

STOKES: This is Ray Stokes in the Oral History section of the TCOM Library. Today, August 31, 1989, it is my pleasure to be in the studio of the Biomedical Communications Department of TCOM and I have as my friend and my guest today visiting with us Dr. John and Dr. Mary Burnett. They are both general practitioners in Dallas over on the east side of Dallas somewhere and they both have quite a lot of credentials in the osteopathic medicine profession. Dr. John at one time, he might forget it, but I had to answer to him as my boss. He was my boss here for a number of years. We'll get into that a little later. Both of you graduated from the same school in Kansas City and you do have a little seniority on Dr. John.

M. BURNETT: Don't tell anyone.

STOKES: Well you see, Dr. John was a little later in coming into this profession. He had another profession as I believe and it could be that that might be one of the reasons he was interested in TCOM because of his educational background. We'll let him explain that. But, both of you have had very high offices in the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. John is past president of AOA back about 4 or 5 years ago I believe it was, and Dr. Mary has been the president of the ACGP and I believe you are with a foundation now Dr. Mary. What is that foundation now?

M. BURNETT: Well, I'm with several. Currently I'm with the National Osteopathic Foundation, Vice-Chairman. I'm Vice-Chairman of the Dr. Sam and Merrel Sparks Foundation which is from the Dallas area, a hospital they started.

STOKES: Well, let's digress just a minute in talking about Dr. Sam. Those are two persons I would certainly have loved to have interviewed before they passed away. Give us a little bit of background about them. Didn't they establish one of the first hospitals in the state of Texas?

M. BURNETT: Yes they did. They established the first osteopathic hospital in Dallas. They ended up establishing three osteopathic hospitals in the Dallas area during their lifetime. They were certainly dedicated osteopathic physicians.

STOKES: When you graduated you went to Colorado to practice, is that correct?

M. BURNETT: That is correct.

STOKES: How many years were you in Colorado?

M. BURNETT: Seventeen.

STOKES: What prompted you to come to Texas?

M. BURNETT: Well I was a native Texan and all my family were here. I was from up in the Panhandle, probably the worst part of Texas. When I moved to Dallas, Dr. Burnett had built an addition to his office and he needed someone to come in and help him with his patient load, so I came to Dallas and moved in there and that was in 1969 and that was when

TCOM was just getting started.

STOKES: That's right. It was really a "paper college" in those days. Now, I believe you have a little seniority on him in school. You knew each other casually in school I believe. Where did you meet?

J. BURNETT: Well Ray, we met in the House of Delegates of the AOA in Chicago.

STOKES: You were both delegates of the AOA?

J. BURNETT: Yes, Dr. Mary was president of the Colorado Association and as such she was a delegate and I had been coming to Chicago for a number of years as a delegate from Texas and so that's where we met; at the Drake Hotel in Chicago in the House of Delegates.

STOKES: What year was that?

J. BURNETT: That was 1967.

STOKES: Well the reason I asked was, you know I had the pleasure, I had only been on the job a short time, you know, when Dr. Luibel insisted I go to visit a few of the osteopathic colleges in the midwest and then wind up at the AOA Board of Trustees meeting in July or August, I've forgotten which, in 1969, and we were meeting at the Drake, but I guess you had all your meetings at the Drake at that time.

J. BURNETT: That's correct.

STOKES: Well, alright now. As a past president of AOA and also, let me ask you this. I'm going to veer from Dr. Mary here a minute and cue in on you for a second, Dr. John. How did you become associated with the three founders of TCOM?

J. BURNETT: Well, back in the early 60s I became quite active in organizational affairs with the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. I was the president in 1965. At that time I appointed a committee to establish the feasibility of an osteopathic college in Texas and appointed Dr. Luibel as chairman and with him was Dr. Walters Russell and Dr. Nat Stewart of Grand Prairie. Dr. Luibel, shortly thereafter, he and the late Dr. Danny Beyer and Dr. Carl Everett had Abe Herman who is legal counsel for the Fort Worth Star Telegram, to go to the Secretary of State and for \$300 obtain a charter for a medical school, it was quite broad, so as a result Dr. Luibel asked me to serve on the executive committee of the Texas College in 1966, back as you say when it was still a "paper school". We went to the House of Delegates of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association which was convening in Corpus Christi and they gave their blessings toward having a school of osteopathic medicine in Texas. So that was some of the early history that took place at that time.

