

Narrator's name: H. G. Grainger  
Tape number: OH 19  
Date of interview: 2-23-84  
Place of interview: Tyler, TX  
Interviewer's name: Mr. Ray Stokes  
For: TCOM Library, Oral History Section

H. George Grainger, D.O.

Mr. Stokes: It is my pleasure to be in the office of one of my favorite friends and professional member of the osteopathic profession, Dr. H. George Grainger. Dr. Grainger has been in practice in Tyler, Texas, on South Bois d'Arc Street, I believe it is, at 704 S. Bois d'Arc. Dr. Grainger is a very prominent citizen of Tyler, Texas - very active, of course, he has been in practice here since 1931, I believe he told me recently. He is a general practitioner. He is well known throughout the piney woods of East Texas. He is not only an excellent physician, but he is also well known as a prominent poet, an artist - we'll get into some of those attributes that he has and discuss those momentarily, but, Dr. George - I'm going to call you Dr. George, because he used to be one of my bosses. We'll get into that as to why he was one of my bosses momentarily, but, today, I'd like for Dr. George - I'd kind of like to "pick your brain", if I can. You say you came to Tyler in 1931 to open up a practice. You know at that particular time, I am sure the osteopathic profession was not as well identified as it is today and I don't imagine that the image of the profession was <sup>as</sup> greatly established as it is today. So, would you start in 1931 and give me a little resume. Where did you get your education?

Dr. Grainger: Yes, indeed, I will. Speaking of 1931, first, and the image. I came with Dr. Coats, came in with Dr. H. R. Coats.

Page 2  
Dr. Grainger

Mr. Stokes: Tell us a little bit about him.

Dr. Grainger: Dr. Coats was a tall, fine man, who had the respect of every physician in Tyler. He was the only osteopathic physician at the time, but he was the x-ray man and all of the - all of them - all seventeen of the medics that we had in Tyler at that time - there are now about 170 - used him in consultation on an x-ray, and he was well thought of. So that osteopathy was pretty well established in Tyler. The high degree of osteopathy. Dr. Coats, by the way, started the first <sup>osteopathic</sup> hospital in Tyler, with Dr. Gafney.

Mr. Stokes: What is his given name?

Dr. Grainger: His given name was Milton - Dr. Milton Gafney - who is now dead. But, getting back to my background. It is not very distinguished. I was teaching school in Washington, D.C., when I was persuaded to become an osteopathic physician. I had an uncle, whom I admired more than anyone else <sup>even</sup> -/more than my father for intellectual ability and I thought a lot of my father. This uncle was a preacher and he had three fingers off on one hand and two off on the other hand, and he had told me when I was very small that, if he hadn't lost his fingers, he would have become an osteopath. So that is where I got interested <sup>around</sup> in osteopathy. Way back / 1915 - way back then. So that, after I had become a teacher and saved a little money, I applied for entrance at the old American School of Osteopathy, which is now KCOM - Kirksville.

Mr. Stokes: May I ask if you ever met the founder, Dr. A. T. Still?

Dr. Grainger: No, Dr. Still died in 1917, and I entered in 1925.

Mr. Stokes: Dr. George, you mentioned that you were teaching when you first showed an interest in the osteopathic profession. What were you teaching?

Dr. Grainger: Well, this is quite interesting, I think, because it has to do with the use of the hands.

Mr. Stokes: The use of the hands?

Dr. Grainger: The use of the hands. I taught manual training.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, I see.

Dr. Grainger: I taught shop, in other words.

Mr. Stokes: Now, where did you get your training for that?

Dr. Grainger: I got it in high school. My high school teacher got me the job as a teacher in Washington, D.C., without ever having any college education whatsoever.

Mr. Stokes: Now that is miraculous! Where did you go to high school?

Dr. Grainger: At Western High School in Washington, D.C., for the first three years, and Eastern High School in my last year. In fact, in going to school at Western High School, it was not my choice when I moved to Washington with my family. My choice was Central High School, but they sent me to Western, in Georgetown, because of the location. And it so happened that Western High School was the most elite high school where all the senators' and all the representatives' and even the future presidents' children that I was associated with went.

Mr. Stokes: Is that right? I was going to ask you, but you answered it, if you were a native of D.C. Apparently you were not. You

moved there. Where did you move from?

Dr. Grainger: I am a "damn Yankee".

Mr. Stokes: Oh, are you?

