

STOKES: This is Ray Stokes in the Special Collections Section of the TCOM Library here in Fort Worth. Today we are here in the studios in the Biomedical Communication section of the Library. It is my pleasure to welcome today and recognize a very dear friend of mine, and I say friend and I mean that sincerely, but we've grown up together so to speak in the osteopathic profession. I may be a year older than he is as far as tenure is concerned, but I'm referring to a very good friend of mine by the name of Wayne O. Stockseth from Corpus Cristi. Now Wayne, we're happy to have you here today and you wear a number of hats and I'd like to give you credit for all of them that you are wearing now and have worn in the past, but let's just start with the very beginning. I remember hearing the name Wayne Stockseth from Dr. George Luibel, who was chairman of our board during the first year that I was hired. I was hired back in 1969 and it seems like the first time I heard your name was February or March, something like that, in 1970, when Dr. Luibel says, Sam Ganz (he's a D.O. down in Corpus Cristi that was on the board, at that time I think there were only seven members on the board, and along about that time you became eighth or ninth, somewhere along in there. You were recommended to the board of directors of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, which at that time was a private institution. When did you become associated with the osteopathic profession? I'll give you a chance to talk now.

STOCKSETH: Okay. First of all, George Luibel. Going back to you mentioning George as one of the three founders. George, I always to this day remember him as my chairman, my first chairman. I guess some time in 1964 or 1965 Dr. Sam Ganz and his wife, Cindy, and my wife

Normalee and I lived sort of across the street from each other in Corpus Cristi. And Sam and Cindy had a whole passel of kids, about eight more or less, and Normalee and I had three boys. In the middle 1960s they were all about 6 or 7 years old. We'd get home; I'd get home from my office and Sam would get home from his office or the hospital, and we'd shoot hoops together with the kids, play basketball for about an hour and a half before dinner, and developed that friendship. Then we started playing racketball together and I think sometime or other around that time, after a year or so of that, we were coming out of the shower at the YMCA there and I asked Sam, I said "Sam, I know you're a doctor, but what is an osteopath." And I guess that was my introduction and Sam gave me a very brief little background and where he had gone to school and I guess like a lot of patients of osteopathic physicians, my first encounter as a patient with same was probably sometime within the next year when I managed to, trying to play golf, managed to get my back all out of joint and couldn't hardly get out of bed, couldn't walk, and I remember Sam had told me about osteopathic manipulative therapy and I thought, boy, you know this may be..maybe he can help me. So I called Sam and I said, "Sam, you know, boy I've got this terrible pain in my lower back and could I come see you." So I did and Dr. Sam put me to work and did some manipulation on my back and gave me some Norgesic as a muscle relaxer and gave me some exercise to do after I got my pain and the swelling and the inflammation out of my back, and that I guess was my first encounter with osteopathic treatment.

STOKES: I see.

STOCKSETH: And it went from there, and I learned that Sam and his associates in his clinic there were certainly more involved in medical care than maybe some people even to this day probably realize who might think of osteopaths as glorified chiropractor type thing, you know, and, Ray, what was the doctor that wrote the book, you remember, it was..you know what I'm talking about.."The Quack Doctor".

STOKES: Phil Russell

STOCKSETH: Phil Russell, yeah. You know and Phil Russell and Sam got me a copy of that book and I met Phil Russell and I still have that book that I cherish and got an autograph from Phil and you know, I began to realize that there was more depth to osteopathic treatment than manipulation of back and injuries of arms, legs, and backs and things like that. And I, probably within the next year then, it's hard to exactly remember the time, but Sam asked me if I would be willing to serve on the Corpus Cristic Osteopathic Hospital board. I guess I never will forget my answer. I said, "Sam, I don't know the first thing about being a doctor", and he said, "Well, that's not what we need." He said, "We've got a board that's made up of all doctors, and we need a businessman because running a hospital is a big business, and we need someone to help evaluate our administrator and we need these kind of things." And I said, "Well, fine, can I come to a board meeting and sit in?" And so I did and sort of saw some of the things they were doing and felt that I could help and contribute and I guess that's my first direct involvement in help to the profession starting out at Corpus Cristi.

STOKES: You were rather seasoned when you actually joined the board as far as TCOM was concerned.

