of us

for several months, occupied a little ten by ten office space on Fifth Street.

Ms. Rowe: Well, now how did Henry Hart come into this picture?

Mr. Stoke: That was my second assignment. I was a little more successful in my second assignment. Dr. Luibel told me one day, "Ray, I want you to find us a Dean." That's all. He didn't give me any directions or anything, just find us a Dean. So, I got to thinking Jerome Moore, Dr. Moore, who was Dean out at TCU. He was my dean when I was in school and I knew him fairly well. I'd covered him on my beat when I was on the skiff.

Ms. Rowe: Oh, I knew him too.

Mr. Stokes: So, anyhow, my first thought was to go out and pick his brain and see if he could give me any leads. So I went in to see Dr. Moore and sat down and told him what I was there for. I was looking for a Dean and I came to him for some direction or some suggestions. It wasn't ten seconds, as if he was anticipating the question, he said, "if you can get him, get Henry Hart." He didn't have any other to offer. He had a few accolates to throw in Dr. Hart's direction. He said if you can get him, he'll make you a fine qualified dean.

Well, I was fortunate. I say I was, we were fortunate because he had retired from TCU in 1968 and spent 1969 at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas. He didn't sign but a one year contract. I caught him, I believe it was July or August of 1969, and he was in between contracts. He hadn't made up his mind whether or not he would go back down to Jarvis. So, I invited him out to lunch at the Mallick Tower. I knew Dr. Hart because when I was at the Wesleyan Home, he came down to talk to me about his sister who lived in a retirement home in Kerrville and he wanted to get her transferred to Wesleyan if he could. I knew Dr. Hart by reputation when I was at TCU but I didn't know him personally.

Ms. Rowe: That same summer, didn't you and Edna tour some other osteopathic schools?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, in July of 1969 we made a trip up to Kirksville. That's where I first met Dr. Willard who later became our boss. He was a Dean at Kirksville at the time. Dr. Luibel was getting ready to attend the summer session of the AOA Board of Trustees meeting in Chicago. He made reservations for us at the Drake Hotel in Chicago and told us to meet him there so he could introduce me around. I even had a chance to attend

some presidents meetings and deans meetings. I was there as an observer only because we still were just a paper college. I stopped at Kansas City and got acquainted with Dr. Wilbur Cole, who is very active in the writings of manipulative medicine. He was the Dean at the time and gave me a very fine reception. Then I went into Kirksville, had a very fine audience there. Dr. Thompson was the President and Dr. Willard was the Dean. Although Dr. Thompson didn't want to share too much information with me because he realized that if we opened up a college in Texas it would be more difficult for him to raise funds in Texas. But he was very kind about it and very considerate. Then I went on into Des Moines and visited there. They were without a president there, they had an Acting President at the time, but I didn't get acquainted with him. Then into Chicago to Chicago College a day ahead of the meeting then I came home and made a formal report of what I had observed.

Ms. Rowe: That was almost all osteopathic colleges?

Ms. Stokes: Yes, at the time there were only six. Five of them had been in business for quite some time. Then Michigan opened up a year ahead of us. In fact I met my counterpart, a fellow by the name of

Barnett, who had been Director of Development for the Michigan Osteopathic College for twelve years before they got it off the ground. So looking back, we had a better track record than they did.

Ms. Rowe: So, you took this trip to the convention then you came back and hired Dr. Hart?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, a short time after that. In the meantime, a rather interesting episode that I had, two weeks after I was employed. On the 4th of May that year, the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association had their annual convention in Dallas. I had two weeks to get a banner made, print some placquered signs, design a booth, and come up with six goals. I can't remember them verbatim but I had some little cards designed with the goals printed on them. I think we have reached all those goals at this time. At that time there was seven members on the TCOM board and they had a joint meeting between the TOMA Board of Trustees and our Board. They weren't Board of Regents and they weren't Trustees, they were Directors. The three founders and four others from all around the state like John Burtnett from Dallas.

Ms. Rower: Wayne Stockseth?

Mr. Stokes: No, Wayne came on later. He was about number nine

or ten. When we became a state institution in 1975, we had fourteen directors. The charter said three to twenty director.

