

Narrator's name: Kinzie  
Tape number: OH 18  
Date of interview: February 22, 1984  
Place of interview: Dr. Kinzie's office, Lindale, Texas  
Interviewer's name: Mr. Ray Stokes  
For: TCOM Library, Oral History Section

EARL CHRISTIAN KINZIE, D.O.

Earle Christian Kinzie has been in practice in Lindale, Texas for some 43-44 years. Lindale is a community of 2,100-2,200 population and is about 10 miles north of Tyler, Texas. Dr. Kinzie is truly one of the pioneers of the osteopathic profession. He is in general and family practice in Lindale.

Mr. Stokes: Dr. Kinzie, could you give me just a little idea, in your own terms, on how you came to choose Lindale, Texas, as your choice to dedicate a life dedicated to the healing arts?

Dr. Kinzie: I was in Kansas and wanted to come to Texas . . .

Mr. Stokes: Where in Kansas, Dr. Kinzie?

Dr. Kinzie: Ness City, Kansas. I practiced there in the Dust Bowl for about four and a half years. I talked to Milton Gaffney, who was practicing in Tyler - Dr. Milton Gaffney. He said a doctor had just died in Lindale and they probably could stand a new doctor. Well, I was hard up. I had a wife and two children that I had to feed. So, I came to Lindale. And this has been the land of milk and honey. They have been real good to me for all these years and I am duly grateful for this.

Mr. Stokes: Thank you, Dr. Kinzie. I believe this is George Washington's birthday - his actual birthday - February 22, 1984. It is a beautiful day here in Lindale. Dr. Kinzie, I know you have had many experiences. I know you have been to the valley of despair a few times and the mountain tops of glory on other occasions. Can you think, off the top of your head, one of the most paramount experiences that you have had as a general

practitioner - of course, I know you have brought in hundreds of babies. You are treating the great grandchildren out in the waiting room just a moment ago. I overheard one little girl say "He told me all about my grandparents that he used to treat", so I know you've got just a hoard of patients that one comes from mother to father to grandfather and the children and grandchildren. Can you think of some particular experience that you have had in the way of treatment of some outstanding experience with some given family? Under any particular paramount condition?

Dr. Kinzie: Well, no - they're all interesting. Sometimes I've had the experiences and thought "Kinzie, why didn't you stay down on the farm where you are supposed to be? Whoever said you were a doctor?" Yes, I've had those feelings, certainly. But, by and large, the positive have overcome these negative things. Certainly, in my younger days, when I was doing OB, it always a good satisfaction to deliver a normal child and then to wonder what they develop into. And, as a result of my obstetrics, I have had my share of young kids that have done real well whatever their life efforts have been.

Mr. Stokes: Dr. Earl - I'm going to call you Dr. Earl - you're a couple of days older and I respect you by putting Dr. in front of your given name. Speaking of Earl, while I'm thinking about it, here off the top of my head, I remember something that I heard here a few years ago and mention it every opportunity that I get. We have here in the great State of Texas a number of prolific football players. We have one, in particular, who

made quite a name for himself - became the Heisman winner of the annual football award that is coveted among football players each year. I believe one of them has discovered America by way of Dr. Kinzie. Tell us something about your bringing Earl Christian Campbell into the world.

Dr. Kinzie: Earl was delivered by me and I don't remember dates - but I happen to remember that date, because I went back and checked it. 1955 - March 29th. Actually, he was delivered at the home of his parents and he was just a normal, husky youngster of about, I believe, the average weight of about 7½ pounds and the family was wondering "Well, what are we going to call the baby?" I said, "Why don't you give him my name - Earl Christian Kinzie?" "Well, that sounds real good!" And that's the name that went on the birth certificate. And, incidentally, after that, I delivered six of his brothers and sisters.

Mr. Stokes: How many in the family altogether?

