

STOKES: This is Ray Stokes, curator in the Special Collections Division of the TCOM Library. Today, the 31st of May, 1990, it is my pleasure to welcome here in the studio of the Biomedical Communications Division, a very dear friend of mine I would like to welcome and recognize at this time, who is not only a dear friend. He has been a mentor and even a past boss that I've had down through the years. I'd like to welcome Dr. George J. Luibel, D.O., here in Fort Worth, a G.P. since about 1946. Dr. Luibel, we're happy to have you here to try to pick your brain a little bit. You know, you and I went through this back in July in 1981, but we weren't under quite the lights then that we are today because it was audio and no video back in those days, but I want this to be the second time around for both of us and, in order to kind of update our so-called audience for posterity I hope, I'd like to just take here a copy of a current Oral History Collection Health Science Library brochure, and read what we have here in a little resume in order to not be too repetitive, and just read to record about George J. Luibel. "Dr. Luibel was a cofounder and Chairman of the TCOM Board of Directors from its inception until the college became state supported in September, 1975. The Fort Worth G.P. shares the and we quote 'moments of sheer joy and deep despair' he experienced in bringing the dream of an osteopathic medical school in Texas into reality. His memoirs cover the early years of TCOM from the granting of the charter from the state of Texas in 1966 until the graduates of the first class in 1974. He was active in professional politics and is a past president of the American Osteopathic Association and the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association." As I've already stated, Dr. George, you were interviewed on the 9th of July, 1981. Now then, I know something has

happened to you. You've received many presentations, many accolades, many awards and many achievements down through these last nine years prior to the ones we have already accredited to you. I know of one offhand that I'm proud that you received and I know you'll get a chance to say something about it and that's this award that you were given in 1988-1989 as the Educator of the Year given out by the National Osteopathic Foundation. Now then, let's go back and let you do a little talking. Tell us, after you were interviewed in 1981, a short time after that you became a member of the board of the Tarrant County Health, what's the proper name of the governing body of the John Peter Smith Hospital?

LUIBEL: Well, it's the Board of the John Peter Smith Hospital is the... I forget how to even say it. We use it so seldomly. It is the Tarrant County Hospital District which is the political subdivision that runs John Peter Smith Hospital. I've been on that board approximately 10 years.

STOKES: Were you on it in 1981 when I interviewed you?

LUIBEL: Yes, I was.

STOKES: How do you get selected to the board?

LUIBEL: Well, in my case I think it was a political accident. The appointments to the Tarrant County Hospital District Board are made by the county commissioners. Each commissioner has one appointment, so that means the four of them now, since we have 9 commissioners on

there. There were only seven when I went on. But the others are made by the judge with the concurrence of the rest of the commission.

STOKES: The county judge?

LUIBEL: Yes. And Judge Moncrief appointed me to the thing. He had been friendly with the profession and was looking for somebody to appoint to the thing and my friend Roy Fisher, you know...

STOKES: Who is Roy Fisher?

LUIBEL: Well, never mind. We'll get around to that sooner or later. He told the judge he ought to appoint me and the judge did and fortunately nobody overturned it, so I've been on this thing ever since until now. I think my time is up this month which is the probably the conclusion of my last appointment.

STOKES: Then you're winding up 10 years.

LUIBEL: Well, I haven't had anybody tell me to hang on, so I imagine somebody else will be appointed.

STOKES; English is the county judge now, is that correct?

LUIBEL: Yes, Roy English, and he is not going to run for reelection so he will be out of office the first of January. Anyway, it's been a very interesting experience and, of course, when I went on there why I was the first D.O. to be connected with Peter Smith in any fashion and

they didn't know how to handle me or what to make of me, and I think I finally got around to proving that D.O.s don't have horns and they're not totally ignorant about the practice of medicine, and so we have been working hard ever since, sometimes with and many times without the concurrence of this institution to get some of its students in there one way or the other, and finally, and this is something I wouldn't take credit for, but finally there are five of them over there in this past year in the past graduate education program.

STOKES: Our graduates.

LUIBEL; Yes, your graduates. And as you recall the TCOM clinicians had to institute a suit against Peter Smith because when I went on the board they had a rule that you had to have a two year post graduate program after your medical college education that was approved by the medical commission for approving post graduate education. They have since changed the name of that. So we went into federal court before we one this suit and Peter Smith incidentally furnished me mine own attorney since they felt that I didn't agree with the majority of the board on this. It was a put up job just to keep D.O.s out of the place and they had a board that they could manipulate; that is, the medical community at Peter Smith.

