

INTERVIEW WITH DR. SAM BUCHANAN

OCTOBER 21, 1992

Stokes: This is Ray Stokes, Oral History Section of the TCOM Health Sciences Library on October 21, 1992. My guest today is a member of the second graduating class of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is Dr. Sam Buchanan. I think it is Samuel Woodrow Buchanan, Jr., but we call him Dr. Sam. Dr. Sam is the chairman recently appointed after having worked under the auspices and help of the chairman that retired recently, Russ Jenkins. Dr. Sam is now the new chairman of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine Surgery Department. Dr. Sam, it is sure a pleasure to have you with us today and I want to pick your brain on a number of things. You've done more than pick my brain, you've taken my gallbladder out, but still, I want to talk to you about your experiences. You are from Fort Worth.

Buchanan: Born and raised.

Stokes: Native born here in Fort Worth. I know a little bit about your background. Your father and I were very close friends when we were youngsters, back down at... when we were paper boys (or we called ourselves paper boys); carrier salesmen for the Star-Telegram, and so I've known you since you got out of... Where did you go to school? Where did you go to high school?

Buchanan: I went to Paschal High School and graduated in 1968.

Stokes: 1968. Well, Paschal I identify with Central, not Paschal.
Same school.

Buchanan: That's right.

Stokes: Where did you go to college?

Buchanan: Texas Christian University.

Stokes: And that's where you got your bachelor's degree?

Buchanan: Yes.

Stokes: What year did you finish there?

Buchanan: I went to TCU on the combination program. I went three years to TCU and then I applied to TCOM and the first year that I was at TCOM I received credit for that year and then I received my BS from TCU after my first year at TCOM and to my knowledge that was the first time that a TCU graduate had matriculated at a D.O. school on a three year program.

Stokes: In other words you graduated in 1975 from TCOM and you graduated from TCU in 1972.

Buchanan: Right.

Stokes: Well, that's interesting. And you were the first as far as

you know as far as a TCU graduate.

Buchanan: I think I was because it caused quite a stir.

Stokes: Well, it caused quite a stir? Well, of course anything that TCOM did in those days kind of caused quite a stir.

Buchanan: It was very new.

Stokes: For certain people. Dr. Sam, you had quite a career and I want to discuss it kind of in a chronological order. I have here a copy of the 1975 Speculum. That was your class yearbook of your graduating class, 1975. There were 25 of you who graduated. 32 of you started and 25 of you made it. So while you were in school there were one or two pictures taken of some of the members. I am looking at a picture right here of you looking up and it must have been in the fall because there are no leaves on the tress and a young lady who is looking down at you and you are looking up at her. Tell us a little bit about this picture.

Buchanan: That picture was taken, I believe, in December of my senior year and that is my first daughter who was born three months before I started at TCOM.

Stokes: Three months before.

Buchanan: That is Melissa.

Stokes: And she looked like what then she was about 3 or 4 there, huh?

Buchanan: She was four. That was my senior picture.

Stokes: Four years old. Alright, that answers that question. Now lets go proceed just a little bit here. Alright, you must have been a senior when this picture was taken, or at least a junior. This shows a picture of the front of what we call the Central Clinic which did become the Medical Examiner's building later on. Now it is part of, I believe it is the Pediatrics Department here at TCOM. Here is a picture of you holding a young baby. Not a baby, she is a young child or 2-3 years old it looks like, and a colleague here and then Dr. Prophet. You are holding her and you are trying to pacify her I imagine. Can you give me any details about that picture?

Buchanan: I don't remember the day, but I remember the clinic. This was our Central Clinic at that time. We had several around town. We had the Rosedale Clinic.

Stokes: Yeah, here's a picture of the Rosedale Clinic right here.

Buchanan: There is Dr. Griffith. He was the director there and then of course we had the van. We went all over town delivering health care and Dr. Prophet now is a neurologist.

Stokes: Neurologist. Where is he now?

Buchanan: I'm not sure. I'm not sure where he is.