STOCKSETH: And then five years later, Sam mentioned to me that he said "You know, some of us are getting together and we would like to have our own osteopathic college here in Texas, and we've got some land up there in Fort Worth." I had helped Governor Hobbie, Lt. Governor Hobbie in his first campaign, and was the south Texas coordinator, and obviously even today when it is a state school, Ray, as you know, it is very important knowing the folks in Austin that you can talk to on a first name basis.

STOKES: Absolutely.

STOCKSETH: So, I said I think the same thing, "Sam, I've got an office in Dallas and let me know when the next meeting is and let me come up and meet the folks and see what it's all about." That's probably the weekend in early 1970, late 1970 or 1971, and I came up and saw what they were trying to do.

STOKES; Well, let me interrupt and maybe make a correction. I said early 1971. Now we opened the school in October of 1970. Were we opened at that time when you came up?

STOCKSETH: Yeah, so it would have to be February of 1971, I think. February, because the school was open. I met Dr. Luibel and that was an experience for those of us that know him.

STOKES: That right, absolutely. Heart as big as a watermelon.

STOCKSETH: Heart as big as a watermelon and he said "You know, we need.." He asked me, "How many people do you have work for your company." I said, "350 or 400". "Well good, we need someone..we got a bunch of slots to fill." So I became, for some strange reason, I became the chairman of the faculty committee.

STOKES: The faculty committee?

STOCKSETH: Yeah, it was sort of unusual, and so I started interviewing Department Heads. You remember at that time it was just sort of putting the whole thing together. Anyway we spent all those years. I think things I remember with great pride is that I know the board, when the idea of a merger, I use merger as a businessman. The affiliation with North Texas. As a businessman I call it merger. You remember Eddie Chiles was on the board when I was on the board at North Texas, and Eddie used to say, you know, if we had a problem or he got mad at TCOM maybe he would say, "Well, we'll spin them off and get rid of them." I said, "No, Eddie, this is not a public company, we're not going to spin the subsidiary off or do some of these funny kind of things." But, anyway, I call it the merger. But Jitter Nolan who was president of North Texas, very much wanted, and after I got appointment 10 years later or more to the North Texas Board, you learn very rapidly just like in business, any university president that is worth his salt wants to have a law school, and engineering school, a medical school. I mean they are building just like a businessman is. And Jitter wanted and had the taste in his mouth for wanting TCOM. He

wanted a medical school. As you recall during those years we were doing all the basic science and hauling our students up to two years up to North Texas and bussed them back here and back and forth, but I think going back to the pride thing, the board was very insistent that we graduate our first class of 18 as a private school. I think everyone felt that we had worked very hard, we begged and borrowed for money.

STOKES: Let me correct you on the number, now. It was 18 that graduated.

STOCKSETH: Was it 18? Okay.

STOKES: It was 20 who started and 18 that graduated.

STOCKSETH: 18 made it, but as you remember we graduated...probably those are the only diplomas that do not have North Texas State University on them.

STOKES: That's right. The first two years, the class of 1974 and 1975. The first 43 graduates.

STOCKSETH: And you know we wanted that put in place. I guess another thing that I will remember of the last board meeting before we all signed the documents to give what we had at that time to North Texas and the State of Texas, was I'll never forget.. Sam Ganz and I...everyone of course was pretty excited because we were going to get massive amounts, compared to what we were begging and borrowing,

massive amounts which seemed like massive amounts, of state funding.

STOKES: At that time we had a value of about \$3 million counting a little liquid assets and so forth.

STOCKSETH: And everyone begging and doing everything they could to anyone who had any money, any foundation, any federal funds, and state funds, and those were fun years. But the original documents did not include, and we probably held Jitter up for 3-4 hours until they rewrote it, but did not include that this would be an osteopathic school in perpetuity. It was, we were going to give it to them, but as a business man my probably only contribution was reading that document, and I told George, I said, "George, it doesn't say in here what we're all talking about." And George said, "Well, they've assured us." And I said, "George, you guys have taught me what happened to the profession in California. If they're going to do it, if it's going to stay a college of osteopathic medicine, they by golly, let's have them put it in." And that's what you'll find in those documents today. So those are, other than the four years in betwee, all the fun we had and the building and the acquiring of the land and the funny stories we used to tell about the apartment where they rented rooms by the hour. We kidded about it.

STOKES: Sophisticated brothel?

STOCKSETH: Well, yeah, you know it was the nice part of town so it had to be first class. But that was a lot of fun and of course at that time I had started and I asked Sam Ganz what were some of the

things that my wife and I could do to recognize graduating seniors and we started what is now called and was called at that time the Stockseth Award.