Ms. Rowe: About this time, was that when the Vandergriff family in Arlington....?

Mr. Stoke: Well, yes, the time was actually 1970. Dr. Bobby Smith was president of TOMA at that time and was a pretty good friend of Mr. Vandergriff. Bobby Smith has not been given as much credit as he should for us being here today. He did a lot of behind the scene work, going to Austin, appearing before committees, and other things that proved to be fruitful later on. He wasn't on our board, he was president of the State Association and as a friend of Tommy Vandergriff, he talked Tommy into giving us fifty acres of land. The acreage was on Matlock and Poly Hill Road which, now, is where interstate twenty comes through South Arlington. But, they gave us the twenty acres of land with a stipulation that we had to build on it. We couldn't use the property for anything other than building a medical school on it. They owned all the land from the city limits of Arlington all the way South including that and they knew we had to have utilities, so they would get utilities to their land through ours. I say that facisouly,

Ms. Rowe: The Arlington land wasn't the only location considered and even if they had their eye on this location, there were others. Tell us about that.

Ms. Stokes: That's interesting. I was charged with the responsibility of finding other locations. Starting with the land that we almost got from the Walsh family, we looked at several. I mentioned the First Baptist Church earlier, owned by Homer and Omer Richey. They wanted to sell the church. Dr. Hart and I got a couple of meals out of them. They wanted two million dollars for their property and we were willing to go a million. So we never quite made it. It wouldn't have been a bad location as far as a medical school is concerned.

Ms. Rowe: What else?

Mr. Stokes: Then we had a contract almost signed down at the TP Depot, the passenger depot down on Lancaster. We were contracting for the tenth and eleventh floors, about eighteen thousand square feet on both floors. We talked to the appropriate people at the TP office in Dallas. I had a meeting with Bishop ^{CASSATIA} Cussada, who is Dr. Luibel's bishop. They had recently closed the ^{LANERI} Lanier High School, which was a boys catholic school. It could have been used. Another building that could have been used was the old Fort Worth Independent School building

down on East Weatherford. It's still there too.

Ms. Rowe: So all of them fell through?

Mr. Stokes: Well, one more, fell through also. We even looked at the Fort Worth Christian School off on Davis Boulevard in North Richland Hills. We had a couple of meetings with their Board of Trustees. I don't know, like I said, things just kept falling back towards the hospital.

Ms. Rowe: Meanwhile, Henry Hart is trying to get a faculty. You're trying to get a building? So, it just comes down that when the doors are ready to open the Fort Worth Osteopathic is the only place to go?

Mr. Stokes: At that time. We were given provisional accreditation to open in the fall of 1970. All of this was taking place in the spring and summer. Actually, Dr. Hart's hands were tied. He had contacted some people who might be interested in becoming members of the faculty but he couldn't tell them anything for certain. In the meantime, Dr. Everett was responsible for getting Dr. Phil Russell, he's known by many people as the Dean of Osteopathy in Texas. He was opposed, not necessarily opposed to the school, but he felt like it would be a second rate institution. That was the feelings of many of his contemporaries.

He wanted us on a little more solid ground, he wanted us to have more in the bank. One particular feller figured up we would have to have about twenty six million before we could even open. Naturally, we'd never have opened, we'd never have that much money to start with. Dr. Everett spent one Sunday afternoon, close to that particular deadline time, convincing Dr. Russell, who was Chairman of the Board of the hospital's board of trustees, to let us have the fifth floor of the hospital, which was an unfinished floor. We put up partitions on the floor to divide the library, a large classroom, and a large lab. It worked out very nice because the twenty students we had were all doing the same thing at the same time. Also, we had the little white house, which was our official address. We did the teaching and the faculty members had offices on the fifth floor of the hospital.

Ms. Rowe: So, who was on the faculty at that time?