Stokes: Dr. Griffith you know is still... He lives over in Arlington. I see him occasionally at various meetings and so forth. He retired some time ago. Alright. Well, here is a picture. I want to read this. This is quite a lineup here. This is Sam W. Buchanan, Jr. It shows your picture here. Nice looking young man. And here is your quote that all seniors gave at one time or another and this is in your book and it says, "A true physician is one who blends his knowledge of science with a love of man to improve the quality of life itself." And it shows here that you graduated from Texas Christian University with a B.S. and you are a member in 1973-75 of Sigma Sigma Phi. You won the Mosby Book Award, 72-73. You received the AAOA National Scholarship. That AAOA, that be the Auxillary to the American Osteopathic Association. You received that scholarship in 1971-73. Do you want to add anything to that? Does that bring anything to mind?

Buchanan: Well, that was one of the reasons that I was able to come to TCOM.

Stokes: Okay, then that's pretty important.

Buchanan: Because, if you remember back then it was a private school and the tuition was rather steep.

Stokes: \$2000 a year.

Buchanan: \$2000.

Stokes: You paid me before you got in.

Buchanan: That's right, and I applied for that scholarship and received it and because I received it I decided that that was one of the reasons that helped me to come to TCOM.

Stokes: Good. Then you also were a student member of the American Osteopathic College of General Practitioners Society. You were the junior class representative to the curriculum committee in 1973 and 1974 and you were a representative to State Health Manpower Conference in 1974. Now is there anything particular that that brings to mind? Your attending that series of meetings or whatnot?

Buchanan: I remember that was a group that was trying to bring together all the different disciplines in medicine, particularly allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic, podiatry. It was probably one of the precursors of some of the regional planning committees that are available today.

Stokes: I see. Well, that pretty much takes care of all but one more picture here that we have. Here is a picture of your graduation. TCOM's first honorary degree, Doctor of Science. Oh, you remember that gentleman very well. I'm reading here a picture accompanying the picture viewing the student body and the graduation ceremonies as Dr. Luibel is presenting the honorary degree to Dr. Henry Hart of which I know you are familiar. Over here on this page is shows various awards that you earned or received as a student doctor. It is enviable and it certainly is an enviable award and still being given every year by

Dr. T. Robert Sharp who practices over in Mesquite, Texas. He started he and his lovely wife Marjorie who later passed away, T.R. Sharp Undergraduate General Practitioner of the Year. It happened to be at that time, 1975, Sam W. Buchanan, Jr. And then you did, when you walked across the stage they announced the fact that you graduated cum laude, and I think you were also cum laude at Texas Christian.

Buchanan: Yes.

Stokes: Alright. I believe I have one more mark here. No, I guess that was the last. No here is something. There we are. I knew there was one more. Well, this gets you graduated, this gets you a picture that you appreciated very much, the graduating class standing outside of the building where you graduated from. Let's see, you were in the second class so you graduated from Will Rogers Auditorium.

Buchanan: I think it was at the Scott Theater. We were right across the street.

Stokes: Oh that's right. You're right. The first two classes and the third class went down to Will Rogers. You corrected me on that one. I stand corrected. Then in other words, outside the Scott Theater, about June 2nd or 3rd, 1975. It says Sam W. Buchanan, Jr., Doctor's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. Now then we put down the book and let's take it from when you became an intern. Anything in particular. You were there in 1975 and 1976 as an intern. What awards did you get while you were there?

Buchanan: I received the Resident Trainer Award the year that I was chief resident. This was an award that the intern class gave to one of the residents that they felt had helped them with their training during the year.

Stokes: In other words, then, that would have been the second year that you were there.

Buchanan: No, the last year I believe.

Stokes: Oh, the last year.

Buchanan: The chief resident year.

Stokes: Well, then how many years were you at Doctor's?

Buchanan: Five years.

Stokes: Five years. So you were an intern one year, or how did you work that?

Buchanan: We took a one year rotating internship and then four years of general surgery. So I graduated from that program in 1980.