STOKES: That's right. I didn't get to lead you into that. Now you give us some indepth information about that. You know, let me interrupt to say that you are best known from the alumni particularly, and you know we've got about 1100, almost 1200 now, and you're better known by them as the founding donor of the Stockseth Award and also a sustaining supporter of that because you contributed to it 17 years in a row now. Now go ahead.

STOCKSETH: Well, I asked Dr. Ganz, Sam Ganz, what kind of thing that he thought would be appropriate. And he said, "Well, Wayne, you know as a lay person you've really become a big strong supporter for the profession and the students that do well academically will receive all kinds of awards and what would you think if..." Then he said, "Whatever you want to do is fine with me and fine with other members of the board, but whatever the recognition is, what would you think about giving it for excellence in osteopathic medical education and manipulative therapy and helping that department." Because that's the first think that I'd recognized osteophatic medicine was about. So that is really what the Stockseth Award is. It is voted on by the members of osteopathic manipulative therapy, Manipulative Medicine Department, the Scholarships Awards Committee signs off on it, and it is a recognition. It is a Rolex watch and award that, if you remember last week at the awards ceremoney, the recipient gets to hold the check, they endorse it just barely, and it is then turned over and

goes back to the scholarship committee at TCOM.

STOKES: Don't you also go a step further in an award that you are giving in addition to that.

STOCKSETH: Well, that's the scholarship and again we'll give Sam Ganz the credit for that. My business was growing and we were having a little more success and I asked Sam. I said "Boy, it's got to be awful tough on these young men and ladies going through medical school and running out of money." He said the third year is the toughest because, you know the first year they are sort of geared up, they know they are going to be accepted, they've got a little extra money saved, but by the third year the wife is pregnant and she can't work and things are getting tough. So we give to scholarships to junior year students. We try to not totally restrict them but I've asked the Awards Committee, and on any of those awards, not that it makes any difference, Ray, but everyone does know I think, or should know, that neither Normalee nor I know the name of the recipients until it is a done deal. In other words, all I do is furnish the watch and the money and the money for the scholarships and I frankly obviously wouldn't be here to correctly evaluate. So, you know sometimes when I get politicked I tell people, "Don't politic me, I don't have a vote." I mean, it's got my name on the award but I don't have a vote. And so, anyway we give two scholarships to students that we hope would at least consider practicing in south Texas and would consider practicing in a smaller community that the profession has been so recognized as providing medical care for and I will say this: out of 16 years and two scholarships, 32 of those, you

could probably tell me for sure, but I know probably half of those that I can probably if I set my mind to it, are practicing in McAllen, and in Allis, Texas, and in Farrun and Brownsville.

STOKES: Kirbyville

STOCKSETH: Laredo and in small communities in South Texas. And I guess what really got me thinking about that. Our ranch is at Divine and Divine is a small city of about 1100 people, and at the time, there is a D.O. there now.

STOKES: Where is Divine?

STOCKSETH: Well, it's sort of southwest of San Antonio. But I got to thinking and was telling Normalee about the ranch...

STOKES: Is that in the Uvalde country?

STOCKSETH: A little bit more to the east.

STOKES: I see.

STOCKSETH: And at that time there wasn't even a doctor in town. And I thought, well, if we could help some deserving folks and do the scholarship. So we did that. After the merger, of course, with North Texas, the school came under the direction of the North Texas State University Board of Regents and Dr. Ganz and Dr. Luibel and all the rest of us that had the five wonderful years as a private school board

were retired I guess. Didn't even get a gold pin or anything.

STOKES: No, you really didn't.

STOCKSETH: We just, everybody said thank you and Jitter had his medical school and I went off and built my business and so that had to be like 1975.

STOKES: Yeah, August 31st.

STOCKSETH: August 31st, 1975.

STOKES: I'll never forget what Dr. Luibel said to Mr Willis at the time when they made the transfer, you know. He said it's kind of like a father losing a bride but he is glad to know that the bride is going to a husband that he approves of.

STOCKSETH: Yeah, good family.