Dr. Kinzie: Eleven. And I delivered two before Earl. Then I delivered the twins and she asked me to name them. I gave them good Bible names - Timothy and Stephen. And they both play football for Texas University. In fact, in the Bluebonnet game, Earl was given the offensive award of the game and Tim was given the defensive award of the game. Then, the next girl was Martha; the next girl was Margaret, who was named after my first wife. Then Ronnie came later. They are good people. I had delivered a niece for Earl. In fact, when Earl's sister-in-law was in the hospital in labor with that baby, Earl's brother, Willie, said,

"Well, Earl will make the Heisman Trophy Award this year." And sure enough, he did. He wasn't bragging at all. That was just the way it was going to be.

Mr. Stokes: Incidentally, speaking of the award, am I in error in thinking that you attended there?

Dr. Kinzie: No, I didn't.

Mr. Stokes: I was under the impression that you did.

Dr. Kinzie: At the big banquet that they had in Tyler, they did have me to . . .

Mr. Stokes: Maybe that's what I'm thinking about. Explain a little about that, doctor.

Dr. Kinzie: There were some 1,200 there to a banquet honoring Earl just after he had received his Heisman Trophy Award and the coach - Coach Royal and Coach Akers were there, and Dr. LeMaster. Dr. LeMaster, the president of the University, I believe, was there. I was honored by being asked to give him the keys to the new car that the community of Tyler gave him.

Mr. Stokes: I see. Well, that's quite an honor.

Dr. Kinzie: Of course, when Earl married, he was married in the big city auditorium and only those who received invitations got in. And, of course, we were fortunate enough to get an invitation and were guided up on the front seat and sat with the family. I've gotten lots of miles out of that situation.

Mr. Stokes: Well, you know, a few years ago, when I had the pleasure of visiting you here in your office, you gave me a couple of pictures that I still carry around with me and, on occasion, I

have the opportunity to show - a picture of the old home where Earl lived and the new home that he built for his mother a few years later. I get a great deal of pleasure out of showing those two pictures. Have you had anyone else that you've brought into the world with comparable situation?

Dr. Kinzie: Oh, yes. Ron Wells - Reverend Ron Wells, who was minister of one of the biggest Baptist churches in St. Louis. His family still lives here in Lindale. He is back in this territory now and is at the Green Acres Baptist Church on their staff.

Mr. Stokes: Where is Green Acres?

Dr. Kinzie: Here in Tyler. Another outstanding boy was Ray Perryman.

Mr. Stokes: I remember him - or I know the name.

Dr. Kinzie: Ray Perryman was the youngest man to ever get his Ph.D. from Rice University. He is now a full professor at Baylor University. He occupies the endowed chair - the Brown Endowed Chair - of the Brown and Root people of Houston. He's an outstanding economist and he is a lecturer all over America and was written up in the Baylor line as "Boy Wonder". And, of course, there are others.

Mr. Stokes: Approximately how many babies have you brought into the world?

Dr. Kinzie: 2,000. It's a guess, however, I never kept track.

Mr. Stokes: I understand. That's quite a number.

Dr. Kinzie: That's a lot of pain.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, my goodness. Well, down through the years, Dr. Kinzie, of course, you have been very active in the support of the profession through the organizational structures of the association --

the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and had a different name prior to that. You've been very active in that. I believe - are you a life member of TOMA?

Dr. Kinzie: No. I'm a life member of the AOA.

Mr. Stokes: You've been active and very supportive of the profession. You also have been very active in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine by supporting it. Dr. Kinzie, you've been very active, as I alluded to a moment ago, about your activities; you've been very diversified, you've been very interested and very supportive of the various osteopathic entities throughout the state, particularly, the professional association; the various projects that have been undertaken by the college - the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine and I'd like to state right here that, back in the beginning, before we had our first graduate - from 1970 to 1974, I had a group of doctors who I called my "pseudo-alumni" for want of not having an alumni. We are honored to have you listed on the enviable, very august, group. We had about 48 members that, when we did have our first class, the first action that the alumni took in its first assembly, was to make honorary members of the 48 who had been very, very supportive of the school and its efforts. It is a pleasure to look here on the wall and see this honorary membership that you have of TCOM.