Stokes: Now while you were at... After you graduated you told me something preceding our little get together here that you did private practice in Columbus as a general surgeon.

Buchanan: I joined the surgical group, Surgery and Gynecology, Inc., in Columbus and I practiced there for nearly a year and then after that I went to Cleveland Clinic for a year to study heart surgery.

Stokes: Tell a little bit about your experience there.

Buchanan: At Cleveland Clinic?

Stokes: At Cleveland Clinic?

Buchanan: Well, Cleveland Clinic is a world class referral center and we did probably 15-20 heart surgeries per day there back in 1981 and Cleveland Clinic continues to be a world class center.

Stokes: Are you familiar with the work of Dr. Jeff Alaprin who graduated from TCOM in 1979? He is heart transplants. I believe he is the first D.O. that started that. Did you know him there at all?

Buchanan: I did not know him. We are not contemporaries.

Stokes: When you left there, the Cleveland Clinic, what did you do then?

Buchanan: Well, I came back to Texas.

Stokes: Oh, you came back to Texas. Well, then while you were... I want to get a little out of chronological order here, not that that matters, but then when you were at Columbus, while you were there,

before you went I guess to Cleveland Clinic, you also were a volunteer member of the clinical faculty at the Ohio College of Osteopathic Medicine. That's over at Athens. The Ohio University and then the Osteopathic College is part of the University there. What experience did you have there?

Buchanan: The Ohio College and Doctor's Hospital had a very innovative teaching model. They enlisted the support of private practitioners who were on staff at Doctor's Hospital and specifically the residents and the residents were given clinical appointments and were responsible for in house teaching of the students. We gave lectures, we directed the students in their rotations and we had an on-site dean in the hospital who was Dr. Harper. And back then was where I first knew Dr. Cohen who was one of my trainers in pediatrics.

Stokes: Oh, he was? Our current... you are referring to our current Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Buchanan: And his partner, Dr. Harper, became the on-site dean at the Ohio college and Dr. Richards, I believe, was either in practice there.

Stokes: He was in practice at Columbus.

Buchanan: At that time I think he was in practice when I was a house officer.

Stokes: Yeah, he came here in 1981.

Buchanan: So he came her about the same time I did.

Stokes: Sure did.

Buchanan: So we were in Doctor's. So Doctor's Hospital in one of the flagships of our profession.

Stokes: How many beds did they have there in that hospital?

Buchanan: At that time we had about 650 beds on two campuses.

Stokes: 650 beds.

Buchanan: It was a very large teaching hospital.

Stokes: Well it truly is a flagship of our profession.

Buchanan: At that time we had 25 interns and about 40 or 50 residents.

Stokes: Has it progressed down through the years? It has been a number of days since you were there.

Buchanan: Very much so.

Stokes: Do you ever get back there any?

Buchanan: I go back to visit and I go back for recruiting trips and I have been a speaker there at their annual alumni. My 10th year alumni

meeting there I was the speaker.

Stokes: Oh, you were?

Buchanan: That is a program they put on each year for their graduates. They have an alumni meeting and the 10th year of my alumni I was the speaker.

Stokes: Well good, good. Okay, you came back to Texas in 1981. And you became a member of the staff over at, in those days, Fort Worth Osteopathic, and it is FWO to me and I guess it is to you although I think the name has changed a little and Medical Center and so forth. When did you first become identified as a member of the faculty of TCOM?

Buchanan: I started immediately with the school.

Stokes: In other words you had made some previous arrangements. You knew when you came back from Ohio you were coming here to teach?

Buchanan: Well, the way it worked.

Stokes: Or you thought you would.

Buchanan: When I graduated my plans were to become an internist.

Stokes: An internist. Not a surgeon?

Buchanan: Do you remember Gary Cooper?

Stokes: Oh, very much so.

Buchanan: Gary was a very dear friend of mine and Bill Neal who was one of my professors.

Stokes: He was a pediatrician, wasn't he?