STOKES; Good family. One distinction that you had. I don't know whether anybody has called it to your attention or not but you are a first and only, as far as I know at this given time...I don't know that anybody will ever duplicate it...it is possible of course. But you not only were on the first Board of Directors of TCOM when we became a school, you later became a member of the Board of Regents which is also our governing body now and you were chairman of that for three years along about 1985, 1986, 1987, somewhere in there. Before we get any farther into our discussion here, Wayne, let me say that,

just a brief biography of Wayne Stockseth. Now I believe you were graduated from Cal State Univerity at...where is that located?

STOCKSETH: Sacramento

STOKES: Sacramento in 1953, is that correct?

STOCKSETH: Right.

STOKES: Of course I've read this, but I can't remember it all, you know. But anyhow, how did you and Normalee...how did you meet her? How were you fortunate enough?

STOCKSETH: After I finished school in 1953, that was a period where you had compulsory military service, and I was a young man wanting to see the world and so I thought what better way than being a naval aviator. So I went through the flight program and ended up at the end of that period of time in my last year in Corpus Cristi as an instructor. And thanks to a hurricane that was headed towards Corpus Cristi, our admiral said, "We ought to take all the planes and fly them away." And of course being a bachelor living in the bachelor's officer's quarters, I got a call one Saturday morning in 1957, no 1956, and said, "Get a plane, get a student, and take the plane someplace." So I did and ended up in Dallas. I had been a best man at one of my students' wedding, and one of the bride's maids was a Tri Delta from SMU and she gave me her name and number, and said if you're ever in Dallas give me a call. Well after landing about 1 o'clock in the afternoon and I think playing Acie-Doucie and card

games and drinking beer and sitting around, I remembered this young lady's name and called her up and it seemed that she had a date. I mean, I couldn't understand how just because it was Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock and I called a good looking gal at the Tri Delta house on a Saturday, she wasn't just sitting there waiting for me, but she happened to be available. Well, she wasn't unfortunately. So I said, "Well, there is bound to be...". I said, "I've got a bunch of neat bachelor naval aviators and some of our students and we're out here at Grand Prairie at the Naval Air Station and why don't we just come down and get you girls and they're having a dance out here tonight and a dinner." And anyway, she put a group of girls that didn't have anything and my wife of 33 years happened to be a pledge.

STOKES: Where was she from originally?

STOCKSETH: Corpus Cristi.

STOKES: Corpus Cristi?

STOCKSETH: Isn't that strange?

STOKES: It sure is.

STOCKSETH: So I fly 400 miles. Anyway Normalee brings one car load out with her. She had a car and she came out and we didn't hit it off real well, but two years later we got married. I mean, she kidded me about California, anybody... that's the land of fruits and nuts and all that, and I kidded her about being from so far south she was

almost in Mexico, and you know, it didn't get off to a very good start. But we had a second date because that night some of the girls that she had brought out sort of liked some of the students that we had up there and since Normalee had the only car, well they wanted to have another date, and so Normalee had the car, and so I said okay I'll come along, because you see I had a date with this girl that I called the first time. Sunday we were going to go to church and eat chicken and go out in the afternoon and do something. Well, anyway I ended up because all my other friends. So the good Lord must have been looking on me, Ray. Anyway, we got along much better than next day and we got along good that first day, but Normalee you know is a great kidder and we jabbed each other all night long and anyway two years later we got married and started having our family. Of course, as I mentioned earlier in the interview that's how our children and the Ganz children.

STOKES: In other words when you got out of the Navy in Corpus, you stayed in Corpus.

STOCKSETH: I just stayed in Corpus and went in business in Corpus.

STOKES: Okay, let me ask you this. I know that you make a life by being a member of the Methodist confession or faith, and you also make a life out of your interest in osteopathic medical education. Now you make a living, and I knew the name of your old company, the Show Financial Corporation, but you say you've reorganized and you've got some sons that are involved in it. What is the name of it? You're an entrepreneur and investor, but what is the name of your company now?

STOCKSETH: Well, I'll tell you the name after I tell you the mission statement.

STOKES: Okay.

STOCKSETH: Our mission statement says that the SLM Group, SLM, that's for our three sons, Steve, and Lee, and Mark, SLM Group Inc., is a marketer and distributory supporting heavy duty transportation industry. What that means is we are sell heavy duty trucks and equipment, we sell replacement parts, we have shops that repair people's heavy duty vehicles, we have thirteen operations around the country, we operate in Texas and in Oregon. The original company that I founded doing aircraft refueling when I got out of the Navy, that is the business I started, we still do that. We do that in eight locations around the country. The corporation is called Avantara Corporation and we fuel the jet airplanes at places like Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida; Jacksonville; Alameda, Florida. Really there is a lot of equipment involved so the whole company, the parts business and the trucking company, the truck sales company, was really an outgrowth out of the government contracting company. But, to go back to my love here, TCOM, 10 years goes by and Mark White runs for governor, and I helped him and the subject came up between some of the members of the state association and the governor's office of was there any appointment that I might like to have or that the governor might consider granting me and I think at that time...