Dr. Grainger: Adopted by now, of course. I was born in Trenton, New Jersey.

Mr. Stokes: Trenton, New Jersey. And then moved as a youth to Washington, D.C.?

Dr. Grainger: No, I moved all over the place. My daddy was a preacher.

Baptist preacher. He was called various places in the North.

So that I jumped from place to place as a child. When I went to Washington, I <sup>had</sup> graduated from a one room country school

house, and the age at which one can quit school at that time was fourteen, but I wasn't old enough to quit, so I took the eighth grade over again, voluntarily.

Mr. Stokes: That was about what year?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, gee, that was back in 19. . . during World War I.

Mr. Stokes: 1917 or 18. Well, you say that entered the American School of Osteopathy in 1925.

Dr. Grainger: Right.

Mr. Stokes: You got out, then, about 1928 or 29.

Dr. Grainger: 1929. Right at the beginning of the depression.

Mr. Stokes: Where did you intern?

Dr. Grainger: I had no internship.

Mr. Stokes: No internship. You went immediately into practice?

Dr. Grainger: Into practice.

Mr. Stokes: All right. I imagine your practice at that time - was it restricted? Where you able to issue prescriptions?

Page 5  
Dr. Grainger

Dr. Grainger: That's why I came to Texas. Texas was one of the few states where we could practice as physicians. And, I located first in Canyon, Texas. First, really, in Waco, Texas, for just a short time, and then moved to Canyon, Texas, within two months.

Mr. Stokes: How long did you practice there? A year - two years?

Dr. Grainger: A year and a half in Canyon - where I met my wife.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, is that where Mrs. Grainger is from?

Dr. Grainger: Right. She was in school there.

Mr. Stokes: At West Texas State, which is now West Texas University?

Dr. Grainger? That's right.

Mr. Stokes: I see. That would be in 1928 or 9.

Dr. Grainger: 1930.

Mr. Stokes: And you came here in 1931. How long have you been in practice where you are located now?

Dr. Grainger: We were down at the bank building - Citizen's Bank Building with Dr. Coats, and in 1934, I moved to the People's Bank Building. I stayed in the People's Bank Building until 1952, when we found that there was a building going to be built on South Bois d'Arc, close to my home and it was going to be used as a residence, and we persuaded the builders to build it into an office and we bought it. That was in 1952. I have been in practice here since 1952. In this office.

Mr. Stokes: That's 32 years you have been here.

Dr. Grainger: Right.

Mr. Stokes: Before we began to tape this interview, we were talking about your good friend, Dr. Kinzie, whom I had the pleasure of interviewing yesterday, up at Lindale, and he is credited with causing Earl Campbell to discover America - the famous football player. And I understand that you had a little bit of a part in making his discovery nationally know. Could you tell us a little bit about that?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, I do a little public relations work and I have been doing a little bit of writing along. And one time, a lot of scientific writing - or pseudo-scientific, at least. And I want to tell you a little bit about that later, if we have enough time.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, yes.

Dr. Grainger: But, with Earl, it is interesting. These two fellows are "Scotsmen", you know. Earl Campbell and Earl Kinzie. Both of them are "Scots". We have a lot of fun about Earl being - about them all being kinfolks. Well, it so happened that Dr. Kinzie puts out a little, very interesting Christmas card every year - a little Christmas paper on one side, telling the events, what happened to his family and all that, during year. And, at this particular time - maybe ten years ago, now, he sent this to us and he mentioned about having delivered a baby and his name was Earl Campbell. That was <sup>the year</sup> when Earl Campbell was just beginning his fame at Texas - the University of Texas. And, so, I have a good rapport with our local newspaper and I took the item down to the newspaper right away . . .

Page 7  
Dr. Grainger

Mr. Stokes: Let's give the newspaper a plug - what is their name?  
Courier

Dr. Grainger: The Tyler/Times Telegraph. I took it down to the editor, Mr. Everett Taylor, who realized its interest and its value and wrote up a good article that was picked up by the Associated Press and became a national celebrity as the doctor who delivered Earl Campbell. Earle Christian Campbell was named for him.

Mr. Stokes: I see. Well, that is interesting. Have you delivered anyone equally as famous as Earl Campbell? How many babies have you delivered in your lifetime?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, I quit, perhaps twenty years ago, and I have an old file full of babies I have delivered, and I still have a check from one of them. It was a baby who I delivered at home and the baby weighed thirteen and a half pounds and the husband gave me a check for \$25. It was hot - I still have that check.