STOKES: I was getting ready to ask you who "they" is.

LUIBEL: Well, that's who "they" are or "they" was. Fortunately, we think some of them was instead of is and the atmosphere has changed. Personally I always got along with everybody fine over there except

when we got on the subject of osteopathy and I had one view and they had another and I was a minority. I was such a minority originally with the 7 board membership that I couldn't even get anybody to second a motion even to discuss something. Then they enlarged it to 9 members and we got a few people who had a different point of view about the whole situation. One particular lady, Viola Tibbs out here in Como. Viola's cousin's daughter graduated from this institution and is practicing over in east Texas now.

STOKES: Oh, you mean Beverly Wadlington?

LUIBEL: Beverly Wadlington is Viola's cousin's daughter. In fact, she and her husband and little boy were there in El Paso on Saturday night.

STOKES: I saw them. That's the first time I'd seen her in several years.

LUIBEL: She came over and talked to me because I'd heard Viola talk about the girl but I never had met her. So Viola took the position that she had been discriminated enough that she wasn't going to vote to discriminate against anybody else. We were off and running and while we didn't run all the way, why we made a lot of dents in their armor and one of their past chiefs of staff said that their best intern of this last year was the first young lady from TCOM.

STOKES: Audrey Jones.

LUIBEL: He said she was the best intern they had in the whole place.

STOKES: Now that's interesting and I'm glad to hear that. I think we ought to try to publicize that as much as we can. Of course, it's kind of hard.

LUIBEL: You know you can't probably get somebody to be quoted publicly, but I think the point is that once D.O.s got into the place as residents why they proved the point that they were capable of practicing medicine intelligently and being scholars in a program of post graduate learning.

STOKES: Well, you mentioned the fact that we have five of our graduates there, and of course Audrey and I forgot the name.. Jim someone, Randall I think his name is, they were the first two and then this last year, in 1989, there are three more. The five that are there now, have you heard, I haven't heard about this class of 90 that will be graduating Saturday, whether any of those are going to Peter Smith.

LUIBEL: I haven't heard that they were. Peter Smith, I think I heard the chief of staff say, that they completed their enrollment in the Family Health Residency Program out of the matching grants, but whether that's true or not I don't know.

STOKES: I see.

LUIBEL: They haven't been doing totally good with that. That's been

sliding around a little bit.

STOKES: Well you know the first time that I had any experience with the situation over at Peter Smith, back about 1972, you used to send me over there when you were Chairman of the Board here when we were a private school, you used to send me over there just to observe, just to look and to listen, which I tried to do and then convey what little information I could. That was back, like I say '72 and '73 I believe it was.

LUIBEL: I think that ought to be an ongoing thing. I think somebody from TCOM ought to be in that audience every time they have a public board meeting, just to be seen and just to make sure they understand that ...

STOKES: Have you told anyone but me that particular...

LUIBEL: Oh, I've told that around here more than once. It flies for a few months and then it dies down again. I know people around here are so preoccupied and committed to all the things they have to do here that they don't realize that something like that takes time, too. It took 10 years, really, to make a break in the wall and it may take another 10 years to get the thing fully cooperative and, of course, I know that the allopathic doctors over there, and they are all on contract, very well paid contracts, and I'm sure that they have second thoughts about D.O.s coming in there and maybe ultimately getting their job, and I think that's the basis of a whole lot of reason. Of course, they hide behind their affiliation with Southwestern Medical

School always they do that and Southwestern comes through for them in a pinch and I think someday we're going to have to have another suit to break this up.

STOKES: When does that contract ever expire?

LUIBEL: Well, it doesn't expire until one or other members of the board... It is not a continuous contract but it stays in effect until one or the other reviews it and decides they want to talk about altering it.

STOKES: And offer a 30 day notice or something of that sort?

LUIBEL: Yeah, maybe it's six months.

STOKES: Then there is actually never a renewal date as such.

LUIBEL: No, it doesn't ever get renewed. Anytime I've been on this board they really haven't ever talked about it. They had the majority and if they didn't want to talk about it why you couldn't get it up to talk about it. And I don't know, unless you had the proper mix of board members that were open-minded about it that it would have done any good to talk about it.