Mr. Stokes: Dr. Elizabeth Harris, who was Chairman of the department of Microbiology for a number of years, was the first faculty member hired. Following her was Mary Lou Schunder, who at that time did not have a doctorate but was head of a department. She later took a leave of absence and got her

doctorate. Then a feller named Tom Graham was in Microbiology. He was from the University of Alabama and stayed here only one year. Jack Banister was one of the professors. He left here after about three or four years. So, there was Banister, Graham, Mary Lou Schunder, Elizabeth Harris, and the Dean. Then they hired the librarian. You knew the librarian pretty well.

Ms. Rowe: Joan Swain?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, Joan Swain. She was our librarian. We started out with about six thousand volumes in the library, all donated.

Ms. Rowe: Did Dr. Hart teach any?

Mr. Stokes: No he didn't teach.

Ms. Rowe: So the physical plant, when the school opened was the fifth floor of the osteopathic hospital?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, plus the little white house and then behind that was our Anatomy lab, which was a garage apartment.

Ms. Rowe: How did you get mixed up in the infamous weekend when the air conditioner went out?

Mr. Stokes: That was on Labor Day, 1971. This was our second year. We leased the Bowling Alley from Mrs. Jack Tavener. The Bowling Alley closed on the 14th of August in 1971. We had two weeks to renovate the sixteen lane bowling alley with a resaurant. But

it worked out pretty well. As you went into the door all along the left were the administration offices, and where the cashier and bowling balls had been became the area where the receptionist and switchboard operator were. We took out all the bowling lanes and covered them up with plyboard. We had an Anatomy lab, Physiology, and Biochemistry with other associated labs with them. One thing I want to say about the hospital, before we leave it, the hospital was charging us on paper forty thousand dollars a year although we've never been dunned for it. That's one reason we were able to get by those first few years when we were trying to open.

Ms. Rowe: Describe then what the 3500 block of Camp Bowie looked like from Montgomery toward town.

Mr. Stokes: There was the Coronada Apartments, where it was a more glorified brothel. Then the bowling alley which took up the 3500 block. Down where the Medical Examiner's office is today, at 3444, was a second hand furniture store. We later bought that property and that's where our central clinic was.

Ms. Rowe: Was there nothing between the brothel and the bowling alley?

Mr. Stokes: The bowling alley and the Coronada Apartments, then the Colonial beer parlor.

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Ms. Rowe: Sounds like a nice neighborhood.

Mr. Stokes: We got some flack from the cultural district about an osteopathic hospital being across the street, but it seemed to me we improved the neighborhood.

Ms. Rowe: The second year you had to make room for a second class.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, that's why we found the bowling alley.

Ms. Rowe: What was left on the fifth floor of the hospital?

Mr. Stoke: The only thing left was the library.

Ms. Rowe: So all the classes took place in the bowling alley?

Mr. Stokes: That's right. We had two classroom.s

Ms. Rowe: How many were in the second class?

Mr. Stokes: Twenty five graduated from the second class, I think there were thirty two that entered. The first class of twenty, eighteen graduated.

Ms. Rowe: Where did they get those first twenty?

Mr. Stokes: I can't tell you why twenty other than they knew they couldn't accommodate more than twenty six. We had no advertising. Mainly doctor's offices and pharmaceutical advertising by word of mouth.

Ms. Rowe: You were worried about finances, at first. Were you ever afraid the doors wouldn't open?

Mr. Stokes: No, our first year, we had a budget of two hundred and seventy eight thousand dollars. We actually only spend one hundred ninty eight thousand the

first year.

Ms. Rowe: You were a good business manager!

Mr. Stokes: I don't know about that. The reason was, we had eighteen doctors on our clinical science staff, but nobody was on the payroll. However, we kept a record of the hours until we could get the O.K. and began to be paid by the state. A bill was introduced known as the Baylor bill, in 1969. We came along two years later and used their bill. We were to be given fifty five hundred dollars per student, we had three hundred thousand dollars for the bienium, a hundred fifty thousand dollars a year. There's no way with twenty students, that the formula added up to fifty five hundred dollars per student. You have to have somebody on the legislative budget board team.

Ms. Rowe: Who was that?

Mr. Stokes: I really don't know.

Ms. Rowe: Who were the ramroders?

Mr. Stokes: Tex Roberts and you're going to have to give Bobby Smith some credit. He deserves a lot of credit for helping this institution.