Buchanan: Uh-huh. Bill arranged for me to go to Columbus for my post graduate and I went there to become an internist and after my first rotation at Columbus I decided I was going to be a surgeon. An all during the years that I was in my postgraduate work I maintained my friendship with Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Alter and so when I decided I wanted to come back to Fort Worth, because they had become full time with the school and I wanted to join them in practice, I became full time faculty immediately.

Stokes: Well that is interesting.

Buchanan: Dr. Jenkins recruited me here and I have been here ever since.

Stokes: Dr. Russ?

Buchanan: Dr. Russ.

Stokes: Well. I thought of something while you were talking about

your experiences there in Columbus. I don't know if you remember it or not. I wouldn't expect you to, but in August of 1977 my wife and I were on our way to visit some of her relatives in Cleveland and we stopped in Columbus long enough to find a telephone to call Sam Buchanan. I finally got a hold of you so that would be of course 1977, that would be pretty close to your final year.

Buchanan: That was half-way point.

Stokes: Half-way point. In other words you were in surgical residency then at that time, not internist. All right, you are back here now and you are on the faculty in the Surgery Department at TCOM. Then you were here 2-3 years when our president and dean at that time was Ralph Willard.

Buchanan: Yes.

Stokes: Do you have any particular experiences that you relate to Dr. Willard that you can think of?

Buchanan: Really, back then I think that most of my emphasis was on building a practice and I really didn't have that much contact with administration. I knew Dr. Willard very well and really I know I better now than I did then. He was certainly an important leader of the school and the profession and as you know a retired military man and a surgeon.

Stokes: Well, let me digress just long enough. It could go without

saying but I am going to say it everytime I think about him because we are sitting here in a building today, a very beautiful structure, the Library Building of TCOM and I still credit Dr. Ralph Willard for being responsible for getting the monies. Of course that is another story and so forth but he was very instrumental in helping promote the development of TCOM although he wasn't its first president but still pretty close. Okay, I just happened to think about that with Ralph. Then you were building your own practice and teaching as far as whatever your duties were in the Surgery Department. Any particular... Well, you had, of course, faculty meetings, department meetings, and then you had your own personal responsibilities with doctor/patient relationships and so forth. I know there might not be anything that you could discuss but is there anything at all that you can think of as an experience that you would like to relate for posterity during those beginning days of your surgical life?

Buchanan: Oh, I remember the, probably the challenges that all young practitioners face. To be real honest, probably the fear of starting into a new practice, especially in a new location, and I remember a lot of people here that gave me a lot of help.

Stokes: Can you...namely, or do you want to name any?

Buchanan: Well, the school was certainly supportive. And my department was supportive. I owe a lot of my success, I believe, to people that came before me. People that had the courage to build this school and to build our hospital, specifically Dr. Roy Fisher and Dr. Jenkins and people like yourself that had the courage and the innovation to build

a medical school in a town that had a lot of hospitals and really it took a lot of work to build our nitch here over the years and I can remember Dr. Fisher specifically the encouragement that he gave me after I came here. It took a while to build a surgical practice in this environment and Dr. Fisher said, stay the course, and take care of your patients, work hard and you will be successful.

Stokes: He is doing very well in retirement life.

Buchanan: He is still doing very well.

Stokes: Well, yeah you know I belong to a group who he sits right behind me at the TCU football games every year and, of course, I keep up with him in other pursuits as well, but I always enjoy Peggy and Roy sitting right behind us at the TCU games. Your mentioning a moment ago about those responsible for the growth of the school. I take no credit whatsoever in its growth but it does give me a tremendous satisfaction to know that I had a little finger, a little finger in the hand that built all of this or had something to do with it. It is very gratifying. I still pinch myself every now and then to make sure it's happening. Alright. Now then, you are recently appointed the Department Chairman. Anything you want to share as to what your goals for the department may be? How many members in your department? How many surgical doctors are in your department now?

Buchanan: At the present time we have four.

Stokes: Four. Can you give a little run down on what their

specialties might be?

Buchanan: We have cardiovascular thoracic surgeon, Dr. Robert McFaul. An interesting story about Robert. You may know this, but he is also a graduate of TCOM and was class president.