STOKES: Well, before we leave the subject of Peter Smith, what is your projected thoughts about our relationship? What do you foresee in the future?

LUIBEL: Oh, I think ultimately, as TCOM achieves more status in the eyes of the general Fort Worth public, which it hasn't done yet, and makes some of the leaders of the community or persuade some of the leaders of the community this is too valuable an asset within the community to ignore and that they are not going to get any credit any way, shape or form for Fort Worth by Southwest Medical School, which is totally a Dallas oriented place and it should be, you know, that's where they get their money and all, and until that happens I don't think you're going to change things to any marked degree. But I think once that ever takes place there is going to be some very significant changes in Peter Smith's relationship with TCOM. One thing that did happen a year ago, board instructed, because I appointed an ad hoc committee to look into this thing, and one of the things that came out of the ad hoc committee was that when they announced their graduate openings, their residency openings, and they had been going around to the other allopathic schools in Texas trying to recruit, that they had to come here to, and make their pitch to the TCOM graduates.

STOKES: Well now that's quite an accomplishment.

LUIBEL: That was a pretty good accomplishment in that, and if they're not doing it, well I think TCOM ought to arrange to get them jacked up to get back to what we told them to do two years ago.

STOKES: Well somebody ought to ride shotgun on that or something.

LUIBEL: Well, yeah, but I don't think it's my place to run shotgun

on it.

STOKES: No, it isn't. It should emanate on the eighth floor here in administration.

LUIBEL: Sure. This is for the benefit of the students of TCOM and it is not for my benefit. I don't get any money. All the time I've been on the Peter Smith Board, I've never got paid. I don't even get a \$10 meeting like the city council does. We don't get anything. We get lunch, that's all.

STOKES: You don't wind up with indigestion after lunch, I hope.

LUIBEL: No, they always have good lunches.

STOKES: Well, then let's leave for the time being unless you happen to have a thought about Peter Smith in the future. Let's leave over and move over to something else. You mentioned a moment ago about the recognition we may or may not have as far as city fathers and city officials and Fort Worth citizens, as far as that's concerned. We've talked a lot in the past about identity and another word that goes along with identity, it slips my memory. You got to have identity and you've got to have something that goes with it for recognition. What is that other word, I can't even think. The two "I"s I've always talked about, Dr. George, you ought to remember one of them.

LUIBEL: I probably should. The only one I can remember is identity and importance probably would be the other one.

STOKES: Well, importance is a good word. All right, let's use the two "I"s. But no really, of course you can have... Image is the word I'm trying to think of. In other words, of course you can have identity without having much of an image.

LUIBEL: Yeah, that's Peter Smith's problem. I've said that ever since I was on the Peter Smith board. You've got to get a better image in the public eye to get recognition for what you're doing, and I think TCOM has the same problem. They are doing a great job in educating young men and women to be physicians but the general public doesn't perceive that in the light that they should. Now there is a lot more people know about TCOM certainly than did 20 years ago and they have a higher opinion about it than they did 10 years ago. I think the tall buildings changed their mind.

STOKES: I think so. We're here to stay. Far cry from the bowling alley.

LUIBEL: At the same time, the bowling alley was still a good building. Better than Southwestern had for 16 years and nobody should let themselves be downgraded by any of the allopathist that makes snide remarks about them because of the bowling alley. Of course we didn't have the bowling lanes in there and all, we just had a great big building that looked like a supermarket building, actually. So I wonder if we had started around the other way where the grocery store is there on Camp Bowie if everyone would say we started in a grocery store instead of a bowling alley. They probably would. But I hope

that they can keep building on their image and keep working on the leaders of the community to really come across with some absolute appreciation of them. I think a lot of these people, if you talk to them, they'll give you lip service to the thing but they won't give any real devotion or real commitment to help TCOM.

STOKES: Well you know one thing that I feel like we have shown a marked improvement in or an advance in at least in the 10 years, almost 10 years that have elapsed since we talked before, is the inroads that we've made into research. I don't have the capacity to know what they're talking about when they talk about research but you do.

LUIBEL: Well, not much. I was in a conference at this time last week in Chicago for a committee that has the funding to enhance funding in the area of research, and the committee consisted of three former TCOM board members.

STOKES: Is that right?

LUIBEL: John Burnett was then chairman of the committee and Wayne Stockseth and I were the two members on it.

STOKES: Well I'm glad to hear Wayne is still active in the profession.