STOKES: Well, Dr. Mary, when you first came to TCOM or was identified with TCOM, you said back in 1969, then you watched us grow all along, not necessarily from the inside but a very close view from the outside as well as the inside to. Of course, never having served directly on the board, but you have been a very close friend and certainly been

identified with our growth. What is your impression of what we have been, where we are and where you think we're going?

M. BURNETT: To use an overused term, "We've come a long way, baby." I am ecstatic with pride over this school. I remember when we started in the house of Madison, they put a special laboratory on the second floor, and I remember the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital fifth floor, I believe it was just a shell. There were no divisions or anything up there, and so from that day to this we certainly all can express tremendous pride in this school, in the leadership, the quality of students that you turn out is just superb. I happen to be the DME of our hospital and we have one of your students there now, a superb young man, just thrilled with him. And so, I think the whole profession can have an awful lot of pride in this school.

STOKES: I'm glad to here that. I know Dr. John is because he takes great pride in its development and its growth.

J. BURNETT: I certainly do, Ray.

STOKES: Dr. John, I mentioned awhile ago that possibly your background in education might have had some reason for your interest in identifying with the founders.

J. BURNETT: Well, Ray, I was a classroom teacher here in Fort Worth before going to Kansas City. I taught at Diamond Hill High School over on Northeast 28t Street. I taught English and journalism. It was a great experience and I think that would partially explain why I was

certainly interested. I also have always felt that I had a great debt to the osteopathic profession for what it's done for me. It has been very good to me and if in some small manner there is some way that I could help pay that back, I certainly want to do that by participating in anything that would promote our profession.

STOKES; It just occurred to me, I believe that you had something in common with our first dean, Dr. Henry B. Hart.

J. BURNETT: Yes, Dr. Hart was my chemistry professor at TCU in the summer of 1946 when we used to have classes out on the lawn.

STOKES: That was his first year there.

J. BURNETT: That's right. In fact it was so warm in the building that we would get out and they used to have the big bombers from Carswell that would be floating over and I think we would listen to Dr. Hart for a while and then we'd look at the bombers for a while, but he was certainly a great man, a great instructor and one of the people that I considered to be responsible for the school being here today.

STOKES: Can you tell me a little bit about some of the behind-the-scene activities that may have occurred during the time that we were seeking our provisional accreditation. I believe the date was July 9, 1970 in Atlanta, Georgia.

J. BURNETT: Yes, well I recall Dr. Luibel went before the AOA Board and requested a grant of \$30,000 for, as he termed it, walking around

money, and the AOA Board certainly made that grant at that time and, in essence, they were putting their stamp of approval on having a school in Texas. And along about the same time I recall one night that we had a secret meeting with Dr. Jitter Nolan who was then president of North Texas State University at Dallas. And the next day, Dr. Hart, Dr. Nobles and Dr. Luibel and I went to his office in Denton.

STOKES: Who is Dr. Nobles?

J. BURNETT: Dr. Nobles is a past president of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. He was a Denton practitioner, Robert Nobles. We signed a contract for contract education with North Texas for the basic science years and after that we notified the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association what had taken place and I've always regarded that as one of the landmark things that happened in the formative years of the school.

STOKES: Speaking of Dr. Jitter Nolan and North Texas, I think it was along in early 1972 we began some type of negotiations with North Texas for them to teach part of our basic sciences on a contractual basis. Can you give us a little information about what might have occurred? What brought that to a head, what brought it together?