Mr. Stokes: I guess that was one of the most memorable experiences you had, then.

Dr. Grainger: Well, I got a lot of hot checks in those days, particularly on delivery of babies.

Mr. Stokes: They didn't even give you a trade-out in potatoes or eggs or anything of that nature.

Dr. Grainger: Oh, no. I remember, I would go to Lindale and deliver a baby and go back and see them two or three times and charge them fifty dollars for the whole thing . . .

Mr. Stokes: Regardless of the number of trips.

Dr. Grainger: Regardless of the number of visits to the office prenatally.

Mr. Stokes: Fifty bucks!

Dr. Grainger: I would give each one of them an osteopathic treatment each month that they came to me.

Mr. Stokes: I'm glad that you brought that out. Any other individual that you could call, maybe not, famous, but some exceptional contribution to life that you have been associated with.

Dr. Grainger: Oh - I have, indeed! When you came, I was looking over some literature. I had written an article - it was a scientific article, called "The Common Crick - Osteopathic Considerations", "Physiologic Considerations of the Common Crick" and I had been studying the anatomy and physiology of the muscle spindle and I had a good deal of correspondence from physicians and re-  
Dr.  
searchers from all over the world, one of whom was/Ragnar Granit . Ragnar Granit is one of the most famous physiologic researchers today. It so happened that, in my correspondence with him, I used him as my focal point in developing this thesis on how the spindle works in producing the osteopathic lesion and how correcting the lesion is related to the tying up of this spindle;and the next year, after the publication of my article - it was in the Journal of Neurophysiology, by the way - it was a lead article . . .

Mr. Stokes: What year was that?

Dr. Grainger: The year was 1962. Volume I, Number 1 of the Journal of American College of Neurophysiologists, which is an osteopathic publication. And, yes, the very next year following the publication, Dr. Granit was given a Nobel Prize in physiology, and I thought that was a very satisfactory individual to do work with. It so happens, his Nobel Prize was



neurology  
given for previous work - that on/the eye. Dr. Granit is an  
④ exceptional man. ↓ There is an interesting story here about  
Dr. Granit . When Kennedy died - when President Kennedy was  
that,  
killed - of course, following/the Kennedy silver coins came  
out - silver half dollars. I sent one of these to Dr. Granite.  
Dr. Granit wrote back, thanking me for this medal that I sent  
him, stating, that as President of the Neurosphyiological Society  
of Sweden, that he had the privilege of giving the ode to President  
on his death,  
Kennedy/before the neurophysiologists of the world. So, I  
just give that insight on this man.

Mr. Stokes: That's very good. Let's move along, if we can, Dr. George. You know, along about 1960, your profession - the osteopathic profession - was headquartered in Fort Worth and began to show interest, concerted interest, in establishing a school of osteopathy in Texas and a great deal of leg work and surveys were conducted and you were involved in the beginning of that and, as I recall, of course my knowledge of the profession stems from - actually I am acquainted with the profession from 1950, but certainly not very well acquainted - this is your interview and not mine, so I won't take but just a moment to share this with you. In 1950, I met one of the founders, Dr. Danny Beyer. I was a politician at the time - or aspiring politician - I never quite made it. He called me in his office one time in 1950. I was running for public office. He wanted to get acquainted with me science because the basic/bill was going to be presented in the Legislature during that next term in Austin and he wanted to get my feelings on the matter, so he called me in and I visited with

him. That was the first time I knew anything about . . .

Dr. Grainger: Wasn't that about 1949?

Mr. Stokes: Well, this was 1950.

Dr. Grainger: I was President in 1948 and 1949. I know a great deal about all those problems.

Mr. Stokes: You were President of TOMA at that time? Well, I'm glad we worked that in. I knew you were a politician, but I didn't know whether you were one of these outward politicians or one of these behind-the-scenes, but I'm glad to know about your contributions to both.

Dr. Grainger: No, I was not a politician, I just happened to be President.