LUIBEL: Oh yeah, he is going to be here tomorrow night for the graduation banquet.

STOKES: Bless his heart. You know I've been trying to get an interview out of Wayne now for several months. I've got to corner him.

LUIBEL: Maybe if he comes in early enough.

STOKES: Maybe I can't tomorrow but surely the man can afford to come back.

LUIBEL: Well, he goes back and forth to his place in Arkansas all the time. He can stop off here and do that and I'm sure he would if you invited him.

STOKES: Well, I haven't been able to talk to him directly, but I've talked to him through other people two or three times.

LUIBEL: Well, invite him directly and ask him. But, what I really wanted to say about this thing: we were looking at some of the money in the NOF research fund and we pointed out, Wayne and I, that TCOM had more money in their research grants this year than the AOA's committee had.

STOKES: Is that right?

LUIBEL: Yeah, and we may have embellished it a few hundred thousand dollars in telling all those other people sitting around there about how much they had, but you know they've got about \$4 million I think

in their research grants currently in the college here and that kind of shocked our listeners, because they wanted a program where one element...wanted a program where everybody's grant and foundations would kind of melt all this thing together. I said well you couldn't do that because they were all started for different reasons in different parts of the country and they are all directed at different target groups, whereas AOA is going to have to have a national-wide program and image to collect any money. They've got to look to somebody besides the pharmaceutical industry to give them the money, too. As so do we here.

STOKES: That's true. You know, speaking of foundations, you serve on the TCOM Foundation. Are you still on the University of North Texas Foundation?

LUIBEL: Yes, I'm the secretary of it.

STOKES: Are you?

LUIBEL: I've got another year to do that. I thought I was relieved of that but they asked me to stay on.

STOKES: Well, you know, a number of years ago I had some connection with it and so forth and I knew a little bit about its operation, but...

LUIBEL: Well, they've been raising money pretty good and they've got a new crew up there in the development office; a fellow they got down

there from the University of Maine, and they've raised a lot of money in the last two years, I think around \$6 million toward their endowment fund.

STOKES: Well that's something we need here at TCOM very badly. Of course, we're at a disadvantage at the time being because we don't have a head of the development section.

LUIBEL: Well, that's true, but you know whoever comes in here to assume that office has got to be given the time to work on development primarily and not on everything else.

STOKES: Oh yes, that's right, absolutely.

LUIBEL: And in addition to that the general conception of raising money, it must be understood that the profession gets about rung out on the money they can give because everybody in the profession asks them for some money, you know. The great contributions to medical research and medical education have not come from physicians, I don't care whether it's the allopathic school of medicine or the osteopathic school of medicine. It has primarily come from lay sources, business sources, wills and bequests and all those sort of things.

STOKES: A type of estate planning.

LUIBEL: A type of estate planning.

STOKES: Or, I should interject this thought: A good patient friend

and people of George Luibel. You've done your part I can tell you that.

LUIBEL: Well, I didn't really know one of them was even coming. The patient never said anything to me about it, just sent it down here and they called me up and wanted to know if I knew who that was.

STOKES: Do you recall in that instance who that was?

LUIBEL: Yeah, I can't tell you the lady's name right now, but she lived out here in Westover Hills, and she left \$100,000 to TCOM here.

STOKES: Unrestricted?

LUIBEL: Yeah, it was unrestricted and I think the Fleming Estate's \$250,000 that is in process of being transferred to the college is unrestricted too. I knew that was to come to us ultimately because Charlie Fleming told me that when he drew up his will when we were in our early stages here.

STOKES: What was the lady's name that was your patient that used to give us increments of \$10,000 at a time? I can't think of her name but she died along back in 1977 or 1978, somewhere in there. I've got her name as one of the sustainers up on the 8th floor but I can't think of her name.

LUIBEL: She wasn't named Fleming.

STOKES: No it wasn't Fleming.

LUIBEL: I know where her house was where I used to go and see her.
Mrs McQueen.

STOKES: Yeah, that's who gave us the \$10,000 every now and then,
several times.

LUIBEL: She gave us \$10,000 a year for several years right when that
was a lot of money to us.

STOKES: That right, I think about \$80,000 in all.

LUIBEL: And that foundation still gives some money but I think most
of it has been going to the hospital in the last 3-4 years.

STOKES: Well there's a great demand on that benevolent dollar, I'll
tell you. It reminds of all the demands that were placed on the house
of delegates out at El Paso; everybody wanting this, that and the
other and they are all justifiable causes.