Ms. Rowe: During the bowling alley years, you were raising money and keeping the books, what else were you doing?

Mr. Stokes: I was publicizing. I was head of the P.R.

department.

Ms. Rowe: And the Registrar? Didn't you have something to do with that?

Mr. Stokes: I was the Registrar the first year. Of all my functions, I did less as the Registrar.

Ms. Rowe: You never did tell us about that weekend with the cadavers.

Mr. Stokes: We had just moved in to the bowling alley. We had seven cadavers. They were in the Anatomy lab in the bowling alley. We had an air conditioning unit to serve the administrative offices which broke down at that given time. I had to move, by myself, the cadaver up into the Dean's office where the air conditioner was.

Ms. Rowe: Did this surprise the dean when he came to work?

Mr. Stokes: Yes it did. He came in that next work day and was kind of shocked.

Ms. Rowe: The money from then on, where did it come from. When did you get the first state aid?

Mr. Stokes: Senate bill 160 came as a result of the Baylor bill. Our first segment was one hundred fifty thousand dollars. In the meantime, we had gotten some help from other foundations. Also, the TCOM sustainers, a group of doctors, helped us by giving at least a thousand dollars a year. When we became a state institution September 1, 1975,

we owned eleven acres of land. As I looked back at it, T. Cay, we certainly would be not a first class medical education institution today, if we were not a state institution. I feel like we would still be in business, but we wouldn't have these beautiful buildings. One job I really enjoyed was as the financial aid officer. The first grant we got, as far as helping students with loans and scholarships, was from the Robert Wood Foundation. The sum was about twenty six thousand dollars.

Ms. Rowe: You were about to say you wanted to give credit to some people.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, I think there's some politicians that gave us some real good solid help. Betty ^{Andujar} Andehar, was a senator and was very instrumental and helpful. Gib Lewis, the present speaker of the house, is a very strong ally of the school. Prior to those individuals, was Bill Hilmer, a legislator from Fort Worth. Don ^{Kennard} Kinard, a state senator, and Cordell Hull made a strong enough contribution for Betty Andehar and Gib Lewis to follow up on what they had done.

Ms. Rowe: Did Tom Creighton have something to do with it?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, Tom was a good friend and was on our team. We also had some help from the Coordinating Board.

Ms. Rowe: So the second year the campus had your little office, the bowling alley, and the library over at Fort Worth Osteopathic. How long was it before the brothel shut down?

Ms. Stokes: The apartment complex was bought by us in the spring of 1975. We acquired everything that we owned at that time to turn over to the state.

Ms. Rowe: How much of the block did you own?

Mr. Stokes: We owned the whole block.

Ms. Rowe: Marion Coy was the first President. Where did he come from?

Mr. Stokes: He was President of the AOA back in 1971. He was a good friend of Dr. Luibel. He was not a good administrator, he was a good physician.

Ms. Rowe: Did the Board ever consider Henry Hart as a President?

Mr. Stokes: No, he had determined that he would only stay until the first class graduated. He wasn't given the consideration that I think he should have been. Dr. Hart was really hired as a Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Ed Newell was hired as Dean. Dr. Coy was made President by our Board of Directors in August of 1972. He's known today as the founding president of TCOM. He stayed on here for a while as consultant of Dr. Jitter^{Nolen}knowlin, President of NTSU/TCOM.

Ms. Rowe: Who made the first connection with North Texas?

Mr. Stokes: We were told by Dr. Brenley, who was Chairman of the Coordinating Board, that we would never get off first base if we didn't become affiliated in some way with an institution of higher learning. Our thoughts immediately went toward UTA. However, the President of UTA at that time was an M.D. Then we considered TCU. I don't know what went on with that, however, Dr. Bob Noble, who was a practicing G.P. in Denton and had been President of TOMA, and also had graduated from North Texas, told his dean the AOA was having a convention in Hawaii and invited him to come. When he returned, Noble thought he should meet with some of our board members. ^{Nolen} Nowlin wanted a medical school, he preferred an allopathic school but he realized he was not going to be successful in getting a medical school.

Ms. Rowe: In those days, did they envision the kind of affiliation that we have now?