J. BURNETT: Well, I think that Dr. Nolan wanted a medical school. He realized that he couldn't have one in Denton due to political pressure and so he, after I believe Dr. Luibel and Dr. Robert Sharp and some of them knew him personally, and this precipitated his checking into what we had to offer and he decided if he couldn't have an allopathic school

of medicine then an osteopathic school of medicine would certainly be fine and he was quite instrumental in helping us with his Board of Governors at that time because at that time there some people on the Board of Governors who didn't know a great deal about the osteopathic school of medicine and they weren't 100% sold on it, but fortunately Dr. Nolan was and so his thoughts prevailed.

STOKES: He has some help, didn't he, from Dr. Gus ^{Fere'}~~Perez~~, too.

J. BURNETT: Yes he did, he surely did.

STOKES: Wasn't he one of his top administrative officers?

J. BURNETT: Yes. I might also say that back in those early formative yeas, our first employee was a gentleman by the name of Ray Stokes, and Ray had a great deal of enthusiasm for this school and he stomped the state and was talking to a lot of D.O.s about our bootstrap operation for donations and he was quite successful, so I'd certainly place him in the class along with Dr. Hart and Dr. Luibel as being instrumental in getting this school going.

STOKES: You're very kind, Dr. Burnett. Thank you. You kind of caught me by surprise there in that accolade and I appreciate the tribute, but let's get back to you now. This is your show, not mine. Seriously, can you recall any of the closed door sessions that might have gone on after we became identified with North Texas State on a contractual basis there for about three years. Then we made an effort to become part of the state system. I know you made many trips down to Austin in

behalf of the school. Can you identify with any particular experience you had in Austin at that time?

J. BURNETT: Well, we had a senate bill, I believe it was 362, it was an enabling act to establish and make us part of the North Texas system and the legislation did prevail because all the D.O.s in the state in our House of Delegates were told to get on the phone and get ahold of their representatives which they did and there were many trips made into Austin. I recall Dr. Mary and I went in and talked with Senator Ralph Hall and he was very receptive and then we talked with some of the other people there and at one time we took a whole busload down and at the time why the women's college in Denton, they were wanting a school of medicine and they were busing people in.

STOKES: They had a president by the name of Gwinn, I believe it was, that was rather devoted to that cause.

J. BURNETT: That's correct. So things were a little bit unstable in those days. We weren't for sure that we were going to get everything that we asked for. In fact, the statement was made a number of years later, I believe by Dr. Luibel, that if he had known as much in 1968 as he did in 1975 he wouldn't have had the nerve to try to start a school. But fortunately everything worked out in our favor.

STOKES: That was about the 16th of May, wasn't it, in 1975, that the Governor signed the bill that made us part of North Texas, and you had I believe a hot day. It was 14 years ago today, August 31 that we had a party up in one of the local clubs here in town and then the next

day, which would be tomorrow, we had a joint meeting of the Board of Directors of TCOM and then the Board of Regents of North Texas State at that time, met right out here at Clifton Street, right next door to where we had what we called out Central Clinic at that time; it later became the Medical Examiners Office.

J. BURNETT: We had a ribbon cutting ceremony and it dissolved the TCOM Board at that time.

STOKES: I never will forget, and then you went up to the cafeteria and had lunch at the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital with the joint meeting. Alright, you've covered a lot of space here in a short period of time. Can you give me one particular event or development that you feel that was really responsible for our becoming a medical college.

J. BURNETT: Well, Ray, I think we can go back to the meeting that we had that night in Dallas with Dr. Jitter Nolan and getting contract education. I think that was #1. I think the next thing would be the enabling legislation that was passed due to the efforts of the D.O.s all over the state, but I think the #1 thing was the meeting with Dr. Nolan and the signing of the contract the next morning.

STOKES: You know, I don't disagree with you, but I wonder where would you put the occasion that occurred about the middle of June, the 15th of June, 1970, that made it possible to really I guess get provisional accreditation for the AOA by virtue of a gift that we were given. Don't you think that had something to do with our becoming established?