LUIBEL: But that is what I meant a few minutes ago when I say the
profession is already zapped for about everything it can stand up to
because every segment of the profession wants money, you know. Dr.
Burnett and I were talking about that coming home and he said, you
know everytime I go to a meeting I come away losing another \$100 to
somebody that they wanted in contributions.

STOKES: Well you know I'm a little embarrassed in that same vein. I understand they are trying to raise a little money to refurbish a certain room around here and call it the Edna and Ray Stokes Room, but they need some money.

LUIBEL: Well, I suspect that you'll have to get out and start panhandling a little bit.

STOKES: That's embarrassing.

LUIBEL: Well, I know it is but get somebody else to do it for you. That's the trick in doing it.

STOKES: Do you have any suggestions about, and here again without trying to be...of course criticism is criticism but we hope it's always constructive because we can always make some improvement we certain criticism, but have you got any words of wisdom to pass along to the 8th Floor that you haven't already done.

LUIBEL: Well, you know I remarked about something when I walked in here today. I walked past several people and I think they were all students and while I was not ignoring them, none of them ever offered to speak to me or smile at me and I smiled at some of them as I walked past them or nodded or something and they totally ignored it. Now I think that those kind of people aren't going to make good coworkers throughout the profession for the rest of their lives. Any maybe it's because they're going to a state financed school that they don't think that they need to pay attention to anybody, you know, but I cant walk

through North Texas where I don't know anybody either, and more students will speak to me than they would around here.

STOKES: Is that right?

LUIBEL: It's true, it's not right. But I think that, you know, this is their school and they are there on the campus, but when they see strangers walking around and I'm a stranger to them, I don't expect them to know me because I don't know any of them, but I think they ought to be courteous to strangers and maybe indicate could they help them find something or are they looking for somebody and I think if they did that it would flow over into the rest of their association with each other and they need to practice doing that because when they go out and practice and try to set up in business for themselves, they certainly are going to have to do a little hand shaking and smiling around to get people to think they're nice enough to come to see as a doctor.

STOKES: That's right.

LUIBEL: And if you don't get the habit when you're young, you're probably not going to develop it when you get older.

STOKES: You've learned a whole lot since you practiced down at Ferris, Texas, haven't you?

LUIBEL: I started out in Ennis, Texas.

STOKES: Yeah, and then Ferris, and then back here.

LUIBEL: Yeah, I'm glad I wasn't in Ferris last night. They must have right in the middle of that 3 inch rain belt.

STOKES: I understand they were. Even Mansfield caught pretty close to 3 inches.

LUIBEL: Joshua caught three inches. Dr. Coy's farm may have got soaked out there, you know.

STOKES: I hope there wasn't any hail involved, though.

LUIBEL: I didn't hear anything about that and I didn't see anything in the paper about it this morning. I think TCOM has come along marvelously, Ray, and I never, and I'm sure you couldn't, starting out in that one room office you had downtown, never could imagine us sitting in an environment like this with all this...

STOKES: I still don't believe it.

LUIBEL: I don't either. And you asked me about all the...how did you express that...all the distress...

STOKES: The valley of despair and the moutaintop experiences.

LUIBEL: I tell you we were in the valley of despair a lot of times. I can remember more of those points than I can remember the

now; that every time we were in a hopeless position a door opened for us to walk through and one that we couldn't see ahead of us and one that we had no idea what we were going to do.

STOKES: A sand storm or a rain storm or even sun shine.

LUIBEL: Something always bailed us out one more time. So I don't think that anybody should have any (what do I want to say, what kind of an opinion am I trying to say, here? I don't get words together like I did 25 years ago when we were talking to people about this thing), but nobody should have a minority opinion or any kind of (what's the word I'm trying to use) secondary thoughts about it or feel like they are a secondary outfit because they have come from TCOM. My goodness, they've got all the equipment and all the personnel and all to teach more about medicine than anybody in four years can learn and remember and they obviously are doing it, so the whole profession in Texas should look at this with pride and continually think about moving forward and doing something. But on the other hand if we don't do our own stuff that is doing from the allopaths, we're going to fold up and die.

STOKES: I was getting ready to ask you what you thought about those who are graduating today actually applying the osteopathic technique or philosophy.