Stokes: I believe he graduated in 1981.

Buchanan: He called me one day when I was chief resident at Doctor's. I received a phone call from this voice in Texas that said, "I've heard that we have a Texas graduate at the Doctor's Hospital, and I wanted to know if I can come there." So we arranged a rotation and then he stayed in residency and so I recruited him. So our relationship goes back many years as well. And Dr. Roy Lowry who is in our department was the class behind me.

Stokes: Class of 77.

Buchanan: So we have three TCOM alumni in our department. And then one year ago we added Dr. Don Ross who is a urologist.

Stokes: He has a son who is a graduate.

Buchanan: He has a son who is a graduate and practices in the area.

Stokes: Right.

Buchanan: Our department needs to expand at this time. We are in the

process of adding a neurosurgeon at this time. We are in discussion with orthopedics and looking at building and orthopedic residency. We just brought the urology residency under the TCOM umbrella so it is now one of our programs. We are also interested in oncological surgery, reconstructive surgery as well as expanding into satellite locations in smaller communities to become a regional referral center. So our referral pattern is growing and we have been very active in the Carswell Hospital where we had a clinic for five years and with the closing of the Carswell base we have lost that opportunity but others are being developed.

Stokes: Well, is there anything that you are at liberty to discuss about when you say they are closing of Carswell you lost that possibility and you say there are others? Is there anything that you can elaborate on at this time as to what your pursuits might be?

Buchanan: We are very interested in Granbury. We have...

Stokes: We have a lot of graduates in Granbury.

Buchanan: Well, I was going to bring that up. We have two of my classmates there; Chuck O'Toole and...

Stokes: Internist.

Buchanan: He is an internist. He trained in the military and a very fine internist. And Bob Wilson who is a family practitioner was in my class. And Roger Hamilton who passed away approximately two years ago

was in my class. So several TCOM graduates from my class have come back to Fort Worth and the surrounding areas. So we are very interested in Granbury. It is a growing community. It is a very strong osteopathic community and we are developing relationships in that city and we also have just recently contracted to open two offices there from our department.

Stokes: Do you think that is forthcoming in the near future?

Buchanan: Two of our doctors are working there now. One is an affiliation with Dr. Peter Wilsey and another will be with Dr. Chris Hull and Dr. Bob Ranelle who are also TCOM graduates. So you can see that the school is populating the metroplex as well as the rest of the state.

Stokes: Well that is interesting, that really is. That is gratifying too. You were mentioning Chuck O'Toole a moment ago. He is one of my favorites, too. You know, I've got a lot of favorites. And I relate to all of the graduates in the 70s and maybe the 1980 class, but from there on I don't relate too well because I just had no contact with them. But I had contact with your class and other classes, but O'Toole - before Hussein Saddam kindly created the little problem with lots and lots of people he was up here doing grand rounds one day and I ran into him in the hall and I said, "Let's have lunch. I'm coming down to Granbury next week." He said, "Fine." So we set up a time for me to meet him and so forth. So I didn't make any attempt to realize that Alexander Graham Bell invented the phone. I didn't call down for any reason because I was going anyway. So I get down there and I walk

in about 10 minutes to 12 and I said, "Tell Dr. Chuck that I'm here to go to lunch with him." She looked at me kind of funny. She said, "If you want to go to lunch with him you're going to have to go all the way to London, England." Now this was on like a Wednesday and then when he went home about 2:00 the following morning, Thursday morning, he received notice and he left on a Friday, I think, and was gone and when I went down the following Wednesday he had been in London for 2-3 days. So that is quick.

Buchanan: He received 48 hour notice.

Stokes: That's right. Well, let's see now. Any other goals and aspirations that you foresee for the school. In other words, we are on 16 acres now and when you and I associated with it we had a square block.

Buchanan: That's right. Actually, if you'll remember we had the anatomy building where the hospital's parking garage is now and the first floor was where I was interviewed in Dr. Hart's office.

Stokes: The little white house we called it.