Mr. Stokes: Just happened to be President. That was 1948-49? Well, you are well acquainted with one of the founders, Dr. Danny Beyer. Like I say, my introduction to osteopathy came through my association with him. But, back to your experience. In 1960-61, various committees were formed. You became interested in the work that Dr. George Luibel, Dr. Carl Everett, and Dr. Dan Beyer were initiating and they went to the trouble and expense of getting a charter. When I came to work for the school in April of 1969, you were on the Board - an executive committee made up of the three men that I just mentioned and then four more members. I had a total - I always considered myself as having four bosses. And you were one of my bosses. You were on the original Board of Directors - known as directors, not trustees or regents - of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. You got your charter in June of 1966. Dr. George, can

you give me some insights into some of the experiences you had in the beginning of the trials and tribulations that you encountered as a member of the Board the first few years as to whether you should or shouldn't, whether you should try to raise enough money to build the school. . . What are some of your reflections on that?

Dr. Grainger: That was one of the greatest tribulations - was the raising of sufficient money. I think we had raised something like - I don't know, you probably know the amount - of \$200-250,000.

Mr. Stokes: I'm not trying to correct you sir, but, no, we didn't quite raise that much the first two or three years.

Dr. Grainger: Maybe that was in pledges.

Mr. Stokes: Pardon me, I will say this. When I came to work, we had \$100,000 in pledges, about \$10,000 in the bank, and then pledges for about \$90,000. That's where we stood about that time as far as pledges. But, go ahead, sir.

Dr. Grainger: Well, I will have to give George Luibel all the credit in the world for - I don't know - for his, I can say faith. But I can also say cunning. He could see through things and knew how to work things <sup>in order</sup> to get us going that nobody else could do.

Mr. Stokes: I'm glad to hear you give him credit for that.

Dr. Grainger: We know that. He was, I would say, a genius in his ability, his calculations, and his ability, and his foresight. So that we started from the top of a hospital. We started on the fourth floor of a hospital, moved <sup>later</sup> into a bowling alley, and from there, went <sup>on</sup> up. And how we went out to Arlington and looked over a sight out there that might have been built up in the next ten to fifteen years that we thought we might be

able to - we were offered to build a building on, to start a school on. It was near the airport and had a lot of possibilities and in the future,/yet we had to do something right now.

Mr. Stokes: In other words, our future was now, at that time.

Dr. Grainger: And how we used that particular site as an investment, as a selling point in raising, in influencing people in the Legislature to help us get started.

Mr. Stokes: Here in again, I don't want to talk too much myself, Dr. George, but, you know, at that time I was business manager at the school and I was involved in the transaction - the land deal - that was given to us - fifty acres by the Vandergriffs of Arlington and Carlisle Craven and, although we didn't use the land, we eventually gave it back to them, but there was a paper transaction saying that it was worth \$300,000, was one of the vital reasons that we are in business today. The Board of Trustees of the AOA wouldn't have given you provisional accreditation if you didn't have a little liquid assets, so . . .

Dr. Grainger: That's . . .

Mr. Stokes: That's right, we used that \$300,000 . . .

Dr. Grainger: And let's put in here about the caginess and astuteness and striving toward a goal and the use of what we have and our brains in order to achieve those things.

Mr. Stokes: Let's go back just a little bit, let's say to . . . Do you remember, like I say, I came on in 1969 and you were already on the Board. Do you remember the date and the circumstances under which you were elected to the Board of Directors?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, yes, I was just invited to be on.

Mr. Stokes: All right. Give us a little information on that.

Dr. Grainger: Well, George Luibel said "George, would you like to . . .

Mr. Stokes: What was this, 1968, or 1967 ?

Dr. Grainger: Along about that time. I don't know exactly. He said

"George, come on over and let's get on this Board . . ."

He knew I was interested. "Let's get this thing going."

So, that was the election that I had. I had it from the top man.

Mr. Stokes: I believe you are still a clinical associate faculty member - associate professor in the Department of Osteopathic Principles, Practice, and Philosophy. The 3 P's, OPP&P. Someday /maybe all the osteopathic schools will get together and have the same name, you know, it's OMT in some schools and OPP&P, OTT&T in other osteopathic schools. Maybe someday they'll all get together and have one department.

Dr. Grainger: Well, that's a democratic process.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, yes. And, I don't know that they need to get together in that sense.

Dr. Grainger: That would be good if we had a standardization, if we could settle on it. And not only a standardization in words, but a standardization in concept in the minds of the individuals who use those words and use those techniques.

Mr. Stokes: As a member of the first faculty, and, of course, you practiced here in Tyler, which is about 135-140 miles from Fort Worth. You came to Fort Worth once or twice a week, didn't you, during those times?