J. BURNETT: You'll have to refresh my memory, was that the Mabee Foundation?

STOKES: No, they helped us later on. I'm referring to the 50 acres of land that Tommie and his father Vandergriff and Carlyle Craven gave us. In other words, in my thinking, as a pure outsider (I'm not exactly an outsider, but not having privy to everything that developed or occurred) but to me that would be one of the strong points that made it possible for us to open, because we had some assets didn't we at that time. Otherwise we might have not gotten what the AOA gave us.

J. BURNETT: That's certainly true.

STOKES: I wasn't trying to contradict you in what you said.

J. BURNETT: Well, I think what you're saying is absolutely right. That was one of the landmark occasions.

STOKES: This made it possible because we had something although we couldn't do anything with it except build on it there, but that's why we don't have it today. Well tell me, after we became part of the states system, what was your particular role? What were you doing after the Board of Directors? Did you stay active in the association with the school?

J. BURNETT: Not really. After it was taken over and became a part of the North Texas system, I think some of the others shared our opinion that they probably weren't too interested in hearing from a lot of the

old heads. We were certainly interested in what was going on, but we were no longer active after our board was dissolved.

STOKES: Then you became rather active in AOA activities, too.

J. BURNETT: Yes, I served many years on the AOA board as a trustee and then I was president, I was also on the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners for several years and that took a lot of time in Austin.

STOKES: What years do you recall?

J. BURNETT: I was there from 1985 to 1987.

STOKES: Let's jump over now to the fairer sex for a moment. Dr. Mary, we mentioned some of the titles that you have been able to fulfill and to maintain in your years as a professional person in the osteopathic realm. Besides what you've already mentioned, what other chores besides being a good GP over in Dallas, what do you do?

M. BURNETT: Well, my husband says I'm a full-time volunteer. I have real strong feelings of obligation to this profession that has been awfully good to me. It educated me and gave me the opportunity that I would probably have not experienced in any other profession and as such I have been able to serve in many capacities and meet many D.O.s across the United States in addition to people who aren't in our profession and this has been a wonderful opportunity. I think John mentioned that I had served as president of the Colorado Osteopathic Association. We were a very small state and as such we knew everyone in the state.

STOKES: Where were you in Colorado?

M. BURNETT: I was in Denver. I practiced in Denver and loved Rocky Mountain Hospital.

STOKES: Occasionally we have one of our graduates go up there for their internship.

M. BURNETT: Yes. Then I've been very active in the GPs. I was chairman of the American Osteopathic Board of General Practitioners which is the certifying board for general practice.

STOKES: You both are fellows in the College of General Practitioners. And you both are certified as GPs.

M. BURNETT: Oh yes. And we both have been chairmen of the certifying board and I think I served 10 or 11 years as the secretary of the certifying board and I just resigned.

STOKES: What are you doing right now?

M. BURNETT: Currently I'm on several osteopathic foundations in addition to the two that we have previously mentioned. The ACGP has developed a foundation, an education and research foundation of which I'm chairman, and I currently am on the AOA Board.

STOKES: Didn't you recently meet in Nashville, Tennessee.

M. BURNETT: Yes, we just had a great meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. But I'm also real proud of serving as the Director of Medical Education at our hospital. We have six interns for the first time in 11 years and we are real pleased with this. Our hospital is doing great.

STOKES: Do we have any of our graduates over there?

M. BURNETT: Yes, you surely do, and he's such a delightful, fine young man. We are just thrilled with him. We also have some of your students who rotate through different offices and through the hospital in different disciplines.

STOKES: We just started a recent class of 1993, you know. While we're just sharing here in our discussion together, and you are kind enough to offer me some undeserved praise just a moment ago, I guess it's almost set in concrete now: I've got 366 more days with this great institution. Starting tomorrow will be the countdown. I'm going to retire the 1st of September of 1990.