Buchanan: The little white house. The school was in the fifth floor of the hospital which is now the gynecology ward.

Stokes: You know, thanks to Mary Luibel, Dr. Luibel's lovely wife, you know there is a plaque up there on the fifth floor now that says that this, not the bowling alley, was the original location. Excuse

me, go ahead.

Buchanan: I remember the bowling alley and I remember hanging sheetrock between classes.

Stokes: Between classes, yeah.

Buchanan: And I remember the carpenter, was it Eldon?...

Stokes: Yeah, Eldon.

Buchanan: That taught most of us how to become better carpenters while we became physicians.

Stokes: That's right. I don't know what we would have done without you. Of course, I knew nothing about the mechanical aspect but I was charged with the responsibility of appointing, I guess you'd say. I had sense enough to point and so forth. So that was a job I wasn't qualified for, but I had to wear that hat. But, yeah, he did a good job. He certainly did.

Buchanan: We have gone from a school of volunteer faculty.

Stokes: Volunteer faculty.

Buchanan: Which was a private school, to a very large medical school now of full time faculty. We still have many volunteer faculty that I think should be noted in the history books. Although we do have full

time faculty at the school, in our department for example we have approximately 20 volunteer faculty.

Stokes: In your department.

Buchanan: Yes.

Stokes: Now that's something that needs to be examined I think.

Buchanan: We have several part-time faculty that teach in areas where we don't have full-time faculty. For example, eye surgery, we have urologists on part-time faculty, and we have orthopedic surgeons on part-time faculty. We have four right now. And then we have multiple clinical faculty that are volunteer faculty that teach because they enjoy contributing. And I think that commendation should be given to all these people that serve the school and the profession. I think the school has grown tremendously. The campus here is beautiful and I remember back in the days when we were in the bowling alley we would sit around and say, you know, some day we are going to come back here and there will be skyscrapers here. And it did come to pass.

Stokes: It certainly has. It certainly has.

Buchanan: I think comment should be made regarding the hospital across the street. Our primary teaching hospital has been very vital to the development of the school.

Stokes: That is absolutely the truth. It surely is. Go ahead.

Buchanan: The osteopathic profession has been challenged because we don't have the resources that the allopathic institutions have had. The hospitals in our profession that teach are mostly private institutions as opposed to large county institutions and state institutions that support the allopathic schools. And it has been a particular challenge in this profession to teach with limited resources of the private sector as far as hospitals and clinicians and I think that's a tribute to our profession that we have been able to build and survive in these kind of times.

Stokes: Do you have any insight of any information? You know for some time now we have been making overtures and gestures and even maybe a gentleman's agreement to some degree. I don't know how official it has become. But we have some inroads with the Veteran's Administration, VA. Do you know where we may be, what juncture we might be at at this time with any future activities as far as the VA is concerned.

Buchanan: I am not really well informed about that. We do not have a VA Hospital in Fort Worth. There are VA outpatient facilities that the school does have some participation in and I believe at the present time we are looking at maybe an affiliation agreement with the VA Hospital in Waco.

Stokes: In Waco.

Buchanan: So far, those have not involved the surgical department.

Stokes: You know, the last time I was in your office, one of the first things I do, a good pleasure that I have with the work that I am involved with the TCOM Foundation now, I have opportunity to go around to the various doctors offices' and visit them, you know, and not at an opportune time, it's usually at an inopportune time, but time they permit me to see them and the first thing I always look at is what they've got on their walls and the same thing I did the last time I was in your office and I noticed a beautiful aerial shot of the Blue Angels. What is your association with the Blue Angels? This is off the subject, but at least it is part of your life.

Buchanan: Well, the Blue Angels were hosted by our Osteopathic Hospital.

Stokes: That was about 4-5 years ago wasn't it?