Dr. Grainger: It was once a week, at first.

Mr. Stokes: You still go up occasionally to give/<sup>a</sup>lecture, do you?

Dr. Grainger: Yes, on occasion. Since the switchover to the . . .

Mr. Stokes: We're now State. At that time, the first five years, we were private.

Dr. Grainger: I've been more or less neglected.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, you haven't been neglected. They've been holding you in excellent reserve.

Dr. Grainger: Yes, they must have been doing that. (chuckle)

Mr. Stokes: Right. During those years, with the first . . .

Dr. Grainger: And, by the way, they were without salary. They were voluntary. Just for the satisfaction of doing something for the school.

Mr. Stokes: Well, that was one of the reasons we made it - was through the gracious benevolence of a number of doctors such as you that made it possible for us, for example, while we're going back down memory lane for a minute. You mentioned the hospital - the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital - where we used the unused fifth floor - you mentioned the fourth floor. It was the fifth floor that was unused at the time. We <sup>went in and</sup> partitioned it off and had our first classes there, but we did show on paper that we had a rent of \$40,000, but you know, the hospital never got \$40,000 - they never got \$4.00. They didn't want it, don't misunderstand me. We met our obligations - those that we actually had. We did pay our utilities and things of that nature.

Dr. Grainger: And, we'd sneak up the back way to school, by the way.

Mr. Stokes: But because of the efforts on your part on those of our contemporaries made it possible for us to be able to survive, I guess

is the word. So, during those years, you were very closely identified with the first two classes, at least. The Class of 1974, which had 18 graduates and the Class of 1975, which had 25 graduates. So, you and I both pretty well identify ourselves with the first two classes. Can you recall, Dr. George, any particular experience when you were serving on the faculty and giving your lectures and demonstrations to the class members? Any particular, outstanding, paramount experience that you recall?

Dr. Grainger: Yes, indeed. I think I have one here. At one time at class, I asked each member of this first class to write an article - to write a piece why he or she (we had one girl in the class) decided to become an osteopath. And, I have this group of papers here.

Mr. Stokes: You still have them!

Dr. Grainger: I have them here and I could read some of them off to you. (In one case, there is one individual who couldn't spell the word "osteopathy".)

Mr. Stokes: Let them go unidentified. I wouldn't want to embarrass them, would you?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, let me pick up one for you.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, do that, Dr. George.  
Let me pick up a short one.

Dr. Grainger: I want to pick up one somebody I - here's Ron Daniels.

Mr. Stokes: He's practicing up north of you a ways, at Quitman.

Dr. Grainger: He's a member of our East Texas group. Although we seldom see him. "Why I Chose a Career in Osteopathic Medicine. I

chose a career in osteopathic medicine so that I might have a rewarding profession to devote my time to. Also, I felt that it would be a profession that would offer more as rewards, a feeling that I had accomplished something in helping people. I feel that it goes beyond offering to the patient what allopathic medicine offers. I believe in choosing this career. I felt that the profession would be a growing one and that it was actually a rapidly growing group."

Mr. Stokes: That was Dr. Daniels.

Dr. Grainger: Ron Daniels, student/doctor.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, at that time.

Dr. Grainger: Freshman!

Mr. Stokes: That must have been 1970, then. That would be October, 1970.  
Well, thank you for sharing that information with us.

Dr. Grainger: Someday, I'm going to give this to the school.

Mr. Stokes: I wish you would. That's the kind of archives that. . .

Dr. Grainger: Archives from the very first class.

Mr. Stokes: I think that is excellent.

Dr. Grainger: The very first year.

Mr. Stokes: I'm going to keep you to that promise, now. We've got it on tape. All right, let's move along, if we can. Any particular experience you remember, of course, did you ever encounter any problems from here in going up to Fort Worth - any breakdowns, delays, or not getting there in time to teach a class?

Dr. Grainger: Yes, I would drive there. I would close up my office and drive there in time to get to class and then drive back after



class, late a night. And I just remember one time. There was a lady or somebody - it may not have been a lady driver - I'm sorry - in front of me at night decided to amble and I was going about 65 or 70, decided to amble from her side, the right side of the highway to the left side, right in front of me. And I took the shoulder and I went bumpity-bumpity and I thought I was about to turn over. It was after that, shortly after that that the group decided to take insurance out on us to take care of things like that.