Dr. Kinzie: Really what I did for TCOM hasn't been very much . . .

Mr. Stokes: It's been a great deal.

Dr. Kinzie: I felt that my job was staying right here, taking care of people

right here and when I started in the practice of medicine I said "There is one thing I'll do - I'll practice medicine and nothing will get in my way." Had I not had a marvelous wife, my children wouldn't have been worth shooting. They knew; however, that their mother and I were a unit and agreed on all discipline and such. And now comes the time when, after these years, I am the only charter member of our Rotary Club, here in Lindale. I am the only charter director in our bank - still on the board. Our group started the bank here in 1945. My family has been active in the First Baptist Church. I have sung in the choir of the First Baptist Church for all these years and I still am active. I am a trustee of our church and, I laughinly, say that I am the leader of the rough element of our church. We support our church with our means. This is a bit personal to say this. We do have a Kinzie Scholarship Foundation in which we give funds for nursing scholarships, medical students . . .

Mr. Stokes: Would expand a little on that, Dr. Kinzie?

Dr. Kinzie: Well, with the Tyler Junior College, we give a Margaret Kinzie Memorial Nursing Scholarship of \$750 a year. We give the LVN school - \$2,000 a year. I have established the Mavern Devine Kinzie Scholarship at TCOM in honor of my wife - \$1,500 scholarship. We have the Kinzie Scholarship at McPherson College, Kansas, where I was graduated. And, these will go on forever. When I am through, our son, Bill Kinzie, M.D., who practices in Ennis, Texas, will continue that and when he

is through, the Republic Bank will continue. This is a small foundation. It only has \$120,000-\$130,000 in the fund until we use all the incomes from the foundation. I have a certain feeling that this is literally throwing your bread upon the waters.

Mr. Stokes: It certainly is.

Dr. Kinzie: And I am a big believer in chain reactions, that is, someone does something nice for us and we pass it on to someone else. I'll never forget when I was taking care of an old lady - Mrs. Rather, over near the state park. She was deathly sick about Christmas time and, as I left the room, 35 years ago, her daughter says "Here, Dr. Kinzie, take this." And she cut a beautiful doll off the Christmas tree and gave it to me and I brought it home and then went immediately down to the grocery store and I bought two sacks of fruit and nuts and cookies and candy and took out to my farm where a man/had two children <sup>that ran my farm</sup> and there they sat. I unloaded these sacks on their laps and it literally fell off their laps on to the floor. I never in world would have done it if this woman had not given me that beautiful doll to give to my little girl.

Mr. Stokes: Well, I understand what you mean by that expression now.

Dr. Kinzie: I believe in chain reactions. Who knows what all this will stop with? For instance, with Hoosey Granbury - Dr. Jim Granbury, who ran for governor on the Republican ticket eight years ago, I guess it was, who was mayor of Lubbock at the time of the hurricane. I raised him in my backyard on my basketball court there. Loaned him <sup>some</sup> ~~the~~ money to go to dental



school. He's paid me back in full, with interest.

Mr. Stokes: I'm sure he has.

Dr. Kinzie: And now he establishes these scholarships himself. He is now Chairman of Board of Regents of East Texas State University.

Mr. Stokes: He is?!

Dr. Kinzie: So, you know, it's nice to see the fruition of all these efforts.

Mr. Stokes: I notice something here on the wall that I wasn't aware of. You know, we have 650 or more total employees at the school now, counting faculty, staff, and administration. And, up until a few years ago, nothing happened without Ray Stokes knowing a little bit about it, one way or the other. But now, so many things occur that I have no need to be informed in, don't misunderstand me. But I am noticing something on your wall that I wasn't aware of. It says "This is to certify that Earl C. Kinzie, D.O., has been appointed to the faculty of the Department of General and Family Practice, with the rank of Clinical Associate Professor, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine." Signed by the President (Ralph L. Willard, D.O.), the Dean (David M. Richards, D.O.), and the Department Head (L. L. Bunnell, D.O.). I didn't know that and I am delighted to welcome you on the faculty of TCOM - a little belated, of course.