LUIBEL: Well, I don't know how many of them do. I get the impression from the public, people who come into my office and say they're not doing it to the extent that they should.

mountaintop successes, and a lot of our problems were just plain putting out brush fires among our own professional people. You know, I think that our people who talk big when they were actually presented with the idea: here it is, we're going to do this; it scared the life out of them, and the reason they opposed you on going farther with it, they just couldn't face the idea that it might fail or if it was on our hands and we had a medical school then we could quit hiding behind our minority status and saying well if we had this or that like the rest of them we could do just as much. Well, here you are, you've got it now, so there is no point in hiding any farther, and you know one of these editorial or viewpoint writers or national correspondents writing and it was probably in the Dallas News recently and it was one of the black men writing that of the fact that things weren't being racist as much as all these black critics would say. He said too many of them are hiding behind the status quo of their minority position to keep asking for something because they're not willing to go out and try to operate on their own, and that their leaders too often are promoting the minority status for their own benefit rather than promoting the fact what the black have actually accomplished in the last 25 years and how much farther they can go on their own. And I think that that type of thinking explains what we ran into in our early days with trying to start this college.

STOKES: That's a good comparison.

LUIBEL: So, whether they like it or not that's the best comparison I can draw up. But, at the same time, this school I think was obviously destined to be and I believe you'll agree with what I'm going to say

STOKES: Well in my association with alumni in the past the majority of them are not. But I can name you a dozen off the top of my head that are.

LUIBEL: Oh sure. There are always going to be people that are and people that actually believe in this profession, but there are also people, unfortunately, who didn't enter TCOM because of their affection for this profession. They were just wanting to be a doctor and couldn't get in any place else. I know that for a fact, and I know that those kind of people never intended to practice osteopathic medicine. They wanted to practice what they saw that came through the allopathic journals or what came through the detailed presentations from the pharmaceutical representatives and that's what they practiced, and the laying on of hands that we have been practicing for 100 years is still a very necessary thing and we know so much about the musculoskeletal system that the allopathic people don't know that we shouldn't take a back seat or have any kind of inferiority complex about our position because we can do a lot of things for patients that isn't being done otherwise. In fact, some of the things that are being done are laughable and crude by any osteopathic standard. We must have some benefit in what we are doing and we must have real merit in it, because our adversaries have been trying to put us out of business since 1890 and they haven't succeeded yet. So for heaven's sake, let's don't commit suicide.

STOKES: Right. Well that's quite an admonishment there but it's certainly one worth listening to.

LUIBEL: Well, I'm just saying what I believe, you know. I've been a member of a minority medical school for over 50 years.

STOKES: You graduated in 1936 from Kirksville College.

LUIBEL: I haven't liked all of the treatment that you get as a minority and I have felt that it has been unjust and I felt that depriving us from hospital privileges and some of the other fixtures of the public health program that were denied to us at the beginning was an injustice and was wrong and was illegal, but, you know, a majority in the world always gets the ability and the credit to do more than is justified by right to do, and that's what has happened to us. But I hope that we didn't grow so fast in the last 20 years that we grew away from our heritage, because if we did we are going to end up like the homeopathic school and the eclectic school and the other M.D. school that closed up in Cincinnati the year I got out of Kirksville. They all gave M.D. degrees but finally they were all absorbed or beaten out of existence.

STOKES: Speaking of degrees. This is not a degree, but you are still a very active fellow in the Academy of Applied Osteopathy, aren't you?

LUIBEL: Well, I'm still a fellow in the Academy, but I haven't been so active. One of the problems was, when we were going through the early problems with TCOM they were always having their meeting about the time we had to have a board meeting here and I felt that this was more important to the profession than me being in Colorado Springs in

LUIBEL: Their time around to nominate somebody and they nominated me and I'm very pleased that they did. I don't know why they did.

STOKES: I think your credentials in the past would warrant that.

LUIBEL: Well, maybe so. Anyway, to my amazement when I did go to Miami to the AOA House of Delegates to receive that award, why I was sitting there on the sidelines and some of my old acquaintances would come over and say "What are you doing here?", and I would say, "Oh, I'm just kind of visiting", cause they weren't supposed to tell anybody until they actually got me up on the stage and said this is the man, this is the nominee. So, in due time why Gilbert Buckles from Toledo who was sitting beside me went up and said what they were about to do, nominate the candidate and present the candidate to them for the award and then he called me and I went up on stage and to my surprise the whole house stood up and applauded, see, so they weren't still all mad at me for some of the things maybe I had had to tell them they could or couldn't do when I was president. But we didn't have any of those that amounted to anything anyway, I don't believe. But that was a very enjoyable year, but I heard somebody say in Chicago last week that that deal was about to be phased out. They don't think they're getting enough return for the expense I guess that it cost them.