Mr. Stokes: Up to that time you weren't covered. I understand. Well, thank you, Dr. George. Let's move along. Of course, you know we've come a long way - the school. When I say "we", I mean the osteopathic college there in Fort Worth. It was a private school for five years and, now, since 1975, which was about nine years, now, it doesn't seem in way and in another way it seems longer, of course. To think, in about two months, I'll have fifteen years in with the school. You hired me on the 15th of April, 1969.

Dr. Grainger: I remember that well.

Mr. Stokes: The first time I met you was at the first convention they had over in Dallas in 1969 in May. I had been an employee for just some three weeks at the time. You had your Board meeting and it was my pleasure and duty to attend and take minutes. Of course, it was rather strange to me, but I look back on it and . . .

Dr. Grainger: We do a good job now.

Mr. Stokes: That was the experience that I recall in meeting you and the other members of the Board of Directors. Let's come back to Tyler, Texas, and your practice. You have achieved other recognitions. You have been - what year was it that you were "The Practitioner of the Year"?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, that was about the same time that you became interested in our profession. It was 1966. 1966-67 was the year that I was given that honor.

Mr. Stokes: That is a tremendous honor and I know that you deserved it. Do you recall any particular experience that you would want to lift up and share that might have occurred during some Board meeting you had as a member of the Board?

Dr. Grainger: Well, I think so. I think that whoever it was that moved that we establish the school, I seconded the motion.

Mr. Stokes: You seconded the motion. I guess the minutes would bear that out as to who that was.

Dr. Grainger: I sure hope we still have the minutes.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, you do. I think you do. You know that was one of my responsibilities for a number of years.

Dr. Grainger: I was on the committee of the Board during the changeover to North Texas. I was on the committee to select the president of the school - the dean of the school.

Mr. Stokes: Who was that?

Dr. Grainger: The one we have now.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, you mean Dr. Willard.

Dr. Grainger: Right.

Mr. Stokes: Dr. Ralph Willard was dean at that time and then became vice

president and then later, president of the school.

Dr. Grainger: This was in selecting him to become dean, though.

Mr. Stokes: Right. You were on the search committee at that time.

Dr. Grainger: And, by the way, another thing I'm rather satisfied with is the fact that we have a wonderful institution out of Tyler - the Chest Hospital . . .

Mr. Stokes: What is the proper name of that chest hospital now - it's part of the U.T. System, isn't it?

Dr. Grainger: The University of Texas . . .

Mr. Stokes: East Texas . . . is Tyler in the title?

Dr. Grainger: No, Tyler is not. East Texas is not. It's the University of Texas Hospital System - used to be the chest hospital. We have students there that is part of their training in the junior year, I believe. I was instrumental, to some extent, in getting that started. I took the dean out there with me. I am particularly interested - I want to tell you more about an experience in which it just so happens you know the right people. It so happens that Watson Wise, a Tyler oil man was on the allocation board in which money is allocated for the various groups. And I got Watson Wise to interview Nolen - what's his name?

Mr. Stokes: C. C. Nolen.

Dr. Grainger: I got Nolen and Wise together. We went up to the Petroleum Club and it was through that interview that we were able to continue and develop interest in the building of our building and, also, that we had a representative, Representative Clark,

who was on a committee of five . . .

Mr. Stokes: Do you know his complete name?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, I always know that, but I can't think of it now. I'll think of it after we quit. He was on a five-man member committee before that to determine if it was worthwhile to give us any money at all, just to do anything. It was a vote of three to two and Clark was one of those who voted of the three. So, we kept it going. So, it's little things like that - re-  
if you happen to  
tionships that make you feel how important it is / know just  
the right people or know that - maybe you're not using them  
for that purpose, but in which it turns out . . .

Mr. Stokes: Are you referring to construction monies to be given by the State through the Legislature?

Dr. Grainger: Yes. By the way it was Rep. Bill Clarke, and he's a very good friend.

Mr. Stokes: Was that the construction of the first building, the building we call Med Ed 1? That was where we got \$15-16 million to build the current eight story building that we have there. I see. That initial vote went 3-2 did it?

Dr. Grainger: 3-2 in our favor, thanks to Bill Clark.

Mr. Stokes: You know, Dr. Nolen - I call him Dr., it's an honorary doctorate - he was President of North Texas State and TCOM.

Dr. Grainger: Did a great job.