STOKES: When would that be, about 83, 84?

STOCKSETH: 83 or 84, you know when Mark first came in, 1984. I think at that time maybe the communication between TCOM and North Texas was not as good as we would like.

STOKES: Not as desirable as we would like. That's right.

STOCKSETH: And I had continued, of course, to give the awards, and continued to give the scholarships and made trips up here and I just honestly felt that we were going through some troubled times. They weren't financial like they were in the first five years. We had certainly plenty of good state funding. The Texas economy was good.

STOKES: Oil was \$30 a barrel then.

STOCKSETH: Yeah, and so it wasn't the dollars, but you know, the school was going through not the best of communications with its sister school up in Denton. And so I went to Austin and asked Governor White and said that I'd like to serve on the North Texas State University Board of Regents. And the state association was very supportive of my candidacy and so I was appointed. At the same time Joe Green, mean Joe Green of the Pittsburg football hero days and a North Texas graduate, was appointed. Dean Davis, attorney from Austin, Becky Garth, and Jack Hayes, and that was the five of us that were appointed and I guess...

STOKES: Who was the chairman of the Regents at that time.

STOCKSETH: Wynn Brown was chairman and continued and I thought it was an indication of the support that the members of the Board of Regents had for both schools in that even though Governor White had five appointments and the board is made up of nine people, the board continued and voted Wynn Brown in as chairman because I think the feeling was that we wanted a divorce maybe the political politics of the appointment, unlike the A&M and Texas Board where the immediate thing to do is "Well, we're going to go get rid of those other guys." And this board, and I think Al Hurley would tell you that, and I think Dave Richards would tell you that.

STOKES; He's chancellor.

STOCKSETH: He's chancellor of both institutions. He's been blessed with a board that even though we may have been appointed by different governors and as you know Texas has now gone through Governor White, gone through Governor Clements, and then Governor Clements back again after Governor White, all my experience with the board has been that we have never discussed politics.

STOKES: Incidentally and I don't want to discuss politics any more than ask you this question that you can answer if you see fit but, all things being equal, would you agree to be in the board of regents again?

STOCKSETH: Well, I think that would be up to the next governor.

STOKES: Well, I know it would be up to the next governor, but you

would accept it if...

STOCKSETH: Well, you know, I've decided that as you say I make my living and it's an entire group: my church, my family, and this college and the University of North Texas, those are the things that I want to do. That's what I want to do.

STOKES: I just hope you're fortunate.

STOCKSETH: So if...

STOKES: Or I hope the state is fortunate, I'll put it that way.

STOCKSETH: Well, either way.

STOKES: It would enhance our relationships if we could have you a little more closely identified.

STOCKSETH: Well, I'm always going to be there to help, but yes it would be an honor.

STOKES: In that respect, Wayne, you've received a lot of honors and accolades. I can remember one of the first honors that you received was I think about 1979 when you were recipient of one of the what I call highly coveted medals of honor, or founder's medal.

STOCKSETH: I received it in the first year, do you remember the three founders received the founder's medal and I received mine the second

year. I was very proud of that.

STOKES: Yeah, in 1979. And you and I have one thing in common. I got mine in 1984, 1983, I can't even remember the year, no it was 84. That's right. That was the year I had the pleasure of addressing the convocation for incoming students. Back to you, though. You have been recognized in the national circles. You are a member of some committee, a very important committee, that you and Dr. George and Dr. Burnett met recently in Chicago, something to do with National Osteopathic Foundation. What is that?

STOCKSETH: Well, after the school became part of North Texas, friends on the AOA board asked me to serve on the National Osteopathic Foundation board and I did. I served in that as its Vice-Chairman and did the normal businessman's kind of thing. We sort of revamped their books and their procedures and put the marketing programs together. We probably added 50 or more new sponsoring members to the NOF board. I think for that and for other things the AOA gave me the distinguished service award. I think it has been given in the entire history of the profession, I think it's only six different times is all, in 100 someought years. And it was for contributions to osteopathic medical education. This last November, as I mentioned to you, I received from the American Osteopathic Colleges the William Miller award.