Dr. Kinzie: It is interesting. I was asked to speak on the practice of medicine in a rural setting to the junior class some time back - this is spring - I guess it was last fall. And, it was with some fear and trembling that I spoke to the junior class, knowing that all those had their college degree, some had master's

degrees, some Ph.D.'s, some even ex-college professors and they had just been through their science courses and I felt that they would be real cynical of - "Let's see you prove all that you say." So, I carefully prepared for what I was going to tell them about the practice of medicine - as I saw it - in a rural setting. A more appreciative group I never saw. They seemed to hang on to every word. Maybe it was because after all, here's a guy that's been through it, and he's telling us how it is. I was so surprised, that when I got through, there was tremendous applause. I walked out ten feet tall.

Mr. Stokes: I can appreciate that.

Dr. Kinzie: I was so surprised. I was really surprised when that State of Texas sent me an honorarium of \$200.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, my goodness, is that right?

Well, if I know you, and I think I do, you made good of that \$200 honorarium, I'm sure.

Dr. Kinzie: Incidentally, and this is rather personal, we do keep account-- we call it the "T" account at the bank and it's legalistic to give 1/10th away. Sometimes we haven't given 1/10th. Now are happy to give more than 1/10th. And, there again, it's like throwing your bread upon the waters.

Mr. Stokes: Well, in that respect, Dr. Kinzie, you're still a member of the President's Council there at TCOM, aren't you? You're very supportive of the TCOM Foundation. We have a relatively new director of development, who, at the moment is wearing two hats. You may have met him - Dr. Mike Ford. He is Director of Development. At the moment, he is Chief Fiscal Officer of the school. Actually,

he's acting and has applied for the permanent job, but the search committee hasn't rendered an opinion yet. I hope Mike gets it, all right. However, I have mixed emotions because, after having been the Director of Development myself, in the beginning for a number of years, and one or two who followed me, I was kind of hoping that we could kind of level off and have Mike perform that role, but now if he becomes the chief fiscal officer, likely we will be looking for another director of development. Whatever it is, I am sure he will be an asset to the school. Dr. Kinzie, from what I have learned today, yours has been the epitome of family practice, particularly in this area, and I know you have had many rich, rewarding experiences. Can you think of anything else, down through the years that highlight your professional life?

Dr. Kinzie: No, except when I came here in Texas, Phil Russell was kind of known as the "Pope" of the D.O.'s. And, I would say that Howard Coats was the "Cardinal" of East Texas.

Mr. Stokes: He was over in Tyler, I believe.

Dr. Kinzie: Yes. I've had a good experience. I've had fun generally and it's generally been a satisfying life. And here at the age of 76, nearly 77, I still am active in practice.

Mr. Stokes: It just occurred to me, Dr. Kinzie, you mentioned something at the very beginning about a Dr. Gaffney, who practiced over in Tyler. If I can personal for just a moment. . . In 1942, my mother was living in Tyler and was a patient of Dr. Gaffney and had to undergo a blood transfusion, so Dr. Gaffney gave

my mother a transfusion from me.

Dr. Kinzie: That was before we knew anything about the RH factor.

Mr. Stokes: That's right. That was in 1942. I hadn't thought about that in a long time.

Dr. Kinzie: Dr. Gaffney was a very brilliant man. Apparently there were some personality clashes between he and Dr. Coats and, for that reason, Dr. Coats started another hospital and then later on, several of us started a hospital down in the south part of Tyler.

Mr. Stokes: Is that, at the present, Doctor's Memorial?

Dr. Kinzie: Well, but it was the Doctor's Hospital first and then, after the two hospitals got together, I was insistent that that be a non-profit hospital, and had it not been for Ollie Clam and I guess I had something to do with ours, we would not have a D.O. hospital in Tyler.

Mr. Stokes: You have one to be very proud of now.