J. BURNETT: Ray, you can't do that.

M. BURNETT: The school will never be the same.

J. BURNETT: You're a permanent fixture.

STOKES: Thank you very much. Now, let's get back to you, Dr. John. Now I know that you can share some information with us about some of

the sessions that you had when we were...in other words, we were beyond being a "paper college". We had our monies and you mentioned the Mabee Foundation a moment ago. They made it possible for us to buy some land, a piece of property, and which we later got a government grant. You know, it was odd. I think you know more about this than I do, but correct me if I'm wrong. You got a grant for about \$400,000 from Uncle Sam to not build a new building. We had that old furniture store there on the corner of Clifton and what you call 3440 Camp Bowie now that is now the current, or was until recently, the Medical Examiner's office. You got that building and we got the building and the property based upon a grant that we got from the Mabee Foundation. Then the government gave us the okay for a grant not to build. In other words, we couldn't just tear down and start over, we had to just leave the walls up and kind of build. Tell us something about it. I know I saw you at a number of meetings over there and you watched the progress of the building as it was being renovated and rebuilt so to speak. Do you remember anything that occurred during any of those sessions that is outstanding?

J. BURNETT: Well, I think a little of that is fuzzy right now. However, I do remember spending a lot of time coming over as chairman of the building a grounds committee.

STOKES: Okay, that's something we hadn't mentioned a moment ago.

J. BURNETT: I also remember the time that we went into the old bowling alley one night and went back in the back where the lights were and we didn't know the schedule of turning the lights on or off and inspected

it, went over it, and decided that we really did want to lease that building and later buy it. That's where we spent a lot of time. We had many, many board meetings as you know. You had your office over there and the students were there in that building. The next major acquisition, I believe, was the hotel just adjacent to that. That old hotel had a lot of interesting history, too. From that we went down to the next corner where the bank building had been and that was acquired, and I believe that's the one you had reference to with the \$400,000 from the government.

STOKES: No, that was across the street there, the Medical Examiner's building.

J. BURNETT: Oh yes, sure.

STOKES: That's where we got about \$400,000 from that, I believe. The reason I say that, I think I had the distinction along about that time of being off wearing another hat called Business Manager. Well, I was just wondering if there wasn't some highlight of meetings that you had like I know some of you met on occasion out at the Colonial Country Club trying to figure out certain moves or certain things that you could do as far as accumulating enough money to meet the next payroll or whatnot. Do you recall any experiences that you had in that regard.

J. BURNETT: Of course money was a big problem in those days. We were just living from month to month to meet the payroll.

STOKES: But we did pay our bills, didn't we?

J. BURNETT: Yes we did, we surely did. We had good management; people such as yourself. You were there holding the purse-strings and seeing that things progressed in a good manner. Back in the early days I remember that we were interested also in recruiting minorities so that we could keep our 501C3 rating.

STOKES: Now that's an important factor right there.

J. BURNETT: And also they wanted documentary evidence that we weren't just talking, we were really actively recruiting the minorities to come in. So those are some of the things that stand out in my memory. But the fact that just a small group of people could get together and ultimately come up with the fine school, as we look back it seems like a dream now.

STOKES: Who would you think, besides we mentioned the Mabee Foundation a moment ago, what other foundations are you familiar with that came to our aid there in the beginning.

J. BURNETT: Well the Carter Foundation.

STOKES: They really put us in business didn't they, with the grants to help us with the leasing on the bowling alley for example.

J. BURNETT: That's correct. I know Dr. Luibel and Mr. Harry Wurst had a lot of breakfast meetings with some of the leaders.

STOKES: Now who is Harry Wurst?

J. BURNETT: Harry Wurst was one of the executives of a paint company and he was on the Board of Directors back in those days and we looked to Harry for his business acumen and guiding us on a lot of the acquisitions of property and so forth.

STOKES; I believe he was also two straight years president of the Chamber of Commerce at the time we were making some inroads to become more viable and more visible here in this community.

J. BURNETT: He sure was. And then when Dr. Henry Hart came along, of course, he had been on the Texas Anatomical Board and he also, in recruiting Ph.D.s he spoke their language and he was very instrumental in getting together a good basic science faculty which was quite critical in those days. We had a lot of good people working at that time.