STOKES: Is Dave Richards still president?

STOCKSETH: Dave Richard was president of that. But I have continued to try to help the profession in any way that I can and this school

with the scholarships and the awards and politically or any other way I could and I guess probably after my term finished on the board of Governor White's appointment and Governor Clements got elected, the AOA asked me to serve on the committee for funding for research.

STOKES: That was the purpose for your meeting the other day?

STOCKSETH: That was the meeting we were in Chicago the other day and the profession has raised the dues to the membership and there will be about a half million dollars a year that will be available for osteopathic research. And Ray, I'm sure probably you know of all the wonderful things the profession has done they have not really been known nor have had the money nor the school such as TCOM to do the research that they now can do.

STOKES: That's correct.

STOCKSETH; And so I'm really proud to be a part of that and get involved with that. My service on the board of regents in 1983...

STOKES: Gives us a little indepth, behind closed doors experiences you may have had and some outstanding meetings that

STOCKSETH: I think that we're sitting in Med Ed 3 right now, but our main building, Med Ed 1; I'd like to share that story with you.

STOKES: I wish you would.

STOCKSETH: It's about a year after North Texas assumed control of the school. As you know there were plans submitted for Med Ed 1 and funding was...

STOKES: ^{Willard} Ralph Woodard was our dean.

STOCKSETH: Ralph Woodard was our dean and Jitter Nolan was the president and I got a phone call one Thursday evening at my home in Corpus Cristi and it was Dr. Nolan that said that the 17-1/2 million dollar funding was just down the tubes. They just weren't going to get the money, and he knew, of course, that I had worked for Governor Hobbie and he said, "You know, we've tried everything we could and we've asked everybody we could." Betty Andihar was the senator handling the thing. And he asked me if I would be willing to talk to Governor Hobbie, and I never will forget it because it was pouring rain, sort of like this entire spring this year, and I couldn't get a plane from Corpus to Austin but I got in my car. It was about 5:30 and got up to Austin at whatever time it took to drive there, three hours, three and a half hours, and was able to get Governor Hobbie who was in his apartment. We sat down and visited about TCOM and the need for the school and it was now part of North Texas State University and he asked me why and I told him about my service on Corpus Cristi Osteopathic Medical Board and how much I believed in this school and the profession and that I could assure him that the state sure needed the kind of doctors that this school was turning out and talked about our ranch and just every story I could think of to convince him to get the senate to fund the money to build Med Ed I so we could get on with it. We sat there til about midnight and he told me "Be here in the

morning." I checked in a hotel and came early in the morning and to show you the value of friends in politics, Senator Andihar came up to me and she said "What happened?", and I said "Betty, I don't know, what happened?" She said, "Well, Governor Hobbie told me just to introduce the bill," and she said, "We're going to introduce it." And we got our 17-1/2 million dollars.

STOKES: My goodness. Repeat that a little louder.

STOCKSETH: Well, Med Ed 1. But it wasn't me, Ray.

STOKES: Well.

STOCKSETH: It was the friendship I had with Hobbie, but the school and what it did and what it accomplished. If I've learned anything in helping people in politics, one very, very good friend of mine, very close friend of my father-in-law, ended up being president of the United States, told me one time, he said "Wayne, your friends in politics will do a lot of things for you, but they won't go to jail for you." But you know if you've got a good story and you've got a good project and you've done your work, they'll help you.

STOKES: Who are you referring to?

STOCKSETH: President Johnson. And I was fortunate. My wife's father was a very good friend of Lyndon's and made a lot of trips to Washington and got to sit and listen to all these stories and humorous tails and had a great way of making points about things.

Anyway, as you know, we got Med Ed 1 and proceeded on along and my involvement I guess for 8 or 9 years was during that period of the scholarships and the awards and trips to the school and then we're to the point of my appointment on the board served that first year as chairman of the facilities committee. Do you remember, we were just finishing Med Ed 2 at that time?

STOKES: That's where Governor Hobbie broke the ground for that.

STOCKSETH: Right. And if you dig out some of your old photographs, if you remember we got T-shirts that said "Marcus Welby is a D.O." and Bill Hobbie has been a good friend of this school and of this profession.

STOKES: Well you know he got a Founder's Medal a few years back.