STOKES: Well, in other words, it was Oklahoma's time this year, isn't it.

LUIBEL: Yeah, but he'll be in and up in July, see. He has been, he

succeeded me.

STOKES: Right. So, in other words they just won't continue with it?

LUIBEL: Of course, I think one thing they're doing wrong about this thing; you know, we used to have a stamp that was used as a Christmas seal.

STOKES: Right, I've got the first 50 up in the Library.

LUIBEL: And I think when they switched away from that and started putting people's names on the thing and started putting it out with no particular time of year goal and just hoping everybody would buy them and use them throughout the year they lost a lot of steam out of them.

STOKES: They had a pretty good snowball going there.

LUIBEL: Yeah, I don't know why somebody decided to improve on it, because I don't think they really did, and I hate to see it go out because it's the only pitch to the profession that actually provides for student loans and research money, though most of the doctors can't understand that. They can't understand the difference between the auxiliary scholarship program and the seals program. It is a question again of educating your friends instead of your enemies shooting you down.

STOKES; Well, Dr. George, before we conclude this little visit

together this afternoon, is there any last particular thoughts that you have about the last 10 years of your...in other words, you've been close to the school but still you've been at a great distance.

LUIBEL: Yeah, well, of course it's obviously had many drastic changes simply because it has had space in which to change and it's had a big enough campus that they could have everybody here. They didn't have them split up like during the lend-lease years with North Texas, and that was a survival thing, though, and we would have never made the grade probably without it.

STOKES: I think Jitter Nolan ought to be given more credit than he's been given.

LUIBEL: Oh yeah, nobody gave Jitter credit enough. We wouldn't be a state...this would not be a state institution today if it hadn't been for the lobbying of Jitter and his cohorts from North Texas in the legislature. They got the votes that we needed because they had a lot of presence that we didn't have, you know. North Texas today has 85,000 alumni and I think TCOM, this is one thing, I think TCOM ought to be acting like we're blood-brothers instead of just distant relatives because if you've got 85,000 people that think you're part of their family and will root for you, don't ignore it. Those are votes you know.

STOKES: That's real words of wisdom, and I'm glad you said it.

LUIBEL: Of course, one other thing that is causing a problem and I

don't know if I have the answer to it and certainly I don't see the answer at some other higher circles, is the exodus that graduates here and other allopathic medical schools are taking from osteopathic post-graduate educational opportunities. But the students have suddenly, the doors have been opened up to them to go to many places that were never available to me or my cohorts in the old days, and in spite of AOA's refusal to put a stamp of approval on them, the kids are voting with their feet and they are going where they think they are getting the best deal, and I think that's something that AOA has to come to grips with and find a solution that will please everybody.

STOKES: Well, I noticed the incoming president of AOA and his remarks out at El Paso was alluding to that.

LUIBEL: Yeah. But certainly if the people in this institution and every other osteopathic institution in four years are indoctrinated properly and understand the precepts of the profession which they have spent four years trying to achieve a degree in, if you are going to lose them all in two or three years of graduate education then there is something wrong with the way you taught them, or else there is something wrong with the ones you select to be taught, so I don't know how anybody is going to come to grips with that problem either, but I sure hope they can because I think it is going to be the salvation of the profession. I don't see a lot of new osteopathic institutions being built with the current hospital climate the way the government and the business is trying to curtail the cost of hospital medicine. So people are going to have to go to other institutions ultimately.

STOKES: Well, Dr. George, it's been a pleasure to renew some of our thoughts and have a visit with you.

LUIBEL: I don't think we said anything world shaking here this afternoon.

STOKES: Well, maybe not, but 100 years from now you never can tell.

LUIBEL: Anyway, some of those ideas were important to the years we lived through anyway.

STOKES: Well, it certainly was a pleasure to have you with us today. As I have already stated it is the last day of May, 1990, and I believe our class of 1990 will be graduating from here in about the next 48 hours, so it's a pleasure to be with Dr. George Luibel on this day in the studios of the Biomedical Communications Division of the TCOM Library.

LUIBEL: Well, thank you for inviting me.