Dr. Kinzie: Yes, and it's a non-profit institution. Oh, yes, I took a half a dozen of my friends and established the nursing home here in town. I started a corporation that started a nursing home. After a number of years, we sold the nursing home, after it became a 93 bed nursing home. It is still doing a fine job here. I am very proud of the bank. Now we have assets of, I believe, something like \$27 million here in this little bank that we started in 1945. It seems to me that we have maybe 30 women working for us now in the bank and, even though we have sold controlling interest in the bank, I'm still on the board, as

*crook*  
is Jack ~~Cook~~, former president of the bank. About a half a dozen of us bought controlling interest in the First National Bank in Winnsboro, twenty years ago, and I still ~~own the bank~~ *am on the Bank Board*.

Mr. Stokes: Is that about 30 miles north of here?

Dr. Kinzie: Yes, about 30 miles. I'm on the bank board there. And, I have brought in a fine young man . . .

Dr.  
Mr. Stokes: Yes, I was hoping you'd say something about/Randy.

Dr. Kinzie: A TCOM graduate. I felt that nobody could get along with me, after all these years, and so, we arranged that he practice in entirely  
/separate from me, although he does use my x-ray machine and my EKG machine. He's a gentlemen, a good doctor, and he came in here, certainly with my full blessing, after I'd spent all this money fixing him up a rather plush suite of offices.

Mr. Stokes: I can certainly attest to that. I saw them this morning.

Dr. Kinzie: And, I suppose, he sees about as many patients now as I do, after nearly two years, and he is doing a good job.

Mr. Stokes: You mentioned your physician son a moment ago. How many children do you have in all?

Dr. Kinzie: Three children. We have a daughter, 51, who lives in Houston. She has two children - a boy - he's nineteen, now, and then they have an adopted boy - thirteen. They got him from the Methodist Home in San Antonio. Since you mentioned Waco, by the way, Mavern's cousin, Governor Bill Daniel, is very much interested in the children's home there and was on the board for a number of years. And he started the ranch and he gave - he had them to come down and choose 600 of his prize cattle to start that home.

Page 14  
Earl C. Kinzie, D.O.

Mr. Stokes: Now, who was that?

Dr. Kinzie: Mavern's first cousin - Governor Bill Daniel. Who, by the way, his brother is Price Daniel and Price was governor of Texas at the same time Bill was governor of <sup>Guam</sup> ~~Blum~~. Mavern's, of course, my second wife - came from a family of Baptists. Her grandfather was a Baptist preacher from down in East Texas. She is a graduate of Baylor University. Has her master's degree from Baylor and, by the way, Bill, a year and a half ago, gave Baylor University \$5½ million. He is actually a member of the Methodist Church.

Mr. Stokes: I was thinking he is.

Dr. Kinzie: He really loves Baylor University. The fact that he is not a Baptist is the reason <sup>he</sup> is not on the board of control. Price was on the board of control for a while. He is a Baptist. But, I've enjoyed it here and this is where I will live and die.

Mr. Stokes: Dr. Kinzie, it's been a joy and a blessing and a privilege to pick your brain, if I can use that expression, and have you reflect and list some of the memoirs of your life. I am grateful to have the pleasure to record. We hope to have, for the sake of posterity, for the future. It's been a pleasure to be here in your office today and interview you.

Dr. Kinzie: Our son, Bill Kinzie, is a graduate of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Our baby girl is in Dallas. She is a graduate - after high school, she was an exchange student to Germany for a year - and then she went to Trinity University in San Antonio

Page 15  
Earl C. Kinzie, D.O.

and graduated with honors and she since has her master's degree  
from ~~Middlebury~~ <sup>Middlebury College</sup> ~~✓~~ in Vermont and she is married to ~~Lynn~~ <sup>Len</sup>  
Hughes, M.D., who is a anesthesiologist at Presbyterian Hospi-  
tal in Dallas. They have ~~three~~ <sup>two</sup> children. The Bill Kinzie's  
have four children. I have eight grandchildren and two great  
grandchildren.

Mr. Stokes: You've had a rich, full life, Dr. Kinzie. Again, we are grate-  
ful for this interview.