Mr. Stokes: Until he resigned in 1979, I believe it was. I see Dr. Nolen every now and then. In fact, I interviewed him recently. I have his memoirs on tape. He's now working with the Oklahoma Medical Foundation in Oklahoma City. Okay, Dr. George, do you

recall - I keep going back to the school, I keep trying to lift up some experiences you may have had with some of the students. You mentioned while ago about the Chest Hospital and the association we have for rotations now with our junior students coming down here to Tyler. Do you have any way in which you have any input to the program here? Do you have any contact with them as they move through Tyler? Do they come by and see George Grainger and so forth?

Dr. Grainger: Yes, too often. It seems sometimes. There's one little girl that I was interested in getting - and still am - into our school. She is very intelligent, very brilliant. She's Chinese. She's Taiwanese, although she says "I'm Chinese, not Taiwanese." She's a Chinese girl from Taiwan who was a pharmacist here.

Mr. Stokes: Here in Tyler?

Dr. Grainger: Here in Tyler. She was. She's moved now to Denton. There's a pharmacy there. She graduated from a school in Taiwan. It seems that our school will not accept her because that school is not accepted. She wrote me on Valentine's Day and told me she was accepted by a medical school in Texas. But she doesn't want to be an M.D., she wants to be a D.O.

Mr. Stokes: Well, that's one failure you had. But you've had lots of positives.

Dr. Grainger: Well, it's not positive so far.

Mr. Stokes: In other words, she's applied and hasn't been accepted.

Dr. Grainger: Been accepted.

Mr. Stokes: But not to TCOM, yet.

Dr. Grainger: Not to TCOM.

Dr. Grainger: But, oh, yes, I have one who has graduated - I say I - one who is graduating this year, who applied three years in a row and failed, and I consulted with the Registrar - what's her name?

Mr. Stokes: Well, the Admissions director - Earlene McElroy . . .

Dr. Grainger: Earlene! And she tells me that he is one of the best students that they have.

Mr. Stokes: Do you remember his name?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, yes - Barry . . .

Mr. Stokes: Well, I ought to know his name because I know who you are talking about, of course. He did . . . a rotation with you recently and came by and gave me some greetings from you and I don't know why I can't think of his last name.

Dr. Grainger: I know Barry so darn well!

Mr. Stokes: Right.

Dr. Grainger: Well, anyway, he is graduating this year.

Mr. Stokes: He's in the Class of 1984.

Dr. Grainger: Then there was another one - a student who was, I believe he was interested in us a divinity student, but he is in his second year there now. Freddie Kersh.

Mr. Stokes: I know him - or know of him.

Dr. Grainger: Fine young man. Then, there are some of them out and doing well. One was a Captain in the Air Corps and stationed in Alaska, that I was proud of him being accepted. He's out in practice. He was a Tyler boy. Oh, the name of the young man I was trying to think of while ago is Barry Malina. A very personable, very smart young fellow. And very dedicated.

And really believes in the osteopathic profession and the manipulative phase of it.

Mr. Stokes: With reference to dedication to the osteopathic profession, Dr. George, I know that certainly applies to you and I know that your first love is osteopathic medicine, but you're a very versatile individual and you have other avocations, if not vocations. I know that you have made quite a contribution to the Fourth Estate - the great repertorial departments of the various writings in your endeavors. You are the correspondent of your local district in the TOMA D.O.. I look forward to reading them. You've written a great deal of poetry. I think you have done certain work and so forth. Would you share some of your accomplishments?

Dr. Grainger: Oh yes. I'll recite, if I may, one little 'ol poem that I wrote when I turned 75.

Mr. Stokes: Fine.

Dr. Grainger: Now that I've reached my three score ten and five,  
I find that I'm still very much alive.  
The reaper still is far away. In truth,  
As far away as ever in my youth.  
As ever in my youth, but what is queer,  
He's just as near . . .

Mr. Stokes: That's excellent, Dr. George. Certainly, you've written many poems, I'm sure. You've made a tremendous contribution. Can you think of anything else you would like to share?

Dr. Grainger: Oh, I might recite one that I wrote when I was starting out.

Page 24  
Dr. Grainger

Mr. Stokes: When you were just starting out - your weren't three score and ten, then?

Dr. Grainger: No, I was hardly three score - not even one score.

Mr. Stokes: Not even one score? All right, let's hear it.

Dr. Grainger:

.

.