Mr. Stokes: Some people wondered why we didn't become North Texas State of Osteopathic College.

Ms. Rowe: Why didn't we?

Mr. Stokes: I think because the forerunners that had worked so hard to make us an independent institution as well as the disagreements from TOMA. Rather than just

becoming a college of North Texas, the agreement was that we would be affiliated with North Texas. Tex Roberts was very strongly opposed to North Texas even being involved, though I don't really know why. There was a lot of resistance at North Texas, particularly from all of the faculty. Jitter^{Nolen}nowlin wanted it, especially after having several meetings with George Luibel, Everett and Byer, and Silvey. Silvey, ^{Ferre}Forey and ^{Nolen}Nowlin were the three from North Texas that wanted the affiliation. Then the members down here were interested.

Ms. Rowe: When was Jitter^{Nolen}nowlin President of TCOM, too.

Mr. Stokes: He was President the day we became a state institution. Jitter^{Nolen}nowlin was involved though he still wasn't our boss because I remember Dr. Coy sent Dr. Jitter^{Nolen}nowlin a copy of a letter of intent that we got. But that letter too was withdrawn at a very short period of time and we never were able to determine the reason other than the fact that it's easier to blame somebody else. But our good friends around here on Tulsa Way, the Tarrant County Medical Society got word of what was going on and they put a stop to it by talking to the Chairman of the Richardson Foundation. His name was in the paper the other day and is very

critical of our current speaker of the House. What's his name? The old gentlemen was ninty something years old. He was Mr. Seventh Street for years and years, President and Chairman of the Board of the Fort Worth National Bank.

Ms. Rowe: Pace?

Mr. Stokes: No, not Pace. Why can't I recall his name. I would have looked it up in advance if I had thought of it but I can't think of his name.

Ms. Rowe: We have to put a PS on him. That's interesting.

Mr. Stokes: In last Sunday's newspaper, there was a lot of critique on Jim Wright. Talking about Jim Wright, I've got to go back and tell you about one of the places that we almost opened up. I'm about to leave out the best one.

Ms. Rowe: Ok. Tell me about it.

Mr. Stokes: The best one was the sixty acres of land that we used to call the Narcotic Farm. We, being the old-timers in Fort Worth. The Narcotic Farm was on Mansfield Highway, which is now the Correctional Institution of the Federal Penetionary.

Ms. Rowe: Oh, F.C.I.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, that was the old Narcotic Farm. Sixty acres out there and they closed it down. For a period

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Ms. Rowe: Who?

Mr. Stokes: You shouldn't have asked me that question.

Ms Rowe: Do you still have them?

Mr. Stokes: Sure, but I'm trying to think of the name of the firm, it's located on University Drive. Snowdon.

Ms Rowe: That would be an interesting thing to have in the archives. What do you think the campus will look like twenty years from now?

Mr. Stokes: That's hard to conceive. Twenty years from now, that would be well into the twenty first century wouldn't it? It'll be here. I strongly feel it will be an osteopathic institution. There have been waves about it being something else.

Ms. Rowe: When are you going to retire?

Mr. Stokes: I said that I was going to retire after the thousandth graduate. But now I feel I'm going to amend that.

Ms. Rowe: That' real close.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, because we're within eleven now. Nine hundred and eighty nine, see, we've had that number graduate. Now, I think what I'll wait and do, I won't ^{Retire} graduate until after we've had a thousand graduates practicing in the state of Texas. See, we've got about four hundred and fifty practicing in the state right now. When we get

a thousand practicing in state, then I'll feel like we're here to stay. In the twenty years from now we'll have something to be very proud of here on the hill.

Ms. Rowe: You have done your share to get us there. And thank you for your reminiscing, it's worth a lot.

Mr. Stokes: I appreciate it. I usually sit and ask the questions like you're doing. I'm in charge of oral history and I've interviewed everybody that had anything to do with the school with the exception of one. I never got around to interviewing Dr. Danny ^{Beyer} Bier, one of our founders. He died a short time after I took the job in the Library, in 1981.

Ms. Rowe: We would miss you if you left.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you.