STOCKSETH: He sure did. In fact he kids me, he said "I don't know why you got yours so far ahead of mine." I said, "Well, I worked more on it." He said, "Where'd you get the money for Med Ed 1?" I said, "Now Bill, that's not fair to say anything like that." Anyway, we continued on along and we went through the...

STOKES: Now this is the years that you were chairman.

STOCKSETH: Well, I was on the board and really what I was looking for was what were the reasons why the communication between North Texas, the board, and the school down here in the state association, was not the best. Any they are..

STOKES: Not a strong adversary, but still in opposition.

STOCKSETH: There were a lot of personalities involved. I really think, honestly, everyone had the best interest of the school at heart. There were just different ways to get to the same place, and different plans. Let's just say...I'll go back to another Bill Hobbie story. When I was chairman, when I was elected chairman. And if you remember we were not getting the best press out of the Fort Worth papers, and our students were not doing very well and none of this is really my guesses, this is a matter of record.

STOKES: The Flex Experience.

STOCKSETH: The Flex Experience. And I went down to talk to Bill and Bill said "Wayne, let me tell you something."

STOKES: And Bill is?

STOCKSETH: Bill Hobbie. He said, "Wayne, there is probably 2 or 3 members of the senate that will never support osteopathic profession. They are very close to the allopathic people, and you never are going to get their votes. And there is probably 2 or 3 or 4 that will support TCOM and the osteopathic profession regardless of what you do. They are just committed like these folks over here." He said, "There is a whole body of people in the middle that make up the majority of the senate that really are concerned and are being politicked by various interests because of the difficulty that the graduates of this

school have had with all the money that the state has poured in, that the difficulty that they've had passing state examination. And these folks are starting to be influenced by why are we pouring 20 or 25 or 28 million dollars plus 25 million dollar building, but the operating funds and everything, the salaries and the operating expenses and everything come from, you know, if the graduates we turn out cannot pass the licensing examination in the state and these people are fleeing to Iowa or Indiana or California, whatever. Why should we do it?" And I said, "Bill, I understand." He said, "Well, let me make it real clear. I think your budget request is 26-1/2 million dollars for this next year. Get the students to pass Flex and you get the 26 million. If you don't, you probably stand a chance of having something happen to the school." And at that point I think I came back with a feeling that we had to find out why we weren't passing Flex. And Ray, I guess this gets to the part of the tape where I'd like you to hold it for five or ten years anyway, to let time go by....

STOKES; Very good.

STOCKSETH: But, I think what happened to the board, it became known as the Doctor Richard's Black Book. It was a very thick report that analytically and statistically traced the students that had gone through the school and those that had trouble with Flex and what their grade point average was, what their grade point average in basic science was, what their MCAT scores were, and if someone, and all nine members of the board had a copy of this, if someone with a normal amount of intelligence would read it, you would seem to come to the conclusion that you didn't need to be an educator to realize that if

you were low in your MCAT scores, if you were low in your basic science scores, if you were low in your grade point average scores, that in all probability you were not going to do very good in Flex. But I think the chapter of the book that really convinced the board that we needed to put I think Dr. Richards calls them the 17 points. Anyway we sort of passed a manifesto...

STOKES: I thought he called them the 39 points, 38 points.

STOCKSETH: Well, whatever it was it was a whole bunch of raising standards, doing things. And of course a lot of these things I got credit for but it was the board as a whole saw the need. But the real thing that really got everybody, because at that point there was also a lot of conversation about, well Flex is an unfair examination, the osteopaths don't have input in the Flex. You know, it's not really fair. And of course, everytime I would bring that up, mainly state association people, I'm hearing in my mind Hobbie saying, "I don't want to hear about Flex, that's how we license your doctors, and if they can't practice in the state, we aren't going to give you the money." So forget about the politics of whether it is an unfair exam or not, if we want the money, if not, we ought to pick the school up and go someplace else. But the one chapter that really hit it, the board members and me, and when I had my copy delivered to me I was staying in Dallas near my office. It was delivered to me at 10 o'clock at night. I stayed up until 4:30 in the morning reading it from cover to cover, and it was basically reports from all the departments all the way through this whole school, analytical data. But the chapter that really hit it was the students that had trouble