STOKES: Did we get a little help from the Richardson Foundation?

J. BURNETT: We surely did. That's correct.

STOKES; I think they furnished, pretty well, enough to take care of some physiology and library equipment that we needed and so forth. Do you recall any other experiences that you had. I'm trying to build a little more of a dialog if I can, with you, about some of your experiences that you had down in Austin.

J. BURNETT: Well, Mary you made several of those trips. Do you recall anything that might be of interest to Ray?

M. BURNETT: I remember primarily walking the halls trying to find the offices we wanted to go into to talk to some of the representatives and senators.

STOKES: We had one senator that wasn't on our team to begin with but we converted him. What was his name? He was from Galveston. He had been there for years, but his name slips my memory. We had to convince him. I remember one or two committee meetings that I just happened to attend that were vitally important.

J. BURNETT: I think that they were quite impressed with the fact that this school would be dedicated to turning out general practitioners and Texas had 54 counties that didn't even have a physician. This was one of the things that helped sway them. Some of the previous governors had said Texas wouldn't have any more medical schools, that we had too many. So I think that was one of the things that influenced them to decide to go ahead and fund another school of medicine.

STOKES: If you had to pick out just one single thing, what would you say your greatest contribution to building this school has been? Or let's put it this way, what would you best like to be remembered for?

J. BURNETT: As being one of the early founders of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. You know, early on it wasn't very popular. We had some people that got up a petition that this school should never

open. We had meetings...I was extremely embarrassed one night when Dr. Hart came to Dallas and several people got up and they just blasted the school but good, D.O.s.

STOKES: I wouldn't want to mention any personalities, but we had two of them that are now I think have been associated on our faculty for years.

J. BURNETT: That's correct.

STOKES; I happened to be at that meeting, too, Dr. John.

J. BURNETT: I remember one night staying over here in the Fort Worth Osteopathic Hospital until about 10:30 discussing the school and I told this gentleman that whether this school ever opened or survived or not that if it went down it would be a mark against him too. Incidentally, he is a faculty member now, too. I drove 50 miles home that night through a heavy rain and I thought, you know, there must be something wrong with anyone that would spend time talking to someone about what I considered to be a real important thing for our profession. But everything wasn't just smooth and rosey then, and you know yourself when you visited many D.O.s' offices that you weren't welcomed with open arms when you went in.

STOKES: You know, every now and then I get out a little memento that I have. You know we had several different financial campaigns at different times. I remember one that we had, I know the purpose of it was to raise funds but I don't remember the details, except that I know

that I got back in the mail, I got a little card wrapped around a penny, one penny. Of course, in those days you could tell a little more where a letter came from than you can today, and at that time we only had five D.O.s in Arlington. It came from Arlington.

J. BURNETT: (laughing) I couldn't imagine who that might be.

STOKES; Well I have an idea but I certainly couldn't prove it and I wouldn't want to try as far as that's concerned because we've got some great friends over in Arlington now. We're certainly indebted to... speaking of Arlington, don't you think we're indebted to the service that Dr. Bobby Smith gave us, the year that he was president, because he was really responsible for our getting the 50 acres of land, I would think.

J. BURNETT: Right.

STOKES; Because of the contact that he had with Mayor Vandergriff. I'm going to ask Mary. Dr. Mary, he's a little modest and I can understand and expect that, but what would you think. You've known him now for a good many years, you've been married to him now for 20. What would you think his greatest contribution to the school has been?

M. BURNETT: I think his greatest contribution was when he appointed George Luibel as chairman of the committee to study the feasibility of a school and there was no one who could have done any better a job than George Luibel.

STOKES: You know, in all my experience in interviewing people, I think you said it better than anybody about bringing in the aspect of what he did that brought George Luibel into the picture really.

M. BURNETT: And George took the bull by the horns and ran. And he is certainly the one single, if you had to pick out one single person that had really made this school go and of course it couldn't be by one single person, many people were involved, but I would certainly give George Luibel credit for his ability to pursue, persevere, and just make this actually happen.