See attached copy of poem

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

Mr. Stokes: My goodness. That's tremendous. Well, I'm glad to have captured one of your more recent contributions on your 75th



The Flapper

Ray  
here a copy

We hear people talking in this day and age  
Of where us young hopefuls will end.  
They wrinkle their eyebrows, look wise as a sage  
And wonder how low we'll descend.

They take for example the Flapper so flip  
And rake her and shake her with glee,  
They dissect her ways and her character rip  
Then tell how good they used to be.

But then there are others who know what she is  
Who are willing to stamp their O.K.  
And tell to the world that the present day Liz  
Is the same as in grandmother's day.

And so we are faced with these conflicting views  
And we hardly know what to believe.  
It may be she is pretty naughty we muse  
Yet maybe she's quite the Bee's Knees.

Now I've been to high school for several odd years  
And mingled where Flappers were plenty  
And studied until I'm as wise as a seer  
On the subject of Maids Under Twenty.

And from my observations she's not a disgrace,  
Though I don't claim that she's very sainted.  
I find if you study just what's on her face  
She's not quite as bad as she's painted.

George Thompson 1924

birthday and then one that you wrote before you reached twenty, that you wrote in the beginning. And, I'm sure you've written many in between. And you've had a great number of articles published - not only scientific, but other contributions, as well. Any particular art work that you're proud of, Dr. George. Of course, this isn't video, so we can't show it, but maybe you can express some of the circumstances under which you painted it.

Dr. Grainger: I have a lot of humor in my work, as well as my writings and poetry and in my life. And it's shown in my art, as well.

I think. One time, we were showing - by we, the Tyler Art League was showing their exhibits on the square during the annual exhibit at Eastertime.

Mr. Stokes: You remember the approximate date - year?

Dr. Grainger: At Easter.

Mr. Stokes: What year?

Dr. Grainger: This was about ten or twelve years ago. So, one of my paintings was called "The Road" and it was a painting of a road on a hill, with valleys on the side and the road goes through the valley. And the frame was a black frame and I had a mirror on the frame on the side to make it look like you were looking through the front window of the car. I called it "The Road". Well, just for fun - people never wanted to buy any of my paintings - so I put a price on this one of \$17,000. And, so I marked it for \$17,000 - without frame. Well, of course, I had a lot of fun with that. A year or so later, a <sup>state</sup> juried

art group came through Tyler and chose that particular painting to be on exhibit in Austin, among choice paintings from various areas. So, that I wrote down, in this particular thing, I wrote the cost was open. That was it. Until a friend of mine from the art league had come back from having seen the show down there and showed me the catalog and it had listed something like this - it said "The hills and valleys by Mrs. So and So, \$35. Portrait of an old man, by Miss So and So, \$50. Then it said "The Road", Dr. H. G. Grainger, \$37,000. It knocked me over. I didn't even now / <sup>that old "price"</sup> was on that thing.

Mr. Stokes: Is that right?

Dr. Grainger: But it never was sold. I still have it. But, that's one of my funny things that happened in the art league. I was president of it two years.

Mr. Stokes: Are you still a member?

Dr. Grainger: No. No, I'm not a member of that. And I've had to slow down since I've had my heart attack. You understand that how that is. But you haven't slowed down any.

Mr. Stokes: Well, I / <sup>hope I've</sup> slowed down enough to where I can be as well off as you seem to be. You're how old now, Dr. George?

Dr. Grainger: I was 80 last year.

Mr. Stokes: That means you're 81 now, then.

Dr. Grainger: I will be in November.

Mr. Stokes: You'll be 81 in November and I'll be 71 in November.

Dr. Grainger: What day?

Mr. Stokes: 25th.

Dr. Grainger: Mine's the 29th.

Mr. Stokes: Well, I'm four days older than you are. Well, Dr. George, it's been a pleasure to sit here and reminisce with you and to hear some of the highlights of your professional experience and, having been in the osteopathic profession for fifty years plus, the contribution you've made to the healing arts is very spectacular and very gratifying, I'm sure on your part. And the other accomplishments that you've made seem to me hog some of the spotlight of your famous career, so I am certainly, as a representative of the library, the oral history section of the library of TCOM, am grateful for this opportunity of coming by and visiting with you and picking your brain and getting, for the future, some of the highlights of your career and we certainly appreciate it very much and I want to thank you again for this interview. This is Ray Stokes in Dr. George Grainger's office in Tyler, Texas.