and were unable to pass Flex also were unable to pass National Osteopathic Boards. So maybe there was no osteopathic input on Flex, but the students weren't doing good in any of the standards. Even if we could separate ourselves as some of the factions were saying, "Well, let's divorce, let's pass a state law or something that we are going to put ourselves over here and we are going to license our students only in National Osteopathic Boards. First of all I don't think it would ever pass and I frankly think politically it would be a disgrace and I have told the state association many times my opinion on it is that if they ever caused a bill to be passed that the students of this school could get licensure without having to pass Flex, it's like we are not up to the standards of the other medical school in the state, so we therefore need our own little test over here to make sure our students get through. I don't really.. I have a lot of very good allopathic doctor friends and I never have wanted to get in the discussion of the D.O./M.D. arguments because first of all I'm not qualified, but what we readily saw was we had to put in place higher admissions standards, better review of teaching methods, all the things that when you interview Dr. Richards some day he'll tell you about the points and as chairman I instructed with the board's 100 percent blessing to ask Dr. Richards to come in with recommendations because as you know David at that time was our Dean for Academic Affairs. That was his job. And I asked Dr. Willard to get Dr. Richards to come up with some suggestions to put in place some changes in standards, privately told the board in executive session and the chancellor and Dr. Willard, I believe Dr. Richards was also there, what Governor Hobbie had told me, and I went through probably six or eight to nine months of a little fear because I was very close to

getting into operating a medical school, or I thought maybe I was, and you learn on a board like the Board of Regents that you don't do that. Like any board you hire a chief executive officer to do the job and if he doesn't do the job you have to make a replacement. But I had the advantage that I did know many of the members of the private school board, I knew many members of the AOA, I knew the accrediting teams. And they knew that I was not in any way ever going to do anything to hurt the school or hurt the profession. And so even though I had some people probably get a little upset with me for causing some things that had to be done.

STOKES: Such as changing presidents?

STOCKSETH: Oh, maybe changing presidents. But, you know, that's another story. Dr. Willard was given every chance to allow Dr. Richards to put those things in place. And, you know, I would have liked and I think it would have been a lot better for everyone concerned if we could have had a realization that things were changing. We were not talking about the battles of 1940 and 1950 in the osteopathic profession. You know, sometimes, and you and I are getting a few more gray hairs, too. You know, sometimes we seem to remember all the things that happened in the past and... But anyway we put them in place and as you know our students have done very well in Flex.

STOKES: Speaking of Flex, I guess you know that is what they are doing right now. Flex started this morning.

STOCKSETH: Good.

STOKES: I haven't heard how many we've got taking it, but it started today.

STOCKSETH: I've about run out of things to talk about.

STOKES: Well, I tell you you've done a good job, Wayne, and your memory is better than I thought it'd be, to be honest with you. But, are there any particular, oh, wishes... Not wishes, but expression that you have about what you would like to best be remembered by? This is kind of a trite remark, but at the same time it has a lot of merit to it. What would you like to best be remembered for in your association with the osteopathic profession and particularly TCOM?

STOCKSETH: As a friend of the school and a friend of the profession.

STOKES: Friend of the school, capital letters I hope.

STOCKSETH: I do, too.

STOKES: Absolutely. Well you've proved that beyond the measure. Wayne, it's been a pleasure to have you come up from your, let's see you have a business, I mean you have an office in Dallas, but your main office is in Corpus Cristi.

STOCKSETH: Right, we live in Corpus Cristi.

STOKES: Any you know, there is one thing about you, you know, it's my pleasure to interview people who've had some connection with the school from its beginning and of course you're not near the end...you should be at the head of the line instead of the end of the line as far as I'm concerned, but you'll probably be one of my last interviews because I'm setting it in cement. I'm retiring the 1st of September.

STOCKSETH: Well, maybe we can work out this thing we talked about the other night.

STOKES: I hope to come back as a consultant.

STOCKSETH: There you are.

STOKES: Working with the Foundation. In fact, I think I've got a meeting coming up pretty soon to discuss that and it become a reality. Wayne, give our regards to your lovely family and particularly your wife and I met one of your sons, I don't believe I've met all of them. One of them had to substitute for you one time a couple of years back.

STOCKSETH: Yeah, sometimes we do some business overseas and sometimes the schedule comes up that they can't go, but my heart's always here, you know that.

STOKES: Well, you made a great contribution to the profession as well as to this particular school and again we thank you very much for being with us today. This is Ray Stokes. I believe this happens to be the 11th day of June, 1990. Signing off.