STOKES: Tell me, Doctor John, share some of your projected wisdom with us. Your background with the National Association and the State's and you own practice and so forth and I know for the past few years you have witnessed what the school has done and is trying to do and so forth. What do you feel like the school...do we have any shortcomings or do we have any things in our favor compared to other osteopathic colleges? You see there are 15 osteopathic colleges now, and you visited them I'm sure, all of them. Where can you put TCOM in that particular role of producing general practitioners in our profession?

J. BURNETT: Well, Ray I think that TCOM can certainly be in the upper 90% both in turning out general practitioners and also in matriculating students who do well in taking the FLEX examination. The scores have gone up rather dramatically in the past four or five years and I think as one of the fairly new schools of osteopathic medicine, every year or so you can see a marked, decided improvement. On the medical board I came here as a visitor several years ago on the medical school

committee and had an opportunity to given a tour through and also sitting on the medical board we say how the student's grades on taking the examination improved. So I think that TCOM certainly, as time has gone on, has improved. They have an excellent faculty and I think the mission here and under the leadership of Drs. Richards and Zachary the school is certainly going forward and I would expect within the next very few years that this would probably be the most outstanding school of osteopathic medicine in the country. I know there is a research program going on here which I think is quite important and we certainly need more research.

STOKES; Dr John Peckham heads what is known as CORE, the Center of Osteopathic Research and Education. I think they're making great strides.

J. BURNETT: So I think this school has a lot going for it. It has had good strong leadership. I think the people before Dr. Richards did an excellent job. I know Dr. Willard had ten years when you needed a good strong person like Dr. Willard during those formative years and he brought the school a long ways. I think everything is certainly looking up over here. It is a school that has done a lot to enhance the prestige of all the practitioners, all the D.O. practitioners in the state, to have a school like this that we could point to.

STOKES: In your continued critique here, can you offer any constructive criticism that the administration should at least listen to? Are we going the right direction?

J. BURNETT: I think we are going the right direction. I think the mission here is one of excellence and I don't know, I can't think of a single thing that I could be critical of, I surely don't.

STOKES: How about you, Dr. Mary, what's your observation?

M. BURNETT: To answer that question, I have no constructive criticism to offer. I'm just so proud of the school and our whole profession can be proud of it. I have one comment I'd like to make about the bowling alley.

STOKES; Certainly, by all means.

M. BURNETT: The night that Dr. Burnett talked about, we went into this big huge cavernous building that was dirty, the alleys had been moved and it looks larger when the alleys are moved, and just this big shell, and then the next time I was able to come back over, here it had been transformed in classrooms and these were classy looking classrooms, they were stair-stepped and so-forth, and I could see this transformation I might say is typical of the whole school from where we started to where we are today with our tremendous campus. It's wonderful to have lived through the beginning and now where we are today in the TCOM. I'm real pleased.

STOKES; Well it certainly has been a pleasure, Dr. John and Dr. Mary, for you to give up a free afternoon, I guess a free afternoon, a Thursday afternoon. You would normally be out...haven't you got a ranch out somewhere?

J. BURNETT: That's right, we live on a farm.

STOKES; Isn't it in Rockwall or somewhere out there?

J. BURNETT: That's right, but we've both been looking forward to coming over and being with you and it's been delightful to be here, Ray.

STOKES: Well, we're delighted to have you and as I alluded to in the very beginning, you used to be one of my bosses. I don't believe you interviewed me. You were over too busy in Dallas and you depended on the other three to interview me. Well, I'll never forget the 15th of April, 1969, as long as I live.

J. BURNETT: Yes, but I met you shortly thereafter, I might say that that was one of the smartest things that they did.

STOKES: Well, I guess we ought to stop on something like that. I appreciate it very much. It certainly has been a pleasure to have both of you with us here today.

BURNETTS: Thank you, Ray.

STOKES; This is Ray Stokes, TCOM.