Buchanan: I believe so. It is a spinoff of our affiliation agreement that we have had over the years with the Carswell Air Force Base Hospital here who is a sister hospital to ours because they were founded roughly the same time and during the years we have had a very good working relationship with Carswell and the Blue Angels were invited here as part of the Carswell's Air Show and the hospital hosted a Blue Angels luncheon for community leaders and for people at the college and the Blue Angels gave a presentation and they invited the members to come and participate in the Air Show and they provided VIP passes and facilities right at the runway and so we became friends with them and after they left they sent me a couple of pictures.

Stokes: Another picture that I saw in your office. It kind of excited me because anytime I see a picture of a dress uniform of a Marine it always kind of makes my heart do a little flipflop and I noticed a young marine's picture. Can you tell me who that is?

Buchanan: That is the newest addition to our family. The little girl you saw in the picture was married two weeks ago.

Stokes: The one that is in the book here.

Buchanan: The one that was in the tree. She was married and she and her husband, who is in the Marines, are in Greenville, North Carolina. He is at Cherry Point and he has something to do with communications in the Marines.

Stokes: Communications. Cherry Point.

Buchanan: Cherry Point.

Stokes: Well, I never made Cherry Point. I'm a west end, west coast Marine. Let's see now, your wife has changed her vocation here recently, hasn't she.

Buchanan: Yes, she has returned to school to become an attorney. She is currently a 2L at SMU law school.

Stokes: Who are we talking about?

Buchanan: This is Talesia.

Stokes: Is that an Indian name?

Buchanan: I'm not sure, Ray. It's an unusual name. She is the first on I ever knew.

Stokes: I've known her not as long as I've known you but I have known her a number of years before y'all were married. A very beautiful woman. And you are very fortunate.

Buchanan: Yes, I am. I have been blessed.

Stokes: And she is fortunate, too, she really is. Can you give a summation of your experiences here at TCOM since getting out of TCU and all the many pages of history that you have helped establish?

Buchanan: Well, I think if anything, Ray, I have been very fortunate. I think I am fortunate to have become an osteopathic physician. My plans were to become an allopathic physician when I was at TCU.

Stokes: What caused you to change that?

Buchanan: Well, my father at that time had a correspondence school and was very active in training medical and dental assistants and through his work with the Osteopathic Medical State Association he became friends with George Luibel and Bobby Stratton and Ray Stokes and others and he encouraged me to join this profession so I interviewed

with several of the osteopathic physicians.

Stokes: Included George Luibel?

Buchanan: George Luibel. And I remember what they told me. They said, "If you want to be on the bandwagon you can be an allopath and if you want to push the bandwagon you can be an osteopath." And I never forgot that.

Stokes: I don't know if I ever heard that or not.

Buchanan: Bobby Stratton told me that.

Stokes: Is that right?

Buchanan: He did. And I came and interviewed here and although it was a small school, I thought it had potential. (Beep, beep) Typical surgeon. Can't get away from the beeper.

Stokes: That's part of the trade.

Buchanan: And I applied for the scholarship and received it and I felt that the school had tremendous potential and I wanted to participate and help and ever since that time I have been happy I did that. I have had good medical school training. I felt school was difficult, challenging, but excellent. The post graduate training programs that I have been to have been good and have prepared me for practice and I believe that our profession has a mission to continue

to offer primary care and specialty care in the best way that we can and I think our profession will continue to grow. I think challenges that face us today are many. The thing that is most challenging is the need to develop post graduate programs to train our graduates. We need to attract the best students that we can and we need to become very competitive and knowledgeable in the health care profession that we are now in because of the challenges of the HMOs and the 3rd party payers and the government involvement in medicine and that is another challenge that will affect our profession. We have to develop our hospitals and protect them and we have to remain loyal to each other. And I think if we do all of these things we'll survive.

Stokes: Well, Dr. Sam, it's been a real pleasure and on behalf of the Oral History Section of this great Library. You know I had a hard time saying Library. Dr. Hart used to correct me. He said, Ray, I'm not trying to influence you except he said there's an "r" in there that you're not using in library. It is a pleasure to have you with us today.

Buchanan: I appreciate the opportunity.

Stokes: So this is Ray Stokes again here in the studio of the Biomedical Communications Department of TCOM signing off.